



Viksit Bharat
Viksit Jammu & Kashmir

People of Jammu & Kashmir
Heartily Welcome

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

—◦ Dedication to the Nation of ◦—
Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link

—◦ Laying of Foundation Stone of ◦—
**Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of
Medical Excellence, Katra**
**Rafiabad-Kupwara-Tangdhar-Chamkot
Road (Package-I)**

Shopian Bypass on NH-444
—◦ Inauguration of ◦—
MoRTH Projects
Sangrama Chowk Flyover & Bemina Junction Flyover

worth about ₹46,200 cr

Katra | June 06, 2025 | 10:00 AM

**Quality Healthcare | Accessible Medical Education
Enhanced Connectivity | Improved Accessibility**

10TH DAY /KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Som Dutt Magotra** S/o Lt. Sh. Suraj Mani Magotra.

10th Day will be performed on 05-06-2025, Thursday at 10:30 AM at our residence 4-P, Sector-7, Upper Roop Nagar, JDA Housing Colony, Jammu.

Uthala will be performed on 06-06-2025 (Friday) at 5.30 PM at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Vasu Magotra - Son

Sister-in-law & Brother

Usha Kiran Magotra W/o Lt. Sh. Romesh C. Magotra

Rajesh Magotra & Neena - Brother & Sister-in-law

Smt. Veena & Gopal Sharma - Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Babli & Rakesh Sharma - Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Sushma & Ravinder Khajuria - Sister & Brother-in-law

Ph.No.: 6005496736, 9419780989, 7006286344



Sh. Som Dutt Magotra

BARKHI**IN LOVING MEMORY**

It's been one year since you left us, but your love, values, and memories remain deeply etched in our hearts. Your absence is deeply felt each day, and your guiding presence is sorely missed in every moment. We are holding a **Barkhi and remembrance** ceremony for his eternal peace and to honor his memory on:

Date: 5th June, 2025

Time: 10:30 a.m. (onwards)

Venue: At our residence

(H.No. 1, Bharat Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu)

We cordially invite all our family and friends to join us in remembering and praying for his soul.

Kindly join us for lunch after the pooja ceremony.

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY

Lajya Sharma & Family

+91 9419100127



SH. JAGDISH
CHANDER SHARMA
(April 6, 1943 - June 16, 2024 <)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief we inform you the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Krishna Devi** W/o Late Sh. Qasim Singh Bhandal at Village Southal.

Tenth Day will be performed on 05-06-2025 Sunday at 11am and 13th day will be performed on 11-06-2025 Wednesday.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Daughters-in-law & Sons

Smt. Usha & Sh. Govind Singh (Ex. Asst. Comd. BSF)

Smt. Reva & Sh. Chandan Singh (Rtd. Master)

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt. Santosh & Sh. Swarn Singh

Smt. Vaishvi & Late Sh. Pritam Singh

Smt. Shoba & Sh. Prabod Singh

Granddaughter-in-law & Grandsons

Dr. Dhye & Sh. Gulshan Singh (Senior Ex)

Granddaughters & Grandsons-in-law

Smt. Poonam & Sh. Rajul Singh

Smt. Parul & Sh. Bhawani Singh

Mr. Harsh Dev Singh - Grandson

Yashvi Singh - Great Grandchildren



Smt. Krishna Devi

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

With Profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Shri Girdhari Lal Raina** S/o Late Shri Shamboo Nath Raina Originally R/o Kanilbagh Baramulla on 28/05/2025 and presently residing at S 907, Eden, StoX, Godrej Garden City, Ahmedabad. The **TENTH DAY** will be performed on 06/06/2025 at Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Grief Stricken

Sunita Raina (Wife)

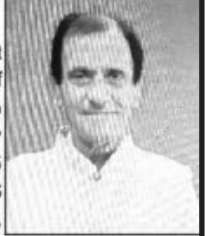
Pankaj Raina (Son)

Neeraj and Nisha Raina (Son and Daughter in law)

Yashu (Grand Daughter)

And Samast Parivar

Contact: 9879882575, 9560780364.



Shri Girdhari Lal
Raina

10th DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform sad demise of **Sh. Parshotam Kumar (Kaka)** S/o Gain Chand R/o H. No. 1062 Agnihotri Gali Panjthirti Jammu.

10th Day will be performed on 5th June 2025 Thursday at 11 am. at Billu Mandir Panjthirti near police Chowk Jammu.

Kriya will be performed in our residence on 6th June 2025 at 10 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Rita Devi- Wife

Sh. Suraj Kumar- Brother

Smt. Anu Devi - Sister in law

Smt. Sushma Devi- Sister

Sh. Ramesh Kumar- Brother in law

Raghav, Disha- SON & DAUGHTER

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Mangotra Family... 8716082153, 8716966134



Sh. Parshotam
Kumar (Kaka)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved brother **Sh. Jawahar Lal Ganjoo**, S/o Late Damodhar Nath Ganjoo, originally from Hugar, Srigufwara, Anantnag, A/P Jago Colony Lane No. 18, Block 94 on 30.05.2025.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 8th June 2025 at Muthi Ghat, Near Directorate of Education at 9:00 AM.

GRIEF-STRICKEN:

Smt. Bita Ganjoo (Wife)

Smt. Sheetal Ganjoo & Sh. Achal J. Bhatta (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Mr. Nalin Ganjoo (Son)

Sh. Mahan Lal Ganjoo (Brother)

Smt. Phoota Ganjoo & Sh. Mot Lal Ganjoo (Bhabhi & Brother)

Sh. Mahan Lal Ganjoo (Brother)

Grandchildren: Ashu Bhatta

SANASTH GANJOO PARTHAR

MOB: 8082358651, 889945453, 8717001987



Sh. Jawahar Lal
Ganjoo

5TH DAY

Regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Prem Lata Gupta** W/o Lt Sh Subash Chander Gupta R/o Malhotra Street Jammu sister of Lt. Sh Anil Gupta (Betti Shah).

FIFTH DAY shall be performed at Panch Mandir, Channi Himmat

Jammu on 06-06-2025 at 10 - 11 AM.

LOVINGLY REMEMBERED BY:-

Sister-in-law & Brother

Smt. Kusam Gupta & Lt. Sh Anil Gupta (Betti Shah)

M/s Pannu Mal & Sons, Warehouse Jammu

M/s Betti Trading Co, Bari Brahmana Jammu

M/s Des Raj Mahajan and Sons, Warehouse, Jammu

M/s Pannu Mal Jagdish Raj, Kanak Mandi Jammu

M/s Gupta Arun and Co (CA) Rajinder Bazar, Jammu

MOB: 9419199563, 9419184081



SMT PREM LATA GUPTA
December 28, 1949-June 2, 2025

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform you about the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Neelam Kumari** (Rtd. Section Officer, Legislative Assembly W/o Sh. Kuldeep Singh, R/o Village Ratnal, Teh. Basmah, at present H No. 16-A, Sector 3, Upper Roop Nagar Jammu on 28/05/2025.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 06/06/2025 (FRIDAY) at our residence at 11 AM.

KRIYA will be performed on 09/06/2025 (MONDAY) at our residence 16-A, Sector 3, Upper Roop Nagar Jammu at 12 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Husband

Sh. Kuldeep Singh (Rtd Deputy Secretary, Legislative Assembly)

Brother-in-law & Sister

Sh. Ratan Singh Marhas & Smt Rani Devi

Brother & Bhabhi

Sh. Ragbir Singh & Smt. Kalash Devi

Bhabhi & Brother

Smt. Seema Devi W/o Late Sh. Jagdish Singh

Sh. Kewal Singh & Smt. Lalita Devi- Brother & Bhabhi

Dr. Kamal Singh & Smt. Nisha Devi- Brother & Bhabhi

Onkar Singh & Shafiq Jammal - Son & Daughter-in-law

Sunder Singh & Rishi Jammal- Son & Daughter-in-law

Rishi Bagal- Grand Daughter

Krish Singh Bagal-Grand Son



Smt Neelam Kumari

Nephews & Nieces :
Deepak, Vikram, Rahul, Disha, Kirti,
Karan, Nishi, Kanav, Karthavya,
Vaishnavi, Anshika
In Grief : BAGAL'S FAMILY
M. NO. 8803747383

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt.Susheela Sharma** W/o Lt. Sh. Som Raj Sharma R/o H.No -719, Ward No-18, behind Hotel Chanakya, Udhampur.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 5th June 2025 (Thursday) at Shiv Mandir Housing Colony from 11:30 am -12:30 pm.

KRIYA will be performed on 6th June 2025(Friday) at Devika Ghat from 9 am onwards.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Daughter-in-Law and Son

Usha Kiran and Ashok Sharma (Chanakya Hotel Udhampur)

Anu and Vijay Tashav Sharma.

Daughter and Son-in-Law

Smt. Shukla Sharma and Sh. Virendar Sharma.

Smt. Renu Sharma and Sh. Mohan Lal Sharma.

Contact details:-

94191-62714

90181-79522



Smt.Susheela Sharma

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Usha Kiran and Ashok Sharma (Chanakya Hotel Udhampur)

Daughter and Son-in-Law

Smt. Shukla Sharma and Sh. Virendar Sharma.

Smt. Renu Sharma and Sh. Mohan Lal Sharma.

Contact details:-

94191-62714

90181-79522



Smt.Susheela Sharma

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad and sudden demise of our beloved **Smt. Shakuntla Gupta** W/o Sh. Kasturi Lal Reghra (Chenani Wale) R/o 63 Gali Devi Dwar below Purni Mandi, Jammu at present 149 A Rouli Bakshi Nagar, Jammu on 24/05/2025.

10th Day will be performed on 02/06/2025 (Monday) at Samriti Bhawan Bakshi Nagar, Jammu at 11 AM.

Kriya on 5/6/25 (Thursday) at our residence 149 A, Rouli Bakshi Nagar.

Uthala on 6/6/2025 (Friday) at Central Mahajan Sabha Shalamar Road Jammu from 5:30 to 6:30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. K.L. Gupta - Husband

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Mr. Raman & Mrs. Sapna Gupta

Mr. Pawan & Mrs. Ritu Gupta

Mrs. Anjali & Mr. Ramesh Gupta - Daughter & Son-in-law

Parth, Vaibhav, Ananya, Abhey, Aryan, Namita, Satyam & Arya - Grand Children

All Reghra & Phagotra Family

M/s Chinar Advertising Agency, Exchange Road

M/s Hotel Royal Inn, Moti Bazar Jammu

M/s Shivam Provisional Store, Moti Bazar, Jammu

M/s Shivam Advertising Agency, Moti Bazar, Jammu.

Mobile : 9419187957, 9419197787, 9419162788



Smt. Shakuntla Gupta

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved and affectionate **Rajendar Kumar Bhat** on Thursday, 29th May, at a hospital in Gurgaon.

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on Saturday, 7 June 2025, at 9am at Muthi Ghat (Near Education Department), Jammu.

DEEPLY MOURNED BY:

Usha Bhat (Wife)

Neha & Eishan Bhatt (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Shailaish Bhat (Son)

Kundan Koul & Late Phoola Koul (Brother and Sister-in-law)

Veena Kotha & Tej Kumar Kotha (Sister and Brother-in-law)

Nimmi Bhat & Late Vinod Kumar Bhat (Sister-in-law and Brother)

Chowdhary Family (In-laws)

Residential address: 61-A, Small Plots, Gandhi Nagar Ext. Jammu

CONTACT: 9916130222 / 9149418297 / 9742944686



Rajendar Kumar Bhat

OBITUARY

With tears in our eyes & prayers on our lips, we inform that our Mother **Smt. Janak Rani Gagroo**, W/o Lt. Janki Nath Gagroo, Originally from Aga Hamam, Habbakadal, Srinagar, presently residing at Plot No 4, Block-F, Swam Vihar, Jammu (Near Apollo Multispeciality Diagnostic Centre), attained Nirvana at Indirapuram, Ghaziabad on 31st May 2025 at 5:18 PM.

The **CREMATION** was done on 1st June 2025 at Antim Niwas, Sector-94, Noida.

MOURNING will be held at Flat No 509/3, Express Garden, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad.

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Muradnagar Nagar Ghat Ghaziabad on 9th June 2025 at 8.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Rajaish Gagroo (Son) 9622220261

Nancy & TK Peer (Daughter & Son-in-law) 9899252675

Pinki & Rajesh Mujoo (Daughter & Son-in-law) 9810780499



SMT. JANAK RANI
GAGROO

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Lt. Sh. Subash Chander Magotra** R/o 26, Gali Khilonia Pacca Danga Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 26th May 2025.

10th Day will be performed on Wednesday 04/06/2025 at Rani Taleb Jammu from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM. **Kriya** will be performed at our residence on Thursday, 5th of June 2025 at 12:00 noon. **Uthala** will be performed on Friday, 6th of June 2025 at Brahman Sabha, Parade Jammu from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Kanta Devi (Wife)

Rohan Magotra (Son)

Daughters & Son-in-Law

Mrs. Shalini & Mr. Rachit Sharma

Mrs. Tania & Mr. Nitesh Dubey

Brother & Sister-in-law

Smt. Leena Magotra W/o Lt. Sh. Ajay Magotra

Smt. Sonia Magotra & Sh. Rohit Magotra

Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Sonia Sharma & Sh. Sanjeev Sharma

Smt. Meenu & Sh. Sunil Sharma

Smt. Monika & Sh. Rohit Sharma

Akshay, Akash, Pratham,

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, JUNE 05, 2025

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BRIEFLY

Vande Bharat will benefit all, reduce highway closure impact: CM Omar Abdullah



JAMMU, Jun 6 (Agencies): Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the Vande Bharat train service, set to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will be beneficial for the people and significantly reduce the inconvenience caused by highway closures.

"I was in 7th class when the project began. It's a matter of pride that we're finally witnessing its operational phase," CM Omar told reporters during his visit to Katra Railway Station, where he reviewed preparations alongside Union Minister Dr. Jitenendra Singh as per news agency JKNS.

Chief Minister said that the train's launch will help end the exploitation faced by air travelers during highway shutdowns. "We are being charged Rs 20,000 for a ticket instead of Rs 5,000 when the highway gets closed," he said.

Police crack theft case in North Kashmir, Two arrested

SRINAGAR, Jun 5 (Agencies): Police in North Kashmir's Baramulla have arrested two persons and recovered stolen property worth Rs 5 lakh in connection with a theft case reported earlier this week.

According to officials, on June 3, Police Station Pattan received a complaint from Mohammad Amin Dar, a subcontractor with Lumino Industries Ltd, regarding the theft of Dog Conductor (wire) from a work site at Mamoosa during the night of June 2-3.

Following the registration of FIR No. 99/2025, an investigation was launched. "Using technical inputs and human intelligence, police identified vehicles involved in the theft. Subsequent interrogation led to the

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Security beefed up in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of PM Modi's visit

JAMMU, Jun 5 (Agencies): A multi-tier security setup has been put in place for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir on Friday to inaugurate the much-awaited Kashmir rail link and also dedicate to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 46,000 crore in Katra, officials said.

This will be the first visit of Modi to the Union Territory post Operation Sindoor launched by the Indian Armed Forces in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 persons, mostly tourists, dead on April 22.

Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the Chenab bridge and India's first cable-stayed Anji bridge, the symbol of India's engineering excellence before flagging off Vande Bharat trains to mark the completion of the 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway link (USBRL) that will provide direct train connectivity to the valley.

Modi will also lay the foundation stone, inaugurate and dedicate



to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 46,000 crore at Katra, the base camp for pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district.

The 272 km long USBRL project, constructed at a cost of around Rs 43,780 crore includes 36 tunnels (spanning 119 km) and 943 bridges.

The project establishes all-weather, seamless rail connectivity between Kashmir and the rest of the country aiming to transform regional mobility and drive socio-economic integration.

Prime Minister Modi will also flag off two Vande Bharat Express trains from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to

Srinagar and back. They will offer a swift, comfortable, and reliable travel option for residents, tourists, pilgrims among others.

In a major boost to last mile connectivity especially in border areas, Modi will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate various road projects.

He will lay the foundation stone of road widening project from Rafiabadd to Kupwara on National Highway-701 and the construction of Shopian bypass road on NH-444 worth over Rs 1,952 crore.

He will also inaugurate two flyover projects at Sangrama Junction on National Highway-1 in Srinagar and at Bemina Junction on National Highway-44. These

projects will ease traffic congestion and enhance traffic flow for the commuters.

Prime Minister Modi will also lay the foundation stone of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence in Katra worth over Rs 350 crore. It will be the first medical college in Reasi district contributing substantially to the healthcare infrastructure in the region.

Out of the total 272 km USBRL project, 209 km was commissioned in phases with the first phase of the 118 km Qazigund-Baramulla section commissioned in October 2009 followed by 18 km Banihal-Qazigund in June 2013, 25 km Udhampur-Katra in July 2014 and 48.1 km long Banihal-Sangaldan stretch in February, last year.

The work on the 46-km Sangaldan-Reasi section was also completed in June last year, leaving a total 17 km stretch between Reasi and Katra and this section was finally completed in December 2024.

Officials said a high

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Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat train service to start operations from Saturday



NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): The Vande Bharat train service between Katra and Sri-

nagar in Jammu and Kashmir will start commercial operations from June 7, the Northern

Railway said on Thursday.

The train will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday.

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) platform will start reflecting these trains for prospective passengers to book tickets after the inauguration, an official said.

Direct train between Jammu and Srinagar will run in September: Union Minister

JAMMU, Jun 5 (Agencies): Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Thursday said that the direct train between Jammu and Srinagar will run in September after work on Jammu railway station is completed.

Speaking to the reporters, the minister, said that work on Jammu Railway station is going on. "The work is expected to be completed by September. With the availability of platform 5 and 6, Vande Bharat trains will run between

Jammu and Srinagar directly in September," he said.

The Union Minister visited Jammu Railway station where he inspected the ongoing development works. His visit comes as part of the preparations for the launch of a much-anticipated train service to Kashmir.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to flag off Vande Bharat trains tomorrow at Katra. He will also inaugurate Chenab & Anji bridges.

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Baramulla Police secures breakthrough in POCSO case as DNA evidence identifies perpetrator in minor's assault

BARAMULLA, Jun 5 (Agencies): Baramulla Police has achieved a critical breakthrough in the investigation of a sexual assault case involving a mentally challenged minor girl, resulting in the identification and arrest of three accused persons through sustained forensic and investigative efforts.

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ACB files disproportionate assets case against govt employee in Banihal

SRINAGAR, Jun 5 (Agencies): Jammu & Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau has filed a disproportionate assets case against a government employee in Banihal area of Ramban district.

According to a statement, the case under FIR No.02/2025 u/s 13(1)(b), r/w 13(2) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as

amended in 2018) has been filed against Nazir Ahmed Wani, a retired tehsil supply officer of FCS&CA department Banihal.

The statement reads that the case was initiated following a secret verification conducted by the ACB into the allegations that the official had acquired assets, disproportionate to his known sources of

income during his service tenure.

"The verification reveals that the accused has amassed substantial moveable and immovable assets in his name and in the name of his family members. It revealed that the accused has accumulated significant assets including a residential house at Gujjar

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SRS calls for restoration of Darbar Move, J&K Statehood to boost Jammu's business sector

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: In a bold and timely appeal ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Ram Sena (SRS) Jammu and Kashmir President Rajiv Mahajan has urged the Prime Minister to immediately restore the Darbar Move practice and reinstate full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the dire need to revive Jammu's business and trading ecosystem, which has been reeling under economic distress post the bifurcation of the state.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Rajiv Mahajan said the suspension of the traditional Darbar Move — the



biannual shifting of the secretariat and government offices between Jammu and Srinagar — has severely impacted the economic vibrancy of Jammu. "Darbar Move was not just a governance tradition; it was the lifeline of Jammu's business community. Hoteliers, transporters, retailers, restaurants, and thousands of daily wage earners relied on the six-month govern-

ment presence here. Its discontinuation has triggered a prolonged economic lull in the city," Mahajan stated.

He further added that while the intention behind ending Darbar Move was cited as saving public funds, the larger consequence has been economic stagnation in Jammu. "Jammu used to bustle with activity during the Darbar months. Now the markets are dull, footfall is low, and traders are struggling to survive. If the government really wants to promote equitable growth, then the Darbar Move must be resumed," he emphasized.

Mahajan also demanded the immediate

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EDITORIAL

Promoting
Jammu Tourism

Jammu, often referred to as the “City of Temples,” is one of India’s most culturally rich and spiritually significant destinations. Nestled in the foothills of the Shivalik range, Jammu serves as the winter capital of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and is endowed with a blend of spiritual aura, scenic landscapes, and vibrant traditions. Despite its immense potential, Jammu’s tourism has often been overshadowed by its northern counterpart, the Kashmir Valley. It is time to reposition Jammu as a standalone tourist destination and promote it to both domestic and international travelers.

The soul of Jammu lies in its spiritual offerings. The world-renowned Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, situated in the Trikuta hills near Katra, attracts millions of pilgrims annually, making it one of the most visited religious sites in the world. Pilgrimage to this holy cave not only strengthens the faith of devotees but also contributes significantly to the local economy.

Apart from Vaishno Devi, Jammu is home to several ancient temples like Raghunath Temple, Ranbireshwar Temple, Mahamaya Temple, Panchbaktar Temple, and Bahu Fort Temple (Bawe Wali Mata). Promoting these temples through well-organized spiritual tourism circuits, improved infrastructure, and digital marketing can draw visitors interested in exploring India’s religious heritage.

Beyond its temples, Jammu offers unexplored natural beauty ideal for nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts. Hill stations like Patnitop, Sanasar, Bhaderwah, and Mantalai provide breathtaking views, pleasant climates, and opportunities for trekking, camping, rock climbing, and paragliding. Surinsar-Mansar Lake, a twin-lake destination, is ideal for boating and picnicking while being deeply rooted in Hindu mythology.

Adventure tourism can be amplified by developing better connectivity, setting up eco-camps, and encouraging private players to invest in sustainable tourism infrastructure. Jammu’s hilly terrain and thick forests also make it ideal for eco-tourism and wildlife tours. Nandini Wildlife Sanctuary, Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, and Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary are treasure troves of biodiversity waiting to be explored.

Jammu’s rich Dogra culture offers immense potential for heritage tourism. The majestic Mubarak Mandi Palace Complex, an architectural blend of Rajasthani, Mughal, and European styles, is undergoing restoration and can become a major tourist attraction if integrated into heritage walks and cultural festivals.

Promoting Dogra Art Museum, traditional Dogri cuisine, folk music, and crafts like Basohli paintings and Pashmina weaving can give tourists a taste of Jammu’s unique identity. Local fairs like Jhiri Mela, Lohri, Baisakhi, and Navratri festivals can be promoted on national and global platforms to attract cultural tourists.

With the increasing global focus on wellness, Jammu has the potential to promote Ayurveda and Yoga retreats in its serene locations. Facilities offering natural therapies, herbal treatments, and yoga sessions in areas like Patnitop, Udhampur, and Nagrota can attract wellness tourists.

Similarly, promoting rural tourism by developing villages like Pancheri, Suchetgarh, and Akhnour as tourist-friendly hubs where visitors can experience local farming, handicrafts, and homestays, would not only provide income to rural communities but also preserve the region’s culture and environment.

To boost tourism, it is crucial to improve basic infrastructure such as roads, sanitation, public amenities, wayfinding signage, and Wi-Fi connectivity at major tourist sites. Promoting Jammu in travel expos, through digital platforms, and via collaboration with travel influencers can increase visibility.

The government and tourism department should launch targeted campaigns like “Explore Jammu,” “Jammu Beyond Temples,” or “Untouched Jammu” to highlight offbeat destinations. Collaborations with the Indian Railways, domestic airlines, and OTT platforms can also serve to increase reach. Heritage trains and tourist buses connecting temple circuits, forts, and hill towns would enhance the overall experience.

Jammu has everything to offer—spiritual enlightenment, majestic natural beauty, rich heritage, vibrant culture, and the promise of peaceful rejuvenation. With strategic promotion, infrastructure upgrades, and stakeholder involvement, Jammu can emerge as a top-tier tourist destination. Investing in Jammu’s tourism is not just about boosting the local economy; it’s about showcasing a hidden gem of India that reflects the country’s diverse heritage and spiritual depth. Let us work together to unlock the true tourism potential of Jammu and put it on the global travel map.

Abhinavagupta a saint, Philosopher and mystic incarnation

By: Omkar Dattatray

Abhinavagupta Jayanti this year falls on 5th of June 2025 Thursday.His Jayanti should be celebrated with great devotion. Kashmiri Pandits should feel proud to be the inheritors of great saints,seers and philosophers.Abhinavaguphta [C.950 -1016 CE] was a highly influential philosophe, mystic, and aesthetician from Kashmir Known for his contributions to Kashmir Shaivism, especially his work on Tantra.His birth anniversary, Abhinavagupta Jayanti, is celebrated annually,particularly on the Nirjala Ekadashi often on June.The celebrations often involve scholarly discussions ,religious rituals, and the remembrance of his profound philosophical and spiritual insights. Abhinavagupta was a central figure in Kashmir Shaivism, a system of non-dualistic philosophy that emphasized the interconnectedness of all things and the ultimate reality of Shiva.He developed a comprehensive methodology for Kashmir Shaivism,integrating its various schools. A—Tantricism—He was a key figure in the development of Tantric practices within Kashmir Shaivism,exploring the potential pf ritual and mediation for realising the divine.His most famous work,”Tantraloka “,is an encyclopedic treatise on the philosophical and practical aspects of Kashmir Shaivism.B—Aesthetics—He made significant contributions to Indian philosophy of aesthetics, particularly with his commentary on the Natyashastra of Bharata Muni, known as Abhinavabharati.He explored the nature of rasa –aesthetic emotion and its role in artistic expression.HisNatyashatra has most recently recognised by UNESCO.C—Other works—Abhinavagupta wrote extensively on various subjects, including philosophy, literature, poetics,and the nature of sound.He is credited with authoring over 35 works,many of which have been lost.D—His work continues to be studied and admired for its profound insights into the nature of reality,the role of consciousness, and the path to spiritual realisation.Abhinavagupta Jayanti is a significant event in the Shaiva tradition, marking the birth anniversary of this great philoso-

pher of yore.It is celebrated with various religious, scholarlydiscussions, and commemorations of his life and works.The Jayanti serves as a reminder of Abhinavagupta’s profound contributions to Indian thought and spirituality, and it inspires ongoing engagement with his teachings.Many universities and organisations around the world organise webinars,and paper presentations to commemorate his Jayanti, highlighting the global impact of his work.Abhinavagupta was a philosopher,mystic and aesthetician from Kashmir.He was considered an influential musician,poet,dramatist, exegete,theologian and logician—a polymathic personality who exercised strong influence on Indian culture.Abhinavagupta was born in a Kanyakubja Brahmin family of scholars and mystics whose ancestors immigrated from Kannauj on invitation by the great king of Kashmir,Lalitaditya Muktapida .He studied all the schools of philosophy and art of his time under the guidance of as many as fifteen teachers and gurus.In his long life he completed over 35 works ,the largest and most famous of which is Tantraloka ,an encyclopedic treatise on all the philosophical and practical aspects of Kaula,and Trika [known todayas Kashmir Shaivism].,Another one of his important contributions was in the field of philosophy of aesthetics with his famous Abhinavabharati commentary of Natyasastra of Bharat Muni.”Abhinavagupta” was not his real name ,rather a title he earned from his Guru ,meaning “competence and authoritativeness .”In his analysis, Jayaratha who was Abhinavagupta’s most important commentator –also reveals three more meanings-“being ever vigilant”, “being present everywhere”and “protected by praises.”Gnoli ,the only Sanskrit scholar who completed a translation of Tantraloka in a European language,mentions that “Abhivana “also means “new”,as a reference to the ever -new creative force of his mystical experience.From Jayaratha ,we learn that Abhinavagupta was in possession of all the six qualities required for the recipients of the tremendous level of Saktipata,as described in the sacred text [Sripurvasastra] an unflinching faith in God ,realisation of mantras ,control

over objective principles [referring to the 36 tattvas],successful conclusion of all the activities undertaken,poeticcreativity and spontaneous knowledge of all disciplines.Abhinavagupta’s creation is well equilibrated between the branches of the triad [trika],will[jiccha] ,knowledge[jana] ,action[kriya],his works also include devotional songs ,academical /philosophical works and works describing ritual /yogic practices.As an author,he is considered as systematizer of the philosophical thought .He reconstructed, rationalized and orchestrated the philosophical knowledge into a more coherent form,assessing all the available sources of his time ,not unlike a modern scientific researcher.Various contemporary scholars have characterised Abhinavagupta as a “brilliant scholar and saint,””the pinnacle of the development of Kashmir Shaivism”and “in possession of yogic realisation.”His was a magical birth.The term by which Abhinavagupta himself defines his origin is ‘Yognibhu’,born of a Yogini.In Kashmir Shaivism and especially in Kaula it is considered that a progeny of parents “established in the divine essence of Bhairava ,is endowed with exceptional spiritual and intellectual prowess.Such a child is supposed to be “the depository of knowledge”,who “even as a child in the womb, has the form of Shiva,to enumerate but a few of the classical attributes of his kind.Abhinavagupta was born in a Kanyakubja Brahmin family in Kashmir.His mother, Vimala died when Abhinavagupta was just two years old,as a consequence of losing his mother,whom he was reportedly very attached, he grew more distant from worldly life and focussed all the more on spiritual endeavour.The father,Narasimgupt,after his wife’s death favoured an ascetic lifestyle, while raising his three children.He had a cultivated mind and a heart “outstandingly adorned with devotion to Mahesvara –Shiva .Abhinavagupta’s first teacher, instructing him in grammar, logic and literature. By Abhivnavagupta’s own account ,his most remote known ancestor was called Atrigupta,born in antarvedKanyakubja in Madhyadesha ,i.e,the middle country.From Madhyadesha,he travelled to Kashmir at the request of King Lalitad-

itya, around year 740 CE. Abhivnavagupta is famous for his voracious thirst for Knowledge.To study he took many teachers –as many as fifteen,both mystical philosophers and scholars. He approached Vaisnavas,Buddhists,SiddhantaSaivists , and the Trika scholars.Among the of most prominent of his teachers,he enumerates four,two of whom were Vamanatha,who instructed him in dualistic Saivism,andBhutipiraja in the dualistic /nondualist school, Besides,being the teacher of the famous Abhinavaguopta ,Bhutipiraja was also the father of two eminent scholars . For Abhinavagupta,Sambhunatha was the most admired guru. Describing the greatness of his master,he compared Sambhunatha to the sun, in his power to dispel ignorance from the heart, and,in another place,with “the moon shining over the ocean of Trika knowledge.Abhinavagupta remained unmarried all his life, and as an adept of Kaula,at least initially maintained brahmacharya and supposedly used the vital force of his energy -ojas to deepen his understanding of the spiritual nervous system he outlined in his works—a system involving ritual union between Purusha as Shiva and Shakti.Such union is essentially non—physical and universal, and thus he conceived himself as always in communion with Shiva and Shakti.He lived his life as a writer and teacher.. Abhinavagupta’s personality was described as a living realisation of his vision.To conclude it is no exaggeration to say that Abhinavagupta was a mystic poet,philosopher, saint,teacher, author and a great Shaivaite scholar famous in the whole Indian.Let us celebrate his birth anniversary with great devotion and resolve to follow his principles and teachings.

(The author is a columnist, social, KP activist & Freelancer)

Want to save your nails from damage this summer?

By: Shahnaz Husain

As the sun shines brighter and the days grow longer, summer brings a perfect opportunity to flaunt your nails. Whether you’re hitting the beach, enjoying a picnic, or simply lounging by the pool, well-maintained and stylish nails can add that extra touch of glamour to your look.

However, the intense summer heat, humidity, and sun exposure can dry out nails, making them weak, brittle, and prone to damage.

This could impact your nail health and make them break or chip faster. In this heat, they are likely to suffer from a lack of moisture and are more prone to dryness.

Maintaining the integrity and beauty of your gel polish manicure during the summer requires more than just a professional application; it needs a regimen that protects and preserves.

1--Hydrate -----

Prolonged soaking in water / exposure to the sun can cause nails to expand and become more vulnerable to premature chipping and peeling.

Staying hydrated is key to keeping your nails healthy and strong.

Your body typically gets about 20% of the water it needs from the foods, fruit and vegetables you eat throughout the day.

Foods that typically provide the highest water content are raw fruits and vegetables.

Drink plenty of water and include water-rich hydrating fruits and vegetables in your diet, such as cucumbers, watermelon, Lettuce, Peaches, and strawberries.

Regularly apply a moisturising hand cream or nail oil to your nails and cuticles to keep them hydrated. Applying cuticle oil can increase the circulation around your nails, stimulating nail growth.

The oil can also help improve the health and appearance of your nails. If you paint your nails, cuticle oil can also protect your polish for a lasting shine.

2---Don't forget to exfoliate: Just like your skin, your nails and cuticles can benefit from exfoliation.

Nail exfoliation is a technique that helps buff out ridges and other uneven textures on the nail plate to ensure smooth, long-lasting nail polish. Gently exfoliating can stimulate blood flow to the nail area, which can contribute to stronger and healthier nails. Use a gentle nail brush or an exfoliating scrub on the nail area to remove dead skin cells and any residual buildup from the surface of your nails and cuticles. Healthy, well-exfoliated nails provide a better base for nail polish, helping it last longer. Plus, it can create a smooth

canvas for traditional nail polish application. Nail exfoliation can help loosen cuticles that have become attached to the nail plate and soften ridges in the nail, allowing for a smoother, shinier finish.

3--Nail Polish Break -----

While many women love to have their toenails painted their favourite colour during open-toe season, the truth is, your toenails could benefit from a break from polish. While it’s fun to wear nail polish, it’s important to take a break now and then, especially during summer, to maintain healthy nails.

Leaving nail polish on too long can be dangerous because the pigment in it can seep into the top layers of your nails and dry them out. Constant polish wear can weaken nails and make them prone to breakage.

Nails derive oxygen and nutrients from the blood supply and not the air; however, they do need breaks in between manicures for other reasons.

Prolonged wear of nail polish can result in the appearance of keratin granulation (rough and white patches on the surface of the nail), peeling, ridges and splits, discolouration, and dehydration.

4--Diet and nails ----

Your balanced diet also affects your nail growth.

When you choose nutritious food for healthy nails, you can

easily take good care of your nail health from the comfort of your home.

Nails are mostly made up of keratin, a natural protein in our body. Focus on consuming foods that provide keratin, the protein that makes up nails, and other nutrients like biotin, zinc, iron, and vitamin C. Minerals are crucial for nail health, especially during summer when nails are more susceptible to dryness and damage. Nuts are also highly recommended.

Many foods contain essential nutrients, protein, and vitamins that keep your nails strong and beautiful and prevent them from becoming brittle, weak, or damaged. Iron deficiency can cause brittle nails, and protein deficiency can lead to ridges.

Dark, leafy vegetables are a pertinent part of a balanced diet for one’s holistic development. Spinach, kale, broccoli, and collards contain enough folate, iron, and calcium to keep your nails growing strong. Beans, legumes, and tofu contain rich protein for nail health.

(The author is an internationally famous beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India)

Thathri Development Front appeals for tourism development, and road connectivity in Doda District

Top News Report

DODA, Jun 5: The members of the Thathri Development Front, District Doda, have issued a heartfelt appeal to the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT, Manoj Sinha, former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Member of Parliament Dr. Jitendra Singh, and local MLAs Daleep Singh Parihar and Mehraj Malik, urging them to focus attention on the neglected Sub-Division Thathri and develop it into a tourism hub.

They highlighted the immense potential of natural sites like Jantron Dhar, Mata Rash-

war Temple, and Lamote Dhar, which remain underdeveloped despite their scenic beauty and religious significance.

The region of Thathri, which stretches from Panshee to Goilla, is surrounded by beautiful villages such as Joura Kalan, Joura Khurd, Shamdlan, Budhi, Halaran, Sihal, Ranote, Goilla, Chirra, Dadi-Kathava, Rokali, and several others from Chiralla Tehsil.

These locations can be developed into major tourist attractions similar to Gulmarg, but have long been neglected by successive state governments. Despite comprising five full-fledged tehsils—Kahara, Thathri, Phaqsoo, Bhella, and Chiralla—the Sub-

Division has not been given its due share in tourism development. The Front has therefore demanded the creation of a separate Tourism Development Authority for Sub-Division Thathri to bring it into focus under various tourism promotion schemes.

The Front also emphasized the importance of completing several long-pending road projects in the region, which are crucial for boosting connectivity and promoting tourism. One of the major demands is the completion of the Kahara-Jai Road from Joura Kalan to Lambi Jai (10 km stretch), a project pending since 1987.

They also stressed the need to finish the remaining 5 km of the

Thathri-Chirra Road, from Chirra to Gallu Top, which, once completed, would open up access to remote areas and facilitate tourism.

Moreover, they proposed that Gallu Top be connected to Joura through a 2 km link, which would bridge vital points in the circuit. Another vital proposal was the completion of a 5 km stretch connecting Joura Khurd to the Chiralla-Panshaee Road, which would help complete the regional road network. A

ditionally, the Halaran-Khatassu Road needs to be completed and linked with Badano through a mere 3 km stretch, further strengthening the circuit. These small yet significant road

works would drastically improve transportation in the region and make tourist sites easily accessible.

The Thathri Development Front has asserted that completion of these pending infrastructure projects would not only bring an end to the longstanding hardships faced by the people of these five tehsils but would also generate employment for thousands of youth and bring Thathri onto the tourism map of Jammu & Kashmir.

They have appealed to all relevant authorities to take immediate steps to fulfill these long-standing demands for the greater development of the region.

GDC Doda celebrates World Environment Day

Top News Report

DODA, Jun 5: The Department of Environmental Sciences and NCC unit, Govt Degree College Doda celebrated World Environment Day' 2025 highlighting this year's theme of "Beat Plastic Pollution". The campaign aims to raise global awareness about the harmful impacts of plastic waste on ecosystems, wildlife and human health.

The program was organised under the patronage of Worthy Principal Dr Javid Iqbal Zargar with a series of activities aimed at promoting environmental awareness and conservation. An Expert lecture was organised on 31st May 2025, in collaboration with Pollution Control Board.

The Key speaker for session was Prof. Rahul Kumar from Department of Environmental Sciences. District Pro-



gramme Officer(DPO) ICDS, Divisional Officer Pollution Control Board (PCB) Gurpreet Singh were also present.

A pledge was administered to all participants, emphasising their commitment to environmental conservation. Cleanliness and Tree plantation drive was conduct-

ed on 31st May and 5th June 2025. Numerous saplings were planted, symbolising the participants' commitment to nurture and protect nature.

The event was organised and coordinated by Prof Purnima Manhas, HoD EVS, and Dr. Jaswant Singh ANO NCC.

33rd lab in Thyrocare's expanding network to bring advanced, affordable diagnostic services across Valley

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 5: Thyrocare, a leading healthcare diagnostic company and the first national diagnostic chain in India to have achieved 100% NABL accreditation across all its laboratories, proudly announces the launch of its 33rd state-of-the-art diagnostic laboratory in Srinagar, Kashmir. The landmark facility, developed in collaboration with the Modern Diagnostic Center, was inaugurated by Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Former Chief Minister and President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference. Mr. Umer Dhar, President of the Diagnostic Association of the Kashmir Valley, along with other members of the association, also attended the event. With this facility, Thyrocare aims to bring quality and affordable diagnostic services to people in the region.

The new laboratory is equipped with best-in-class technologies for specialized testing, com-



plemented by highly trained personnel. This combination ensures accurate, consistent, and rapid diagnostic results to meet the diverse needs of patients in this region. This facility is designed to handle both routine and advanced health checkups at affordable prices.

Rahul Guha, MD and CEO, Thyrocare, said, "Thyrocare has

always been deeply committed to providing high-quality, accessible, and reliable diagnostic services to every Indian household. The launch of our new facility reinforces this commitment while expanding our operational network in the region. As we strengthen our presence in Jammu and Kashmir, we are not only bridging the diagnostic

gaps but also advancing a tech-driven infrastructure that puts patients first- ensuring timely, secure, and affordable care for all."

Dr. Preet Kaur, Vice President - Lab Operations, Thyrocare added, "Our laboratories nationwide have been instrumental in standardising world-class diagnostic services and making them accessible to every patient. This facility will be no different- with advanced testing infrastructure, faster results and greater diagnostic accuracy."

With the launch of this laboratory, Thyrocare continues to strengthen its presence in the northernmost region of India. This launch reaffirms its commitment to expanding more accessible, affordable, and quality diagnostics nationwide. This milestone underscores the company's ongoing mission to bring reliable healthcare closer to every household, with more such initiatives planned in the near future.

GDC Darhal celebrates World Environment Day



Top News Report

DARHAL, Jun 5: In celebration of World Environment Day, the Government Degree College Darhal (GDC Darhal) organized a special event today to raise awareness about environmental conservation and sustainability. The event saw a great turnout of students, faculty members, and local community members who gathered to mark this important day.

The event was organized and coordinated by the NSS wing, headed by Dr. Mohd Akhlaq and the IQAC of the college, headed by Dr. M Saleem Wani. The theme of World Environment Day 2025 is "Putting an End to Plastics Pollution".

The event began with a tree-planting ceremony where participants planted several saplings on the college campus as a symbol of their commitment to preserving the environment. This was followed by a series of informa-

tive sessions and talks on the importance of protecting our planet and taking proactive steps towards sustainable living.

Speaking at the event, Prof. Z.A Mirza, Principal GDC Darhal emphasized the need for collective action to address pressing environmental issues and highlighted the role that educational institutions like GDC Darhal can play in promoting environmental consciousness among young minds.

Students also took part in various eco-friendly activities such as a clean-up drive and a poster-making competition on environmental themes. The creativity and enthusiasm displayed by the participants underscored the importance of involving young people in efforts to protect the environment.

The event concluded with a pledge to continue promoting sustainable practices and to work towards a greener and

healthier future for all. GDC Darhal's initiative in organizing this event serves as a reminder of the crucial role that education and community engagement play in building a sustainable world.

As we mark World Environment Day, let us all commit to being stewards of the environment and take concrete actions to preserve our planet for future generations. Stay tuned for more updates on environmental initiatives and events in our community.

The successful celebration of World Environment Day at GDC Darhal would not have been possible without the combined efforts and contributions of the faculty members and staff including Dr. Ghulam Abass, HoD Persian, Dr Taseem HoD Geography, and Dr Anzar Ahmed HoD Arabic. Their commitment and dedication played a vital role in making the event a memorable one.

Dimple leads protest, demands restoration of J&K State during PM Modi's Visit

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: During the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Jammu and Kashmir, Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir held a strong protest demonstration under the leadership of its president Sunil Dimple, demanding the restoration of the Dogra State and special status for Jammu and Kashmir. The protest aimed to urge the Prime Minister to make a formal announcement to restore the lost identity and governance structure of the erstwhile state.

Addressing the gathering, Sunil Dimple demanded that the Prime Minister should announce the immediate restoration of statehood, special status, and Darbar Move tradition, which symbolizes administrative balance and historical legacy. He emphasized that the situation in J&K has worsened, especially after the recent Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor, leading to a complete collapse of tourism, trade, and



transport sectors in the Union Territory.

Dimple called on the Prime Minister to announce a special financial and employment package specifically for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, stating that increasing unemployment and economic stagnation are adding to the frustration of the people.

While welcoming the launch of Vande Bharat trains from Delhi to Kashmir, Dimple urged that boarding and deboarding facilities should also be ensured in Jammu, so that tour-

ists get a chance to visit Jammu city and contribute to the local economy.

He raised concerns on behalf of the transport industry, stating that transporters, including truck, taxi, and tanker drivers, fear massive losses if freight trains begin transporting goods, fruits, vegetables, fuel, and gas directly between Delhi and Kashmir, bypassing Jammu. He appealed to the government to consider the livelihood of the local transport sector before taking such steps.

Dimple reiterated the

demand for restarting the Darbar Move practice and sought a financial relief package for border residents and war-affected families. He stressed the need for a strong employment policy to uplift the youth of the region.

Calling for the liberation of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), Gilgit, and Baltistan, Dimple demanded that these regions be reintegrated into Jammu and Kashmir State. He urged PM Modi to announce a clear timeframe for statehood restoration and conduct Rajya

Sabha elections for the four vacant seats for J&K. Prominent leaders present at the protest included Sanjay Sethi, Kala Singh, Akbar Khan, Shafi Khan, Kala Kumar, Anil Kumar, Rocky Kaour, Happy, Narendra Chowdhary, Sanjeev, and many others, all of whom pledged support to the cause of statehood and safeguarding the interests of Jammu and Kashmir residents.

MLA Inderwal Pyare Lal extends Eid al-Adha greetings, emphasizes compassion and welfare

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jun 5: On the auspicious occasion of Eid al-Adha, MLA Inderwal, Pyare Lal Sharma extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, wishing them peace, progress, and prosperity. In his message, he highlighted the spiritual and humanitarian essence of the festival and called upon everyone to uphold its values in true spirit.

MLA Sharma emphasized that Eid al-Adha is not only a celebration of faith and devotion but also a powerful reminder to care for the poor and the deserving. "The festival calls upon all of us to make



sincere efforts to bring joy to the faces of the less fortunate and extend compassion to those in need," he said.

He added that the core philosophy of Eid al-Adha evokes deep concern for the needy and presents a valuable opportunity to alleviate the suffering of the underprivileged.

Sharma urged the public to take proactive steps in reaching out to the destitute and offering meaningful support that can improve their lives.

"May this holy day bring relief to the troubled, rid them of hardships, and open new avenues of hope and happiness," MLA Sharma concluded, praying for unity, communal harmony, and a brighter future for all citizens of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

R Madhavan, Kamal Haasan and Vivek Overoi on Bengaluru stampede: 'So heartbreaking...'

What was supposed to be a jubilant celebration of Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) maiden IPL title turned into a horrifying tragedy on Wednesday evening. A massive stampede outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru claimed the lives of 11 people and left at least 47 others injured. The incident unfolded just before the team's official victory celebration was set to begin, raising serious concerns over crowd control and preparedness by local authorities.

As the nation mourned the loss of lives, several celebrities took to social media to express their shock and sorrow over the incident.

Actor R Madhavan shared his grief through an Instagram story, stating, "This is so heartbreaking. Heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Please be responsible and safe and do not respond to rumours without checking with the authorities



(sic)."

Actor-politician Kamal Haasan also expressed his anguish over the unfortunate turn of events, writing, "Heart wrenching tragedy in Bangalore. Deeply distressed and my heart reaches out to the families of the victims in this moment of grief. May the injured recover soon (sic)."

Actor Vivek Oberoi posted a detailed message on X (formerly Twitter), offering his condolences: "Deepest sorrow fills us as

we mourn the lives tragically lost in the Bengaluru stampede. It's truly saddening to lose loved ones, especially during what should have been a moment of collective joy in cricket (sic)."

He further added, "To the families and friends now facing this unimaginable void, our hearts ache with yours. We send our deepest condolences and heartfelt support, hoping you find some solace amidst this profound grief. May strength and

peace be with you (sic)."

India and RCB cricketer Virat Kohli, who was present at the stadium, said he was "at a loss for words" and "absolutely gutted" in an Instagram post. The RCB star shared the franchise's official statement, mourning the incident.

The team had begun the day by visiting the Vidhana Soudha, where they were felicitated by Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah. However, tragedy struck before the players could reach the stadium. Following the stampede, the planned victory celebrations were cut short. Only Kohli and RCB captain Rajat Patidar addressed the crowd before displaying the trophy to a packed stadium.

The horrifying incident has now cast a dark shadow over what was meant to be a historic and joyous occasion, with the nation and the cricketing world in collective mourning.

Hina Khan ties the knot with longtime boyfriend Rocky Jaiswal



Actor Hina Khan tied the knot with her longtime boyfriend Rocky Jaiswal. Announcing their sacred union, Hina and Rocky in a joint Instagram post wrote, "From two different worlds, we built a universe of love. Our differences faded, our hearts aligned, creating a bond to last lifetimes. We are our home, our light, our hope and together, we transcend all barriers. Today, our union

is forever sealed in love and law. We seek your Blessings and Wishes as Wife and Husband."

The couple also shared dreamy pictures from their intimate wedding ceremony. In the images, Hina and Rocky could be seen signing their marriage registration papers.

For the D-Day, Hina donned a customised saree by ace designer Manish Malhotra. She paired the opal green, with gold and silver threads tracing age-old motifs across its weave. A light blush border, embroidered with threadwork and zardozi, framed the drape with quiet intricacy. The look was complemented by imperial heirlooms from Manish Malhotra Jewellery. Alongside, her husband Rocky wore a signature kurta from Manish Malhotra label. Adding a personal touch to her bridal look, the saree even had their name delicately embroidered.

The couple met on the sets of Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai, where Hina played Akshara and Rocky worked as the supervising producer. They made their relationship public in 2017.

In the past few months, Hina often opened up about how Rocky stood by her as a constant pillar of support, especially during her battle with cancer.

Cillian Murphy to reprise his role in the 28 Days Later franchise

Director Danny Boyle confirmed that Cillian Murphy will reprise his role in the 28 Days Later franchise.

Murphy, who starred in the 2002 film 28 Days Later, will appear in the upcoming sequel, 28 Years Later: The Bone Temple.

In a recent interview, Boyle revealed that Murphy will have a significant role in the third film, which has yet to be green-lit.

However, a strong box office performance from 28 Years Later and Murphy's involvement could help secure the project's future.

Boyle praised the introduction of Murphy's character in the second film, saying it was "pretty good" and a "very smart use of him." The new trilogy, crafted by Boyle and writer Alex Garland,



will feature connecting characters, including newcomer Alfie Williams 12-year-old character Spike, who will run through the films.

The first two films, 28 Years Later and 28 Years Later: The Bone Temple, have been shot

back-to-back, with Boyle citing logistical, actor availability, and story reasons.

While 28 Years Later is set to release on June 20 and 28 Years Later: The Bone Temple will release on January 16, 2026.

World Environment Day | Rubina Dilaik: I understand the value of clean, green world

Just pledging to do something for the environment on a single day and forgetting about it the next can never bring change," says actor Rubina Dilaik, who has been walking the talk through her sustainable home farming initiative, Ghar Ki Kheti.

"Belonging to a family of farmers, I've always understood the value of a clean, green world and pesticide-free food. That awareness became an urge, and that urge turned into action," she says, marking World Environment Day with a renewed focus on living consciously.

What began as a small initiative in 2020, Ghar Ki Kheti, was born out of Rubina's deep-rooted connection to the land in her hometown of Shimla and has now grown into a family-led



movement. "It's been a few years now, and my entire family — including cousins — is actively involved. We grow our own vegetables and fruits, and more importantly, we try to inspire others to do the same," Rubina shares. But she's aware of the challenges. "It's not easy — doing it yourself is one thing, but convincing others to take the same route requires persistence. Still, I believe anyone can start, whether it's a sprawling backyard or a single mud pot on a balcony. It's possible."

Her commitment extends beyond farming. Rubina also advocates for traditional, sustainable cooking methods: "We still cook on a mud hearth at home — because that's how it should be. I know city life doesn't always allow

for such things, but even in metros, we can take small steps. That first baby step is all it takes."

Now a mother, Rubina says her mission has taken on even greater meaning: "The only way I can teach my daughters to respect and nurture nature is by immersing them in the same environment I grew up in. They're happiest back home, surrounded by nature, just like we sisters were."

In fact, she and her husband, actor Abhinav Shukla, have made it a tradition to mark special moments with Nature. "On their birth and every birthday, we plant a tree in their name (children). It's our way of giving back to the Earth — and ensuring our daughters grow up as part of a truly green legacy," she signs off.

Bronwen Hughes explores India for her latest project

For Hollywood director Bronwen Hughes, stepping onto the set of her latest film—a romantic comedy set against the vibrant chaos of an Indian wedding—feels less like entering foreign territory and more like coming home.

Known for her work across genres and acclaimed projects like Forces of Nature, Breaking Bad, The Journey Is the Destination among others, Hughes is now diving into something wholly new and yet deeply resonant—a cross-cultural tale of love, laughter, and self-discovery, rooted in the sensory splendor of Indian tradition.

In an exclusive conversation, this Canada-born director opens up about her journey. "I didn't realise there were so few female directors when I started," Hughes says with a laugh, reflecting on her early days in the industry. "That was my greatest protection."

Unaware of the gender imbalance, she drew inspiration from bold visionaries like Jane Campion, Claire Denis and Mira Nair—women who, like her, simply began. "My hope," she adds, "is that the next generation doesn't even notice it's unusual anymore. And honestly, from what I see on my sets today, that's already happening."

With stories in every language and culture now a click away, Hughes believes we're living in a 'global village'. "Streaming has opened up the world in ways theatrical releases never could. We can now experience other lives, other cultures, from anywhere. That's the real evolution."

This evolution led her to her latest project, a romantic

comedy centered on an Indian wedding—a genre she first explored in Forces of Nature for Spielberg's DreamWorks Studios. "I was interested in showing that few can find happiness in many forms, not always the same or expected. After that, I was offered many rom-coms, but they seemed to me to be stuck without a modern look at the woman's self-actualisation."

But for Hughes, this story does more than follow genre conventions. "It digs deeper than just marriage. It's really about the eternal questions—how we become the best version of ourselves."

Explaining the themes further, Hughes adds, "This story is modern, progressive and sometimes arcs towards a different way of finding happiness."

And the settings in which she is exploring the genre—an Indian wedding and modern Indian cities—has been an immersion in every sense of the word. Hughes and her crew, which recently stayed at a hotel hosting a real wedding, have been 'crashing' sangeets and barats with open arms and wider eyes. "Indian weddings are cinema gold," she gushes. "The colours, the textures, the soundscape—nothing else compares. Indian creativity around weddings is never-ending and I am learning something new every day. Even the local crew is debating which version of which ceremony we should include. It's amazing."

Seven palace visits later, Hughes is still wide-eyed. "Six of them were setting up for weddings! It's like the universe said, 'Here, soak it in.'"

With her signature wit and sensitivity, Hughes is rethinking



rom-com humour for an Indian context. "We're not trying to mimic a Western tone. We're staying true to these characters and their specific cultural reality. When you do that, the humour resonates naturally. Love, awkwardness, joy—those emotions are universal."

And as for her Indian collaborators? "They read my mind. They seem to know what I will like before I like it myself. Seriously. With such amazing crew recommendations, casting choices and now locations—they are next-level."

She beams while talking about her co-producer, Preeti Singh. "Preeti is pure fire. A laser beam. She's my cultural compass and creative co-conspirator. She makes sure we aim for excellence, always."

As for food, she can already navigate an Indian vegetarian menu like a pro. "I eat Indian food four times a week. And yes, I've been singing Hindi songs

to the crew. You should've seen their faces!"

Hughes has directed everyone from Sandra Bullock and Ben Affleck to Bryan Cranston and Bob Odenkirk. Her secret? "Psychology," she says. "Actors—famous or not—work best when you understand what they need from you. You have to read the room. Create the space they need to fly. And the same goes for all creatives in the team. I hope to cheerlead the best out of every department."

As for her directing style, it's ever-evolving. "Each film demands a different language—visually, emotionally, structurally. I try never to get stuck in one way of seeing."

Looking back, instead of an advice to her younger self, Hughes has a thing or two to learn. "Young me was a better director because she didn't know what was impossible, so anything felt possible. I try to keep that spirit alive. I try not to curb my ideas. Sweat is not the problem. We film people love to work hard."

As for her next project, she won't spill all the details just yet, but Hughes hints at future stories dancing around in her head—literally. "Let's just say music and dance will play a big role."

For now, Bronwen Hughes is focused on bringing to life one very special love story—set against the backdrop of traditions older than time, told with the freshness of a modern voice, and wrapped in the colour and heart of India. It's a match made in cinematic heaven.

Stay tuned, the shadi—and the storytelling—have only just begun.

Rasha Thadani: There shouldn't be just one day dedicated to environment



She's all of 20, yet realises the power her voice holds as she steps into the public figure zone. Rasha Thadani, posing for HT City on the occasion of World Environment Day, appeals for more awareness

throughout the year and not just this one day.

"I was born in a house which had more animals than humans. As a child, I was surrounded by them, I saw my mom (actor Raveena Tandon) have so much

passion for the environment. In school, it would be a very small subject, we would be told to for example, go home and a plant a tree. But even that stirred something within me," she says.

Rasha, as she grew up, adopted certain habits, "Even when I am out with friends, and someone throws a tissue on the road, I stop the car and ask them to pick it up before we continue. They are scared to do anything around me! I also carpool as much as possible, either my friends travel with me in my car, or I, in theirs. I try to put my plans in other people's minds, for instance, when I wanted to go to the salon the other day!"

Even at home, her family follows environment-friendly methods. Rasha elaborates, "In every room of our house, there is a normal dustbin, and a separate dustbin to throw things which can be recycled, such as paper or cardboard boxes. Plastic bottles in our house are a complete no-no. There are small things that you can do for the environment, we have only one Earth."

PM Modi plants Sindoor sapling on occassion of World Environment Day

Speaking about the Sindoor sapling, the Prime Minister further mentioned that it had been presented to him by the heroic mothers and sisters of Kutch.

NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): As a wave of patriotic fervour washes over the nation following the success of Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday planted a sapling of natural Sindoor (vermillion), coinciding with World Environment Day.

Sharing this on "X" (formerly Twitter), Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated: "Today, on #WorldEnvironmentDay, we strengthened the #EkPed-MaaKeNaam initiative with a special tree plantation drive."

Speaking about the Sindoor sapling, the Prime Minister further mentioned that it had been presented to him by the heroic mothers and sisters of Kutch—women who displayed tremendous courage and strength during the 1971 war—during a recent visit to Gujarat.

"Today, on World Environment Day, I have got the privilege of planting that plant in the Prime



Minister's residence of New Delhi. This plant will remain a strong symbol of bravery and inspiration of our country's female power," the PM said in a post.

In a series of posts, the Prime Minister further wrote, "I planted a sapling at the Bhagwan Mahavir Vanasthali Park in Delhi. This is also a part of our effort to reforest the Aravalli range – the Aravalli Green Wall project."

He explained that the Aravalli range is one of the oldest in the world, stretching across Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi.

"The past several years have brought to the fore several environmental challenges relating to this range, which our Government is committed to mitigating.

Our focus is to rejuvenate areas linked with this range," the PM said.

Expanding on environmental initiatives, the Prime Minister added, "We are going to work with the respective local administrations and emphasise the importance of things such as improving water systems, curbing dust storms, stopping eastward expansion of the Thar desert and more."

He noted that in the Aravalli range and beyond, in addition to traditional plantation methods, the government would encourage new techniques, especially in urban and semi-urban areas where space is limited.

"Plantation activities will be geo-tagged and monitored on the Meri LIFE portal. I call upon the youth of our nation to take part in this movement and add to our planet's green cover," the PM said.

Modi, Rajnath greet Adityanath on his birthday



LUCKNOW, Jun 5 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati, and several other political leaders on Thursday extended greetings to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on the occasion of his 53rd birthday.

"Heartfelt birthday greetings to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ji. He has made tireless efforts to transform the state across various sectors, significantly improving the quality of life for its citizens. May God bless him with a long and healthy life," Modi said in a post on X.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also took to X to send his greetings and praised the chief minister for taking Uttar Pradesh to new heights of development.

Congress on PM's J-K visit: Surely he's aware Pahalgam terrorists still not brought to justice

NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): The Congress on Thursday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of his visit to Jammu and Kashmir and said surely he is aware that the terrorists directly responsible for the Pahalgam attack have still not been brought to justice.

Modi will on Friday launch multiple development projects worth more than Rs 46,000 crore at Katra in Jammu and Kashmir and inaugurate the Chenab bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge. He will also flag off Vande Bharat trains between Katra and Srinagar.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh noted that the prime minister is visiting Jammu and Kashmir tomorrow. "Surely he is aware that the terrorists directly responsible for the brutal terrorist attacks at Pahalgam on April 22nd have still not been brought to justice. And according to some reports that have not been denied, these very terrorists were also involved in the terror attacks in Poonch in Dec 2023 and in Gagangir and Gulmarg in Oct 2024," Ramesh said.

Last month, Ramesh cited news reports that the terrorists responsible for the Pahalgam attack were also involved in three earlier terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, and said there should be a clarification from the government on the issue. A PMO statement said Modi will launch multiple development projects in Katra, the base camp for pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi temple. He will also inaugurate the Anji Bridge, which is India's first cable-stayed rail bridge that will serve the nation in a challenging terrain, it added.

Among the other projects to be launched is the 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.

Elections via ballot papers will bring back BSP's 'good days': Mayawati

LUCKNOW, Jun 5 (Agencies): Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Thursday said her party's "good days" would return if elections are held through ballot papers instead of electronic voting machines (EVMs).

Addressing a press conference here, she reiterated her demand for conducting all elections through ballot papers, alleging that EVMs were being tampered to prevent BSP candidates from winning.

"Parties with casteist ideologies, both in power and in opposition, have been managing certain opportunistic and self-serving individuals from Dalit and other marginalised communities behind the scenes. These elements are being used to form various organisations and parties that are misleading our support base and dividing votes in BSP's strongholds, especially in Uttar Pradesh," she said.



7 killed as truck topples on auto-rickshaw in Madhya Pradesh

REWA, Jun 5 (Agencies): Seven people were killed and three others injured when a truck overturned and crushed an auto-rickshaw in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district on Thursday, police said.

The accident took place at around 2.30 pm on National Highway-30, located nearly 70 km from the district headquarters, when the victims were returning after taking a dip in the holy Ganga in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj district, they said.

The deceased comprised four children, two men and a woman.

Police launched a rescue operation after receiving information and admitted the injured to a hospital.

The truck passing through NH-30 got out of control and overturned on an auto-rickshaw, trapping its occupants, Additional Superintendent of Police Vivek Lal said.

Both the vehicles were severely damaged, he added.

Four people died on the spot, while three succumbed to injuries later, the official said.

The auto-rickshaw passengers were returning to Naigarhi in Mauganj district, bordering Rewa, after taking a dip



Bengaluru lost its image, BJP plays politics over stampede, says D K Shivakumar

BENGALURU, Jun 5 (Agencies): Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday turned emotional over the loss of lives due to the stampede near the Chinnaswamy Stadium and said that Bengaluru has lost its image due to the incident that claimed 11 lives.

Reacting to allegations by the opposition that police had not given permission for celebrations, he said, "I don't want to react to any of these BJP guys. I am only answerable to the people of Karnataka and people of the country. All BJP persons are nonsense... They are also the mastermind of these dirty things."

He also accused that the opposition BJP and JD(S) are playing politics on dead bodies and said that the state government has taken full responsibility for the incident.

Speaking to reporters he said, "We are deeply hurt. The victims are our own family. The image of Karnataka, the image of Bengaluru... Yes we take it (responsibility). We are not blaming others though it has happened very unexpectedly. No one expected such a crowd. After 18 years (of



who died in the incident are all family members and said the government never expected such a big gathering.

When pointed out that he turned emotional, he said, "See of course it is all about family members... we never expected such a big gathering. The image of Karnataka, the image of Bengaluru has lost... families have lost."

Responding to a request made by a woman to not conduct post-mortem of her son's body, he said, "The mother of a child who died in the stampede said please don't do the post-mortem, give the body to me. How can we do it? We have to take up a legal... (course). Because tomorrow something may happen and (questions would be raised) if it was done in a proper way? Whether it was an accident, whether someone has stamped him or stabbed him that report has to come from the health authorities. Only if a post-mortem is done, we will know it," he added.

Recounting his visit to the stadium after the incident, he said, "I just checked the gates.. how many gates were there, lot of issues were there... I think the magistrates will definitely look into it. We are very serious in this."

He said that his party at the national is very much concerned about this issue, too. We will try to find a solution for this," he said.

Top Naxal leader carrying Rs 40 lakh bounty killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh

BIJAPUR, Jun 5 (Agencies): A top Naxal leader carrying a bounty of Rs40 lakh was killed in an encounter with security forces on Thursday in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district. The operation took place in the National Park area, where intelligence inputs had indicated the presence of senior Naxal cadres.

Acting on the information, a joint team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and the Special Task Force (STF) launched a coordinated operation in the forested region. An exchange of fire ensued between the joint forces and the Naxals, continuing from the early hours of the morning.

During the encounter, Central Committee member Sudhakar, one of the most wanted Naxal leaders, was gunned down. He was carrying a reward of Rs 40 lakh on his head.

Sudhakar's death comes close on the heels of the killing of Nambala Keshav Rao, also known as Basavaraju, who was killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh in May. He was among 30 Naxals neutralised in a joint operation led by the District Reserve Guard (DRG) in the dense Abujhmad forests - a Naxal stronghold.

Nambala Keshav Rao, the general secretary of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), has been part of the Naxalite movement since the late 1970s and was one of its most feared strategists. He carried a bounty of Rs 1.5 crore and was wanted in connection with several deadly attacks on security forces across multiple states.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah called the operation "a landmark



achievement in the battle to eliminate Naxalism".

He called Nambala Keshav Rao the "backbone of the Naxal movement", adding that it was the "first time in three decades of Bharat's battle against Naxalism that a general secretary-ranked leader has been neutralised by our forces".

Notably, 16 Naxalites, including six carrying a collective cash reward of Rs 25 lakh, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Monday, police said.

All 16 cadres, including a woman, turned themselves in before senior police and CRPF officials, citing disappointment with the "hollow" and "inhuman" Maoist ideology and atrocities by ultras on local tribals, Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan said.

Woman BJP leader's boyfriend rapes minor daughter in front of her; both held in Haridwar

HARIDWAR, Jun 5 (Agencies): A BJP leader and her boyfriend were arrested here for allegedly making him and his aide rape her 13-year-old daughter, the police said on Thursday.

The matter came to light on Tuesday when the minor told her father about her ordeal, following which he lodged a police complaint, Haridwar SSP Pramendra Dobhal said.

A case was registered under BNS Sections 70 (2) (gang-rape), 351(3) (criminal intimidation), 3(5) (criminal act) by several persons in furtherance of common intention and relevant sections of the POCSO Act.

Anamika Sharma and her boyfriend Sumit Patwal were arrested from a hotel here on Wednesday after a medical examination of the girl confirmed that she had been sexually assaulted, Dobhal said.

Meanwhile, a search is underway to arrest Sumit's accomplice named Shubham.

Anamika formerly headed the BJP Mahila Morcha's Haridwar district unit, however, once her name cropped up in this case, she was stripped of the party's primary membership.

BJP sources here claim that she has not held any party post since August 2024.

According to the police, the minor was gang-raped several times by her mother's boyfriend and his aide, both of whom are in their thirties, in Haridwar, Agra and Vrindavan between January and March this year.

The men perpetrated the crime with her mother's consent and in her presence, the police said, adding that they also threatened to kill the minor's father if she disclosed it to anyone.

Anamika had separated from her husband and has been living with her boyfriend in his hotel.

Russian strike kills five, including one-year old in Northern Ukraine, hours after Trump calls Putin

According to Trump, Putin “very strongly” said that Russia will retaliate for Ukraine’s weekend drone attacks on Russian military airfields.

KYIV, Jun 5 (Agencies): At least five people, including a one-year-old child, were killed in a Russian drone strike on the northern Ukrainian city of Pryluky overnight, regional governor Viacheslav Chaus said Thursday.

The attack came just hours after Donald Trump spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin. According to Trump, Putin “very strongly” said that Russia will retaliate for Ukraine’s weekend drone attacks on Russian military airfields.

Six more people were wounded in the attack and have been hospitalized, Chaus said. According to him, six Shahed-type drones



struck residential areas of Pryluky early Thursday morning, causing severe damage to residential buildings.

Hours later, seventeen people were wounded in a Russian drone strike on the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv early Thursday, including children, a pregnant woman, and a 93-year-old woman, regional head Oleh Syniehubov

wrote on Telegram.

At around 1:05 a.m., Shahed-type drones struck two apartment buildings in the city’s Slobidskyi district, causing fires and destroying several private vehicles.

“By launching attacks while people sleep in their homes, the enemy once again confirms its tactic of insidious terror,” Syniehubov wrote on Telegram.

Israel says it has recovered the bodies of two Israeli-American hostages from the Gaza Strip

TEL AVIV, Jun 5 (Agencies): Israel has recovered the bodies of two Israeli-American hostages taken in Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, attack that ignited the war in the Gaza Strip, officials said Thursday.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the remains of Judith Weinstein and Gad Haggai were recovered and returned to Israel in a special operation by the army and the Shin Bet internal security agency.

“Together with all the citizens of Israel, my wife and I extend our heartfelt condolences to the dear families. Our hearts ache for the most terrible loss. May their memory be blessed,” he said in a statement.

Kibbutz Nir Oz announced the deaths of Weinstein, 70, and Haggai, 72, both of whom had Israeli and U.S. citizenship, in December 2023.

The military said they were killed in the Oct. 7 attack and taken into

Gaza by the Mujahideen Brigades, the small armed group that it said had also abducted and killed Shiri Bibas and her two small children. The army said it recovered the remains of Weinstein and Haggai overnight into Thursday from the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis.

A teacher who helped children and a chef who played jazz

The couple were taking an early morning walk near their home in Kibbutz Nir Oz on the morning of Oct. 7 when Hamas militants stormed across the border and rampaged through several army bases and farming communities.

In the early hours of the morning, Weinstein was able to call emergency services and let them know that both she and her husband had been shot, and send a message to her family.

Weinstein was born in New York and taught English to children with

special needs at Kibbutz Nir Oz, a small community near the Gaza border. The kibbutz said she also taught meditation techniques to children and teenagers who suffered from anxiety as a result of rocket fire from Gaza. Haggai was a retired chef and jazz musician.

“My beautiful parents have been freed. We have certainty,” their daughter, Iris Haggai Liniado, wrote in a Facebook post. She thanked the Israeli military, the FBI and the Israeli and U.S. governments and called for the release of all the remaining hostages.

The couple were survived by two sons and two daughters and seven grandchildren, the kibbutz said.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the Oct. 7 attack and abducted 251 hostages. They are still holding 56 hostages, around a third of them believed to be

alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals. Israeli forces have rescued eight living hostages from Gaza and recovered dozens of bodies.

Israel’s military campaign has killed over 54,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were civilians or combatants. The offensive has destroyed large parts of Gaza and displaced around 90% of its population of roughly 2 million Palestinians.

Ceasefire talks deadlocked

The United States, Egypt and Qatar have been trying to broker another ceasefire and hostage release after Israel ended an earlier truce in March and imposed a blockade that has raised fears of famine, despite being eased in recent weeks. But the talks appear to

be deadlocked.

Hamas says it will only release the remaining hostages in return for more Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. It has offered to hand over power to a politically independent Palestinian committee.

Netanyahu has rejected those terms, saying Israel will only agree to temporary ceasefires to facilitate the return of hostages. He has vowed to continue the war until all the hostages are returned and Hamas is defeated or disarmed and sent into exile.

He has said Israel will maintain control over Gaza indefinitely and will facilitate what he refers to as the voluntary emigration of much of its population to other countries. The Palestinians and much of the international community have rejected such plans, viewing them as forcible expulsion that could violate international law.

Trump announces travel ban affecting a dozen countries set to go into effect Monday

WASHINGTON, Jun 5 (Agencies): President Donald Trump is resurrecting the travel ban policy from his first term, signing a proclamation Wednesday night preventing people from a dozen countries from entering the United States.

The countries include Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

In addition to the ban, which takes effect at 12:01 a.m. Monday, there will be heightened restrictions on visitors from Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela.

“I must act to protect the national security and national interest of the United States and its people,” Trump said in his proclamation.

Ten of the 19 countries under the bans and restrictions are in Africa, nine of those from majority Black African countries. Several of those, including Sierra Leone, Togo, and Equatorial Guinea, are not known for hosting armed groups that pose a major threat to the West.

The list results from a Jan. 20 executive order Trump issued requiring the departments of State and Homeland Security and the Director of National Intelligence to compile a report on “hos-



tile attitudes” toward the U.S. and whether entry from certain countries represented a national security risk.

During his first term, Trump issued an executive order in January 2017 banning travel to the U.S. by citizens of seven predominantly Muslim countries — Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen.

It was one of the most chaotic and confusing moments of his young presidency. Travelers from those nations were either barred from getting on their flights to the U.S. or detained at U.S. airports after they landed. They included students and faculty as well as businesspeople, tourists and people visiting friends and family. The order, often

referred to as the “Muslim ban” or the “travel ban,” was retooled amid legal challenges, until a version was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2018.

The ban affected various categories of travelers and immigrants from Iran, Somalia, Yemen, Syria and Libya, plus North Koreans and some Venezuelan government officials and their families.

Trump and others have defended the initial ban on national security grounds, arguing it was aimed at protecting the country and not founded on anti-Muslim bias. However, the president had called for an explicit ban on Muslims during his first campaign for the White House.

Earthquake of magnitude 5 strikes China’s Yunnan province in wee hours

YUNNAN, Jun 5 (Agencies): A 5.0-magnitude earthquake struck Dali in China’s Yunnan province early Thursday, the China Earthquake Networks Centre (CENC) reported. There are no immediate reports of damage or casualties. Authorities are monitoring the situation.

The earthquake struck at 4:13 AM local time (2:13 GMT) and had a depth of 10 kilometres (about 6.2 miles).

Yunnan province often faces jolts due to its geographical location. It lies where the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates meet. These plates have been pushing against each other for millions of years,

with the Indian plate moving about 5 centimetres north every year. This slow but powerful movement is also what created the Himalayas and causes frequent earthquakes in southwestern China, including Yunnan.

Due to this pressure, cracks form in the Earth’s crust, particularly along fault lines like Longmenshan and Xiaohe-Baogunao. These areas have triggered strong earthquakes in the past.

According to the China Earthquake Networks Centre (CENC), there have been 118 earthquakes measuring 3.0 magnitude or more within 200 kilometres of Dali in the last five

years. The strongest was a 6.4 magnitude quake in May 2021. Yunnan’s high mountains, which are part of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, also make the area more likely to feel strong shaking.

Yunnan also has a history of strong earthquakes, especially near Tengchong in the Gaoligong Mountains. That area has seen over 70 earthquakes stronger than magnitude 5, and it also has signs of underground activity like hot springs and old volcanic zones. These are further signs that the ground beneath Yunnan is very active and likely to produce more earthquakes in the future.

South Korean lawmakers approve special investigations into martial law, Yoon’s wife

SEOUL, Jun 5 (Agencies): South Korea’s liberal-led legislature overwhelmingly passed bills Thursday to launch special investigations into former President Yoon Suk Yeol’s short-lived imposition of martial law in December and criminal allegations against his wife, targeting the ousted conservative a day after his liberal successor took office.

The National Assembly also passed a bill to initiate an independent investigation into the 2023 drowning death of a marine during a search-and-rescue operation for flood victims, an incident the Democratic Party, which holds majority, accuses Yoon’s government of covering up.

The bills previously had been vetoed by Yoon during his term and by South Korea’s caretaker government after his Dec. 14 impeachment.

President Lee Jae-myung, a Democrat who won Tuesday’s snap election triggered by Yoon’s removal from office, is expected to sign the bills.

Many members of the conservative People Power Party refused to

participate in the votes, which took place after one of the party’s lawmakers accused the liberals of being driven by vendetta.

Kim Yong-min, a Democratic Party lawmaker, said the conservatives were effectively defending Yoon’s imposition of martial law by repeatedly opposing investigations into it.

“That’s why they failed to win public support and were rejected by voters in the presidential election,” he said in a speech.

Lee, who drove the legislative efforts to impeach Yoon, pinned his presidential campaign on unity, promising not to target conservatives and calling for an end to political polarization.

Yet Lee has vowed a full investigation into Yoon’s martial law imposition and the allegations surrounding his wife, moves that could overshadow the new government and inflame tensions as Yoon faces a high-stakes rebellion trial carrying a possible death sentence.

The Seoul Central District Prosecutors’ Office has indicted Yoon on charges accusing Yoon of masterminding a

rebellion and enacting martial law as an illegal bid to seize the legislature and election offices and arrest political opponents.

Liberals have insisted independent investigations into Yoon are essential, saying probes by prosecutors, police and an anti-corruption agency were inadequate and hampered by Yoon’s refusal to cooperate. If Lee approves the independent investigations, special prosecutors could request the transfer of relevant cases to expand those investigations or direct public or military prosecutors to continue handling them under their supervision.

The bills calling for independent investigations into Yoon’s martial law decree and criminal allegations involving his wife both passed by a vote of 194 to 3.

Dozens of retired marines, dressed in red shirts, saluted and cheered from an observation box after lawmakers passed the bill for a special prosecutor investigation into the marine’s death, which also passed 194 to 3.

Martial law lasted only a few hours after a quorum of lawmakers

pushed past a blockade of hundreds of heavily armed soldiers and voted to revoke the measure. Yoon defended the move as a necessary act of governance, accusing the Democrats, whom he labeled “anti-state forces,” of abusing their majority to obstruct his agenda and paralyze state affairs.

That same majority now gives Lee a far more favorable path to advance his agenda, though conservatives claim it could grant him virtually unchecked power and allow him to pass laws that shield him from legal trouble.

Yoon’s wife, Kim Keon Hee, also faces multiple corruption allegations, including claims that she received luxury items from a Unification Church official seeking business favors, as well as possible involvement in a stock price manipulation scheme. She also is suspected of interfering with PPP’s candidate nominations ahead of legislative elections in April last year.

While in office, Yoon repeatedly dismissed calls to investigate his wife, denouncing them as baseless political attacks.

Six of 11 private firm employees abducted by militants in Pakistan rescued

PESHAWAR, Jun 5 (Agencies): Unidentified militants abducted 11 employees of a private company from Pakistan’s northwestern province Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday, official sources said.

However, police pursued the suspects

and rescued six of the abducted employees.

On receiving the alert, District Police Officer Superintendent of Police Dera Ismail Khan and Counter Terrorism Department Superintendent of Police Shakeel Khan, along with their teams, reached the spot

and launched a search.

A search operation is currently underway to rescue the remaining five hostages and nab the suspects.

The employees, travelling in three vehicles of a private company, were enroute from Islamabad to Quetta when they

were abducted near Domanda Bridge in Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

In a separate incident, residents of Tirah Valley in Khyber district bordering Afghanistan thwarted an attempt to abduct a Pakistan army soldier.

China issues warrants for alleged Taiwanese hackers and bans a business for pro-independence links

TAIPEI, Jun 5 (Agencies): China issued warrants Thursday for 20 Taiwanese people it said carried out hacking missions in the Chinese mainland on behalf of the island’s ruling party, while separately banning dealings with a Taiwanese company whose owners mainland authorities called “hard-core Taiwan independence supporters.”

Police in the southern manufacturing hub of Guangzhou said they were led by a man named Ning Enwei on behalf of Taiwan’s independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party but did not identify their alleged crimes.

Meanwhile, China’s government said all commercial contact had been banned with the Siciuens International Company Ltd., which it says are led by businessman Puma Shen and his father, calling

the two men independence supporters.

Websites mentioning Siciuens say it specializes in sourcing bicycle parts from China.

Shen is also the head of the Kuma Academy, an organization that encourages Taiwanese people to prepare for possible invasion.

China considers Taiwan its own territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary.

Zhu Fenglian, a spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the China’s Cabinet, said Siciuens “engages in trade and business cooperation with certain mainland enterprises in pursuit of economic benefits.”

“The mainland side will never allow enterprises related to die-hard ‘Taiwan independence’ sup-

porters to seek profits in the mainland,” Zhu was quoted as saying.

China last year announced punishments on Shen and the Kuma Academy, saying Shen had been “actively and systematically organizing activities promoting Taiwan independence.”

The Academy’s website says it “aims to prepare a prewar mentality for civilians, our mission is to cultivate self-defense capability and will to defend Taiwan. We provide knowledge and skills to help people sustain themselves and recognize enemy disinformation operations in both peace and wartime situations.”

Taiwan has responded by bulk-up its own military, while some private individuals have opened camps for training in guerilla warfare.

Harita Yoga session observed on World Environment Day



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: As part of the 11th International Yoga Day celebrations and under the “Harita Yoga” component (Yoga on World Environment Day), a special yoga session was conducted on 5th June 2025 at Pacca Talab Park, Sarwal, Jammu.

The event was organized under the guidance of the worthy Director AYUSH, Dr. Nuzhat Bashir, and under the supervision of Medical Superintendent, Government Ayurvedic Hospital Jammu, Dr. Vandana Dogra, and Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr. Aruna Bhat. The event was held in collaboration with Arogya Bharti J&K and was presided over by Hon’ble Member Legislative Assembly

Jammu City, Sh. Yudhvir Sethi.

The session featured a demonstration of the Common Yoga Protocol to the general public, who joined from diverse walks of life. On the occasion of World Environment Day, plantation of medicinal plants was also carried out at the venue, symbolizing the harmony between health and nature. Additionally, awareness lectures emphasizing the importance of Yoga as a lifestyle practice for promoting environmental consciousness were delivered to the attendees.

The event witnessed active participation from a total of 328 individuals. Among the notable participants were medical officers from Government Ayurvedic Hospital Jammu and District

Ayush Office Jammu, including Dr. Sangeeta Mahajan, Dr. Manisha, Dr. Shivani, Dr. Sunil Koul, Dr. Sushil, Dr. Arun, Dr. Dilawar Khan, Dr. Paramjit Puri, Dr. Himani Bhutyal, and Dr. Iety Mahajan. Dr. Amardeep Kaur, along with interns, under-training pharmacists, MPWs, MTS, and yoga instructors from across Jammu District also took part in the event.

Yoga instructors Neelam Kumar and Jyoti Bala skillfully demonstrated the yoga protocol, while Dr. Arun Gupta efficiently coordinated the stage proceedings. The program was a blend of spiritual, environmental, and physical wellness and underscored the crucial role of yoga in holistic health and environmental stewardship.

GDC RS Pura celebrates World Environment Day with online quiz, plantation drive



Top News Report

R S PURA, Jun 5: The Department of Environmental Sciences in collaboration with Eco-Club of the Government Degree College R.S. Pura celebrated World Environment Day on Thursday as a part of nationwide campaign “Beat the plastic pollution”. A UT level online quiz was organized on the same theme in which more than 150 students participated.

This quiz was aimed to create awareness regarding the worldwide menace of plastic pollution.

Students enthusiastically participated in the online quiz designed to test and improve their knowledge about pressing environmental issues, sustainability practices, and global climate action.

The college also organized a tree plantation drive in collaboration with Eco Club. Faculty,

staff, and students planted saplings across the campus, reaffirming their commitment to building a greener and cleaner environment. Native and medicinal plant species were prioritized to support local biodiversity. Speaking about the event Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal recognized that education must extend beyond classrooms to include real-world environmental action. She urged students to adopt eco-friendly habits and spread the message of sustainability within and beyond the campus.

The event was organized under the patronage of the Principal Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour by the faculty of Environmental sciences, Prof. Priya Darshini Sharma, Dr. Sudesh Kumar, Dr. Akriti Parihar.

FromPage No: 3

Security beefed up in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of PM Modi’s visit

security alert has been sounded across Jammu and Kashmir in view of the Prime Minister’s visit with senior police, paramilitary officers, army and intelligence officers personally monitoring the situation.

Heavy security deployments have been made in and around the venues with latest gadgets, including drones deployed to keep a close vigil, the officials said, adding the security grid on the borders and the hinterland has been further beefed up to check infiltration and movement of anti-national and subversive elements.

The area domination and raids on the houses of suspected persons including Over Ground Workers and relatives of terrorists operating from across the border have also been intensified as part of the security arrangements, the officials said.

During a visit to border areas on Wednesday, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Jammu-Kathua-Samba range, Shiv Kumar directed the officers on the ground to remain vigilant.

Direct train between Jammu and Srinagar will run in September: Union Minister

Besides, he will lay the foundation and inaugurate several projects worth Rs 46,000 crore in Jammu and Kashmir.

Baramulla Police secures breakthrough in POCSO case as DNA evidence identifies perpetrator in minor’s assault

On receiving information in January 2025, Kunzer Police Station registered FIR No. 04/2025 under relevant sections of the POCSO Act and BNS after a 16-year-old girl was found to be 25 weeks

pregnant during a medical examination at SDH Magam, read a police statement.

The investigation, led by then-SHO Kunzer Inspector Sheikh Adil revealed the minor had been repeatedly assaulted by multiple perpetrators. Initial inquiries led to the arrest of Mohd Rafiq Bhat(resident of Dhoibwan), Mohd Nasarullah Khan (resident of Hayhama Lolab, Kupwara) who were arrested for rape, aggravated sexual assault, and kidnapping under POCSO provisions, though DNA analysis excluded both of them as the father.

Through persistent efforts, investigators focused on Jawad Alam (resident of Champaran) as a prime suspect. Forensic matching confirmed his DNA matched the foetus, establishing him as the biological father and confirming his role in the sexual assault leading to the pregnancy.

Investigations confirmed all three accused independently assaulted the victim on multiple occasions, with Alam responsible for the conception.

ACB files disproportionate assets case against govt employee in Bani-

hal

Nagar, Jammu, double storey house at Maitra Ramban, a residential complex along with 3 Shops at Chareel, Banihal,vehicles, financial documents and other evidence suggesting unaccounted wealth,” it reads.

It added that during the course of investigation, the ACB obtained search warrant from the court of special judge Anti-Corruption, Doda and search was conducted at the residential complex situated at Old National High Way Road Chareel, Banihal in presence of Magistrate and independent witnesses, while further investigation is going on.

SRS calls for restoration of Darbar Move, J&K Statehood to boost Jammu’s business sector

restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, arguing that only a full-fledged state can ensure local accountability, transparent governance, and economic planning suited to regional needs.

“Since Jammu and Kashmir became a Union Territory, there is a growing sense of alienation among the people. The business community, in particular, feels sidelined. Decisions are being taken without adequate consultation, and there is little scope for local voices to be heard in policymaking,” Mahajan remarked.

Highlighting the plight of Jammu’s traders, Mahajan noted that the local economy has suffered not only due to the political transition but also due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the decline in tourism, and rising costs of operations. “The business industry here is under unprecedented pressure. With the absence of state-level financial packages, lack of tax incentives, and declining investment interest, it’s becoming increasingly difficult to sustain businesses,” he said.

Mahajan suggested urged the government must undertake to support Jammu’s economic revival by revival of Darbar Move to ensure equitable administrative and economic focus and restoration of full statehood to enhance regional governance and economic autonomy.

“The time has come to give Jammu its due. We are not against the progress of Kashmir, but Jammu must not be neglected.

Restoring Darbar Move and Statehood will not only boost business morale but also create employment, revive trade, and restore public confidence in governance,” Mahajan concluded.

His statement has resonated strongly across the local trade bodies, with many welcoming the call as a step in the right direction. As Jammu awaits economic rejuvenation, stakeholders hope the government listens to these urgent pleas for justice and balanced regional development.

Police crack theft case in North Kashmir, Two arrested

arrest of two individuals: Shabir Ahmad Tabardar, son of Ali Mohammad Tabardar, resident of Singhpora, and Umer Nabi Khanday, son of Gh. Nabi Khanday, resident of Zangam,” police said.

Police said the stolen wire was recovered from the accused, and the vehicles used in the commission of the crime have also been seized. Further investigation is ongoing.

Police have urged the public to report any suspicious activity and reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining law and order in the district.

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SP North releases devotional Bhajan “Mujhe Itna Diya Maa Ne”



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: In a heartening initiative celebrating local talent and devotion, Superintendent of Police Jammu North, Vivek Shekhar Sharma (JKPS) and Managing Director of Maa Bawe Wali Records, Sahil Mahajan, jointly released a soulful devotional bhajan titled “Mujhe Itna Diya Maa Ne”. The bhajan, rich in spiritual fervor and emotion, was released on the YouTube channel “Smarth Chouhan Music.”

The bhajan has been beautifully sung, written, and composed by Smarth Jammu Wala,

with music by Jatin Shasan, video by Akul Sharma, and editing/graphics by Hemant Maliya. The entire production team was applauded for their collective dedication and artistic finesse in bringing the divine melody to life. During the launch event, SP Vivek Shekhar Sharma praised the efforts of the entire team and emphasized the importance of engaging youth in creative and productive activities. He urged young people to stay away from drugs and instead channel their energy into art, music, and community-building. He also stressed the

need for public support for local artists, which can encourage them to grow and gain recognition beyond regional boundaries.

Sahil Mahajan, while congratulating the team, highlighted the significance of such artistic projects in preserving cultural values and promoting regional talent. He expressed his continued support for artists across J&K and applauded their devotion to spirituality through art. He noted that initiatives like these not only inspire the youth but also play a key role in cultural preservation.

Also present at the launch were Subash Chouhan, Varsha Chouhan Bhawani, and several other supporters and art lovers who celebrated the release and blessed the artists for future success.

The release of “Mujhe Itna Diya Maa Ne” marks another step in the journey of promoting devotional music and encouraging the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to showcase their talents on larger platforms.

Cyber Crime case solved by PS CICE Jammu; chargesheet filed against two accused

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: Police Station CICE Jammu has successfully solved a cybercrime and blackmailing case involving the creation of a fake Instagram profile and the circulation of obscene content.

The case has been chargesheeted following a comprehensive and professional investigation led by Inspector Jagdeep Singh.

The case originated from a complaint lodged by a distressed mother alleging that her daughter had fallen victim to online harassment.

As per the complaint, unknown persons had created a fake Instagram profile using a pornographic display picture (DP) of the victim. The perpetrators continued to harass and blackmail the girl by posting obscene material through various Instagram accounts and persistently stalking her.

Based on the seriousness of the allegations, a case—FIR No. 04/2025, dated January 31, 2025—was registered under Section 78 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) read with

Section 67 of the Information Technology Act, 2008 (Amended) against the accused individuals identified as Kunal Bharti (currently residing in Dubai) and Tirlak Chand Yadav, resident of Ajmer, Rajasthan.

Inspector Jagdeep Singh, the Investigating Officer, employed a combination of traditional policing and advanced technological tools to crack the case.

With assistance from telecom service providers and major social media platforms, crucial evidence was obtained. Modern investigative techniques such as reverse International Long Distance (ILD) and Internet Protocol Detail Records (IPDRs) were used to trace the origin of the posts and link them to the accused.

Both suspects were questioned using digital forensics and electronic gadgets, which enabled the collection of admissible evidence to support the prosecution. After compiling sufficient material, the charge sheet was formally filed before the City Judge Court, Jammu, on Thursday.

The public has widely lauded the efforts of the Jammu Police,

particularly Inspector Jagdeep Singh, for his diligence and professional conduct throughout the investigation.

The case was handled under the close supervision of SHO PS CICE Jammu and Dy. SP Sachit Mahajan, with overall guidance and direction provided by Mohd Yaseen Kichloo (IPS), SSP CICE J&K.

This case highlights the increasing effectiveness of cyber policing in Jammu and Kashmir and sends a strong message that cyber harassment and exploitation will not be tolerated. The J&K Police has reiterated its commitment to protecting the dignity and safety of women and ensuring strict action against cybercriminals.

A complaint was received from complainant alleging therein that her daughter has become the victim of Cyber Crime and Blackmailing and the unknown persons have created a fake profile at Instagram and has uploaded pornographic picture as DP of the victim and continuously calling/stalking her by posting obscene material on various instagram IDs. On the basis of facts/disclosure, a

case FIR NO. 04/2025 dated 31.01.2025 was registered against the accused persons namely Kunal Bharti (presently at Dubai) and Tirlak Chand Yadav R/O Ajmer Rajasthan and investigation was entrusted to Inpsr. Jagdeep Singh, of PS CICE Jammu.

By conducting thorough, professional investigation, the Investigating Officer collected relevant documents/information from the telecom service provider, social media houses and also used reverse ILD/IPDRs techniques. Investigating officer by using modern electronic gadgets questioned/examined the accused persons. The Charge sheet in the instant case has been filed before the Hon'ble court of City judge Jammu on 05.06.2025 against both the accused persons U/S 78 BNS r/w 67 IT 2008 (Amended).

Public at large has appreciated the sincere efforts of Inpsr. Jagdeep Singh who has professionally worked under the close supervision SHO PS CICE Jammu, Dy. SP Sachit Mahajan and overall supervision of Mohd Yaseen Kichloo -IPS, SSP CICE J&K.

PTTI Vijaypur organizes plantation drive on World Environment Day

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Jun 5: In observance of World Environment Day, the Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI), Vijaypur, under the leadership of Principal Ranjit Singh Sambyal (IPS), organized a plantation drive aimed at promoting environmental awareness and responsibility among trainees, staff, and the public.

The event commenced with the ceremonial planting of an ornamental sapling by the Principal, followed by active participation from the Gazetted Officers (GOs) of the institute. The drive witnessed enthusiastic involvement from staff members, trainees, and local residents, who collectively planted a wide variety of saplings,



including ornamental, medicinal, herbal, and fruit-bearing species.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Ranjit Singh Sambyal emphasized the significance of such initiatives, noting that the plantation drive serves as a powerful reminder of the need for environmental conservation and sustainable living—especially

in institutions committed to public service. He underlined the institute's ongoing commitment to fostering ecological awareness and responsibility within its community.

The event concluded with collective resolve among all participants to continue working towards a greener and healthier environment.

Ganesh Sharma to represent India at “Paris the City of Art International Exhibition”

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: Eminent senior contemporary sculptor Ganesh Kumar Sharma, a highly acclaimed international artist, has been officially invited to participate in the prestigious “Paris the City of Art, International Art Exhibition” (THE MUSEUM). This globally recognized event is organized by Artists Magazine France, Art City Gallery Paris, and Fine Arts Schools worldwide, under the patronage of distinguished figures such as Dr. Michael Anthony, Dr. Idris Emmanuel, and internationally renowned creative artist Khaled Mounir.

The exhibition, themed “Fine Arts and Dreams”, aims to highlight the interconnection between art and the dream world—both as profound expressions of human imagination and cre-



ativity. It is scheduled to be inaugurated on June 6, 2025, and will remain on display on global platforms until June 15, 2025. Among the 60 senior contemporary internationally celebrated artists selected from around the globe, Ganesh Kumar Sharma is the only sculptor from India chosen to exhibit at this elite event. His selection is a matter of pride for the country, especially for the region of Jammu and Kashmir.

In his reflections, Sharma shared, “When we create art, we are sharing a part of ourselves with the world.

We are revealing our vision, our perspective, and our soul. When we appreciate art, we are allowing the artist's soul to come into contact with us, letting their emotions and thoughts inspire us.”

With a legacy of over 45 years in promoting art and culture, Ganesh Kumar Sharma has been the recipient of numerous State, National, and International awards and recognitions from countries across the globe. His participation in this exhibition further cements his standing as a pillar of Indian sculpture on the world stage.

The art community and cultural institutions across India have lauded this development and extended their best wishes to Sharma for continuing to represent India's artistic heritage with distinction on international platforms.

“The Journey Between Breath and Name”

*When a soul arrives, fresh from the skies,
With tiny hands and wondering eyes,
It holds a breath, so soft, so new—
Yet has no name to answer to.*

*No titles worn, no tale to claim,
A beating heart, but not a name.
Just breath, just life, a sacred flame—
A whisper in the Maker's frame.*

*Then days go by, and paths unfold,
The young grow wise, the shy grow bold.
A name is given, etched in sound,
And meaning slowly gathers round.*

*In joy and tears, in work and play,
This breath and name both lead the way.
Through loss and love, through pride and shame—
We carve a life, we make a name.*

*But time, the silent thief, does creep,
And stills the breath in gentle sleep.
Now etched in stone, the name remains,
While breath departs in wind and rains.*

So what is life? This fleeting flame—

The dance between our breath and name.

*A journey brief, yet deep and wide,
A tale that lives, though we have died.*

*Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain
President Vichar Kranti
Manch International JK UT*



Massive Protest in Jammu; J&K Youth Congress burns effigy of BJP MLA over “Insulting” remarks against IAF

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: Tensions flared in Jammu as the J&K Pradesh Youth Congress (JKPYC) staged a massive protest against BJP MLA R.S. Pathania of Udhampur East for his controversial remarks allegedly targeting the Indian Air Force. The protest, held under the directions of AICC Secretary Krishna Allavaru and IYC National President Uday Bhanu Chib, saw Youth Congress workers burning an effigy of the BJP leader in a symbolic expression of outrage.

Led by Indian Youth Congress Secretary Incharge for J&K, Maan Singh Rathore, and senior JKPYC members, the protest drew a large number of Youth Congress activists who raised slogans condemning the BJP's “hypocrisy and political opportunism.” Protesters accused the BJP of praising the armed forces for political gain during rallies while undermining them with baseless allegations for local political mileage. The uproar centers around comments made by BJP MLA R.S. Pathania during a recent public address in Udhampur, where he reportedly accused the Indian Air Force of encroaching on civilian land without providing compensation. The Youth Congress strongly condemned these remarks, calling them “deeply shameful, unpatriotic, and a direct



attack on the valor and integrity of India's armed forces.”

Addressing the protest, Maan Singh Rathore stated, “Such irresponsible statements politicize our defense institutions and belittle the sacrifices of our soldiers. The BJP cannot claim the glory of military operations like Operation Sindoor on one hand and accuse the same forces of wrongdoing on the other.” “This is a new low for the BJP,” Rathore added. “By making such statements, the BJP is not only attacking the Indian Air Force but also disrespecting the very foundation of national security.”

General Secretary of JKPYC, Anirudh Sawhney, echoed these sentiments and criticized Pathania for what he termed “a theatrical stunt aimed at inciting public

unrest.” Sawhney claimed that the BJP MLA had torn official documents in public and attempted to provoke locals over administrative issues involving defense land. “This is not leadership; it's dangerous political drama that could disrupt communal harmony and public order,” he said.

Sawhney went on to highlight the Air Force's decades-long contributions to national security and disaster relief efforts. “The Indian Air Force has stood by the nation in every crisis. To target them over land disputes is not only factually incorrect but morally bankrupt,” he said. He further confirmed that a formal FIR complaint had been lodged against R.S. Pathania by JKPYC leaders including himself and others.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION, AKHNOOR/NOWSHERA

Tele/Fax : 01924-253998/E-Mail : ifcjmiddakhoor@gmail.com

Notice Inviting Tender

e-NIT No.: MID/AN/07 Dated: 03/06/2025

For and on behalf of The Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (UT), Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Akhnoor/Nowshera invites e-tenders from Approved contractors/ Registered firms / Workshop owners having experience in Electromechanical Works for following jobs:-

S.No.	Name of the work	Quantity	Earnest Money (Rs. in Laes)	Cost of tender document	Period of Completion	Class of contractor
01.	Repair to 100 HP 3 phase induction motor at LIS Kotgarhi H/L, 90 HP 3 phase induction motor, 200 mm dia Foot Valve at LIS Aizal Malal	01 Job	02% of the quoted value	Rs.200	15 Days	Registered /Reputed firms /Workshop owners having experience in Electromechanical Works

1. The bidding documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from 03/06/2025 (05:00PM) to 16/06/2025 (02:00 PM). Bidding document contains instruction for bidders, bill of quantities, general terms and condition and other details.

a) The Bids shall be uploaded in electronic format on the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from 05/06/2025 (10:00 AM) to 16/06/2025 (02:00 PM).

b) The complete bidding process will be through electronic mode.

c) A pre-bid meeting will be held on 04/06/2025 (11:30 AM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Akhnoor / Nowshera to address any queries from the firms.

d) Cover-I of the bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 17/06/2025 (1:00PM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Akhnoor / Nowshera in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

e) Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-Tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidders who is declared as L1 after opening of Financial Bids

f) The cost of the tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan by simply uploading a copy of necessary treasury challan/Receipt.

2. Similarly, insisting on actual call deposit receipt, a copy of same duly pledged to the concerned department should be uploaded by the tenderers. However, before allotting the work or issuing the supply order the original CDR should be obtained and kept on record.

3. Other details can be seen in the bidding document.

4. The guidelines regarding submission of bid in electronic mode can be downloaded from website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>

5. The bidders shall go through the tender specific instructions sheet also.

6. The bidders for any clarification can contact the department through e-mail ifcjmiddakhoor@gmail.com.

No: MID/AN/244-48
Dated: - 03-06-2025

DIP/J-1780/25

-Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Akhnoor/Nowshera

RCB victory parade stampede: Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh condole loss of lives

NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): India's legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar and World Cup-winning all-rounder Yuvraj Singh condoled the "tragic" stampede near Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium, which killed 11 people and injured nearly 50 fans during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) Indian Premier League (IPL) victory celebrations.

The incident occurred when thousands of fans gathered near the iconic stadium to catch a glimpse of their favourite players during RCB's maiden IPL title felicitation event. The celebratory event, which drew over two lakh fans to the Chinnaswamy Stadium—well beyond its 35,000-seat capacity—was cut short to just 20 minutes after organisers were alerted to the chaos unfolding outside. All RCB players and support staff, including head coach Andy Flower and team mentor Dinesh Karthik, were present at the event.

Sachin Tendulkar took to X



(formerly Twitter) to express his grief, writing, "What happened at Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, is beyond tragic. My heart goes out to every affected family. Wishing peace and strength to all."

Former Indian all-rounder Yuvraj Singh offered his condolences, saying, "What was meant to be a moment of celebration turned into an unimaginable tragedy. My heart goes out to everyone affected by the

incident in #Bengaluru. May the families find strength and the departed souls rest in peace."

Former India spinner Anil Kumble mourned the lives lost and wished a speedy recovery to the injured. "It's a sad day for cricket! My heart goes out to the families of those who lost their lives while celebrating RCB's victory today. Praying for the speedy recovery of those injured. Tragic!!" he wrote on X. In a statement, Royal Chal-

lengers Bengaluru (RCB) expressed deep condolences over the loss of lives and said the felicitation event, which featured players and coaching staff, was promptly altered as soon as the franchise was informed about the stampede outside the stadium.

"We are deeply anguished by the unfortunate incidents that have come to light through media reports regarding public gatherings across Bengaluru in anticipation of the team's arrival this afternoon. The safety and well-being of everyone is of the utmost importance to us," RCB said in a statement.

"RCB mourns the tragic loss of lives and extends our heartfelt condolences to the affected families. Immediately upon being made aware of the situation, we promptly amended our programme and followed the guidance and advice of the local administration," the statement added.

KL Rahul in red-ball arena: Revisiting his performance in English conditions

NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): Indian batter KL Rahul has joined the India-A squad for the 2nd unofficial test against the England Lions squad starting from June 6.

KL is also part of the Indian team that will kick off India's World Test Championship (WTC) 2025-2027 cycle against England on June 20.

KL Rahul has played 9 Test matches in England, scoring 614 runs at an average of 34.11, with a highest score of 149. He has 2 centuries and 1 half-century in those matches.

In 2018, India's tour of England saw KL score 299 runs in ten innings, including a century. His average in that series was under 30, and his strike rate was 66.4. In 2021, India's tour of England saw KL increase his stats. He

scored 315 runs in eight innings with an average of 39.4, including a century and a fifty each.

In 58 test matches, KL has made 3257 at an average of 33.57 and a strike rate of 52.80. His best test score (199) also came against England back in 2016. He has played 13 home and away test matches against England, in which the batter has made 955 at an average of 39.79.

India tour of England will take place from June to August 2025, with matches at Headingley (Leeds), Edgbaston (Birmingham), Lord's (London), Old Trafford (Manchester), and The Oval (London). While KL has reached

England, Shubman Gill, India's new test skipper, was appointed Rohit's successor in the format. He was in contention to compete in the second unofficial Test for India A against the England Lions in Northampton from June 6. However, he won't take part, considering he will depart with the remaining squad for England on Thursday.

India's Test squad for England series: Shubman Gill (c), Rishabh Pant (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Nitish Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel, Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav.

WTC Final 2025: South Africa batter Aiden Markram aims to end SA ICC trophy drought

NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): In their quest to finally break South Africa's ICC trophy drought, South Africa batter Aiden Markram hopes a run for underdogs continues in the World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia, according to the ICC website.

Markram hopes a run of sporting trophy droughts broken in 2025 rings true at the World Test Championship 2025 Final, with the Proteas taking on defending champions Australia from June 11.

In the cricket world, Royal Challengers Bengaluru finally tasted men's IPL success, beating Punjab Kings in the tournament final, while in football, Paris Saint Germain lifted the UEFA Champions League earlier this month for the first time. While Markram acknowledged it hasn't been a storyline taken on by the Proteas looking to finally break their duck, the right-hander hopes it may just be an omen for his team.

"(There's) not much chat along those lines in terms of watching the other events, but hopefully that trend can continue," Markram told ICC Digital ahead of the Final. Obviously, we've been chasing it now for many years as a squad," Aiden Markram said.

"Across all formats, we've probably improved slightly throughout and had sniffs to win it. If we can get ourselves into a position over the five days of the Test match to win, we'll push really hard for that." South Africa has been in the mix across formats at ICC events in recent years. Last year, it reached the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Final but fell at the final hurdle to India.

The side also reached the semi-final stage at both the 2023 Cricket World Cup and 2025 Champions Trophy, and came into the Lord's final having topped the table.

Markram gives insight into South Afri-

ca's mindset by saying each player has received clear instructions in pursuing the mace.

"I think it's the collective decision for each guy to bring their best skill. It's going to be a tough game."

"It's a Test match, of course, against Australia and a Dukes ball, Lord's, all those sorts of things, but ultimately, the guys have a skillset that have got them here, got them selected, throughout the cycle performed as well, doing those skills," he added.

"So it's about backing that, our best skill versus their (Australia's) best skill, and we'll see where it lands us at the end of the day." Australia stands as an imposing opponent. They are the defending champions and sealed their Final spot after a series win over giants India on home soil.

The Proteas fell 2-0 to the Aussies on tour in the 2021-2023 cycle, though Markram believes there is little he and his side haven't seen from their opponents. "We pretty much know what the Australians are all about and their skill levels, their characters and all those sorts of things," Markram said.

"It's always a challenge that we get really excited for, and we generally get up for it and look forward to it. I've got no doubt this time it'll be any different."

In their quest for victory, the Proteas have set up in Arundel, taking on Zimbabwe in a warm-up match, before travelling to Lord's to join England fast bowling legend Stuart Broad, who comes in as a consultant for the team's fast bowling battery.

Markram says vibes in the camp are positive ahead of the Final.

"The energies have been good, obviously lots of excitement in the air for the time being. (I'm) sure when we get a bit closer to the game or a few nerves will start kicking in," Markram said.

Carlsen likely saw his authority being challenged by someone so young: Anand

STAVANGER, Jun 5 (Agencies): World no.1 Magnus Carlsen's fiery reaction after losing to D Gukesh in Norway Chess here was probably because he saw his authority in the game being challenged by someone so young, feels five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand, who also indicated that FIDE could discuss the incident "very soon".

Frustrated by the loss to Gukesh in Round 6 of Norway Chess, Carlsen slammed his fist on the table sending the pieces flying all over before shouting "Oh my God" and leaving the playing arena in a hurry, as millions of followers across the world watched the spectacle — some bewildered, some bemused.

Anand, who is known for his calm demeanour and gentlemanly style, said the 34-year-Norwegian desperately wanted to win against the Indian world champion and "draw some line in the sand".

"But it (beating Gukesh) mattered a lot to him. Even if all the other games he's kind of going through emo-



tions (here)... But in this game (against Gukesh), I think something he wanted to establish. He wanted to draw some line in the sand and tell all these kids 'hang on a few years', whatever. But this meant a lot. I think a 2-0 (win against Gukesh) here, he would have been very, very happy," Anand said.

Lost from a winning position

The fact that he lost from a winning position perhaps exacerbated the frustration, opined Anand, who is international chess federation's (FIDE) deputy president and is here for broadcasting commitments as well.

"Against any opponent on earth, he would have hated losing such a good position. I mean to miss that the knight comes back. I felt exactly the same way when I

blew my game against Magnus three years ago in 2022 in Norway," added Anand.

Anand averred that several factors could have been responsible for the meltdown.

"Certainly, the game meant a lot to him and he came close and he slipped, but it could also be fatigue. It could be this new time control (in Norway Chess). Here we have this thing where we have Classical chess and then we have a sudden-death Armageddon tie-break (after every game in the event of a draw)," he said.

Seen 'enough anger' on the table

The chess legend added that he had seen "enough anger" on the table during his playing career to call it an aberration.

"Yes, (I've seen) enough anger. All this

has been around for a while, people screaming and cursing. I think it was in Delhi (2000 World Championship), where after his game with (Estonia's) Jaan Ehvest, (Vassily) Ivan-chuk threw a chair across. So, the only difference is the camera, not the incident.

"And, the other thing I would say is that this (game between Gukesh and Carlsen) was very intense. I mean, maybe Magnus isn't that excited about classical chess, but he's certainly taken on Gukesh (in the format)," Anand said. "Or if not Gukesh personally... the person who is now the world champion... showing that he (Carlsen) can fight youngsters. I mean, a lot of stuff (was) probably going on in his head, and it came out. So, those two games (against Gukesh), he took very, very intensely and seriously. And that's kind of partially what brought it (frustration) on."

Anand said such incidents are not so common, but once in a while they do trickle in and are mostly precipitated by a player

losing from a position of strength.

"Laws means definitions. It gets tricky. I guess it will come up (in FIDE discussions), I think. But, you know, on the other hand, if you take someone like (American GM) Hikaru (Nakamura), he says, 'let's have more of it' (Carlsen incident). It gets attention. So, we'll have to balance these things out. "But certainly, I think it will be discussed very soon," added Anand.

Chess in the Olympics?

On whether he foresees chess being included in the Olympic programme sometime in the near future, Anand said FIDE was "trying hard" to liaise with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and he hoped it could be there in some form or the other.

"Yes, I very much hope so. I don't know if, at some point, the IOC decides various forms of engagement, either through esports or through the regular games and something. But we are trying very hard in that area," said Anand.

“When the opportunity comes, I will be ready not just to play, but to make it count”: says India’s Women’s Hockey Team Reserve Goalkeeper Bansari Solanki

NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): For Bansari Solanki, being a reserve goalkeeper for the Indian Women's Hockey Team is not a place of uncertainty—it is a position of patience, preparation, and pride, according to a release from Hockey India.

The 24-year-old from Surat, Gujarat, has been part of the senior national camp for the past two years and was recently named as a reserve goalkeeper in India's squad for the upcoming European leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25.

Bansari is quietly putting in the work, staying mentally tuned in, and waiting for the moment her name is called. "I have learned to treat every training session like my debut," Bansari says. "It may not be today or tomorrow, but when the opportunity comes, I'll be ready—not just to play, but to make it count."

Her journey from a schoolgirl who stumbled into goalkeeping in the 8th grade to a rising star in Indian hockey is a testament to resilience and quiet determination. Initially, a studious child with dreams of becoming an aeronautical engineer, Bansari's hockey career began when her school's sports teacher needed a goalkeeper for the Under-14 team. Her height and build made her the natural choice. "It was never my plan," she recalls. "I didn't want to be a

goalkeeper. But somehow, that one decision changed my life."

Growing up in Gujarat, a state not known for a strong hockey culture, opportunities were few. But that changed when hockey legend and Padma Shri awardee Dhanraj Pillay became the Technical Director and High Performance Director for the Sports Authority of Gujarat. "If I'm here today, it's because of Dhanraj sir," she reflects. "He gave me my first real platform. That's when I truly began to love the game."

Her performance at the Sub-Junior Nationals led to her selection for the prestigious National Hockey Academy in Delhi. "It was overwhelming," she recalls. "I came from a place where we played in local kits and suddenly, I was in a national-level setup, wearing top-of-the-line goalkeeper's gear, sharing dorms with the country's best young talents."

At just 17, Bansari left behind her family and familiar life to pursue her dream in Delhi. She also completed her 12th grade through the National Institute of Open Schooling, proving her dedication to education alongside hockey. Her training at NHA under former India player and renowned goalkeeping coach Romeo James helped lay a strong technical foundation, and she credits him for shaping her into a goalkeep-



er of national calibre.

"I really want to mention Romeo James, sir—he was our goalkeeping coach at the National Hockey Academy," Bansari says. "Because of his everyday goalkeeping sessions, I could become a good goalkeeper.

He built our basics from the ground up."

Bansari's family—her father, an engineer; her homemaker mother; a younger sister; and a younger brother—stood firmly behind her dreams, often making quiet sacrifices along the way. "My parents never said no to anything, even when it meant stretching the household budget," she recalls. "I still remember needing a new pair of kickers that cost nearly Rs 20,000. Without hesitation, my father said, 'Go ahead, buy them.' At the time, I didn't fully grasp the weight of that support. Now I do—and it means everything."

Over the years, Bansari has captained teams in the Khelo India League and played for Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, SAI, and Union Bank in national-level competitions. She was part of the Indian team that won Gold at the 2023 Hockey 5s Asia Cup in Oman, where she was named Best Rising Goalkeeper, and followed that with a Silver at the Hockey 5s World Cup in 2024.

Yet, despite these achievements, she continues to wait for her senior team debut. "It is not easy," she admits. "You travel, you train, and sometimes you don't get to step on the pitch. But I have learned that goalkeeping is a journey of patience. Every goalkeeper has struggled at some point, and that gives me strength."

She credits game legends like Savita and PR Sreejesh for their mentorship. "Savita di isn't just a brilliant goalkeeper; she's a wonderful human being. I ask her everything—from technique to how to guide the team from the post. And Sree bhai once gave me some amazing advice on positioning and mindset. Watching and learning from them is an opportunity I cherish."

With two years in the national camp, Bansari has honed her technical skills and developed a deeper awareness of her game. "Goalkeeping isn't like math," she laughs. "It's not formulaic. Every moment is unpredictable. But I have learned to adapt and stay prepared."

Bansari also draws strength from her deep faith. "In my toughest moments, I turn to Lord Krishna. His teachings keep me grounded and remind me that every phase—good or bad—is part of a larger plan. I just have to keep doing my job. As Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita -- Karm karo, phal ki chinta mat karo."

For Bansari, hockey is no longer just a sport—it is her purpose. "I left my dream of becoming an engineer behind, but I have no regrets. I now dream of winning an Olympic medal for India. That's the ultimate goal. And I'll keep showing up, every single day, until that dream comes true."

JMC observes World Environment Day, organizes awareness campaign, human chain & plantation drive

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) organized a series of impactful programs under the jurisdiction of Jammu Municipal Corporation to promote environmental awareness and sustainable practices.

The event commenced with the formation of a human chain on bridge at Gujjar Nagar over Tawi River which was ceremonially flagged off by MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, along with Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, and JMC Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav.

The chain, comprising students, sanitation champions and workers, JMC officials, and enthusiastic citizens, raised slogans to spread awareness on environmental conservation.



The human chain culminated at Maharaja Hari Singh Park, where an oath-taking ceremony was conducted, reaffirming the commitment to cleanliness and sustainable living and not to throw garbage in water bodies. The momentum continued with a tree plantation drive, where dignitaries, students, and citizens planted various types of saplings to contribute to a greener future.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA emphasized the vital role of both children and adults in taking proactive steps to safeguard the environment. He encouraged everyone to adopt eco-friendly habits and contribute to making Jammu a cleaner and greener city.

The Deputy Commissioner urged citizens to plant more trees and minimize pollution, stressing that even

small efforts can collectively make a significant impact on the environment.

In his message, the JMC Commissioner highlighted the importance of proper waste disposal, especially avoiding the dumping of garbage in water bodies. He appealed to the public to work toward the elimination of plastic waste and to adopt sustainable waste management practices.

The event saw active participation from schools, civil society groups, and municipal staff, reflecting a united commitment to protect and preserve the environment for future generations.

Among others Environmentalist Retd. IFS, O.P Sharma Vidyarthi, Joint Commissioner (A), JMC, Krishan Lal, Joint Commissioner health and Sanitation, Abdul Sattar, Deputy Commissioner (South), JMC, Lal Chand, Health Officer, Dr. Vinod Sharma, Chief Transport officer, Dharamveer Singh, Animal Welfare Officer, Dr. Gourav Choudhary, MVO, Dr. Jaswant Singh, Dr. Divya Sharma, Dr. Priyanka Malhotra, Chief Revenue Officer, JMC, Sunil Gupta, besides a large number of locals and students from educational institutions were present on this occasion.

Dr Rajeev Bhagat observes World Environment Day with emphasis on “Beat Plastic Pollution” at GHSS Allah



Top News Report

BISHNAH, Jun 5: Government Higher Secondary School Allah today marked World Environment Day with a significant event, focusing on the global theme of “Beat Plastic Pollution.” The celebration was graced by the Hon’ble MLA Bishnah, Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat, who presided over the function as the Chief Guest, advocating strongly for the reduction of plastic waste.

The school’s observance of World Environment Day served as a crucial platform to educate and engage students on pressing environmental concerns. A central activity of the day was a compelling chart-making competition, where students demonstrated their creativity and understanding of environmental awareness.

The visually impactful charts, rich in color and information, conveyed powerful messages about the detrimental effects of plastic pollution and highlighted sustainable alternatives. This competition not only fostered artistic expression but also deepened the students’ engagement with the urgent need for environmental protection.

In his address, Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat, MLA Bishnah, delivered a passionate speech specifically tailored to the “Beat Plastic Pollution” theme. He meticulously outlined the widespread environmental damage caused by plastic, including its devastating impact on marine life, terrestrial ecosystems, and ultimately, human health. Dr. Bhagat urged the students, faculty, and community members present to adopt con-

scious consumption habits, minimize their reliance on single-use plastics, and actively participate in proper waste segregation and recycling. He emphasized that addressing plastic pollution requires a collective effort, starting from individual actions and extending to community-wide initiatives. His words resonated deeply with the audience, serving as a powerful call to action for immediate and sustained change.

The event witnessed the presence of several other key dignitaries who lent their support to the cause of environmental conservation. Among them was Dr. Bipluv Sudan JKAS, Block Development Officer Arnia, who commended the school for its proactive approach in organizing such a vital event.

Also in attendance were the Principal of Government Higher Secondary School Allah, who highlighted the school’s commitment to environmental education; Giridhar Gopal Mandal Pardhan; Supinder Sharma, General Secretary Arnia Mandal; Kuldeep Raj Ex Sarpanch; Bodh Raj; and various other respected members of civil society.

Their collective presence underscored the unified commitment of the community to combat environmental challenges and foster a sustainable future.

The event concluded with a reinforced pledge from all attendees to actively contribute to the “Beat Plastic Pollution” movement, striving towards a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment. The collective spirit of the day left a lasting impression, promising a future where environmental stewardship is paramount.

Grand Sharda Mata Jagran held at Sharda Nagar, Anjole

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jun 5: A grand and spiritually uplifting Sharda Mata Jagran was organized at the ancient and revered Sharda Mata Mandir in Sharda Nagar, Anjole, on the auspicious occasion of Jayeshtha Ashtami. The event was held by the Sharda Mata Jagran and Development Trust, Anjole, continuing the legacy of organizing this annual religious event, which coincides with the famous Kheer Bhawani Mela celebrated in Tullmulla, Srinagar.

The Sharda Mata Temple, believed to be around 650–700 years old, is dedicated to Goddess Sharda, revered

as the goddess of wisdom, learning, and knowledge. Located in village Anjole of District Kishtwar, the temple has grown into a significant religious and cultural center for the local community and devotees from across the region.

The event witnessed a massive gathering of nearly 3,000 devotees from within Kishtwar and other parts of the Union Territory. The spiritual atmosphere was elevated by the soul-touching devotional performances of renowned singer Naveen Punjabi, who mesmerized the audience with his bhajans. He was joined by other talented artists such as Krishan Lal, Ajay Deva,



ki Chaavn mein — Mata Sharda,” which captures the origin, miracles, and history of the temple. He also served as the compere for the entire Jagran ceremony.

The Jagran was graced by several dignitaries and spiritual personalities, including Mahant Ram Saran Dass Maharaj, Pardeep Singh (ASP Kishtwar), Dr. Rajinder Kumar (CMO Kishtwar), Vijay Bhagat (SDPO Marwah/ DYSP DAR Kishtwar), Dr. Anil Sharma (BMO Kishtwar), SI Rahul Sharma (I/c Police Post Thakraie), Sanjeev Parihar (VP Sarthal Devi Trust and Chairman SRCO Kishtwar), Brij Mohan Sharma (BJP State Executive Member), Ashish Sharma (BJP Spokesperson Kishtwar), Hans Raj Bhutyal (District President VHP Kishtwar), Kishori Lal Shan (Ex BDC Thakraie), Ved Parkash Gupta, Prithvi Raj Raina (Ex-President Sanatan Dharm Sabha Palmar), and Captain Jagdish Raj Shan (President Sanatan Dharm Sabha Thakraie). To ensure a smooth and safe celebration, the district administration and police authorities provided all necessary arrangements including security deployment, fire and emergency services, first aid facilities, and uninterrupted power and water supply, contributing to the successful conclusion of the grand spiritual event.

Sunil Biba, Ravi Deep, Mamta Shan, Puran Manhas, Aadshree, Arohi, and Karishma, whose powerful renditions enriched the devotional experience.

The Jagran commenced with a Havan and Purnahoti, followed by Kud, the traditional folk dance, and culminated in the distribution of prasad and food to all attending devotees. The Jagran, which began in 2004 through the efforts of local villagers, has now become a grand religious event, drawing thousands each year. Devotees believe that Mata Sharda continues to fulfill the wishes of those who come seeking her blessings, and stories of miracles attributed to the Goddess add to the temple’s significance.

Over the years, the area once known as Chitrana has transformed

into Sharda Nagar, owing to the temple’s influence and the dedication of the Trust members. The Jagran and temple affairs are currently managed under the guidance of Deepak Sharma, President of the Sharda Mata Jagran and Development Trust, along with dedicated members like Sanjay Sharma, Jia Lal Aryan, Sunny Sharma, Arjun Sharma, Raman Sharma, Lokesh Sharma, Akshay Sharma, Ashoni Kumar, Sawan Sharma, Ashoni Sharma, Kashmiri Lal Aryan, Sahil Sharma, and others. Swami Raj Sharma, the chief priest, has been performing the temple rituals with devotion for over 30 years.

Adding to the cultural richness of the event, Roopesh Sharma, Block Development Officer, Trigam, released his booklet titled “Pahariyun

Plant trees, save environment: Balbir



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: On the occasion of World Environment Day, BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairman, Balbir Ram Rattan, appealed to people to contribute towards protecting the environment by planting as many trees as possible. He said that trees are not only the adornment of the Earth but are also essential for life.

He said this after planting saplings on Environment Day along with party colleagues Sanjay Bakshi, Basant Raj Thakur, and Ramesh Katoch.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that trees not only provide us with pure oxygen, but they also help reduce air pollu-

tion, control climate change, and preserve biodiversity. He emphasized that we must connect with nature and contribute to its conservation.

He added that tree plantation is a simple, cost-effective, and impactful method through which we can tackle environmental imbalances. He specifically urged the youth to come forward for environmental protection and plant trees in their respective areas.

Sanjay Bakshi said that every person should plant at least one tree on this day. Bakshi stated that our small efforts can bring about significant change. We all must move together toward a greener and healthier future.

JKTF condemns arbitrary double EMI deductions by J&K Bank, demands immediate redressal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: The Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) has strongly condemned the arbitrary and unauthorized deduction of double EMI installments from the accounts of thousands of employees by the Jammu and Kashmir Bank. In a statement issued to the media, JKTF President Mohammed Ashraf Sheikh expressed deep concern over the financial distress caused by this mishap, especially at a time when people were preparing for the auspicious festival of Eid, turning a time of celebration into one of financial hardship and emotional stress for many households.

The issue has affected not only

the primary account holders but also several guarantors, who were shocked to find deductions from their accounts without any prior notice or authorization. Many of the affected individuals are now facing financial instability, damage to their credit scores, and severe emotional anguish due to this negligence.

According to State Spokesperson Joginder Singh Thakur, the JKTF has put forward a set of urgent demands to both the J&K Bank authorities and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. These include the immediate refund of all excess amounts deducted, restoration of affected credit scores, and adequate compensation for the financial and emotional trauma caused.

The forum has also demanded the implementation of a clear and transparent policy framework to ensure that such lapses do not occur in the future. “We urge the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to take immediate cognizance of this grave issue and initiate strict disciplinary and corrective action against those responsible,” said President Mohammed Ashraf Sheikh.

The leadership of JKTF, including Sr. Vice President Rafiaque Hussain Malik, UT Sr. Vice Chairman Mohd Mahroof Choudhary, Vice Chairman Mehmood Ryaz Bhat, UT Vice President Neetan Kalyan, UT Convenor Lokesh Sharma, UT Secretary Raman Kumar Sharma, Provincial President

Jammu Sanjeet Sharma, Press Secretary Jalil Ahmed, UT Coordinator Ashraf Hussain, and Additional Spokesperson Ranjeet Singh, have all expressed solidarity with the affected employees. They stressed the need for prompt and fair resolution, emphasizing that the livelihoods and mental peace of employees should never be compromised due to institutional carelessness. The Forum has called upon the concerned authorities to treat this issue with utmost seriousness and urgency, assuring that they will continue to advocate for justice until a satisfactory resolution is achieved and necessary safeguards are implemented to protect public interest in the future.

ABPSSP Udhampur, Air Force celebrate World Environment Day with plantation drive at BVMHS Nainsu



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Jun 5: In a remarkable step towards promoting environmental consciousness, ABPSSP Udhampur, J&K, in collaboration with the Indian Air Force, celebrated World Environment Day by organizing a plantation and cleanliness drive at Bhartiya Vidya Mandir High School, Nainsu –

Udhampur.

The event aimed to raise awareness among students about the importance of plantation, ecosystem restoration, and cleanliness, while fostering a deeper commitment to environmental protection.

Students and staff of the school participated enthusiastically, making the event a great success. Principal Renu

Devi addressed the gathering and emphasized the critical need for conservation of nature, encouraging students to actively plant and protect trees to help combat climate change and preserve biodiversity. Hav Khajur Singh, member of ABPSSP, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participants for their support and involvement. He urged everyone to take the message of environmental preservation to their homes and communities to create a broader impact. A special pledge ceremony was held during the event where participants vowed to protect the environment. The ceremonial plantation was led by Wing Commander of 1 J&K Air Squadron NCC, Udhampur, in the presence of District President Col Balwant Singh and Hav Khajur Singh. In his concluding remarks, Col Balwant Singh appreciated the efforts of the organizers and encouraged students and the public to continue contributing towards a cleaner and greener environment for a healthier future.