

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, JUNE 07, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

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PM Modi lays down five priorities for building disaster-resilient infrastructure

Israel admits to supporting anti-Hamas armed group in Gaza



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-16 Issue-156 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

President Murmu greets people on Eid-ul-Adha

NEW DELHI, Jun 7 (Agencies): President of India Droupadi Murmu on Saturday extended greetings on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

In a post on X, President Murmu wrote, "On the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, I extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all the citizens of the country, especially our Muslim brothers and sisters."

"This festival brings to mind the spirit of sacrifice devotion and the importance of several noble principles. Let us all pledge to work together for the society and the country on this sacred occasion with a spirit of self-sacrifice," the post reads.

Zubair's mysterious death in Delhi sparks outrage, Triggers demand for probe

SRINAGAR, Jun 7 (Agencies): The death of 30-year-old Zubair Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Ali Kadal in Srinagar, under mysterious circumstances in New Delhi has triggered a wave of grief and anger in Kashmir, with political leaders, civil society and the family demanding a time-bound, impartial probe into what they allege was a case of custodial torture and police brutality.

Zubair, who had travelled to Delhi for work related to his handicrafts business, was declared dead on May 29 at Safdarjung Hospital. His family claims he was picked up and beaten by the Delhi Police in Lajpat Nagar, and was denied medical care. They allege that Zubair, who was the only breadwinner of his family, had messaged his sister shortly before his death, stating: "The police caught me because I am Kashmiri. They took my Aadhaar card and beat me with sticks. May God have mercy."

The family's version has been strongly backed by People's Democratic Party leader Iltija Mufti, who visited the bereaved household in Ali Kadal on Thursday. "Let me bite the bullet and state the unpleasant truth," she wrote on social media platform X. "His family claims he was picked up by Delhi Police, questioned and thrashed with rods. When will this pattern of snuffing out the lives of innocent Kashmiris purely on suspicion end?"

Zubair Ahmed, a 30-year-old man from Kashmir, whose dead body was found in Delhi. **Turn to page 9**

Eid Celebrated across Jammu Kashmir, No prayers permitted at Jamia, Eidgah in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Jun 7 (Agencies): Thousands of Muslims across Jammu and Kashmir celebrated Eid-ul-Adha with traditional fervour and religious devotion on Sunday. From the early hours of the morning, worshippers assembled at mosques, shrines, and Eidgahs across the region to offer the special congregational Eid prayers marking the festival.

The largest gathering in the Kashmir Valley took place at the Hazratbal shrine, located on the banks of Dal Lake, where prominent religious and political leaders, including Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, joined the faithful in prayer. Eid-ul-Adha, observed on the 10th day of Dhu al-Hijjah in the Islamic calendar, commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's readiness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God's command, an act later replaced by the symbolic sacrifice of an animal.



However, the day's celebrations were clouded by controversy in Srinagar's historic Jamia Masjid, where, for the seventh consecutive year, Eid prayers were disallowed. The mosque remained shut for worshippers, and Valley's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was detained at his residence, preventing him from delivering the customary Eid sermon.

"Eid Mubarak! Yet again, Kashmir wakes up to the sad reality: no

Eid prayers at Eidgah, and Jama Masjid locked down — for the 7th straight year. I too have been detained at my home," Mirwaiz said in a message posted on X. "In a Muslim-majority region, Muslims are deprived of their fundamental right to pray — even on their most important religious occasion celebrated across the world! What a shame on those who rule over us, and on those elected by the people who choose to remain silent

as our rights are trampled over, again and again."

Despite the restrictions at Jamia, Eid prayers were held without incident at other major locations in the Valley and across Jammu, with security arrangements in place.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha extended greetings on the occasion, stating, "Eid Mubarak! Greetings on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha. Let's reiterate our

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LG congratulates University of Kashmir for achieving the prestigious A++ Grade by NAAC

SRINAGAR, Jun 7 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today extended his heartiest congratulations to the Vice Chancellor, faculty, staff, and students of University of Kashmir for attaining the prestigious A++ Grade by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), and securing an outstanding Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.68 on a seven-point scale.



Calling it a proud moment for J&K UT, the Lieutenant Governor said the A++ Grade places the University of Kashmir among the top institutions in the coun-

try, further strengthening its role as a beacon of knowledge and innovation.

"It is a matter of pride that two universities of J&K UT- University of Jammu with CGPA Score of 3.72 and University of Kashmir with CGPA Score of 3.68, have achieved A++ Grade. This is a rare phenomenon in academic history where two Universities of a Union

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Kashmir University bags A++ in NAAC Re-accreditation, CM hails academic excellence

SRINAGAR, Jun 7 (Agencies): The University of Kashmir has been awarded an A++ grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in its latest re-accreditation cycle.

According to a statement issued by KU, it is the first higher educational institution in Jammu & Kashmir to be assessed under NAAC's revised accreditation framework. The Univer-

sity secured a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.68, the highest in its history.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan said the grade reflects the efforts of the university community and added that KU is working towards aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. She said the university mobilised Rs 112 crore in research grants and introduced flexible degree programmes.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah congratulated the University for securing the A++ grade in the recent NAAC re-accreditation cycle.

In a post on X, the Chief Minister said, "Delighted to know that the University of Kashmir has been accredited with NAAC A++ Grade. A true testament to its academic excellence and commitment to quality

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Lieutenant Governor, chief minister extend Eid-ul-Adha greetings

SRINAGAR, Jun 6: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and chief minister Omar Abdullah have greeted the people on the eve of Eid-ul-Adha, which will be celebrated on Saturday, June 07, 2025.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Eid Mubarak! Heartiest greetings and good wishes to the people on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

Eid embodies the spirit of sacrifice and forgive



ness. Let us reiterate our resolve to strengthen the foundations of unity, harmony and brotherhood in the society and



work with love and compassion to ensure the well-being of all.

May this festival spread

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Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project fully operational after nearly 28 years



KATRA, Jun 7 (Agencies): The 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project, which was started in 1997, took almost 28 years to become opera-

tional. Its first 55 km long section between Jammu and Udhampur was completed in April 2005.

According to Northern Railways, the whole

project was completed and operationalised in multiple phases, with the last one being inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on

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10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound sorrow and grief, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Lalman Khajuria** on 29-05-2025 (Thursday). **10th Day** will be performed at our residence 432-A, Gandhi Nagar Jammu on Saturday (07-06-2025) at 11.00 AM.

Kriya will be performed on Sunday 08-06-2025 at Our residence 432-A Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. **UTHALA** will be performed on Monday (09-06-2025) at Shree Laxmi Narayan Mandir Gandhi Nagar, Jammu (Front Side) from 03.30 PM to 4.30 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Champa Rani - Wife
Sh. Rajesh Khajuria (XEN, Retd) & Monika Khajuria - Son & Daughter in Law
Sh. Rajesh Khajuria (Dr. Finance) & Rekha Khajuria - Son & Daughter in law
Dr. B.D. Sharma - Brother in Law
Col. R.K. Sharma & Sankosh Sharma - Son in Law & Daughter
Smt. Veena Sharma W/o Late G.D. Sharma - Daughter
Sh. K.B. Magotra (KAS, Dy Commissioner Retd) & Rajni Bala - Son in law & Daughter
Grand Children: Sh. Ravi Kant Gupta, IRS & Meghna Sharma, Advocate
Sh. Sameer Sharma IPS
Ankit & Shraddha, Akshit, Siddharth, Vedant, Ubika, Livia, Mahira, Master Srihasti
Mobile: 9419198465, 9419027954

**SH LALMAN KHAJURIA****TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

It's hard to forget someone who gave us so much to remember. With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of **Dr. Ashok Kumar Bhola S/o. Late Sh. Krishan Lal Bhola R/o H.No.215, Sector 7, Near Shah Eye Clinic, Channi Himmat, Jammu**. We pray to God to make his soul rest in peace. **10TH DAY** will be performed on Friday, 6th June 2025 at 10:00 am at our residence.

UTHALA will be performed at Panch Mandir, Channi Himmat, Jammu on Monday, 9th June 2025 at 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Ranjana Bhola (Wife)
Vinay & Rajni Bhola (Brother & Sister in law)
Ashish & Shelly Bhola (Son & Daughter in law)
Manisha & Sahil Gogna (Daughter & Son in law)
Grand Children: Ananya, Anaya, Arshvi
Ph.No. 9873620044, 9811692244, 8500465436

**DR. ASHOK KUMAR BHOLA****10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Mohan Lal Raina S/o Lt. Sh. Radha Krishan Raina** originally resident of Village Poshkery Anantnag, presently residing at H.No. 14, Lane 1-A, Bharat Nagar Enclave, Bantala, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 5/6/2025. Mourning shall be held at our residence.

10th Day Kriya shall be held on 14/6/2025 (Saturday) at 8:00 am at Muthi Ghat, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Shanku Raina - Wife
Sonu Kumar Raina & Arti Raina (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Sandeep Raina & Anu Raina (Son & Daughter-in-law)
(Daughter & Son-in-law)
Shanu Raina Dhar & Bharat Bughan Dhar
Jagat Nath Raina & Sarda Raina (Brother & Bhabhi)
Chuni Pandita W/o M.K. Pandita (Sister & Brother-in-law)
Kanta Bhan W/o Chuni Lal Bhan (Sister & Brother-in-law)
Grand Children: Madhav Raina, Ishi Dhar, Radhika Raina, Ashvik Dhar, Kiara Raina
Mob.: 9897550445

**Sh. Mohan Lal Raina****TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Persini Devi (POLI) W/o Sh. Dev Raj Bucha R/o Near Pandav Mandir, Ward No.8, Udhampur.**

TENTH DAY shall take place at 11.30 AM at Mahajan Hall, Sheela Mandir Gali, Chabutra Bazar, Udhampur on 08-06-2025 (Sunday)

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Sh.Om Parkash Bucha (Brother-in-law)
Sh.Dev Raj Bucha (Kaku) - Husband
(Daughter-in-law)
Smt.Neeru Gupta W/o Late Sh.Vishal Bucha (Sons & Daughters-in-law)
Sh.Vinod Bucha & Smt.Uma Gupta
Sh.Vikas Bucha & Smt.Silky Gupta
And Whole Bucha Family
Vinod Brick Kiln, Ritti, Udhampur
Palace Gift Center, Mukherjee Bazar Udhampur
Contact details: 7006611979, 9419158769

**SMT. PERSINI DEVI (POLI)****TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Lt Smt Anju Gupta R/o H No. 157 Sec 3 Opposite St Paul Convent School Gangyal on 31st May 2025.**

Tenth Day shall be performed at Sector 1 Durga Mandir Gangyal Jammu on Monday 9th June from 11 am-12 am

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Brij Rattan Gupta (Husband)
Saksham Gupta (Sahu) (Son)
Deeply remembered by: **CHAPATA FAMILY & KAILOO FAMILY**
Phone number: 9149936633, 9419820661

**Lt Smt Anju Gupta****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, Swarn Vihar, Jammu (Near Apollo Multispeciality Diagnostic Centre), attained Nirvana at Indrapuram, 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, Indrapuram, 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 (DAHIMDOH)**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Mrs Veena Kaul W/o Maj Bansi Lal Kaul (Retd) R/o Check Rajwali Vessu Anantnag at present H.No. 72, Lane No.7, Vishwa Bharti Colony, Akalpur Road, Jammu.**

The **10th Day Kriya** will be held on June 09, 2025 (Monday) at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of Education at 8:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Maj Bansi Lal Kaul (Retd) -Husband

Sons & Daughter-in-laws

Mr. Inder Kaul & Mrs Rekha Kaul

Mr Ravi Kaul & Mrs Neetu Kaul

Mrs Rachna Kaul Dhar & Mr Pankaj Dhar -Daughter & Son-in-law

Mr Harshikesh Kaul & Mrs Prana Kaul - Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law

Mob: 9419174963, 9419193284, 8860493829

**Mrs Veena Kaul****10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Kewal Krishan Raina S/o Late Sh. Bhagwan Das Raina** resident of 581-A, Upper Laxmi Nagar, Sarwal on 31/5/2025

10th Day will be performed on 9th June 2025 (Monday) from 7:00 am to 9:00 am at Muthi Ghat, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Ruby & Ponam Monga (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Ruhi & Vinod Kaul (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Neeru Raina (Daughter-in-law)

Pyare Lal Raina (Brother)

Asha Ji Raina (Sister-in-law)

Grand Children:

Shan Gruff Raina

Prateek Monga

Moksha Kaul

**Sh. Kewal Krishan Raina****OBITUARY / TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Makhan Lal Raina S/o Late Shri. Dina Nath Raina** resident of Zainapora, Shopian on 31th May, 2025 (Saturday) at his residence.

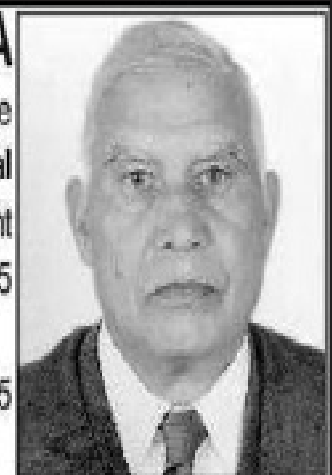
Tenth Day will be performed on 9th June, 2025 (Monday) At Zainapora, Shopian.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Samast Raina Pariwar Mob. No. 88250-95867

Samast Bhat Pariwar Mob. No. 60057-07938

Samast Koul Pariwar Mob. No. 70062-91189

**Shri Makhan Lal Raina****10TH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Smt. Rita Rani Kotwal** on 30th May, 2025 W/o Sh. K.K. Kotwal.

10th Day will be performed on Sunday, 8th June, 2025 from 10 AM to 1.00 PM at our residence, 1161, Kotwal Niwas, Ward No. 20, Sangoor, Railway Road, Udhampur.

13th Day will be performed at Holy Devika Ghat, Udhampur on 11th June, 2025 Wednesday from 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. K.K. Kotwal - Husband

Son & Daughter-in-law

Sh. Sanjeev & Smt. Anju Kotwal

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt. Seema & Dr. G.S. Rakwal

Smt. Rajni & Sh. Nehal Singh Manhas

Smt. Shivani & Sh. Ashish Thakur

Kumari Monika Kotwal & Smt. Meenakshi Kotwal - Daughters

Aditya Kotwal - Grand Son

Phone No: 9419181799, 9419162208, 9906019504, 9797398014

**SMT. RITA RANI KOTWAL****TENTH DAY**

With profound grief, we inform you the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Krishna Devi W/o Late Sh. Qabla Singh Bantari at Village Sounthal.**

Tenth Day will be performed on 08-06-2025 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. Chandra Singh (Retd Master)

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt. Santosh & Sh. Swarn Singh

Smt. Vashni & Late Sh. Piliam Singh

Smt. Shoba & Sh. Parbad Singh

Granddaughter-in-law & Grandsons

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

Granddaughters & Grandsons-in-law

Smt. Poonam & Sh. Rajal Singh

Smt. Parul & Sh. Bhawani Singh

Mr. Harsh Dev Singh - Grandson

Yashvir Singh - Great Grandchildren

**Smt. Krishna Devi****TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Miss Shakuntla Devi D/o Late Sh. Thakur Dass Chib R/o Lower Chowadhi, Lane No. 22, Greater Kailash, Jammu.**

The **Tenth Day** will be performed on 06-06-2025 (Friday) at Greater Kailash, Jammu Lane No. 22, Time 11:30 AM.

Kriya will be performed on 09/06/2025 (Monday) at residence 10:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Brothers & Sisters-in-law

Mrs. Shakuntla Devi & Late Sh. Dalbir Singh

Mrs. Vijay Kumari & Sh. Balbir Singh

Late Mrs. Sudesh Kumari & Sh. Joginder Singh

Nephews & Niece-in-law

Mrs. Geeta Chib & Sh. Surjeet Singh

Mrs. Jyoti Devi & Sh. Jagjeet Singh

Mrs. Anju Bala & Sh. Ranjeet Singh

Mrs. Rekha Manhas & Sh. Manjit Chib

Mrs. Shefali Jarmal & Sh. Ravi Chib

Contact Nos.: 9419186599, 94193-84428

**Miss Shakuntla Devi**
(Retired SO SED)
(1-3-1955 to 29-05-2025)**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ashwani Kumar (Bittu) H/o Smt. Dimple Gupta R/o Janipur Lakkamandi.**

Tenth day will be performed on 8th of June (Sunday) at Kabir Mandir High court road, Janipur at 11 am to 12 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Dimple Gupta (Wife)

Mr. Rishab Gupta (Son)

Miss Malvika Gupta (Daughter)

All members of Phageta Family

(Phageta Karyana Store)

CONTACT NUMBERS: 9596980405, 9622397767, 7006527181

**Sh. Ashwani Kumar**
(Bittu)**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 Hugam, Srigufwara, Anantnag, A/P Jagti 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 8:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Bita Ganjoo (Wife)

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

Mr. Nitin Ganjoo (Son)

Sh. Mahan Lal Ganjoo (Brother)

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

Sh. Mohan Lal Ganjoo (Brother)

Grandchildren: Ashi Bhatta

SAMASTH GANJO O PARTWAR

MOB: 8082398051, 889945453, 8717001997

**Sh. Jawahar Lal Ganjoo****TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform you about the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Neelam Kumari (Retd) Section Officer, Legislative Assembly W/o Sh. Kuldeep Singh, R/o Village Ratnol, Teh. Bishnah, 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 (Retd Deputy Secretary, Legislative Assembly)

Brother-in-law & Sister

Sh. Rattan Singh Manhas & Smt. Rani Devi

Brother & Bhabhi

Sh. Ragbir Singh & Smt. Kalasho Devi

Bhabhi & Brother

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

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

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

Onkar Singh & Shafali Jarmal - Son & Daughter-in-law

Sunder Singh & Riya Jarmal - Son & Daughter-in-law

Rishi Bagal - Grand Daughter

Krish Singh Bagal - Grand Son

**Smt. Neelam Kumari**

Nephews & Nieces:

Deepak, Vikram, Rahul, Divisha, Kirti,

Karan, Nishi, Kanav, Karishma,

Vaishnavi, Anshika

In Grief: **BAGAL'S FAMILY**

M. No. 8803747383

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our mother **Smt. Bimla Devi W/o Sh. Krishan Lal Gupta** expired as on 30/5/25.

10th Day will be performed at our residence Dhok Khalsa on 8/6/25 at 11 AM (Sunday).

Grief Stricken

Tarsem Lal Gupta & Smt. Shakuntla Devi

Chander Parkash Gupta Retd Chief Mgr JCC

Bank & Smt. Sureshta Gupta

Parshotam Lal Gupta & Smt. Indu Bala

Ravi Kumar Gupta & Smt. Manisha Gupta

Ajay Kumar Gupta & Smt. Neetu Gupta

Mob No. 9797336995, 7298185712



Dr Jitendra leaves for France to lead high-level official Indian Delegation

Top News Report

JAMMU/NEW DELHI, Jun 7: Union Minister of Earth Sciences (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday left for France to lead a high-level official Indian delegation.

Scheduled to be held at the French picturesque coastal city of Nice, the Minister will represent India at the "United Nations Ocean Conference" (UNOC3) taking place from June 8 to 13.

The high-level international gathering will bring together leaders, scientists, policymakers, and civil society actors from across the globe to discuss sustainable ocean governance and concrete actions for the health of the world's oceans.

The Earth Sciences Minister's visit to France marks a significant step by the Govt of India as it would reiterate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to India's global engagement on ocean sustainability and marine cooperation.

Over the next four days, he will participate in bilateral meetings with Ministers from key partner countries, deliver India's national statement at the UNOC plenary and engage in crucial policy dialogues on ocean action.

Among the key highlights of his schedule is the India-Norway side event on Marine Spatial



Planning aboard the Norwegian research vessel S/S Statsraad Lehmkuhl at Monaco Harbour on June 8. Co-hosted with Norway's Minister of International Development, H.E. Asmund Grøver Aukrust, the event will showcase the outcomes of the India-Norway collaboration on sustainable marine governance. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway is expected to grace the event as Guest of Honour.

In addition to the formal sessions of the Conference, Dr. Jitendra Singh is slated to hold bilateral meetings with representatives from France, Germany, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Chile, among others. These meetings are expected to strengthen India's cooperation with key global players on

issues ranging from marine pollution to ocean science and financing for blue economy initiatives.

The third edition of the UN Ocean Conference — co-hosted by France and Costa Rica — will focus on key themes such as restoring marine ecosystems, reducing marine pollution, promoting ocean-based scientific cooperation, and mobilizing resources for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 14. The conference will feature "Ocean Action Panels" involving governments, UN bodies, researchers, industry leaders, and NGOs to forge partnerships and propose practical, scalable solutions.

India has actively contributed

to the build-up to UNOC3. In the lead-up to the conference, the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) organized two Blue Talks in collaboration with the Embassies of France and Costa Rica in New Delhi. These sessions brought together scientists, officials, and stakeholders from multiple sectors to share best practices and develop concrete recommendations on marine governance and conservation.

During the general debate at UNOC3, Dr. Jitendra Singh will articulate India's stance on ocean policy, highlighting the country's initiatives in marine research, coastal resilience, and regional cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. India has also sought speaking slots in critical thematic panels, including those on marine pollution and scientific cooperation.

Dr. Jitendra Singh's presence at the global forum reinforces India's commitment to multilateral cooperation for sustainable ocean use and signals New Delhi's proactive approach in contributing to global ocean policy frameworks. With oceans playing a central role in climate regulation, food security, and economic development, India's engagement at UNOC3 aims to position the country as a constructive and solutions-oriented partner in global marine governance.

Shri Hudh Mata Trisandhaya Yatra to commence from June 27; Committee appeals for administrative support

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 7: The Shri Hudh Mata Trisandhaya Yatra Managing Committee (Govt. Regd.) said that this year, the sacred Shri Hudh Mata Trisandhaya Yatra is scheduled to begin on 27th June 2025 from Dharalan Nagri, Kathua, and will culminate on 5th July 2025 at Village Nanth Nallah, Tehsil Dachhan, District Kishtwar.

The yatra route includes various night halts and spiritual rituals along the way. The pilgrimage aims to offer devotees the rare and mystical darshan of Trisandhiya Nadi, a unique stream believed to flow miraculously three times a day—morning, noon, and evening—from a hilltop with no visible water source.

On 3rd July 2025, the pilgrims will perform a Hawan at Shri Hudh Mata Darbar and proceed for the divine bath at Trisandhiya Mata Nadi, Doodh Ganga, and Brahma Sarovar, and witness the majestic Brahma Peak. The return journey will start on 4th July from Ram Mandir, Kaikooth, and conclude at Kishtwar and Jammu on 5th July.

The Committee also outlined a series of demands for the smooth conduct of the yatra and urged the District Administration Kishtwar and J&K UT Government to take immediate action. These demands include completion of helicopter service tenders from Kishtwar/Sounder to the shrine, urgent repairs to the bridge path from Sounder to Bhawan, and macadamization of the Dangdhoru-Sounder motorable road, which was severely damaged during last year's heavy rains.

Other vital demands include restoration of the Patim Halla to Dangdhoru road, provision of mobile connectivity at the Bhawan, and deployment of a medical team at the site from 15 June to 30 July to ensure medical aid for early and late pilgrims. The Committee requested additional tents for accommodation, round-the-clock security cover throughout the yatra route, and subsidized ration supplies for langar arrangements.

The Department of Tourism was urged to widely publicize the shrine and yatra through electronic and print media and to install large hoardings to attract pilgrims. The Committee also called for the inclusion of Shri Hudh Mata and Trisandhaya Mata shrines in the official religious tourist circuit of J&K UT.

To welcome the Trishul Yatra, which starts from Kathua, a Shobha Yatra is planned on 27th June 2025 at 3:00 PM in Jammu. The procession will pass through Ranbireswar Mandir Chowk, Indira Chowk, Raghunath Bazar, City Chowk, Purani Mandi, and Raj Tilak Road, culminating at Geeta Bhawan, Parade Ground, followed by a Jagrata at Hudh Mata Mandir, Beli Charana.

Speaking at the event, Jagdish Raj Thakur, President of the SHMTYM Sub-Committee (Jammu), made a heartfelt appeal to the general public, religious bodies, saints, trade associations, and devotees to participate in this spiritually significant yatra and seek the divine blessings of Mata Rani. The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring a safe and sacred journey and sought full cooperation from all stakeholders and the government.

BSNL inaugurates 4G Mini Data Center in Jammu to enhance connectivity across J&K and Ladakh



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 7: Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) inaugurated a 4G Mini Data Center at Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. The center was inaugurated by Sandeep Govil, Director (CM), in the presence of V.K Surendra, Chief General Manager, BSNL, and Kush Kumar, Principal General Manager (CM), along with other senior officers of BSNL.

This 4G Mini Data Center will play a vital role in supporting and strengthening BSNL's 4G network services in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. It acts as a regional node, seamlessly connected to the main BSNL Data Center in Chandigarh, and will cater specifically to 4G data requirements of the area.

During the inauguration, Sandeep Govil

highlighted the importance of this infrastructure in boosting digital access and ensuring faster, more reliable mobile internet services to users in remote and urban regions alike. He emphasized that the mini data center will help reduce latency and enhance user experi-

ence by managing regional 4G traffic more efficiently.

The inauguration marks yet another step in BSNL's commitment to digital inclusion, regional development, and improved telecom services across the country.

PM ignored Statehood promise, unemployment: Congress

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 7: Raising questions over the neglect of the most popular demand of people of J&K regarding restoration of statehood by the Prime Minister Modi, during his speech yesterday, Congress asked the centre govt to fulfill its promise and commitment in this regard, without further delay.

Addressing a press conference today at PCC HQ Jammu JKPC Senior leaders Raman Bhalla, Mula Ram, Yogesh Sawhney & Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, questioned total ignoring the promised statehood to J&K after around six years of the downgrading of historical Dogra state. There is strong resentment amongst people over the Prime Minister 's neglect of the popular demand.

Neeraj Gupta Chief Media Coordinator and Kapil Singh Spokesperson JKPC were also present

They talk of fulfilling dream of Dogra rulers about Railway project but don't talk of the restoration historical dogra state which was disbanded, divided and downgraded by BJP.

Working President



Raman Bhalla said that BJP MLAs are silent spectators to the betrayal of the mandate of people, who were promised statehood immediately after Assembly elections. The dual control system in J&K UT has left the people suffering even after eight months of Assembly elections and it's insult to the mandate of people shaking their confidence in such a democratic set up.

He said that rights and constitutional safeguards being sought & extended to Ladakh UT is justified but why discrimination with J&K UT as regards protection to land, jobs and natural resources.

The Congress leaders

said that Congress has been seeking a comprehensive package for the relief and rehabilitation of affected people especially in border Districts of Poonch, Rajouri, Baramula, Kupwara besides Jammu, Samba and Kathua, including special recruitment package but only eye wash was done by announcing two lakh for fully damaged and in lakh for partially damaged houses, which is insufficient and inadequate.

They also referred to the various promises by BJP and Modi government before Assembly elections to the unemployed youth, daily, adhoc, contractual AND other tempo-

rally employees, all are suffering in the absence of funds and required powers.

Referring to the Udhampur Srinagar Baramula rail project, they said that rail link from Pathankot to Jammu was completed in 1972 by Smt Indira Gandhi and also sanctioned by her to Udhampur, which was inaugurated by PM Manmohan Singh in 2005. While Udhampur- Srinagar-Baramula was sanctioned by PV Narasimha Rao while it was completed upto Katra on one side and between Banihal to Baramula on other before 2014.

They said that Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh came here five

times to inaugurate the different stretch of this project upto Baramula & Omar Abdullah accompanied him four times as Chief Minister. Out of 272 kms, over 160 kms the train was running before Modi government took over.

The UPA government carried out massive development in J&K in all spheres and set up mega power projects, health, education infrastructure besides road & railway connectivity and no one can negate it, even though Modi government is trying to own up everything and claim credit for the major achievements of Congress.

They also raised concerns over Pakistan getting support & financial aid from international community, even though it was established a terrorist state and isolated in the world before 2014 by the Congress governments.

The terrorist state Pakistan has been made Vice Chairman of UNSC committee on terrorism, which amounts to making a culprit to be judge.

A special session of Parliament should be need of the hour to discuss the entire situation which emerged after Pehalgam carnage they demanded.

“Hope this Eid brings better days ahead for Muslims”: CM Omar Abdullah after prayers at Hazratbal Dargah

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 7: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah extended Eid al-Adha greetings to Muslims across India and the world on Saturday, calling the festival a time for peace and strengthening brotherhood.

Speaking to media persons, CM Abdullah said, "I hope this Eid brings better days ahead for the Muslims of India and the world. I

hope it brings peace



and strengthens brotherhood. While we are celebrating Eid, unfortunately, once again, permission was denied

to offer namaz in Srinagar's iconic Jama Masjid.

I don't know the basis of these decisions, but

we need to learn to trust our people. These are the same people who came out to protest against the Pahalgam

terrorist attack...

The government should think about allowing namaz in the historic Jama Masjid." Meanwhile, National Conference Chief Farooq Abdullah offered Eid al-Adha prayers at the Hazratbal Dargah and wished everyone Eid Mubarak as he left the premises.

On the occasion of Eid al-Adha, Omar Abdullah and Farooq Abdullah gathered at the Hazratbal Dargah to offer their prayers.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Se:DEN-4FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.inspa.gov.in with closing date 02.07.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/bid/bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in document section on the portal.

Tender Type	Open	Tendering Section	Works	Packet System	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading tenders	05.06.2025	Bid Starting Date	16.06.2025	Bid Closing Date/Time	02.07.2025 at 15:00 hrs.
Sr.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1.	26-2025-26-ADEN-LDH	Construction of Limited Height Subway (5.00x 5.00m) Internal Size on B-route VANDHE BHARAT in lieu of L.C.No. 5-04 at KM 268.970 having TVU 78912 on SNL-JUC section by pushing method under ADEN/LDH.			
Advertised Value	Rs.73,51,739.19	Earnest Money	Rs.8,800/-	Validity of offer	60 Days
Period of Completion	08 Months				
Similar Nature Work: "Construction of bridges/Limited Height subway with box pushing/pipe pushing method."					
NOTE: Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.					
Tender Notice No.: 26-2025-26-ADEN-LDH Date: 06.06.2025 1688/2025					
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE					

EDITORIAL

NEW CHAPTER IN CONNECTIVITY

The long-awaited dream of connecting the Kashmir Valley to the rest of India through a railway network is finally nearing completion. With the launch of the semi-high-speed Vande Bharat Express from Katra to Kashmir, the vision of seamless connectivity to the scenic paradise of India has now transformed into a reality. The introduction of this rail service marks a historic moment for Jammu & Kashmir and the entire country.

The Kashmir Railway Project, one of the most challenging railway undertakings in the world, has witnessed tremendous engineering efforts. The 272-km-long Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project traverses through the mighty Himalayas, deep gorges, and fragile terrain. The project includes numerous tunnels, bridges, and viaducts, most notably the Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge, standing 359 meters above the river. This engineering marvel is a symbol of India's technological prowess and determination to link every corner of the nation.

The introduction of the Vande Bharat Express between Katra and Kashmir is a major step in integrating the Valley with the national mainstream. This train not only offers state-of-the-art facilities, comfort, and speed but also reflects the government's commitment to infrastructure and regional development. It reduces travel time drastically and provides a safe, efficient, and scenic route for pilgrims, tourists, and locals.

Rail connectivity to Kashmir has a multi-dimensional impact. From a strategic standpoint, it strengthens the movement of logistics and personnel, which is crucial for national security. Economically, it opens vast opportunities for trade, tourism, horticulture, and handicrafts – the key sectors of Kashmir's economy.

The farmers and apple growers of Kashmir can now transport their produce to major markets in Delhi, Mumbai, and other cities more efficiently. Local artisans involved in the production of Kashmiri carpets, shawls, and walnut wood carvings will benefit from better market access and reduced transportation costs.

The train service is expected to significantly benefit pilgrims traveling for the Amarnath Yatra. Sunil Dimple, during a public rally, appealed to pilgrims from across the country to participate in the yatra in large numbers and utilize this new, comfortable mode of travel. The railway will make the pilgrimage more accessible, especially for the elderly and people coming from distant states.

The government's assurance that security arrangements are being monitored personally by the Prime Minister, Home Minister, and Defense Minister provides confidence and reassurance to visitors. Dimple also urged LG Manoj Sinha to lift certain restrictions imposed on tourist destinations to allow more flexible movement and boost local tourism.

Beyond economic and logistical advantages, the train to Kashmir fosters national integration. It symbolizes unity in diversity and strengthens people-to-people contact. The picturesque journey through snow-capped mountains, green valleys, and winding tunnels is bound to leave a lasting impression on travelers, connecting them emotionally to the region's unique culture, hospitality, and heritage.

The railway infrastructure will also help students, medical patients, and job-seekers travel easily between Kashmir and other states, enhancing access to education, healthcare, and employment.

While the train to Kashmir is a landmark achievement, it is not without challenges. Harsh weather conditions, snowfall, and landslides can disrupt rail operations. Ensuring year-round functionality with adequate maintenance and technology will be key.

Additionally, the call for direct trains from major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata to Kashmir must be addressed. The proposed goods train would further empower local industries, especially agriculture and manufacturing sectors.

The train to Kashmir is more than a transport link—it is a bridge of hope, unity, and opportunity. It marks a new era of progress and peace for Jammu & Kashmir. As more people travel, explore, and invest in the region, this train journey will become a symbol of India's resolve to include every region in its journey of growth and development. With better connectivity, Kashmir is now closer to the heart of India than ever before.

By: Omkar Dattatray

Our event organisers, public, government entities, police et al do not learn lesson from the recent stampede at Mahakumbh mela and do not take precautionary and safety measures so that stampedes do not occur again. But the bitter truth and hard fact is that stampedes recur again and again and precious human lives are lost. What happened at Bangaluru is unfortunate and untenable. The victory celebration of the IPL cricket match should not have turned into stampede and resultant deaths of 11 people and injuries to many others. IPL Cricket match between Royal Challenger Bangaluru and Punjab kings went in favor of RCB after 18 long years and celebrations on this significant winning is understandable .But the celebrations turned into a tragedy which should not have happened. The revelers and cricket fans should show utmost restraint and responsibility while celebrating victory. Victory road show was organized and there was the capacity for 35,000 people but spectators and cricket fans swelled into about four lakh and as a result there was stampede which caused the unfortunate death of eleven people and injured many spectators and cricket fans. Celebration of victory is an occasion for enjoyment, expressing joy and pleasure but the event turned into a stampede due to the irresponsible attitude of the organizers of the victory road show. The occasion for making merry turned into doom. A celebration meant ti honor Royal challengers Bangaluru's historic win in IPL 2025 turned into a tragedy .The stampede in Bangaluru was a result of a series of ignored warnings and mismanagement. From the conflicting announcements to crowd –control failures .There are five reasons behind the chaos that led to the tragedy. Tens of thousands

,if not lakhs ,gathered within a kilometer radius of Bangaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium to celebrate the Royal Challenger's first ever IPL title .Hours later ,the joyous frenzy turned tragic ,with 11 lives lost in a stampede that followed .But hours before the chaos unfolded into a stampede ,there were already signs –visible, recognizable, avoidable and actionable –that were ignored. Around 50 people were wounded in the melee .A day later it is usual blame game and politics that has started around the tragedy in a country that has seen stampedes at regular interval. Like in the case of the stampede at the New Delhi Railway station in February, in which five red flags were missed, the RCB victory celebration too presented some warning signs. Addressing or even acknowledging these might have averted the tragedy that followed. To start with, the RCB's social media posts fuelled anticipation of a grand victory parade. AT 3.14 Pm on Wednesday, RCB Victory parade .Today at 5pm IST Victory parade will be followed by celebrations at the Chinnaswamy stadium ,”it posted ,urging fans to follow police guidelines. The post ,promoting an open-top bus parade from Vidhana Soudha to the stadium ,drew massive crowds despite the Bangaluru traffic police's earlier announcement at 11.56 am that no parade was planned due to security concerns. The conflicting messages created confusion with the fans converging in large numbers ,many unaware the parade was cancelled. The RCB's promotion of the event ,despite police directives ,fuelled the crowd surge ,turning the mass gathering into a nightmare. The RCB,in the X post at 3.14 , also announced limited free passes for the stadium event ,available online ,which led to a rush for access. Initially, passes were issued, but authorities later declared free entry for all. What followed was a massive crowd surging towards the gates

of the stadium. Fans, both with and without passes attempted to enter, overwhelming the limited entry points. Eye witnesses said young fans, including girls and teenage boys being trampled in the melee due to inadequate security at the gates. Despite Bangaluru police advising the Karnataka government to hold the RCB celebration on a Sunday to avoid traffic and allow better security preparation, event was rushed through within 24 hours of the IPL final. Cops were exhausted from overnight crowd control during the celebration after the victory on Tuesday night and must have had little time to plan and coordinate. Senior Bengaluru police officers said their warnings against holding the RCB celebrations at short notice and their call for a week's delay ,was overlooked. Ignoring warnings, the government allegedly pushed ahead ,leading to chaos ,understaffing ,poor barricading , and a deadly stampede ensued that claimed 11 innocent lives. Political leaders of the state must have wanted to cash in on the peak celebratory mood. Karnataka Deputy CM DK Shivakumar claimed that 5000 police personnel were deployed for the RCB celebration, calling the crowd “uncontrollable. However, this was later contradicted by the states Advocate General who admitted in court that just over 1000 personnel actually been deployed. Former Bengaluru police chief Bhaskar Rao criticized the “unplanned, hurried, disorganized celebrations,”saying “As former city top cop ,I would have told the CM to postpone the victory march and felicitations. Tuesday night's crowd frenzy was enough warning to allow emotions to calm down.” The Chinnaswamy Stadium's capacity is approximately 35,000 but 2-3 lakh fans gathered with one lakh near Vidhana Soudha alone, where the celebrations had initially started ,Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah admitted

,”we did not anticipates kind of crowd”,which reveals that the event was organized hastily after the Tuesday night final. The overwhelming turnout of fans ,far exceeding expectations ,exposed poor planning by the Karnataka state Cricket Association –KSCA and RCB. The mismatch between the venue's capacity and the crowd size created the dangerous pressure –cooker situation. The stampede occurred primarily at three gates ,where fans pushed to enter or climb barriers. The narrow passageways and a collapsed temporary slab over a drain near the stadium triggered panic leading to asphyxia –related deaths. Police has registered a suo motto FIR against RCB ,KSCA officials and DNA Entertainment Pvt Ltd., booking them for culpable homicide for the stampede that killed 11 on Wednesday. All responsible for the stampede and resultant deaths and injuries should be arrested and they should be challaned and exemplary punishment should be given to them after a speedy trail. It is very disturbing that the tragedy has been politicized and various political parties are politicking the sad issues for political expediency. But there is need that no politics should be done on this issues and political parties should desist from politicking .But it is a hard fact that government, RCB,KSCA and the event managers of the celebrations are all responsible for the stampede besides the carelessness of the cricket fans. Such stampedes should not occur in future and all of us including government should in future show restraint and responsibility and take steps so that stampedes will not take place in future.

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

What do you return to the forest giving life?

By: Vijay Garg

When we talk about forests, trees, fruit-flowers, parins, animals, river, mountains, springs, our lips and heart are relaxed. That's because we've definitely spent a few moments of our life in Kudrat's lap. In the dense shade of the tree, lying on the grass and reading the book and reading it... You are a Qismatwala if all these views have taken you. Otherwise, these tajurbe will join in your bucket list in the next ten years because these will shrink and become smaller. This is to say that Harshavardhana who has been associated with the conservation of environment for almost 50 years and today at the age of 83, he has a clear vision of tiger growling in his voice for protection of forests and wild animals and falcon-like eyes. when the child narrated the heart Starting talking to a Wakaye, Harsh Vardhan explains that I often meet children for bird fair and environmental protection. I asked them in things that do still write essays on cow in schools? The children said- Yes. The child from a missing told me that the essay on the cow does not get any marks of writing the truth, there is an inverted scolding. I wanted to grop her mind, she innocently said that I wrote the truth truth in the essay on the cow in the exam that the cow does not get the bait so nowadays she eats plastic and garbage. He does not have pasture so he rotates on the

streets. People feed him not the first bread of the house, but the remaining stale bread. On this, the teacher gave zero marks and rebuked me in front of the whole class. consisting of that tiny environmental soldier I thought that the same children could save the future of the earth. The school wall was on Baghera We elders have no right to ask children to snatch their colourful lives and wash them the keys of black and smoke-filled tomorrow. At the same time, another child was very nervous to go to school. She said that Baghera in the school comes anytime. Many times he has seen the garden sitting on the school wall. His fear is also justified, as we have infiltrated so much into the desert of wildlife that they are having to take shelter at homes, schools and pillars. We people have made their homes a means of entertainment too. Think, will you give a tiger a walk in your garden? No no! So how many bezubans become homeless when you make a Resort in their forests and stroll in their elms or cut down the trees and cut down the development big projects. thing of the forest, with the father

I think parents and teachers should take this responsibility to explain the solutions to save children environment and work in this direction together with them. I could never become an environment warrior if my father did not talk to me about forests, where he worked for a month and a half every year. Yogeshwar Chandra, father of envi-

ronmental warrior Harsh Vardhan, Jaipur, worked at the Secretariat of Maharaj Jaysingh. He had to live in forests many times in connection with work. He always used to say that the forest is the refuge where life runs at the command of Kudrat. Because forest is their home..... Baqaul Harshavardhana, animal-birds take only the goods they need from Kudrat, because the forest is their home- the roost that gave them asara. They never think of robbing it, but go through life in a known nature. We think that having or not of the forest does not make any difference, but as the forest is over, then we should assume that our end is not even far away. He says that you must have seen how the blue-green color of nature's mother's odhani is slowly changing into dry and barren matmalle colours. The Qaddar dust and hotness red black storms run nowadays, it seems that this mother of ours is coughing and she has started to tremble for many days continuously. Thank you, serve It's been several years since I was associated with the protection of forests, animal-birds. I had a small start as a volunteer. Because I learned this from my father that as well as thanking the forest that gives us life, we should return something to him or her, even though through some hours of service I started going to the forests. increased contact with people working there, and especially the Forest Guard. They understood their needs and troubles and started provid-

ing them small resources on their behalf. The dastan they know of the forest ecosystem makes it easier to understand about wildlife and about the life of the forest. My news went viral ! Bernard was then the president of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF International) and because of this, Ranthambore came. On a cold winter night we saw a tiger and the burglar sharing prey in the light of the torchlight on the jeep. My news written on some such experiences reached the world within a few hours. My first visit to Kailash Sankhla was also there after which our meeting and working together went ahead. After five years, free from the post of Project Director, he came back to Rajasthan and stayed Cheif Wild Life Warden in Jaipur. Many meetings of the Wildlife Board with them I joined. Both of us had felt somewhere that our love for the forest and the environment, but our faith had a similarity and so both of us had a firm relationship. They were good writers and photographers. The pictures of the uncovered forests in their halted blade camera seemed so alive as if the lyrics would arise. With hands from them, I joined the environment as well as the conservation of tigers.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist MALOUT Punjab Punjab)

Jodhamal student Soham Chandra shines at National Science Exam– upholds school’s legacy of excellence

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 7: Jodhamal Public School continues to set new benchmarks in academic excellence, as its students made an impressive mark in the prestigious Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan (VVM) – a national level science talent examination that aims to foster scientific curiosity and innovation among school students.

In the first level of the exam, conducted online in November 2024, 106 students from the school appeared, out of which 11 qualified for the State-level examination. The second level was held offline in December 2024 at CSIR-IIIM Jammu, where all 11 students proudly represented the school.

Among them, three students secured top ranks at the state level namely Soham Chandra Singh of Class VII secured 1st Rank, Jayendra Singh Jasrotia



of Class IX secured 3rd Rank, and Guransh Singh of Class VII secured 3rd Rank.

Soham Chandra Singh emerged as the star performer, qualifying for the National Level held at IIT Kanpur in May 2025. Competing against the finest young minds from across the country, Soham showcased exceptional scientific aptitude and perseverance, clinching the 3rd Rank in the North Zone.

He stood out as the only student from Jammu & Kashmir to achieve this prestigious distinction.

Carrying forward the school's tradition of excellence, Soham followed in the footsteps of last year's achiever, Ryan Lamba, who had bagged the 1st Rank in the North Zone. Soham's achievement not only reflects his personal brilliance but also highlights the school's unwav-

ering commitment to nurturing talent and scientific thinking.

His success, along with that of Jayendra Singh Jasrotia and Guransh Singh, was guided by the dedicated mentorship of Shallu Singh Jamwal, LB Avinash Singh, Elizabeth, and Ridhima Jain, who played a vital role in preparing the students for the competitive stages of the exam.

Trustee Nandan Kuthiala, Director Arati Kuthiala, and Vice Principal Amita Arora extended their heartfelt congratulations to Soham for bringing glory to the school and the state. They lauded his exemplary dedication and intelligence, calling him a beacon of inspiration for all young learners.

This proud moment once again places Jodhamal Public School at the forefront of academic achievement, reinforcing its reputation as a hub of excellence and innovation.

Suman Gupta’s artwork featured in Delhi Exhibition



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 7: Suman Gupta, a renowned magic realist and senior artist, has been selected to showcase his work in the ongoing group show "Timeless Currents: Contemporary Narratives in Indian Art" in Delhi. This exhibition, organized by Gallery NVYA in collaboration with GMR and ExecuJet, is being held at the General Aviation Terminal, Delhi Airport. The exhibition explores the dynamic interplay between tradition and modernity in Indian art, highlighting how heritage and contemporary experiences shape each artist's unique vision. By showcasing the works of contemporary Indian masters, "Timeless Currents" captures the evolution of cultural narratives within Indian art. Suman Gupta's artwork is characterized by his fondness for depicting people close to him, including friends and family. His paintings transcend geographical boundaries,

focusing on the stories, connections, and emotions that define human experience. Rather than merely capturing reality, Gupta's work strives to construct narratives inspired by the lives of his sitters. His art often explores themes of uprooting, the zest for life, solitude, and the awareness of the ephemeral.

"Timeless Currents" offers a unique glimpse into the country's vibrant art scene and the ways in which tradition and modernity continue to shape its creative expression.

Rise Through the Struggle

*When storms arrive and shadows fall,
And doubts like thunder start to call—
Remember this: you're being made,
In trials faced, your roots are laid.*

*A life too smooth, with no uphill,
Breeds little strength and weaker will.
But those who climb and do not cease
Shall one day stand in quiet peace.*

*Each burden builds your inner grace,
Each tear can light a brighter face.
Don't run from pain, nor let it win,
There's deeper strength that lies within.*

*For struggle teaches, sharp and true,
What easy days won't bring to you.
Success is earned with sweat and soul,
Not handed down—it takes its toll.*

*So rise again, though bruised and worn,
Each challenge faced, a crown is born.
Don't give up and don't retreat—
Learn to stand and not be beat.*

*The world gives way to hearts that burn,
To those who fall but rise and learn.
A life that's tested, pushed, and tough,
Is the life that shines... and shines enough.*

Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain State Chairman Indian Yoga Association



KVK-Ramban appeals for availing benefits of crop insurance under PMFBY

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Jun 7: As the sowing/transplanting of Kharif season crops in district Ramban has picked up pace and in some parts of the district already completed, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)-Ramban appeals to all the farmers' to get their crops insured under Prime-minister Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). Dr. Parveen Kumar SMS (Ag. Extension) at the KVK told that farmers' toil day and night in the fields but unfortunately when it is the time to get the produce; vagaries of climate in the form of excessive rainfall, hail-storm, cloudburst and landslides extensively damage the standing crop leading to a great economic loss to the farmer.

To take care of all this and to compensate the growers for this loss, Government has come up with PMFBY. Under PMFBY, the premium share to be borne by the farmer is just 2% for Kharif crops.

For Maize, farmers have to pay rupees one thousand two hundred for one hectare to get an insurance coverage of sixty thousand. Similarly in case of Paddy,

farmers have to pay just one thousand five hundred for one hectare to get an insurance coverage of rupee seventy five thousand. This amount because much less because majority of the farmers in district have very small size of holdings and is even less than one ha. Dr. Parveen Kumar further told that the last date for crop insurance for Kharif season is July 31.

Farmers having Kisan Credit Card (KCC) are already covered under this scheme but those who do not have KCC have to do this. They can directly login to the PMFBY website or go to nearest Bank, Community Information Center (CIC), Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) availing benefits of this scheme. Farmers can also approach the nearest agriculture office. The losses due to the natural calamities have to be intimated at toll free no. 14447 within 72 hours of the loss.

On intimation a team visits to assess the percentage of damage and accordingly the claim is disbursed to the farmers. KVK-Ramban has been specially focusing on crop insurance in the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan'

Army conducts lecture on drug abuse at Surankote



Top News Report

POONCH, Jun 7: Indian Army conducted a lecture on "Drug Abuse" for teenagers at Surankote.

The lecture aimed to make the teenagers aware of ill effects of drugs and its repercussions.

The teenagers were made aware of the

techniques of identification and symptoms of drug abusers. Substance abuse can have an effect on a person's physical and mental health, as well as social relationships, family, work, school and quality of life.

The potential effects of substance abuse include damage to organs, such as the

heart, brain, and liver. They were also exposed to knowledge on illicit drug trafficking and were motivated to join hands towards building a drug free society.

The event was appreciated by the attendees and further enhanced the nation building image of Indian Army. A total No of 52 teenagers attended the event.

Robotic surgery provides several advantages: Max Hospital experts

Top News Report

BARNALA, Jun 7: "The field of surgical robotics is evolving at a rapid pace, revolutionising the way surgeries are performed and setting new standards for precision, efficiency, and patient outcomes,"

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday Dr. Anupam Goel senior consultant general surgery, GI & robotic Surgery at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Mohali said, " Robotic surgery provides several advantages over traditional open surgery and standard laparoscopic procedures. While the open surgery offers a full view of the abdomen and the ability to work freely inside the affected area, it requires a large incision through muscle and tissue. This type of incision can be more painful and take longer to heal."

However, surgical robotics has made significant strides in the medical field. Systems like the da Vinci Xi Surgical System have become widely adopted,



providing surgeons with enhanced capability and precision through minimally invasive procedures, he informed.

Further emphasizing the role and future of Robotic Surgery, along with its challenges, Dr. Goel said, "The future of surgical robotics is incredibly promising, but challenges remain unaddressed. Patient scepticism, often due to a lack of understanding, necessitates investment in education to highlight the benefits of robotic-assisted procedures."

"The high cost of robotic systems can also be a barrier to widespread adoption. Focusing on cost-effective innovations and advocating for insurance coverage that supports robotic surger-

ies are essential steps in making this technology more accessible. By overcoming these hurdles, we can ensure that more patients benefit from the precision and safety that robotic surgery offers."

Later a CME was also organised by Max Hospital in Barnala where over 100 doctors across Punjab participated while shedding light on advancements in gastro-intestinal robotic surgery.

The CME not only offered valuable educational insights but also highlighted Max Super Speciality Hospital, Mohali's unwavering commitment to fostering healthcare excellence through continuous learning.

President NMOPS/JKTF greets people on Eid Ul Azha

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 7: State President NMOPS & State President J&K Teachers Forum, Mohammed Ashraf Sheikh, has extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Eid Ul Azha.

In his statement, M. Ashraf Sheikh reminded people of the essence of Eid, emphasizing the importance of remembering the poor and needy, and sharing happiness with them. He highlighted that the spirit behind observing this festival is to demonstrate complete obedience to Almighty Allah and to show belongingness, care, and support to the underprivileged.

"Eid is not just about buying new clothes, enjoying lavish dishes, and festivities; it's about being grateful to Allah for everything He has given us. It's about helping the poor, making them part of this important day, spreading love, and bringing smiles to their faces,"



Sheikh added.

He urged the community to pledge to look around and help those in need, emphasizing the significance of empathy, kindness, and generosity during Eid.

Ashraf Sheikh expressed hope that this Eid would bring peace, prosperity, and harmony to Jammu and Kashmir, and prayed for the wellbeing of all.

Tributes paid to Fouji Kartar Chand Tugga

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 7: Rich tributes were paid to Fouji Kartar Chand Tugga in a shradhanjali samaroh held in Krishna Palace at Marh on Saturday.

A satsang was also held for the eternal peace of his noble soul.

R.L Kaith said, "One of the things I appreciate most about him was his ability to make people laugh, even on the darkest of days. He had a great sense of humour and always knew how to lighten the mood and put things into perspective." He had helped people to see the bright side of things and not take life too seriously. Another thing I admire about him was his deter-



mination and drive. He had always been a go-getter and always had a clear idea of what he wanted in life.

He had always been a great role model for people showing them that with hard work and determination, anything is possible. He had inspired people to set their own goals and strive to achieve them.

BJP activist RL Kaith, others hail Sgr-Katra train link, congrats PM Modi for this visionary step

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 7: Social and BJP Activist RL Kaith and many others who met here on Saturday, strongly hailed the inauguration of the Srinagar-Katra rail link.

While speaking, Kaith said that the enhanced rail connectivity was a much-needed boost for Jammu and Kashmir's economy.

It will greatly benefit fruit growers especially those dealing in apples and cherries by enabling faster and more efficient



transport of their produce to markets across India.

"We extend our heartfelt congratulation to our Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this visionary step," said all.

Shweta Basu Prasad says she is scared of repeating herself as an actor

Actor Shweta Basu Prasad, who reprised her role as Lekha in 'Criminal Justice' Season 4, opens up about her evolving choices as an actor, her experience working alongside Pankaj Tripathi, and her constant quest to keep things fresh on screen. In an exclusive chat with agency, the actress shares why reinvention matters to her and how collaboration shapes her craft.

Having started her journey in the industry at a young age, Shweta says her selection of roles has always come from a very personal space, "I've been pretty lucky that good work has consistently come my way," she says.

"My choice of projects has always come from the lens of an audience. I'm a movie buff—I love watching films and series. So, when a new project is offered to me, beyond just looking at the team or the scale, it's really the story and character that matter most," she added.

The actor believes in taking responsibility for

the content she's a part of. "My decision-making always starts with the question: Would I want to watch this? Because if I wouldn't, how can I expect others to? I'm asking people to subscribe, to spend their time and money—there's a certain responsibility in that. I have to genuinely believe in what I'm promoting."

When asked about working with Pankaj Tripathi and whether it has changed her approach, Shweta shares, "I wouldn't say my performance has changed, but working with Pankaj ji has definitely added to my experience. There was a kind of nervous excitement, especially in Season 3 when my character was introduced. It wasn't just another scene—I was literally going head-to-head with him in court."

She adds, "It was argument-heavy, dialogue-heavy, and technically demanding. But once I step into Lekha's costume and onto the set, that nervousness fades. Shweta takes a back seat, and Lekha steps



in. The same happens with him—Pankaj ji disappears and Madhav Mishra takes over."

For Shweta, acting is deeply rooted in reaction and chemistry

with co-actors. "If I say something and I don't get the right reaction in return, my motivation for the next line falters. So, working with good actors really elevates

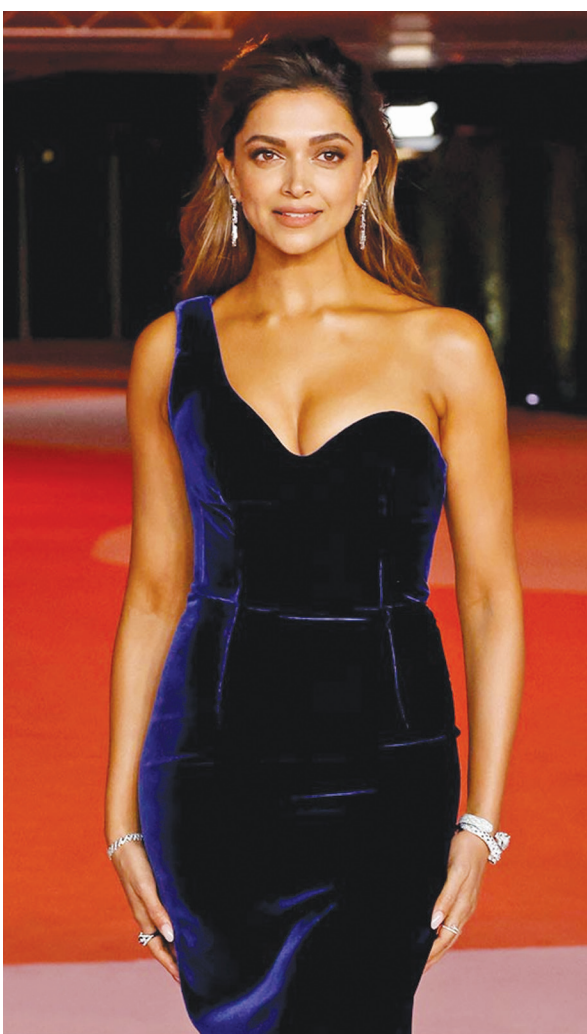
your performance. I owe that to everyone I've worked with—Pankaj ji, Surveen, and the whole team."

The actress admits that her biggest fear is stagnation. "Repeating myself is something I'm very conscious of—and scared of—as an actor," she says. "Cinema is a reflection of life, and life is full of surprises. Every day is different, and our art should reflect that."

She emphasises the importance of reinvention in storytelling. "There are many legal and courtroom dramas out there, but the key is in reinvention. It's not just about repackaging; it's about breathing new life into something. We are documenting the times we live in. What we created two years ago can't be replicated today—2025 brings a whole new lens. Even if it's the same story, it evolves with time. And that process of reinvention is far more exciting than mere repetition."

'Criminal Justice' Season 4 is currently streaming on JioHotstar.

Deepika Padukone joins Atlee-Allu Arjun's AA22xA6 film



Actress Deepika Padukone on Saturday joined the cast of Telugu cinema star Allu Arjun and director Atlee's

upcoming movie.

Backed by production banner Sun Pictures, the movie is billed as a "magnum opus".

The currently untitled movie was officially announced on Arjun's 43rd birthday in April.

"The Queen marches to conquer! Welcome onboard @deepikapadukone #TheFacesOfAA22xA6 #AA22xA6 - A Magnum Opus from Sun Picture @alluarjunonline @atlee47," Sun Pictures posted on Instagram.

The project will mark Deepika Padukone's reunion with director Atlee, following their successful collaboration on the 2023 blockbuster "Jawan", which was headlined by Shah Rukh Khan.

It will also be her first on-screen pairing with Arjun, the lead actor of the "Pushpa" franchise.

Atlee is also known for Tamil films "Mersal", "Theri", and "Bigil".

Padukone coming on board Atlee's film follows the controversy surrounding her reported exit from Sandeep Reddy Vanga's "Spirit" due to creative differences though there was never any official confirmation of Padukone's involvement in the film.

Dakota Johnson stays silent on her breakup with Chris Martin

Dakota Johnson preferred to stay silent on her recent breakup with Chris Martin during an appearance on the chat show Late Night With Seth Meyers.

Johnson spoke about her new movie, Materialists, helmed by director and writer Celine Song, whom the actress said she was 'obsessed' with after seeing her Oscar-nominated Past Lives. Johnson and Meyers also playfully described the new film as a "rom-dramedy."

The silence came only one day after it was revealed that she and the Coldplay frontman had ended their relationship after nearly eight years.

Johnson was photographed exiting The Greenwich Hotel in New York City before her late-night engagement.

The 50 Shades of Grey actress and the



singer started dating in 2017 and had an on-again, off-again romance for nearly eight years before calling it quits. The silence

comes just one day after news broke that she and the Coldplay frontman split for good following nearly eight years together.

R Madhavan recalls uncomfortable scene from Shaitaan: Had to be authentic

Actor R Madhavan recently spoke about his most challenging sequence from 'Shaitaan.' While speaking to actor Kajol, in a one-on-one interaction, Madhavan recalled how the urination scene in the supernatural horror took an emotional toll on him.

The actor, who was having a conversation with Kajol on JioStudios' YouTube channel for 'Maa', admitted feeling disgusted about the shot. In the sequence where his character forces her daughter to dance constantly, resulting in her wetting herself due to physical strain, Madhavan said, "It was a very sensitive scene."

"There's this moment where I make my daughter dance through the night. She reaches a



point where she can't hold it anymore and urinates. In the original version of the film, the approach to the scene was different. But here, I realised that even as a villain, if I looked at her during that moment, it would send out a completely different message. I needed the audience to feel disgust—not pity or justification," he added.

The 'Kesari - Chapter Two' actor further said, "So, I wrapped myself in a blanket, deliberately avoiding looking at her. That decision not only worked for the character but gave me relief as an actor. I could step away emotionally while still staying true to the role. I simply tell the mother, 'Can you go help your daughter?'"

Madhavan concluded, "There were many such moments during filming that made me deeply uncomfortable. But I had to find ways to stay authentic while protecting myself emotionally."

'Shaitaan', directed by Vikas Bahl, was the Hindi adaptation of the Gujarati film 'Vash' (2023). It featured Ajay Devgn, Jyothika, and Janki Bodiwala alongside Madhavan in pivotal characters. The film is about a family held hostage by a mysterious man who exerts mind control over their daughter through witchcraft.

Kajol's upcoming mythological-horror 'Maa' is a spin-off to 'Shaitaan.' Both films have been produced by Devgn Films.

Rana Daggubati opens up about nepotism in film industries

Actor Rana Daggubati, known for his roles in Baahubali and Rana Naidu, shared his thoughts about nepotism in the film industry, a point of debate abuzz in the entertainment domains for decades now. Hailing from a prestigious film family, Rana is the son of film producer D Suresh Babu and Lakshmi. He shares a close bond with his uncle-actor Venkatesh Daggubati and is also the cousin of Naga Chaitanya.

In an interview with agency, Rana emphasised that having a film family background opens up more opportunities and provides a deeper understanding of the industry.

He said, "Any industry that your family is from, you understand it more than somebody who's not. How does it help

an actor? Ultimately, you have to stand in front of the camera and act. There'll be a lot more opportunities for you. There will be an ecosystem that you understand. It's like if your family is from chemical industries or sugar factories, you'll understand how a sugar factory works and all the byproducts of sugar like that."

The actor's mother worked in a film laboratory and his father in a film studio. Rana admitted that her mother's and father's professions helped him become familiar with the basic functions of film studios and laboratories.

"My mother worked in a film laboratory, so I understood what a film laboratory looks like and how it functions. My father worked in a studio, so I understood

its function, and my uncle was an actor," said Rana.

Ranamentioned that the "pressure" to continue his family's legacy motivated him to do something unique, including starting his own production house, Spirit Media, in 2005.

"Pressure, in that sense, it was self-inflicted in some manner. You want to do something that is unique, new, and stands out and should stand for a long period of time. Whether it was visual effects, whether it's acting, or producing," said Rana.

He is a vocal advocate for contemporary and art house films. Through his production house, he has supported films such as All We Imagine As Light, directed by Payal Kapadia. He believes that his popularity has given him a

platform to promote these types of films.

"Cinema is one, language never mattered to me when I was watching it as a child. So growing up and working, it didn't matter which language it was, and I feel there's a voice to all kinds of stories. The first film we made at Spirit Media was an art house film. Art house didn't have any other way to release, and I feel like now, since I got a little bit more popular, I can advocate for some cinema," said Rana.

Rana will be next seen in the second season of Rana Naidu. It is directed by Karan Anshuman. Apart from the lead actor, the series also stars Surveen Chawla, Arjun Rampal and Kriti Kharbanda in prominent roles. The series is slated to release on Netflix on June 13.

Akshay Oberoi says Bollywood doesn't acknowledge the love from the queer community

Akshay Oberoi is a staunch supporter of the LGBTQ+ community and believes that the Hindi film industry fails to adequately recognise its presence within the audience. With June being Pride Month, the actor strongly urges the film industry to make the queer community feel more heard and seen.

The actor recognised the affection that the queer community expresses towards films and web series after portraying a closeted gay character, Rohit Shanbagh, in Inside Edge 3.

"Bollywood doesn't acknowledge it, but a lot of the love we get from the queer community. As someone who truly values love and identity



in all forms, I've never been bothered about the sexuality of my characters. For me, it's about telling human stories, and every human deserves to be seen," says Akshay.

The 40-year-old, who is currently working on actor Yash's pan-India film Toxic, reflects on his experience playing Rohit.

"It was overwhelming and fulfilling to step into a role that carried so much internal conflict and courage. It's easy to play parts that fall into the typical hero template. But when you get to play a character that challenges societal norms, you grow not just as an actor but as a person."

PM Modi lays down five priorities for building disaster-resilient infrastructure

PM Modi emphasised that these disasters have caused significant damage to lives and property, reinforcing the need for resilient infrastructure and proactive disaster management.

NEW DELHI, Jun 7 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday outlined five key global priorities for him to build disaster-resilient infrastructure, including a skilled workforce, a global digital repository to document best practices and innovative financing.

In a video address to the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure 2025, Modi said strengthening early-warning systems and coordination is another crucial aspect.

He noted that India has established a tsunami-warning system benefitting 29 countries and that it recognises the Small Island Developing States (SIDA) as large-ocean countries and the need for special attention to their vulnerabilities.

With the event being hosted in Europe for the first time, Modi thanked French President Emmanuel Macron and extended his best wishes to him for the upcoming United Nations Oceans Conference.



In his remarks, he prime minister noted that the conference's theme is "Shaping a Resilient Future for Coastal Regions" and underscored the vulnerability of coastal regions and islands to natural disasters and climate change.

He cited recent disasters, including Cyclone Remal in India and Bangladesh, Hurricane Beryl in the Caribbean, Typhoon Yagi in Southeast Asia, Hurricane Helene in the United States, Typhoon Usagi in the Philippines and Cyclone Chido in parts of Africa.

Modi emphasised that these disasters have caused significant damage to lives and property, reinforcing the need for resilient infrastructure and proactive disaster management.

Recalling India's past experiences with devastating disasters, including the super-cyclone of 1999 and the tsunami of 2004, he highlighted how

the country adapted and rebuilt with resilience, constructing cyclone shelters across vulnerable areas and contributing to the establishment of the tsunami-warning system benefitting 29 nations.

Modi said disaster resilience requires innovative financing and called for the creation of actionable programmes to ensure that developing countries have access to the necessary funds.

He highlighted the necessity of strengthening early-warning systems and coordination, noting their critical role in facilitating timely decision making and effective last-mile communication.

The prime minister called for the construction of infrastructure that remains steadfast against time and tide, emphasising the need for resilience in development.

He called for global efforts to build a strong and disaster-resilient future for the world.

Home Minister Amit Shah meets security officers involved in recent anti-Naxal operations

The Chhattisgarh Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jointly carried out a three-week operation in the Kurragutta hills along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border recently.



NEW DELHI, Jun 7 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday met the security officers who played a key role in recent operations against Naxals in Chhattisgarh and said the Narendra Modi government is determined to free India from the menace of Naxalism.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma and senior home ministry officials were present on the occasion here.

"I have met the officers who played an important role in the recent operations conducted against Naxalism and congratulated them on the historic success of these operations," Shah said in a post in Hindi on X.

The home minister said he is also eager to meet the soldiers who made these operations successful with their bravery and will soon visit Chhattisgarh and meet them.

"The Modi government is determined to free India from the scourge of Naxalism," he added.

The Chhattisgarh Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jointly carried out a three-week operation in the Kurragutta hills along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border recently.

Under the "Operation Black Forest", 31 hardcore Maoists were killed and the integrated headquarters of several key Maoist outfits, including PLGA Battalion Number 1, DKSZC, TSC and CRC, destroyed.

India following 'zero-tolerance' policy on terror; expects partners to understand it: EAM Jaishankar

NEW DELHI, Jun 7 (Agencies): India is practising a policy of "zero tolerance" against terrorism, and it will never countenance perpetrators of evil being put on par with its victims, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday during wide-ranging talks with his British counterpart David Lammy.

The remarks came amid unease in New Delhi over several countries hyphenating India and Pakistan following their four-day clashes last month.

Lammy arrived in New Delhi this morning on a two-day visit to review various aspects of the strategic partnership between the two countries.

In his televised opening remarks, Jaishankar also thanked the UK for its strong condemna-



tion of the "barbaric" Pahalgam terror attack and London's support to New Delhi's fight against terrorism.

"We practice a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and expect our partners to understand it. We will never countenance perpetrators of evil being put at par with their victims," he said.

Jaishankar also described the recently finalised India-UK free trade deal and the double contribution convention as "truly a milestone".

It is learnt that the Indian side raised the issue of cross-border terrorism from Pakistan.

The UK was among the countries which were in touch with both India and Pakistan in an attempt to de-escalate their tensions during their military conflict last month.

Lammy paid a two-day visit to Islamabad from May 16, during which he welcomed the May 10 understanding between India and Pakistan to stop the military actions.

Make a vow to reduce salt, processed food & 10 pc less oil for healthy India: J P Nadda

BENGALURU, Jun 7 (Agencies): On this World Food Safety Day, every Indian must make a vow to reduce salt intake, processed food as well as 10 per cent of oil consumption, said Jagat Prakash Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare on Saturday.

According to him, it is our collective responsibility to spread awareness about eating the right food.

Nadda was addressing an event organised to celebrate World Food Safety Day by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at National Institute



of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru. World Food Safety Day is celebrated on June 7 of every year.

"We should take the clarion call given by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and see to it that at least in our own homes, we are able to reduce 10 per cent of

oil consumption and salt consumption. This is the most necessary part. We also have to see to it that processed foods are reduced to the maximum," said Nadda.

He also said to remain healthy and to eat right, India must revisit its traditional food practices.

"Our traditional food includes many types of

preparations with millets. We have to revive this tradition," he added.

Nadda said change is possible only if it is a continuous process.

"By talking about food safety habits only on World Food Safety Day is not going to work. It will only work if we make it a part of our life and if we make it a habit," he added.

Nadda also said health consciousness and the Eat Right Movement are imperative as obesity is spreading fast in India.

"India's diabetes study by ICMR says that from 2008 to 2020, the obesity in urban India has increased by 39.6 per cent and in rural areas, it has increased by 23.1 per cent. It is also projected that by 2050, 1/3 of the population will be obese," said Nadda, adding that time to act is now.

During the event, Nadda also released a booklet called 'Eat Right India'.

Sanjay Kumar, Secretary of Department of School Education and Literacy, who addressed the gathering via video conferencing, explained how the science of eating right has become a part of National Council for Education, Research and Training's curriculum.

Rahul Gandhi claims "match-fixing" in Maharashtra polls, says Bihar is next

NEW DELHI, Jun 7 (Agencies): Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday alleged that the 2024 Maharashtra assembly elections were a "blueprint for rigging democracy" and this "match-fixing" would next happen in Bihar and "anywhere the BJP is losing".

Underscoring that match-fixed elections are a "poison" for any democracy, he said that the side that cheats may win the game, but it damages institutions and destroys public faith.

In a post on X, Gandhi outlined the alleged electoral irregularities in a stepwise manner — fake voters are added, voter turnout is inflated, bogus voting is facilitated, and evidence is subsequently hidden.

"How to steal an election? Maharashtra assembly elections in 2024 were a blueprint for rigging democracy," Gandhi said while sharing an op-ed published in The Indian Express.

"My article shows how this happened, step by step: Step 1: Rig the panel for appointing the Election Commission. Step 2: Add fake voters to the roll. Step 3: Inflate voter turnout. Step 4: Target the bogus voting exactly where BJP needs to win. Step 5: Hide the evidence.

"It's not hard to see why the BJP was so desperate in Maharashtra. But rigging is like match-fixing — the side that cheats might



win the game, but damages institutions and destroys public faith in the result. All concerned Indians must see the evidence. Judge for themselves. Demand answers," Gandhi said.

"Because the match-fixing of Maharashtra will come to Bihar next, and then anywhere the BJP is losing," the former Congress president claimed in his post.

In his article "Match-fixing Maharashtra", Gandhi said, "Voter rolls and CCTV footage are tools to be used to strengthen democracy, not ornaments to be locked up. The people of India have a right to be assured that no records have been or will be trashed." He said he doubted the fairness of Indian elections, "not every time, not everywhere, but often. I am not talking of small-scale cheating, but of industrial-scale rigging involving the capture of our national institutions".

"But if some earlier election outcomes seemed odd, the outcome of the 2024 Maha-

rastra Vidhan Sabha elections is glaringly strange," he noted.

In his article, Gandhi alleged voter turnout figures were inflated.

"Election Commission data show that the number of registered voters in Maharashtra in the 2019 Vidhan Sabha elections was 8.98 crore, which rose five years later to 9.29 crore for the May 2024 Lok Sabha elections. But a mere five months later, by the November 2024 Vidhan Sabha elections, the number had leapt to 9.70 crore. A crawl of 31 lakh in five years, then a leap of 41 lakh in just five months. "So incredible was this leap that the registered voter total of 9.70 crore was even greater than the 9.54 crore adults in Maharashtra according to the government's own estimates," he said in his article.

Pointing to inflation in voter turnout on polling day, Gandhi pointed out that "the polling turnout at 5 PM was 58.22 per cent. Even after voting closed, however, turnout kept increasing more and more. The final turnout was reported only the next morning to be 66.05 percent." "The unprecedented 7.83 percentage point increase is equivalent to 76 lakh voters — much higher than previous Vidhan Sabha elections in Maharashtra".

He also pointed to the adding of new voters in only 12,000 booths across 85 constituencies in the state, where the BJP eventually won.

Pak writing its own epitaph: Naqvi

NEW DELHI, Jun 7 (Agencies): BJP leader and former Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Saturday that Pakistan is writing its own epitaph by offering a sanctuary to terrorists and asserted that it amounted to bleeding Islam.

Talking to reporters while celebrating Eid ul-Azha, Naqvi said Pakistan has given a licence to "barbarian beasts" to wound humanity and Islam and made terrorism and terrorists its "national industry and national assets", according to a statement.

Naqvi celebrated



the festival by offering "gujiya", a sweet associated traditionally with Holi, to people.

All the festivals of the world are celebrated together in India with fervour and gaiety, and that is why it is called

"Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat", the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said, referring to the Narendra Modi government's emphasis on celebrating different facets of Indian culture together

Helicopter on way to Kedarnath crashlands on highway, all safe

RUDRAPRAYAG, Jun 7 (Agencies): A helicopter on its way to Kedarnath made an emergency landing on the highway in Rudraprayag district on Saturday after developing a technical snag during take-off, officials said.

However, all pilgrims on board and the pilot are safe, the officials said.

The helicopter had taken off from Badasu base for Kedarnath when it made the emergency landing on the highway near Sirsi fol-



lowing a technical snag during take-off, they said.

Videos on social media showed the Kestrel Aviation helicopter standing in the middle of the highway was dangerously close to populated buildings and with a car

damaged by its tail rotor.

Six people on board the helicopter including the pilot had a narrow escape.

The pilot sustained minor injuries and was rushed to a hospital for treatment.

Kedarnath heli service nodal officer Rahul Chaubey said the incident had not affected the heli shuttle service to the Himalayan temple.

Efforts are underway to remove the helicopter from the highway.

Russian strikes on Ukraine overnight kill 7 and injure at least 41

The strikes targeted civilian and energy infrastructure, Ukraine said.

KYIV, Jun 7 (Agencies): At least seven people were killed and 41 others were injured in massive Russian strikes across Ukraine overnight, which targeted civilian and energy infrastructure, Ukrainian authorities said Saturday morning.

"Russia continues its terror against civilians," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said in a social media post on Saturday morning. "Hundreds of drones and missiles rained down on Ukraine overnight. Kharkiv had a particularly terrible night."

In the northeastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, Russian strikes killed three people and injured another 21. Among those injured was an infant and a 14-year-old girl, according to Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov. An additional person was injured in the city of Kupiansk, southeast of Kharkiv, in the surrounding region, according to Kharkiv Oblast Gov. Oleh Syn-



iehubov.

Russia attacked Kharkiv with 48 drones, five guided aerial bombs, four MLRS and three missiles, targeting homes and civilian infrastructure facilities in the city's Kyivskiy and Osnovianskiy districts, according to Syniehubov.

Meanwhile, Russian strikes killed two people -- a married

couple, aged 56 and 54 -- in the southern Ukrainian port city of Kherson and injured another 10 people in the surrounding region, according to Kherson Oblast Gov. Olexandr Prokudin. In eastern Ukraine's Donetsk Oblast, two people were killed and eight others were injured in Russian strikes, according to Gov. Vadym Filashkin.

And in northeastern Ukraine's Sumy Oblast, Russian strikes injured one person, according to the regional administration.

Across Ukraine overnight, Russia launched a total of 215 projectiles -- 206 drones, two ballistic missiles, six guided aircraft missiles and one cruise missile -- of which 174 were neutralized, according to the Ukrainian Air Force.

"There were strikes throughout Ukraine -- in the Donetsk, Dnipro, Ternopil, Odessa, and other regions," the foreign minister said. "People were injured and killed, and the energy infrastructure was also damaged."

Sybiha added: "To put an end to Russia's killing and destruction, more pressure on Moscow is required, as are more steps to strengthen Ukraine. Russia is a terrorist state, and it must be called such. It has already done more than enough to earn this title."

Israeli military recovers body of Thai hostage held in Gaza since October 7 attack



JERUSALEM, Jun 7 (Agencies): The Israeli military has retrieved the body of Thai hostage, Nattapong Pinta, who had been held in Gaza since Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Saturday.

Pinta's body was held by a Palestinian militant group called the Mujahedeen Brigades, and was retrieved from the area of Rafah in southern Gaza, Katz said. His family in Thailand has been notified.

Pinta, an agricultural worker, was

abducted from Kibbutz Nir Oz, a small community near the border, where one in four people was killed or taken hostage during the Hamas-led 2023 attack that triggered the devastating war in Gaza.

The Israeli military said Pinta had been abducted alive and killed by his captors, who had also killed and taken to Gaza the bodies of two more Israeli-American hostages that were retrieved this week.

There was no immediate comment from the militant group.

Hamas-led militants killed 1,200 people in Israel in the 2023 attack, Israel's deadliest day, and took 251 hostages, 55 of whom remain in Gaza. Twenty hostages are believed to still be alive, according to Israeli authorities.

Israel responded to the Hamas attacks with a military campaign that has killed over 54,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health authorities in the Hamas-run strip, and left much of the enclave in ruins, with a population of more than 2 million people largely displaced.

North Korea hit by major internet outage, key websites, services impacted

SEOUL, Jun 7 (Agencies): North Korea's internet was hit by a major outage that lasted several hours on Saturday, knocking off connections to government websites and official news services online and severing the reclusive country from cyberspace.

It was not clear what caused the outage but it may have been internal rather than a cyberattack, as connections via China and Russia were affected, said researchers who monitor North Korea's internet and technology infrastructure.

North Korea's main official news services, its Foreign Ministry, and the Air Koryo national airline were among websites inaccessible on Saturday, before they started coming back slowly around midday according to checks by agency.

North Korea's entire internet infrastructure was not showing up

on systems that can monitor internet activities, and email services were also affected, Junade Ali, a UK-based researcher who monitors the North Korean internet, said earlier.

"Hard to say if this is intentional or accidental - but it seems like this is internal rather than an attack."

Officials at South Korea's cyber terror response centre, a police division that monitors North Korea's cyber activities, could not be reached for comment.

Martyn Williams, who specialises in North Korea's technology and infrastructure at the Washington-based Stimson Centre, also said the cause appeared to be internal as the Chinese and Russian connections were not working.

North Korea has one of the world's most strictly controlled internet systems, including access to any form of online communication.

The general public has access only to an intranet set up by the government and that is not connected to the wider global network.

An elite few in the government and leadership are allowed open internet access, and government and news websites often serve up propaganda for outside audiences.

North Korea has in previous years experienced large internet outages suspected as being caused by cyberattacks.

The country operates elite teams of hackers, including a group known as Lazarus run by the government intelligence apparatus, that are blamed for attacks against foreign institutions and companies and more recently for theft and the laundering of cryptocurrencies.

North Korea denies involvement in hacking, crypto thefts and other cybercrime.

Israel admits to supporting anti-Hamas armed group in Gaza

JERUSALEM, Jun 7 (Agencies): Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu admitted that Israel is supporting an armed group in Gaza that opposes the militant group Hamas, following comments by a former minister that Israel had transferred weapons to it.

Israeli and Palestinian media have reported that the group Israel has been working with is part of a local Bedouin tribe led by Yasser Abu Shabab.

The European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) think tank describes Abu Shabab as the leader of a "criminal gang operating in the Rafah area that is widely accused of looting aid trucks".

Knesset member and ex-defence minister Avigdor Lieberman had told the Kan public broadcaster that the government, at Netanyahu's direction, was "giving weapons to a group of criminals and felons".

"What did Lieberman



leak? ... That on the advice of security officials, we activated clans in Gaza that oppose Hamas. What is bad about that?" Netanyahu said in a video posted to social media.

"It is only good, it is saving lives of Israeli soldiers."

Michael Milshtein, an expert on Palestinian affairs at the Moshe Dayan Center in Tel Aviv, told agency that the Abu Shabab clan was part of a Bedouin tribe that spans across the border between Gaza and Egypt's Sinai

peninsula.

Some of the tribe's members, he said, were involved in "all kinds of criminal activities, drug smuggling, and things like that".

Army spokesman Brigadier General Effie Defrin confirmed the military supported arming local militias in Gaza but remained tight-lipped on the details.

"I can say that we are operating in various ways against Hamas governance," Defrin said during a televised press conference when questioned on the sub-

ject, without elaborating further.

- 'Gangster' -

Milshtein said that Abu Shabab had spent time in prison in Gaza and that his clan chiefs had recently denounced him as an Israeli "collaborator and a gangster".

"It seems that actually the Shabak (Israeli security agency) or the (military) thought it was a wonderful idea to turn this militia, gang actually, into a proxy, to give them weapons and money and shelter" from army operations, Milshtein said.

He added that Hamas killed four members of the gang days ago.

The ECFR said Abu Shabab was "reported to have been previously jailed by Hamas for drug smuggling. His brother is said to have been killed by Hamas during a crackdown against the group's attacks on UN aid convoys."

Israel regularly accuses Hamas, with which it has been at war for nearly 20 months, of looting aid convoys in

Gaza.

Hamas said the group had "chosen betrayal and theft as their path" and called on civilians to oppose them.

Hamas, which has ruled Gaza for nearly two decades, said it had evidence of "clear coordination between these looting gangs, collaborators with the occupation (Israel), and the enemy army itself in the looting of aid and the fabrication of humanitarian crises that deepen the suffering of" Palestinians.

The Popular Forces, as Abu Shabab's group calls itself, said on Facebook it had "never been, and will never be, a tool of the occupation".

"Our weapons are simple, outdated and came through the support of our own people," it added.

Milshtein called Israel's decision to arm a group such as Abu Shabab "a fantasy, not something that you can really describe as a strategy".

"I really hope it will not end with catastrophe," he said.

Nepal offers mass prayers, feasts on Eid al-Adha

KATHMANDU, Jun 7 (Agencies): Eid al-Adha, one of the two major festivals in Islam, is being celebrated across Nepal on Saturday with mass prayers, feast and exchange of greetings.

Eid al-Adha is traditionally celebrated on the 70th day after Ramadan. Muslims begin the day with a ritual bath and then proceed to the nearest mosque or Idgah to offer prayers. Following the prayers, it is customary to exchange greetings with one another.

In Nepal's capital, people gathered at the Kashmiri Mosque and took part in the mass Namaz ceremony. Upon completion of the Namaz ceremony, the attendees exchanged greetings of "Eid Mubarak" to each other.

Eid al-Adha is the second Islamic festival of the year and follows Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan, the

holy month of fasting. The date changes every year, as it's based on the Islamic lunar calendar, which is about 11 days shorter than the Western 365-day Gregorian calendar. It is celebrated as a commemoration of Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice everything for God.

Eid al-Adha is called Id-ul-Adha in Arabic. There is a tradition of sacrificing a goat or 'bakri' on the occasion. It is a festival that is celebrated with traditional fervor and gaiety. Many Muslims wear new clothes and attend an open-air prayer meeting during Id-ul-Zuha. They may sacrifice a sheep or goat and share the meat with family members, neighbours and the poor. Many Muslims feel that they have a duty to ensure that all Muslims can enjoy a meat-based meal during this holiday.

"In the morning, we completed Namaz. After



this, we went back home and sacrificed a goat and invited friends and relatives to the feast. The sacrifice continues for three days, till Monday, starting from today. Various delicacies are made from the sacrificed goat and offered to friends and relatives, and we visit them," Mohammad Javed, an attendee of the mass Namaz ceremony, told agency.

On the occasion of Eid

al-Adha, Muslims who are financially capable travel to Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia to perform the Hajj pilgrimage.

Since Islamic festivals follow the Hijri (lunar) calendar, the dates shift approximately 10 days earlier each year on the Gregorian calendar. As a result, the timing of Eid al-Adha changes annually and completes a full cycle every 36 years.

People disappointed with announcement of Bangladesh polls in April 2026: BNP

DHAKA, Jun 7 (Agencies): People are "disappointed" by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's announcement to hold elections in April 2026, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) said on Saturday, reiterating the party's demand for polls by December this year.

"People's victory was achieved through the immense sacrifices made by students and the masses during the July uprising. But the unwarranted delay in arranging the election has disappointed and angered the people," Dhaka Tribune quoted the party as saying in a statement.

The statement said BNP's national standing committee, in an emergency virtual meeting, reiterated its proposal to hold the election by December this year, taking into consideration

Ramadan, secondary and higher secondary or equivalent examinations, and weather conditions.

The meeting, presided over by BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, was convened following the chief adviser's announcement that ignored the aspirations of a nation striving to reclaim its right to vote through prolonged struggles.

"The people of this country, deprived of their basic voting rights for almost a decade and a half, have continued their struggle to restore democracy through voting, despite being disappeared, murdered, imprisoned, injured, and tortured," it said.

"The meeting believes the people of the country may be rightly concerned about the possibility of a free and fair

election under this government."

The BNP standing committee observed that holding the election in early April could lead to complications, both due to adverse weather conditions and the challenges of conducting campaigns and election-related activities during Ramadan, which may ultimately be used as grounds for deferring the polls.

It said the chief adviser's address did not provide any clear justification as to why holding the election by December would not be feasible.

It said Yunus in his speech touched upon issues like ports and corridors — topics that did not fall within the interim government's three mandates — justice, reform and elections.

"The meeting expressed anger at his choice of words in the speech, which crossed the limits of political decorum," the statement said.

Yunus, who took charge after the ouster of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League regime in August last year, said the interim government's key responsibility was to hold a clean, peaceful, festive, and inclusive election.

Yunus's announcement comes amid mounting pressure from former prime minister Khaleda Zia's BNP and several other groups to hold the election by December.

The student-led NCP and several rightwing groups, however, said the polls must wait until the "reforms" and "justice" were done.

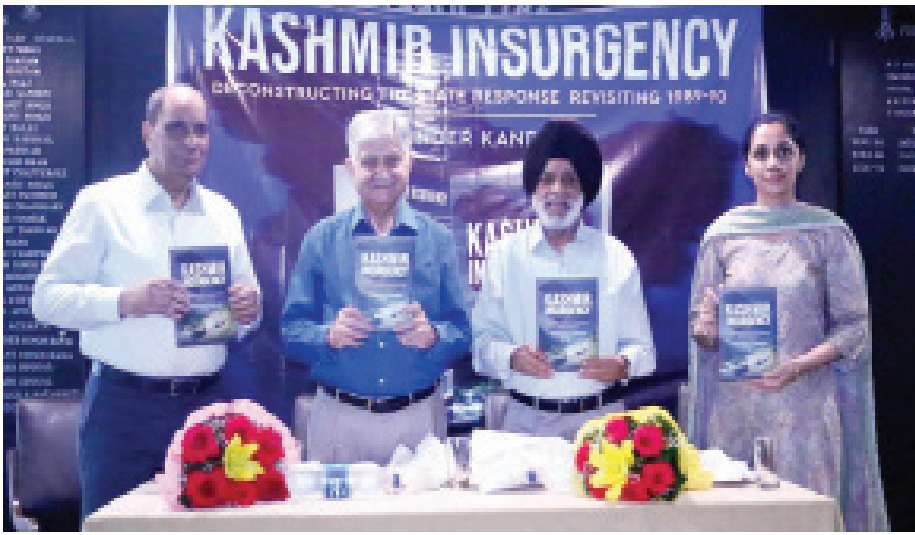
Unmasking the Kashmir Crisis: Yoginder Kandhari’s new book reignites debate on 1989–90 Insurgency

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH, Jun 7: A thought-provoking and deeply researched work on one of India’s most traumatic chapters, Kashmir Insurgency: Deconstructing the State Response – Revisiting 1989–90, authored by Col. Yoginder Kandhari (Retd.), was formally released today at the Chandigarh Press Club.

The ceremony was presided over by General V. P. Malik, PVSM, AVSM (Retd.), former Chief of the Army Staff, while Col. Daljeet Singh Cheema, accomplished author and motivational speaker, graced the event as the Guest of Honour. The book has been published by White Falcon Publishing.

Drawing on first-hand experiences during counter-insurgency operations in Kashmir, Right to Information (RTI) disclosures, and exclusive interviews, Kandhari’s book offers a compelling and unflinching account of the genesis and trajectory of the 1989–90 insurgency. The author provides a sobering critique of the state’s paralysis, institutional failures, intelligence lapses, and the moral vacuum that accompanied the mass displacement of the Kashmiri Pandit community—what he calls one of the most successful



campaigns of ethnic cleansing in modern history.

General V. P. Malik, in his keynote address, said, “Why did law and order and security situation in Jammu and Kashmir reach the level of implosion experienced in 1990? How Kashmiriyat culture was eliminated (which resulted in exodus of Kashmiri Pandits) and Islamist culture got adopted in the Valley?” “This book explores all that, and more, through the eyes of witnesses, interviews of then policy makers, and a plethora of research material. Someone has said ‘Study the past if you would define the future.’ ‘Kashmir Insurgency’ is an interesting book, it carries huge lessons for today and tomorrow in Jammu and Kashmir”, Gen. Malik added.

Col Cheema while speaking on the occasion said, “The root cause of the insurgency is that Pakistan has never accepted the Partition as fair to them, it resulted in the first war of 1948 between the neighbours. UN Resolution of 13 August 1948 has many loopholes. After 1971, Pakistan realised it can never win a conventional war with India, so taking a clue from Bhutto, Gen Zia ul Haque evolved the Pakistan Military Doctrine of Bleed India with thousand cuts, it is taught in their Defence College at Quetta. An Islamic State that depends on Allah and Army and considers its religion the best of all, will continue with its present policy.”

The function was anchored by Renuka Dhar, who steered the programme with ele-

gance and insight.

Author Col. Yoginder Kandhari (retd.) shared his motivation behind writing the book, emphasizing the need for an honest, fact-based reappraisal of the events that changed the course of Kashmir’s history. He expressed gratitude to the individuals and institutions that provided access and insight during his extensive research.

Col. Charan Jeev Singh (Retd.) offered a succinct yet powerful overview of the book, highlighting key themes such as the systemic collapse of governance, media silence, and the muted role of certain institutions and officials during the crisis.

Navsangeet Kaur, Managing Director of White Falcon Publishing, spoke about her decision to publish the

book, noting its “unparalleled depth, credibility, and moral urgency.” She also shared the editorial and logistical challenges of bringing the book to light.

Veteran officers Col. Jagdeep Singh (Retd.), Col. Raman Kapila (Retd.) and Dinesh Kapila also addressed the gathering, sharing their personal accounts and experiences from Kashmir, which resonated deeply with the audience and added authenticity to the discussions. The book stands out for its refusal to sensationalise or simplify. Instead, it compels readers to confront unsettling questions: Who failed Kashmir? Why has there never been a collective reckoning? Through meticulously sourced material and clear-eyed analysis, Kandhari urges readers to look beyond the familiar headlines to understand the layers of betrayal and abandonment that marked the era.

Kashmir Insurgency: Deconstructing the State Response – Revisiting 1989–90 is now available in bookstores and online platforms. It is a must-read for policymakers, scholars, journalists, and anyone interested in understanding the truth behind the conflict that continues to shape contemporary India.

Mother India School R S Pura felicitates Board Exam achievers

Top News Report

R S PURA, Jun 7: A grand felicitation ceremony was held at Mother India Senior Secondary School, R.S. Pura to honour the meritorious students of Classes 11th and 12th for their exceptional performance in the Board Examinations (Session 2024–25). The event celebrated the success of three position holders and 39 other students who scored 90% and above in their respective classes.

The event was graced by Anuradha Thakur, SDM R.S. Pura, as the Chief Guest, while Subhash Chander, ZEO R.S. Pura, was the Guest of Honour. Ranbireswar Singh Jamwal, CDPO Damsal, attended as the Special Guest. The programme was held under the chairmanship of Ch. Mohan Singh, Chairman of the School’s Management Committee and presided over by the School Principal Sonia Tohra.

Among the top achievers, Swarnik Sharma secured 7th position in the Science stream with 97.6%, Khushmeet Kour stood 9th in Commerce with 97.4%, and Vansh Sharma clinched the 10th position in Science with 97%. In addition, 20 students of Class 12th and 19 students of Class 11th who scored above 90% were honoured with certificates and mementoes.

Chief Guest Anuradha Thakur congratulated the students, parents, and school faculty for achieving 03 top positions, 116 distinctions in Class 12th, and 89 distinctions in Class 11th. She praised the students for bringing pride not only to the school but to the entire R.S. Pura Sub Division.

She also acknowledged the commendable guidance provided by the school’s management and teachers and urged students to maintain this legacy.

Subhash Chander, ZEO R.S. Pura, in his address, applauded the



students’ hard work and emphasized the importance of holistic development, encouraging participation in co-curricular activities alongside academics.

He extended his congratulations to all stakeholders—students, parents, teachers, and the management—for the school’s stellar academic outcomes.

Special Guest Ranbireswar Singh Jamwal delivered a motivational message, urging parents to identify and support the unique interests of their children. He emphasized a balanced approach to education that supports both academic success and personal growth.

Chairman Ch. Mohan Singh appreciated the efforts of the staff and lauded the students for bringing laurels to the institution. He emphasized the school’s commitment to nurturing academic excellence and character development.

In her concluding remarks, Principal

Sonia Tohra expressed heartfelt gratitude to all guests, students, parents, and the teaching and non-teaching staff for their contribution to the success. She acknowledged the dedication of the school faculty in guiding students towards excellence and thanked the dignitaries for their encouraging presence.

Students and parents also shared their feedback, appreciating the school management and staff for their unwavering support and quality education.

Among the staff members present at the ceremony were Naresh Choudhary, Narinder Singh, Ankush Gupta, Arjun Kapoor, Parampreet Kour, Amita Choudhary, Dr. Shikha Kapoor, Rupali Verma, Shivali Sharma, Shabana Azmi, Aastha, Shamli Choudhary, Narinder Kumar, Paramjeet Singh, Kanav Pikhan, Sonali Choudhary, Kajal Chib, Ritu Devi, Neeraj Bahadur, and Sushil Kumar.

Army organizes Lecture on World Environment Day at Padhyarna

Top News Report

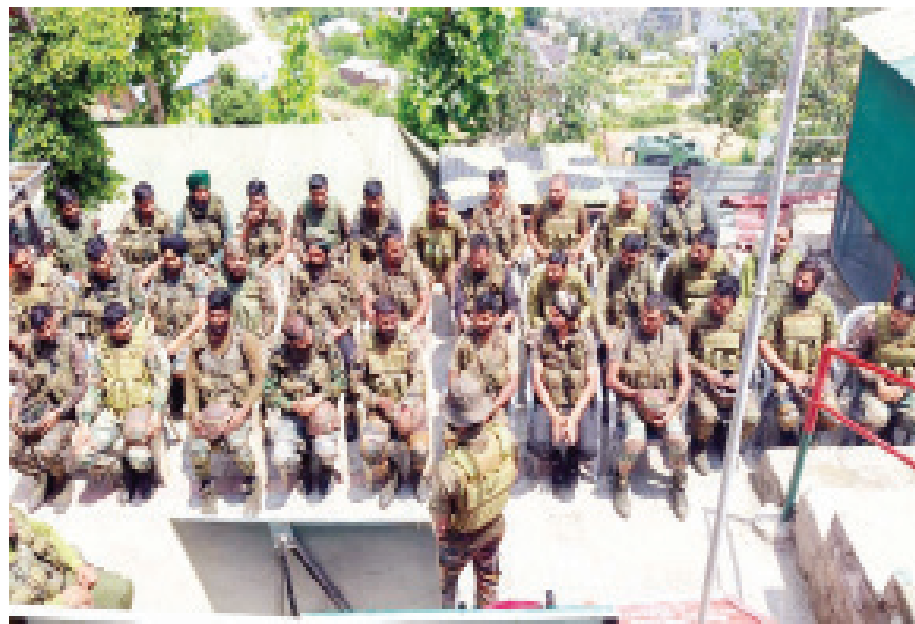
KISHTWAR, Jun 7: In its continued effort to foster envt awareness, the Indian Army observed ‘World Environment Day’ with great enthusiasm and a sense of purpose at Padhyarna, Kishtwar. To mark this occasion, a lecture was organised for the troops focused on the importance of healthy and clean Environment.

The session aimed to raise awareness about pressing Environment issues, promote sus-

tainable practices, and encourage active participation in Environment conservation.

A total of 33 soldiers attended the lecture where participants actively engaged with the speaker, discussing local Environment challenges and potential solutions.

The troops were also briefed on waste management and Environment conservation practices, and the event concluded with all participants taking a pledge to safeguard and preserve the Environment.



FromPage No: 1

Eid Celebrated across..

resolve to strengthen the foundations of unity, harmony, and brotherhood, and work with love and compassion for the well-being of all. May this festival spread peace and bring prosperity to all.”

Following the morning prayers, families across the region began the traditional animal sacrifices, which are expected to continue over the next two days. As in previous years, the faithful had brought a variety of animals — including goats, sheep, and camels — to be sacrificed by Islamic tradition.

Eid-ul-Adha celebrations will continue through Monday, as families host feasts, distribute meat to neighbours and the needy, and visit one another to exchange greetings — a practice rooted in the spirit of charity, compassion, and community.

LG congratulates University..

Territory have achieved this honour,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor dedicated this outstanding achievement to the faculty members, Vice Chancellors, non-teaching staff and country’s top higher education experts who tirelessly worked in the past 5 years to transform J&K’s Universities and Colleges into Centres of Excellence.

“We also made a history in Colleges Category when Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar secured an A++ Grade in January 2024. We have set an example by continued pursuit of excellence in education and innovation with a larger vision of building Viksit J&K,” the Lieutenant Governor further said.

Kashmir University bags A++ ..

education. Heartiest congratulations to administration, faculty & students on this milestone!”

During the assessment period, the University undertook steps such as restoring the academic calendar,

conducting timely examinations, and introducing a single-window clearance system. It has also integrated with the National Academic Depository (NAD) for digital access to student records.

The NAAC Peer Team, consisting of seven members, carried out its evaluation from May 29 to May 31, 2025. The team reviewed research, student services, infrastructure, and IT-enabled systems. They noted the implementation of NEP 2020 initiatives, including the Design Your Own Degree programme and courses in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science.

NAAC also cited KU’s use of DigiLocker and its entrepreneurship initiatives under the New Generation Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (NewGen IEDC). The Student Satisfaction Survey recorded a 78% satisfaction rate.

The university was assessed on several criteria, including infrastructure, curriculum, teaching and learning, research and extension, governance, student support, and institutional practices.

This is KU’s fourth NAAC accreditation cycle. The University previously received Grade ‘A’ in 2002 and 2011, and Grade ‘A+’ in 2019.

The Peer Team also reviewed KU’s budgeting system, fund mobilisation, decision-making structure, and library automation.

On research, KU has recorded over 3,300 publications, 22 granted patents, and support for more than 87 grassroots innovations. It has also received funding of over ₹112 crore.

KU hosts two Centres of Excellence: one in Himalayan Biodiversity (UGC) and another in Glaciology (DST), along with the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovations (CIRI).

The University has undertaken outreach activities such as training programmes for women, awareness drives on menstrual hygiene, and urban resilience efforts.

KU operates campuses at Hazratbal, Zakura, Delina Baramulla, and Anantnag, offering academic and physical infrastructure including smart classrooms, laborato-

ries, a fully automated library, a convocation complex, and facilities for differently-abled students.

The A++ grade follows efforts by the university leadership, staff, students, and associated stakeholders.

Lieutenant Governor, chief..

peace and bring prosperity to all”, he said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, wishing them peace, well-being and prosperity.

In his message on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha, the Chief Minister said the holy occasion imbibes in us the spirit of making honesty, truthfulness and selflessness a way of life.

He added that the festival commemorates the timeless example of absolute faith and unwavering obedience set by Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and his devoted son Prophet Ismail (AS).

“Eid-ul-Azha is not only a celebration of faith but also a reminder of the profound sacrifice and complete submission to the will of Almighty. The unwavering trust shown by Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and the willing obedience of Prophet Ismail (AS) teach us the essence of selflessness, devotion and steadfastness in the face of trials,” Omar Abdullah said.

He expressed hope that this auspicious occasion will further strengthen the bonds of communal harmony, mutual brotherhood, amity and tranquility across the region.

The Chief Minister also prayed for sustained peace, harmony and progress in Jammu and Kashmir.

Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla..

Friday.

After opening the Jammu-Udhampur section, the then UPA government focused on sections in Kashmir and operationalised the 68 km long Anantnag-Mazhom rail link in October 2008.

“Then came a 32 km long Mazhom – Baramulla rail link on which train services started in February 2009.

So by 2009, locals availed train journey from the last point of the USBRL project, ie, Baramulla to Anantnag,” a Northern Railway official said.

He added, “Since work was going on simultaneously on other sections, Railways was able to extend the train service from Anantnag to Quazigund towards Jammu side by October end in 2009.”

The Railways achieved another significant milestone when it further extended the train services from Quazigund to Banihal in June 2013, which involved the construction of an 11.215 km long Pir Panjal tunnel.

“Almost a year later, in July 2014, the Udhampur-Katra line from the Jammu side was made operational,” the official said.

According to a railway source, “When the Modi government came to power, the rail services were operational from Baramulla to Banihal in Kashmir side and Katra to Jammu on the other side. The missing link – Banihal to Katra – needed to become operational for bringing Kashmir on the rail network of the country.”

“The Modi government completed the Banihal to Katra connectivity in two phases. First, Banihal to Sangaldan in Feb 2024 and then Sangaldan to Katra on June 6, 2025, was made operational, completing the missing link,” he added.

The Northern Railway said that the Banihal to Katra section has the iconic Chenab and Anji Bridge and some of the toughest and longest tunnels.

“For instance, the 12.75 km long country’s longest operational rail tunnel is between Banihal and Sangaldan. Many other challenging infrastructure development works were materialised in the past 11 years,” another official said.

Zubair’s mysterious death in Delhi..

His family alleges foul play.

Itija Mufti also accused a Delhi hospital of denying timely treatment to Zubair. “He was a 30-year-old man trying to earn a living. The family says police questioned him about his identity and assaulted him. He died soon after,” she told the press in Srinagar, flanked by Zubair’s grieving siblings.

Sunny Nanda appointed as Assistant Director, Special Olympics Bharat J&K UT



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 7: Special Olympics Bharat, Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, proudly announced the appointment of Mr. Sunny Nanda—a passionate sports enthusiast and the Secretary of J&K Sports Speed Ball Association & director Refa Boules India Federation—as the Assistant Director of Special Olympics Bharat – JKUT.

The appointment letter was formally handed over by Gourav Gupta, President of Special Olympics Bharat – JKUT, who extended his best wishes to Nanda for continued success and

dedication toward empowering athletes with intellectual disabilities in the Union Territory. Also gracing the occasion was Dr. Ashwani Johar, Founder President and Area Director of Special Olympics Bharat – JKUT. Dr. Johar extended his heartfelt congratulations to Nanda, expressing confidence in his ability to contribute significantly to the growth and achievements of the Special Olympics movement in J&K.

We extend warm congratulations to Sunny Nanda and look forward to his efforts in bringing further laurels and inclusive progress to Special Olympics Bharat – JKUT.

Muay Thai Association of J&K finalizes team for 6th UMAI National Championship

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 7: The Muay Thai Association of Jammu and Kashmir has officially finalized the list of students selected to represent the Union Territory in the 6th UMAI National Muay Thai Championship, scheduled to take place at MDU University, Rohtak (Haryana) from 9th to 14th June 2025.

This prestigious national-level competition will see promising fighters from across the country, and the J&K squad is prepared to showcase their talent and hard work.

The selected ath-

letes have undergone rigorous training and emerged as top contenders during state-level trials.

The selected fighters are Adhnav Singh (55 kg category), Saksham Manhas (72 kg), Shourya Dev Singh, Shiv Partap Manhas (60 kg), Kavish Kumar, Jayati (44 kg) Aradhiya Sharma (50 kg), Shrutika Choudhary (40 kg), Pragmay Mahajan, Jeet Singh Khawayat (31 kg), Mohit Singh (52 kg), Sukhmani Kour (55 kg), Ankush Choudhary (41 kg), Rohit Bhagat (50 kg), and Arush Sharma (78 kg).

The team will be led

by Coach and Referee Vikas Dhar, under the overall management of State President Amit Singh, who is also serving as the Team Manager for this national outing.

The Muay Thai Association of J&K expressed pride in its students and conveyed best wishes to the entire contingent for a successful performance at the championship. The participation not only highlights the growing popularity of combat sports in the Union Territory but also provides a national platform for youth to demonstrate discipline, strength, and skill.

J&K's Kabaddi star Lucky Sharma determined to represent India

Journey from streets of Pounichak to Pink Panthers, Gujarat Giants

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 7: Hailing from a small Village Pounichak in outskirts of Jammu City, Jammu and Kashmir's Kabaddi star Lucky Sharma is focused and determined to represent the country very soon as his exceptional performance as a defender in Jaipur Pink Panthers has forced Gujarat Giants to buy this athlete for a whopping price of 19.50 lakhs for Pro-Kabaddi Season-4 to commence from August 2025.

28-year Army personnel, Lucky was part of Jaipur Pink Panthers for the first three seasons of Pro-Kabaddi League and now he has been bought by Gujarat Giants to represent it in the upcoming fourth season, commencing from August.

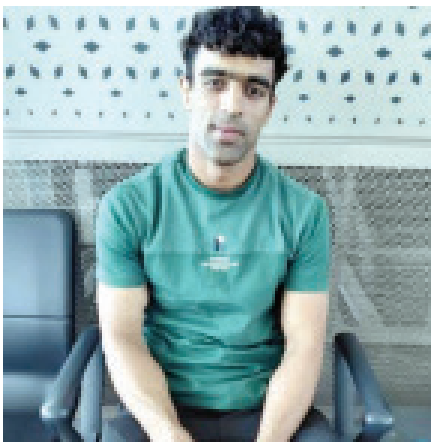
In the last season Lucky was bought by Jaipur Pink Panthers for 13 lakhs and after his brilliance on the mat, he has attracted many franchisees and finally went to Gujarat Giants for Pro-Kabaddi League Seaso-4.

Despite performing his duty to a perfection in the Indian Army, Lucky is doing rigorous practice to hone his defending Kabaddi skills to impress the National Selectors for getting their nod to represent the country.

Lucky attributes his success to the Kabaddi Coaches Ajay Sharma and Sanjay, besides Mr Kuldeep Kuldeep Gupta, a big name in J&K Kabaddi fraternity.

Starting playing Kabaddi from the age of 10 years, Lucky has represented Jammu and Kashmir in a series of junior and senior national events and has produced remarkable performance.

"My soul aim is to perform brilliantly in the forthcoming season-4 of Pro-Kabaddi League and impress National



Selectors to get their nod. I am focused to keep my UT's Flag high at the national and international scene, thus bring laurels to the State/UT," Lucky Sharma maintained.

He said Jammu Kashmir athletes possess a lot of skill and talent and the only way to hone it is to provide them sufficient facilities to them, adding raising sporting infrastructure and providing requisite equipment to the athletes is the need of the hour.

Expressing immense satisfaction over the efforts of the Government, especially J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association in promoting this sport in every nook and corner of the Union Territory, Lucky said the dire need is to tap Kabaddi talent at the grass-root level in remote and hilly areas of the Union Territory.

"I have leant every bit of Kabaddi at my Village. However, the Coaches and the Association Heads fine-tuned my inherent skills at the higher levels. I owe my success to them," added Lucky Sharma.

He said his favourite Kabaddi Player is Iranian Mohd Shadlou, who also represents Gujarat Giants and his Coach Ajay Sharma.

J&K Bodybuilders selected to represent India at South Asian, Mr. Asia, Mr. World Championships

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 7: In a proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir, top bodybuilders Vimaljeet and Vikas Khajuria have been selected to represent India at prestigious international bodybuilding championships under the banner of the J&K State Sports Council.

Vimaljeet will compete in three major events: the South Asian Bodybuilding Championship to be held in Bhutan from June 11 to 15, the Mr. Asia Bodybuilding Championship in Bangkok

from August 18 to 25, and the Mr. World Bodybuilding Championship scheduled in Indonesia from November 11 to 25.

Meanwhile, Vikas Khajuria has been selected for the Mr. Asia Physique Sports Championship, also to be held in Bangkok from August 18 to 25.

Rajesh Dutta, representing the Body Building Association of Jammu and Kashmir, emphasized the importance of such platforms in promoting sports culture among youth. "These championships are not only about physical strength

and competition, but also about promoting discipline, dedication, and a healthy lifestyle," he stated.

He further highlighted the growing menace of drug addiction in the region and underscored the role of sports in combating it. "The rising trend of substance abuse is alarming. Engaging the youth in sports like bodybuilding helps channel their energy in a positive direction and keeps them away from harmful influences," Dutta added.

Vinay Sharma, Vice President

of the Body Building Association of J&K, along with officials Sachin Singh Jamwal and Naresh Gupta, were also present and expressed their best wishes to the selected athletes. They urged the youth to take inspiration from these achievers and adopt sports as a way of life.

The selection of these athletes is being hailed as a significant step in placing Jammu and Kashmir on the global bodybuilding map and inspiring the region's youth towards fitness and healthy living.

Annual global conference dwells on integrated approach of cardiovascular disease

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH, Jun 7: The 3 days 15th annual Cardiomersion Global Conference 2025 on integrated approach to deliver comprehensive management of cardiovascular disease concluded here on Saturday. The 112 speakers took part in the conference, which was held in hybrid mode at Chandigarh and Rome.

The event served as a global platform for the discussion of emerging technologies, advanced surgical techniques, and integrated patient-centric care models in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery. Renowned surgeons, cardiologists, researchers, and innovators gathered to share insights, present breakthrough data, and envision the future of cardiac healthcare with a common goal, improving outcomes while minimizing invasiveness.

Dr. Deepak Puri, global chairman of Cardiomersion delivered two landmark presentations. In his first session, he introduced a novel modification of Uniportal Video-Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery (UVATS), a technique that allows complex thoracic procedures to be performed through a single 3 cm incision. With specially



designed retractors and a refined anterior-posterior approach, this modified UVATS offers direct visualization comparable to open thoracotomy, while minimizing postoperative pain, cost, and recovery time.

In his second talk, he addressed the management of rapidly worsening ischemic heart failure—a condition often seen in patients with multi-vessel coronary artery disease, present late after onset of heart attack and deteriorating rapidly but are ineligible for percutaneous interventions. He presented a study involving 361 such patients treated with urgent off-pump surgical revascularization.

Timely surgical intervention combined with optimized medical management offers a highly effective strategy for managing acute ischemic heart failure, Dr. Puri concluded.

Another keynote speaker, Dr. Johannes, cardiac surgeon from Pittsburgh USA, presented a visionary talk on how robotic technology will shape the future of minimally invasive cardiac surgery.

Dr. Johannes Bonatti described how robotics has been successfully applied to coronary bypass grafting, mitral valve repair, and is now being extended to more complex operations such as aortic valve replacement,

septal myectomy, LVAD implantation, and even heart and lung transplantation. He discussed newly introduced surgical robots with modular arms, open consoles, enhanced tactile feedback, and capabilities for telesurgery.

In line with this transformative vision, Dr. Eric J. Lehr, minimally invasive cardiac surgeon at Swedish Heart and Vascular Institute Seattle USA, delivered a dynamic presentation on the future of minimally invasive cardiac surgery, focusing on the integration of robotics, artificial intelligence (AI), and emerging innovations.

He also illustrated how

robotic systems like the da Vinci platform have expanded the possibilities for minimally invasive procedures such as mitral valve repair and coronary bypass surgery, enabling greater precision and patient comfort.

Dr. Nidhi Puri Dean (Examination) and Professor & HOD, Department of Anatomy, AIIMS Bilaspur HP shared her findings on anatomical variations in the internal thoracic artery, a crucial vessel for coronary artery bypass grafting. Her presentation emphasized the need for careful preoperative imaging and anatomical assessment when planning bilateral harvesting to avoid complications and optimize outcomes.

Among others Dr. Amitabh Satsangi assistant professor in department of CTVS AIIMS, New Delhi, Dr. Sudheer Verma assistant professor in department of CTVS AIIMS, New Delhi, Dr. Surabhi Puri, Assistant Professor of Community Medicine at Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi and Dr. Manoj Sahu Professor in Intensive Care for CTVS including Cardiac Transplantation Program in AIIMS, New Delhi also shared their valuable findings and views.

Centre eases rules for buying scientific equipment consumables by R&D institutes

JAMMU/NEW DELHI, Jun 7 (Agencies): In a bid to further research, the government has enhanced financial limits for the procurement of scientific instruments and consumables by various scientific institutions, including those pursuing research in the defence sector. According to the amendments to the special provisions in the general financial rules (GFR), vice chancellors and directors of various research and development institutions will now be able to purchase scientific equip-

ment and consumables for research purposes up to Rs 2 lakh without seeking any quotations, as against the earlier limit of Rs 1 lakh.

The financial limit for procuring goods by the Purchase Committee has been enhanced to Rs 25 lakh from the existing Rs 10 lakh.

The financial limits for procuring goods using the limited tender enquiry (LTE) and advertised tender enquiry have been increased to Rs 1 crore from the existing Rs 50 lakh. Vice Chancellors and direc-



tors have been designated as competent authorities to approve the issuance of a global tender enquiry up to Rs 200 crore for the procurement of scientific equipment and consumables required only for research purposes.

"In a landmark step enabling ease of doing research, the GFR rules have been simplified for procurement of scientific equipment and consumables," Science

and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said in a post on X. Singh said the easing of GFR will reduce delays, enhance autonomy and flexibility for research institutions and empower them to innovate faster.

The amendments to the GFR will apply to the departments of science and technology, biotechnology, scientific and industrial research, atomic energy, space, earth sciences, health

research, including the Indian Council of Medical Research. The Defence Research and Development Organisation, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and its affiliated institutions and universities, and educational and research institutes conducting post-graduate, doctoral-level courses or research under any ministry/department will also benefit from the amended GFR.

Ganotra and Degyal Brahmin Bi-Annual Congregation on June 21

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 7: Bi-Annual congregation of Ganotra and Degyal Brahmin Biradari will be held on 11th June 2025 (Wednesday) at Devasthan Kharha Madana (Purmandal).

As per release issued here the Biradari will organize religious function including Hawan. Bhandara will take place in the afternoon. All the Biradari members are requested to participate in this religious function and seek blessing of Bua Dati.

Pant’s ‘garden’ quip about Rohit amid India’s arrival in England for Test series

This will be India’s first bilateral Test series since both Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli announced their retirement from Test cricket earlier this month

LONDON, Jun 7 (Agencies): The new-look Indian team, captained by newly-appointed red-ball skipper Shubman Gill reached England on Saturday ahead of their five-match Test series.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) posted a video of players reaching to England, including skipper Gill, vice-captain Rishabh Pant, opener Sai Sudharsan, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja, and Mohammed Siraj, among others.

Signaling what players feel about their transition following Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli’s retirements from the format, Pant was seen hilariously saying, “Garden ki toh yaad aayegi”. This referred to Rohit’s hilarious comments while fielding, instructing his boys that “garden mein koi nahi ghoomega” during the home Test series against same opposition last year.

“Touchdown UK #TeamIndia have arrived for the five-match Test series against England #ENGvIND,” posted BCCI.

The series will be held from June to August 2025, with matches scheduled at Head-



ingley in Leeds, Edgbaston in Birmingham, Lord’s and The Oval in London, and Old Trafford in Manchester.

This will be India’s first bilateral Test series since both Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli announced their retirement from Test cricket earlier this month. The team is undergoing a transition, with Shubman Gill taking over as captain and R Ashwin, Rohit Sharma, and Virat Kohli stepping away from the longest format.

India has not won a Test

series in England since 2007. To prepare, several Indian players had already arrived earlier to represent India A in warm-up matches against the England Lions.

Meanwhile, ahead of the Test series, India ‘A’ are currently playing a three-match unofficial Test series against the England Lions. The first match ended in a draw, while the second unofficial Test is set to begin, at the County Ground in Northampton. England announced their squad for the opening Test at

Headingley.

The English side has seen several changes since their 4-1 Test series defeat in India last year. Veteran pacer James Anderson has retired, and players like Jonny Bairstow, Ben Foakes, and Ollie Robinson have been dropped.

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.

The English squad: Ben Stokes (Durham) - Captain, Shoaib Bashir (Somerset), Jacob Bethell (Warwickshire), Harry Brook (Yorkshire), Brydon Carse (Durham), Sam Cook (Essex), Zak Crawley (Kent), Ben Duckett (Nottinghamshire), Jamie Overton (Surrey), Ollie Pope (Surrey), Joe Root (Yorkshire), Jamie Smith (Surrey), Josh Tongue (Nottinghamshire), Chris Woakes (Warwickshire).

Indian Junior women’s hockey team continues international tour with 5-match European leg

NEW DELHI, Jun 7 (Agencies): The Indian Junior Women’s Hockey Team is set to continue its international campaign with a five-match European tour from June 8-17, where they will take on Belgium, Australia, and the Netherlands. The team, which recently concluded a promising outing at the Four Nations Tournament in Rosario, Argentina, has now reached Europe for the next leg of international exposure.

India will begin the tour with three matches against Belgium at the Hockey Center of Excellence, Wilrijkse Plein, in Antwerp. They will then face Australia at Beerschot Tennis Hockey Padel Club, in Kontich, before wrapping up the tour with a match against the Netherlands at Hockey Club Kampong, in Utrecht, as per a press release from Hockey India.

In Argentina, the Indian side delivered strong performances against quality opposition. They registered a 2-1 win and a 2-2 (2-3 shootout) loss against Chile, earned a 1-1 (2-0 shootout) win and a 2-4 loss against hosts Argentina, and defeated Uruguay twice -- 3-2 and 2-2 (3-1 shootout). The tour served as an important step in the team’s preparations, offering valuable lessons in handling high-pressure scenarios and adapting to different playing styles.

Notably, these matches are also a key part of India’s preparation for the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey Women’s Junior World Cup 2025, scheduled to take place in Santiago, Chile, in December 2025. Facing strong international opponents in varied conditions will help fine-tune the squad’s combinations, build match temperament, and instill the confidence required to perform on the world stage.

Speaking ahead of the European tour, Indian Junior Women’s Hockey Team Coach Tushar Khandker said, “This extended tour is an excellent opportunity for our team. We had a valuable learning experience in Argentina, and now moving straight into matches against Belgium, Australia, and the Netherlands will allow us to build on that momentum. These are high-calibre teams that will test our tactical and technical depth, as well as our consistency. For many of these players, this is a critical phase in their development, and such tours give them the kind of exposure that can’t be replicated in training sessions alone.”

“Most importantly, this tour plays a crucial role in our preparations for the FIH Hockey Women’s Junior World Cup 2025 later this year. Every match we play now helps us get one step closer to being ready for that challenge,” he added.

Ex-Indian bowling coach spells out strategy to help Bumrah play all 5 England Tests

KOLKATA, Jun 7 (Agencies): Former Indian bowling coach Bharat Arun spoke on pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah’s workload management during the England tour of five Test matches. He said that with good support from other bowlers and toned-down training sessions, he could be available to play all the matches on an all-important tour that marks a new era in Indian cricket.

The five-match Test series against England will kick off from June 20 at Leeds. Heading into the series, there are question marks over which Tests the superstar bowler will play. During India’s last overseas assignment in Australia, Bumrah did play all five Tests, racking up a record-breaking 32 wickets at an average of 13.06, but he walked off from the field midway the final Test at Sydney, during which he was captaining, denting India’s chances of securing a series draw and consequently, lost the Border-Gavaskar Trophy to Australia by 1-3. After missing first four games in the recently-concluded Indian Premier League (IPL), Bumrah made a return against eventual champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), taking 18 wickets in 12 matches at an average of 17.55 and becoming the heart of the franchise in their run till Qualifier two, where they lost to Punjab Kings (PBKS).

During the pre-departure presser ahead of the tour, head coach Gautam Gambhir said no call had been made about which matches he would play in the series.

“We have not taken that call, which three games is he going to play?” Gambhir said during a pre-departure press conference, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

“We are going to discuss with him, and depending on the series as well. A lot will depend on the results of the series, where the series is heading. That is something which I am sure he is very well aware of as well, and that is important,” he added.

Speaking with Revsportz’ Boria Majumdar, Arun said that too much bowling or too less of it, both can cause injury to a bowler. “They are a perfect recipe for some bowler to get injured. So, obviously, we cannot control the number of overs that Jasprit Bumrah bowls in a match.”

“But according to the number of overs he bowls in the match, the practice sessions can be toned down for him where he needs to be working on his recovery. It can be a strength training session in the gym or some recovery work with the physios.”

“So, handling him will be very crucial. And as you rightly mentioned, Bumrah’s presence in the team adds a huge value. Not only does he does well, he also rallies the other bowlers,” continued the former bowling coach. Arun also said that confidence in Bumrah adds a lot of value in the team. “So, ideally, I would expect him to play all the Test matches. If there is very good support from the other bowlers, Bumrah can be preserved and play in all the five Test matches. If he is going to be bowling, taking a lot of the workload, then I am afraid he will not be ready for all the five Tests. So, how the other bowlers support him becomes very vital. So, we have got to take it as you go, rather than saying he is good for first three Test matches, then you need to give him a break. The other bowlers can help Bumrah play in all the Test matches if they are bowling really well,” he concluded. The Test squad includes Mohammed Siraj (100 wickets in 36 Tests), Prasidh Krishna (eight wickets in three Tests), Akash Deep (15 wickets in seven Tests), and Arshdeep Singh (uncapped) as the main fast bowlers. Also, Nitish Kumar Reddy (five wickets in five Tests) and Shardul Thakur (31 wickets in 11 Tests) have been picked as seam-bowling all-rounders. In a combined 62 Tests, they fail to outdo Bumrah’s Test tally, having taken 159 scalps combined. Bumrah has taken 205 scalps in 45 Tests at an average of 19.40, with best figures of 6/27 and 13 five-wicket-hauls.

Ashes retention, a setback at Gabba, first BGT win in 10 years: Australia’s WTC 2023-25 journey so far

LONDON, Jun 7 (Agencies): Australia is all set to defend its ICC World Test Championship title against South Africa in the ‘Ultimate Test’ from June 11 at Lord’s. The holders of the WTC mace finished second in the ongoing cycle with a point percentage of 67.54, on the back of 13 wins, four losses and two draws from 19 outings.

Earlier in May, the team named a strong 15-player squad to take the field at the final. The Australians are bolstered by the return of dynamic all-rounder Cameron Green, veteran pacer Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins, all of whom had missed out on the tour of Sri Lanka earlier this year.

Having secured the iconic mace in June 2023, the title holders had a sluggish start to their third World Test Championship campaign, but picked up pace eventually and punched a ticket to the final against South Africa at Lord’s starting June 11, as per the ICC.

Here is a look at Australia’s journey which helped them secure a berth in the final:

- versus England [2-2, Away] Australia established early dominance in the 2023 Ashes, securing a close win in Birmingham (by two wickets), before taking an exciting contest at Lord’s (by 43 runs), to secure a 2-0 lead.
- England’s bold declaration at Birmingham did not pay off as a 55-run stand for the ninth wicket between skipper Pat Cummins (44*) and Nathan Lyon (16*) helped Aussies seal a win, chasing down 281 runs in a thriller. Usman Khawaja (141 and 65) took home the ‘Player of the Match’ honours, getting his first ton in England.
- During the second Test at Lord’s, Steve Smith’s 110 put Aussies on the back foot early on, but Ben Stokes (155) almost delivered again to Aussies the trauma of Headingley run-chase, before a three-fer from Hazlewood, Cummins, and Starc helped Australia restrict England to 327 while chasing 371. Smith’s ton earned him the POTM honours.
- However, England struck back in the third Test with a three-wicket victory on the back of stunning performances from Ben Stokes in the first innings (80), Harry Brook in the

second (75), and Mark Wood’s magic with the ball throughout the Test (5/34, 2/66). The Three Lions chased down 251 to keep the series alive.

Needing just a draw to retain the Ashes, Australia proceeded to do exactly that in the fourth Test, holding up against the hosts with some help from the weather, while England managed to fight back in the final game as well to make it 2-2. An all-round show from Chris Woakes, who took seven wickets in the match, left Australia 49 runs short of 384 runs.

Mitchell Starc was chosen as Australia’s Player of the Series with 23 wickets across the five Tests. With 496 runs in 10 innings, including, a century and three fifties, Khawaja top-scored for the Aussies.

- versus Pakistan [3-0, Home] Australia then faced Pakistan in a three-match Test series at home in December 2023.
- The hosts continued their dominance against Pakistan at home with a 3-0 series whitewash to make it 17 Test wins on the trot against the Asian side since 1999.
- Australia secured wins by 360 runs in the first Test, 79 runs in the second Test and by eight wickets in the third Test.
- In the first Test at Perth, David Warner kickstarted his farewell series with a knock of 164, while Mitchell Marsh pulled off an all-round show of one wicket, a knock of 90 and 63. Starc and Hazlewood took three-fers as Pakistan was bundled out for 89 in pursuit of 450. Marsh got the POTM honours.
- In the next Boxing Day Test at MCG, skipper Cummins took five-wicket hauls in each innings and the POTM award, bundling out Pakistan for 237 while chasing 317.
- In the final Test, Aamer Jamal did provide some resistance, but Aussies knocked off an easy target of 130 runs with fifties from Warner and Labuschagne.
- Skipper Cummins was consistent across the three matches and was named the Player of the Series for his 19 wickets.
- versus West Indies [1-1, Home] Kraigg Brathwaite’s West Indies were up next at home, and the Australian side had to settle for a share of the spoils as the series finished tied with one victory apiece.
- The first Test in Adelaide



saw Australia continue their unbeaten run at home with a comfortable win. Travis Head scored a brilliant 119 off 134 deliveries in the first innings; meanwhile, Josh Hazlewood was in sizzling form with nine wickets across both innings, and Australia secured a victory by 10 wickets. Head got the POTM award.

The second Test, a day-night encounter in Brisbane, was a West Indies performance for the ages. Featuring in just his second Test, pacer Shamar Joseph, overcame a toe injury and put up the performance of a lifetime in the second innings, picking up 7/68 and halting Australia eight runs short of their ask, despite a valiant 91 from Smith.

For the first time since the 1996/97 season, the Caribbean side had won a Test in Australia. This was also Australia’s first Test loss on home soil since India were the victors at the same venue in 2021.

- versus New Zealand [2-0, Away] Next, Australia went across the Tasman to take on neighbouring rivals New Zealand.
- The visitors secured a 2-0 series win against New Zealand, winning the first Test by a comfortable margin of 172 runs at Wellington courtesy of a Nathan Lyon 10-wicket haul. During the Test, Cameron Green also produced a brilliant knock of 174, winning the ‘Player of the Match’ honours.
- The Kiwis fought back in the second Test, and after conceding an advantage in the first innings, managed to set up a target of 279. Early strikes from Ben Sears and Matt Henry (who also took 7/67 in the first innings) left Australia reduced to 80/5. However, resilient batting from Mitchell Marsh (80), Alex Carey (98*) and Pat Cummins saw the

tourists through. Carey took home the POTM honours.

- versus India [3-1, Home] Coming off a disastrous home series against New Zealand, India showed renewed vigour in Perth, winning the first Test by 295 runs. Stand-in skipper Jasprit Bumrah was their star, registering inspiring bowling figures of 8/72 in the Test, including a five-wicket haul. Yashasvi Jaiswal and Virat Kohli also scored centuries.
- But in the second Test in Adelaide, a pink-ball encounter, Pat Cummins’ side came back strongly on the back of Travis Head’s heroics in the first innings. He scored 140 off 141 deliveries. Meanwhile, Cummins and Starc shone themselves too, with seven and eight scalps respectively, leaving Aussies with just 19 to chase. Head took home another POTM award.
- Australia dominated a rain-affected encounter in Brisbane - albeit a draw - but the downside was key pacer Josh Hazlewood picking up an injury and being ruled out for the remainder of the series with a calf strain. Head hit a brilliant 152 to secure the individual honours.
- The Boxing Day Test in Melbourne was a Test cricket masterclass from Australia. While the hosts dominated the majority of the Test, they overcame India’s resolve on the fifth day to take a win in the final hour of the game. A century from Steve Smith (140) was a highlight though skipper Cummins also put an all-round show with knocks of 49, 41 and three-fers in each innings to get the POTM awards. India could not chase down 340 runs and were skittled out for 155.
- A 3-1 series win would have ensured Australia’s place in the top two of the WTC Stand-

ings, thus confirming their spot in the final even before they had played their last series.

And Scott Boland, leading with a sensational seam-bowling performance, ensured just that for the hosts in Sydney. Despite a slender lead in the first innings, India lost their way following an injury to star pacer Bumrah, who finished with a staggering 32 wickets in the series at an average of 13.06.

Boland’s career-best 10/76 ensured a modest target for the hosts in the second innings, and they overcame the ask of 162 against an injured Indian bowling lineup with six wickets to spare.

- versus Sri Lanka [2-0, Away] After an exhausting outing against India at home, Australia started without key figures like Cummins and Hazlewood for the Sri Lanka encounters.
- Steve Smith took the reins in the island nation as Australia secured another series whitewash away from home, their first series triumph in Sri Lanka since 2011. Smith led from the front, winning the Player of the Series Award for scoring tons in both Tests and accruing 272 runs in the series.
- Going into the final, opener Usman Khawaja has been Australia’s highest run-scorer in the 2023-25 WTC cycle, scoring 1422 runs across 19 Tests at an average of 41.82, with two centuries and six fifties. He is the fifth-highest run-getter in the cycle.
- Their highest wicket-taker in this cycle has been skipper Pat Cummins, who has led from the front with a rip-roaring 73 wickets across 17 Tests at an average of 24.54 with five five-wicket hauls.
- The reigning champions are now all set to face South Africa in the Ultimate Test starting June 11 at Lord’s with a chance to retain their title and continue their dominance as the No.1 Test team in the world.
- Australia squad for the WTC Final: Pat Cummins (c), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Sam Konstas, Matt Kuhnemann, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Steve Smith (vc), Mitchell Starc, Beau Webster. Travelling reserve: Brendan Doggett.

Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council to host grand Jammu Tawi Aarti ceremony on June 11

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 7: The Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council is set to organize a grand Jammu Tawi Aarti ceremony on Wednesday, 11th June 2025, at the newly developed Aarti Ghat along the beautiful Tawi Riverfront, a flagship project by Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL).

This spiritually enriching event is part of a broader vision to reinforce Sanatan cultural values, instill reverence for sacred River Tawi among the younger generation, and present a vibrant religious ambience to pilgrims and tourists visiting the temple city of Jammu.

Rajesh Gupta, Chairman of the Council, shared that the event coincides with Jyeshtha Purnima and is dedicated to invoking Lord



Shiva's blessings for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji and Shri Buda Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025. The Havan Yagya will begin at 9 AM, followed by Purna Ahuti at 10 AM and Langar Prasad.

The Maha Aarti will be performed in the evening as part of the formal commencement of Yatra preparations.

The Council also plans to launch a regular schedule of daily Maha Aarti at the same venue

starting from 2nd July 2025, coinciding with the departure of the first batch of Amarnath pilgrims. Arrangements for transportation from Shri Amarnath Ji Yatri Niwas to the Aarti site will be made for pilgrims' convenience.

Senior Vice-President Baldev Khullar described the Aarti as a "dedication to the divine and a celebration of Dogra culture," urging hoteliers and lodge associa-

tions across Jammu to encourage participation from their guests. General Secretary Rajesh Dewan emphasized the Aarti's deeper purpose — reconnecting people with nature, fostering unity, and reviving traditional Indian values through spiritual engagement at a new cultural landmark.

The event is open to the public, and is expected to draw large crowds of locals and

tourists alike.

Besides strengthening Jammu's identity as a spiritual hub, the ceremony is also anticipated to give a positive boost to the local economy.

Present at the announcement were Rajesh Gupta, President, Baldev Khullar, Senior Vice-President, Rajesh Dewan, General Secretary, Jitendra Gupta & Anoop Jain, Vice-Presidents, Vijay Gupta, Treasurer, Executive Members Bharat Bhushan Kotwal, Pankaj Mahajan, Ankush Sethi, Tanishq Mahajan, Ramesh Kumar Tak, and Sachin Raina.

The Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council reaffirms its commitment to preserving Jammu's spiritual legacy and promoting the region as a leading pilgrimage and cultural tourism destination.

People of Kishtwar celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with fervour

Civil, Security Arrangements ensured by Administration; DC Kishtwar & SSP Kishtwar extend festive greetings



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jun 7: Eid-ul-Azha was celebrated across Kishtwar district with deep religious devotion, joy, and in an atmosphere of peace and harmony.

Thousands of devotees gathered at mosques to offer Nimaz-e-Eid, praying for peace, prosperity, and the overall development of Kishtwar and the Union Territory.

Comprehensive arrangements includ-

ing security and logistical measures were meticulously organized by the district and police administration to ensure the smooth and safe observance of the festival, especially at the Eidgah Chowgan Ground, where over 25,000 people congregated to perform Nimaz-e-Eid. Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan (JKAS), and Senior Superintendent of Police, Naresh Singh, were present on the occasion and

personally oversaw the implementation of the arrangements.

ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, ASP Ops. N A Khoja along with other Senior Officers from the Civil administration and Police were also present on the occasion.

They extended warm Eid greetings to the Muslim community and joined in prayers for enduring peace, unity, communal harmony, and brotherhood throughout the district and the Union Territory.

Dimple appeals to Amarnath pilgrims and tourists to visit J&K in large numbers

Welcomes train connectivity, criticizes PM on Dogra State Restoration



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 7: President of Mission Statehood, Sunil Dimple, led an impressive rally along Janipur High Court Road in Jammu, accompanied by a large number of traders and local residents. He made a fervent appeal to Amarnath pilgrims and tourists from all states to visit Jammu and Kashmir in large numbers during the upcoming Amarnath Yatra.

Addressing the gathering, Dimple extended a warm welcome to pilgrims and assured them of a secure and spiritu-

ally enriching journey. He highlighted that the Prime Minister, Home Minister, and Defence Minister are personally overseeing the security arrangements for the Yatra and for tourists visiting the Kashmir Valley.

Dimple also welcomed the launch of the Vande Bharat train service between Katra and Kashmir, considering it a major step forward in boosting regional connectivity. However, he demanded that the government start a direct Vande Bharat train service from Delhi to Kashmir, along with the introduction of goods trains

running directly from Delhi to Jammu and further up to Kashmir, to improve trade and logistics in the region.

In a strong political stance, Sunil Dimple criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi for remaining silent on the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's Dogra statehood. He reiterated the demand for reinstating the historical identity and administrative autonomy of the Dogra region.

Furthermore, Dimple urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to lift the ban on tourist spots in the Kashmir Valley to facilitate an increase in tourist footfall and support local economies.

Dimple's rally witnessed participation from several local leaders and supporters including Mohan Lal, Lohri Shaha, Arun Verma, Babu Singh, Papu Viridi, Bilo Pahlwan, Kewal Kumar, Sham Sharma, and others, who echoed his sentiments and supported his appeals and demands.

Amid Geopolitical Uncertainty, Vehicle Retail Sales in J&K drastically dropped in May 2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 7: In J&K the 3-Wheeler category witnessed a downfall of -9.07% at 952 units in May 2025, as compared to 1,047 units in May 2024. The Commercial Vehicle category witnessed a downfall of -30.09% at 711 units in May 2025, as compared to 1,017 units in May 2024. The CE category witnessed a downfall of -48.33% at 31 units in May 2025, as compared to 60 units in May 2024.

The Passenger Vehicle category witnessed a downfall of -10.83% at 3,863 units in May 2025, as compared to 4,332 units in May 2024. The Tractor Vehicle category witnessed a downfall of -15.64% at 302 units in May 2025, as compared to 358 units in May 2024. In May 2025, only the 2-Wheeler category witnessed a growth of 10.72% at 8,509 units in May 2025, as compared to 7,685 units in May 2024.

Sanjay Aggarwal, Chairperson FADA Jammu said that, Geopolitical tensions in various parts of Jammu & Kashmir, particularly in sensitive border regions, have had a significant dampening effect on overall vehicle retail performance in May 2025. Aggarwal said that, in the passenger vehicle segment, consumer sentiment has weakened notably as potential buyers adopt a cautious stance amid concerns over mobility, safety, and regional sta-

bility. Many customers have deferred purchase decisions, especially in higher-end vehicle categories, due to fears of escalation or disruption.

Aggarwal said that, dealerships have reported reduced footfall, shorter business hours, and delays in test drives and deliveries caused by security checkpoints and logistical hurdles. The commercial vehicle segment has also felt the impact, as logistics operations and freight routes through sensitive areas face movement restrictions. Also due to the negative impact on tourism in J&K, the sales of vehicles for fleet operations also got badly affected.

Aggarwal said that, looking ahead, the outlook for the vehicle retail market in Jammu & Kashmir remains cautiously optimistic but highly contingent on regional stability and broader economic factors. If geopolitical tensions ease in the coming months, there could be a gradual rebound in consumer confidence, particularly in the passenger and commercial vehicle segments.

However, any escalation in regional tensions or disruption in essential logistics routes could further delay recovery. Dealers and OEMs may need to adopt hyper-local strategies, including flexible financing, community engagement, and digital outreach, to rebuild trust and stimulate demand he added.

Rail bridge on Chenab River an engineering marvel: Balbir

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 7: The arch railway bridge built over the Chenab River in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir is a marvel of engineering. It has become a symbol of India's advanced technology, construction capability, and self-reliance.

This bridge is one of the tallest railway bridges in the world, surpassing the height of the iconic Eiffel Tower and Qutub Minar.

Recently, this historic bridge was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan called it a "symbol of the nation's technological advancement and determination." He stated that not only was



the bridge constructed in an extremely challenging terrain, but it also extensively utilized world-class engineering techniques.

He highlighted that the arch structure of the Chenab Bridge is built so robustly that it can withstand wind speeds of up to 260 kilometers per hour.

The total length of the bridge is approximately 1.3 kilometers, and it is a crucial part of the Katra-Banihal railway project, which will play

a vital role in connecting the Kashmir Valley with the rest of India.

Balbir said that the construction of this bridge will not only boost transportation and tourism but will also significantly ease and expedite military movement in the border areas, thereby strengthening national security.

He lauded the infrastructure development taking place in the country under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, saying that this bridge will serve as a source of inspiration for future generations of engineers.

He also expressed gratitude to all the engineers, technicians, labourers, and officials who turned this bridge into a reality through their relentless hard work and dedication.

Neha Lalotra qualifies Ph.D

Top News Report

KATRA, Jun 7: Neha Lalotra, daughter of Capt. Sagar Singh Lalotra (Retd) and Veena Lalotra, resident of 192 A/C Uttam Nagar, Kunjwani, Jammu, J&K has been declared qualified for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Physics by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra.

She worked on the topic "Synthesis and Characterization of Some Inorganic Nano-



phosphors Containing a Tetrahedrally Coordinated Functional Group" under the supervision of Dr. KamniPathania.

Army holds plantation drive at village Hambal

Top News Report

DODA, Jun 7: The Sohanda Battalion of Delta Force organized a plantation drive in Hambal Village, Doda district on the occasion of World Environment Day.

The event aimed to promote environmental sustainability and enhance the region's green cover.

90 students and representatives of Forest Department, VDGs, SOGs, Ayush Directorate and local villagers actively participated in the drive.

A variety of saplings including shady trees, fruit-bearing trees and



medicinal plants were planted during the drive.

The plantation drive reflects the Indian Army's commitment to supporting regional development and fostering environmental responsibility among

local populations.

Through such meaningful engagements, the Delta Force continues to serve and empower the local communities raising awareness about combating climate change.

ABVP raises concerns over disproportionate vacation periods in Jammu and Kashmir

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 7: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu Kashmir expressed deep disappointment and frustration over the glaring disparity in vacation periods between the summer and winter zones in the Union Territory.

While the Kashmir division enjoys a 74-day winter break, the Jammu division is only granted a 35-day summer break, highlighting a clear case of discrimination by the Education Department.

This disparity is a stark reminder of the unequal treatment meted out to the Jammu division in various matters, including transfers. It is unacceptable that the Jammu division faces such injustices, and the

ABVP demands immediate rectification of this anomaly.

The Education Department's differing views on summer vacations for higher education and school education departments are causing inconvenience to students and teachers. A uniform vacation policy is the need of the hour, taking into account the requirements of both summer and winter zones. Rather than focusing on vacation disparities, the Education Department should prioritize improving the infrastructure and standards of education in the state. The current state of education infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir demands urgent attention and action. Sannak Shrivats, State Secretary, ABVP

Jammu Kashmir stated, "The disparity in vacation periods between Jammu and Kashmir divisions is a blatant example of discrimination and unequal treatment by the present Government in J&K. We demand an immediate review of the vacation policy and urge the Education Department to prioritize improving education infrastructure and standards. It's time for fair and equitable treatment for all students in Jammu and Kashmir."

ABVP Jammu Kashmir urges the authorities to take immediate action to address these concerns and ensure that the education system in Jammu and Kashmir is fair, equitable, and focused on providing quality education to all students.