

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Record booking in Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat

JAMMU, Jun 12 (Agencies): The Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express has received a huge response with record bookings in the past six days, while seats have also been booked in advance for the next two weeks.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 6 officially flagged off the Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat from Katra and dedicated the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla (USBRL) rail link to the nation.

"The train is completely packed for the next two weeks," said a railway official.

"No seat is available till June 26 in two Vande Bharat Express trains running from Katra to Srinagar and vice versa," he added.

He added that seats have also been booked for the month of July, adding, "The annual Amarnath Yatra is starting from July 3, and a heavy rush is expected in view of that."

He said that apart from tourists and pilgrims, a large number of locals are also travelling by the rail that covers the distance in three hours.

Former chief minister and National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah also travelled to Katra from Srinagar in Vande Bharat and paid obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

He expressed that it was his dream to travel by train from Srinagar, and it has been fulfilled. Abdullah hoped that tourism would flourish in Jammu and Kashmir with the start of the train.

The USBRL project provided seamless rail connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country.

The high-speed train service significantly reduced travel time between Katra and Srinagar, providing a safe, efficient, and comfortable option for both locals and tourists.

Crossing the architectural marvel, situated at a height of 359 meters above the river, the world's highest railway arch bridge, the Chenab bridge, and the first cable-stayed Anji rail bridge, both parts of the USBRL project, the Vande Bharat travels through a scenic route, passing through tunnels and various valleys, offering panoramic views of the Himalayan region.

## 'Many killed' as Air India plane with 242 on board crashes near Ahmedabad airport

AHMEDABAD, Jun 12 (Agencies): An Air India plane bound for London crashed in a locality near Ahmedabad airport Thursday afternoon soon after taking off, police said.

Casualties are feared though there is no confirmation on the same yet.

"Flight AI171, operating Ahmedabad-London Gatwick, was involved in an incident today, 12 June 2025. At this moment, we are ascertaining the details and will share further updates at the earliest on <http://airindia.com> and on our X handle," Air India posted on X.

The aircraft crashed in Meghaninagar area of Ahmedabad, police said. The plane crashed soon after taking off



from Ahmedabad International Airport around 2 pm, police said.

"We are acquiring details about the casualties," said Deputy Commissioner of Police, Kanan Desai.

Fire tenders were rushed to the spot to douse the blaze, said fire officer Jayesh Khadia.

Several injured persons were taken to city civil hospital, an official said.

A large plume of black smoke was seen rising from the locality soon after the crash. Emergency responders reached the site promptly and have launched intensive rescue.

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## PM takes stock of plane crash incident; Asks Aviation Minister to ensure all necessary support

NEW DELHI, Jun 12 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday spoke to Civil Aviation Minister K Ram-mohan Naidu and took stock of the plane crash at the Ahmedabad airport.

The Boeing 787 aircraft operating the flight AI 171 from Ahmedabad to Gatwick (the UK) crashed immediately after take off. There were 242 people, including 12 crew members, onboard.

Modi personally spoke to Naidu and took stock of the Air India plane crash incident in Ahmed-



abad, an official at the civil aviation minister's office said.

"The minister informed the prime minister that he is rushing to Ahmedabad to oversee rescue and relief operations on the ground."

"The prime minister has directed the minis-

ter to ensure all necessary support is extended immediately and asked to be kept regularly updated on the situation," the official said.

Further, the official said all relevant agencies are on high alert, and coordinated efforts are underway.

Modi also spoke to Home Minister Amit Shah.

The prime minister has asked both Shah and Naidu to go to Ahmedabad and ensure all possible assistance is extended to those affected in the wake of the air mishap, officials said.

## Fostering environmental stewardship among youngsters, reconnecting with nature, need of hour: Sakeena

### Calls for collective efforts for environmental preservation



#### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 12: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ittoo on Thursday emphasised



on the urgent need of reconnecting with nature and foster environmental stewardship among the young generation, especially college and school going students. The Minister made

these remarks while addressing a gathering held in the backdrop of World Environment Day-2025 week celebrations at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Kot-

hibagh here today.

Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Ittoo; Chief Education Officer, Srinagar;

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## BJP LoP Sunil Sharma meets LG, seeks intervention in Naib Tehsildar aspirants' issue



SRINAGAR, Jun 12: Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Legislative Assembly called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Thursday. He was accompanied by Sat Sharma, President, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu Kashmir Union Territory.

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## GoC Whiteknight Corps reviews security situation in Rajouri, Doda

JAMMU, Jun 12 (Agencies): General Officer Commanding White knight Corps Lieutenant General PK Mishra on Thursday visited forward posts and hinterland bases in Rajouri and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir to assess the security situation in the region.

He commented the

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## CISF secures two most sensitive jails in J&K

SRINAGAR, Jun 12 (Agencies): The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has taken over the security of the two most secure central jails in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The development comes almost three years after CISF took over the security of Jammu and Srinagar

airports from the Jammu and Kashmir Police. Fine dining reservations

In a post on X, CISF said it takes immense pride in securing Srinagar Jail, ensuring a robust and vigilant security presence at all times.

"Our dedicated personnel operate with the highest standards of professionalism to safe-

guard this critical institution," the post said.

The CISF, which is usually responsible for the security of central government offices, airports, seaports, Metro facilities, and some industrial units, has now taken over the charge of two high-security jails-the Srinagar Central Jail and Central Jail Jammu.

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# GupShup

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**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Mrs. Sohniee Lata (Kaki)**, w/o Roshan Lal Dhar originally from Bumhama, Kupwara, A/P Flat No 15, Block 30, Lane 7, Jagti Nagrota, Jammu on 07/06/2025.

**Tenth Day Kriya & Assembly** will be performed on 16/06/2025 at Muthi Ghat near Director Education office, Jammu at 8 AM. **Mourning** after 10th Day Kriya will be observed at Community Hall, Lane 05, Jagti Nagrota.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Roshan Lal (Husband)  
Akhilesh Dhar (Son)  
Kashi Nath Dhar (Brother-in-law)  
Brother in law & Sister in law  
Smt. and Sh. Krishan Lal Dhar  
Smt. and Sh. Vinod Kumar Dhar  
Smt. and Sh. Sunil Kumar  
Smt. Phoola Raina (Sister in law)  
Sh. Suraj Prakash Pandita (Brother in law)  
Smt. Chuni Ji Pandita (Bua)  
Deeply Missed by:  
Ankit, Meenu, Archit, Hardick, Manika, Meisha, Prakriti.  
Dhar's, Raina's, Pandita's, Bhat's

Contact: 9419223118, 7006342843

Mrs. Sohniee Lata  
(Kaki)**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sad and untimely demise of **Smt. Dimpy Dhar Bhat**, wife of Sh. Lalit Kumar Bhat. Originally from Fatehpura Anantnag and presently residing at Flat No. 205, Mahagun Apartments, Shalimar Garden Ext-1, opposite Hyundai showroom, Wazirabad Road, Ghaziabad, UP

The **Tenth Day Kriya** for our dearly departed Smt. Dimpy Dhar will be observed on Monday, June 16, 2025, at Murad Nagar Ghat at 9:00 AM.

**GRIEF-STRICKEN FAMILY**

Sh. Lalit Kumar Bhat - Husband (Mob: 9560697780)  
Osheen Bhat - Daughter  
Tanishka Bhat - Daughter  
Smt. Mohan Rani - Mother-in-law  
Sh. Sanjay Bhat & Minakshi Bhat (Mob: 7011998340)  
Smt. Basanti Bhat & Sh. Suneel Bhat (Mob: 9723450223)  
Samast Bhat Parivaar

SMT. DIMPY DHAR  
BHAT**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, Bantialab, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 5/6/2025. Mourning shall be held at our residence.

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Shanku Raina - Wife  
Sonu Kumar Raina & Arti Raina (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Sandeep Raina & Anu Raina (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
(Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Shanu Raina Dhar & Bharat Bhushan Dhar  
Jagat Nath Raina & Sarla 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 Dhat, Radhika Raina, Ashvik Dhar, Kiera Raina  
Mob.: 9697550445



Sh. Mohan Lal Raina

**MOURNING/TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Dura Mota Kundu** W/o Late Sh. Sampat Prakash Kundu originally resident of Kalyan Rainawari Srinagar, at present H.No. 240, Sector-2 Upper Roop Nagar Jammu. The **Mourning** will be held at H.No. 240, Sector-2 Upper Roop Nagar Jammu.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be held at Muthi Ghat on 18-06-2025 at 9:00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

**SONS & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW:**  
Er. Lenin Kundu & Shivarchana Kundu  
Er. Ravinder Kundu & Sandhya Kundu  
**DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW:**  
Smt. Superna & Sh. Sanjay Pandita  
**BROTHER-IN-LAWS & SISTER-IN-LAWS**  
Sh. S.P. Kundu & Smt. Asha Ji Kundu  
Sh. Kamlesh Kundu  
Sh. Vijay Kundu & Usha Ji Kundu  
Smt. Asha Kundu  
**SISTER-IN-LAW & BROTHER-IN-LAW:**  
Smt. Raj Dulari Wali  
Smt. Bimla & Sh. Manmohan Koul  
Smt. Darji & Sh. Raja Ji Munshi  
**GRAND CHILDREN:** Bhagirathi, Ravant & Tejashvi, Samantha  
(Samast Kundu Pariwar)  
9419191102, 9419149720, 9419287429



Smt. Dura Mota Kundu

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Somawati (Chanda)** W/o Late Sh. Mahashwar Nath Bhat originally from Fatehpura (Bongam) Anantnag, Kashmir who left for heavenly abode on 11/6/2025.

Address: H.No. 89 B, Lane B, Sector 2, Durga Nagar, Jammu.

**Tenth Day** shall be performed on 20/6/2025 at Muthi Ghat, Jammu from 7 AM to 9 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. & Sh. Rattan Lal Bhat - Son  
Smt. & Sh. Triloki Nath Bhat - Son  
Daughters & Sons-in-law  
Smt. & Sh. Hari Krishan Pandit  
Smt. & Sh. Maharaj Krishan Raina  
Phone No.: 9796265894, 9419200729, 9419216019, 8899453009  
Malun Side Mourning will be held at above address.



Smt. Somawati (Chanda)

**10TH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Mr M. L. Toofan Deputy Commissioner (Retd)** Custom and Central Excise, Kathua on June 3, 2025.

**10TH DAY** will be held at his residence Lane Number 3, Patel Nagar Kathua on 12th June Thursday at 10 AM.

**KRIYA** will be held at residence on 13th June (Friday) at 12 onwards.

**RASAM PAGRI / UTHALA** will be held on 14th June (Saturday) 5 PM to 6 PM at AVALON RESIDENCY National Highway, Kalibari Kathua.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Mrs. Shub Lata (Wife)  
(Son and Daughter-in-law)  
Mr. Anil Sharma and Mrs. Vasudha  
Daughter & Son in law  
Pratika Sharma & Ajay Sharma  
Brother & Bhabhi  
Mr. OF Sharma and Mrs. Nimai  
Mr. Suninder Sharma & Mrs. Meena  
Mr. Ashok Sharma & Mrs. Rajani  
Mr. B B Sharma & Mrs. Manika  
Mr. Ran. Prasad Sharma & Mrs. Shobha  
Mr. Sham Prasad Sharma and Mrs. Chhavi Chitroy  
**Mother-in-Law**  
Mrs. Sham Kanta W/o Late Sh. Dhani Ram  
**Co-Brother & Sister-in-law**  
Shri Mohinder Nath Asst. Commissioner (Retd) and Mrs. Neelam

MR M. L. TOOFAN  
Deputy Commissioner (Retd)

Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law  
Mr. Vijay Sharma and Mrs. Neelam  
Mrs. Shashi Sharma, Wife of Late Jyoti Sharma,  
Mrs. Yashu, W/o Late Smt. Ram Prasad Sharma,  
Mr. Rajkumar and Mrs. Sunita  
Mr. Jagdeep Paul and Mrs. Anju  
Mr. Sanjay Sharma & Mrs. Neelam

**10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of beloved **Smt. Usha Kiran Sharma** W/o Lt. Sh. Bharat Bhushan Magotra R/o 767-C, Chowdri Road, Sainik Colony, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 2-6-2025 (Monday).

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 11-06-2025 (Wednesday) from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at our residence in Sainik Colony.

**Kriya** will be performed on 12-06-2025 (Thursday) from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at our residence in Sainik Colony.  
**Uthala** will be performed on 13-06-2025 (Friday) from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM at Laxmi Narayan Mandir at Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Krishna Devi - Mother  
Son & Daughter-in-law  
Nishesh & Dr. Eva Sharma (Asst. Prof. GDC, Kathua)  
Sisters & Brothers-in-law  
Smt. Shashi Kiran & Sh. Surinder Sharma  
Smt. Suman & Sh. Ravinder Sharma  
Dr. Poonam (J&K Health Services) & Dr. Vinod Sharma (Health Officer, JMC)  
Brothers & Sisters-in-law  
Sh. Hari Krishan & Smt. Deepika Sharma  
Sh. Pratap Krishan & Smt. Shamah Sharma  
Sh. Avtar Krishan & Smt. Manu Sharma  
Grand Daughter: Nebesa Magotra  
Contact Details: 9103552520, 7006556946, 9419145269



SMT. USHA KIRAN SHARMA

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely demise of our beloved **Smt Dimpy Ji D/o Sh Prem Nath Dhar of Zainapora Kashmir & W/o Sh Lalit Kumar Bhat** of Fatehpura Anantnag Kashmir at her residence i.e. Flat No 205 Mahagun Apartment Shalimar Garden Ext-1 opposite Hyundai Showroom Wazirabad Road Ghaziabad U.P. on 07-06-25.

**10TH DAY KRIYA** to be done on 16th June (Monday).

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Smt. Mohan Rani W/o Lt. Sh. Mohan Lal Bhat  
Sh. Sanjay Bhat & Minakshi Bhat (Mob: 7011998340)  
Smt. Basanti Bhat & Sh. Suneel Bhat (9723450223)



SMT DIMPY JI

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Sanjay Sharma** S/o Late Sh. Surinder Nath R/o Ward No. 7, Hiranagar on Wednesday 04 Jun, 2025.

**Tenth Day** Kriya will be performed on 13 Jun, 2025 at our residence at 12:00 Noon.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Rakha Rani - Wife  
Navish Balotra - Son  
Siya Balotra - Daughter  
Radhika Balotra - Daughter  
Amir Sharma - Brother  
Nidhi Sharma - Sister-in-law  
Parikshit Balotra - Cousin  
Pratiba Sharma - Sister  
Sh. Ravi Sharma - Brother-in-law  
All Balotra Family  
Mob.No: 8892940054, 990029249

SANJAY SHARMA  
22/12/1971 - 04/06/2025

Ex. President Youth Federation, Hiranagar,  
President NMOPS Association, Distt Kathua,  
President Physical Training & Education Teachers Association Distt. Kathua.

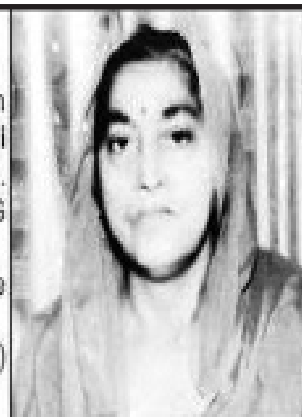
**10TH DAY / KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely demise of our beloved **Smt Gayatri Devi (W/o Late Sh Ram Murti Baru)** R/o Ward No. 11 opposite Trikuta Ice Factory near Old DIG office, Vaishnavi Dham Lane Udhampur.

**10th Day** will be performed on 12th June (Thursday) 2025 at 11:00 AM at our residence.  
**Kriya** will be performed on 13th June (Friday) 2025 from 9:00 AM onwards at Devika Ghat.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

(Sons & Daughters in law)  
Sh Manmohan Baru & Smt Swarna Devi  
Sh Ashok Baru & Rashmi  
(Daughter & Son in law)  
Sh Kuldeep Khajuria & Smt Madhu Khajuria  
Mob : 9419158468



Smt Gayatri Devi

**10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT TRIPTA DEVI** W/O LATE SH HAN RAJ KHAJURIA R/O H.NO. 126 SECTOR 6 VIKAS NAGAR PATOU SARWAL ROAD JAMMU ON 04-06-2025.

**TENTH DAY** WILL BE PERFORMED ON FRIDAY 13TH JUNE 2025 AT HARI MANDIR REHARI COLONY JAMMU FROM 10 AM TO 11 AM.

**KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON SATURDAY, 14TH JUNE 2025 AT OUR RESIDENCE AT 12:00 (NOON).

**UTHALA** SHALL ALSO BE PERFORMED AT HARI MANDIR REHARI COLONY JAMMU ON SATURDAY, 14TH JUNE 2025 FROM 4:30 PM TO 5:30 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

**SONS & DAUGHTERS IN LAW**  
MR DEEPAK KHAJURIA & MRS KRAN KHAJURIA  
MR VIJAY KHAJURIA & MRS GIRJA KHAJURIA  
**DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW**  
MRS NEELAM SHARMA & MR VIJAY SHARMA  
MOB : 7889899258, 8803564691



SMT TRIPTA DEVI

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Parneshwari Dhar** W/o Lt. Sh. Prem Nath Dhar R/o Y.K. Pora Qazqind, presently at H.No. 71/C Om Nagar Udhaywala Bhorl 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 A.M. at Muthi Ghat (near Director School of Education)

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

Sh. Shadi Lal Dhar and Sushma Dhar (Son and Daughter-in-law)  
Smt. Pooja Handia and Sh. M.K. Handia (Daughter and Son-in-law)  
Smt. Kiran Pandita and Sh. Nareg Pandita (Daughter and Son-in-law)  
Smt. Preeti Dhar W/o Lt. D.N. Dhar (Sister-in-law)  
Sh. Raj Lal Dhar and Virendra Ji Dhar (Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law)  
Sh. Bhushan Lal Dhar and Asha Ji Dhar (Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law)  
Smt. Phoola Saporo and Sh. P.K. Saporo (Daughter and Son-in-law)  
Sh. Avtar Krishan Dhar and Smt. Anji Ji Dhar (Son and Daughter-in-law)  
Sh. Rajinder Dhar (Son)  
Sh. Rakesh Dhar and Smt. Rakhi Dhar (Son and Daughter-in-law)  
Smt. Renu Pandita and Sh. Rajesh Ji Pandita (Daughter and Son-in-law)  
Smt. Sangeta Dhar and Sh. Sanjay Dhar (Daughter and Son-in-law)  
Smt. Anila Razdan and Sh. Sanjay Razdan (Daughter and Son-in-law)  
Grand Children : Rishi Narayan, Rajat, Saham, Pooja, Shiv, Aksh, Ayush, Riya, Anshu  
Mob. : 9419505615, 9622363909



Smt Parneshwari 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)

Babli 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 & 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, Butia 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  
Preety 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  
979691188, 7298019810, 9622156162



Smt. Rekha Pandita

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Raj Rathani Koul (Mohini Thusoo Koul)** W/o Late Sh. T.N. Koul, House No. 11, Sector 2, Pamposh Colony Janipur Main Stop, who left for heavenly abode on 06-06-2025.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 15/6/2025 Sunday at 8:30 am at Muthi Ghat, (near Directorate of School education) Jammu

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Son and Daughter in law  
Ashok Koul H/o Lt. Smt. Girja Dhar Koul  
Roop Krishan Koul and Rita Koul  
Surinder Koul and Manorama Reshi Koul  
Phoola Chowdry W/o Lt. Sh. Surinder Chowdry (Daughter)  
Grand Children's : Suhagni Bhat, Parkha Kaul, Vaibhav Kaul, Hemangi Koul, Anukta Koul, Rishab Kaul  
Jalali's, Fotedar's, Kaul's, Magloo's, Thusoo's

Smt. Raj Rathani Koul  
(Mohini Thusoo Koul)**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Mrs. Meena Kumari** W/o Sh. Bhagwan Singh Kharwal, House No. 176, Sector-2 Vinayak Nagar, near Sham Palace who left for the heavenly abode on 05-06-2025. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 13-06-2025 (Friday) at 10:00 AM. The **Kriya/Rasam Pagri** will be held at our residence on (Saturday) 14-06-2025 at 12 Noon.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

Sh. B.S. Kharwal - (Husband)  
Mr. Rishi Kumar (Son)  
Mr. Amit Kumar (Son)  
Daughter & Son in Law  
Mrs. Sonia Sambyal and Mr. Rahul  
Mrs. Ambika Jasrotia and Amitesh  
Mrs. Neha Bhat and Mr. Anil Pratap Singh  
In-Law Family  
KHARWAL, KATOCH, PATHANIA AND SEN FAMILY  
Mob- 7889769108, 7889615370, 8492858132, 7051425953



Mrs. Meena Kumari

**OBITUARY**

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Veena Raina (alias Teja Kumari)** W/o Sh. Raj Nath Raina R/o Tailwani Ang. (Kmr) at present MP2-602, Eldeco Amantran, Sector 119, Noida (UP) on 08.06.2025 due to prolonged illness.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 17.06.2025 (Tuesday) at Muradnagar Ghat UP and the assembly will be held at our Noida residence at 10:30 AM

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Sh. Raj Nath Raina (Husband)  
Smt. & Sh. Sunil Raina (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Smt. & Sh. Anil Raina (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
And Samast parivars of Rainas, Panditas, Bhats, Safayas, & Marhattas.  
Contact Nos. 9541057750, 9419194572, 9622181347

SMT. VEENA RAINA  
(ALIAS TEJA KUMARI)**DISCLAIMER**

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# CCI Jammu President vows 24x7 availability, raises key issues affecting Jammu

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 12: Arun Gupta, newly re-elected President of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI), addressed a press conference at Chamber House on Thursday and assured members of his unwavering commitment and round-the-clock availability for the redressal of grievances.

In his third consecutive term as President, Arun Gupta emphasized that the Chamber's role extends beyond trade and industry interests, highlighting its consistent engagement with pressing social and developmental issues in the region. "During our previous term, we brought several key matters to light. However, many challenges remain that require urgent attention," he said.

Among the priority issues he outlined were the demand for an Industrial Package for existing industries, turnover incentives, and



the development of new commercial markets to decongest Jammu's old city areas. He further urged the government to resolve lease-related property issues swiftly and expedite major infrastructural projects such as the River Tawi Front and Artificial Lake, calling for their completion within a defined timeline.

Positioning the Chamber as a vigilant and responsible institution, he reiterated its commitment to safeguard Jammu's interests and push for its emergence as a prominent tourist destination.

He also expressed

heartfelt gratitude to members for reposing trust in his leadership and sought their continued cooperation to make the Chamber "strong, effective and a model for others."

Arun Gupta also criticized the recent government notification regarding recruitment of Naib Tehsildars, which made Urdu a mandatory qualification.

Terming the move discriminatory against the educated youth of Jammu, he questioned the rationale behind it when revenue records are already available in English, Urdu, and Hindi. He appealed

to the government to amend the notification at the earliest.

Concluding the press conference, Arun Gupta extended sincere thanks to the Election President Shiv Partap Gupta,

Chief Election Observer Prithvi Raj Gupta, and Election Committee Members Manmohan Singh, Vijay Gupta, and Kulbhushan Gupta (Manu) for conducting peaceful, transparent, and fair elections.

The press conference was attended by other office bearers of the Chamber, including Anil Gupta (Senior Vice President), Rajeev Gupta (Junior Vice President), Rajesh Gupta (Secretary), and Rajesh Gupta (Treasurer), who reaffirmed their support to the President's vision for a stronger, progressive Jammu.

## Labour Department observes World Day Against Child Labour at GMHSS Ramban



## Top News Report

RAMBAN, Jun 12 : To commemorate the World Day Against Child Labour, the Labour Department Ramban, in collaboration with Government Model Higher Secondary School (GMHSS), Ramban, organized an awareness programme under the global theme "Progress is clear, but there's more to do. Let's speed up our efforts."

The event was presided over by Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Ramban, Amit Kumar, along with Principal GMHSS Ramban, Kewal Krishan Sharma, and Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Ramban, Nighat Ganai, in the presence of school staff, students, and other stakeholders.

While addressing the gathering, the ALC highlighted the need to continue and accelerate efforts to eradicate child labour. He stated that although progress has been made through legal frameworks and awareness campaigns, a united and sustained community response is

essential to address the root causes and protect every child's right to education and a dignified life.

The Principal appreciated the initiative and emphasized that education is the most powerful tool in combating child labour. He encouraged students to take an active role in raising awareness within their families and localities.

The Chairperson CWC urged parents, teachers, and community leaders to remain vigilant and report any instances of child labour.

She elaborated on the mechanisms in place to safeguard children and reiterated the importance of collaborative efforts to eliminate exploitation.

Other key speakers included Lovepreet Singh from employment delivered a lecture on Career options and Project coordinator Mudansir Jiral highlighted the role of child helpline.

The event concluded with an interactive awareness session by the participants to uphold child rights and contribute towards building a child labour-free society in the district.

# World Elder Abuse Awareness Day observed by Senior Citizens' Welfare Association in Jammu

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 12: The Association for the Welfare of Senior Citizens (Regd.), Jammu (J&K), observed World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) by organizing an awareness programme at Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.



Celebrated annually on June 15, WEAAD is a global initiative to raise awareness against the abuse and neglect faced by elderly people and to promote their rights and dignity.

In a detailed press note, the association highlighted that elder abuse is a growing concern both in developing and developed nations. While the extent of abuse is often under-reported, its implications are significant. The association stressed the need for a multi-pronged approach to address this issue, emphasizing the moral responsibility to protect older individuals from any form of ill-treatment. It was pointed out that while several Western countries have streamlined legal mechanisms in line with the UN Charter to safeguard elder rights, the progress in Jammu and Kashmir remains sluggish.

As part of the programme, the association approached con-

cerned authorities and called for a stronger role of media in spreading awareness. The aim is to enhance public sensitivity towards the self-respect and dignity of older individuals. Among the key suggestions was involving stakeholders such as the Department of Social Welfare, Education, Municipal Corporations, caregivers, and local leaders in initiatives to combat elder abuse. The association also proposed organizing essay and debate competitions in local colleges and schools to engage the youth and promote awareness from an early age.

The association also appealed to the press, educational institutions, and the general public to participate actively in the campaign against elder abuse. It called for awareness drives that educate people

about recognizing signs of abuse, ways to report it, and how to support affected individuals.

In addition, the association laid out several practical steps to help prevent elder abuse. These include listening attentively to the elderly, educating oneself and others about identifying abuse, learning how the symptoms of abuse differ from normal aging, reaching out to isolated elderly individuals, and supporting caregivers or older persons dealing with substance issues.

The event concluded with a strong message that protection and respect for the elderly is not just a social duty, but a collective moral obligation. The Association for the Welfare of Senior Citizens reaffirmed its commitment to fighting elder abuse and ensuring a safe, dignified life for all senior citizens.

## JMC, Urban Forestry Division launch 'Clean Jammu Green Jammu' campaign



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 12: In a significant step towards promoting environmental sustainability, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) in collaboration with the Urban Forestry Division Jammu launched the "Clean Jammu Green Jammu" campaign on Thursday.

The campaign was formally inaugurated by Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav, who led the initiative by planting a sapling, symbolizing the start of a city-wide plantation drive.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Swachhata

Champions of various wards, media personnel from both print and electronic outlets, and officers from both departments.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Yadav emphasized the urgent need for enhancing green cover in the city, especially in light of rising temperatures. Under the joint initiative, around 60,000 saplings will be planted across Jammu city before August 15, 2025, he informed and urged upon the citizens to actively participate in this noble campaign and contribute towards making Jammu a cleaner and greener city.

Each sapling will be tagged with a QR code, providing detailed infor-

mation about the species and the individual who has adopted it. "We urge citizens to adopt a tree in their own name or in the name of their mother," said Dr. Yadav and added, "so that together we can convert vacant spaces into green zones and bring long-term environmental relief to our city."

Among others, Joint Commissioner Health and Sanitation Abdul Star, Divisional Forest Officer, Urban Forestry Division Jammu, Ashwani Kumar Mittal, Chief Transport Officer, Dharamveer Singh, IEC Incharge Dr. Divya Sharma, and AFO Rabia Khan were also present on the occasion.

## Bureaucracy turns blind eye towards sufferings of masses amid unbearable heatwave: Manjit Singh

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 12: Apni Party's Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh has raised serious concern over the ignorant attitude adopted by the bureaucracy towards the suffering of the people in Jammu region, facing heatwave with frequent electricity cuts and irregular drinking water supplies.

"The plains are badly hit with the frequent power cuts that have put the lives of the people to suffer, when the mercury has touched over 45 degree Celsius with no hopes for rainfall," said S. Manjit Singh in his address.

He was addressing a joining program that was organised by the Apni Party active member, Farooq Chauhan.

Recalling the difficulties faced by the people during the ongoing summer season, he said that the water supply system has collapsed in Kandi belt and the concerned Jal Shakti Department has failed to supply water through water tanks to the needy people.

"People can be seen hiring water from the private tankers. The summers have put additional financial burden on the pockets of the people, who shall get the benefit from the Govt. It is the inability of the Govt as well as the administration that the people's suffering has multiplied," he added.

He demanded that the electricity should be supplied round the clock and the power cuts schedule shall be reduced to as much as possible.

He also demanded to waive off the electricity bills, and drinking

water bills.

"The bills shall not be charged to the people. The J&K Govt and the administration shall act as a welfare state and provide all possible respite to the people," he added.

Meanwhile, he demanded that the canal water shall be supplied to the tail-end villagers in kandi belt to the farmers so that they can water their agricultural fields.

Earlier, a prominent social activist, Pankaj Gupta along with his supporters joined the Apni Party here at Gandhi Nagar office in Jammu.

In a ceremony organised at the Party office, Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh chaired the occasion.

On this occasion, prominent social and political activist, Pankaj Gupta alongwith dozens of his supporters joined the Party.

## Sunrise Educational Trust organizes joyful summer camp for underprivileged children

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 12: In a heartfelt initiative to bring smiles, learning, and creativity into young lives, sunrise educational trust successfully organized a vibrant Summer Camp 2025 for children from underserved communities at Sunrise Public School, Channi Himmat.

Children participating, the summer camp was filled with engaging activities including art & craft, storytelling, games, music, yoga, and environmental education. The event aimed not only to entertain but also to promote holistic development, confidence-building, and teamwork among the children.

"Our goal was to give these children a safe, fun-filled space to express themselves and learn through play," said Rajesh Sharma, NGO Head, Sunrise Educational Trust. "Many of them don't

get opportunities like this, and seeing their happiness is our biggest reward."

Special sessions on health & hygiene, basic life skills, and motivational talks.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-Auction Notice**  
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Jammu for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Jammu Division.

| Catalogue No.           | Auction Start            | Name of Work   |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Parking-JAT-PTK-MX-3-25 | 17.06.2025 at 11:30 Hrs. | Allotment of Parking Contract at Pathankot Junction Railway station for a period of 3 Years. |

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in)  
No.: 1-JAT-eAuction-2025 Date: 05.06.2025 1736/2025

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**(E-Auction Notice)**  
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (<https://irps.gov.in/>) for the allotment of under mention contracts at following Railway stations/locations:

| E-Catalogue No. | Date & Time of bidding  | Railway Stations/Locations/Lots           |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Parking-23-2025 | 27.06.2025 at 11:00 Hrs. (no 29 (Mix Parking)) = Total 1 Site | Near Mandawali Chander Vihar Halt and ROB |

Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen : <https://irps.gov.in/>

All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:

- Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module -Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module. - Payment of One Time Registration Fee;
- Current Account in State Bank of India; - Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account; - Lien Marking of Funds; - Updation of Turnover Details;
- Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender /E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query : Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055. Email: [pkg.delhidivision@gmail.com](mailto:pkg.delhidivision@gmail.com) Tel: 011-23743084  
No.: 23AC/393/E-Auction/Pkg/2025 Dated: 11.06.2025 1747/2025

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION REASI**  
  
**CORRIGENDUM**

**Subject:-** 1. Constructio of Resource Room at Govt. Middle School Khouri Zone ARNAS under SAMAGRA.  
2. Construction of Niabat Building at Chakalwala, Reasi  
3. Construction of Secondary Boundary Wall at Govt High School Theoth Zone Pouni District Reasi (under PAB 2024-25)

**Reference:-** This office e-NIT No. 05 of 2025-26 Dated 24-04-2025

The above mentioned e-NIT for subject Work is hereby cancelled as after opening of financial bid it has been found that the rates quoted by two bidders are same (tied bid).

**DIP/J-1996/25**

No:- 1606-10  
Dated: 10/06/2025

**SD/-**  
(Er.Pawan Kumar Bogia)  
Executive Engineer  
PWD(R&B) Division  
Reasi.



EDITORIAL

Safety for Air Passengers

Air travel is one of the fastest and most convenient modes of transportation in the modern world. With millions of passengers flying daily across the globe, safety becomes a top priority for airlines, regulatory bodies, airport authorities, and aircraft manufacturers. Ensuring the safety of air passengers involves multiple layers of precaution, regulation, and technology designed to minimize risks and respond swiftly to emergencies.

One of the primary reasons air travel is considered safe is the strict safety standards imposed on aircraft manufacturing and maintenance. Every commercial aircraft undergoes rigorous design testing, simulation, and certification by aviation authorities such as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). These aircraft are built with multiple redundant systems, meaning that even if one component fails, backups are in place to take over.

Regular maintenance is another critical aspect of aircraft safety. Airlines follow strict schedules for routine inspections, engine checks, and part replacements. Maintenance crews are specially trained and certified to ensure that no part of the aircraft is compromised.

Before passengers even board a flight, multiple security layers are in place to ensure their safety. Airports use advanced technology such as body scanners, X-ray machines, and metal detectors to screen passengers and luggage. Security personnel are trained to detect suspicious behavior, and many airports also have bomb-sniffing dogs and surveillance systems.

Additionally, passenger information is screened against global watch lists to identify potential threats before boarding. Airport access to restricted areas is tightly controlled, and only authorized personnel are allowed into critical sections like the cockpit or baggage handling zones.

Inside the aircraft, various safety features are designed to protect passengers during the flight. Seat belts, oxygen masks, life vests, and emergency exit lights are standard on all commercial flights. Flight attendants are trained professionals who know how to handle a wide range of emergencies including medical situations, fire, turbulence, and emergency landings.

Pre-flight safety briefings and demonstrations are provided to ensure all passengers know how to use safety equipment and understand emergency procedures. In many cases, in-flight safety cards are available in seat pockets for quick reference.

Pilots undergo intense training before they are allowed to fly commercial aircraft. They must log hundreds of hours of flight experience, pass written and practical exams, and go through regular simulations and health checks. Pilots are trained to handle various emergency scenarios such as engine failure, extreme weather, and loss of communication.

Moreover, co-pilot systems and autopilot technologies add layers of safety by reducing human error. Communication between air traffic control and pilots ensures smooth coordination and helps avoid mid-air collisions.

Modern aviation heavily relies on technology for safety. Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems track every aircraft in real-time, while Ground Proximity Warning Systems (GPWS), weather radar, and Collision Avoidance Systems (TCAS) help pilots make better decisions during flight.

Aircraft black boxes, or flight data recorders, are crucial for analyzing incidents and improving safety protocols. Innovations like AI-based predictive maintenance and real-time monitoring of aircraft components are also making air travel even safer.

Airlines and airports conduct regular emergency drills and simulations to prepare for rare but possible events such as hijackings, fires, or crashes. Emergency response teams, including medical staff and fire brigades, are always on standby. Passengers are also encouraged to cooperate during emergencies by following crew instructions without panic.

While much of the responsibility lies with airlines and authorities, passengers also play a role in ensuring their safety. Following safety instructions, wearing seat belts when advised, not interfering with crew duties, and avoiding dangerous items in luggage are basic yet essential steps. Being aware of emergency exits and reading the safety card before takeoff can also make a big difference during an unexpected event.

Air travel remains one of the safest modes of transportation, thanks to a robust system of checks, technology, and trained professionals. From the construction of aircraft to the training of pilots and the implementation of airport security, every aspect of air travel is designed with passenger safety in mind. Continued investment in safety innovations, global cooperation, and public awareness will ensure that flying remains not only convenient but also highly secure for generations to come.

Jammu Region Sizzling under Scorching Heat

By: Omkar Dattatray

Jammu is reeling in scorching heat which seems unprecedented and Jammuties are cursing their fate for having to face,brace and tolerate the very hot and humid climate.Jammu is in the grip of an acute and intense heat wave which has made their life uneasy and difficult.This heat wave in Jammu is compounded by the very low voltage and electricity crisis which the people of Jammu are made to face despite paying huge electricity bills. Even metered colonies and areas are facing power crisis in these intense heat wave conditions which has made their life a hell and this heat wave will continue as per the forecast of the weather men and we Jammuties are destined to face this heat wave for many more days till the monsoon will arrive Jammu and Kashmir and then and only then people will feel a sigh of relief from the intense heatwave.Jammu temperature has crossed 43 degree Celsius and it is a night marsh experience for Jammuties.Daily there is increase in the mercury and it has made our life very troublesome and difficult. Water and Power are the basic prerequisites for human life and their need increases exponentially during hot and humid season and there is need for uninterrupted water and electric supply in Jammu.But as ill luck have to the people of Jammu ,as they are facing acute shortage of water and electricity that too during the summer which has compounded the woes of the people.In fact electricity is playing hide and seek with the consumers and the people of Jammu are facing unprecedented water and power crisis and it has turned the life of people into a hell.Intense and unprecedented heat wave coupled with the water and power woes has made life of Jammuties very

difficult as they are forced to spend time without adequate water and power.It seems that the government is non -existent or in the alternative pay very less regard to the provision of adequate drinking water and electricity to the people.Government is sleeping and is in deep slumber and is unconcerned so far as the provision of water and electricity to the consumers is concerned.Scheduled and unscheduled power cuts recurrently has made the life of people very difficult in these hot summer days and the government should stop power cuts and for that she purchase additional electricity from other electricity surplus states to tide over the situation and thus give some relief to the people.In fact the weather God has become angry with us and the rain God Indra is also displeased with the Jammuites and let us pray to rain God Indra so that He will bring showers /monsoon showers which will give some respite to the people from scorching heat wave.It is extremely difficult to go out of our houses during the day and one sees the people going out for shopping after 6 Pm and in the morning before 9am.Heat wave sweeps Jammu and Samba records sizzles at 44 degree C.The mercury continued to soar across Jammu region with Samba and Jammu city on Sunday recording a high of 43.9 and 42.7 degree Celsius. The region has been reeling under an extreme heatwave for the past four days,with temperatures consistently rising above the 40-degree Celsius mark.Katra, the base camp for Mata Vaishnvo Devishrine, recorded a high of 38.2 degree Celsius,while Ramban sizzled at more than 40 degrees Celsius.Kathua ,which houses the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir ,recorded a high of 41.2 degree Celsius.Samba hottest at 46.6 degree C & five Jammu districts are experiencing temperatures above 40 degree C.The Jammu region is experi-

encing extreme heatwave conditions for the past four days .On Monday ,five districts recorded temperatures above 40 degree C mark.Heatwave persisted in the Jammu region with Samba recording the highest maximum temperature of 46.6 degree Celsius while Jammu city touched 44.3 degree Celsius. The Jammu region is experiencing extreme heatwave conditions for the past four days,On Monday,five districts recorded temperatures- above 40 degree C mark.Heatwave grips Jammu ,Samba hottest at 44 degree C.Severe heatwave continues to grip many parts of Jammu region for the past few days ,while Samba recorded the highest temperature of 44 degree C in the regionThe weatherman has predicted that heatwave conditions will continue for few days more giving uneasy days and nights to the people.The mercury continued to soar across Jammu region with Samba and Jammu city recording a high of 43.39 and 42.7 degree Celsius, respectively on Sunday said MED. Today after Sunday the temperatures have further shown upward trend continuously making the life of people in Jammu division difficult and the authorities have advised the people particularly the senior citizens and small children not to venture out of their homes during the day time.Because the region has been reeling under an extreme heatwave for the past five days with temperatures consistently rising above the 40 degree Celsius. mark. Katra, the base camp for Mata Vaishno Devi shrine recorded a high of 38.2, degree Celsius while Ramban sizzled at 40.3 degree Celsius,said MET.As summer tightens its grip across Jammu and Kashmir,the valley continues to experience rising but tolerable temperatures while Jammu region remains firmly in the grip of severe heatwave.Samba recorded a scorching 44 degree Celsius—the highest in the rejoin so far

this season.In Jammu, the sun has been relentless. Jammu city itself recorded more than 43 degree Celsius on Sunday while Saturday’s temperature has been recorded as 42degree C.The intense heat is expected to persist through the week.According to the Indian MET, dry and hot weather will dominate the region for next five days, though a brief spell of windstorm followed by thundershowers in parts of Jammu on the evening of June 9,but this did not happen and there was no relief to the people of Jammu region from biting summer heatwave.Samba emerged as the hottest district ,nearing 44 degree C ,followed by Reasi at 38.5 ,Katra at 38.2 and Rajouri at 35.9,Bhaderwah ,Banihal and Batote ,with maximum hovering between 31 and 32 degrees ,while Poonch reached 35.4 degrees ,were relatively milder.Kishtwar saw 30.9 degrees ,while Poonch reached 35.4 degrees .This is said to be the seasons highest temperatures so far .The next week has seen a further surge in temperatures making the heatwave more intense and biting. In fact, whole Jammu region reels under scorching heatwave. On 10th of June the mercury of Jammu was 44.4 degree C and Samba sizzles at 46.6 degree Celsius and it is unprecedented and unbelievable. In short it can be safely concluded that Jammu region is sizzling with scorching heatwave putting the life of people to difficulties.We pray to sun God to have mercy on us and give the Jammuites some relief from heatwave and extreme temperatures in this summer season.

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

To Avoid Heat

degrees after new guidelines apply. This initiative of the Central Government is part of efforts to save power and meet India’s growing energy needs, according to Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. Not two opinions that people run their AC at a very low temperature to avoid the summer heat. The power of this trend increases the pressure on the grid very high. Surely the chances of power cut also increase very high due to this. But the lone main solution to this crisis is not to be driven AC at extremely low temperatures. Also have other factors. It is also a reality that AC is used indiscriminately for quite a long time in government and private offices. Here also need to take steps towards its use. Undoubtedly, the Energy Regulatory Bureau of the Ministry of Energy, promotes the use of power consumption-reducing devices. But when the heat record breaking is increasing, the power consumption starts to rise essentially when

the temperature rises. But the only reason for this is not the increasing use of AC. We need to ask ourselves questions why are our cities getting so hot? Why are we not able to relieve citizens from this rising temperature. The construction work happening in an indiscriminate-unscientific manner is also not less guilty in it. We made concrete forests all around but the scope of greenery in cities is constantly being reduced. thereby disrupting the natural flow of air as well. In the name of development which hundreds of year old trees are cut, it is not compensated by planting new trees. We are not adopting building technology that keeps houses cool naturally. People can also get relief from low power consumption if the heat-resistant building material is promoted. Our lifestyle is constantly increasing power consumption. If the public transport system is promoted in our country, the use of private vehicles on the roads can reduce the heat-

raising emissions of vehicles. We should promote the use of technology keeping roofs cool in building construction. Such materials or systems should be used that can reflect heat-boosting sunlight than conventional ceilings. With these measures we can also try to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases. Also by increasing the greenery in urban areas and reviving traditional water bodies we can also try to reduce the temperature. The shared responsibility of the government and society can become a carrier of a major change. Local bodies, private sector entities and NGOs can play a decisive role.

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

By: Vijay Garg

At a time when mercury is bouncing from high heat in many parts of India, an unexpected increase in power demand is natural to avoid tapish. From the common man to the special man, it uses a lot of heat from cooler to AC to escape from heat heat. The use of AC in recent times to homes, offices, hotels and malls has wildly increased. Due to which power consumption reaches peak in summer peak season. At such times, the central government has identified air conditioners i.e. AC as a villain responsible for increasing power consumption. The central government is planning to standardize the cooling range of this device used between twenty degrees to twenty-eight degrees Celsius in homes, hotels and offices. AC manufacturers will be barred from creating ACs providing cooling at a temperature less than twenty



# BJP’s real face towards security forces exposed: Shiv Sena Demands resignation of Railway Minister



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 12: Shiv Sena (UBT) has come down heavily on the BJP, accusing it of disrespecting and exploiting security forces for political mileage. Manish Sahni, President of the Jammu-Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena (UBT), slammed the BJP for providing “dilapidated trains with broken windows, dirty toilets and torn seats” for BSF soldiers traveling for Amarnath Yatra duty. He demanded the resignation of the Union Railway Minister over the issue. Speaking at the party’s state central office during an informal interaction with media persons, Sahni criticized the BJP for “insulting the Indian Army while

simultaneously using their bravery for political propaganda.” He pointed to recent events during Operation Sindoor, where, according to Sahni, derogatory comments were made about Colonel Sofia and other army personnel by BJP leaders. Referring to past security lapses, Sahni recalled the Pulwama attack and reminded that even the then-J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik had raised concerns about the unsafe travel arrangements for security personnel. He added that BJP had learned nothing from the tragedy and continued to endanger and disrespect security forces. Highlighting controversial statements made by BJP leaders, Sahni cited

the Deputy Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh who allegedly remarked that “the army bowed down at the feet of the Prime Minister,” and BJP Minister Vijay Shah who reportedly made an “indecent comment” about a female army officer. Sahni criticized Prime

Minister Narendra Modi for failing to rein in such irresponsible statements despite advising his leaders to think before speaking. “It seems insulting the army has become a habit for BJP leaders,” he said. Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders including Senior Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, President Kanghar Raj Singh, Rohan Malwal, and Ajay were also present at the media interaction. The party has demanded an immediate apology from the BJP and strict accountability, starting with the resignation of the Railway Minister.

# Unscheduled power cuts cripple life in Jammu: Baaghi

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 12: Expressing deep concern over the worsening power crisis in Jammu, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and social activist Gurmeet Singh Baaghi criticized the Power Development Department for subjecting residents to “unprecedented and pesky” power cuts and voltage fluctuations. He said the erratic power supply has severely disrupted everyday life, especially amid the ongoing scorching heat. In a strongly-worded statement, Baaghi highlighted the mounting distress among the people due to unscheduled and prolonged power curtailments. “Electricity is

playing hide and seek in Jammu. There is no schedule, no accountability, and no relief. Every day brings long hours of power outages, affecting everyone from children and elderly to patients,” he said. Baaghi further stated that the deteriorating power situation has not only hit domestic consumers but has also dealt a severe blow to industrial units, farmers, horticulturists, students, shopkeepers, MSMEs, contractors, and working professionals. “It seems like we are living in a tribal region where electricity has just arrived. This is unacceptable in the 21st century,” he remarked. He called out the administration for being

apathetic towards the public’s suffering. “Despite having massive electricity generation potential, Jammu & Kashmir is regularly thrown into power crises while the authorities remain in a deep slumber,” Baaghi said. The AAP leader urged the Power Development Department to ensure transparency by informing consumers about scheduled power cuts. He insisted that in case of faults or unplanned outages, residents must receive prior information via SMS, social media, or other electronic platforms along with the estimated restoration time. Baaghi appealed to the government to



take immediate corrective measures to curb unscheduled power curtailments and ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity during the hot summer season. “The people of Jammu deserve better. This crisis must end now,” he asserted.

# Skoda Auto outlines framework to strengthen India growth plan 2025 to become ‘Biggest Year’ for Skoda Auto India

## Top News Report

JAMMU, June 12: The year 2025 marks an important milestone for Škoda Auto worldwide, celebrating 130 years of rich history and 25 exciting years in India. Building on the strategy of getting closer to customers, Škoda Auto India has outlined a slew of key brand, product, network, and customer-centric initiatives to drive momentum in the Indian market. Speaking at the occasion, Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said, “India is the most important growth market for Škoda Auto outside Europe. We are focused on building a strong, future-ready brand with strength of purpose, clarity of vision, and agility of execution. Our product offensive strategy is in tune with evolving consumer needs and aspirations, fuelling our journey of progress. We are getting closer to customers, strategically expanding our network, and reinforcing our legacy of quality, safety, and value. With the wheels in motion across all our business imperatives, 2025 will be the year where we significantly strengthen the brand and surge ahead in India.” Product Offensive Škoda Auto India’s product offensive strategy includes an ‘SUV for Everyone’ and enhancing its sedan heritage. With the Kylaq, Kushaq, and Kodiaq catering to every SUV aspiration and price point, Škoda Auto India will also build its sedan legacy driven by the Slavia and a soon-to-be-launched ‘global icon’. Expanding to newer markets Škoda Auto India continues with its vision of expanding to tier II and tier III markets. From over 165 cities today, the brand targets being present in over 200 cities this year.

# Modi Govt’s flagship schemes transforming lives of millions: Rohiin Chandan



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 12: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Rohiin Chandan today praised the unwavering dedication of Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to fostering welfare-driven development across the nation. He articulated that under the BJP-led government, “Make in India, Skill India, Startup India Empowering Youth,” and boosting the economy. He highlights the government’s commitment to inclusive growth. Chandan emphasized the remarkable strides made in ensuring that pro-people schemes effectively reach the maximum number of citizens, transforming lives and empowering communities. He lauded Prime Minister Modi’s vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, which has been the cornerstone of the government’s policies. “Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India is witnessing a new era of development where the

benefits of governance are reaching the last mile. The effectiveness and outreach of welfare initiatives have seen a commendable rise, ensuring that no citizen is left behind,” he stated. Rohiin underscored the success of PM Modi flagship schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Ayushman Bharat, PM-KISAN, and Ujjwala Yojana, which have significantly improved the quality of life for millions. “These initiatives reflect the government’s commitment to addressing the needs of the poor, farmers, women, and marginalized sections of society. The meticulous planning and execution of these schemes have ensured that benefits are delivered directly to the intended beneficiaries, eliminating leakages and enhancing transparency,” Chandan noted. He further highlighted the transformative impact of digital infrastructure, such as the Digital India initiative and the widespread adoption of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), which have streamlined the delivery of welfare services. “The Prime Minister’s focus on leveraging technology has revolutionized governance, making it more efficient and accessible. Today, citizens in even the remotest corners of India can access government services with ease,” he added. Chandan also commended the government’s efforts in promoting sustainable development and economic empowerment through programs like Make in India, Skill India, and Startup India. These initiatives, he said, have created opportunities for the youth and strengthened India’s position as a global economic powerhouse. The Prime Minister’s resolve to build an inclusive and prosperous India inspires us all. Together, we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that the fruits of development reach every household,” he concluded.

# Bhagat Welfare Forum condemns transfer of DC Kishtwar, terms it conspiracy against honest SC officer

## Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jun 12: The Jammu and Kashmir Bhagat Welfare Forum (Chenab Valley Zone) has voiced strong opposition to the recent transfer of Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan, calling it a result of a “well-planned conspiracy” based on misleading information. Ajeet Bhagat, President of the Forum’s Chenab Valley Zone, expressed deep concern and described the transfer as unjustified and politically motivated. Speaking to the media, Ajeet Bhagat said that Shavan was a “dedicated and principled officer” who introduced a new era of transparency and accountability in Kishtwar district. “His refusal to yield to blackmail or political interference won the trust of common citizens but drew ire from vested interests,” Bhagat stated. During Shavan’s tenure, many long-stalled projects known for irregularities were revived and monitored closely. Bhagat alleged that individuals who failed to manipulate the officer created a false narrative to tarnish his image and force his exit. “This is a betrayal not just of an honest officer, but of public interest,” he said. The Forum condemned what it described as “systematic targeting of Scheduled Caste officers in the district.”



Bhagat highlighted a recent incident involving CEO Kishtwar Shri Rashpal Singh, who was suspended a day before his retirement—further reflecting a pattern of “exploitation and sidelining” of SC officers once their services are deemed inconvenient. Calling for community awareness and unity, Bhagat urged all Bhagat community members to identify and expose malicious elements attempting to derail honest governance. The Forum extended heartfelt appreciation to Rajesh Kumar Shavan for his commitment to clean administration and affirmed its solidarity with all officers working with integrity. “We stand for justice, dignity, and equality for every officer—irrespective of caste or background,” Bhagat concluded.

# Friends Welfare Society terms 11 years of Modi govt as ‘Golden Age’



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 12: As the Narendra Modi-led government completed 11 years in office, Members of the Friends Welfare Society on Thursday, lauded the Prime Minister’s leadership, calling his tenure period the ‘Golden Age’. They expressed their happiness and said the government had delivered on key promises, directly benefiting citizens through various welfare schemes. From

economic reforms to women empowerment, and from national security to international diplomacy, people across India lauded the PM Modi-led government’s tremendous achievements. BJP’s Activist R.L. Kaith said, Ever since PM Modi came to power, he has done wonderful work for everyone. One of his most admirable decisions was the implementation of GST, which streamlined businesses across the country.

Operation Sindoor and the valour shown by the Indian Armed Forces prove how far we have come. Pakistan, which used to create constant trouble in Kashmir, is now keeping mum. Issues like Abrogation of Article 370; Triple Talaq, Waqf Amendment Act, and Ram Mandir were handled decisively. Besides, India has become the fourth-largest economy with a GDP of \$4.18 trillion. PM has elevated India’s status on the global stage.

# Pankaj, Palbinder selected for International Level-3 Kho-Kho Technical Official Course



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 12: In a proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir’s sports community, Pankaj Malhotra and Palbinder Singh have

been selected to participate in the prestigious International Level-3 Kho-Kho Technical Official Course scheduled to be held at SGT University, Gurgaon from June 12 to June 15, 2025. The course is aimed at enhancing the skills, technical knowledge, and application of updated rules for the advancement of Kho-Kho at the global level. Pankaj Malhotra, a seasoned Kho-Kho professional, has already made significant contributions to the sport

both as an international player and a technical expert. Earlier this year, in January 2025, he served as a Technical Expert during the 1st Kho-Kho World Cup held in New Delhi. He also played a vital role in the technical operations of the Ultimate Kho-Kho League during both Season 1 and 2. Recognizing his dedication and achievements, Pankaj Malhotra was honored with the Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta

Khel Ratna Award in 2024, which was presented by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha. Palbinder Singh, also a well-known name in the Kho-Kho circuit, had previously attended the India Camp in 2017 and has served as a National Technical Official. His inclusion in the Level-3 course is expected to further enhance his capabilities and enable him to contribute significantly to the development of

Kho-Kho in the region. Both participants bring a wealth of experience and passion to the sport, and their participation in this course is expected to play a crucial role in upgrading the standards of Kho-Kho in Jammu and Kashmir. The training will empower them with the latest international-level skills and technical updates, ultimately benefiting the future of Kho-Kho and inspiring young athletes across the Union Territory.



## Actor-director duo, Tanuj Virwani and Karan Anshuman, come together in Rana Naidu 2

Tanuj Virwani and Karan Anshuman's bond goes back to the days of *Inside Edge*. This actor-director partnership is built on mutual admiration and trust. When Karan Anshuman directorial *Rana Naidu* streamed in 2023, Tanuj was blown. He reached out to Karan and asked him to write a role for him in the subsequent show, howsoever small.

And now, the second season of the action-crime drama sees the duo come together. Tanuj plays Chirag Oberoi, an heir to family business. As he gets stuck with a deal, the star fixer, Rana Naidu (Rana Daggubati), is called. Will he make this deal or break it is what Season 2 is all about.

Busy promoting the show, Tanuj shares, "I see it as a privilege to be part of Rana Naidu and its incredible team!"

He started his career with Luv U Soniyo some 12 years ago and became part of films like *Purani Jeans*, *One Night Stand*, *Yodha* and *Let's Meet* before he shifted his focus to OTT. He has web series like *Inside Edge*, *Code M*, *Masaba Masaba*, *The Tattoo Murders*, *Tandoor*, *Cartel*



and Murshid to his credit. "I am the adventurous kind and love action and thriller genre more than anything," he reveals.

Tanuj believes cinema and OTT can coexist. "There are stories that can only be made for big screen and there are stories that cannot fit into the 2-3 hour format," he gives example of *Paatal Lok*, *Sacred Games* and *Mirzapur*. However, as an actor he is interested in his character, not the format. He feels that there is enough audience for both cinema and OTT. The only thing he sees on the downside is quantity taking over quality.

"With new platforms mushrooming up, there is demand for content," he says.

Tanuj preps for a role seriously. An 'amateur writer' that he calls himself, and uses his writing skills to pen a back-story for all his characters. "It gives me an outline as how to go about it!" But no, he is not taking writing seriously, not yet. It's acting which gives him the satisfaction.

His real-life love story as filmy as his films. He knew Tanya Jacob as they were family friends. They continued their relationship even after she moved to Singapore. Since

long-distance relationship was becoming tough to carry on, they decided to live-in for a year with the consent of their parents. "Being girlfriend-boyfriend is one thing, but only when you share a home, you know one's pleasant and unpleasant side. The live-in period gave us time to iron out the chinks."

Today, Tanuj is a man with changed priorities. As the only child, life was always about him. But post-marriage, his wife and daughter are now his priorities. "Changes happened at molecular level both consciously and subconsciously. Now, each decision I make, my family is a huge part of it." He is kicked about not just about the show but also *Father's Day*. "I was asking my mother how to make the day special for dad. She pointed out that it would be my day too. And it hit me — it will be my first!"

Tanuj has an actioner with *Applause* on the anvil. And two films, including *Johnny Jumper*, in which he plays the titular role. The other one is a romcom. "I thought it would be good change of pace to do a love story."

*Rana Naidu 2* will stream on June 13 on Netflix.

## Aamir Khan clarifies Mahabharat isn't his final film amid retirement buzz



Aamir Khan has dismissed rumours that he'll retire from acting after tackling his long-held dream project, *'Mahabharat'*. He clarified that comments from a recent podcast interview were taken out of context.

Aamir Khan set the record straight during the Fan Club segment on Zoom and clarified that he has no plans to step away from acting at this time.

While talking about the same, the actor said, "Mahabharat is not going to be my last film. Abhi chakkar yeh hain aap kuch bhi bolo, uska wrong meaning humesha nikal aata hai. Mujhse pucha gaya tha aap koi aisi film kare jiske baad aapko koi kaam karne ka mann hi na ho toh woh kaunsi film hogi. 'Agar' aap aisi film kare toh. Agar bohot important hai. (The thing is, whatever you say always gets misconstrued. I was asked: if you were to make a film so powerful that afterwards you'd never feel like working again, what film would

that be? The 'if' is very important!."

Adding, he said, "Material wise mujhe ek hi cheez nazar aati hai jismein woh power hai ki joh karne ke baad shayad mere mann mein yeh khyal uthe ki bas ho gaya. Maine uska jawab iss context mein diya tha. Logon ko laga Mahabharata meri last film hai. Answer ko theek se sunna chahiye. (In terms of material, there's only one project I can think of that has the power to make me feel 'that's it—my work here is done.' I answered in that context, but people assumed Mahabharata would be my last film. They should have listened to my response properly)."

Recently, Khan spoke about his dream project, *'Mahabharat'*, during a conversation with podcaster Raj Shamani. He said, "It's my dream to make Mahabharat, and I will start working on it after the release of *Sitaare Zameen Par* on June 20. I feel like that's one project that, once I've done it, might leave me with the feeling that there's nothing more I can do after that. Because the material is like that — it's layered, emotional, vast in scale, and full of grandeur. Everything that exists in the world can be found in Mahabharat".

Meanwhile, the actor is gearing up for the release of his upcoming film, *'Sitaare Zameen Par'*. Directed by RS Prasanna, the film is a remake of the Spanish movie *Campeones*. The film is scheduled to release in theatres on June 20.

## Playing Detective Sherdil has been fun for me: Diljit Dosanjh

What do you get when you mix an eccentric billionaire's mysterious murder, a dysfunctional family full of secrets and a detective who brings his own brand of wit, quirks, charm, and chaos to every clue? Yes, that's Detective Sherdil!

ZEE5 recently unveiled the trailer of the most anticipated show starring global icon Diljit Dosanjh as a genius investigator who cuts through chaos with charm. This whodunit unfolds in the moody streets of Budapest, where nothing is what it seems, and everyone has something to hide. With a stellar ensemble cast, including Diana Pentty, Boman Irani, Ratna Pathak Shah, Chunky Panday, Sumeet Vyas, Banita Sandhu, Kashmiri Irani and more, this murder mystery promises to keep you guessing till the very last twist. Not a perfect family! Not a classic murder! Not the same old detective.

"Playing Detective Sherdil has been fun for me. The attitude of the character is something that I have tried to portray differently. Hope audiences enjoy this character and the film," shared Diljit, who recently won over the fashion brigade with his Maharaja outing at Met Gala.

On the occasion of the trailer launch, ZEE5 shared the trailer on



their Instagram handle and wrote, "A murder with many suspects. And a sher with the chaabi to everyone's dil. Are you ready?"

So basically, Diljit plays Sherlock for the goras. Byomkesh Bakshi for desis and Karamchand for his 'mummy papa'. The plot of the film revolves around a flamboyant billionaire business tycoon (Boman Irani), who is found gruesomely murdered in Budapest.

Detective Sherdil (Diljit) is an unorthodox investigator, who has a knack for solving murder cases. By his side is Natasha (Diana Pentty), a poised and brilliant investigator with a mind as sharp as her presence is striking.

As the two dig deeper into the tangled web of family secrets, betrayals and billion-dollar motives, the case becomes increasingly twisted and unpredictable, as shown in the

trailer.

As the investigation continues, a gripping game of deceit unfolds where every suspect harbours a secret that changes the narrative of the story.

The film is directed and edited by Ravi Chhabriya. On collaborating with Diljit, Ravi said, "From day one, I knew we needed a detective who could balance charm, wit, and a bit of swagger — and Diljit brought all of that and more. The way he got the character to life, and gave it a pulse, a whole new energy that made our vision feel more real."

Detective Sherdil is presented by Zafar's banner AAZ Films and Offside Entertainment. It is a Maurya Entertainment Production. Chhabriya and Zafar have also penned the script with Sagar Bajaj. The film is set to premiere on Zee5 on June 20.

## Zoya Akhtar-Ayesha Sood on 'In Transit': We wanted trans people to tell their own stories

The idea for "In Transit", a four-part docu series about the lives of trans and non-binary individuals, was born out of the many stories filmmakers Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti came across while auditioning for a trans character in the second season of their critically-acclaimed series "Made in Heaven".

Directed by Ayesha Sood and produced by Akhtar and Kagti through their banner Tiger Baby, "In Transit" is set to premiere on Prime Video on Friday.

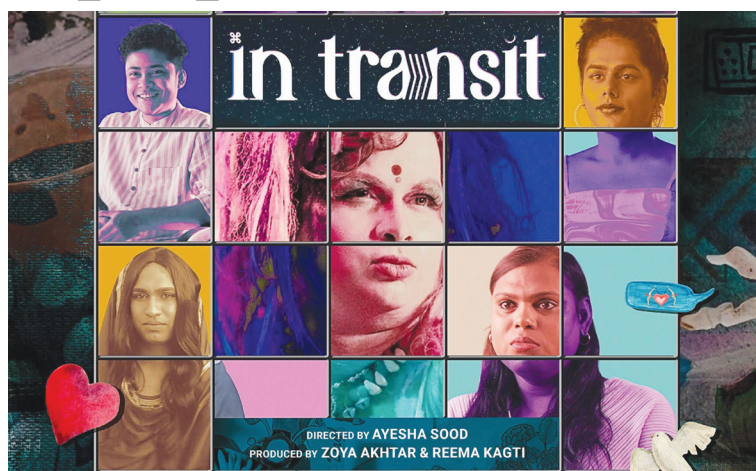
"Made in Heaven" has been praised for its representation of LGBTQ individuals, first with a gay lead in Arjun Mathur's wedding planner Karan and then by introducing a trans character, Meher, who was played by Trinetra Haldar Gummaraju, in season two.

Zoya said they "got crazy feedback from the LGBTQ community" through the show as the community felt represented in an authentic way.

"When we wrote a trans character, we realised we knew very little... So, we started interviewing people and the people that spoke to us were very honest and they shared a lot, including their dreams. Meher was a specific kind of character, so that story came out of these interviews."

"We realised that this is something that we need to expand on in a different format. They need to tell the audience their own story and we pitched that to Amazon Prime who went for it in one call so we are lucky," Akhtar told agency in a virtual interview.

The filmmaker said they decided to rope in Sood to direct the series as they wanted someone



who could shepherd the project in an authentic way, without adding any shock value to it.

Sood, a filmmaker, photographer and editor who runs the media company Jamun Collective, said when Akhtar and Kagti approached her with the idea, she was a little flummoxed as trans experience is a huge canvas.

"I was like, 'How do you tell the story of trans people?' Like women in India, the canvas is huge... There are so many diverse experiences of being a woman in India, likewise, being trans in India is our baseline setting and it is vast, unique and complex. How do we bring that out in the stories?"

"So, we talk about things that are universally moving to all of us, like identity, our place in the world, our relationships with families and finding love. These are universal things that move everybody," Sood told agency.

The team had a long period of research, and eventually found a way as well as a structure to tell these stories.

"The Indian idea of being trans is vast. So we wanted to

get a broad range of stories and people from different contexts and we wanted to be uniquely rooted in India. These are real people from different walks of life who are expressing their trans-ness," Sood said.

"It was also a matter of who could tell their stories to us. It's not easy for everyone to be on camera... These are tough lives, so it was also about who could actually tell us these stories," she added.

"In Transit" is the second project from the documentary slate that Akhtar and Kagti are planning to produce through their banner, following "Angry Young Men", a cinematic exploration of iconic screenwriter duo Javed Akhtar and Salim Khan's filmography.

A third, "Turtle Walker" by Taira Malaney, will chronicle the extraordinary journey of conservationist Satish Bhaskar.

Akhtar, known for films such as "Luck By Chance", "Dil Dhadakne Do" and "Gully Boy", said she loves documentaries as the format allows a filmmaker to explore different stories. There is also a lot of interest for

documentaries in India now, she added.

"There's a lot more exposure and I think people are interested in stories. Certain stories are good as short films, certain things lend themselves to eight hours of narrative. Certain things are good as features, and certain stories need to be told in their most authentic, true self," Akhtar said.

Sood credited OTT platforms for nurturing the format.

"We now have a growing audience for documentaries. The platforms are entirely to be praised for this. They have brought documentaries into your living room and everybody is watching them. Along with it, the craft has also elevated."

In "In Transit", Sood brings in a lot of pop culture references to describe the trans experience.

The documentary explores the lives of nine individuals, including a classical musician from Bangalore, a school educator from Tripura and a corporate professional in Mumbai.

The director said these pop culture references show why representation matters, whether it is a film or a television serial like "Hum Paanch".

"That's what people consume and spend their time being inspired, watching and discussing. It wasn't like I needed to get a Bollywood reference out here. It's the world that the characters live in."

"And those are the things that struck them when they were growing up, like the first time they saw themselves on screen, or the first time they felt something about a character or love or any such thing," she said.

## 'Panchayat' season four set for June 24 release on Prime Video

Show's lead star Jitendra Kumar is returning for new season along with Neena Gupta, Raghubir Yadav, Faisal Malik, Chandan Roy, and Sanvikaa

Streaming service Prime Video announced that the fourth season of its beloved show "Panchayat" will debut on June 24.

The show's lead star Jitendra Kumar is returning for the new season along with Neena Gupta, Raghubir Yadav, Faisal Malik, Chandan Roy, and Sanvikaa.

Created by Deepak Kumar Mishra and Chandan Kumar, "Panchayat" revolves around Abhishek Tripathi (Jitendra Kumar), an engi-

neering graduate who for lack of a better job option, joins as secretary of a panchayat office in a fictional village named Phulera in Uttar Pradesh.

In a press release, the streamer said the new season will bring "fresh challenges, familiar faces, and plenty of comic twists capturing the rhythms of small-town life with humour, warmth, and nuance".

The OTT platform also released the trailer of the fourth season,



giving a sneak peek into the turf war brewing between two spirited frontrunners—Manju Devi (Neena Gupta) and Kranti Devi (Sunita Rajwar).

"With rally songs, lofty pledges, and lots of fanfare, the village turns into a buzzing battleground. As both camps race to outshine and out-scheme the other, Phulera transforms into a carnival of chaos," read the official logline.

Chandan Kumar said writing "Panchayat" has

been a journey of deep discovery and gratitude for him.

"What makes this series special is how each season unfolds organically—building naturally on the one before it while still leaving room for the journey to continue. Our effort remains to keep the narrative fresh, by introducing new characters and dynamics, while ensuring it stays true to the emotional rhythm of Phulera," he added.

Neena Gupta said por-

traying Manju Devi has been deeply fulfilling as she's grown into one of the most loved and relatable characters.

"Across seasons, it's been exciting to watch her journey from a hesitant pradhan to a confident voice in Phulera's affairs. With each chapter, Panchayat adds depth not only to village life but to every character's evolution. Season four brings unexpected twists—making the narrative all the more compelling," she said.



# Leveraging technology brought innumerable benefits for people: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Jun 12 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that his government in its 11 years has brought innumerable benefits for people by leveraging the power of technology.

“Powered by the youth of India, we are making remarkable progress in innovation and application of technology. It is also strengthening our efforts to become self-reliant and a global tech powerhouse,” he said on X.

The prime minister said the use of technology has greatly boosted service delivery and transparency. Furthermore, technology has become a means of empowering the lives of the poorest of poor, he added.

A thread of posts from a government handle and highlighted by Modi said India ensured transparency at scale through direct benefit transfer (DBT), noting that over Rs 44 lakh crores were credited to beneficiaries of over 322 schemes regulated by 56 ministries.

Over Rs 3.48 lakh crores were saved by cutting out leakages, it added.

From digital deserts to a data-driven democracy—India’s tech



journey over the last 11 years is nothing short of revolutionary, another thread said.

Under Modi’s leadership, India has transformed into a hub of digital innovation, tech-led governance, and global trust. From manufacturing to space tech, from digital payments to rural connectivity—the change is visible, impactful, and lasting, it said It added, “But this is not just about devices and platforms. It’s about seamless governance, citizen empowerment, and building a tech-first Viksit

Bharat.” From the surge of UPI into becoming India’s “financial heartbeat”, it noted that the country is also the world’s cheapest mobile data providers, fuelling digital inclusion.

With over 94 crore broadband connections and 120 crore telephone subscribers, tele-density has soared from 75 per cent in 2014 to 85 per cent in 2025.

ISRO’s incredible feat of launching 393 foreign satellites showcases our capability, it said.

One of the posts said, “11

years ago, a silent digital revolution began—reshaping how India connects, governs, and grows. Under PM Narendra Modi’s visionary leadership, the Digital India initiative has turned technology into a tool for empowerment—bridging gaps, unlocking opportunities, and making governance more accessible and transparent for every citizen.” It added, “From internet access in remote villages to real-time digital payments leading the world, this transformation is not just about numbers—it’s about people, progress, and possibility.” Technological initiatives ensured that every rupee reaches the targeted beneficiary, with DBT seeing a 90 fold rise in 10 years, transforming welfare delivery with speed and transparency.

It highlighted digital marketplace for government procurement, passport delivery service, roll out of Cowin platform for vaccination against coronavirus and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission for health insurance among other measures powered by tech in delivering benefits and services to citizens.

# “11 years of Digital India”: Home Minister Amit Shah praises PM Modi’s vision



NEW DELHI, Jun 12 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday highlighted the achievements of the central government’s digital initiatives and said that India has emerged as a leading digital economy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s 11 years of governance.

The Home Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has transformed every sector of the economy and society through the digital revolution.

“The Modi government democratised the use of technology and harnessed its power for the business sector, making Bharat a leading digital economy in the world in the 11 years of Digital India. Whether it is healthcare, education, trade, or commerce, PM Narendra Modi has transformed every sector of the economy and society through the digital revolution,” posted Shah on X.

Earlier on Tuesday, Amit Shah expressed gratitude to Prime Minister

Narendra Modi after the Union Cabinet approved the two multitracking projects across Indian Railways covering seven Districts in Jharkhand, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

In a post on X, Shah said that the projects will “turbocharge” the growth journey of these states.

“Gratitude to PM @narendramodi Ji for approving the project of multi-tracking of railways in 7 districts across Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka. The projects will turbocharge the growth journey of these states, speeding up the prosperity of businesses and individuals and creating ample employment opportunities for the youth,” Amit Shah said.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday, approved two projects of the Ministry of Railways worth Rs 6,405 crore, with the aim to improve travel convenience, reduce logistic cost, decrease oil imports and contribute to lower CO2 emissions.

The two projects covering seven Districts across the states of Jharkhand, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 318 km. The approved multi-tracking project will enhance connectivity to approximately. 1,408 villages, which have a population of about 28.19 lakh.

# Adityanath says child labour a curse, calls for collective resolve to protect children

LUCKNOW, Jun 12 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday called child labour a “curse” and urged citizens to unite against the practice by ensuring that every child receives education, security and dignity.

Taking to social media platform X on the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour, the CM stressed that only through awareness and collective effort against child labour can a sensitive and empowered society be built for the future. “Child labour is a curse, it cannot be



accepted! Let us, on this World Day Against Child Labour, pledge to connect every child with education, safety, dignity and values,” he said.

Observed annually on June 12, the World Day Against Child Labour was launched by the International Labour

Organisation (ILO) in 2002 to highlight the plight of child labourers worldwide.

The day aims to generate awareness and action to eliminate all forms of child labour, especially its worst forms, which include hazardous work, forced labour and exploitation.

# Direct benefit transfer rises 90 times in a decade: Finance Minister

NEW DELHI, Jun 12 (Agencies): There has been more than 90 times rise in direct benefit transfer (DBT) in just a decade under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday.

Moreover, India leads the world in real-time payments, with more than Rs 260 lakh crore worth of transactions processed in 2024-25, the Finance Minister informed on the X social media platform.

“From Rs 7,368 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 6.83 lakh crore in 2024-25, there has been a 90X+



rise in DBT transfer in just a decade under Prime Minister Modi’s leadership, ensuring that every rupee reaches to every citizen,” said Finance Minister Sitharaman.

She further stated that India leads the world

in real-time payments as “Rs 260+ lakh crore worth of transactions processed in 2024-25 and approximately 18,600 crore transactions by volume handled annually”.

According to the Finance Minister, India’s

tech journey over the last 11 years is nothing short of revolutionary.

“India has transformed into a hub of digital innovation, tech-led governance, and global trust. From manufacturing to space tech, from digital payments to rural connectivity - the change is visible, impactful, and lasting,” she emphasised.

But this isn’t just about devices and platforms - it’s about seamless governance, citizen empowerment, and building a tech-first ‘Viksit Bharat’, said Finance Minister Sitharaman.

A staggering 55.44 crore Jan Dhan

accounts have been opened in India, 56 per cent of which belong to women, and the total amount in these deposits has surpassed Rs 2.5 lakh crore as of May 21 this year, according to RBI Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao.

In FY 2024-25, digital payments surged 35 per cent Y-o-Y by volume to 60.81 crore transactions per day, with UPI accounting for 83.73 per cent of such transactions. The extraordinary uptake of UPI stands as a testament to the power of collaborative and use-case-driven innovation in driving financial inclusion, Rao observed.

# India suffered 3 diplomatic setbacks from US; Centre’s foreign policy driven by domestic politics: Congress

NEW DELHI, Jun 12 (Agencies): The Congress on Thursday claimed India has suffered three “huge diplomatic setbacks” from the US which is constantly hyphenating India and Pakistan and that the Modi government’s foreign policy has “failed” as it is driven by domestic political considerations.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the US’ recent statements were both a “challenge and a warning” and required serious thinking “when the PM is only interested in playing divisive politics.”

He also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should leave aside his “stubbornness” to call an all-party meeting and a special session of Parliament.

“Yesterday, Indian foreign policy and diplomacy received three huge, undeniable setbacks. The General of the US Central Command gives a statement that Pakistan is a phenomenal partner in counter-terrorism. What is phenomenal? On May 2, 2011, Osama Bin Laden was found in Abbottabad and you are calling that country a phenomenal partner,” Ramesh told agency.

So, the first “setback” is the US general giving a “clean chit” to Pakistan, he said.

US Army General Michael Kurilla, Commander of US Central Command (CENTCOM), has said Pakistan is “in an active counterterrorism fight right now and has been a phenomenal partner in the counterterrorism world.”

The United States has to have a relationship with Pakistan and with India, and noted that it cannot be a “binary switch” where Washington cannot have ties with Islamabad if it has relations with New Delhi, Kurilla said during a testimony before the US House Armed

Services Committee on Tuesday.

Ramesh further said, “Failed Marshal Asim Munir, who gave such inflammatory, incendiary and provocative statements, talked about the two-nation theory, Hindus and Muslims, and there is a direct relation between his statement and what happened in Pahalgam on April 22. Same Asim Munir gets a special invitation to go to America on US Army Day on June 14, which is incomprehensible.”

The third setback is that the US state department spokesperson again repeated that it was US President Donald Trump who was responsible for bringing about a de-escalation between India and Pakistan, the Congress leader said. He said again the US has hyphenated India and Pakistan while Prime Minister Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar are completely silent on it.

“He (Modi) meets members of delegations but does not have time for an all-party meeting to meet leaders of political parties. Our democracy is based on political parties not on individuals,” Ramesh said.

Leaders of opposition parties have written to the PM to call a special session of Parliament but the government has rejected the request and instead announced the monsoon session from July 21.

“Is he (PM Modi) going to allow a special debate on our challenges with China and Pakistan, and now our challenge with the US. We thought that we were having an extended honeymoon with the US but it has delivered three huge setbacks to Indian diplomacy yesterday,” Ramesh said.

This is a “failure” of the government of India, of the PM, of his External Affairs



Minister S Jaishankar, of his Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and of his drum beaters, Ramesh said.

“I am shocked that these setbacks have come two days after the prime minister has met the delegation of MPs,” he told agency.

Ramesh accused the PM of playing politics by picking and choosing individuals. “We are saying call an all-party meeting, an all-party meeting where you don’t determine who will be there like you did in picking delegations,” the Congress leader said.

He alleged that the government’s diplomacy is “totally domestic oriented.”

“Whatever we do abroad -- how does it play domestically? It is for domestic consumption. All observers are saying that these delegations were for domestic consumption,” he said.

Ramesh claimed that the foreign policy of the Modi government is being dictated by domestic political considerations.

Earlier, in a post in Hindi on X, Ramesh asserted that decades of diplomatic progress cannot be allowed to be weakened so easily.

“It is reported that Pakistani Army Chief General Asim Munir has been invited to the event organised in Washington DC on the occasion of US Army Day (14 June). This news is a big setback for India from a diplomatic and strategic

point of view,” Ramesh said.

“This is the same person who used provocative and inciting language just before the Pahalgam terror attack - the question arises what is America’s intention,” the Congress general secretary said.

Recently, the head of the US Central Command also stated that Pakistan is a “great partner” of America in the fight against terrorism, Ramesh said.

“The Modi government is saying that Operation Sindoor is still going on. In such a situation, the Pakistani army chief’s participation as a guest in the US Army Day is definitely a matter of serious concern,” he said.

Ramesh said the Trump administration is constantly making statements which can only be interpreted to mean that it is “hyphenating” India and Pakistan.

“The prime minister is welcoming the delegations that returned after informing the entire world, including the US, about Pakistan’s role in supporting terrorism, and at the same time, such news is coming from Washington DC makes India’s diplomatic position even more uncomfortable,” Ramesh said.

“The prime minister should now leave aside his stubbornness and concern for prestige and call an all-party meeting and a special session of Parliament, so that the nation can clearly express its collective will and a concrete roadmap can be presented to the country,” he said.

The statements from the US come days after an all-party Indian parliamentary delegation visited the country to convey India’s strong resolve to combat terrorism emanating from Pakistan in the wake of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives.

# Speeding SUV with BJP sticker kills woman constable during vehicle check in Patna



PATNA, Jun 12 (Agencies): A police constable was killed and two other officers were seriously injured when a speeding SUV rammed into them during a vehicle-checking drive in Bihar’s capital, Patna, on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday.

The incident occurred around 12.30 a.m. near a police outpost on the busy Atal Path, where a team of police personnel attached to the S.K. Puri police station was conducting vehicle checks on the directive of the state police headquarters.

The constables were examining documents of a stationary car when an SUV approached at high speed, crashed into the parked vehicle from behind, and mowed down the police personnel. Woman constable Komal Kumari, a resident of Nalanda district and attached with Dial 112, an emergency service of S.K. Puri police station, died on the spot. A sub-inspector and an assistant sub-inspector sustained serious injuries in the crash.

The SUV involved in the incident, bearing registration number BR01HT8437, had a BJP sticker on it and was registered in the name of Prince Kumar. The driver of the vehicle fled the scene immediately after the crash.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Patna, Awakash Kumar said, “Two individuals have been detained by the police for interrogation.” He added that raids were underway to arrest their accomplices.



## “It could be a dangerous place,” Trump on US military being evacuated from Middle East

WASHINGTON DC, Jun 12 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump on Thursday while attending a performance of Les Miserables at the Kennedy Center said that the US military personnel are being moved out of some countries in the Middle East because it would otherwise be perilous.

Trump said that Iran cannot have nuclear weapons.

“They (US military personnel) are being moved out (of some countries of the Middle East) because it could be a dangerous place and we will see what happens...We have given notice to move out,” he said.

The comments come after a failed round of talks of the US with Iran.

“They can’t have a nuclear weapon. Very simple. They can’t have a nuclear weapon. We’re



not going to allow that,” he said.

The US is withdrawing the presence of people who are not deemed essential to operations in the Middle East due to the potential for regional unrest, the US State Department and military said on Wednesday, as tensions with neighboring Iran rose amid deteriorating nuclear

talks, as per The Times of Israel.

“President Trump is committed to keeping Americans safe, both at home and abroad. In keeping with that commitment, we are constantly assessing the appropriate personnel posture at all our embassies. Based on our latest analysis, we decided to reduce the footprint of our Mis-

sion in Iraq,” a State Department official told The Times of Israel.

The department also authorised the departure of nonessential personnel and family members from Bahrain and Kuwait, giving them an option on whether to leave the country, as per The Times of Israel.

In addition, US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has authorised the voluntary departure of military dependents from locations across the Middle East, a US official said. Another US official said that it was mostly relevant to family members located in Bahrain -- where the bulk of them are based.

Tensions in the region have been rising in recent days as talks between the US and Iran over its rapidly advancing nuclear program appear to have hit an impasse.

## Wars now displace over 122 million people as aid funding falls, UN says

GENEVA, Jun 12 (Agencies): The number of people displaced by war and persecution around the world climbed above 122 million this year due to a failure to resolve multi-year conflicts such as those in Sudan and Ukraine, the UN refugee agency said on Thursday, noting that funding to help the refugees had fallen to 2015 levels.

There were over 2 million more people displaced globally by the end of April 2025 than there were the previous year despite the return of nearly the same number of Syrians after the collapse of Bashar al-Assad’s rule, according to the report by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.

The report attributed the rise to major conflicts in Sudan, Myanmar and Ukraine and a “continued failure to stop the fighting”.

“We are living in a time of intense volatility in international relations, with modern warfare creating a fragile, harrowing landscape marked by acute human suffering,” Grandi said in a statement alongside the report.

The surge in displacement numbers comes as funding to help them has fallen to 2015 levels when the total number of refugees around the world stood at about half current levels, UNHCR said.

It described the cuts in aid as “brutal and ongoing” and said the situation was untenable, leaving refugees and others vulnerable.

Humanitarians complain that a lack of political leadership in brokering peace deals is prolonging conflicts and stretching aid groups tasked with addressing their impacts.

The agency, whose largest donor has historically been the US, has previously said that the cuts put millions of lives at risk and left women refugees at a greater risk of rape and children at risk of trafficking.

The UNHCR has not given details on which donors have reduced their funding. US President Donald Trump has cut most foreign aid while Britain and European neighbours are spending less on aid and more on defence.

## Kim Jong Un vows unwavering support for Russia, calls Putin ‘dearest comrade’

SEOUL, Jun 12 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said in a message to Russian President Vladimir Putin that his country will always stand with Moscow, state media reported on Thursday.

In a message for Russia Day, a patriotic holiday celebrating Russia’s independence, Kim called Putin his “dearest comrade” and praised their bilateral relations as a “genuine relationship between comrades-in-arms,” KCNA reported.

“It is an unshakable will of the government of the DPRK and of my own steadfastly to carry



on the DPRK-Russia relations,” Kim was quoted as saying.

The DPRK stands for North Korea’s official name, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, agency reported that Kim had sent congratulations on Russia

Day to Putin.

Earlier this year, Pyongyang for the first time confirmed that it had sent troops to fight for Russia in the war in Ukraine under orders from leader Kim Jong Un after months of silence.

## Los Angeles Mayor slams immigration raids as ‘political retribution’

LOS ANGELES, Jun 12 (Agencies): Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass condemned recent immigration raids in the city, calling them an act of “political retribution” and asserting that fear will not be used to intimidate residents, agency reported.

“Los Angeles will not allow fear to be used as a weapon against Angelinos who make our city strong,” Bass said in a post on the social platform X.

“My administration is working with community organizations, legal advocates, and local leaders to ensure that every resident knows their rights and has the support they need. This



city stands united,” she added.

Bass said the raids were “political retribution” against residents of the predominantly Democratic city.

“This fear paralyzes communities. We saw it before: kids too scared to go to school, families torn apart without warning. Let’s not pretend this

is about public safety. It’s political retribution—plain and simple,” she added, agency reported. President Trump’s border czar Tom Homan said the LA protests were making ICE raids more “difficult” and “dangerous.”

“It’s like we’re a third world nation where people think it’s okay

to threaten the life and safety of federal law enforcement officers and their families,” Homan said during an appearance on NBC Nightly News.

Bass said that immigration raids in her city resulted in “disorder” the prior night.

“Well, I just have to say that if you dial back time and go to Friday, if immigration raids had not happened here, we would not have the disorder that went on last night,” Bass said on CNN’s “The Situation Room.”

“I will tell you that it is peaceful now, but we do not know where and when the next raids will be,” she added.

California Governor Gavin Newsom went after President Trump in a video address, following the Trump administration deploying thousands of National Guard soldiers and Marines to Los Angeles in an attempt to subdue immigration protests.

Newsom said while California is not unfamiliar with immigration enforcement, the administration was not focusing on immigrants living in the country illegally who have criminal records or those with deportation orders but “indiscriminately targeting hard-working immigrant families regardless of their roots or risk,” agency reported.

## G7 Summit marks turning point in India-Canada relations, says former minister Ujjal Dosanjh

VANCOUVER, Jun 12 (Agencies): As India cements its place as the world’s fourth-largest economy, the global balance of power is shifting -- and Canada must take note, says Ujjal Dosanjh, former Canadian Minister of Health, senior lawyer, and vocal advocate against extremism.

Speaking in the wake of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s participation in the G7 summit, Dosanjh says this moment offers a much-needed opportunity to reset strained India-Canada relations, particularly due to longstanding tensions over Khalistan-linked extremism.

“India, even before it became the fourth-largest economy, was being recognised by leaders like Carney as indispensable on the global stage,” Dosanjh remarked, referring to Prime Minister Mark Carney, who assumed office earlier this year. “Now that India has moved up in global rankings, it only strengthens the case for deeper cooperation.”

Dosanjh pointed out that G7 leaders are well aware of India’s growing influence and are likely advising Canada not to let political disagreements override strategic and economic interests. “Leaders know that even when they have issues with a country, they can’t ignore its importance. They find ways to engage constructively -- and that’s the approach Carney seems to be taking,” he said.

Prime Minister Carney’s invitation to Prime Minister Modi drew protests from several Sikh separatist groups in Canada. But Dosanjh, a long-time critic of extremism, questioned the seriousness with which these groups should be taken, especially given their historical role in damaging Canada’s global reputation.

“These elements did massive damage to Canada’s image when they bombed Air India Flight 182 in 1985,” Dosanjh said, referencing the worst act of aviation terror before 9/11. “That wasn’t India’s wound -- it was Canada’s wound. Those were Canadian citizens who died.”

He also recalled the role of Khalistani militant Talwinder Singh Parmar, believed to be the mastermind of the Air India bombing. “Parmar had earlier killed police officers in India and fled here. Indira Gandhi sought his extradition, but Canada didn’t act, partly because there was no extradition treaty at the time. That failure had grave consequences.”

Dosanjh emphasised that Canada has allowed such extremist elements to penetrate mainstream politics. “Former Prime Minister Stephen Harper rightly said we shouldn’t tolerate separatists in our political parties -- especially those seeking to break up allied democracies. I’ve always believed that, and I suspect Carney



privately does too,” he added.

India has sought the extradition of 26 fugitives, including several Khalistani extremists. On this issue, Dosanjh confirmed that there are signs of cooperation, although progress remains slow.

“I spoke with Mr. Verma, India’s former High Commissioner to Canada, and he said publicly -- and to me privately -- that Canada has started moving on some of those cases,” he revealed. “There is an extradition treaty in place. It now depends on the quality of the evidence provided, and on Canada’s willingness to act on it.”

With both countries being democracies and promoting strategic autonomy in foreign policy, Dosanjh sees a natural alignment between India and Canada, especially on trade and global issues.

“Canada exports a lot of lentils and grains to India. I know someone personally in that business who’s been suffering because of the diplomatic chill -- no trains are moving from his

location,” he said. “It’s critical for both countries to stabilise relations not just for trade, but also to collaborate on global challenges as democratic allies.”

Dosanjh believes PM Modi’s visit to the G7, hosted by Canada this year, is a promising step toward restoring ties. “Mr. Carney signalled his intent to reset the relationship during his campaign. Inviting Modi to the G7 is the first concrete step in that direction,” he said.

While tensions remain, especially around the killing of separatist figure Hardeep Singh Nijjar, Dosanjh believes these should not prevent broader cooperation. “Countries always have disputes. But responsible governments work on multiple tracks: you can address law enforcement matters on one track and continue dialogue on trade, people-to-people ties, and international cooperation on other tracks.”

On the recent attack on journalist Mocha Bezirgan in Vancouver -- where Khalistani supporters allegedly surrounded, threatened,

and snatched his phone -- Dosanjh didn’t mince words.

“Khalistanis have never shied away from violence. Air India was just the most dramatic example,” he said. “Unless there are serious prosecutions, these incidents will continue. Canada has been slow to prosecute Khalistani violence, and that delay is hurting our society.”

He stressed that the problem is not just about India’s security. “It’s in Canada’s own interest to control this menace, for the peace and safety of Canadians. We must protect journalists, uphold free speech, and prosecute threats without fear or political calculations.”

The extradition of Pakistani national Muhammad Shahzeb Khan, accused of plotting an ISIS-inspired attack in New York, has raised further concerns about radicalisation in Canada. Dosanjh believes these fears are well-founded.

“Nearly 100 Canadians went to fight alongside ISIS. Some returned and were prosecuted, some are in jail. Canada is aware of the threat, but our responses are often too slow and reactive,” he said. “The same lethargy we showed after Air India shouldn’t be repeated with new threats whether from Islamist extremists or Khalistani groups.”

Dosanjh also pointed to Pakistan’s long-standing role in fuelling the Khalistan movement --

a connection made more visible during recent protests in Vancouver where Pakistani flags were seen alongside Khalistani banners.

“This isn’t new. In the 1970s, Jagjit Singh Chohan declared Khalistan in a U.S. newspaper after returning from Pakistan. That declaration was funded by Pakistani money, funnelled in part by the CIA. I met Chohan in Canada back then,” he recalled.

He warned that the ISI’s hand remains visible today. “Figures like Pannun are believed to be working with Pakistani handlers in the U.S. Indian officials know this. Many Canadian politicians, either glib or ignorant, still look the other way. But now, with the Pakistani flag appearing openly in these rallies, the truth is harder to deny.”

Despite all the tensions and painful history, Dosanjh remains hopeful. “This G7 summit, hosted by Canada, is a turning point. Prime Minister Carney has taken the first step by inviting Modi. Now it’s time for sustained engagement, honest dialogue, and zero tolerance for those who threaten democracy in any form.”

He concludes with a clear message: “Canada and India are both democracies. They may have their differences, but the shared values and the global stakes are too high to let those differences define the relationship.”

## U.S. lawmakers urge sanctions probe into Chinese firms aiding Iran

WASHINGTON DC, Jun 12 (Agencies): Chairman John Moolenaar (R-MI) and all 11 Republican members of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party wrote to U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, requesting that the Office of Foreign Assets Control and Financial Crimes Enforcement Network investigate six People’s Republic of China (PRC) companies that support Iran’s military and energy sectors. According to a release by the Select Committee on the CCP, these corporations assist Iran in circumventing existing US sanctions and jeopardize US strategic interests.

Billions of dollars in US investment, goods, and services flow to these PRC enterprises. In an April report, the Select Committee discovered that as of 2023, \$6.5 billion in US investment funds had been invested in PRC enterprises assessed to pose national security threats. Many of those enterprises were identified in a similar January assessment published by the Prague Security Studies Institute as having a strategic tie to Iran’s military or energy industry worth at least \$6 billion, according to the SCCC release.

The lawmakers write, “Many of these com-

panies even appear to engage in activities that violate existing U.S. sanctions against Iran. As a result, U.S. retirees are likely indirectly funding activities that run counter to U.S. national security and international stability,” as quoted by the release.

They continue, “The United States must counter the new authoritarian axis spearheaded by the PRC and Iran and penalize those PRC companies that help fund Iran’s activities to support Houthi attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea and strike attacks against Israel by Hamas, Hezbollah, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad -- all Specially Designated Nationals by Treasury,” the SCCC release quoted.

Lawmakers requested the Treasury investigate the six companies to determine whether their activities concerning Iran have violated U.S. sanctions or otherwise warrant sanctions: China North Industries Group Co., Ltd. (Norinco), Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), China Ocean Shipping Co., Ltd. (COSCO), China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), CRRC Corporation Limited (CRRC), China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (Sinopec), the SCCC release emphasised.



# Secretary in Agriculture Production Department reviews implementation of HADP projects in J&K

## Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 12: Secretary in Agriculture Production Department and Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), Sandeep Kumar, on Thursday said that successful implementation of HADP will play a pivotal role in transforming Jammu and Kashmir's agriculture and allied sectors into a sustainable and vibrant Rs 1 lakh crore agri-economy. Chairing a review meeting held at the Directorate of Agriculture, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, Sandeep Kumar emphasised the importance of output-based monitoring and real-time progress tracking to maximise the impact and efficiency. The review meeting focused on 13 major HADP projects.



Director Agriculture Jammu, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Horticulture Jammu, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Animal Husbandry (Jammu/Kashmir), Director Sheep Husbandry (Jammu/

Kashmir), representatives from SKUAST-Jammu and SKUAST-Kashmir, Directors of Sericulture, CAD, Fisheries and other allied sectors besides concerned PGMs and technical teams attended the meet-

ing while officers from outside the station joined the meeting virtually. The Mission Director stressed the need for robust and measurable outcome tracking over 92,000 units already established at the grassroots level under HADP schemes. He also underlined that output-led project governance, efficient inter-departmental coordination, and strategic bottleneck resolution are vital for achieving the goals of HADP. Sandeep Kumar called for stronger last-mile delivery, data-driven monitoring systems and greater accountability in implementation. He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards empowering the farmers, improving productivity and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities through HADP.

# Nasha Mukht awareness rally held at Dooru

## Top News Report

DOORU, Jun 12: To strengthen the fight against substance abuse among youth, Anantnag Police, in collaboration with private Schools Of Zone Dooru & civil Society Dooru organized an awareness rally in Dooru Anantnag on Thursday. The rally was part of a broader campaign to promote healthy, active, and substance-free lifestyles among students. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, educationists, Civil Society and police officials.



Holding banners, placards and slogans promoting a drug-free culture, participants marched through main market of Dooru Town to raise awareness about the growing threat of drug abuse, and the urgent need for preventive education and community involvement. Earlier, the event commenced with motivational addresses by

police officials. Speakers emphasized that the initiative was not only about curbing substance abuse but also about cultivating a generation of mentally strong, physically fit, and socially responsible individuals. They highlighted how sports, fitness and co-curricular engagement can play a transformative role in keeping youth away from harmful influences.

A notable highlight of the rally was the Anti-Drug Pledge, taken in unison by hundreds of students, symbolizing their commitment to leading a drug-free life and encouraging peers to do the same. The collective oath resonated with the core objectives of the campaign viz. empowerment, awareness and community action.

# YNC holds meeting at Batote, flags local Youth concerns

Tejinder Pal vows to take up youth issues with Govt



## Top News Report

BATOTE, Jun 12: A significant meeting of the Jammu and Kashmir Youth National Conference (JKYNC) was held at Batote in District Ramban, drawing enthusiastic participation from the youth of the region. The meeting was marked by a warm and rousing reception accorded to Tejinder Pal Singh, Provincial President of JKNC Youth, on his maiden visit to Batote after assuming office. During the meeting, several pressing issues concerning the youth and local residents of Ramban district were brought into focus. District President Ramban National Conference Abid Margrey was present in the meeting and addressed the local youth. The meeting was organized by Youth leader Nafiz Mir. While addressing the

meeting Abid Margrey highlighted the acute problem of unemployment in the region, stating that despite the presence of several national projects in the district, local youth are being neglected when it comes to job opportunities. He made a strong pitch for the reservation of employment for local educated youth in these ongoing infrastructural and developmental projects. YNC workers raised concerns over the shortage of medical officers and inadequate healthcare facilities in the district. They also demanded construction of an indoor sports stadium in Batote. They stressed that creating sports infrastructure is vital to positively engage the youth and keep them away from the growing menace of drug addiction in the region. Speaking on the occasion,

sion, Tejinder Pal Singh expressed gratitude for the warm welcome and said that the present government under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is committed to inclusive development and youth empowerment. Tejinder acknowledged the issues raised by the district unit and assured that the party is aware of the hardships faced by people living in hilly areas, especially in terms of employment, healthcare, and infrastructure. He further assured the gathering that he will take up all these issues with the Party High Command for appropriate redressal and policy attention. He encouraged the youth to remain united and continue to work under the banner of the National Conference to strengthen the voice of Jammu and Kashmir's youth at every level.

# SGWF resolves domestic violence case in Bhaderwah 129 cases addressed across J&K Since 2023, Foundation reaffirms priority to women's safety



## Top News Report

BHADERWAH, Jun 12: Demonstrating its unwavering commitment to women's safety and community justice, the Synergetic Green Warriors Foundation (SGWF) successfully resolved a domestic violence case in Bhaderwah, bringing immediate relief and support to the victim. The intervention was led by Dr. Sonia Verma, Director & CEO of SGWF, along with Makhani Verma, Vice President, and Manu Kotwal, General Secretary and Cell Incharge for Women & Family Support Cases.

Upon receiving the complaint, the team immediately mobilized and conducted on-ground counselling, family engagement, and follow-up support—ensuring a peaceful and just resolution. "Justice and dignity for women are non-negotiable. SGWF stands

beside every woman in distress," said Dr. Sonia Verma, addressing the press following the intervention. This is not an isolated case. Since 2023, SGWF has resolved 129 cases of domestic violence across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Each case has been handled with urgency, empathy, and a solutions-focused approach, often involving field visits, legal referrals, family counselling, and coordination with local authorities. Manu Kotwal, the General Secretary and Incharge of the Women and Family Support Cell, plays a pivotal frontline role in handling these sensitive cases. "I am always ready—day or night—to attend to any complaint. No woman should feel alone or unheard. SGWF is here to help," said Ms. Kotwal, who has gained the trust of hundreds of families through her active and dedicated service.

# Army commences Pre-Training for Agniveer Aspirants at Banihal



## Top News Report

RAMBAN, Jun 12: The pre-training classes for Agniveer aspirants under the Agnipath scheme commenced today with a solemn and inspiring opening ceremony held at Bn HQ, Karawa Camp Banihal. The event witnessed the presence of distinguished guests, training staff, and a large number of enthusiastic candidates who are preparing to serve the nation through this prestigious program. The ceremony began with the warm welcome of the chief guest, ZEPO, Banihal Rubina Ahmed Bhat. During the interaction session the ZEPO encouraged the candidates besides emphasizing the importance of discipline, integrity, and commitment in shaping the future of the youth and building a strong nation. Delivering the opening address, Major Gurpreet Singh Hora, 2IC said, "This training is not just a physical or academic preparation; it is the beginning

of a transformation where each of you will learn what it truly means to wear the identity of an Agniveer. This journey will demand your best, but it will also prepare you to serve the country with honor and pride". The pre-training classes aim to prepare aspiring candidates holistically focusing on physical fitness, mental toughness, academic readiness, and values-based orientation. Trainers and coordinators will mentor the candidates in alignment with the Indian Armed Forces' expectations, building a strong foundation for their upcoming selection processes. The ceremony concluded with a collective pledge by all aspirants to uphold the values of patriotism, dedication, and discipline throughout their journey. The Indian Army continues to remain at the forefront of initiatives aimed at promoting Various Pre Training of Youth in the area and as part of its unwavering commitment to public welfare and holistic community development.

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**'Many killed' as Air India plane with 242 on board crashes near Ahmedabad airport**

evacuation, and firefighting operations.

**Fostering environmental stewardship among youngsters, reconnecting with nature, need of hour: Sakeena**

Principal GGHSS Kothibagh, Heads of various institutions of Srinagar district, faculty members and large number of students were also present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, Education Minister said that Kashmir's weather is witnessing drastic

changes due to deforestation and other allied activities. She emphasized on the urgent need of the hour is to reconnect with nature and foster environmental stewardship among the younger generation as well as school and college going students. "Environmental preservation is not just a policy issue, it is a personal responsibility. Each of us has the power to influence change, starting with our homes, schools and communities", Sakeena Itoo stated. The Minister called upon all the participants to make plantation of trees a routine habit, highlighting that we need to work collectively to bring back the charm and environmental conditions our Kashmir was known for across the globe. On the occasion, Education Minister also praised GGHSS Kothibagh for academic excellence, highlighting that Government institutions are at par with Private schools in these days. She added that the position holders of various government institutions felicitated today reflect this. The Minister also said that selections in prestigious examinations like IAS and KAS as well as profes-

sional exams like NEET, GATE and others are usually alumni of Government institutions. She added that the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah is giving more impetus to education and health sectors as they form the pillars of any developed society. Sakeena Itoo on the occasion, also praised the young students of GGHSS Kothibagh for their proactive role in promoting green initiatives and urged them to become lifelong ambassadors for nature. In her welcome address, Principal GGHSS Kothibagh, spoke on the broad contours of this programme. She also expressed gratitude to Minister for continuous support. On the occasion, Education Minister felicitated the 10th and 12th class examination toppers of various institutions. She also felicitated the students of Bal Raksha Bharat on the occasion. The Minister also unveiled the school tarana of GGHSS Kothibagh during the event. On the occasion, students presented various cultural performances, reflecting vibrant culture and ethos of our valley. Earlier, Sakeena Itoo inspected the stalls established by students

of Green School Eco-club showcasing varied products and innovations for environmental preservation and protection. She also inspected the Biodiversity wall of the school. **BJP LoP Sunil Sharma meets LG, seeks intervention in Naib Tehsildar aspirants' issue** Sunil Sharma sought the Lieutenant Governor's intervention into the issue of Naib Tehsildar aspirants and requested him to make the Working Knowledge of Urdu language non-mandatory for Naib Tehsildar examination. He highlighted that making working knowledge of one language mandatory, given the UT of J&K's five official languages, violates the constitutional principles of equal opportunity and administrative impartiality, and it creates an unfair barrier, particularly disadvantaging aspirants from the Jammu Division. The senior BJP leaders also requested the Lieutenant Governor for translation of government documents and procedures into all

the official languages of J&K UT. **GoC Whiteknight Corps reviews security situation in Rajouri, Doda** troops for their professionalism and high standards in handling challenging conditions. "GOC, Whiteknight along with GOC Cif(Delta) and GOC Ace of Spades Division, conducted a comprehensive review of operational preparedness during visits to forward posts in Naushera sector and hinterland bases in Bhaderwah", PRO defence said. They also visited the Corps Battle School, where the GOC commanded troops for their professionalism, rigorous training, and high standards in counterterrorism operations. **CISF secures two most sensitive jails in J&K** Kotbhalwal. The two sensitive prisons house

several terrorists and other criminals. The two jails house an estimated over 1,400 inmates. While the CISF provides security to the two jails, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) would continue to secure the outer periphery of the jail. "Yes, the responsibility of round-the-clock security of the two jails is with CISF," said an officer. "There are deliberations to take over the security of more jails in J&K." At present, there are 14 functional prisons in Jammu and Kashmir, which include two Central Jails, 10 district Jails, a Special Jail & a Sub Jail. Against a lodgement capacity of 3629 inmates, the Jammu & Kashmir Prisons Department is accommodating more than 5300 inmates. The Srinagar jail had been in the news for the wrong reasons on multiple occasions in the past. The Counter-Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) and the State Investigation Agency (SIA) of J&K police last year conducted a joint raid on the Central Jail in connection with a "terror-linked case". Over the last few years, several central institutes in Jammu and Kashmir have sought CISF security due to threat perception.



## VKS thanks LG, Administration for peaceful Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra; highlights long-standing community issues

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 12: The Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj (VKS) in collaboration with Shri Mata Kheer Bhawani Ji Welfare Society, expressed heartfelt gratitude for the successful and peaceful conduct of the Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra 2025, despite the prevailing tensions following the tragic Pahalgam terror incident.

Addressing the media, the organization members appreciated the collective efforts of the civil administration, security forces, and the resilience of the Kashmiri Pandit community, which made the Yatra possible under challenging circumstances. They acknowledged the unwavering support of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, former Chief Minister Shri Omar Abdullah, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Arvind Karwani, and Divisional Commissioners and Dis-



trict Development Commissioners from Jammu, Udhampur, Ramban, Anantnag, Kulgam, Srinagar, and Ganderbal districts.

The speakers expressed hope for the dignified return and rehabilitation of displaced Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley, emphasizing that such resettlement should occur on the community's terms and in a secure atmosphere.

Kiran Wattal, Convenor, presented a comprehensive report detailing the community's unresolved concerns.

Key issues included the urgent revision of monthly relief, currently fixed at Rs 23,250 per family, which has remained unchanged for years and is deemed insufficient. They also raised the matter of pending ex-gratia payments, with nearly 50% of beneficiaries yet to be compensated.

The organization highlighted that horticultural and agricultural losses during the 1990s exodus remain unassessed and uncompensated. The incomplete implementation of the 2008-09 Prime Minister's Pack-

age was another major concern, with a large portion of the promised jobs still pending. They demanded fresh recruitment of 5,000 posts across sectors without imposing conditional clauses.

The poor condition of accommodation for PM package employees in Kashmir was also emphasized, along with the dire state of migrant camps in Jammu. The camps reportedly lack basic amenities such as safe drinking water, roads, proper healthcare, sanitation, and maintenance of infra-

structure.

M.K. Yogi, General Secretary of Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj, made a strong appeal to the government to urgently address these long-pending demands for the welfare and justice of displaced families.

The press conference saw the presence of several community members including Prem Sharma (Vice Chairman), Ravi Bakshi (Secretary), Kamal Krishan Ganjoo (Public Relations Incharge), Pintoo Pandita (Chief Coordinator), Dr. T.K. Bhat (Advisor), Muktesh Yogi (Youth President), and others. Youth leaders and senior members reaffirmed the community's collective resolve to pursue rightful demands with unity and determination.

The event concluded with a united call for the restoration of justice, secure resettlement, and dignified living conditions for all displaced Kashmiri Pandit families.

## Aryans Group of Colleges Chandigarh organises Job Fest in Srinagar



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 12: To recruit faculty from Jammu & Kashmir for teaching JK students of Aryans Group of Colleges, Chandigarh, a recruitment drive was conducted in Iqbal Institute of Technology & Management (IITM), Laloo, Sheshgari, Hyperpora, Srinagar. Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group & Prof (Dr.) Abdul Ganie, Director IITM, Hyperpora, inaugurated this job fest. Hundreds of unemployed youth from different corners of Jammu & Kashmir registered this job fair.

Dr. Anshu Kataria mentioned that Aryans Group has the majority of the students from JK

& that's why the Group aims to recruit faculty from JK in various departments. Already 50 percent of faculty is teaching at Aryans in different courses.

Kataria further added various job applicants have applied for positions in departments including CSE, Civil, EE, EEE, Mechanical, LL.B, B.A.- LL.B, B.Sc Nursing, GNM, ANM, B.Sc MLS, Opretation Theater, Anesthesia, Cardiac Care, Radiology, Optometry, M.Sc MLS (Biochemistry), B. Pharmacy, D. Pharmacy, M. Pharma (Pharmaceuticals) etc. He said that we have shortlisted 25 candidates after interviews.

Dr Abdul appreciated the efforts of the entire

team of Aryans Group & he impressed upon the youth to avail such opportunity of Job Fair & reap the benefits of such drives.

It is to be mentioned that, established in 2007, Aryans campus is located on Chandigarh-Patiala highway, near Chandigarh and has lush green 20 acres pollution free campus and has become the destination for JK students. Aryans Group has been serving the educational and intellectual interests of the youth in a commendable manner. The Group is running Engineering College, Law College, Pharmacy College, Management College, Business School, Education College, and Nursing College etc.

## MLA Ramban declares open Inter-Zonal District Level Sports Tournament

*Over 335 Student Athletes Compete with Enthusiasm*



### Top News Report

RAMBAN, Jun 12: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ramban, today inaugurated the Inter-Zonal District Level Sports Tournament for Under-14 and Under-17 boys and girls in the disciplines of Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, and Volleyball at District Police Lines (DPL) Ground, Ramban.

The tournament was formally declared open by MLA Ramban, Advocate Arjun Singh Raju, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The event is being held under the direction of the Director General, YSS J&K, and the guidance of District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO), Ramban, Jagdesh Raj Sharma.

The opening ceremony witnessed an enthusiastic participation of over 335 student athletes from all six zones of the district, accompanied by their respective Zonal Physical Education Officers, Physical Education Teachers, Rehbar-e-Khel instructors, and field staff. The ground buzzed with energy as young athletes showcased their passion for sports in an environment filled with dis-

cipline, sportsmanship, and zeal. An anti drugs pledge was also administered to the participants.

Addressing the gathering, MLA applauded the efforts of the Youth Services and Sports Department in providing a platform for youth to express their talent and energy through sports.

He emphasized that such events are crucial for identifying grassroots-level talent and fostering a spirit of unity and teamwork among young participants. He also advised the youth to remain focused on their goals and to stay away from negative influences, urging them to take full advantage of such opportunities for personal and athletic development.

Speaking on the occasion, the DYSSO highlighted the transformative power of sports in shaping character and promoting a healthy lifestyle. He urged the youth to embrace sports as a positive alternative to harmful habits, particularly substance abuse, and as a means to develop self-confidence, leadership, and resilience.

## Department of AYUSH Kishtwar hosts District Yoga Championship 2025

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jun 12: In the spirit of promoting holistic health and well-being ahead of International Yoga Day 2025, the Department of AYUSH, Kishtwar, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan, successfully organized the District-Level Yoga Championship 2025.

The event was held at the Government Degree College (GDC) Auditorium, Kishtwar, in collaboration with the District Administration, Education Department, J&K Sports Council, and the Department of

Youth Services & Sports (YS&S).

The championship witnessed vibrant participation from students across the district, and was graced by ACR Kishtwar, Idrees Lone, who served as the Chief Guest.

In his address, ACR Lone highlighted the transformative power of yoga in maintaining physical, mental, and emotional balance, especially for the youth. He commended the discipline and energy displayed by the participants and congratulated schools, instructors, and organizing teams for their efforts in making the event a grand suc-

cess.

ACR Lone further encouraged students to integrate yoga into their daily routines and act as ambassadors of its message of harmony, wellness, and inner peace. He emphasized that yoga not only builds a healthier lifestyle but also strengthens focus, patience, and inner resilience.

The championship featured competitions in Male and Female categories under the Under-14 and Under-19 age groups. Schools such as GGHSS Kishtwar, Kidzee Kishtwar, and BVM HSS Kishtwar actively participated in the event.

## FWS hails Sawan Lakhotra's Bhajan 'Assi Karde Udeek Raja Ji'



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 12: The Friends Welfare Society members today hailed the release of Dogri Singer Sawan Singh Lakhotra's new religious bhajan 'Assi Karde Udeek Raja Ji'.

Sawan said, This bhajan serves as a means of invoking bless-

ings of Raja Mandleek, purifying the atmosphere, and spreading joy and auspiciousness. While R.L.Kaith said, Singing or listening to bhajans removes all negativity in one's mind and fills one's heart with joy, peace and contentment. It elevates one's mood and creates inner equilibrium.

## Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Khour celebrates 627th Prakash Utsav of Sant Kabir



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 12: Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Khour celebrated 627th Prakash Utsav of Sant Samrat Sadhguru Kabir Ji Maharaj in the premises of Gurudwara Shri Guru Ravi Ji Maharaj Khour (Akhnoor Sector) with cake cutting ceremony.

Speaking on this occasion, Vikram Singh, President Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Khour said that Sant Kabir is a yearly event that celebrates the birth anniversary of Sant Kabir Ji Maharaj was a renowned poet, saint and social reformer.

This day is celebrated by all classes of people not only in India but in other countries also. The writings have greatly influenced the Bhakti Movement. His writings include Bijak,

Sakhi Granths, Kabir Granthawali. Kabir ke Dohe are sung throughout the world.

Vikram congratulated the countrymen on the eve of Parkash Divas of Sant Samrat Sadhguru Kabir Ji Maharaj Vikram appealed to sangat to follow the teachings of Sant Samrat Kabir Ji Maharaj.

Those who paid floral tributes and performed the cake cutting ceremony included Ram Nath, President Guru Kabir Sabha Khour, Madan Lal, ex-President SGRDS, Khour, Bansil Lal, Arun Radha, D.L. Radha, Raj Kumar, Mohan Lal, Kali Dass, Bishan Dass, Rattan Lal, Babu Ram, Pawan Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Bittu, Sanju, Rajesh Kumar, Ashwani Kumar, Neelam, Bahadur Lal and Deepak Kumar.

## AJKNHMEA Jammu Division extends welcome to newly appointed Mission Director NHM J&K

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 12: The All J&K National Health Mission (NHM) Employees Association, Jammu Division—an affiliated unit of the J&K Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) and J&K Medical Employees Federation, has extended welcome to Baseer ul Haq Choudhary on his recent posting as the Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), Jammu & Kashmir.

In a statement issued to the media, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Provincial President of the Association, conveyed his warm wishes and congratulations to Sh. Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, expressing confi-



dence that his dynamic leadership will further strengthen the delivery of healthcare services under NHM across the Union Territory of J&K. He affirmed that the NHM employees are hopeful of a positive and progressive era under his able guidance.

Meanwhile, the Association has also extended its heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing Mission

Director, Sh. Nazim Zai Khan (IAS), on his transfer.

The Association fondly recalls and deeply appreciates his dedicated services, sincere efforts, and administrative acumen during his tenure as MD NHM J&K.

His contributions towards strengthening the health system and addressing employee concerns have left a lasting impact.

The Association expressed hope that the legacy of responsive leadership will continue, and reiterated its commitment to work in synergy with the administration for the betterment of public health services in J&K and, in pleading the genuine concerns of the NHM fraternity.



## Gautam Gambhir hails Karun Nair's "never-give-up attitude"

BECKENHAM, Jun 12 (Agencies): Ahead of India's five-Test series against England in UK, head coach Gautam Gambhir and newly-appointed Test captain Shubman Gill gave an inspiring huddle talk, during which Gambhir heaped praises on batter Karun Nair's "never-give-up" attitude which helped him make a return to Test side after eight years.

The tour to England will kick-start India's ICC World Test Championship cycle for 2025-27, but also a new era, with their senior stars Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli having retired from Tests and spin bowling all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin having retired from international cricket as well. The first Test will be held at Leeds from June 20 onwards.

In the video posted on the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) website, Gambhir spoke about Nair, saying, "Comebacks are never easy. Someone who has made a comeback after seven years had a phenomenal last year. Last year, no matter the runs you have got, and most importantly, that never-die attitude, never-giving-up attitude, that is something which has got you back into the team. That is something which is inspiring for this entire world. Welcome, Karun."

Nair's inclusion comes at a transitional phase on the back of a dream domestic season last year. The dream season for Vidarbha star concluded with the 863-run season in Ranji Trophy 2024-25, with an average of 53.93, four centuries and two fifties in 16 innings across nine matches. His best



score of 135 came in the final and his team emerged victorious. During the warm-up unofficial Tests for India A against England Lions, he scored 259 runs in three innings, including a double ton.

A massive highlight of his season was the Vijay Hazare Trophy one-day tournament, where he top-scored with 779 runs in nine matches and eight innings at a stunning average of 389.50 and a strike rate of 124.04, with five centuries and a fifty and best score of 163\*.

He played a massive role in his team's run to the finals, where they lost to his former team, Karnataka. In the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 competition, Nair made 255 runs in six innings, averaging 42.50 at a strike rate of 177.08, with three half-centuries and the best score of 77. His team was knocked out in the quarterfinals.

Gambhir also hailed Sai Sudharsan, the star Gujarat Titans (GT) opener who won the Orange Cap for most runs and the 'Emerging Player' award in the Indian Premier League (IPL), scoring 759 runs in 15 matches at an average of 54.21,

with a century and six fifties.

"We will make sure you have a very successful red-ball career as well," he added.

In 29 first-class matches, Sudharsan has made 1,957 runs in 29 matches and 49 innings, averaging 39.93, with seven centuries and five fifties.

Gambhir also welcomed pacer Arshdeep Singh, who has so far been exceptional in white-ball cricket for India. He is already India's top T20I wicket-taker with 99 scalps in 63 matches and has taken 14 wickets in nine ODIs.

"I want to welcome Arsh, who has been phenomenal with the white ball cricket, I am sure, with the red ball in your hand, which is still there. I am sure you are going to make it count."

Gambhir also welcomed Gill and vice-captain Rishabh Pant to the leadership group. He said that there are two ways of looking at the tour, either noticing the absence of star senior players or taking it as an opportunity to do something really special for the country.

"When I look around, I think the hunger, the passion and the commitment to do something

special. I think if we make sacrifices, if we come out of our comfort zone, if we start fighting, not every day, but every session, every hour and every ball, I think we can have an unbelievable team. So make sure we start that from today only. I think start enjoying playing for the country because there is no bigger honour," he added.

Gill also chimed in, urging his players to "find out their game" and play "every ball with purpose".

"Let us make each and every net session meaningful and let us prepare like that and let us put ourselves under a little bit of pressure when we are going out there. It is not about going out there and surviving. Let it be to find out our game, how we are going to play when we will be put under pressure, whether it be bowlers or batsmen. And let it be to make the practise match and each and every net very meaningful and let us play every ball with purpose," he concluded.

The series will be held from June to August 2025, with matches scheduled at Headingley in Leeds, Edgbaston in Birmingham, Lord's and The Oval in London, and Old Trafford in Manchester.

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 will be well prepared but we know where we want to get to as Test team: McCullum



LONDON, Jun 12 (Agencies): England head coach Brendon McCullum believes India have arrived well-prepared and full of belief for the upcoming five-match Test series but his team is also clear about where it wants to be in the eagerly-anticipated showdown beginning June 20 in Leeds.

The series will kick off India's new World Test Championship cycle.

"They're an outstanding cricketing nation, who will come here with high hopes, and we are looking forward to seeing them," McCullum told 'Sky Sports Cricket'.

England on the other hand have just completed a whitewash of the West Indies in a six-match white-ball series. Their focus now shifts to the red-ball format as they gear up to take India and also prepare for the Ashes later this

year.

"It's important the guys refresh. We know where we want to get to as a Test team." England will be without tearaway pacer Mark Wood, who has been ruled out of at least the first three Tests due to injury.

Fellow quick Jofra Archer will also miss the opening Test, while Gus Atkinson is still recovering from a hamstring strain. Despite the setbacks, McCullum remains confident in England's bowling options.

"There are some quality bowlers that are unavailable, but we have a nice, varied bowling attack with Chris Woakes, Sam Cook, Brydon Carse, Jamie Overton, Josh Tongue for the high-pace element," the former New Zealand skipper said.

"We have Shoaib Bashir, who is growing in Test cricket every day. We know we are going

to be tested against India, and they will arrive prepared," he added.

India begin a new era after Test retirements of veterans Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and R Ashwin.

The team will be led by Shubman Gill and features a youthful lineup including Sai Sudharsan and Yashasvi Jaiswal. England all-rounder Jacob Bethell has been recalled and McCullum was all praise for the 21-year-old.

"Bethell has a good life in front of him. For a 21-year-old, he's got a real poise, and that allows him to go out there and be present and show off his flair and talent," McCullum said.

"The world is his oyster. He's already becoming a leader in the dressing room which is what you want," he added.

McCullum also mentioned Jamie Smith and Ben Duckett as talents to look forward to.

"Jamie Smith and Ben Duckett have reminded me of Duckett and Zak Crawley in the Test game. We know how good Duckett is, but the power that Smith possesses is amazing."

"These guys are fearless, and if you add the craft, then you hope you end up with a rounded player."

## "What I witnessed was not just a cricket match, but a culmination...": De Villiers' heartfelt note to RCB following maiden IPL title

NEW DELHI, Jun 12 (Agencies): Legendary South African and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batter AB de Villiers penned a heartwarming letter for his former Red and Gold franchise following their maiden Indian Premier League (IPL) title, highlighting his deep connection with the team, its star batter and close friend Virat Kohli and several of its youngsters including skipper Rajat Patidar, even after retirement from the sport.

De Villiers was amongst many in attendance at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on June 3, a historic night in IPL history when RCB and its superstar player Virat ended their 18-year-long wait for a trophy, beating Punjab Kings (PBKS) in a well-contested final.

De Villiers posted his letter on Instagram. He is RCB's second-highest run-scorer of all time, with 4,522 runs in 157 matches and 145 innings at an average of 41.10, including two centuries and 37 half-centuries. His runs came at an impressive strike rate of 158.33.

In his letter, he started, "Dear RCB family, Last night was something words will never fully do justice to, but I will try, because the heart deserves to speak when it is full. As I walked into the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, the sun had already dipped below the skyline, but it felt like the red of RCB still lit up the horizon. A neutral venue, they said, but when I heard the roar, saw the jerseys, the flags, the faces painted with red and gold, I knew this was home."

De Villiers said that even in the Western part



of India, they all could feel as if they were at the side's home stadium, M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

"What I witnessed was not just a cricket match, but a culmination. A culmination of belief, heartbreaks, near misses, miracles, and an undying loyalty that no trophy, until now, had been able to reward. But last night, it happened. RCB, the team that became family to me, are the champions of the IPL. Well, it feels good to say that," he added.

The batter said that he had dreamt of this moment but never imagined that it could all come up so perfectly, with the fans, the leadership, people working behind the scenes all coming together like never before.

"That is what made this so much more than just a victory," he added.

De Villiers also noted his brief "eye" exchange with Virat, saying, "And then, as if the night hadn't already stirred every emotion, there was Virat, standing at long off, right in front of me. Our eyes met for a brief moment, and that was all it took. We did not need words."

"In that quiet exchange, everything was understood. The years, the near misses, the weight we had both carried for this dream. There were

tears, yes, but more than that, there was a deep, unspoken knowing."

"We have shared countless innings, conversations, and battles together, but the words he spoke after the game, the way he acknowledged our journey, contributions, and shared memories, it touched a part of me that few things in this game ever have. That moment reminded me. It is not about the numbers."

De Villiers was also delighted that skipper Rajat Patidar, Devdutt Padikkal, who were starting their IPL journey during his final years with the franchise, stepped up on the biggest stage, and it was "surreal" for AB.

"I have seen their raw potential, their hunger in the nets, their excitement just to share a dressing room, and now, they have turned that promise into history, and I could not be prouder."

"To the RCB management, to the coaching staff, to the ever loyal fans, and to every single player who's worn this jersey, thank you for allowing me to be a part of this beautiful legacy. Even though I was not out there batting last night, a piece of my heart always will be."

"This title means more because of the journey that came before it, and

for me, this will always be one of the greatest joys of my life. Seeing the team I love finally lift their trophy. With all my love, pride, and gratitude, you Mr. 360," he concluded.

Coming to the match, PBKS won the toss and elected to bowl first. Arshdeep Singh (3/40) and Kyle Jamieson (3/48) applied timely breaks with the ball, while Yuzi Chahal (1/37) also prevented batters from attacking. While Virat (43 in 35 balls, with three fours) tried to keep the innings together, skipper Rajat Patidar (26 in 16 balls, with a four and two sixes), Jitesh Sharma (24 in 10 balls, with two fours and two sixes) and Liam Livingstone (25 in 15 balls, with two fours) upped the attack enough to help RCB post 190/9 in 20 overs.

In the run-chase, PBKS started well with Priyansh Arya (24 in 19 balls, with four boundaries) and Prabhsimran (26 in 22 balls, with two sixes) stitching a 43-run stand. Josh Inglis (39 in 23 balls, with a four and four sixes) and Shashank Singh (61\* in 30 balls, three wins and six sixes) tried their level best to keep up with the rising run rate, but Krunal Pandya (2/17), Yash Dayal (1/18) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2/38) put a fine show with the ball to restrict PBKS to 184/7, despite a sensational 22 runs smashed by Shashank in the final over while needing 29.

Krunal Pandya was named 'Player of the Match' for his impactful bowling performance. The title wait continues for PBKS, who made their second IPL final and their first in 11 years.

## "Sapno ki koi umar nahi hoti...": World Masters Games 2025 gold medalist, retired Naval Officer Commander Gauri Mishra



NEW DELHI, Jun 12 (Agencies): Naval Officer Commander (retired) Gauri Mishra, who secured three medals in track cycling, including two golds and a silver at the 2025 Summer World Masters Games in Taiwan, reflected on her journey and gave an important message to women.

Gauri participated in the event held in Taiwan from May 17 to 30 this year. She got three medals in track cycling, including two golds in Individual Time Trial - 500m-Women-40-plus and Scratch Race - 5km-Women-40-plus and a silver in Individual Pursuit - 2km-Women-40plus events.

Speaking to ANI, she said, "It is like Olympics and comes every four years. When I started preparing for this, did I have resources, or proper professional training, policies to train athletes after a certain age, or a precedent, or, proper gear. All I had was passion. As luck would have it, my hard work paid off, and today I have two golds and one silver."

Giving an important message to women, she said, "Sapno ki koi umar nahi hoti hai" (There is no age to dream).

"I never thought I would become an inspiration for women and children and represent the country...This event is not famous in India, but we are trying that it

gets famous," she concluded.

The event provides an opportunity for the promotion of sports for all, for middle-aged people. International Masters Games Association (IMGA) governs this competition. As per the official website of IMGA, "The World Masters Games are an international multi-sport athletic competition held every four years by the International Masters Games Association (IMGA) for athletes over the age of 30 and into their middle age and senior years."

"The games are held in the year following the Olympics. The first World Masters Games were held in 1985 in Toronto, Canada," added the website.

## Hayden feels SA need to show more intent with bat during WTC final day 2 against Australia

LONDON, Jun 12 (Agencies): Former Australian cricketer Matthew Hayden said that South Africa will have to come out with more intent while batting on the second day of their ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia at Lord's.

It was wickets galore for pacers as except for Steve Smith and Beau Webster's fifties, none of the batters across both sides could make it big during the opening day of the WTC final. The highlight with the ball was Kagiso Rabada's five-wicket haul for Proteas and the way Mitchell Starc came in clutch with two quick wickets after his side was bundled out for a moderate score.

Hayden, a JioStar expert, said that he is not convinced that it was entirely Australia's day, it was around 80 per cent in favour of the defending champions, largely because Proteas did not show intent with the bat.

"I am not entirely convinced it was Australia's day. South Africa won the first session, and Australia's comeback in the final session—nine wickets in all—was surprising. The conditions were odd: cloudy for half the day and sunny for the other half. Batting should have been easier, but it wasn't. I would say maybe 80 per cent in Australia's favour, largely because of South Africa's lack of intent," he said.

Hayden slammed SA skipper Bavuma, who he said "showed little vigour" with the bat, opening his run tally on 31st ball he faced. "And that's dangerous when facing three world-class fast bowlers in conditions that suit them. They need to come out with more intent on Day 2. Any signs of aggression—even those few boundaries late in the day—will help. But if they do not, Australia will come into Day 2 as firm favourites," added the recent ICC Hall

of Famer.

Ex-Indian all-rounder Sanjay Bangar, another JioStar expert, said that the day one belonged to Australia, saying that SA's early wickets handed back the advantage to Aussies.

"With the amount of seam movement on this pitch, the scoreboard does not reflect a par score. Australia is in a strong position," he added.

Bangar said that while the tactical greatness, confidence and skill of former captain Graeme Smith, who is side's most successful captain ever, does not come overnight, all South Africa can do is be positive and have the right footwork. "Steve Smith was exceptional—when conditions were tough, he pushed the pressure back on the bowlers. Also, someone like Ngidi had an off day and leaked runs. Australia's bowlers didn't offer any width. If South Africa want to score square, they must first find a way to create that width—and that comes with intent," he concluded.

Coming to the match, after Australia was put to bat first by SA, they sunk to 67/4 at the end of the first session. A 79-run stand between Steve Smith (66 in 112 balls, with 10 fours) and Beau Webster (72 in 92 balls, with 11 fours) and Webster's 46-run stand with Alex Carey (23 in 31 balls, with four boundaries) pushed Australia near to 200-run mark. But Kagiso Rabada (5/51) and Marco Jansen (3/49) continued applying pressure, reducing the Aussies to 212.

SA had an even nightmarish start, losing their four wickets for 43 runs at the end of day's play, with none of their batters touching 20-run mark. Mitchell Starc got two wickets, while skipper Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood got one wicket each. SA trails by 169 runs.



# TDF appeals for preservation and development of ancient Kalay Nag Temple



## Top News Report

DODA, Jun 12: The Thathri Development Front (TDF), along with the Kalay Naag Mandir Committee, has appealed to the administration for the preservation and development of the ancient Kalay Naag Temple situated at Lamhote Top in Doda district. In a joint press statement, TDF President Kuldeep Kumar Rao, General Secretary Om Raj Bhal, and Kalay Naag Mandir Committee President Chander Kumar urged Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, and MLA Bhaderwah, Daleep Singh Parihar, to take immediate steps toward protecting and promoting this culturally significant site.

The leaders emphasized that the Kalay Naag Temple is believed to have been established during the time of the Pandavas and holds deep mythological importance. According to local folklore, the Pandavas spent a part of their exile in this region and worshipped

Kalay Naag, a revered serpent deity symbolizing strength and protection. The temple's architectural style and stone structure also reflect its antiquity, suggesting its origin dates back several centuries.

Despite its religious and historical significance, the temple continues to lack basic infrastructure. It remains a vital spiritual center for residents of nearly five nearby panchayats and attracts thousands of devotees, especially during religious festivals and fairs. However, limited accessibility and the absence of amenities make it difficult for pilgrims to visit and perform religious rituals in comfort.

The TDF and the temple committee have demanded that the Kalay Naag Temple be officially recognized as an ancient heritage site. They also called for the immediate demarcation and legal registration of the temple land to safeguard it from potential encroachments. The statement also emphasized the need to expe-

dite the road construction project from Halaran to Kalay Naag Temple and proposed extending road connectivity from Lamhote Top to Jantron Top, which would significantly enhance access for pilgrims and tourists.

Further, the leaders stressed the importance of constructing a water collection tank to ensure a clean water supply and maintain sanitation at the site. They also proposed the construction of a dharamshala (pilgrims' rest house) to provide accommodation and basic facilities to visitors. To ensure regular upkeep and promotion, they urged the government to bring the temple under the jurisdiction of the Department of Tourism.

Concluding the appeal, the TDF and the Kalay Naag Mandir Committee reiterated that preserving and developing this sacred site would not only honor the region's cultural and spiritual heritage but also boost religious tourism and support the socio-economic development of the local community.

# JKNPP Bhim condemns mandatory Urdu requirement for Naib-Tehsildar Post, calls for immediate revision of eligibility criteria

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 12: Vilakshan Singh, President of the J&K National Panthers Party (Bhim), has strongly condemned the government's recent move making it mandatory for aspirants applying for the post of Naib-Tehsildar to have knowledge of Urdu.

Terming the decision discriminatory and unjustified, Singh said the measure is arbitrary and disadvantages a significant portion of the population, particularly in the Jammu province.

Singh emphasized that the J&K Official Languages Act, 2020 clearly recognizes five official languages—Kashmiri, Dogri, Urdu, Hindi, and English. He pointed out that there is no rationale for prioritizing one language over the others,

especially when modern initiatives are underway to translate revenue records into multiple official languages.

"The government's insistence on Urdu as a mandatory requirement is not only outdated but also exclusionary," Singh said. "A majority of the youth in Jammu province have not been taught Urdu as part of their academic curriculum. Making Urdu compulsory effectively bars them from competing for a vital administrative post." He further argued that with digitalization and translation of records progressing, the demand for knowledge of any single language, particularly Urdu, for handling revenue documents is obsolete. Instead, Singh called on the government to ensure that revenue

records are made available in all five official languages, so that administrative access and public service delivery remain inclusive and efficient.

Vilakshan Singh demanded that the eligibility criteria for the post of Naib-Tehsildar be immediately revised to remove the mandatory requirement of Urdu knowledge. "This regressive condition must be scrapped to safeguard the rights of aspirants across all regions and linguistic backgrounds of Jammu and Kashmir," he asserted.

J&K National Panthers Party Bhim stands firmly for equality, inclusivity, and the right of every deserving candidate to compete on a level playing field without linguistic discrimination.

# Defence Minister Rajnath Singh felicitates NCC cadets who summited mount everest

## Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Jun 12: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday felicitated National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets in New Delhi who recently summited Mount Everest.

During the meeting, the Minister said, the NCC deserves praise for deciding to send its cadets to this summit. He added that the

summit was a test of their discipline and patience.

Singh also presented a cheque of 10 lakh rupees for achieving the feat in the harshest of conditions without any injury.

The Minister also congratulated the cadets and their families, saying that the NCC has successfully inculcated a sense of national pride in its cadets.

Terming the cadets as a source of inspiration to the younger generation, Singh stated that with the expedition, the brave cadets have sent a message that even the world's highest peak is no limit for the youth of the country.

He exuded confidence that the cadets would overcome future challenges with the same courage and determination they displayed while

scaling Mount Everest. During the event, the cadets shared their experiences of the expedition, detailing the rigorous training, meticulous planning and challenges encountered.

The Mountaineering Expedition Team of NCC, comprising five girls and five boys aged an average of 19 years, scaled Mount Everest on 18th last month.

# JKNC reiterates demand for restoration of statehood to J&K Rampaul expresses concern over unemployment, seeks special industrial package for J&K



JAMMU, Jun 12: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Central Zone (Jammu, Samba & Kathua) held a key meeting under the leadership of its president and former minister, Babu Rampaul, to deliberate on pressing issues affecting Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting witnessed the participation of senior party leaders and ground-level workers, who voiced serious concern over the rising unemployment among youth in Jammu Kashmir.

Rampaul reiterated the demand made by party president Dr. Farooq Abdullah, urging the Central Government to announce a special industrial package for Jammu and Kashmir.

"J&K's economic backbone needs strengthening through robust industrialisation, which in turn can create sustainable employment for our youth," he emphasized.

He suggested that the package should be such that the industries

should use locally available raw material and if raw material is imported from outside then that should be subsidized and also ensure the purchase of all the finished goods.

The JKNC Central Zone leadership also backed Dr. Farooq Abdullah's recent assertion that J&K cannot rely solely on tourism and needs to explore alternative avenues for economic growth. "Tourism alone cannot ensure long-term stability. We need a multipronged economic strategy," said Rampaul.

He appreciated Dr Farooq Abdullah from travelling all the way

from Srinagar to Katra in newly launched Vande Bharat Express and seeking blessings of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi at Holy Shrine. "It is a strong message to all that there is mutual brotherhood and amity among the people of different faiths and regions."

In a significant political demand, Rampaul called upon the Election Commission of India to immediately announce bye-elections for the two vacant assembly constituencies in J&K. He also demanded that elections be held for the unrepresented Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu Kashmir, emphasizing

that "democracy must not remain suspended indefinitely."

Former Minister further praised CM Omar Abdullah for his proactive steps to restore confidence in the tourism sector, particularly following the recent Pahalgam incident. He said that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah organised government meetings at Pahalgam and Gulmarg—popular tourist destinations—to dispel fear in the minds of people of the country, particularly tourists.

Reiterating the demand raised by CM Omar Abdullah, Rampaul demanded that statehood be restored

in J&K to fulfill the aspirations of people.

Concluding the meeting, he urged party workers and Zonal units to remain active on the ground and begin preparations for the upcoming civic elections. "Our strength lies in our grassroots network. We must be ready to fight for the people's rights at every level of governance," he stated.

The meeting underscored the JKNC's focus on youth empowerment, economic revival, and restoring democratic processes in Jammu and Kashmir.

Others who spoke on the occasion were Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC, Dr Vikas Sharma, Coordinator Jammu District and Zonal Secretary, Dr. Gourav Bharat and Adv. Rajinder Chanyal.

Among those who attended the meeting were Sham Lal Mehra, B.D Dalotra (rtd. S.P ), S.Surjeet Singh Sasan, Adv Lovesh Bharat, Naved Raja, Arvind Jamwal, Sat Paul, Hemraj, Manhraj Lal, Jatinder Kumar, A.N Bhagat and others.

## Tawi Aarti organized by Shri Raghunathji Corridor Development Council

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 12: A grand spiritual event, Jammu Tawi Aarti, was organized on the evening of Wednesday, June 11, 2025, by the Shri Raghunathji Corridor Development Council. The monthly Aarti took place at the scenic Aarti Ghat on the Tawi River Front at 6:30 PM. The venue, developed under the Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) project, is situated on the banks of the sacred Surya Putri Maa Tavishi River, revered as the younger sister of Ganga Maiya. This month's Aarti was specially dedicated to the Indian Army. A two-minute silence was observed to honor the memory of the 28 tourists killed in the recent Pahalgam terror attack and to pay tribute to the soldiers who laid down their lives for the nation. The ceremony commenced with the singing of the National Anthem, symbolizing unity and patriotism.

The key objective of organizing this Aarti is to reconnect the youth and present generation with Sanatan cultural roots, ensure the cleanliness of the holy Tawi River, and promote religious tourism in Jammu.



The Council aspires to establish Jammu as a prominent spiritual destination through this initiative.

Rajesh Gupta, Chairman of Shri Raghunathji Corridor Vikas Council, shared that a Havan Yagna was performed on the occasion of Jyeshtha Purnima, seeking the blessings of Lord Shiva for the success and safety of the upcoming Shri Amarnathji and Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatras. He welcomed all the dignitaries and guests present.

Baldev Khullar, Senior Vice President and the chief organizer of the Aarti, emphasized that this ritual is more than just a religious act—it is a cultural revival movement. He provided a

detailed account of the 40-minute Aarti, which was divided into four spiritually significant phases. First Phase: Worship of the 33 crore Hindu deities using incense sticks. Aarti of Ganga Maiya and Tawi Maiya was conducted using Google Dhoo Patra during the "Bhagirath Nandini" Kirtan. Second Phase: Dedicated to Lord Shiva. Aarti of Baba Amarnath, Baba Vishwanath, and other Jyotirlingas of Jammu was performed using the Nag Agni Jyot Patra. Third Phase: Aarti of Lord Shri Ramchandra Maharaj Ji was carried out during the recitation of "Om Jai Jagdish Hare" using seven large lamps with 51 Jyoti Shikhas. Fourth Phase: Shri Ram

Stuti was performed using peacock feathers and chawar. The ritual concluded with the Aarti of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji and Mata Bave Wali Ji, creating an intense spiritual ambience.

Rajesh Dewan, General Secretary of the Council, underlined the Aarti's contribution to environmental conservation, spiritual upliftment, and tourism promotion. Ten uniformed priests conducted the Aarti with devotion and discipline, supported by the efficient efforts of the Aarti Management Team who ensured timely arrangements of equipment and logistics.

The event concluded with the Pushpanjali offering, during which Gangajal and flowers

were sprinkled on the devotees accompanied by Vedic chants. Many respected spiritual leaders were felicitated in a traditional Sanatan manner.

The honored Gurus included Mahamandaleswar Mahant Shri Rameshwar Das (Shri Ram Temple, Purani Mandi), Swami Hridayananda Giri (Hridaydeep Ashram), Mahant Shri Rishivan (Ranbireswar Temple), Mahant Ram Sumiran Das Ji Maharaj, Mahant Dr. Satyanarayan, Mahant Bharat Das (Mahakal Shakti Peeth Temple), Mahant Shri Sudarshan Das (ISKCON Jammu & Kashmir).

The Shri Raghunathji Corridor Vikas Council reiterated its commitment to preserving and promoting Jammu's rich religious and cultural traditions. The event marked a significant step in Jammu's journey toward becoming a major spiritual and cultural tourism hub.

Vice President Anoop Jain expressed heartfelt thanks to the visiting saints, guests, pilgrims, Hotel Association presidents, and extended gratitude to the yajmans, Jammu Municipal Corporation, and Jammu Smart City Limited for their support.

