

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, JUNE 09, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

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Anusha Mani on acting debut: Never saw myself as an actor



India witnessed rapid transformations across diverse sectors in 11 years: PM Modi



"Absolutely horrible job": US President Trump blasts Newsom, Bass over LA riots

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BRIEFLY

Rusted Mortar Shell recovered in Samba, Defused

JAMMU, Jun 9 (Agencies): Security personnel recovered a rusted mortar shell in a border area of the Samba district and defused it safely on Monday, officials said.

On the information provided by some locals, an old shell was recovered by a team of security forces in Basantar river, they said.

It was later defused safely.

Driver killed, Two injured in South Kashmir road accident

SRINAGAR, Jun 9 (Agencies): A load carrier driver died while two others were injured after the vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road in the Verinag area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

An official said that a load carrier bearing registration number JK13B-9592 skidded off the road, resulting in the death of one person and injuries to two others.

"The vehicle was being driven by Mohd Iqbal Poswal, son of Bilal Poswal, a resident of Reasi, Jammu. He, along with two passengers—Shahida Parveen of Heward Kapran and Mohd Khalil Chichi of Katra, Jammu—sustained injuries in the accident," the official said.

The injured were immediately shifted to PHC Verinag for treatment. However, the driver, Mohd Iqbal, succumbed to his injuries at the facility. The other two injured persons were later referred to SDH Doru for further treatment.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated further investigation.

Three injured in group clash in Central Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Jun 9 (Agencies): Three persons were physically assaulted and sustained multiple injuries during a scuffle between two groups in the Aarigam area of Khansahib in Budgam district on

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LG inaugurates "CCTV Surveillance System with Integrated Command & Control Centre" for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

Actionable insights gleaned from system to enable prompt response for emergencies: Sinha

Rajiv

KATRA, Jun 9: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated "CCTV Surveillance System with Integrated Command & Control Centre" for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, on Monday.

"Cutting-edge technology will enable real-time monitoring and crowd management for safety, security of devotees and it will ensure hassle-free pilgrimage," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that actionable insights gleaned from the system will enable prompt response in emergencies. The Command & Control Infrastructure including AI-powered surveillance ecosystem will provide comprehensive situational awareness, optimize operations and Quick and efficient coordination with emergency responders.



The large-scale, technology-driven surveillance and crowd management initiative will significantly enhance the safety and security, improve crowd control measures and operational efficiency within the Shrine area.

Under the project, One Integrated Command & Control Centre (ICCC) located at Katra and 7 Sub-Control Centers along the pilgrimage track for localized monitoring and coordination

have been established which will ensure 24x7 monitoring of all vulnerable and high-traffic zones and enable proactive and prompt response to crowd buildup, security breaches, or medical emergencies.

Over 700 cameras have been deployed across the Shrine Area, including 170 new high-definition IP cameras and integration of more than 500 existing cameras, covering all critical and vulnerable locations including entry/exit points, gathering areas, and the pilgrimage track.

The Project also featured AI-Based Analytics & Advanced technology mechanisms like Gesture Recognition, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), Facial Recognition, Intrusion Detection System, Crowd Management Tools.

Anshul Garg, CEO,

■ Turn to page 9

163 cases of newly emerging COVID-19 variant XFG detected in India: INSACOG

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): About 163 cases of the newly emerging COVID-19 variant XFG have been detected in India so far, according to INSACOG data.

The recombinant XFG variant harbours four key spike mutations and has achieved rapid global spread following its initial detection in Canada, according to

an article in The Lancet journal.

According to data from the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), the XFG variant of the COVID-19-causing virus has been found in a total of 163 samples — highest (89) in Maharashtra, followed by Tamil Nadu (16), Kerala (15), Gujarat (11), and Andhra

■ Turn to page 9

Soldier shoots self dead in Gulmarg

SRINAGAR, Jun 9 (Agencies): A soldier allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle at a camp in Gulmarg area of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Monday.

Jammu dining guide Lance Naik Banwar Lal Saran of 9th Raj rifle camp at Gulmarg in Baramulla district shot himself with his service rifle on Sunday night, the officials said.

■ Turn to page 9

J&K Students Association launches comprehensive report on J&K's reservation policy revamp

SRINAGAR, Jun 9 (Agencies): The Jammu & Kashmir Students Association (JKSA), here on Monday has launched a meticulously researched and comprehensive report calling for the rationalization of the reservation policy in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The report was launched in collaboration with the J&K Centre for Peace, Research

& Sustainable Development (JKCPRS); a Kashmir based Policy Research Institute.

The report was formally launched by the National Convenor of the Jammu & Kashmir Students Association, Nasir Khuehami, along with Chairman Mushtaq Habib and Advisor Danish Lone.

They, along with a delegation from the Association, submitted the

report to the Chief Minister's Office and met with Nasir Sogami, Advisor to the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, handing over the detailed research report to him. Sogami assured the delegation that "the researched report will be read, reviewed, and taken into consideration for necessary policy action."

He emphasized that,

■ Turn to page 9

8 High Court Judges' visit rekindles Kashmir's tourism spirit



SRINAGAR, Jun 9 (Agencies): In a morale-boosting gesture for Kashmir's tourism sector, eight Judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, accompanied by their families, are currently on a tour of the Valley.

Their visit is seen as a

signal for a strong vote of confidence in the region's safety, serenity, and timeless charm.

The visiting dignitaries, include Justice Vinod S. Bhargava, Justice Pankaj Jain, Justice Jasjit Singh Bedi, Justice Nidhi Gupta, Justice Harkesh Manuja, Justice

Aman Choudhary, Justice N.S. Shekawat, and Justice Vikram Aggarwal.

Their itinerary features visits to Kashmir's iconic attractions, strolling through the majestic Mughal Gardens of Shalimar and Nishat, a serene sunset shikara ride on Dal Lake, a historical walk through Pari Mahal, and an evening immersed in the local vibrancy of Polo View Market.

Coming shortly after the Pahalgam incident that had cast a shadow over Valley tourism, the judges' high-profile visit is being seen as a significant reassurance to both domestic and international tourists.

Stakeholders across the Valley hoteliers, travel agents, craftsmen, and local guides are already reporting a rise in bookings and inquiries.

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Three prosecution services officers appointed as PP, APPs

JAMMU, Jun 9 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Government has appointed three officers of the J&K Prosecution Service to new roles for conducting criminal cases under Section 18 of the Bharatiya Nagarik

Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

Jammu dining guide As per an order of Home Department, Sheikh Tanveer Rasool has been posted as Public Prosecutor in the Principal Sessions Court, Kupwara; Syed

Jehangir Ahmad has been appointed Public Prosecutor in the Principal Sessions Court, Ganderbal; and Shafat Ahmad Bhat will now serve as Additional Public Prosecutor at NIA/Additional Sessions Court, Ganderbal.

GupShup

RESTAURANT

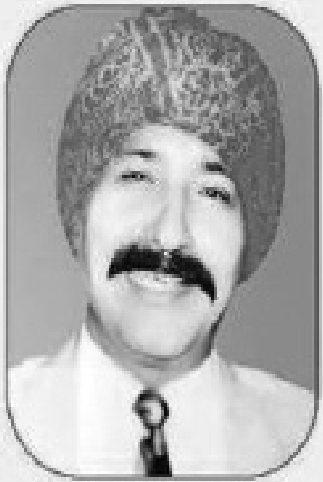
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17TH DAY



DR O P GUPTA
CEO IWDP (Hills) Horticulture
& Forest Department (1945-2025)

Those we love don't go away; they walk beside us everyday.
Unseen, unheard, but always near-still loved, still missed and very dear.

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr O P Gupta** on 25-5-2025.

17TH DAY will be performed on 10th June 2025 Tuesday on 12 AM at our residence 155 Main Road New Plots Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Wife- Smt Rita Gupta

Sons and Daughters-in-law

Vishal Jandial and Dr. Shaveta Jandial (Education Department)
Vikas Jandial and Dr. Hama Gendotra Jandial (University of Jammu)

Daughter and Son-in-law

Shivaji Pargal and Dharendra Pargal (Ex. President All India Pargal Braderi)

Grand Children : Hardik, Yuvraj, Khushi, Riya, Krishna, Kavya

ALL JANDIAL, VERMA, GANDOTRA, PARGAL FAMILY

AASHIRWAD BANQUET HALL, JANIPUR

AASHIRWAD ELECTRONICS, GANDHI NAGAR

VISHAL BAR AND RESTAURANT, NEW PLOTS

NATIONAL SALES CORPORATION, NARWAL

Mob: 941912340, 9419121855

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Late Sh. M. R. Sharma (Retd. AAO)**, originally from Village Mela, Hiranagar) Resident of 216/1, Sanjay Nagar, Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 1st June 2025.

10th Day: Tuesday, 10th June 2025 at 10:00 AM at our residence

Kriya: Wednesday, 11th June 2025 at 12:30 PM at our residence

Uthala: Wednesday, 11th June 2025 from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Ram Mandir, Shastri Nagar (opposite Nirankari Bhawan)

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Geeta Sharma -Wife

Anil Kumar Sharma (J&K Bank) & Archana Sharma -Son & Daughter-in-law

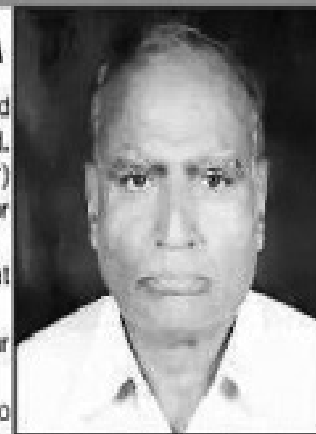
Rajesh Sharma (Glaxo Pharma) & Sonia Sharma -Son & Daughter-in-law

Ritu Sharma & Chander Kant Sharma (SBI) -Daughter & Son-in-law

Grandchildren:

Anmol Sharma, Abhishek Sharma, Drushika, Meetali

Contact: 94192 08889, 70489 76375, +91 97795 84324



Late Sh. M. R. Sharma
(Retd. AAO)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Krishna Devi W/o Late Sh. Qabla Singh** Resident 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. Chandan Singh (Retd. Master)

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt. Santosh & Sh. Swarn Singh

Smt. Vashni & Late Sh. Pritam Singh

Smt. Shoba & Sh. Parbad Singh

Granddaughter-in-law & Grandsons

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

Granddaughters & Grandsons-in-law

Smt. Poonam & Sh. Rajpal Singh

Smt. Parul & Sh. Bhawani Singh

Mr. Harsh Dev Singh - Grandson

Yashvir Singh - Great Grandchildren



Smt. Krishna Devi

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Parmeshwari Dhar W/o Lt. Sh. Prem Nath Dhar R/o Y.K. Pora Qazgund**, presently at H.No. 71/C Om Nagar Udhaywallah Bohri Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 7-06-2025.

10th Day Kriya for the departed soul will be held on 16-06-2025 (Monday) at 9 AM at Muthi Ghat (near Director School of Education)

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Sh. Shakti Lal Dhar and Sushma Dhar (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Smt. Picha Hangloo and Sh. M.K. Hangloo (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Smt. Kiran Pandita and Sh. Narej Pandita (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Smt. Preeti Dhar W/o Lt. D.N. Dhar (Sister-in-law)

Sh. Brij Lal Dhar and Veena J. Dhar (Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law)

Sh. Dushan Lal Dhar and Asha J. Dhar (Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law)

Smt. Phooli Sapoo and Sh. P.K. Sapoo (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Sh. Avtar Krishna Dhar and Smt. Anji J. Dhar (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Sh. Rajender Dhar (Son)

Sh. Rakesh Dhar and Smt. Ruchi Dhar (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Smt. Renu Pandita and Sh. Rakesh J. Pandita (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Smt. Anita Razdan and Sh. Sanjay Razdan (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Grand Children : Roni/Nashira, Rajat, Sakya/Rohita, Shivi, Akhil, Ayush, Riya, Anshu

Mob. :- 941905615, 9622363999



Smt. Parmeshwari Dhar

MASVAR

(One Month Remembrance)

With deep sorrow and everlasting love, we fondly remember our beloved mother **Smt. Rani Bhat (Rajrani Bhat) W/o Late Sh. Lassaram Bhat** (Originally from Buran Gangipora, Pattan), who left for her heavenly abode on 13th May 2025.

The Masvar will be observed on 13th June 2025 at our residence in Vipin Garden, New Delhi.

On this solemn occasion, we bow our heads in reverence and pray for eternal peace to her noble soul.

Her affection, values, and blessings shall remain with us forever.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED & MISSED BY:

Rajiv Bhat (Son)

Ritika Bhat (Daughter-in-law)

Babbly Sawhney W/o Kapil Sawhney (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Lovely Misri W/o Manoj Misri (Daughter & Son-in-law)

And the entire Bhat Parivar

99999 39155 / 98117 92078

"Forever in our hearts, her love and presence will always be with us."



Smt. Rani Bhat
(Rajrani Bhat)

10TH DAY KRIYA/OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the untimely sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Rekha Pandita W/o Late Sh. T.K. Pandita** of Hangalgund Kokernag, Anantnag at present Community Hall, Buta Nagar, Jammu on 04-06-2025.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 13/06/2025 Friday at Muthi Ghat, near Director School of Education at 8 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Daughter-in-law & Son

Ayushi Pandita & Deepankar Pandita

Daughter & Son-in-law

Preeti Pandita & Ajay Pandita

Sisters-in-law & Brothers-in-law

Smt. Asha Ji & Sh. T.N. Pandita

Smt. Nancy Ji & Sh. M.L. Pandita

Smt. Shama Ji & Late Sh. O.N. Raina

Smt. Nancy Ambardar & Late Sh. S.K. Ambardar

9796691188, 728019810, 9622156162



Smt. Rekha Pandita

MASVAR & VAHERWAR

A year has passed since you left for heavenly abode.

We feel the sadness due to the void created by your passing.

We hope that you are resting in a better place and that you are watching over us all time and always.

MASVAR AND VAHERWAR of our beloved **Late Sh. Hriday Nath Raina** will be performed on 10th & 11th June at our residence F-36/54 Ashok Nagar, Opposite Canal Power House, Canal Road, Jammu.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY -

Sh. Sunil & Smt. Sunita Raina (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Smt. Nimmi & Sh. Rabindev N. Kaul (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Smt. Anjali & Sh. Vinay Nehru (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Smt. Sunita & Late Sh. Vinod Wail (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Grand Children :

Reetika Kaul Kapoor, Tanushree Kaul Pandita, Khushboo Nehru Dhar, Deepanshi

Nehru, Riya Wail, Vaibhav Wail, Abhishek Raina, Palak Bhat Raina and Falguni Raina.



Late Sh. Hriday Nath Raina

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Satish Kumar Handoo S/o Late Sh. Late Krishna Handoo** originally from Chandpora (Brajkuljan), Jharkhand, Srinagar and presently residing at 8801, Dew Drops Apartments, Sector 47, Gurugram, Haryana who passed away on 01-06-2025.

The TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 10-06-2025 Tuesday from 7:00 am onwards at Kadamai Shiv Mandir, Sector 109, Gurugram, Haryana 122017.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Parental Side

Smt. Manjushree Handoo: Wife

Smt. Shikha Handoo & Anant Sharma: Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt. Shweta Handoo: Daughter

Smt. Santosh & B.N. Handoo: Aunts and Uncle

Late Col. Vijay & Smt. Koush Handoo: Brother and Bhabhi

Ramesh & Smt. Anjana Handoo: Brother and Bhabhi

Late Kishor & Smt. Jyoti Handoo: Brother and Bhabhi

Vikas & Smt. Shweta Handoo: Brother and Bhabhi

Nehal & Smt. Kamika Handoo: Brother and Bhabhi

RELATIVES SIDE

Smt. Veena & Tribhuvan Nath Handoo: Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law

Smt. Nani & Brij Bhan Raina: Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law

Smt. Rajni & Rakesh Pandita: Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law

Rajender & Smt. Sanjay Bhat: Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law

Dhruv & Smt. Parvati Bhat: Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law



Satish Kumar Handoo

Permanent Address: C2/44, Sector - 15, Rohini Delhi 110089

CONTACT: 8237371533, 7982414408, 9790723379, 7906155038

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform

sad and untimely demise of our beloved

Sh. Maharaj Krishan Gadroo (DADDY)

S/o Late Sh. Lassa Koul Gadroo, originally R/o

Bohri Kadal, Srinagar at present Krishna

Nagar, Miran Sahib, Jammu left for heavenly

abode on 02/06/2025.

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed

on 11/06/2025 at Maralia Morh, Miran Sahib,

Jammu (near Khajuria Sweets) at 09:00 AM.

DEEPLY MISSED BY:

GADROOS, SAFAYAS, KHARS, BHANS, RAINAS, KOULS AND SAPROOS.

MOB. NO. : 9419802845, 7006181615, 9596659313, 7006112088



Sh. Maharaj Krishan
Gadroo (DADDY)

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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

Shanka 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 & Bharati Bughan Dhar

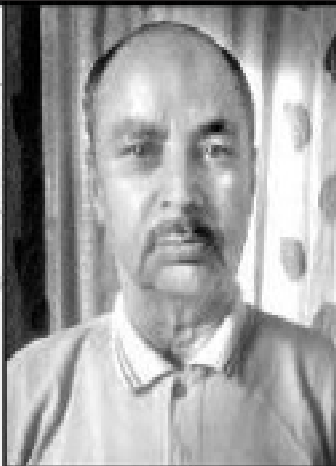
Jagat Nath Raina & Santa Raina (Brother & Bhabhi)

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

BARKHI

One year has passed since you left us for your heavenly abode. We deeply miss you. Your memories will always remain a afresh in our hearts.

BARKHI of our beloved **Late Sh. Vinod Gupta S/o Late Sh. Daulat Ram Gupta** shall be performed on

Tuesday, 10th June 2025 at 11:30 am

Noon at our residence H.No. 17,

Sector No. 5 Channi Himmat, Jammu.

DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY:

Smt. Sudesh Gupta (Wife)

Smt. Anamika & Sh. Rohin Gupta (Daughter-in-law & Son)

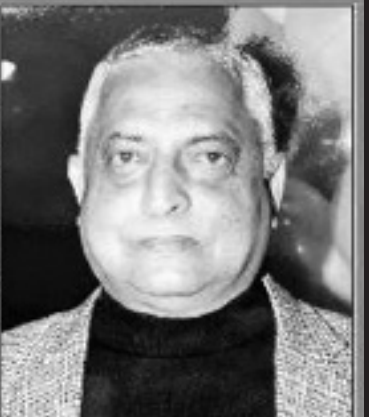
Smt. Renu & Sh. Ajay Gupta (Sister & Brother-in-law)

Smt. Shama & Sh. Vishal Gupta (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Grand Children: Khushi, Peehu & Aadhvik

Vinod Kumar Ashok Kumar

3-D, Nehru Market, Jammu Mob. : 9419188769, 82259



LATE SH. VINOD GUPTA

OBITUARY

"Human's come and go but legends leave a legacy forever"

It is with our deep sorrow that we announce the sudden and sad passing of our beloved **Daddy Shri Saligram Bali Ji** hailing from Bongaam Shopian - Kashmir, son of Late Shri Tara Chand Bali Ji and Late Smt. Poshkuj Ji on June 3rd, 2025.

The Kriya ceremonies are scheduled as follows :

10TH DAY KRIYA - June 11, 2025 at 7 AM at Gang Nagar

Ghat , Murad Nagar followed by

Shradhanjali assembly sharp at 5 PM at our residence

(C- 1/75 Ground Floor , Ardeo City Sector 52 , Gurugram

Haryana)

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Santosh Bali (Wife)

Amit & Deepti Bali

Anjna & Nikhil Bhan

Sanita & Anil Pandita

Ashok Kumar Bali

Smt. Meena Bhat & Tej Kishan Bhat

Shiveta Bhat & Neha Bhat

Ragya, Advaita, Janvi, Aadhyia, Veronica , Shanaya (Grand Children)

Contact detail:

99903 87278 (Anil)



Shri Saligram Bali Ji

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

Who Is Madhavi Latha, Professor Who Spent 17 Years On Chenab Bridge Project

The project is part of the 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link and was approved in 2003.

JAMMU, Jun 9: (Agencies) : The Chenab Bridge in Jammu and Kashmir is the world's highest railway bridge. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday.

The project is part of the 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) and was approved in 2003.

One of the major contributors to the successful construction of the bridge is Professor G Madhavi Latha. A professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru, she was involved for 17 years in the Chenab Bridge project as a geotechnical consultant.

G Madhavi Latha worked closely with Afcons, the contractor of the bridge, in the planning, design and construction of the structure, focusing on the obstacles posed by the terrain.

Who Is G Madhavi Latha?

She is presently a HAG professor at IISc.



Dr Latha completed her B.Tech in Civil Engineering in 1992 from the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, where she achieved first class with distinction.

She bagged a gold medal as an M.Tech student at the National Institute of Technology, Warangal.

Her specialisation was in Geotechnical Engineering. Dr Latha completed her doctorate from IIT-Madras in 2000 in Geotechnical Engineering.

Over the years, she received several awards. In 2021, she was given the Best Woman Geotechnical Researcher award by the Indian Geotechnical Society.

She was also named in the Top 75 Women in STEAM of India in 2022.

Role in Chenab Bridge Project

The challenging topography, weather conditions and remote location of the Chenab Bridge meant that construction was a difficult

endeavour in the region. Dr Latha's team adopted a "design-as-you-go approach" to overcome all obstacles.

This meant innovating in real-time based on geological conditions such as fractured rocks, hidden cavities, and varying rock properties, which were not apparent in early surveys.

The team performed complex calculations and design modifications to work around the actual rock mass conditions they found

during the construction. Dr Latha's contributions included advice on the design and placement of rock anchors to improve stability.

She recently published a paper in the Indian Geotechnical Journal's women's special issue titled

"Design as You Go:

The Case Study of Chenab Railway Bridge." The paper describes how the design of the bridge has evolved continuously, with the overall structure, location and type being the only constants to suit the geological conditions of the site.

About Chenab Bridge Built at a cost of Rs 1,486 crore, the Chenab Bridge has been described as the "biggest civil-engineering challenge faced by any railway project in India in recent history" by the government.

The 359-metre bridge is taller than the Eiffel Tower by 35 metres. The project will improve connectivity in the Kashmir valley.

627th Parkash Utsav of Sant Shrimoni Kabir celebrated at Makhanpur

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 9: The All J&K Satguru Kabir Sabha celebrated the 627th Parkash Utsav of Sant Shrimoni Kabir with great devotion and enthusiasm at Makhanpur, Bishnah.

The event was organized by the Sadhguru Kabir Committee Makhanpur, drawing a large number of devotees and community members from various parts of the region.

The celebration focused on spreading the timeless teachings and core values of Sant Kabir, who stood for love, equality, harmony, and universal brotherhood.

Through devotional songs, discourses, and community interaction, the gathering echoed Kabir Saheb's message of breaking social barriers and promoting



unity beyond caste and religion. Prominent personalities who graced the occasion included J.L. Bhagat, Chairman of All J&K Sadhguru Kabir Sabha; Shamsheer Chand, President of the Sabha; Bharat Bhushan Kundal, Organizing Secretary of JKPC; Subhash Bhagat, President of Kabir Mandir Makhanpur; and Sewa

Ram, Secretary of the Sabha.

The Utsav concluded with a community Langar, reinforcing Kabir's message of social equality and collective welfare. The Sabha thanked all participants and reiterated its commitment to promoting the teachings and legacy of Sant Shrimoni Kabir Saheb.

Chairperson DDC Ramban visits Aspirational Block Gundi Dharam to review ABDP 2025-26

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Jun 9: Chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) Ramban, Dr. Shamshad Shan, conducted a visit to Aspirational Block Gundi Dharam and chaired a Block Sabha meeting to deliberate on the formulation and execution of the Annual Block Development Plan (ABDP) for the year 2025-26.

The meeting witnessed the presence of BDO Gool, Saddam Hussain, elected representatives, and concerned officials. Discussions were centered around the implementation of various developmental projects within the subdivision. The Chairperson reviewed the status of ongoing works and provided key directions for achieving both physical and financial targets in a timely manner.

As part of her ongoing district-wide public



outreach initiative, the Chairperson also interacted with the local populace, attentively listening to their grievances and suggestions. She emphasized the importance of grassroots participation and reaffirmed her commitment to transparency and people-centric governance.

The Block Sabha served as a vital platform for fostering community engagement, ensuring effective implementation of ABDP, and reinforcing accountability among field functionaries for holistic and sustainable development in the Aspirational Block.

NDS ORGANISES DOGRI MUSIC PROGRAMME Honours veteran composer Col. (Dr.) S.C Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 9: The Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) organised a captivating musical programme dedicated to Dogri songs, celebrating the linguistic and cultural richness of the Dogra heritage. The event featured Col. (Dr.) Subhash Chander Gupta (Retd) — a veteran music composer, AIR "B High Grade" artist and a stalwart in Indian music with over fifty years of contribution — as the central performer.

Held at the NDS platform, the event witnessed the presence of several eminent personalities from the music, cultural and defence communities, alongside a large gathering of music lovers, composers, and singers.

Wing Commander M.M. Joshi (Retd), National Commissioner for Scouts and Guides, Chairman of Lawrence Public School, and Founder Advisor of Gandhi Global Family, presided over the function.

The Chief Guest was Major General S.K. Sharma, AVSM, a well-known social worker and fervent advocate for Dogri language promotion. Kamal Sharma, former SP, renowned rhythmist and drama artist, graced the event as Special Guest, and



celebrated Dogri singer Anita Sharma was the Guest of Honour.

Prof. Anupama Sharma, Patron NDS and a noted singer, shared the dais with Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila, President of NDS, while Yash Pal Yash, General Secretary NDS, anchored the programme with his engaging compering style.

During the event, Col. (Dr.) S.C. Gupta was honoured with the "Sanstha Sammaan", comprising a citation, shawl, and trophy, for his unmatched contributions to music. Col. Gupta, who has composed over 900 compositions including bhajans, kafis, ghazals, shabads, Punjabi and Dogri songs, presented five melodious Dogri compositions based on lyrics by prominent Dogri poets. He was accompanied by a team of seasoned musicians

including Ustad Dr. Murli Manohar (Tabla), Vijay Anand (Dholak), Rakesh Jasotra (Flute), and Sunil Sharma (Synthesizer).

On audience request, Anita Sharma performed two of her evergreen Dogri numbers — "Koon Koon Koon, Katni Aan Mein Roon" and "Tu Malla Tu", captivating the audience with her soulful voice and musical expression.

Earlier, Capt. Lalit Sharma, IFS, Convener NDS, in his welcome address, stressed on the need to innovate and enrich Dogri music to align with modern styles and trends, thereby making it more popular among younger generations. He highlighted the need to focus on Dogri folk traditions, the true soul of the language.

Wing Cdr. M.M. Joshi appreciated NDS for preserving and promoting art and culture,

stating that music and culture act as a unifying force in society. He called for reinforcing cultural roots to maintain collective identity.

Major General S.K. Sharma emphasized that the vibrancy of Dogra society lies in its language and traditions. He urged families to speak Dogri at home to ensure that children learn the language naturally. Anita Sharma encouraged young artists to remain dedicated and consistent in their practice, recognizing the abundance of local talent. Kamal Sharma reflected on music as a form of meditation and a powerful source of societal positivity.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Narinder Singh Chib, a noted Dogri poet. The programme was attended by several cultural and literary figures including Wing Cdr. Nirmal

Kumar, Dr. Nirmal Vinod, Mangal Dass Pangotra, Shambu Ram Pyasa, Mangal Singh Jamwal, Balwan Singh Jamwal (Ex-DC), Ramesh Sharma, Subhash Shastri, N.D. Sharma, Jatinder Kaur, Pt. Girdhari Lal, Prof. S.P. Chopra, Anita Chopra, and Shavinder Kumar.

The evening turned into a celebration of Dogri music, language, and identity — a rich tribute to cultural preservation through melodious expression.

District meeting of Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh held at Ramban

New district body formed, teachers' core issues discussed

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Jun 9: A significant district-level meeting of the Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM), Ramban unit was convened today at Batote under the chairmanship of State President Ratan Lal Sharma.

The event drew active participation from educators and dedicated karyakartas representing various educational institutions across the district.

The primary objective of the meeting was to rejuvenate the organizational structure at the district level and to deliberate on the pressing issues confronting the teaching fraternity. In a notable development, a new district body of ABRSM was unanimously elected, mirroring the collective will and aspirations of the local teaching community.

Dr. Ramparshad Singh Manhas was elected as the District President, tasked with leading the Ramban unit with renewed commitment and vision. The follow-



ing office bearers were also announced Pawan Kishore—District General Secretary, Dr. Jeevan Singh—District Senior Vice President, Pritam Singh, Nisha Lata, and Jewan Singh—Vice Presidents, Preety Khajuria—Additional General Secretary, Sandeep Singh and Sudershan Singh—Joint Secretaries, and Rakesh Kumar—District Media Secretary.

The meeting featured in-depth discussions on a range of issues critical to the teaching community, including Annual Transfer Drive, timely

conduct of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) meetings, implementation of a transparent transfer policy for Grade II and III teachers, restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), rationalisation of teaching staff, and administrative reforms to improve service conditions and career progression. Speakers unanimously emphasized the need for transparency, accountability, and timely execution of teacher welfare policies. They underscored that these steps are vital not

only for boosting morale among educators but also for enhancing the overall quality of education in the region.

In his address, Dr. Ramparshad Singh Manhas reaffirmed ABRSM's firm dedication to championing the rights and dignity of teachers. He encouraged all members to remain united and proactive in addressing challenges and advancing the educational cause.

"The Mahasangh will leave no stone unturned in securing justice, respect, and career security for every teacher," he asserted.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks and a collective pledge by all attendees to strengthen their commitment toward improving the education sector and advocating for the rightful interests of teaching professionals.

Prominent attendees included Onkar Singh, Bishan Singh, Vikas Sharma, Omkar Singh, Sudershan Dev Singh, Raman Sharma, Raj Kumar, among others.

GAMC Akhnoor organises slogan writing competition to promote Yoga awareness

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Jun 9: In a vibrant lead-up to the 11th International Day of Yoga 2025, the Government Ayurvedic Medical College (GAMC), Akhnoor, under the dynamic guidance of the college Principal, organised a Slogan

Writing Competition on Yoga as part of its ongoing 21-day countdown celebration.

The event was coordinated by the Department of Swasthavritta and Yoga, and saw enthusiastic participation from students across different academic years. The competition aimed to

encourage young minds to creatively express the essence and importance of Yoga in daily life through powerful and thought-provoking slogans. The event was smoothly conducted by Dr. Abhishek Magotra, Associate Professor, and Dr. Sheetal Gupta, Assistant Professor,

who appreciated the students for their active involvement and awareness. Such initiatives reflect the college's commitment to promoting holistic health and the ancient wisdom of Yoga, aligning with the national movement for wellness and mindful living.

EDITORIAL

FACIAL
RECOGNITION

Facial recognition systems are advanced biometric technologies that identify or verify individuals based on their facial features. These systems work by capturing an image of a person's face, analyzing it, and comparing it to a database of known faces. Over the past decade, the technology has progressed rapidly due to the integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning, making it more accurate and efficient. Facial recognition is now used in various sectors including security, healthcare, finance, and personal electronics.

The process of facial recognition involves several steps. First, an image is captured using a camera. Then, the system detects the face and extracts key facial features such as the distance between the eyes, nose shape, and jawline. These features are used to create a unique facial map, often referred to as a "faceprint." This faceprint is then compared to existing records in a database to either identify the person or verify their identity. Modern systems are capable of performing this process in real-time and under varying lighting and angle conditions, thanks to AI enhancements.

Facial recognition has found wide application in multiple domains. In security and law enforcement, it is used for surveillance, tracking criminals, and locating missing persons. Airports and transportation hubs use it to streamline passenger verification, reducing wait times and enhancing safety. In banking and financial services, facial recognition helps in fraud prevention and enables secure online transactions. Smartphones and personal devices also use it for unlocking and securing data. In retail, businesses use facial recognition to study consumer behavior and improve customer service. Even in healthcare, it assists in patient verification and diagnosing rare genetic conditions.

The benefits of facial recognition systems are numerous. They offer speed and efficiency in identifying people, especially in crowded areas or during large-scale events. Unlike fingerprint or iris scanning, facial recognition is contactless, which makes it hygienic and non-intrusive. When integrated with artificial intelligence, these systems continue to improve over time, making them more accurate and reliable. The technology also adds an extra layer of security in digital devices and financial applications.

However, facial recognition is not without its challenges and controversies. One of the major concerns is privacy. Since the technology can be used without a person's knowledge or consent, it poses ethical questions about surveillance and individual freedom. There are also concerns about bias. Some facial recognition systems have shown higher error rates when identifying women and individuals with darker skin tones, which can lead to discrimination, especially in law enforcement use. Moreover, the storage of facial data raises cybersecurity concerns. If such data is breached, individuals could face long-term risks as facial features, unlike passwords, cannot be changed.

The legal and ethical use of facial recognition is another area that needs attention. In many countries, there are no clear laws governing the use of this technology, which can lead to misuse. For example, some authorities might use facial recognition for political surveillance or to monitor peaceful protests, violating civil rights. The growing use of facial recognition in public spaces has also sparked debate, leading to calls for regulations and even bans in certain cities like San Francisco.

Looking to the future, facial recognition technology is expected to become even more widespread as AI becomes more powerful. It will likely be used in newer areas such as education, voting, and smart cities. However, the expansion of its use must be balanced with strict regulatory frameworks to prevent misuse and to protect individual rights. Public trust can only be maintained if the technology is transparent, secure, and ethically applied.

In conclusion, facial recognition systems offer significant advantages in terms of security, convenience, and innovation. Yet, they also bring serious risks related to privacy, bias, and misuse. As this technology continues to grow, it is essential for governments, companies, and society to work together to ensure it is used responsibly and for the benefit of all. Only then can we fully embrace its potential while safeguarding the rights and freedoms of individuals.

By: Omkar Dattatray

Mulla Munir has been rewarded the rank of field Marshal by the Pak Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif after that country's defeat in the most recent conflict with India. Asim Munir was elevated as field Marshal in Pakistan, but he in real sense is not the field Marshal but a failed Marshal who should be held responsible for the failure of Pakistan in the four-day conflict with India and so Munir did not deserve to be made as the field Marshal. However, Pakistan's federal cabinet has okayed the proposal at the pleasure of Pak Prime minister. By awarding field Marshal rank to Asim Munir the Pakistan army chief, Shahbaz killed two birds with one stone. The first is that by elevation of the general Munir to field Marshal rank, the PM gave the impression to the world community that Pakistan has won the conflict with India. On the other side Shahbaz is obliging Munir and is keeping him pleasant so that the former will spare the PM from a military coup and his chair as the prime minister of a politically, diplomatically and economically starved state which is at the brink of a failed state will be saved for the time being. It is history of Pakistan military's engagements with Indian armed forces that every time that country lost a war with India, its military chiefs eye for a medal and this time in four days conflict with India, that country's forces and air bases faced devastation and still Pak

Prime minister and its federal cabinet approved elevation of a failed Marshal to the rank of a field Marshal a position held by Ayoub Kham many years before. Military aviation expert and military historian of Austria Tom Cooper has observed and stated that India bombed the entrance of one of the Pakistani's nuclear storage facilities/storage at the Sargodha Complex in the Kirana Hills forcing Pakistani director general of military operations Major General Kashif Abdullah to contact his counterpart of India LG Rajiv Ghai and ask for a ceasefire. The moot question arises if Pakistan was winning, why should they request a ceasefire? In Pakistan the news was celebrated by distributing sweets, dancing and bursting fire crackers, but in India there was perfect silence a trait of humility and winning. This made Pakistan's victory drama more suspect. Then Pak army general Asim Munir declared himself as the Field Marshal. The fact is that he was about to retire at the end of this year but he managed not only his continuance but got himself elevated as Field marshal which really, he did not deserve and it surprised the common Pakistani citizen. From a virtually a failed general he got himself elevated to the rank of Field marshal which embarrassed the common Pakistani's. One wonders as to what for was he donned the rank of a Field marshal? Thus, he has rightly been dubbed as failed marshal and not called a field marshal. His missiles and drones

faired very poorly during the war. The truth is that the world community is not interested in what Indian and Pakistan delegation puts before them and they very well know that Pakistan and India are sworn enemies and their confrontation will in future take the turn of a nuclear war and they are concerned that such a thing should not come. It is unlikely that Pakistan will stop abetting and exporting terror to India and if she again does any terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir, India will respond with its might and war could escalate beyond control. Other pertinent thing is that Pak will ask for talks but for negotiations, Pak has to shun its support to terrorism in India and thus talks can not be held given India's stand that terror and talks, terror and trade and terror and water cannot go together and neither terror and cricket can go together. For talks, Pakistan should dismantle terror camps and handover the dreaded terrorist chiefs Hafiz Sayed and Masood Azhar to India and then and only then will India be obliged for talks. But this happening is a rare possibility as in Pakistan these two terrorists are rooming freely in Pakistan and these two terrorist personalities are considered as working for a noble cause. Field Marshal Asim Munir is a Jihadi military chief and works on the lines of Zia-ul-Haq. He has spewed venom on religious lines and sees war with India through the lens of religion. It seems that Munir is ready to destroy

Pakistan and he will not shun hatred for India. He does not only need Kashmir but wants that crescent to fly over Red fort but he is living in a fool's paradise as he is thinking so. India and Pakistan are locking horns in a civilization war. It is routine for Pakistan to provoke India after some time and it is a regular feature and state policy of Pakistan and India will be forced to respond to such provocations. The top five will not always pull them apart from the brink of war so often. During his term as army chief, Munir has not uttered a single word of peace to India. He is not in strained relations with the Indian leadership unlike Zia-ul-Haq who got with the then Indian Prime minister Morarji Desai, General Mushrraf with A.B. Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh. Munir has not spoken with Indian leadership. The, strom has paused but will can re-emerge in future as Pakistan under Munir will not shun support to terrorism in India. To sum up, Asim Munir is officially a field marshal but is in fact a failed marshal who presides over the destiny of Pakistan as in reality it is military which rules the neighbouring country. Pakistan PM is a nominal executive head of the state and real influence and power lies in the hands of military head.

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

Health Care and Natural Farming

By: Vijay Garg

Regardless of the nature of the world, human beings need food grains to run life. Whether developed countries that have gone ahead based on the latest paradigms of modern progress or the developing countries moving forward in an effort to touch such patterns, citizens everywhere need food to live. It is sad that with the pace of progress, farming-kisani doyam has remained the job in the country and the world. This is the result that essential nutrients are being eliminated in food grains, processed foods and even beverages. Natural agriculture has also come down at the same pace as the country's population has increased in the past four-five decades. Forestry and agricultural lands of the village areas have been shrinking due to infrastructure development such as railways, road transport, factory sites, airports, bus bases, school-colleges, hospitals and urban metros extending residential buildings. As a result, agricultural work also shrinks. Such practice of modern life is taking place in a small amount of whole world and in the past four-five decades, this exercise has increased very much. On the contrary, during this time there has been a huge increase in the population of the country and the world. The food needs of such a large population remain. In these, the question of reduction is not only born. To meet the food needs of the large population, the other chemicals used for increasing yields on agricultural sector and cultivators through governments and for this chemical fertilizers manure and

crops hike | The pressure remains for forty- • fifty years. But now chemical fertilizers, manures and other chemicals have become the essential components of increasing yields. Now farmers can't stop using them by seeking the help of chemical manures the essential nutrients in the grain born are so completely exhausted but the chance to yield more than the need for a large population in shrinking agricultural land has taken the hands of farmers. Farmers have been fully accomplished in agricultural practice for four decades. At the same time, they are in a position of greater advantages than such farming. Yields are increasing after such a commodity. In government warehouses, grain bars are engaged. The minimum support value of crops is increasing year by year. Farmers are getting manure, seeds, chemicals and other things at government concession. For a few years, many kinds of Subsidy is also getting farmers. If seen, modern farming-ksani seems to be directly convenient for families below the poverty line getting subsidized farmers, governments and cereals, but people are also vulnerable to incurable and incurable diseases by eating this farming food. This situation for medical sector and governments is not alarming because even here they find opportunity in disaster. Growing of diseases causes medical research, therapeutic equipment, medicines, business and factories to flourish.

Thus governments have been persecuted towards the life of the common man passing through in cutting the rounds of hospitals to treat the production of chemical food grains, its bad effects and the diseases caused by this. The

meaning of human life has now only been reduced to the circumference of economic progress. This is why it is becoming impossible to get out of the cobweb of inconsistencies that arise. There is news amid such a crisis that India has become the fourth largest economy in the world. But in this perspective, how successful it has been in achieving the real goals of economic progress, it should also be considered. If in order to achieve the achievement of the fourth largest economy we have had to depend more on factors like import duty, consumer procurement, consumption of population, service sectors, etc., then it cannot be our fully balanced economic situation. We should move towards setting a new norm in front of the world. More than sixty percent of the entire population of India is still dependent on the agriculture sector for employment. Whether agriculture is not only being in an unnatural way or as a subsistence a huge population has not been given free grains and honorarium for many years, it proves that the economic life of most people is dependent on agriculture itself. economic form in the world. To elevate, India has to consider its leftover agricultural sector r anew. For this, first of all, the entire agricultural sector land is protected on the basis that it is used in the future only and only for agriculture. Second, agriculture based on chemical and unnatural fertilizer manure will have to be discarded gradually. Third, there will be constant efforts towards pure natural farming. The yields will have to undertake to accumulate at every level, every form and every time from natural nutrients. All consumer materials present in the world

consume the most and frequently food materials. It is not a lusty need, but it is most mandatory for life. If India revolutionizes its agricultural yield methods and gives it | Prakriti: Swaroop, then the naturally-born food materials in the world can sell in high prices. Today there are many countries whose people have plenty of money earned based on economic progress, but they are deprived of naturally available food materials. The great importance of natural farming will look practically when a generation raised by the consumption of its yields will see the world much healthier and balanced. The biggest contribution to make the country-world a perfect place at all costs will be human's healthy place of tan mind and this goal will be achieved by the consumption of natural farming-badi produce. Unstable with body-to-mind, ill most human beings will depend on medicines and cures for how long, by consuming artificial, chemical and toxic food grains. They want natural foods. Consider this vision, then the demand for natural food grains products will be more in the future. If India showed interest in the actual implementation of natural agriculture from today itself, by the advancement of the same sole sector we will also become the third and then first economy of the world even before the stipulated period.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab)

Cambridge International School organises session on Mental Health and Stress Management

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 9: Cambridge International School, Purkhoo Camp, Domana, Jammu, organized a meaningful and impactful session on Mental Health and Stress Management for students of Grades IX to XII.

The session was conducted in collaboration with the Brahma Kumaris Association, Jammu, with the objective of fostering emotional well-being and resilience among adolescent students.

The resource persons guided students to channel their energy towards the positive aspects of life. Students were introduced to basic yet effective meditation



practices that can be adopted in everyday life to empower the soul and promote mental clarity.

The session was highly interactive and well-received by students, who appreciated the opportunity to explore mindfulness and stress relief in a supportive setting.

Speaking on the occasion, Pooja Chib, Principal of the School, emphasized,

“There is a dire need for emotionally strong youth in today’s fast-paced world, and we are committed to doing our best to support and nurture them in every possible way.”

Anantnag Prabandhak Committee holds Annual General Body meeting

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 9: The Anantnag Prabandhak Committee (APC) convened its Annual General Body Meeting at Sanskriti Bhawan, Jammu, under the chairmanship of Sundri Lal Koul. The meeting witnessed the participation of various senior members and focused on key community concerns and development activities.

APC President S. K. Kandroo expressed serious concern over the government’s apathy regarding the non-payment of rent for the accommodation in the Nagbal Complex, Anantnag, which has been occupied by security forces since January 1990. He also raised the issue of partial vacation of the premises and urged for

urgent attention to this long-pending matter.

President Kandroo also highlighted APC’s long-term social and charitable initiatives, especially for economically weaker families. General Secretary D. K. Handoo presented a detailed report on renovation projects undertaken in Nagbal Anantnag and also shared the Balance Sheet for the year 2024–25.

Election Officer B. L. Bhat explained the election procedure and distributed certificates to newly elected office bearers of APC. The election process was conducted smoothly and transparently.

A major resolution was passed unanimously by the forum, urging the government to expedite the passing of the Temples & Shrines Bill without fur-

ther delay. The forum stressed the cultural and spiritual importance of the bill for the community.

Key speakers included P. N. Goja (virtually from the USA), J. K. Bhat, Kashmiri Lal Bhat, M. K. Bambroo, P. K. Goja, and Vinod Koul. Vice President B. K. Wantoor delivered the vote of thanks, while D. R. Handoo conducted the proceedings. Other prominent members present were Inderjeet Goja, A. K. Koul, Anil Razdan, Roshan Lal Kandroo, Navin B. Handoo, and Jetinder Reshi.

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to continue working for the welfare and rights of the community and to pursue the key issues raised during the session.

NMC President hails 11 years of Modi Govt as era of transformative governance and national pride

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 9: As the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, completed 11 years in power and the first year of its third term, National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) President Subash Shastri praised the tenure as one of unprecedented development, national resurgence, and strong governance.

Reflecting on the journey that began in 2014, Shastri commended the Modi government for its robust handling of national security, internal peace, and global diplomacy. “In the 11 years of Narendra Modi’s leadership, there has been remarkable progress across various sectors. Law and order have significantly improved, with a complete halt to bomb blasts and the end of insurgency in the Northeast. Every time terrorists attempted an attack, they were met with a firm and decisive response, including surgical strikes and missile operations,” he said. Shastri emphasized that the third term of the Modi government represents a continuation of a governance model rooted in integrity, justice, and public faith. “This is a government that has stayed committed to clean and efficient administration, putting the nation first in every decision,” he added.

Highlighting India’s rising stature on the global stage, the NMC President noted, “In the last 11 years, the world now looks at India with respect. Prime

Minister Modi has transformed the way global leaders engage with India. Our stance on terrorism is now uncompromising. Pakistan, for instance, is no longer a threat—it stands exposed before the world as a terrorist state, and this is due to PM Modi’s tough approach.”

Shastri hailed India’s economic resurgence, proudly noting that the nation has ascended to become the fourth-largest economy in the world. “This 11-year period is historic. Never before has post-Independence India witnessed such consistent growth and transformation. Whether it’s infrastructure, welfare schemes, or technological advancements, India has seen real progress,” he said. He also pointed out India’s assertive stance in recent geopolitical tensions. “When Pakistan showed aggression recently, the response was immediate and decisive. That’s the kind of leadership the country needs—and that’s what we’ve had under PM Modi,” he asserted. As the Modi government marks over a decade in office, leaders and observers across the spectrum are taking note of India’s transformation in national security, economy, foreign policy, and governance, all guided by what Shastri called the spirit of “seva” (selfless service).

Shastri concluded by expressing confidence in the continued success of the government and urged citizens to unite in the mission of building a stronger, safer, and more prosperous India.

ABVP to honour Emergency Anniversary, launch campaigns on Birsa Munda, Rani Abbakka, Student Welfare

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 9: The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu & Kashmir held a press conference to highlight the key outcomes of the National Executive Council (NEC) 2025 meeting held from May 29 to 31 at Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

The organization outlined a series of nationwide campaigns focused on historical remembrance, student welfare, and educational reform.

Marking the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, ABVP announced that it would organize dialogues, rallies, and remembrance events in university campuses across the country.

These events will aim to connect with former karyakartas and MISA detainees who were imprisoned during the Emergency period. The objective is to educate



the youth about the importance of safeguarding democratic rights and constitutional values.

ABVP will also commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda through various initiatives including hostel surveys, book publications, commemorative journeys, and worship ceremonies using soil from his birthplace.

Similarly, the 500th birth anniversary of Rani Abbakka, a symbol of resistance against colonial rule, will be celebrated through awareness campaigns and cultural programmes.

During the NEC meeting, four major resolutions were passed.

These included a demand for regulatory policies to address exploitative practices by coaching institutions, concerns over delays in

the appointment of Vice Chancellors in Central Universities, discussions on India’s internal security and rising global stature, and condemnation of increasing political intervention in university campuses.

The ABVP also praised the courage and professionalism of Indian armed forces in operations ‘Sindoor’ and ‘Kagar’, reaffirming its unwavering support for national security forces.

State Secretary ABVP Jammu Kashmir, Sannak Shrivats, stated, “As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, we aim to reconnect with those who struggled for democracy and inspire today’s students to value constitutional rights.

Our campaigns for Birsa Munda and Rani Abbakka are designed to instill pride in our cultural heritage while addressing current educational challenges.”

The press conference also featured CWC Member Akshi Billowria and Mahanagar Secretary Harish, who echoed the organization’s commitment to student welfare, education reforms, and national service.

ABVP Jammu Kashmir pledged to carry forward the spirit of activism through its upcoming campaigns, ensuring that historical legacy and student rights remain central to its mission.

JKTF urges inclusion of ReT Teachers in Annual Transfer Drive, calls for PTR-Based Rationalization

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 9: The Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF), under the leadership of President Sheikh Mohammad Ashraf, has strongly advocated for the inclusion of Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teachers in the Annual Transfer Drive (ATD) initiated by the School Education Department. The Forum emphasized that this move is vital to address the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) discrepancies across the Union Territory and to enhance the quality of foundational education.

In a press release issued by Chief Spokesperson Tahir Ah Sofi, UT President Sheikh Ashraf stated, “The foundational stage of a child’s education is crucial. Unfortunately, while

higher education gets a lot of attention, we often overlook the early years, which are most critical. Ensuring adequate building infrastructure and maintaining a healthy PTR, especially at the primary level, is essential for producing a strong educational output at the middle, high, and higher secondary stages. A policy like ‘One Teacher, One Classroom’ must be implemented in letter and spirit if we are to bring J&K’s education sector at par with advanced states like Delhi and Kerala.”

The Forum has expressed concern that over 70,000 ReT teachers remain posted at the same schools for extended durations, while the remaining 30% of the teaching force is stretched thin, unable to meet the subject-specific and PTR demands of

the department. This imbalance, the Forum warned, is hampering the effectiveness of learning at the grassroots level.

In a joint statement, General Secretary Mir Bashir Ahmed, Vice President Mehraj-ud-Din Zargar, Rafaqut Hussain Malik, Chief Spokesperson Tahir Ahmad Sofi, Sr Vice Chairman Mohd Mahroof Choudhary, Vice Chairman Gh. Mohi-ud-Din and Mehmood ul Ryaz Bhat, Spokesperson Joginder Singh thakur, Chief Press & Publicity Secretary M.A.Khan, Jalil Ahmed Sheikh, and other senior JKTF leaders reiterated the demand to include ReT teachers in the ATD process, implement PTR-based rationalization to ensure subject-wise teacher availability in all schools, especially primary institutions, and to strengthen

the student-teacher ratio norms in remote and under-resourced areas of J&K.

The Forum appealed to the Education Minister, the Administrative Secretary, School Education Department, and both the Directors of School Education (Kashmir and Jammu) to take immediate steps to address these pressing concerns in the interest of equitable and quality education delivery across the UT.

The time has come to realize that ReT teachers are essential pillars of the system. Their inclusion in rational transfer mechanisms will not only empower them professionally but will also help the department achieve its broader goals of educational excellence,” leaders added.

Tirupati Balaji Temple Jammu to celebrate 2nd Annual Day on June 15

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 9: Tirupati Balaji Temple in Jammu will celebrate its 2nd Annual day (varshikutsav) on June 15 with great devotion and enthusiasm. The temple management has announced that a Pandit Come from Tirupati to perform special pooja of Abhisekham and havan in the morning, starting from 9:00 AM and continuing till 12:30 PM. After the pooja, a community langar will be organized for all devotees.

Temple Inspector Sai Krishna addressed the media and extended a heartfelt invitation to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He urged everyone to participate in the special pooja and receive the blessings of Lord Shri Venkateswara (Balaji) on this auspicious occasion.

The event will begin with special rituals and prayers, followed by the distribution of Prasad and Langar at 12:30 PM. Devotees are expected to gather in large numbers to mark the sacred day with devotion, unity, and spiritual fervor. Everyone is welcome to attend this divine celebration.

GDC Ramnagar organizes Symposium

Top News Report

RAMNAGAR, Jun 9: Observed annually on 05th June, World Environment Day brings together millions of people across the globe in a shared mission to safeguard and save our planet, empowering governments, business, communities and individuals to drive sustainable change.

As a part of week-long World Environment Day celebrations, GDC Ramnagar organized a symposium on the topic “Save Earth, Save Yourself” in which 08 students participated with great enthusiasm. The students presented their views on the topic

and focused that earth provides everything we need including food we eat and home in which we live and suggested various ways to save earth to save humanity.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the College, (Prof.) Dr. Bhavnaish Chand said that we all have a moral obligation to make our planet a safer and healthier place to live for ourselves and future generations. Mankind activities have wreaked havoc on the planet’s ecological balance and stability.

Smoke from automobiles, industries and burning of harmful materials has polluted the air. As a result, greenhouse

gases have accumulated and climate has warmed which is a consequence of global warming. Another big issue, that has led to environmental degradation is deforestation.

He stressed that by reusing, reducing and recycling waste we can conserve our environment. We can make small changes such as avoiding the use of plastics, planting more trees in our neighborhood, utilizing all natural resources with caution for protection of our planet. Thus, we all have a moral obligation to make our planet a safer and healthier place to live for ourselves and future generations.

GDC Samba releases IQAC News Letter ‘Saarthi’

Top News Report

SAMBA, Jun 9: Government Degree College, Samba proudly released the latest edition of its IQAC newsletter Saarthi — a reflective compendium of the institution’s quality initiatives, academic achievements, and pro-

gressive practices.

The newsletter was formally unveiled by Principal Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, along with IQAC Coordinator Dr. Banpreet Kour, Dr Ramandeep Kour Co Coordinator, Prof Narayan Dutt Convener Advisory Committee and all members of the Internal

Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC).

Saarthi documents the college’s efforts toward fostering academic excellence, institutional growth, and stakeholder engagement in alignment with NAAC guidelines.

On the occasion, Prof.

(Dr.) Twinkle Suri commended the IQAC team for their commitment to strengthening the college’s internal quality culture.

Dr. Banpreet Kour reiterated the importance of Saarthi as both a record of progress and a roadmap for continuous improvement.

The event was attended by senior faculty staff, and students, who appreciated the initiative as a step forward in transparency, documentation, and participatory governance.

The soft copy of Saarthi is available on the official college website: www.gdcsamba.in

Sonali Bendre talks about her latest literary offering – A Book of Books

Actress and author Sonali Bendre, known for her grace on screen and resilience off it, is also making waves in the literary space.

In a candid conversation, Bendre reflected on her deeply personal relationship with books and the motivations behind her latest literary offering, *A Book of Books*.

The book, released in collaboration with her thriving online community, Sonali's Book Club, is not a traditional memoir or novel, as she explains it as a celebration of reading itself.

"It's essentially a book of recommendations -- books that touched me, inspired me, or simply stayed with me," she shared, adding, "It's an extension of the book club I started eight years ago, one of the largest digital book clubs in South Asia."

One of the most striking ideas in *A Book of Books* is the permission

it grants readers, especially those who feel burdened by expectations, to let go of guilt around incomplete books.

"There is no shame in not finishing a book," Bendre said, adding, "You don't have to read a book just because it won awards. If it doesn't connect with you, it's okay to move on." She drew from personal experiences, even recalling a moment during cancer treatment when she realised some books, despite their literary merit, were emotionally draining.

"I couldn't finish *A Little Life*. It's a brilliant book, but so sad. My book club members gently suggested I step away from it -- and they were right," she said.

A Book of Books is designed for a wide spectrum of readers, from seasoned bibliophiles to children just beginning their literary journey.

"On page 64, I've written about children who



struggle to read. It's important for parents not to force reading on them. The joy of reading should come naturally," she said.

The book is packed with inventive ideas, like exploring genres through the lens of Snow White's seven dwarves, or reflecting on how reading can be the "cheapest way to travel," a belief she holds dear from her childhood.

While Bendre modestly claims she's 'not an amazing writer,' her book's thoughtful content says otherwise.

In fact, it was HarperCollins who nudged her into the project after seeing the impact of her book club's recommendations.

She said, "I initially said no. But when they suggested a book about the books I love, it felt right." The result is a work that blends memoir, advice, reflection, and recommendations, all rooted in a deep love for literature.

Not seen anything bring the world together more than 'Harry Potter': Tom Felton



Hollywood actor Tom Felton believes nothing brings the world together more than "Harry Potter", whose fandom is relevant till now.

Felton, best known for starring in "Harry Potter" films, is set to reprise his role of Draco Malfoy in Broadway's "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child".

The actor will make his Broadway debut with the stage show, which will run for a limited 19-week engagement starting November 11.

The 37-year-old actor said he thought the fandom of 'Harry Potter' would disappear over time, but it didn't. "I think we all thought that the fandom flame might be doused over the years, but clearly it's not. The most exciting part is to do it live. It took nine months, more or less, to shoot a film, and this is all compact. This is all reimagined into a very loving, new type of story. And I get to be a dad, which is really fun," he said.

The franchise is also being revived into a series at HBO. The series will be a full adaptation of J K Rowling's books.

Felton was asked if he feels Rowling's recent anti-trans comments have any effect on the upcoming 'Harry Potter' projects, he said that he "can't say it does". "The only thing I always remind myself is that I've been lucky enough to travel the world here I am in New York and I have not seen anything bring the world together more than 'Potter'. And she's responsible for that, so I'm incredibly grateful," he added.

'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child' follows the next generation of wizards, focusing on the children of the original characters, including Draco's son, Scorpius Malfoy. It will also mark the first time an original cast member from the film series will perform in the stage adaptation.

Sharad Malhotra returns to the screen: Actor to play cop after hiatus

The biggest truth of every actor's life is that there will be more lulls than successes," says Sharad Malhotra, who is set to make his return to the screen after a gap — his last TV outing was in 2022, and his most recent OTT stint was in 2023. But the actor is quick to clarify he "never really took a break". "I was thinking the other day — three years have passed just waiting for something good to happen. Then it hit me: I can't just keep waiting. I have to be the one to take a step forward. As actors, effort is required from our end too," he says.

Sharad describes this period as a lull phase, where projects were close to materialising but kept fizzling out: "That's the reality of this profession. More often than not, you're in a lull rather than riding a high." Reflecting on two decades in showbiz, he says, "When people around me were celebrating 20 years of



my career, I had just one thought, yes, it's 20 years, but of constant grinding. Nothing comes easy." He credits his journey to the support of those around him: "Whether it's my wife, we're also celebrating six years of marriage, or my parents, my constants, it's always been a collective journey. And this, I've learned late in life: it's never just 'I', it's always 'we'."

Now, after what he calls a storm following the lull, the actor is excited for what's next,

especially because he finally gets to wear the khaki: "Out of the three projects, two will release within a month. I'm super thrilled because I've always wanted to play a cop, and now I get to do it in my fittest avatar."

He shares that both upcoming shows feature him as "two very different kinds of police officers". While there are talks for TV too, Sharad is currently enjoying his OTT run: "It'll have to be with something out-of-the-box."

Govinda's wife Sunita feels actor not getting work because of chaplusi circle

Actor Govinda's wife Sunita Ahuja, known for her unfiltered opinions, recently reflected on her husband's acting career. She said the actor doesn't seek advice from genuine people, but from those who always praise him blindly. Sunita admitted getting into arguments with Govinda because she would always give her honest feedback about his films.

Sunita emphasised her husband's inner-circle, claiming that most of the people there either lie or say things to flatter him. In an interview with *The Powerful Humans* podcast, while speaking about Govinda's career decisions, she said, "Why hasn't Govinda been seen on the big screen for the past 17 years? Because the circle around him is completely wrong. Sab wah-wah karne waale log hain. Mera aur Govinda ka jhagda bhi hojaata hai kyunki main naa jhoth nahi bol sakti aur chaplusi nahi kar sakti. Aaj iske pass ek writer hai, secretary hai, ek friend jaisa vakeel hai, sab faltu (They are all people who just keep praising him blindly. Even I end up fighting with Govinda because I can't lie or flatter people. Right now, he has a writer, a secretary, and someone acting like a close friend—all of them are useless)."

She also revealed the unrealistic feedback given by her



husband's advisers.

Sunita added, "Kyunki sirf wah-wah karna hai. Wah chi chi bhaila kya kamaal kardia. Abey tu sach toh bol. Hum sach bolte hain to chidhta hai voh. All they do is say things like, 'Wow Govinda brother, what a brilliant job you've done!' (I mean, come on, at least tell him the truth. But when I speak the truth, he gets irritated)."

Ahuja shared that she has tried

to school her husband several times, to make him realise that he's not living in "the '90s". She also mentioned the emergence of OTT platforms in her interview, and explained how Netflix is the it thing today.

"Look at what's working today—Netflix and OTT platforms. But he's stuck in his 'Wah-Wah Productions' circle," she said, adding that she has asked him to create a new circle

of creative people who have the potential to show him the mirror. Mentioning Govinda's frequent collaborator from the '90s, filmmaker David Dhawan, she said: "I told him to change the people around him, because as long as those four or five people are with him, they won't let him grow. David (Dhawan) said the same thing."

Sunita, while reflecting on Govinda's successful career, said, "Someone who was delivering non-stop hits in the 90s starts believing, 'I'll do solo-hero films, and they'll work.' But Bade Miyan Chote Miyan wasn't a solo-hero film. Aankhen wasn't either."

"The people around him planted this myth in his head: 'Sir, you are Hero No.1—your film will definitely work!' But where do solo-hero films work today? You need a strong subject and a good director—only then will it work," she concluded.

Sunita, in another interview with Zoom, said Govinda is sitting at home, while actors of his age, including Anil Kapoor, Suniel Shetty, and Jackie Shroff are doing good work.

Govinda was last seen in *Rangeela Raja*, directed by Sikander Bharti and written and produced by Pahlaj Nihalani. He hasn't featured in any film project since then.

Anusha Mani on acting debut: Never saw myself as an actor

Known for rendering some hit Bollywood numbers such as *Lehrein* (Aisha; 2010), *Tera Rastaa Chhodoon Na* (Chennai Express; 2013) and *Gulaabo*, (Shaandaar; 2015), among others, singer Anusha Mani marked her acting debut with the recently released web series *Hai Junoon*. While it came as a surprise to her fans, the singer says it was "a surprise to me too". Anusha explains: "I never saw myself as an actor, never aspired to be one. But it was one of the most exhilarating experiences of my life."

Since she enjoyed being in front of the camera, the 40-year-old now wants to juggle singing and acting. "I am very keen on pursuing this further. But the

world still needs to know that Anusha Mani is an actor too. That said, music is and will always be my first love, so that will be priority for me," says the singer.

Making a mark as an actor isn't a cakewalk for musicians, considering they're already known for their expertise in another art form. Did she ever fear being judged? "Today, singers are acting and actors are singing - there's criticism everywhere. We don't live in a society that gives second chances or constructive criticism. That said, it can't stop me from living my life to my full potential. What eventually matters is what I feel and what my family and loved ones think of me," says Anusha, who admits that



she was reluctant to take on the acting opportunity

at first. She explains: "There was immense

reluctance stemming from self-doubt and lack of confidence."

Having spent so many years in the film industry as a singer, did having contacts and knowing people ease things for her as an actor, compared to an outsider? "Yes and no," says Anusha, adding, "I know people in the music industry, but the world of acting is totally different. I didn't know anyone from that part of the industry. I got this audition because they were looking for singers for the role. That said, having a management, helping me on set, going through my contract, negotiating for me and managing dates, helped a lot."

Al Pacino on denying 'Star Wars' film: Can't play something if I don't speak the language



Hollywood veteran Al Pacino says he was offered a "Star Wars" film, but he turned it down as he didn't connect with the script.

The first "Star Wars" film released in 1977, starring Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford was directed by George Lucas. There have been 12 films in the franchise in total.

Pacino recalled getting the script for the film but said he couldn't understand it.

"So I loved their work, but I was doing a show on Broadway at the time, and they handed me this script, and I thought, I don't understand. (I thought), I must be out of space myself."

"But I looked at this thing and I sent it to

Charlie Loughton, my friend and mentor, actually. I said, 'What do you make of this?' He was pretty wise and he said, 'I don't get it. Al. I don't know. I don't get it.' I said, 'Well, I don't either; what are we going to do? They offered me a fortune, but I don't know. No, I can't play something if I don't speak the language,'" he added.

The last "Star Wars" film, titled "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" was released in 2019. Directed by J.J. Abrams, it featured Hamill.

Pacino's latest work is "The Ritual" from David Midell, which released on June 6. It featured the actor alongside Abigail Cowen.

India witnessed rapid transformations across diverse sectors in 11 years: PM Modi

From economic growth to social upliftment, the focus has been on people-centric, he said

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Monday that under the 11 years of his government, India has not just become the fastest-growing major economy, but is also a key global voice on pressing issues like climate action and digital innovation.

A clear focus on good governance and transformation, Modi said of the last 11 years as his government finished the first year of its third term on Monday.

A link shared by him noted that 60 per cent of the current Union ministers are from the SC, ST and OBC categories, a message aimed at burnishing social justice credentials of his government amid attempts by Opposition parties like the Congress to paint it as working against their interests. This is the highest ever representation of these marginalised groups in the Union Council of Ministers, it added.



In his post on X, Modi said that powered by the blessings and collective participation of 140 crore Indians, India has witnessed rapid transformations across diverse sectors.

Guided by the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas', the NDA government has delivered path-breaking changes

with speed, scale and sensitivity, he said.

From economic growth to social upliftment, the focus has been on people-centric, inclusive and all round progress, he added.

The Prime Minister said, "We are proud of our collective success, but at the same time, we look ahead with hope, confi-

dence and a renewed resolve to build a Viksit Bharat."

He used the hashtag of "11 years of seva" (11 years of service) with the post, while sharing links to the details of changes effected in different sectors.

It said Modi has brought the politics of development, 'Vikas-vaad' into the mainstream, making it the focal point around which political discourse and policy action now revolves.

Since assuming office in 2014, 'India First' has guided his every policy and action, it added.

It noted that over 81 crore people are getting free food grains, over 15 crore households have got tap water connections, over four crore houses built for the poor, 12 crore toilets were built, 68 lakh street vendors got loans, 52.5 crores loans given to small entrepreneurs, and 20 crores women were given cash assistance during Covid under different schemes.

11 Yrs of Modi govt 'golden period' of resolve, dedication towards public service: Amit Shah



NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the 11 years of Modi government was a "golden period" of resolve, endeavour and dedication towards public service.

In Narendra Modi's third term as prime minister, Shah said this new India is rapidly progressing towards development and self-reliance with the power of reform, perform and transform.

He said this journey of making India "number 1" in every field by bringing positive changes in the lives of the countrymen will continue.

"The historic 11 years of the Modi Government have been a golden period of resolve, endeavour and dedi-

cation towards public service," he wrote on 'X' in Hindi and called it 11 years of "seva" (service).

The Modi government completes the first year of its third term on Monday.

The home minister said the country has seen a new era of economic revival, social justice, cultural pride and national security.

"The Modi government has proved that when the leadership is clear, the resolve is firm and the intention is of public service, then new records of service, security and good governance are created," he said.

Shah said when PM Modi took over the reins of the country in 2014, there was policy paralysis in the country.

He said there were no policies, no leadership and scams were at their peak in the government the economy was in shambles and the governance system was directionless.

The home minister said during the "11 years of seva", the speed and scale of the country's development have been changed by 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'.

"PM Shri @narendramodi ji brought farmers, women, backwards, Dalits and marginalised to the centre of governance and created a work culture of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas instead of appeasement," he said.

Shah said the 11 years of the Modi government have also proved to be a milestone in the direction of national security.

"Naxalism is on its last legs, peace has been established in Jammu-Kashmir and the Northeast, India now responds to terrorist attacks by entering the homes of terrorists. This shows the changing picture of India under the Modi government," he said.

Last 11 years a blow to country's democracy, economy and social fabric: Kharge

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): The Congress on Monday said the Modi government in the last 11 years has dealt a deep blow to the country's democracy, economy and social fabric.

In a post on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the government has only "smeared the ink of dictatorship" on every page of the Constitution in these 11 years.

"The BJP-RSS has weakened every constitutional institution and attacked their autonomy," he said.

Whether it is going against public opinion and toppling governments through the back door or forcibly impos-

ing one-party dictatorship, during this period, the rights of the states have been ignored and the federal structure has weakened," Kharge said.

Kharge said efforts are constantly being made to spread an environment of "hatred, threats and fear".

"The exploitation of Dalits, tribals, backwards, minority and weaker sections has increased continuously. The conspiracy to deprive them of reservation and equal rights continues. The unending violence in Manipur is the biggest proof of BJP's administrative failure," he posted.

The Congress chief claimed that the BJP-



RSS has made it a habit to keep the country's GDP growth rate at 5-6 per cent, which used to be 8 per cent on average during the UPA.

"Instead of delivering on the promise of 2 crore jobs annually, crores of jobs were snatched away from the youth. Due to inflation, public savings have become the lowest in 50 years and economic inequality

has become the highest in 100 years," he said.

Demonetization, wrong GST, unplanned lockdown and hammering the unorganised sector have ruined the future of crores of people, Kharge claimed.

He alleged that programmes like Make in India, Startup India, Digital India, Namami Gange, and 100 SMART cities

have all failed.

"Railways have been ruined. Only the ribbons of the infrastructure painstakingly built by Congress-UPA have been cut.

"The Modi government has wasted the last 11 years in smearing the ink of dictatorship on every page of the Constitution," Kharge alleged.

The BJP, on its part, has lauded the last 11 years of governance under PM Modi.

Modi on Monday asserted that under it India has not just become the fastest-growing major economy but is also a key global voice on pressing issues like climate action and digital innovation.

Four persons killed, six injured after falling off moving train in Thane

MUMBAI, Jun 9 (Agencies): At least four passengers were killed and six injured after falling off a moving local train in Maharashtra's Thane district on Monday morning, police said.

The incident occurred between Diva and Kopar railway stations when the overcrowded train was going towards Kasara, an official said.

As there was a huge rush during the peak hour, many people were standing at the doors of the train, he said.

While the train was in motion, at least 10 passengers fell down, the official said.

A guard of another train, which was going towards Kasara, alerted the railway authorities about the incident, he said.

All the passengers

who fell were rushed to a civic-run hospital in Kalwa. Four of them were declared dead on arrival, the official said.

The deceased were in the age group of 30 to 35 years, he said.

Swapnil Nila, chief public relations officer of the Central Railway, earlier in the day told agency that the guard of a Kasara-bound train reported about the injured passengers along the track side to the control room at around 9.30 am.

The injured passengers were rushed to the nearby hospitals, he said.

Nila had said it was not yet known from which train the passengers fell.

Shiv Sena Lok Sabha member from Thane, Naresh Mhaske demanded a probe into the death of passen-

gers.

"The cause of the incident needs to be addressed. How did they fall...was there a crowd, were they pushed, was there a fight," he told a regional news channel.

Mhaske said, "One can understand if it was a crowded local train. But in this case, the tragedy happened in a moving express train. The administration also needs to be alert."

Leader of Opposition in the state legislative council Ambadas Danve in a post on X said the incident of so many people suddenly getting out of the Pushpak Express and resulting in the accident is heart-breaking and serious.

This incident raises questions about railway safety in Mumbai, he said.

ASP killed, other personnel injured in IED blast in Chhattisgarh's Sukma



SUKMA, Jun 9 (Agencies): A senior police official was killed and some other personnel were injured when a pressure Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted by Naxalites exploded in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Monday, police said.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP-Konta Division) Akash Rao Girepunje and other personnel were out on foot patrolling when the incident took place near Dondra village on Konta-Errabor road, an official said.

The patrolling was launched in view of a bandh called by Naxalites on Tuesday, he said.

The ASP and some other police personnel sustained injuries in the blast, the official said.

All the injured were shifted to Konta hospital where the ASP succumbed to his injuries, the official added.

Retired nurse, daughter shot dead in Patna

PATNA, Jun 9 (Agencies): A woman and her daughter died after unidentified assailants allegedly fired at them in Patna's Alamganj locality on Monday, police said.

The deceased have been identified as Mahalaxmi, a retired nurse of the Nalanda Medical College and Hospital, and her daughter Santhali.

The woman's husband, Dhananjay, who also suffered injuries in the shooting, is undergoing treatment in hospital, they said.

The mother and daughter succumbed to bullet injuries in hospital, a police officer said.

The incident took place around 9.15 am near Arfabad canal, under the jurisdiction of Alamganj police station.

"Police reached the spot and took them to the nearest government hospital. Dhananjay is undergoing treatment and his condition is reported to be stable," Atulsh Jha, Assistant Superintendent of Police (Patna City), told agency.

The exact cause of the incident is not known, and a manhunt has been launched to nab the accused, Jha said.

On Sunday, three persons, including a sub-inspector and his son, suffered injuries after they were allegedly shot at by miscreants over a land dispute in Dhanarua locality of Patna.

The injured SI, identified as Manoj Singh and posted in Saharsa district, is undergoing treatment in hospital, police said.

Manish Sisodia skips ACB summons in corruption case linked to classroom construction

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): Former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia skipped the questioning by the Delhi government's ACB in connection with a case of alleged corruption in the

construction of classrooms in government schools that was to be held on Monday, official sources said.

The Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) had summoned AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and

former PWD minister Satyendar Jain for questioning.

While Jain appeared before ACB on Friday, Sisodia was supposed to appear on Monday. Jain was questioned for over five hours by the

ACB.

"Manish Sisodia's counsel informed us that he won't be able to come today. He will be called again," an ACB source said.

According to AAP sources, Sisodia had



a pre-planned engagement and was not able to appear before the ACB. His lawyer has sent a reply to the ACB, party sources said.

The summons came after the ACB registered an FIR in the matter

on April 30 based on allegations of financial irregularities to the tune of Rs 2,000 crore in the construction of over 12,000 classrooms or semi-permanent structures in Delhi government schools.

Malaysia bus crash kills 15, mostly students

Thirteen victims died at the scene near the town of Gerik, on the busy East-West Highway near the Thai border, while two died in hospital.

KUALA LAMPUR, Jun 9 (Agencies): A bus carrying university students back to their campus smashed into a minivan in northern Malaysia on Monday, killing at least 15 people, police and rescue services said.

Thirteen victims died at the scene near the town of Gerik, on the busy East-West Highway near the Thai border, while two died in hospital.

The accident is the deadliest in more than a decade on Malaysia's hazardous roads.

"It looked like the bus had lost control and hit the (minivan) from behind," Perak State Police Chief Hisam Nordin said.

Images from the scene taken by the fire and rescue department showed a green bus overturned on its right side with a smashed rear end cover, while the red minivan had slid into a ditch, with its windows blown out.

"Some victims managed to get out on their own, some victims were thrown out while others were still (trapped) in the bus,"



the Perak state disaster management authority said in a statement.

Rescuers had to use a hydraulic cutter to free people from the bus.

The death count included 14 students from the Sultan Idris Education University, while the last victim was a bus attendant, the emergency services said.

Thirty-three others were injured, with seven in critical condition taken to hospital, it added.

Most of the victims were aged between 21 and 23. They were

travelling from the town of Jerteh in northeastern Malaysia when the accident happened shortly after 1:00 am

'Chaotic scene'

Police Chief Hisam said officers were investigating whether the crash "involved human negligence or if it was a technical issue".

A witness told the New Straits Times it "was a chaotic scene with students screaming and crying for help".

"They were pinned between the wreckage," the witness, identified as Razali, told the

paper.

Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim ordered the Higher Education Ministry to help the victim's families and said he and his wife Azizah were "deeply saddened" by the tragedy.

"Heartbreaking disasters like these that are repeated often should be a lesson to all to be careful and not to rush," Anwar wrote on Facebook.

"Your lives are too precious and can't be replaced," he added.

Malaysia has a high rate of traffic accidents, with an average of 18 people killed on the roads each day, according to government figures. The East-West Highway, which connects the two seaboards of the Malaysian peninsula, is plagued by accidents, with frequent collisions between animals and vehicles. Malaysia worst bus disaster happened in 2013 when an express bus plunged down a ravine northeast of Kuala Lumpur, killing 37.

Russia bombards Ukraine with 479 drones overnight, Ukrainian air force says



KYIV, Jun 9 (Agencies): Russian forces targeted regions throughout Ukraine with at least 479 attack drones, marking one of the largest such overnight aerial strikes of the war, Ukraine's air force said Monday.

"According to preliminary data, as of 10:30, air defense neutralized 479 enemy air attack vehicles, 292 were shot down by fire weapons, 187 were lost in location," the air force said

in a message posted in Ukrainian.

Polish and allied planes briefly scrambled early on Monday in Polish airspace, as Russia unleashed its aerial strikes, the Polish armed forces said.

The Ukrainian air force issued a series of alerts early on Monday, saying Russian drones were targeting areas throughout much of Ukraine.

The operation commander of the armed forces in Poland

"launched all available forces and resources at his disposal, the on-duty fighter pairs were scrambled, and the ground-based air defense and radar reconnaissance systems reached the highest state of readiness," the military said in a statement in Polish translated by agency.

The launches were "preventative in nature," the military said.

About three hours after that initial message, at about 7 a.m. local time, the military said the threat of Russian strikes had been reduced, so the Polish and allied warplanes had been returned to their usual activity.

"We inform you that no violation of the airspace of the Republic of Poland has been observed," the military said.

Bangladesh's ex-President Abdul Hamid returns home amid political turmoil

DHAKA, Jun 9 (Agencies): Former President of Bangladesh and veteran Awami League leader Abdul Hamid returned home after medical treatment in Thailand amid political turmoil. He returned to Dhaka on a Thai Airways flight at around 1:30 am on Monday, local media reports said.

"After the formalities were completed after flight (TG 339) carrying Abdul Hamid landed, he left Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at around 2:45 am," the daily Jugantor reported.

Group Captain Ragib Samad, Executive Director of Shahjalal International Airport, confirmed the matter to the media. He said, "Abdul Hamid came to the country like a normal passenger. He did not ask for any protocol. He arrived in Dhaka from Bangkok at around 1:30 am," the report said.

Ragib Samad further said, "Abdul Hamid was brought down from the



flight in a wheelchair. He looked devastated. He had a mask on his face and was wearing a shirt and lungi. At that time, his younger son Riyad Ahmed and brother-in-law Naushad Khan were with him."

Earlier, Abdul Hamid left Dhaka for Bangkok on a Thai Airways flight (TG 340) around 3 am on May 8. Later, when the matter was revealed in the media, discussions started in the country's political arena.

When Sheikh Hasina and her party, the Awami League, fell in the face

of student protests on August 5 last year, many of the party's leaders and activists left the country, but Abdul Hamid remained in the country. After 9 months, he left the country for Bangkok for medical treatment.

It has been reported that there is a murder case against him at Kishoregonj Sadar Police Station on January 14.

Abdul Hamid served as the President of Bangladesh for two consecutive terms from 2013 to 2023.

Israeli forces halt Gaza-bound aid boat, detain Greta Thunberg and other activists

JERUSALEM, Jun 9 (Agencies): Israeli forces stopped a Gaza-bound aid boat and detained Greta Thunberg and other activists who were on board early Monday, enforcing a longstanding blockade of the Palestinian territory that has been tightened during the war with Hamas.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition, which had organised the voyage to deliver humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip and protest Israel's blockade and wartime conduct, said the activists had been "kidnapped by Israeli forces" and released pre-recorded messages from them.

"The ship was unlawfully boarded, its unarmed civilian crew abducted, and its life-saving cargo — including baby formula, food and medical supplies — confiscated," it said in a statement.

Israel's Foreign Ministry cast the voyage as a public relations stunt, saying in a post on X that "the selfie yacht" of



the celebrities is safely making its way to the shores of Israel".

It said the passengers would return to their home countries and the aid would be delivered to Gaza through established channels.

It later circulated footage of what appeared to be Israeli military personnel handing out sandwiches and water to the activists, who were wearing orange life vests.

Thunberg, a climate campaigner, was among 12 activists aboard the Madleen, which set sail from Sicily a week ago. Along the way, it had stopped on Thursday

to rescue four migrants who had jumped overboard to avoid being

detained by the Libyan coast guard.

"I urge all my friends, family and comrades to put pressure on the Swedish government to release me and the others as soon as possible," Thunberg said in a pre-recorded message released after the ship was diverted.

Rima Hassan, a French member of the European Parliament who is of Palestinian descent, was also among the volunteers on board. She has been barred from entering Israel because of her opposition to Israeli policies toward the Palestinians.

After a 2½-month total blockade aimed at pressuring Hamas, Israel

started allowing some basic aid into Gaza last month, but humanitarian workers have warned of famine unless the blockade is lifted and Israel ends its military offensive.

An attempt last month by Freedom Flotilla to reach Gaza by sea failed after another of the group's vessels was attacked by two drones while sailing in international waters off Malta. The group blamed Israel for the attack, which damaged the front section of the ship.

Israel and Egypt have imposed varying degrees of blockade on Gaza since Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces in 2007. Critics of the blockade say it amounts to collective punishment of Gaza's roughly 2 million Palestinians.

Israel sealed Gaza off from all aid in the early days of the war ignited by the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, but later relented under US pressure.

In early March, shortly before Israel ended a ceasefire with Hamas, the country again blocked all imports, including food, fuel and medicine.

Hamas-led militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the October 7 attack and abducted 251 hostages, more than half of whom have since been released in ceasefire agreements or other deals. Hamas is still holding 55 hostages, more than half of them believed to be dead.

Israel's military campaign has killed more than 54,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which has said women and children make up most of the dead. It doesn't say whether those killed are civilians or combatants.

The war has destroyed vast areas of Gaza and displaced around 90 per cent of the territory's population, leaving people there almost completely dependent on international aid.

"Absolutely horrible job": US President Trump blasts Newsom, Bass over LA riots

LOS ANGELES, Jun 9 (Agencies): US President Donald J. Trump has called on California Governor Gavin Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass to apologise to the people of Los Angeles for what he described as their "absolutely horrible job," in a post on X (formerly Twitter) that has gained significant traction on social media.

Trump wrote, "Governor Gavin Newsom and 'Mayor' Bass should apologize to the people of Los Angeles for the absolutely horrible job that they have done, and this now includes the ongoing L.A. riots. These are not protesters, they are troublemakers and insurrectionists. Remember, NO MASKS!"

The post, shared by entrepreneur Elon Musk, has garnered over 6.5 million views as of Monday morning.

Meanwhile, California Governor Gavin Newsom sharply criticised President Trump on his official X handle, accusing him of fueling unrest by deploying federal troops without local consent.

"Let's be clear: Local law enforcement did not require assistance. Yet, Trump sent troops anyway—with the intent to create chaos and violence. He succeeded. Now, the situation is destabilized, and additional law enforcement is needed to clean up the mess he caused," Newsom wrote.

His post comes amid a growing debate over the role of federal authorities in state-



level law enforcement, with Newsom blaming Trump for worsening tensions instead of restoring order.

Newsom further denounced the deployment of National Guard troops to Los Angeles as "purposefully inflammatory," calling President Trump's order an undermining of state authority. "These are the acts of a dictator, not a President," he added on X.

The deployment of California National Guard troops came as authorities sought to contain escalating protests in Los Angeles over President Trump's immigration crackdown, agency reported.

The third day of demonstrations saw federal agents clash with protesters across the city, as tensions flared over Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids and detentions of undocumented immigrants.

According to agency, the White House-ordered deployment has sparked sharp

backlash from California officials, who described the move as unlawful and politically motivated.

President Donald J. Trump has called for immediate federal action in Los Angeles, alleging that the city has been "invaded and occupied by illegal aliens and criminals," and is currently facing violent unrest.

In a statement posted on X, Trump claimed that "violent, insurrectionist mobs are swarming and attacking our Federal Agents to try and stop our deportation operations," vowing that such "lawless riots only strengthen our resolve."

Trump directed Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, and Attorney General Pam Bondi to coordinate with relevant departments and agencies to "take all such action necessary to liberate Los Angeles from the Migrant Invasion, and put an end to these Migrant riots."

He asserted that "order will be restored, the illegals will be expelled, and Los Angeles will be set free," urging the public to pay close attention to the developments.

The protests erupted after ICE conducted raids across Los Angeles, arresting dozens of undocumented immigrants. In response to the unrest, Trump deployed 2,000 National Guard troops to restore order during the demonstrations.

Kabul faces severe water crisis, may run dry by 2030: Mercy Corps



KABUL, Jun 9 (Agencies): Mercy Corps has warned of a severe water crisis in Kabul, where seven million residents risk running dry by 2030 if urgent action is not taken, agency reported.

Over the past decade, Kabul's groundwater levels have dropped by up to 30 meters due to rapid population growth and climate change, with half of the city's deep wells drying up, agency said.

Dayne Curry, Mercy

Corps' Afghanistan director, emphasised the crisis, stating, "The absence of water means communities will be forced to leave. Without intervention, large-scale migration and increased hardship will follow for the people of Afghanistan," according to agency.

The report also highlights that water extraction far exceeds natural replenishment rates, threatening public health and social stability. Contamination from

sewage, salinity, and arsenic has worsened access to safe drinking water for many households, agency noted.

Since 2001, Kabul's population has grown sevenfold, complicating water management amid inadequate infrastructure and governance. The Panjshir River water pipeline project could supply two million people but requires funding and support, agency added. Water resource expert Najibullah Sadid warned, "Kabul is facing a crisis with no return path unless immediate action is taken," urging focus on sustainable projects to save the city.

Mercy Corps' alert calls for urgent international support and effective local governance to prevent a catastrophic drought in Kabul's coming decade.

India’s Yuva Shakti driving nation’s growth under PM Modi’s leadership: Rohiin Chandan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 9: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Rohiin Chandan on Monday hailed India’s Yuva Shakti as the driving force behind the nation’s remarkable growth, crediting their dynamism, innovation, and determination under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking on the transformative impact of the last 11 magnificent years of BJP-led governance, Chandan emphasized that India’s “Yuva Shakti” has emerged as a global symbol of excellence, propelling the country toward unprecedented heights in diverse fields such as startups, science, sports, community service, and culture. “Under the dynamic leadership

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India’s youth have not only made a mark globally but have also become the backbone of our nation’s progress,” said Chandan.

“The last 11 years of Modi Sarkaar have witnessed extraordinary contributions from young Indians who have achieved the unthinkable, turning dreams into reality and setting new benchmarks for success.”

Chandan highlighted the pivotal role of central government initiatives in empowering the youth, citing transformative programs like Startup India, Skill India, Digital India, and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

These policies, rooted in the belief that empowering the youth is the most powerful step a

nation can take, have provided unparalleled opportunities for young Indians to thrive. “The NEP 2020, with its focus on holistic education, skill development, and innovation, has positioned our youth as key partners in realizing the vision of a ‘Developed India,’” he noted.

Rohiin praised the government’s efforts in fostering an ecosystem that nurtures entrepreneurship and innovation. “Programs like StartUp India have unleashed the entrepreneurial spirit of our youth, enabling them to create world-class solutions and contribute to India’s economic growth,” he said.

He further underscored the impact of Skill India in equipping young Indians with the tools to excel in a competitive global landscape, while Digital India has

bridged divides, making technology accessible to millions and empowering youth to lead in the digital era.

Chandan also acknowledged the significant strides made in Jammu & Kashmir, where youth-focused policies have driven progress and integration.

“The youth of J&K have shown remarkable resilience and talent, contributing to the region’s transformation under the Modi government’s inclusive and forward-thinking policies,” he stated.

Reaffirming the government’s commitment to the youth, Chandan declared, “Under the magical leadership of PM Modi, the BJP-led government will continue to provide every possible opportunity for our Yuva Shakti to shine. Their energy,



conviction, and creativity are the foundation of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India).” As India marches toward its goal of becoming a developed nation, Rohiin Chandan’s remarks serve as a powerful reminder of the critical role the youth play in shaping the country’s future. With unwavering support from the Modi government, India’s Yuva Shakti is poised to lead the nation to new horizons of success and innovation.

Kuldeep Rao appeals for RTC bus service to Joura-Halaran and Chiralla, urges road development

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 9: Social and political activist Kuldeep Kumar Rao has appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Transport Minister Satish Sharma, MLA Bhadarwah Daleep Singh Parihar, and MLA Doda-52 Mehraj Malik to sanction RTC bus services from Jammu to Joura-Halaran and Jammu to Chiralla, both located in Sub-Division Thathri of District Doda. He requested that two daily RTC buses be provided for each route to improve connectivity and ease the transportation difficulties faced by local residents.

Rao highlighted that a regular RTC bus service from Halaran to Doda was started back in 2016 but was discontinued due to negligence by the driver and conductor. This service had significantly helped the people of four Panchayats—

Joura Kalan, Joura Khurd, Halaran, and Houja-Jia—by providing affordable and reliable transportation. Its discontinuation has once again left the residents struggling for proper travel facilities.

Additionally, Rao urged the authorities to immediately widen and blacktop several key roads in the region, including the stretches from Bhatola to Halaran-Joura Khurd, Halaran Morh to Sihal-Goila, Sultan Morh to Surunga-Joura Kalan, Punaja to Chiralla, Thathri to Jangalwar-Chirra, and Punaja to Bhal-lara. Despite crores being spent on these roads, no RTC buses currently ply on them, and only Tata Sumos and private mini buses operate, charging high fares.

Rao questioned why poor residents are forced to bear such financial burdens and called for urgent government intervention to improve road infrastructure and public transport services.

GDC Sidhra celebrates Environment week by organising series of activities

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 9: World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated annually on 5 June and encourages awareness regarding issues related to environment. In observance of World Environment Day 2025, Govt. Degree College (GDC) Sidhra commemorated the occasion with a series of impactful activities aligned with

this year’s global theme, “End Plastic Pollution”. Environment week is being celebrated as per the directions received from Director Colleges, J&K Higher Education Dept.

First of all, an online quiz competition was organised which was designed to raise awareness about environment. About 60 students participated in the

quiz and got acquainted about issues related to environment.

On Monday, a documentary screening was organised in which documentaries focussing on issues such as menace of plastic pollution, climate change and importance of healthier environment were shown to the students. Many students participated in the screening of documentary program.

Jammu hotel industry faces crisis amid tourism slump; AJHLA urges Govt for revival measures

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 9: The All Jammu Hotels and Lodges Association (AJHLA), in a meeting held today, expressed grave concern over the sharp decline in the arrival of tourists and pilgrims to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, attributing it to the tragic Pahalgam massacre and the Indo-Pak tensions. The association said that the tourism sector in Jammu is facing an existential crisis, especially the budget hotel industry, which has been hit hard by dwindling business.

Pawan Gupta, President of the Association, said the extension of the train service to Katra and further to Kashmir,

already dealt a blow to the Jammu-based hotel and tourism stakeholders. The recent incidents have only worsened the scenario. “The industry is gasping for survival, with many units closing down or switching to alternate businesses. The livelihoods of hundreds of families are at stake,” he said.

Gupta highlighted that not only hotels and lodges, but the entire tourism ecosystem—including dhabas, travel agents, tour operators, dry fruit and handicraft traders, taxi and auto drivers, and transporters—is suffering due to what he called “zero business.”

While appreciating the government’s efforts to

revive tourism in J&K, the association strongly criticized the lack of focus on the Jammu region. “The entire spotlight is on Kashmir valley, while Jammu’s potential as a tourist hub continues to be neglected,” Gupta remarked.

He appealed to the government to immediately implement long-pending tourism infrastructure projects in Jammu, such as the Artificial Lake, Mubarak Mandi Complex, and beautification of Surya Putri Tawi riverfront on the lines of Sabarmati. He also demanded the revival of the abandoned cable car project from Peer Kho to Mahamaya and expansion of Jambu Zoo in Nagrota

with more unique animal species to boost tourist interest.

Calling for urgent and strategic promotion, Gupta suggested that the administration should conduct road shows across the country to highlight Jammu’s religious and historical tourism offerings. He stressed that this would

not only help bring tourism back on track but also revitalize the region’s economy.

Other office bearers who attended the meeting included Anil Khajuria, Pritam Sharma, H. S. Manhas, Baldev Raj, Sunil Suri, Sankul Gupta, Ankit Gupta, and Varun Gupta.

Patiyad Brahman Biradari Bi -Annual Congregation on June 11

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Jun 9: The bi-annual congregation of the Patiyad Brahman Biradari will be held on June 11 at the revered Devasthan of Kuldevia Baba Purav Sidh Dev Ji Maharaj located at Turgala, Chowki

Choura, Akhnoor. Sharing details of the event, Biradari President Harbans Lal Sharma informed that the congregation will commence with Hawan and Poojan ceremonies in the morning, followed by a community feast for all attendees.

The event will be graced by the presence of Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma and MLA Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma, who have both extended their consent to attend the gathering.

“A Journey Worth Living”

*Let the path be such, that leads to the goal,
A dream so deep, it nurtures the soul.
Let the goal be such, not just to arrive,
But to teach us the art of being alive.*

*Let life be such, that honors each tie,
Gives meaning to moments as they pass by.
And let bonds be such, so warm and pure,
That memories call us back, forevermore.*

Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain State Chairman Indian Yoga Association



FromPage No: 1

LG inaugurates “CCTV Surveillance System with Integrated Command & Control Centre” for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

SMVDSB gave a detailed presentation on the Integrated Command & Control Centre’s technical features and its anticipated benefits in day-to-day shrine functioning. He informed that the Centre is equipped to generate automated alerts for crowd congestion, route blockages, landslides or emergencies, thereby enabling swift decision-making and response.

The Lieutenant Governor also interacted with the engineers and operational staff at the Centre. He emphasized the need for regular training of staff and seamless collaboration with security agencies and other stakeholders to maximise the Centre’s utility.

Notably, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has recently provided advanced security equipments to the security agencies deployed for the yatra management including X-Ray Baggage Scanners, Door Frame Metal Detectors, Hand-Held Metal Detectors, and Under Vehicle Search Mirrors/ Scanners, to enhance robust secu-

rity measures in the Shrine area, in pursuance to joint security review conducted last year on the directions of the Lieutenant Governor.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member, Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu, Nidhi Malik, Deputy Commissioner Reasi and other senior officers of Police, Security Agencies and Shrine Board were also present.

163 cases of newly emerging COVID-19 variant XFG detected in India: INSACOG

Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal (six each).

In May, as many as 159 samples were detected with XFG variant while two samples tested for this variant in April and two in June yet, data shows.

India’s active Covid case tally crossed the 6,000 mark, with 769 added in the last 48 hours, according to the Union health ministry data released on Sunday.

Soldier shoots self dead in Gulmarg

The jawan, hailing from Rajasthan, died on the spot, they said adding the body was taken to Sub District Hospital Tangmarg for medico-legal formalities.

J&K Students Association launches comprehensive report on J&K’s reservation policy revamp

This groundbreaking researched report offers a sharp and critical analysis of the existing framework, uncovering deep-rooted structural inconsistencies and persistent social inequities. It also presents pragmatic and actionable recommendations aimed at building a more just, inclusive, and equitable system.

He said that, A total of 15 key recommendations have been included in the report. These include conducting a caste-based socio-economic census, sub-categorization within reserved categories, rationalizing the eligibility criteria for the EWS category, restoring the 60:40 ratio between open merit and reserved categories, and several other vital reforms.

Khuehami asserted that, “This report is a roadmap. It traces the evolution of reservation trends in J&K, compares them with national and international benchmarks, and highlights glaring disparities that continue to marginalize large sections of society. There is an urgent need for reforms rooted in equity, social justice, and constitutional

morality.”

A 12-member expert committee, chaired by JKSA President Ummar Jamal, led the formulation of the report. The committee includes Faizaan Peer, Danish Lone, Farhat Riyaz, Osheeba Bashir, Adnan Malik, Nazia Israr, Dr. Adil Hussain, Sadiya Farooq Masoodi, Krishna Sapru, Azhar Hassan Mir, Muzamil Ahmad Reshi, and Aamir Akbar; representing a diverse and distinguished pool of academic, legal, and policy professionals.

Khuehami reiterated, “We are not against reservations. Our fight is against a flawed, disproportionate system that has failed to benefit the genuinely deserving and has sidelined meritorious candidates. We advocate for a balanced framework that ensures both upliftment and meritocracy.”

The Association will also reach out to civil society organizations, academic institutions, and student bodies to build a broader consensus for reform. To ensure the process remains inclusive and participatory, the Association will compile a follow-up white paper based on feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, including students, teachers, community leaders, and policy experts. The outreach strategy includes physical meetings, digital town halls, and written submissions to foster open and inclusive dialogue.

The Association stressed that, “This must be a people-centric reform process. No voice should be left unheard. We are commit-

ted to reaching every section of society to build a unified call for a rational, transparent, and equitable reservation policy.”

Through this initiative, we are not only challenging systemic flaws but also presenting a constructive path forward. “Social justice cannot be selective,” the Association noted. “A progressive society must uplift the disadvantaged while also honouring merit. We urge the political leadership to rise above vote-bank politics and initiate an honest, inclusive, and transparent review of the existing reservation framework.”

The Association has also called for a temporary slowdown in ongoing recruitment drives in the Union Territory until anomalies in the reservation structure are addressed. “We’re not calling for a complete halt,” the Association clarified. “But continuing recruitment under a flawed system risks grave injustice to open-merit candidates. A temporary pause will provide the necessary time to fix these deep-rooted issues and restore fairness.”

8 High Court Judges’ visit rekindles Kashmir’s tourism spirit

“Their presence is not just symbolic—it sends a powerful message to the rest of the country and beyond that Kashmir is welcoming, peaceful, and safe for all visitors,”

said a tour operator in Srinagar.

Justice Vikram Aggarwal, Judge of the High Court of Punjab & Haryana, who is part of the visiting delegation, expressed satisfaction with the security and other arrangements in the Valley.

He urged tourists from across the country to visit Kashmir and enjoy its unmatched scenic beauty and hospitality.

The visit is also being hailed as a much-needed morale booster for the local tourism economy, with many seeing it as a turning point in restoring confidence after recent setbacks.

As Kashmir’s breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural heritage continue to enchant travelers, such gestures from notable figures are playing a key role in reaffirming its status as one of India’s most cherished travel destinations.

Three injured in group clash in Central Kashmir

Sunday.

An official said that the individuals were injured after a scuffle broke out between the groups. “The injured were initially taken to Sub District Hospital (SDH) Khansahib for treatment. However, due to the nature of their injuries, they were later referred to SMHS Hospital Srinagar for specialised care.”

Police have taken cognisance of the incident and further investigation is underway.

YSCC Doda mourns demise of Young Cricketer Aqib Batt

Top News Report

DODA, Jun 9: The Young Star Cricket Club Doda (YSCC), a leading sports organization and registered NGO of the region, expresses deep sorrow over the untimely demise of Aqib Batt, a young and promising cricketer from Sazan, Doda, who passed away at SKIMS Srinagar after a courageous year-long battle for life.

Aqib was recognized for his remarkable cricketing talent, sportsmanship, and humble demeanor. He was not just a gifted player but also a noble soul who left a lasting impression on everyone who interacted with him. His passing is an irreparable loss to the cricketing fraternity of Doda and the entire region.

On behalf of the entire YSCC family, we extend



our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. May Almighty Allah (SWT) grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannatul-Firdous and give strength to the family to bear this immense loss. Those who offered their condolences and joined in mourning the loss include Manzoor Ahmed Batt (Patron),

Naseer Ahmed Khora (Chairman), Prof Z A Hashmi (Chief Advisor), Ishtiaq Ahmed Dev (Advisor) besides Faizan A. Trambo, Syed Nasir, Kessar Shenali, Moosa Azad, Waseem Raja, Noushair Batt, Tanzeel Malik, Yasir Dar, Ilyas Butt, Rajid Wani, Javed Ahmed and other members of YSCC Doda.

Army organises medical patrol at Gabbar and Kasher

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jun 9: The Indian Army's medical patrol at Gabbar and Kasher, Rajouri district, reflects their commitment to providing healthcare services to remote communities.

The medical patrol aimed to deliver essential healthcare services to the local population, addressing their medical needs and promoting overall well-being. By providing medical care, the Indian Army reinforces its bond with the community, ensuring that healthcare reaches those who need it most. This initiative is part of



the Indian Army's broader efforts to support and uplift remote areas. The medical patrol at Gabbar and Kasher underscores the Indian

Army's dedication to humanitarian service and community welfare, highlighting their role as a force for good in the region.

Rita Rehan appointed Coach of Indian Junior Girls Roll Ball Team for World Cup in Kenya

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 9: In a proud moment for Jammu & Kashmir, Rita Rehan, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) in the MID &FC Department, has been officially nominated as the Coach of the Indian Junior Girls Roll Ball Team.

The team will represent the nation at the prestigious 1st Junior Roll Ball World Cup, scheduled to be held in Nairobi, Kenya from 22nd to 29th June 2025.

The announcement was made by the Roll Ball Association of

Jammu & Kashmir, affiliated with the Roll Ball Federation of India and recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, and J&K State Sports Council.

The decision is seen as a landmark achievement not only for Rehan but also for the growth of Roll Ball in the region and at the national level.

According to the Association, this appointment is a recognition of Rehan's dedication, experience, and outstanding contribution to the sport over the years. Under her guidance, the

Indian team is expected to display great spirit, skill, and sportsmanship on the global platform.

Rehan's leadership is anticipated to play a crucial role in preparing the young athletes to compete against top international teams and secure glory for the country.

The Roll Ball Association of J&K extended heartfelt congratulations to Rehan for this well-deserved honour and conveyed their best wishes to her and the Indian team for a successful campaign in Kenya.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Samba reaches the remotest villages of Distt Samba

Top News Report

SAMBA, Jun 9: The Krishi Vigyan Kendra Samba under the aegis of SKUAST Jammu, continued its impactful outreach under the ongoing Viksit Krishi SankalpAbhiyan. These programmes are being conducted under the stewardship of Prof. B.N. Tripathi Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu and under the able guidance of Dr. AmrishVaid Director Extension SKUAST Jammu. The abhiyan is being carried out under the direct supervision of Prof. Sanjay Khajuria, District Nodal Officer and Dr. Rakesh Khajuria Joint Nodal Officer VKSA, Samba actively

participated.

On ninth day of the campaign, awareness programmes and farmer engagement activities were conducted in three remote villages namely Hurduliyan, Sodam and Samotha in Block Nudof District Samba. During the interaction with the farming community of these villages, the experts from KVK, SKUAST J, as well as experts from allied departments- guided the farmers on latest agricultural innovations and stressed on efficient agricultural practices for more farm returns. They also guided participants on natural farming and discussed on soil health management.

He guided farmers on commercial farming and elaborated scientific farming of various Kharif season crops. They suggested the farmers on the good farm management practices and stressed on Integrated Nutrients Management in various crops, on climate resilient agriculture and stressed on new agricultural innovations for more farm income. Officers/Officials from Department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Sheep Husbandry of district-Sambadiscussed in detail with the farmers about different agricultural schemes such as HADP.

Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai appointed Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy); will continue as DGMO

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, whom the Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) had called while India was pummeling Pakistani airbases during Operation Sindoor, pleading for a ceasefire, was on Monday appointed as the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy). He will continue to hold the post of DGMO.

The Deputy Chief (Strategy) is a relatively new vertical created to oversee the Indian Army's Operations and Intelligence Directorates, among other important branches. It is considered one of the most crucial appointments within the Indian

Army, according to an official statement from the Ministry of Defence.

On June 4, Lt Gen Ghai was also awarded the Uttam Yudh Seva Medal (UYSM) during the Defence Investiture Ceremony 2025 (Phase-II), recognising his distinguished service.

In a press briefing on May 12, a couple of days after the cessation of hostilities was announced with Pakistan following Operation Sindoor, Lt Gen Ghai underlined the preparedness and coordinated response of the Indian armed forces. The operation involved precision strikes against terrorist targets without crossing the Line

of Control or the International Boundary. Interestingly, the now Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) had used a cricket analogy, "Ashes to Ashes", to describe how India employed its multi-layered air defence systems to neutralise incoming aerial threats from Pakistan.

Earlier this year, Lt Gen Ghai had also visited Manipur around February 25 to assess the security situation in the state, especially along the Indo-Myanmar Border (IMB). During his visit, he held meetings with key state officials, including the Governor of Manipur, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, the State Security Advisor, the Chief Secretary, and the Direc-



tor General of Police. The visit to the conflict-marred region aimed to review the operational preparedness of the Indian Army and assess the status of ongoing border infrastructure projects.

JKSA launches comprehensive report on J&K's Reservation Policy Revamp; submits report to CM's Office

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 9: The Jammu & Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) launched a comprehensive report on Monday, calling for a rational overhaul of the reservation policy in the Union Territory. Developed in collaboration with the J&K Centre for Peace, Research & Sustainable Development (JKCPRS), the report critically examines existing structural inconsistencies and social inequities within the current reservation framework.

The report was formally presented by JKSA's National Convenor Nasir Khuehami, Chairman Mushtaq Habeeb, and Advisor Danish Lone to Nasir Sogami, Advisor to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, at the Chief Minister's Office. Sogami assured the delegation that the detailed research would be thoroughly reviewed for necessary policy action.

Highlighting the report's key findings, the JKSA noted that it includes 15 major recommendations such as conducting a caste-based socio-economic census, sub-categorization within reserved groups, revising eligibility criteria for the EWS category, and restoring the 60:40 ratio between open merit and reserved seats. The report traces the evolution of reservation trends in J&K, compares them to national and interna-

tional benchmarks, and underscores disparities that marginalize many communities.

JKSA emphasized that their demand is not against reservation itself but targets a flawed and disproportionate system that fails deserving candidates while sidelining merit. Led by a 12-member expert committee chaired by JKSA President Ummer Jamal, the report reflects inputs from academics, legal experts, and policy professionals.

The Association plans extensive outreach to civil society, academic institutions, and student bodies to build a broad consensus. They aim to produce a follow-up white paper incorporating feedback from diverse stakeholders through meetings, digital forums, and written submissions, ensuring an inclusive and participatory reform process.

JKSA called on political leaders to prioritize social justice beyond vote-bank politics and initiate a transparent review of the reservation system. They also urged a temporary slowdown in recruitment drives in J&K until the reservation anomalies are addressed, cautioning that ongoing recruitment under the current system risks injustice to open-merit candidates. This initiative aims to establish a more just, equitable, and merit-based policy framework for the Union Territory.

Crack Academy seeks centre partnership to boost employment, education in Mandi

Top News Report

MANDI, Jun 9: To promote employment in Mandi, Crack Academy, who recently tied up with the state government for a large scale scholarship program in the state schools has come up with centre partnership opportunities in the district.

Talking to media here on Monday, academy officials said that opportunities are open in Karsog, Seraj, Darang, Nachan and Balh and interested candidates can apply for these locations.

Building on the momentum of over 70 centres already established across Himachal, this opportunity will not only deliver high-quality, affordable coaching to

students in the district but also generate direct jobs and unlock countless indirect employment avenues throughout Mandi, the officials maintained.

Over the past year, the academy has witnessed an overwhelming response from aspiring centre partners across its centres in the state. Now entrepreneurs and educators at Mandi have a unique chance to collaborate with the academy's centralized selection team and bring world-class competitive-exam preparation to their communities.

Neeraj Kansal, founder and CEO of Crack Academy said, "Our mission has always been to make affordable, top-tier coaching accessible in every corner of Him-

achal Pradesh. By inviting partners in Mandi, we're not only strengthening the state's educational infrastructure but also empowering local stakeholders to become catalysts for academic excellence and job creation. Together, we will equip thousands of students with the personalized guidance, expert mentorship, and curated study materials they need to achieve success in exams like JEE, NEET, CDS, SSC, Bank, Railway, and more."

These centres in Mandi are envisioned as powerful learning hubs, offering students personalized coaching, expert mentorship, curated study materials, and a systematic approach to competitive exam preparation.

BSP demands strict action against attackers of Dalit families in Kathua

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 9: The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has strongly condemned the recent assault on Dalit community members over a land dispute in Ramnagar village, Kidiyain Gharial area of District Kathua, and has called for immediate and strict action against the accused.

In a statement issued by BSP Jammu and Kashmir President Darshan Rana, the party expressed grave concern over the increasing attempts to forcibly occupy land belonging to Dalit families who have been legitimately

cultivating it for generations.

Rana stated that these families are being threatened, harassed, and intimidated by anti-social elements with the apparent aim of displacing them.

He urged the local administration to take prompt action and register a case under the SC/ST Atrocities Act against the culprits to ensure justice for the victimized families. "Such actions not only violate the law but also reflect the growing disregard for the rights and dignity of Dalits. If strict measures are not taken now, it will only embolden the perpetrators,"

Rana warned.

Highlighting that this is not an isolated incident, Rana said that atrocities against Dalit families in Kathua have been on the rise, and administrative inaction is only fueling the situation.

He issued a stern warning that if justice is not delivered swiftly, the BSP will be forced to launch mass protests and take to the streets to safeguard the rights of the Dalit community.

The BSP has reaffirmed its commitment to fight against social injustice and vowed to stand firmly with the oppressed families in their struggle for justice.

Morning Walker Association hosts Environment Day awareness program at Lohar Manda Hill Top

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 9: In celebration of World Environment Day, the Morning Walker Association, Lohar Manda Hill Top, in collaboration with the Wildlife Department Manda Jammu, organized a social awareness function at Wazir Point. The event was held under the chairmanship of Sh. Sudershan Gupta to promote the message "Health is Wealth" and to educate the public on the importance of tree conservation through a "Tree Talk" session.

O.P. Sharma, IFS (Retd.), Member of J&K Biodiversity Council and Wildlife Board, and renowned Tree Talk founder, was the Chief Guest. In his detailed and enlightening address, he discussed the cultural, medicinal, mythological, and Ayurvedic significance of various trees found in Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary, including Amaltas, Dhaak, False Quinine, Parijat, Amla, Bahara, Harad, Pilkhan, and Khair.



Vijay Kumar, DFO Wildlife Jammu-Udhampur, and Prof. Vijay Chandan were present as Guests of Honour. Dr. Gopal Sharma, Regional Director, Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Bantalab Jammu, also graced the occasion. He emphasized the AYUSH Ministry's new green initiatives, the interconnectedness of oceans and climate, and advocated for phasing out plastics and planting native tree species.

DFO Vijay Kumar stressed the importance of conserving wildlife and encouraged plan-

ting drives, especially during the upcoming rainy season. He recommended focusing on Pipal and Bargad trees due to their ecological significance.

Rakesh Kumar Sharma, General Secretary of the Morning Walker Association, highlighted the health benefits of morning walks along the Manda Jungle track, where citizens breathe in fresh air surrounded by botanical treasures. He termed the Lohar Manda Hill Top trail via High Court as a "God's gift" to Jammu's residents.

Bansi Lal Choudhary, Presi-

dent of the Association, made a heartfelt appeal to the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister of J&K to upgrade the kacha trail and connect Lohar Manda to Lakkar Mandi and Khanpur Nagrota with a proper pucca walking track, making the trail more accessible and beneficial for public health and eco-tourism. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from citizens and association members. Others who addressed or attended the event included Sham Lal Sharma, Sham Lal Dogra, Susheel Gupta, Manohar Lal Gupta, Ramesh Kumar Gupta (Papu Jee), Ashwani Sharma (Bitoo Jee), Sanjay Sanotra, Pawan Sharma, Ashok Gupta, Neelam Kumari, Aryaveer Choudhary, Vani Choudhary, and Ramesh Gupta.

The function concluded with a vote of thanks to all dignitaries and participants, reaffirming a collective commitment to environmental preservation and community health.

BCCI announces updated venues for Team India’s international season at home, South Africa A tour to country

MUMBAI, Jun 9 (Agencies): The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the revised schedule for the international home season and the South Africa A team tour of India for this year, including a venue swap for the test series against the West Indies and South Africa.

BCCI issued a statement saying, “The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced the updated schedule for the international home season and South Africa A tour of India for 2025.”

Team India (Senior Men) will face West Indies and South Africa in Test matches, One-Day Internationals (ODIs), and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) at home. The Test series against



the West Indies starts on October 2, 2025, in Ahmedabad. The second Test against West Indies, originally slated for Kolkata, will now be held at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.

Conversely, the first Test of the South Africa series, starting

November 14, 2025, will now be held at Eden Gardens in Kolkata, instead of the initially designated New Delhi venue.

Moreover, due to the revamping of the outfield and pitches at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai, the ODI Series

between Team India (Senior Women) and Australia Women has been moved from Chennai. The first two ODIs will now take place at the New PCA stadium in New Chandigarh, while the third and final ODI will be held at the Arun Jaitley stadium in New Delhi, added the BCCI.

The South Africa Men's A Team will face India A in two multi-day matches and three one-day games, starting October 30, 2025. While the two multi-day matches will continue to be held at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (COE) in Bengaluru, the three one-day games have been moved from M. Chinnaswamy Stadium to the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot.

Bumrah tests outside edge, restricts batter in crease during India’s training session before England series



LONDON, Jun 9 (Agencies): India’s pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is up and running in Beckenham, putting in the hard yards before the upcoming five high-stakes Tests against England, slated to kick off on June 20 at Headingley.

A new era beckons for India in the Test format as the modern-day giants gear up for their first assignment without the prized batting big-wigs Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. Shubman Gill, India’s youngest Test captain, has taken the baton from Rohit to guide the nation to success and challenge for the World Test Championship mace.

During India’s training session in Beckenham, Kent’s second home venue, Bumrah displayed his unparalleled mastery in the art of pace bowling. With the ball in his hand,

Bumrah showed signs of breaking the notion of requiring assistance from the surface to wreak havoc.

Deemed to be the world’s current best, Bumrah extracted significant seam movement and constantly tested the outside edge of batters.

He constrained the batters inside the crease with his searing yorker-length deliveries, according to ESPNcricinfo.

The 31-year-old could be heard chatting with India bowling coach Morne Morkel about his two five-fors at Trent Bridge, according to ESPNcricinfo. He talked about how, on his first trip in 2018, the Duke’s ball was doing things in swing and seam-friendly conditions. But on his later tours, it became less responsive.

Bumrah’s utilisation will remain limited

throughout the five Tests in England. During the announcement of India’s squad for the upcoming Test tour of England, chief selector Ajit Agarkar confirmed Bumrah was advised not to contest in consecutive Tests as part of his workload management. The precaution around Bumrah’s usage stems from a stress reaction in the back during the fifth Test against Australia in Sydney in January.

He missed India’s victory campaign in the Champions Trophy and returned to action for the Mumbai Indians in the recently concluded Indian Premier League (IPL). Last week, head coach Gautam Gambhir revealed that they have yet to take a call on which Tests India will field Bumrah in the playing XI.

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.

India wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav keen on applying his learning in England

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): India’s ‘Chinaman’ spinner Kuldeep Yadav remains pressure free despite the evolving expectations about the impact he can create during the five anticipated Tests in England. Kuldeep, who holds a fair share of experience playing against the Three Lions, is looking to instil what he has learned on the field if he gets a chance to put his craft on show.

Kuldeep is set to return to the Test format for India for the first time since the home series against New Zealand last October. He missed the Border-Gavaskar Trophy due to injury but found his groove in the recently concluded Indian Premier League while featuring for Delhi Capitals.

Fans and former cricketers have termed the

left-arm wrist spinner’s inclusion an ‘X factor’. Such a tag often culminates in pressure, but that is not the case for Kuldeep, who is aware of England’s style of play.

“No, I do not feel any pressure as I feel it is not something that one should take pressure for. I think if one gets a good opportunity and gives their best, then it is a done job there. I have played against England last year, and have an idea about their playing style. The only thing is that one has to be very alert all the time and stay focused,” Kuldeep said while speaking to Boria Majumdar on Revsportz.

Kuldeep mapped out England’s aggressive approach, which doesn’t allow a bowler to be defensive. During England’s tour of India last year, Kuldeep left

the touring party bamboozled and scalped 19 wickets at 20.16.

“Unlike other teams, with the England team, one cannot relax and play defensive. England bat in a very aggressive manner, so one has to very much be in the game and plan your overs accordingly. I learnt a lot about fielding playing that England series, so I hope to apply those learnings this time in England. And most importantly, enjoy my bowling, as that is what gets you wickets,” he said.

He made his sole appearance in England at the iconic Lord’s and went wicketless in his nine-over spell as India succumbed to a heavy defeat by an innings and 159 runs. Since then, Kuldeep has upped his game to a new level and unlocked one aspect



that could be the key behind adding names to his wicket-taking column.

“When I played in 2018 [at Lord’s] with the Dukes, I personally experienced that Dukes are a bit hard and drift more. So, as a spinner, if one can control that, then it can be challenging for the batsmen. Because it is hard, it bounces more, and the

spin is very sharp if one gets a spin-friendly track,” he said.

“It’s a bit like the SG ball, and the seam is protruding. Kookaburra, on the other hand, is very different and gives spinners a very good grip due to its rounded nature. I like it personally. But overall, it takes adjustment and time spent with the ball to get used to it,” he added.

England hanging their hats on convincing Stokes to play in 2026 T20 World Cup: Simon Doull

LONDON, Jun 9 (Agencies): Former New Zealand cricketer Simon Doull believes England are “hanging their hats” on trying to convince Test captain Ben Stokes to feature in the 2026 T20 World Cup, which could be the missing piece of the puzzle that the Three Lions are trying to figure out.



Stokes has been a missing face in England’s T20I fold since his heroics in the T20 World Cup final against Pakistan at the famed MCG in 2022. The seasoned star opted out of England’s title defence last year, “a sacrifice” that allows him to be the all-rounder he “wants to be for the foreseeable future.”

With less than a year left before the latest edition of the marquee event in India and Sri Lanka, Doull sees Stokes’s inclusion as vital for England. According to him, Stokes will be a tactical advantage, allowing them to go in with two genuine seamers and leave enough room to add spinners in the XI on the turning tracks in the subcontinent.

“I think England might

be hanging their hats on convincing Stokes to play in the 2026 T20 World Cup. I’m serious! They fully believe in that dressing room, and in that management group, that they will convince him to play. He then fills that role that means they can go in with two genuine seamers, Stokes and then the spin options they want in the side, which includes Bethell, Jacks, Rashid,” Doull said as quoted from Sky Sports.

England will line up under the newly established captaincy of Harry Brook after Jos Buttler relinquished the position following an abysmal run in the Champions Trophy earlier this year.

In his first assignment as England’s white-ball captain, Brook boasts a 5-0 record with three

ODI victories over the West Indies and then topping it up with two wins on the trot over the Caribbean side.

With immense firepower in his ranks, Brook-led England gunned down a daunting 197-run target set by the Men in Maroon to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match contest.

“I’ve said plenty of times, we have a lot of depth. With small boundaries here, we felt West Indies were under par by about 30 runs. It gives us great confidence knowing we’ve got Will Jacks, Tom Banton, and Jacob Bethell batting five, six and seven.

The top order can go out there all guns blazing,” Brook told Sky Sports.

Robin Uthappa “genuinely believes” Sai Sudharsan is one of India’s future three-format players

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): Former batter Robin Uthappa “genuinely believes” Sai Sudharsan is one of India’s future three-format players alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill after his impressive display in the 18th season of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Sudharsan dazzled at the top during the Gujarat Titans’ impressive run to the Eliminator in the recently concluded cash-rich league. He finished as the top run-getter in the tournament, ahead of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Jos Buttler and others.

The 23-year-old, who retired during GT’s encounter against the

Mumbai Indians in 2023, has included a couple of shots in his repertoire and notched up swash-buckling performances throughout his recent campaign.

“One name that immediately comes to mind is Sai Sudharsan. His evolution over the last couple of years has been phenomenal. Just last year, he was retired out in a game for not scoring quickly enough. And this year, he hasn’t changed his technique or approach; he’s just added a couple of shots, knows when to accelerate, and suddenly his strike rate has jumped from 130 to 170,” Uthappa said at the launch of the Australian Summer of Cricket 2025-26.



Sudharsan carved out 759 runs in 15 matches at an average of 54.21, with a strike rate of 156.17, a century and six fifties. After his sizzling performances, Sudharsan walked away with the Orange Cap and was adjudged the Emerging Player of the Season.

Apart from his exploits

in T20s, Sudharsan caught the attention of spectators with his breathtaking performances in last season’s Ranji Trophy. During his three robust appearances for Tamil Nadu, he handsomely struck 304 runs at 76.00 with a century and a fifty each.

After his string of consistent runs across for-

ats, Sudharsan was named in India’s squad for the five high-stakes Tests in England. As Sudharsan continued to soar to new heights, Uthappa saw another all-format player in him.

“Now, he’s the Orange Cap holder. That’s mighty impressive. I genuinely believe he’s one of India’s future three-format players, alongside the likes of Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal, all young guns in their own right. Then you’ve got players like Priyansh Arya, Prabhsimran Singh, and so many others stepping up. This is a boiling pot of talent, and I don’t think it’s slowing down anytime soon,” he added.

WTC Final: Will Steve Smith, Travis Head replicate 2023 heroics to keep a strong knockout record going?

LONDON, Jun 9 (Agencies): As Australia prepares for the high-stakes ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final clash against South Africa, plenty of eyeballs will be on their star batters Steve Smith and Travis Head, who proved to be the point of difference during their side’s maiden triumph at The Oval against India back in 2023.

If Australia is to become the first team to defend its ICC World Test Championship crown, it will need Smith and Travis to replicate their past heroics in knockout matches. Otherwise, the pace trio of

Kagiso Rabada, Marco Jansen, and Lungi Ngidi could help the Proteas secure their first-ever world title in international cricket.

During the WTC final against India, it was the 285-run stand for the third wicket between Head (163) and Smith (121) that propelled Australia to 469 after India had them on the backfoot at 76/3 after electing to field first. These two world-class batters essentially outbattled India by themselves as the Asian giants fell to a defeat by 209 runs in a chase of 444 runs, continuing their streak of heartbreaks at ICC events.

Smith has a brilliant record in ICC knock-

out matches, with 584 runs in 12 matches and innings at an average of 58.40, with two centuries and four fifties, with the best score being 121. He is Australia’s ultimate crisis man for big matches, symbolising the much-talked-about ‘Aussie mentality’.

In recent times, Head’s fearless mentality and ability to throw a counter-punch in the face of adversity have benefited the Australian team in ICC knockout matches, having made 419 runs in four such matches across five innings at an average of 104.22, with two centuries and a half-century. His best score is 163. His another century came

against India in the final of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 at Ahmedabad in front of a packed Narendra Modi Stadium, denying India their third World Cup crown after a 10-match win streak.

Smith, at 36, has been in sizzling form as of late, with four centuries in the last five Tests against India and Sri Lanka and with a monkey off his back after crossing 10,000 Test runs. In 19 Tests of the WTC 2023-25 cycle, he has made 1,324 runs at an average of 41.37, with five centuries and four fifties in 35 innings and the best score of 141. He is the sixth-highest run-getter

of this cycle. Head, on the other hand, is at the seventh spot, with 1,177 runs in 19 matches and 34 innings at an average of 35.66 and a stunning strike rate of 81.06. He has scored three centuries and five fifties, with the best score of 152.

Australia squad WTC final: Usman Khawaja, Sam Konstas, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Travis Head, Alex Carey, Josh Inglis, Cameron Green, Beau Webster, Pat Cummins (c), Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Scott Boland, Nathan Lyon, Matt Kuhnemann. Travelling reserve: Brendan Doggett.

NSUI J&K President responds to JU’s Show Cause notice, cites Constitutional rights

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 9: The National Students’ Union of India (NSUI), Jammu & Kashmir unit, held a press conference on Monday under the leadership of its State President Ajay Lakhotra in response to the Show Cause Notice (No. LAW/PU/25/224-228) issued by the Department of Law, University of Jammu on June 4, 2025. The notice pertains to Lakhotra’s participation in a recent peaceful protest against vehicle entry restrictions and environmental policies on campus.

Ajay Lakhotra, who is currently pursuing LL.M (IIIrd Semester) at the University of Jammu, categorically refuted the allegations outlined in the notice, calling them “ambiguous, unsupported, and without legal merit.”

He asserted that his participation in the protest was well within the framework of the Indian



Constitution, particularly invoking Articles 14 (Right to Equality), 19(1) (a) (Freedom of Speech and Expression), and 19(1)(b) (Right to Assemble Peacefully).

“The protest was lawful, peaceful, and aimed at initiating a dialogue on student-centric policies,” said Lakhotra. “The notice contains no concrete evidence of misconduct—no specific instances, no names, no complaints from the university community. As a law student, I deeply value the principles of natural justice, which mandate that any alle-

gation must be supported by verifiable facts.”

Citing landmark judgments such as Ram-lila Maidan Incident v. Home Secretary (2012) and Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020), Lakhotra underscored that the right to peaceful protest is a cornerstone of democratic society. He also pointed to Sahara India Real Estate Corp. Ltd. v. SEBI (2012), warning against the reliance on unverified media reports as evidence. “Trial by media or social media cannot replace due process,” he added.

Lakhotra emphasized that the protest did not disrupt academic or administrative activities, and no formal complaints have been cited by the university in its notice. He urged the administration to either withdraw the notice or provide full transparency by sharing the evidence on which the action is based.

“I remain committed to dialogue and resolution in the interest of the student community,” he stated. “But it is imperative that our constitutional rights, particularly the right to dissent and pro-

test peacefully, are protected in an academic environment.”

The press conference was also attended by District Jammu President Manas Gandhi, Rahul Sharma, Rakesh Chamyal, and several NSUI members who rallied behind Lakhotra and condemned the university’s action as an attempt to silence student activism.

“NSUI will continue to stand for students’ rights and constitutional values,” said Manas Gandhi.

“We urge the University of Jammu to maintain its long-standing tradition of fairness and academic freedom by withdrawing this unjustified notice.”

The NSUI J&K unit reiterated its firm commitment to democratic engagement and the welfare of students, calling on the university to adopt a more inclusive approach to policy-making by actively involving student voices.

NCC Cadets take to the Skies in Poonch at the edge of POJK showcasing nationalism

Top News Report

POONCH, Jun 9: In a historic and unprecedented event, the NCC Cadets of the NCC Directorate Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh participated in a State-level adventure Parasailing camp at the picturesque village of Jhullus in Poonch, barely 500 meters from the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK). This unique adventure activity conducted from 03 to 09 June 2025, was organised by 5 J&K Battalion NCC, Poonch by their dedicated and well-trained team, marking a remarkable milestone in the region’s history.



The event saw the active participation of 100 NCC cadets and Associate NCC Officers from various colleges across the Poonch and Jammu regions. These young NCC Boys & Girls hailing from diverse backgrounds, demonstrated exceptional skills, confidence and bravery in undertaking such a challenging activity, which is considered a significant component of adventure training aimed at building leadership, resilience and national pride among the youth.

This adventure parasailing camp was not only a major achievement in terms of activity execution but also held profound symbolic significance. Coming shortly after the ongoing Operation SINDOOR, a strategic offensive launched by India in May 2025 against terrorist organisations operating from Pakistan’s inhuman heavy artillery shelling on civil population, Col Nareesh Kaushik, Commanding Officer said “the event served as a powerful display of the determination and courage of Indian youth and the successful conduct of this activity, in a sensitive border area facing persistent security challenges, reaffirmed the

resolve of the nation to empower its youth and reinforce their confidence”.

The participants underwent rigorous training sessions, which included safety drills, physical endurance exercises and meticulous planning, culminating in parasailing flights. The NCC cadets, under the watchful guidance of their officers, soared high into the sky, capturing breath-taking views of the border landscape subjugating fears and showcasing their resilience.

The activity was meticulously organised to ensure safety and maximum experiential learning, allowing the NCC cadets not only to challenge their physical limits but also to develop teamwork, leadership and a sense of discipline.

The event was enthusiastically received by the local community, especially the young children, who gathered in large numbers to witness this thrilling activity.

For many, it was a first-time experience seeing NCC cadets undertake such daring feats, inspiring hope, confidence and a sense of nationalism among the local population. These young spectators expressed enthusiasm and pride, seeing their region host

such a game-changing event. The local populace appreciated the efforts of the NCC which has consistently worked towards nurturing a spirit of patriotism and social responsibility within the young generation.

This adventure parasailing camp also served as an effective platform to promote physical fitness, mental resilience and camaraderie among the youth of the border regions, vital for overcoming the psychological and physical challenges posed in the border areas. Such initiatives are crucial to cultivating a generation of motivated, disciplined and patriotic individuals capable of contributing positively toward national security and development.

The successful culmination of the camp not only marked a historic milestone for NCC in Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh but also reinforced the message that with courage, determination and unity, Indian youth can face any challenge head-on.

The event has undoubtedly become a proud chapter in the region’s history of youth empowerment and adventure training, inspiring countless others to follow in the footsteps of these brave NCC cadets.

Dimple submits memorandum to J&K Govt through SSP Traffic, raises alarm over transport crisis in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 9: Sunil Dimple, Chairman of the Jammu Kashmir All Black Auto Union and President Mission Statehood, led a delegation of transporters, black auto owners, and drivers on Monday to the Police Headquarters at Panjithri, where he submitted a detailed memorandum of demands to the Jammu and Kashmir Government through SSP Traffic Jammu, Farooq Qesar.

The delegation, comprising hundreds of affected transporters, highlighted the deepening crisis faced by the black auto and transport industry in Jammu due to government policies. Dimple warned that the direct train service from Delhi to Kashmir could devastate Jammu’s economy by bypassing the region entirely, severely affecting the livelihood of hoteliers,



traders, and local transporters.

He strongly opposed the unchecked sale of E-Rickshaws and black autos in Jammu city, arguing that the market is oversaturated and the existing transport ecosystem is collapsing. “There is no need for more autos in Jammu city; the industry is already on the verge of starvation,” Dimple stated.

Further, Dimple raised serious concerns regarding the operation of E-Rickshaws in the city. He alleged that

many E-Rickshaw drivers are non-locals from states like Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and also include Rohingyas and Burmese nationals. He accused them of being involved in drug peddling and criminal activities, posing a serious law and order issue.

Dimple also pointed out that E-buses often refuse to stop for female passengers despite the provision of free travel for women, and that overloaded E-buses are eating into the earnings of matadors, minibuses, and black autos. He

emphasized the inability of traditional transporters to pay insurance, token fees, or bank installments due to plummeting passenger numbers.

“The stoppage of the Darbar Move has already broken the economic backbone of Jammu. Now the direct train to Kashmir will make Jammu a tourist-less city,” Dimple warned. He urged authorities to ensure that the Jammu railway station is used as the main boarding and de-boarding point for trains

to Kashmir.

The memorandum demanded immediate cessation of E-Rickshaw and black auto sales in the city, a structured zone-wise operation policy for E-Rickshaws, and strict traffic enforcement to control illegal and unsafe practices.

SSP Traffic Jammu, Farooq Qesar, assured the delegation of swift action. He gave immediate instructions for enforcement and promised to forward the memorandum to the J&K Government and the Transport Ministry for necessary steps.

Prominent leaders who joined the delegation included Sanjay Sehthi, Haneef Chowdrey, Ajit Singh, Pawan Sharma, Vijay Kumar, Altaf Shaha, Gurjeet Singh, Satish Manhas, Deepak Gupta, Shamsher Chand, Joginder Kumar, Narinder Kumar, Ramzan Malik, and others.

Director Health Services Jammu convenes District-Level Review Meeting at SDH Bhaderwah

Top News Report

DODA, Jun 9: Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Ab Hamid Zargar, on Monday convened a comprehensive District-Level Review Meeting of Health Programmes at the Conference Hall, Sub-District Hospital Bhaderwah, aimed at evaluating the performance and progress of various health schemes and services in the district.

The meeting was attended by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Doda, Dr. Om Kumar, Dy CMO Doda Dr Sat Lal Manhas, Medical Superintendent AH GMC Doda, Block Medical Officers (BMOs), District and Block Programme Management Units (DPMU/BPMUs), and other senior health officials and staff.

At the outset, Dr. Om Kumar formally welcomed the Director and all participants. He also



presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting key health indicators, achievements, and the overall work done across the district under various health programmes.

During the meeting, Dr. Hamid Zargar held an in-depth review of several critical health agenda points.

These included, Functioning of the Drug and Vaccine Distribution Management System (DVDMS) Portal, Implementation and utilization of eSahaj, Ambulance Services and timely

referrals, Progress under the National TB Elimination Programme, Status of eSanjeevani telemedicine services, Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screening and management, C-section service availability at delivery points, Performance of Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Functionality and maintenance of Oxygen Generation Plants, Implementation of the National Programme for Control of Blindness, Activities under the ASHA programme,

Progress of other flagship National Health Programmes besides Monitoring and reporting under Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) through the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP).

Dr. Zargar appreciated the efforts of the district health team and emphasized the importance of efficient service delivery, timely reporting, and collaborative efforts to meet the set health targets.

He also gave on-spot directions to address gaps in service deliv-

ery and encouraged all stakeholders to work in synergy for the betterment of public health services in Doda district.

He also stressed the need for capacity-building of field staff, regular monitoring, and strengthening grass-roots-level health infrastructure to ensure last-mile delivery of essential services.

The Director urged all programme officers to focus on community engagement, digital reporting, and cross-departmental coordination to achieve the desired outcomes under various health initiatives.

The meeting concluded with a pledge of continued dedication towards strengthening the healthcare infrastructure and ensuring quality healthcare services reach every citizen, especially in far-flung and underserved areas.

Blood Donation Camp organized by Sadhana Foundation, SWG Trading



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 9: In a heartfelt initiative to support critical healthcare needs, Sadhana Foundation, in collaboration with SWG Trading Pvt. Ltd., organized a blood donation camp on Monday at Seerat Complex, Sector 14, Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

The camp aimed to address the ongoing challenge of replacement blood donation, which often burdens patients and families, especially those coming from peripheral districts. The collected blood

units will be used to assist patients battling chronic kidney disease, cancer, anemia, gynecological issues, pregnancy-related complications, and trauma from accidents.

A total of 25 units of blood were donated, with the majority of donors being employees of SWG Trading Pvt. Ltd., showcasing a strong sense of corporate social responsibility and commitment to the well-being of the local community.

Sahil Gupta (CEO), Rajat Gupta (Director), and Sunny Bhat

(DGM) of SWG Trading Pvt. Ltd. extended their appreciation to Shubam Singh Charak, President of Sadhana Foundation, for his leadership in organizing the event.

They also thanked the Bee Enn Blood Centre, Jammu, for their professional handling of the donation process.

The initiative stands as a testament to the power of collaboration in strengthening the region’s healthcare infrastructure and promoting a culture of voluntary blood donation for those in need.