

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT

| 6

Aamir Khan responds to love jihad claims and PK backlash



NATIONAL

| 7

India cannot afford to be divided over languages, says VP Dhankhar

INTERNATIONAL

| 8

Real end, not just a ceasefire: Trump's endgame on Iran-Israel conflict



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BRIEFLY

90 Kashmiri students evacuated from Iran amid Conflict

SRINAGAR, Jun 17 (Agencies): India has begun the first phase of evacuating its citizens stranded in Iran amid the ongoing Israel-Iran hostilities. Around 110 Indian medical students, including 90 from Kashmir, were evacuated from Urmia Medical University and have safely entered Armenia early this morning.

Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) national convener Nasir Khuehami said 110 students, including 90 from Kashmir, have been evacuated from Iran and are now safe in Armenia.

The group crossed the Iran-Armenia land border overnight and is travelling by road to Yerevan. They are expected to reach the Armenian capital by midday (around 12 or 1 PM), Nasir said after speaking with several evacuees en route.

JKSA has urged the remaining students to stay in contact with embassy helpines and follow official advisories.

Amarnath Yatra routes declared 'No Flying Zone' from July 1 to Aug 10

SRINAGAR, Jun 17 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday declared the Amarnath yatra routes as 'No Flying Zone' as part of beefed up security measures for the annual pilgrimage.

The Amarnath yatra has two routes – the traditional Pahalgam route and the shorter Baltal route.

The declaration issued by Jammu and Kashmir Home Department on the orders of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said flying of any kind of aviation platforms and devices, including UAVs, drones, balloons, is prohibited from July 1 to August 10.

However, the restrictions will not be applicable in the cases of medical evacuation, disaster management and for surveillance by security forces. A detailed SOP for such exceptions will be issued subsequently. The order said in view of the Shri Amarnathji Yatra, which is scheduled from July 3, various security arrangements are being

■ Turn to page 9

LG Sinha releases Coffee Table Book "Reimagining Jammu and Kashmir" at IGNCA

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Jun 17: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, unveiled the coffee table book "Reimagining Jammu and Kashmir" at a special event held at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.

Authored by renowned photojournalist Ashish Sharma, the book showcases the stunning natural beauty, cultural richness, and developmental transformation of the Union Territory. Through striking images and engaging narratives, the



book provides an inspiring glimpse into a region undergoing dynamic change.

Speaking at the occasion, Lt Governor Sinha stated, "This book is more than a visual

archive—it is a reflection of the resilience, progress, and cultural soul of Jammu and Kashmir. I congratulate Ashish Sharma for his extraordinary effort in capturing these stories

with depth and sensitivity."

Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, President of IGNCA, also appreciated the book for presenting an honest and uplifting portrayal of Jammu and Kashmir's evolving identity. The launch was attended by senior government officials, cultural scholars, media professionals, and art lovers.

The book will be made available at major cultural institutions, with plans for a wider national and international distribution, aiming to build greater awareness and appreciation for the region's heritage and progress.

Union Home Secretary arrives in Srinagar to review Amarnath Yatra security preparedness



SRINAGAR, Jun 17 (Agencies): Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan arrived here on Tuesday to review the security preparedness for the upcoming Amar

nath Yatra that starts on July 3.

Officials said the Union Home Secretary will review security arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra and also review

the prevailing security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Union Home Secretary is chairing the review meeting at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar.

J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, DGP Nalin Prabhat, GoC of the Army's Srinagar headquartered 15 corps, Lt General Prashant Srivastava, ADG (CID) Nitish Kumar, senior officers of CAPFs and officers of other intelligence

■ Turn to page 9

CM Omar Abdullah meets tour operators, discusses measures to promote tourism in J&K

RAJIV

SRINAGAR, Jun 17: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday interacted with a delegation of the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) and discussed steps to boost tourism in the Union Territory.

The tour operators too appealed to its members to promote Jammu and Kashmir as a premier travel destination.

A post on Abdullah's official X handle read, "Chief Minister interacted with a delegation of the Indian Association



of Tour Operators and discussed measures to boost tourism and promote J-K as a premier travel destination."

In a press release, the IATO lauded the steps taken by the UT government to promote tourism.

"The Government of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the Department of Tourism, has taken commendable steps to upgrade infrastructure, improve accessibility, enhance security, and provide a tourist-friendly

■ Turn to page 9

Parks at Tourist destinations in J&K, Including some in Pahalgam, reopened

SRINAGAR, Jun 17: Several parks in Jammu and Kashmir's tourist places, including some in Pahalgam, that were closed in the aftermath of the April 22 terror attack were reopened on Tuesday, officials said.

The reopening of the parks has been welcomed by the tourists and local visitors alike



who thronged the parks at several places.

Security personnel were deployed in strength around the parks to secure the areas and create a sense of security, they said.

Twenty-six people, most of them tourists, were killed by

■ Turn to page 9

Rana reviews water supply schemes in Pir Panjal Region



RAJIV

SRINAGAR, Jun 17: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, today conducted a

comprehensive review of functioning of Water Supply Schemes in Pir Panjal Region at Civil

Secretariat here.

The meeting, which was attended by Director Finance, Director Planning, Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, aimed to assess the current status of water supply infrastructure and identify the areas for improvement.

During the review, the Minister emphasized the importance of meticulous planning

■ Turn to page 9

Revenue official booked for disproportionate assets in North Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Jun 17 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a case against a patwari for allegedly amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income in the Lolab area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

The action follows a

verification conducted by the ACB based on a complaint against Ayoub Khan, a resident of Doniwari Lolab and serving patwari in the Revenue Department.

"The complaint alleged that the patwari was leading a lavish lifestyle and owned multiple orchards, agricultural land, and residential

properties in Bemina (Srinagar) and Doniwari (Lolab), as well as several vehicles. He had also spent large sums on the professional education of his children, including admission-related donations," ACB said in statement.

Discreet verification revealed that during the

■ Turn to page 9

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OBITUARY

10TH Day Kriya - 21st June 2025

With heartfelt gratitude & sorrow we inform sad demise of our Karamyogi & Beloved father **Sh. Gopi Nath Pandita** S/o. Late Tika Lal Pandita Originally from New Colony, Sopore, Kashmir current resident of 569, Pocket #2, Sec 19, Dwarka, New Delhi who left heavenly abode on 13th June 25 at 1:30 AM.



Sh. Gopi Nath Pandita

10th Day Kriya will be performed at "KASHMIRI GHAT", GANGA CANAL, MURADNAGAR, U.P." on 21st June 25 (Saturday) between 7.00 - 8:30 AM.

Grief Stricken:

Sh. Pran Nath & Smt. Asha Ji Pandita - Brother & Bhabhi
Somesh & Seema Pandita - Son & Daughter in law
Anita & Ashok Kumar Kaul - Daughter & Son in law
Kamni & Sanjay Kaul - Daughter & Son in law
Amit & Neha Kaul - Grand Son & Grand Daughter in Law
Amish, Sanchita, Shiv, Krish, Syon - Grand Children

SAMAST PANDITA PARIVAR

Mob - 9810497741, 9419191489, 9811458399

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Gouri Shorie** W/o Late Sh. Shamboo Nath Bhat originally from Fatehpura Anantnag Kashmir who left for heavenly abode on 14.06.2025.



Smt. Gouri Shorie

Address H.No. 17 B Roshaan Vihar Phase I Najafgarh New Delhi.

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at Gouri Shankar Mandir Palam Vihar Gurgaon on 23rd June at 8 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Bharat Bushan Bhat (Son)
Smt. Rajni Bhat (Daughter in law)
Smt. Jaya Ji Bhat (Daughter)
Smt. Santosha Koul (Daughter)
Smt. Girga Bhat (Daughter)
Sh. Roshan Lal Koul (Son in law)
Sh. Bushan Lal Bhat (Son in law)

Contact Nos. 9818973702, 9321354651

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief, we inform that **Mrs. Jyoti Baloria** W/o Kuldeep Baloria left us for her heavenly abode on 7th June.

Tenth Day will be performed on Monday 16th June, 2025 at 10.00 AM. Kriya on 19th June, 2025 at 11.00 AM at our residence H.No. 156-B, Ram Vihar, Old Janipur, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Kuldeep Baloria - Husband
Manik Baloria - Son
Sonam Baloria - Daughter
Harnam Baloria - Father-in-law
Surishta Devi - Mother-in-law
Anoop Singh - Brother-in-law
Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law
Anita & Joginder Jamwal
Niece & Nephew

Sonal & Omesh Baloria

Ph.No: 9086816250, 9596429607



MRS. JYOTI BALORIA

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 Kralyar 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. Daryl & Sh. Raja Ji Munshi

GRAND CHILDREN: Bhaghirathi, Ravant & Tejashri, 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)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Laxmi Narayan Koul** S/o Late Sh. Shyam Lal Koul, R/o Dembi Niwas, I - 638, Alpha- 2, Greater Noida on 9-6-2025. Tenth Day will be performed on 18-06-2025 (Wednesday) Muradnagar Gang Nehar at 7:00 AM

Assembly will be performed at our residence Greater Noida at 11:00 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Krishna Koul (Sister-in-law)

Brother

Sh. Kishen Koul

Sister and Brother-in -Law

Smt. Girja Dhar & Sh. Kewal Krishan Dhar

Son & Daughter-in-law

Dr. Pawan Koul & Ambika Koul



Sh. Laxmi Narayan Koul

Daughters & Son-in- Laws

Poonam & Rajesh Harker

Shamita & Rahul Koul (Dembi)

Shalini & Dheeraj Malla

Sheweta & Vishal Raina

Kanchan & Kshitij Dhar

Kamakshi & Mayank Wangnoo & Samast Pariwar

Koul, Dembi, Malla, Raina, Harker, Wangoo & Dhar

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Late Smt. Ajit Kumari** W/o Lt. Sh. V. K. Majotra, Resident of 313, Shastri Nagar, Jammu who left for her heavenly abode on 6th June 2025.

10th Day/Satsang: Sunday, 15th June 2025 at 10:00 AM -12.00 at Durga Mandir Rampura Gandhi Nagar Jammu.

Kriya:

Wednesday, 18th June 2025 at 12:30 PM at our home 313 Shastri Nagar Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Daughters-in-law & Sons

Smt. Aruna Majotra & Lt. Sh. Suresh Majotra

Smt. Jyoti Majotra & Sh. Rajeev Majotra

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt. Anita Kumari & Ch. Kamal Singh Chouhan

Smt. Manju Kotwal & Adv. Rajesh Kotwal

Smt. Sushma Choudhary & Lt. Sh. Anil Choudhary

Grand Children:

Taniya, Monica, Akash, Shagun, Rajveer

Contact No.: 9906093736, 9596669555



Late Smt. Ajit Kumari

Majotra Financiers and Traders Pvt. Ltd.
Infitel Systems Pvt. Ltd.
Majotra and Associates

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you that **Sh. Radha Krishna Bhat** S/o Late Sh. Darshan Bhat, originally from Batagund, Varinag, Kashmir presently residing at H.No. 441, Harmilap Nagar, Ph-1 Baltana, Zirakpur attained Sadgathi and merged with Divine Parmatma on 10th June 2025.

The 10th Day Kriya will be observed on Thursday 19th June 2025 at Shani Mandir, Ghagger, Sector 21 Panchkula at 8:00 am

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Chander Kanta Bhat (Wife)

Manoj Bhat & Nihar Bhat (Son & Daughter-in-law)

Anita Raina (Daughter)

Oma Devi (Sister)

Raghav, Manayata, Madhav (Grand Children)

All Family & Friends



Sh. Radha Krishna Bhat

9872019541, 7340779541

10TH DAY (KRIYA)/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Late Shri. Umesh Parihar (Retd. Superintending Engineer P.D.D.)**

10th Day Kriya will be performed on Tuesday 17-6-25 at 12 noon Channi Himmat Jammu at 9:30 a.m.

13th Day Kriya will be performed on Saturday 21-6-25 at our residence (House no. 101/1A Channi Himmat) at 12.30 p.m. and Uthala will be performed on Saturday 21-6-25 from 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm at Panch Mandir, Sec 2, Channi Himmat, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Ambika Parihar (Wife)

Er. Kritika Parihar (Daughter)

Er. Akshay Parihar (Son)

Smt. Bhisham Devi (Mother-in-law)

Bhabhi and Brother

Smt. Asha & Late Sh. Nagesh Parihar

Sisters and Brothers in law

Smt. Jai Shree & Er. V.P. Kotwal (Retd. Chief Engineer P.D.D.)

Smt. Rajni Wazir & Late Sh. A.S. Wazir (Retd. Chief Engineer P.W.D.)

Smt. Aika & Sh. Ashok Misri

Sisters in law & Brothers in law

Smt. Anita & Sh. Shivdeep Singh Pathania

Smt. Vandana & Sh. Sukhdeep Singh Pathania

Late Shri. Umesh Parihar
(Retd. Superintending Engineer P.D.D.)

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 Kralyar Rainawari Srinagar, at present H.No. 240, Sector-2 Upper Roop Nagar Jammu. The Tenth Day Kriya of departed soul will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu on 18-06-2025 (Wednesday) 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. Daryl & Sh. Raja Ji Munshi

GRAND CHILDREN: Bhaghirathi, Ravant & Tejashri, Samantha

(Samast Kundu Pariwar)

9419191102, 9419149720, 9419287429



Smt. Dura Mota Kundu

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you about the sad and untimely demise of **Sh. Ravi Ji Koul** S/o Late Sh. Radha Krishan Koul presently residing at C1-801, Summer Palms, Sector-86, Faridabad and originally from Dregaam, Budgam Kashmir. Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at Chola Handwar, Murad Nagar, at 7:00 AM (Sunday) 22 June, 2025.

Assembly will take place at our residence C1-801, Summer Palms, Faridabad at 12:30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Jyoti Koul (Wife) - 7780865960

Sahil Koul (Son) - 6005951197

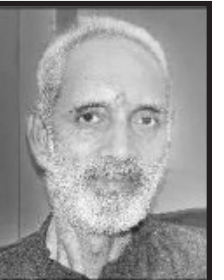
(Brother & Bhabhi)

Sh. Bhushan Lal Koul & Smt. Swam Lata Koul - 9958553189

Sh. Raj Nath Koul (Brother) - 8803140138

Sh. Ashok Ji Koul & Smt. Sunila Koul (Brother & Bhabhi) - 97960 11428

Smt. Rahni Bhan (Sister) - 9910253637



Sh. Ravi Ji Koul

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother/Grandmother **Smt. Darshana Devi** W/o Late Sh. Ram Chand R/o H.No: 933 Janipur Colony Jammu.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 17 June 2025, (Tuesday) at our residence at 10AM to 11 AM.

KRIYA will be performed on 20th June 2025, (Friday) at our residence at 12 noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

(Son & Daughter-in-laws)

Smt. Darshana Kumari (Seema) W/o Late Sh. Bharat Bhushan

Sh. Rakesh Gupta & Smt. Monika Gupta

(Grandsons)

Sumeet Gupta & Vikrant Gupta

(Daughters and Son-in-laws)

Smt. Suman Gupta and Sh. Satish Gupta

Smt. Renu Gupta and Sh. Parveen Gupta

Smt. Kusum Gupta and Sh. Karan Gupta

(Grand daughters and Grandson-in-laws)

Neha Gupta & Sugam Gupta

Riya Jolly & Amit Jolly

Ph.No: 9787545595, 9906072346, 8082841459, 9622264666



Smt. Darshana Devi

SHADMOS & MASWAR

Your sudden passing came as a shock and has left a deep void in our family. Though six months have passed, the pain of your loss remains. Your absence is deeply felt, and we cherish every memory we shared with you.

We pray to God for paramgati to your soul and may you attain the highest place in Vaikuntha Dham.

SHADMOS & MASWAR of our beloved mother, **Late Keemta Shori Dhar**, wife of Late Moti Lal Dhar, originally from Batapora, Shopian, will be observed on 18th & 19th June, 2025 at her residence, House No. 53, Sector 2, Pamposh Colony Janipur, Jammu.

Grief Stricken:

(Sons and Daughters-in-law)

Sh. Ravinder Kumar Dhar & Smt. Sarojni Dhar - 9066171893

Sh. Shashi Bhusan (Preeto) & Smt. Pinky Koul - 9489548494

(Sons-in-law and Daughters)

Sh. Sanjay Bagati & Smt. Pankajam Dhar Bagati (Bubby) - 8076288788

Sh. Rajinder Raina & Smt. Anura Dhar Raina (Bunty) - 9825083931

(Grandsons-in-law and Granddaughter)

Mr. Anurag Rawat & Mrs. Meghna Dhar (Megha)

(Grandchildren)

Sunil, Akash, Himanshu, Simran, Aryan & Bhavesh



Late Keemta Shori Dhar

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/ UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we wish to inform you of the sad demise of **Sh. Mahesh Kumar Raina** who left for his heavenly abode on Saturday, 7 June 2025.

TENTH DAY: 16 June, 2025 (Monday) at Panch Mandir Trikuta Nagar, Sec-5 at 10 AM.

KRIYA: 17 June, 2025 (Tuesday) at our residence at 12 PM. 5/6 Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

UTHALA: 21 June, 2025 (Saturday) at Panch Mandir from 5 PM to 6 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Thoran Raina- Wife

Son & Daughter-in-law

Dr. Vishal Raina & Dr. Shalini Raina

Sh. Pankaj Raina & Dr. Namita Raina

Brother & Sister-in-law

Lt. Sh. Mukund Ram Raina & Lt. Smt. Vaishno Devi

Dr Jitendra convenes meeting of Northeast Technology Institutes, emphasises enabling ecosystem

Top News Report

WOKHA, Jun 17: Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS in the Prime Minister Office, Dept. of Space and Atomic Energy chaired a high-level joint meeting of all the Technology institutes operating in the Northeast, along with key departments of the State government, here today.

During the meeting, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized the recent breakthroughs achieved in the region due to an enabling ecosystem fostered by the Government's strong inclination towards science, technology, and innovation. He reiterated the importance of not limiting scientific advancement to central areas but expanding it actively into peripheral and remote regions — particularly the Northeastern states, which hold immense untapped potential.

Dr. Jitendra Singh



highlighted the rich biodiversity of the region and identified agriculture and allied sectors, along with tourism and film production, as key focus areas for sustainable growth.

Praising Wokha District, the Minister noted its success under the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme with Banana cultivation, which has brought national recognition to the area. "This model can be scaled to a larger commercial level, boosting the local economy while showcasing the region's unique

strengths," he said.

The Minister further shared that a 15-day nationwide saturation campaign for flagship government schemes is being launched, aimed at achieving maximum reach and inclusion. Reflecting on the transformative changes of the last decade, he pointed out that youth from Nagaland and Manipur are now actively recruited into aviation and hospitality industries, which was unthinkable earlier. "In fact, the recent tragic air crash in Ahmedabad included two young girls from Manipur —

a solemn reminder of how far the region has come," he said with emotion.

Dr. Jitendra Singh praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's consistent prioritization of the Northeast, sharing that the PM has visited the region over 70 times since 2014. "His goal was to break both mental and physical barriers that distanced the region from the mainstream," Dr. Jitendra Singh remarked.

The Minister urged youth and women to take leadership roles. "In the Northeast, women

have always led — from managing fish markets to running households. Now is the time to form self-help groups, generate livelihood, and build confidence," he said.

He recalled that women scientists led missions like Chandrayaan, Aditya-L1, and others — adding that in the Northeast, the culture of women leadership is already embedded. Concluding the meeting, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that India's economic rise to the top three economies globally will be fuelled by unexplored and under-explored regions like the Northeast, aligning with the goal of a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

The meeting was attended by Nagaland MLA Dr. Chumben Murry, Advisor to the Chief Minister, and senior officials from premier scientific institutions under the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, and Survey of India, among others.

Caste Census a historic step for inclusive and equitable India: Sunil Prajapati

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 17: Sunil Prajapati, State President of BJP OBC Morcha, Jammu & Kashmir, has strongly welcomed the historic decision of the Modi Government to conduct a nationwide caste census — the first since independence — calling it a bold, inclusive, and transformative step toward building a more just and equitable India.

Prajapati said this initiative will uncover the real social structure of the nation, enabling accurate, data-driven policies for all communities — including OBCs, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), and underserved groups within the general category.

He strongly criticized the Congress and



National Conference for decades of manipulation and injustice in Jammu & Kashmir, saying, "These parties consistently denied constitutional rights to large sections of society, especially OBCs, and diverted their rightful share to other groups for political benefits."

Prajapati highlighted that it was only under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji that OBC status was officially granted in Jammu & Kashmir in December 2023, following the

abrogation of Article 370 — a historic step no previous government dared to take.

He emphasized that the caste census will serve as the foundation for reforming reservation policies, improving welfare distribution, and ensuring fair political representation through the delimitation process.

"This is not about caste politics — this is about truth, justice, and equal opportunity. The Modi Government is correcting historic wrongs and laying the foundation for a more inclusive future," said Prajapati.

He extended his gratitude to PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their courage and vision, and assured full support from the BJP OBC Morcha, Jammu & Kashmir, in creating awareness and ensuring every section of society benefits from this milestone initiative.

Modi Govt has given a befitting reply to Pakistan: Chugh Hails reopening of tourist spots in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 17: BJP National General Secretary and J&K in-charge Tarun Chugh on Tuesday lauded the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's decision to reopen 16 out of the 48 tourist destinations in Jammu & Kashmir that had been closed following the cowardly terror attack in Pahalgam.

He said that the return of tourists to the region reflects the Modi government's unshakable resolve to restore peace and promote prosperity in the valley.



Chugh asserted that Pakistan's ISI and its terror proxies

had conspired to cripple the tourism economy of J&K, but Operation Sindoor delivered a decisive blow to their agenda.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, a clear and powerful message has been sent to Pakistan — India will not tolerate any attempt to disturb peace in Jammu & Kashmir. The nation will respond with strength, not silence."

He said that the growing foot-fall of tourists in the region is a testament to people's trust in the Modi government's security apparatus and developmental

vision.

He added that the Amarnath Yatra this year is expected to witness record participation, serving as a strong statement of India's unity, faith, and defiance in the face of terror.

"Terrorism will not dictate our calendar or our culture. Pakistan's plans to spread fear in the valley have failed yet again. Jammu & Kashmir is moving ahead with confidence, and this is the true reply to those who wish to keep the region in turmoil," Chugh said.

Kishtwar Police spreads awareness on drugs/cyber threats



about digital threats, prevention strategies, and the importance of reporting suspicious online behavior to the authorities.

As a gesture of appreciation and motivation, SSP Kishtwar Naresh Singh felicitated several committed youth volunteers and activists with "Drug Awareness Yodha" Certificates of Participation for their commendable contribution to anti-drug initiatives.

The following individuals were honored during the event: Khushboo Nadiya Butt, Anurag Sharma, Fazan Mahboob, Salma Lay-aqat, Abroo Wajid, Abid Hussain, Vishal Thakur, Rubba Jaan, Menakshi Devi, Sabiya Banoo Reshi, Rahul Ji, Bodh Raj, Mohit Kumar, Shivani Devi & Anu Kumari. Their dedication to raising awareness, supporting affected families, and mobilizing community-level campaigns was recognized as vital in the joint fight against drugs in the Kishtwar district.

The event was witnessed by SDPO Marwah Vijay Bhagat, SHO PS Kishtwar Insp. Firdous Ahmed, school staff, and officers, whose presence added value and encouragement to the awareness initiative. Their participation reflects a collective commitment of all stakeholders—

law enforcement, education institutions, and community leaders—to safeguard the future of the youth.

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jun 17: In its continued efforts to safeguard the youth and society from the dual threats of drug abuse and cybercrime, Kishtwar Police organized a comprehensive "Drugs and Cyber Awareness programme" at the District Police Office (DPO) Kishtwar.

The event began with an extensive focus on drug awareness.

DySP Headquarters Dr. Ishan Gupta delivered a detailed presentation on drug-related crimes and their devastating impact on human

life. His session covered the legal, social, and health consequences of substance abuse, stressing how drugs destroy individuals, shatter families, and destabilize communities.

The presentation also highlighted the law enforcement strategies being employed to curb this menace.

Adding further depth to the program, SHO Police Station Kishtwar, Insp. Firdous Ahmed, highlighted various real-life cases of drug abuse reported in the district and their tragic effects on individuals and fami-

lies.

He emphasized the growing concern of youth falling into the trap of narcotics and stressed the urgent need for collaborative community efforts to break this cycle. Following the drug awareness segment, attention turned to the growing threat of cybercrime.

PSI Moin Khan presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation covering various forms of cyber offenses including cyberbullying, online grooming, sextortion, phishing, and child pornography. His presentation educated attendees

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI(PHE) MECH. DIVISION

KATHUA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e- NIT No. 42/JSPHEMK of 2025-26dated: 12-06-2025

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua, on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered/ reputed firms.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee(In Rs)	Earnest Money	Estimated Cost	Bid Validity
1	2	3	4	5	6
Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of Mono Submersible and other allied work at Parnalla, Sialana and Poonda.	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Kathua	Rs. 200.00 (Non-Refundable) In the shape of Treasury Challan in favour of the Executive Engineer,Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua& also mentioned the e-NT No. and date	2% (pledged to Executive Engineer,Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua)	2.44lac	Bid shall be valid for 180 days

1) Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 12-06-2025 (06:00PM) and uploaded from 12-06-2025(6:00 PM) to 18-06-2025 (04:00 PM). he complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

2) Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 3 & 4 of the table.

3) The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the tenderer shall be debarred from participating in tendering process for a period of 1 year.

4) The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division Kathua on 19-06-2025 at 01:00 P.Mor any other day convenient to the Ex. Engineer in the Office chambers of Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division Kathua.

5) The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall also be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division Kathua during office hours and shall be communicated separately.

6) Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.

No: JSPHEMK/1032-35

Dated: 12-06-2025

DIP/J-2222/25

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division,
Kathua

EDITORIAL

Healthy India, Stronger India

A nation’s strength lies not just in its economic or military power, but also in the health and well-being of its people. “Healthy India, Stronger India” is more than a slogan—it is a vision that recognizes the deep connection between the health of citizens and the strength of the country. A healthy population is more productive, more resilient, and more capable of contributing positively to the nation’s progress.

Good health is the foundation of a strong society. Healthy individuals can work efficiently, attend school regularly, and participate actively in community and national development. On the contrary, a population burdened by illness and poor health puts strain on healthcare systems, reduces workforce participation, and increases public spending on treatment and care. Therefore, investing in public health is not an expense, but an investment in the nation’s future.

India has made significant progress in healthcare over the past decade. Programmes like Ayushman Bharat—the world’s largest government-funded healthcare scheme—aim to provide free medical treatment to over 50 crore people. The establishment of Health and Wellness Centres under this scheme ensures primary healthcare at the grassroots level. These centres focus on preventive care, screening for non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health, and health education.

Another major initiative is the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission), which aims to eliminate open defecation and improve sanitation. Better sanitation directly reduces the burden of communicable diseases like diarrhea, cholera, and typhoid, thus improving the overall health status of the population.

The Fit India Movement, launched in 2019, encourages citizens to adopt a more active lifestyle. Campaigns for yoga, healthy eating, and physical fitness are being promoted across the country, recognizing the role of lifestyle in preventing diseases.

Nutrition plays a vital role in shaping a healthy population. Malnutrition among children leads to stunted growth and poor cognitive development, affecting the country’s human resource potential. Initiatives like the POSHAN Abhiyan aim to reduce malnutrition among children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers through a multi-sectoral approach involving health, education, and sanitation.

Health education in schools is also essential. Teaching children about hygiene, healthy eating habits, and the importance of physical activity lays the foundation for a healthier generation. Knowledge is power, and empowering citizens with accurate health information helps them make informed choices.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the critical importance of a robust healthcare system. It also emphasized the need for health awareness, emergency preparedness, and investment in public health infrastructure. India’s swift vaccine rollout, development of indigenous vaccines, and mass awareness campaigns demonstrated the country’s potential when public health becomes a national priority.

Post-pandemic, there is a renewed emphasis on building resilient healthcare systems that can respond effectively to future challenges. Strengthening telemedicine, investing in research, and expanding access to mental healthcare are crucial steps in this direction.

A truly healthy India requires active participation from every citizen. It is not solely the responsibility of the government or medical professionals. Individuals must adopt healthy lifestyles, follow hygiene practices, and support community health programmes. Local bodies, NGOs, and youth groups play an essential role in spreading awareness and implementing health initiatives at the grassroots level.

Vaccination drives, blood donation camps, and health check-up camps are examples of community-led initiatives that can improve health outcomes. Empowering women and mothers with health knowledge is also key, as they are often the primary caregivers in families.

“Healthy India, Stronger India” is not just a dream—it is an achievable goal. With continued investment in health infrastructure, preventive care, nutrition, sanitation, and education, India can build a society that is both physically fit and mentally strong. A healthy population fuels economic growth, strengthens national defense, and enhances the quality of life.

Let us all pledge to take small steps every day—be it through exercise, balanced nutrition, cleanliness, or regular health checkups—to make ourselves and our communities healthier. Because when India is healthy, India is truly strong.

By: Omkar Dattatray

A pinch of Sindoor is not merely an item of “adornment” but is the symbol of faith,surrender,power,strength,vitality and above all a symbol of a married women’s un-flinching trust in his husband and also connotes longevity of life for a husband. The practice and prevalence of using sindoor dates back to the era of Indus valley civilization and to the Vedic period.It has come down to the present generation of Hindu women and denotes that they are Subaghan meaning thereby that their husband is living and sindoor also shows the innate desire of Hindu women that their husbands will live longer and for that sindoor symbolizes the longevity of life of a husband.In Indian culture ,particularly within Hinduism ,sindoor [vermilion powder] holds significant importance as a symbol of a women’s marital status and her devotion to her husband.It is a traditional marker of marriage ,applied by the groom to the bride during the wedding ceremony.Sindoor is also associated with prosperity,longevity of the husband, and the sacred bond of marriage.Sindoor is a visible sign that a woman is married, indicating her commitment to her spouse.It is one of the 16 adornments of a married women,representing her role and status within her family.Sindoor represents the deep love,commitment,and devotion a wife has towards her husband. It is believed to protect and honour the husband,as seen in the stories of Goddess Parvati and Sita in Hindu mythology.Sindoor is traditionally made with turmeric ,lime,and mercury ,and is believed to have certain health benefits ,such as blood pressure control and increased sexual drive.Some believe it helps enhance emotional and mental focus ,especially in connection to one’s spouse.Sindoor is mentioned in ancient epics like the Ramayana,where God-

dess Sita applied it to express her love for Lord Rama.Lord Hanuman, in his devotion to Lord Rama,is also said to have applied sindoor on himself.Sindoor is an integral part of Indian culture and tradition,particularly in Hindu weddings. The act of the groom applying sindoor to the brides parting during the wedding ceremony is a significant ritual.Hindu’s say “Maang -Bhar-Ke Sindoor .This term means “hairline filled with sindoor “,signifies a married woman’s status and respect, Sindoor has a symbolic meaning as well .Sindoor Daan marks the beginning of a new life for the couple and brides transition into her role as a wife.In Ramayana ,Sita is believed to have applied sindoor to express her love for Lord Rama,and Lord Hanuman imitated her,showing his devotion.The red colour of sindoor is also associated with the power and grace of Goddess Parvati.While some view the practice as a tradition that should be upheld,others have expressed concerns about the societal pressures associated with wearing sindoor.Some have also questioned the association of sindoor solely with a women’s marital status. .In essence,sindoor is more than just a cosmetic .t is a powerful symbol that reflects the deep -rooted beliefs and traditions of Hindu marriage and the role of women within the family. Dating back over 5000 years, the historic beauty tradition once eschewed by feminists is now being reclaimed. When Priyanka Chopra married Nick Jones in 2018,you may have noticed she was wearing vermilion red dye in a thin line along her centre parting.Since then,Chopra has been seen sporting the style on various different occasions, something which she has been both ridiculed and praised for on social media.To understand the polarised response,you need to look back into the history of the practice .Known as sindoor,this red dye has been used by Indian women for centuries and holds historic,spiritual ,and medicinal significance.While it is

unknown when exactly the tradition originated ,female figurines dating as far back as 5000 year’s have been found in northern India with red painted partings. The significance of Sindoor in Indian marriage goes back to the Vedic century.Ther custom of wearing Sindoor on the forehead in the parting of hair by married Hindu women is considered auspicious and is being carried on since centuries. The dash of vermilion on a bride’s forehead is her holiest mark as she begins her journey as a bridge, for the rest of her life.Donned between the hair partition ,sindoor also known as Kumkum, represents, years of ancient folklore and beliefs about a women’s validation as a married- women.Put on by the husband during the wedding ceremony, sindoor is then applied by women every day to mark his presence in her life.In actuality as well, it is considered to be the symbol of matrimony in Indian households and is essential part of a women’s marriage.For years ,women have been wearing sindoor over their foreheads to showcase their position as a respectable daughter-in-law in households.The application of sindoor has been a very important part of structuring a women’s personality after marriage.Ancient folklores suggested that those who wore maang -bharkesindoor [forehead full of sindoor] are to be respected as their husband’s bride.The practice of validation ranges back to the Harappan civilization where women started wearing sindoor ,as a prominent mark of being married,and not to be persuaded by other males. Hindu scriptures also relayed the message that Radha Lord Krishna’s wife, wore sindoor on her forehead which resembled the shape of a flame.It is also said that Sita ,Lord Rama’s wife applied sindoor to please her husband, according to Hindu epic,Ramayana. Centuries and generations of beliefs turned this ritual into an absolute necessity ,women in recent times started questioning about its value.Accord-

ing to Hindu astrology, the House of Ariesor Mesha Rahi is situated on the forehead.The Lord of Aries is Mars and its colour is red which is believed to be auspicious.This, is another reason why red sindoor is applied at the forehead and at the hair partition. Also,both are signs of Saubhagya –good luck. Sindoor is likewise considered as the symbol of the feminine energy of Shakti.More recently the mixture of Operation and Sindoor has shown the might,power,strength,bravery and resilience of a pinch of Sindoor.Pakistan and in fact the whole of the world has now realised the power of Sindoorand Pakistan has been given a befitting response after the Pahalgam terror attack and after the uncalled,for retaliation of Pakistan.But through Operation Sindoor,India has not only destroyed nine infrastructure sites of terrorists but has shown the might of Sindoor as through this operation Pakistan has been made to bend on its knees before India.Therefore,Sindoor is not only a mark of marriage of a woman, but it represents vitality,power,strength,Power of all powerful shakti and the whole world has seen the power and might of a pinch of sindoor.The killings of 26 innocent civilians have been avenged by Operation Sindoor and Pakistan has seen the power of a pinch of sindoor.

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

Chenab Bridge-The Arch of Modi’s New India

By Tushi Deb

In the kaleidoscope of national progress, there are moments when infrastructure ceases to be merely functional and acquires the character of a developmental metaphor. The Chenab Bridge—poised as the world’s highest railway arch, towering above the windswept river in Jammu and Kashmir—is one such creation. It is not just a marvel of civil engineering but a monument to the Narendra Modi government’s reimagining of nationalism and development.

For decades, national integration was spoken of in sentimental abstractions. From Jawaharlal Nehru’s cautious constitutionalism to Indira Gandhi’s populist stances, the promise of integrating Kashmir into the Indian mainstream remained just a promise, often deferred, frequently diluted. Projects were conceived and shelved. Political will waxed and waned. The mountain passes of Kashmir were treated more like buffers than bridges.

Then came a paradigm shift—bold, decisive, and deeply ideological. The abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 was not merely a constitutional manoeuvre. It was a political signal—a declaration that the time for half-measures had passed. But an act alone cannot sustain national unity. What was needed was

physical integration, one that reshaped lived experience.

In the fog-laced valleys of Jammu and Kashmir, where once the echoes of uncertainty reverberated through the Pir Panjal, now rises a steel arc—the Chenab Bridge. Soaring 359 metres above the riverbed, it is not merely an engineering marvel; it is a resounding metaphor for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of a united, connected, and assertive Bharat.

Let us be clear: the Chenab Bridge is not just another infrastructural feat. It is the crown jewel of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project—a dream languishing in bureaucratic inertia and strategic indecision for decades. It took Narendra Modi’s decisive leadership to breathe life into this project. His tenure has seen the bridge transform from blueprint to reality, rising defiantly above the ravines that once symbolised isolation and abandonment.

But Modi’s political significance does not lie in the mere laying of steel and stone. It lies in the symbolism of inclusion.

In the classical Nehruvian tradition, India’s first Prime Minister often spoke of “temples of modern India.” Yet, the difference is stark. Nehru’s dams and steel plants, while visionary, were driven more by ideological idealism than political realism. Nehru gave

India the scaffolding of modernity. Indira Gandhi wove populism into it. But Narendra Modi has transformed development into a tool of national consolidation. Whether it’s a toilet in a tribal village, a highway in Ladakh, or a bridge over the Chenab,each project under Modi carries a dual message: “vikas” and “rash-travaad.” This is not merely governance—it is the forging of a New India where the map and the mind are both being redrawn.Modi’s approach is pragmatic nationalisminfused with strategic foresight.

Let us also not forget the security implications of the Chenab Bridge. The bridge lies in a region where the Line of Control is not too distant and where instability has been weaponised for decades. In strengthening logistical mobility, Modi has addressed an unspoken but vital requirement—the rapid movement of defence personnel and equipment. The bridge, thus, is both a civilian and a strategic asset—a dual-purpose lifeline in a geopolitically sensitive zone.

Critics may scoff and call it optics. But if optics are accompanied by outcomes, if symbolism is backed by steel, and if politics translates into bridges that span centuries of alienation, then Modi has succeeded where many only promised.

Under Modi, 11 years of governance is not a whispered

slogan confined to New Delhi. Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil has highlighted this in a recent press conference. He stated, “Before 2014, indulging in appeasement and creating rifts among people to be in power had become India’s political culture. However, Modi has changed this culture in 11 years. He has established a more transparent and accountable government that people have full faith in.”

Modi’s developmental policies have decisively altered polity, with nationalism becoming a primary factor. In contrast to the Nehruvian consensus, which viewed nationalism as an elite abstraction, and Indira Gandhi’s politics, which used development as electoral appeasement, Modi has treated both nationalism and development as intertwined forces. His infrastructure is ideological; his development is civilizational. The Chenab Bridge is not merely a logistical link. It is a metaphor for a new India—unapologetically nationalist, logistically integrated, and emotionally inclusive. The Chenab Bridge today stands as a national statement of the transformation of dreams to deeds. Hence, as trains begin to cross this magnificent arch, they will carry more than just passengers. They will carry an idea of Bharat—connected, complete, and committed.

BLSKS conducts Nukkad Natak workshop’ “Na Thappad Se, Na Gaali Se – Ab Samjhaainge Taali Se”

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 17: In a powerful move to promote cleanliness and cultural heritage, Bhatta Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) conducted a rehearsal-cum-workshop through Nukkad Natak, presenting its 498th Wednesday Series musical play titled “Swachhata Hi Sewa”. The event was organized in close collaboration with Jammu Municipal Corporation, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, and the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

The program was inaugurated by V.K. Magotra, Former Regional Director, Directorate of Field Publicity, Government of India. He emphasized the importance of street theatre in spreading awareness about Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, highlighting that such initiatives play a vital role in engaging citizens and inspiring them to adopt sustain-



able cleanliness habits. Guest of Honour for the event included J.K. Raina, Freelance Producer-Director, Mukesh Singh, Media Person, and Dr. Anju Kumari Dogra from the Health Department, J&K Government. The program began with powerful and melodious songs like “Na Thappad Se, Na Gaali Se Ab Samjhaainge Taali Se”, “Swachh Bharat Ka Irada Kar Liya Humne”,

and “Swachhata Hi Sewa Hai”, composed by Raju Bajgal, Music Instructor, BLSKS. Written, produced, and directed by Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman, BLSKS, the Nukkad Natak “Swachhata Hi Sewa” aimed to sensitize the audience about the direct link between personal hygiene, environmental well-being, and responsible civic behavior. The skit encouraged citizens to

participate in cleanliness drives, adopt waste segregation, and minimize plastic usage. A central theme of the play was the satirical portrayal of “Kachra Seth”, a wealthy but irresponsible character who discards trash from his car, highlighting the everyday negligence of civic responsibilities. The play used humour and drama to drive home the message—“not through violence

or abuse, but through applause and awareness”. K.K. Joshi, Troupe Leader of BLSKS, welcomed the dignitaries and explained the objectives of the program. The event saw enthusiastic performances by Usha Raina, Neelam Gandotra, Raju Bajgal, M.C. Kotwal, Kuldeep Raj, Bindia Okheda, Chahat Chadha, Naiya Digma, and Ajit Sharma. A large audience comprising students, teachers, youth, and general public participated actively.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Master Deepak Kumar, who appreciated the collaborative efforts of all participants and stakeholders.

As a continuation of the initiative, BLSKS will stage the next Nukkad Natak on June 21, 2025, at Parade Chowk, Jammu, carrying forward the mission of Swachh Bharat through art and awareness.

GHRT India Kerala celebrates 4th Anniversary with Grandeur at KTDC Thiruvananthapuram



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 17: The Global Human Rights Trust (GHRT INDIA), Kerala Chapter, marked its 4th Anniversary with a dignified celebration held at KTDC, Thiruvananthapuram. The event brought together a distinguished gathering of intellectuals, activists, and public figures to celebrate the Trust's journey and achievements in human rights advocacy.

The program was led by Dr. H. R. Rehman, Chairman of GHRT India, who graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Adv. A. Rasheed, Chairman of the Kerala State Minority Commission, was present as the Guest of Honour.

During the ceremony, Dr. Rehman awarded certificates of excellence to meritorious students who achieved top ranks in their examinations, recognizing their

hard work and dedication. The initiative aimed to encourage academic excellence and motivate the next generation to become leaders of positive change.

The anniversary event witnessed participation from various eminent personalities, including Dr. Suresh Kumar (Scientific Advisor, GHRT), Adv. Vinson D. Paul (KPCC Member), Venjaramood Shaji (Jamaat Council National Chairman), M. H. Humayun Kabir (Muslim League District Secretary), Dr. Padmakumar (President, GHRT Tamil Nadu), Dr. A. Thjudeen Puzhanad, Dr. N. Shamsuddin Haji, Dr. Abdul Kalam Misbah, Dr. T. A. Rahim, Shaheer Mash, Dr. Aamir Abubakar Kannur, Dr. Abdul Nasser Alappuzha, Wahid Vaidya Muscat, Dr. Tajudeen M, Dr. K. Arooj, Dr. S. Nazir, Dr. Ragani Sree, and Dr. Shajitha.

The event featured thought-provoking speeches addressing contemporary global and local challenges, including conflict, war, and the erosion of human dignity. Speakers emphasized the need for peace, mutual respect, and justice in today's divided world.

The program concluded with the ceremonial cake-cutting to celebrate the organization's four successful years of service. Dr. Rehman extended heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Ashraf A, the State President of GHRT Kerala, for his tireless commitment and leadership in making the event a grand success.

The celebration not only marked a milestone but also reaffirmed GHRT's unwavering mission to uphold human rights, foster education, and work towards a more just and compassionate society.

Greater Shahre-e-Khaas leadership to contest all seats in upcoming ULB Polls with fresh faces



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 17: In a major political development ahead of the upcoming Urban Local Body (ULB) elections, the Greater Shahre-e-Khaas Leadership, under the stewardship of Chairman Faheem Reshi, has declared its intention to contest all seats, introducing entirely new candidates rooted in a people-first vision.

In a strong and clear

message to the public, Chairman Faheem Reshi emphasized, “We don't need money. We only want to serve my people.” This statement reflects the group's focus on selfless service, distancing itself from financially motivated politics and instead promoting a culture of community-driven leadership.

The initiative aims to revitalize local governance through fresh leadership committed to

public welfare, transparency and accountability in municipal functioning, direct engagement with residents to resolve grassroots issues.

By fielding new and enthusiastic faces, the leadership hopes to breathe new life into civic administration, instilling hope among citizens for honest and effective governance.

“Our focus is on building a stronger, more vibrant Shahre-e-Khaas,” said Reshi. “We believe our candidates, with fresh energy and sincere intent, will lead meaningful development in our neighborhoods.”

The Greater Shahre-e-Khaas Leadership has called upon voters to actively participate in the democratic process and support candidates who uphold the values of integrity, responsibility, and true public service.

Friends Welfare Society hails congrats PM Modi on receiving Cyprus’ Highest honour



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 17: The Friends Welfare Society (FWS) hailed and congratulated the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on being conferred by the Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides with the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III of Cyprus, the country's highest civilian honour.

Social and BJP's Activist R.L.Kaith mentioned to FWS Members that the said Order of Makarios III is the senior order of the country named after the first President of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios III. Cyprus' award brings the total tally of international honours conferred upon the Prime Minister to 23.

Adding further Kaith said, Under PM Modi's visionary global leadership, India is emerging as a Vishwasha.

“Shaam-e-Shafqat” celebrates India’s cultural diversity in Pattan



Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Jun 17: In a vibrant tribute to India's rich cultural legacy, “Shaam-e-Shafqat”, a grand cultural festival, was held at Zorawar Hall, Pattan, on Tuesday.

The event was jointly organized by the North Zone Cultural Centre, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and the Indian Army.

Bringing together the artistic essence of India, the festival featured renowned folk artists from Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Assam, Rajasthan, and Kashmir, who delivered mesmerizing performances showcasing the

nation's diverse cultural traditions. The day-long celebration offered audiences a colourful spectacle of folk dances, traditional music, and regional art forms, beautifully portraying the depth and diversity of India's heritage. Each act reflected the unique flavour of its region, resonating with the theme of “Unity in Diversity.” Soulful renditions of traditional songs further enriched the experience, evoking a deep sense of national pride and cultural identity. The energetic and captivating performances created an atmosphere of celebration, drawing enthusiastic applause and appreciation from the audience.

Beyond entertainment, the festival aimed to promote, preserve, and popularize India's cultural heritage, while fostering cultural integration and awareness among the youth of North Kashmir. It served as a meaningful platform for intercultural connection and national unity, reinforcing the values that define the Indian ethos.

The event witnessed participation from students and members of civil society across North Kashmir, who responded with resounding applause throughout the day, affirming the festival's success in bridging cultural distances and celebrating the spirit of a united India.

Samsung R&D Institute Noida Ignites India’s Tech Future with 3rd Startup Summit

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 17: Samsung R&D Institute, Noida (SRI-Noida) successfully hosted its third Startup Summit, a dynamic event designed to showcase disruptive technologies, foster meaningful collaborations, and spark conversations on the future of innovation.

The latest edition brought together AI-first startups and global tech leaders, focusing on cutting-edge advancements in healthcare, language models, audio deepfake detection, and extended reality (XR), among others. The Summit highlighted the critical need for ethical AI, digital trust, and next-generation innovation through cross-functional collaboration. It served as a testament to Samsung's unwavering commitment to strengthening India's innovation ecosystem by leveraging robust technology partnerships, cross-

industry collaboration, and talent acceleration.

This year's event featured eight pioneering startups, including Sarvam AI, Jivi AI, HealthifyMe, ValidSoft, KOGO AI, NeoDocs, EnableX and Magnusim working at the intersection of AI, immersive technologies, healthcare, and natural language processing. These startups showcased their breakthrough products and explored potential pilot collaborations with teams from Samsung's R&D centers, business units, and Samsung Ventures.

The participating startups were carefully selected based on their innovation potential, strategic alignment with Samsung's vision, and capacity to scale globally. “As SRI-Noida continues to drive the research and innovation agenda, the success of the third Startup Summit underscores our mission to empower next-generation technology leaders through mean-

ingful upskilling, sustained collaboration, and deep ecosystem engagement.

This year's edition was bigger, bolder, and more impact-driven—addressing contemporary challenges while enabling entrepreneurs to create solutions that are globally competitive and locally relevant,” said Kyungyun Roo, Managing Director of SRI-Noida. A standout moment of the event was a dynamic panel discussion featuring startup founders and SRI-Noida leadership. The conversation explored the rise of AI agents, the need for personalized engagement in digital health platforms, and the imperative of transparent data governance.

Panelists also emphasized the ethical deployment of AI and the critical role of trust in shaping user adoption. Discussions reinforced the growing importance of tailored user experiences and personalized feedback

in motivating behaviour change and improving health outcomes. The Summit's immersive format offered a 360-degree view of Samsung's innovation network in India, fostering cross-functional collaborations, unlocking new synergies, and aligning startups with global technology trends.

Participants praised the platform for facilitating deep-dive conversations with Samsung experts and accelerating product development and market readiness. By spotlighting emerging technologies in healthcare AI, language processing, deepfake detection, visual AI, and XR, the Startup Summit reaffirmed SRI-Noida's pivotal role in driving transformational innovation. The event exemplified Samsung's larger vision—co-creating a future-ready startup ecosystem that delivers meaningful, human-centered impact at scale.

Akshay Kumar's Welcome To The Jungle delayed again due to payment issues

Actor Akshay Kumar's much-awaited film 'Welcome To The Jungle', the sequel to the 'Welcome' series, has hit another roadblock. As per reports, the shooting of the film has been put on hold due to serious financial troubles.

The film, which began filming in December 2023, has seen little progress over the last nine to ten months. The film was last shot in August 2023, and since then, it's been on a long pause. A major part of the film is yet to be shot.

According to a report by agency, the real reason behind the delay is that the cast, including the big stars, have not been paid yet.

"Around two to three schedules of 'Welcome To The Jungle' have been cancelled over the last six months, leaving the actors and their team



confused about the prospects. The actors have been allotting dates for the shoot of Welcome To The Jungle to producer Firoz Nadiadwala, and the same stands cancelled at the last minute due to logistical and financial issues," a source informed the news portal.

"There are also issues of non-payment of dues

to the actors and their staff. Some of the originally cast actors have left the film, and the remaining are still lending their support for the love of the franchise. They all believe that 'Welcome' is a loved franchise, and are willing to adjust their dates to finish 'Welcome To The Jungle'," the source added.

According to reports, the actor from 'Rustom' holds an 80 per cent ownership stake, while the remaining 20 per cent is shared between 'Phir Hera Pheri' producer Firoz Nadiadwala and other stakeholders. However, Nadiadwala has not yet commented on the matter.

The film features actors Sunil Shetty, Arshad

Warsi, Pares Rawal, Johnny Lever, Rajpal Yadav, Tusshar Kapoor, Shreyas Talpade, Krushna Abhishek, Kiku Sharda, Daler Mehndi, Mika Singh, Rahul Dev, Mukesh Tiwari, Sharib Hashmi, Inaamulhaq, Zakir Hussain, Yashpal Sharma, Raveena Tandon, Lara Dutta, Jacqueline Fernandez, Disha Patani and Vrihi Kodvara. 'Welcome To The Jungle' marks the third instalment in the popular 'Welcome' comedy franchise. Originally slated for release on December 20, 2024, the film boasts a star-studded cast, including veteran actor Sanjay Dutt. However, reports suggest that Dutt has exited the project. It is said that repeated shoot delays and numerous script changes are the key reasons for his departure.

Teaser of Prabhas-starrer Raja Saab drops



The much-awaited teaser of Prabhas-starrer Raja Saab dropped. Directed by Maruthi, this horror-fantasy film is slated to be released in theatres worldwide on December 5. Fans of Prabhas are in for a treat as their favourite actor is set to showcase his acting range by stepping into a comedy

genre that is laced with spine-chilling horror scenes. In the two-minute and twenty-eight-second teaser, Prabhas appears to be a happy-go-lucky guy who falls in love with the character of Nidhi Agerwal. Calling his romance on par with Shah Rukh Khan, the Baahubali actor tries to

impress his love interest Nidhi Agerwal before the situation takes a downturn. The teaser begins with a king calling a haveli his 'body' and the wealth his 'life'. Prabhas appears to be terrified of the spirits, as he is seen chanting the god's name and running away from ghosts after he enters the haveli.

The teaser's grand visuals are one of its highlights. Sanjay Dutt and Boman Irani are also expected to play prominent roles in the movie. Thaman's music is another impressive aspect of the teaser.

Prabhas shared the teaser of the film from his Instagram handle.

Earlier, the makers of Prabhas' starrer 'The Raja Saab' issued a warning to take "strict action" over the reported leak of the film's teaser ahead of its official launch.

Aamir Khan responds to love jihad claims and PK backlash

Actor Aamir Khan, who is currently promoting his upcoming film 'Sitaare Zameen Par', has finally addressed the long-standing allegations against his 2014 film 'PK', which was accused of promoting 'love jihad' and being anti-religious. In a recent interview, Khan dismissed these claims as "wrong" and asserted that the film was never intended to target or disrespect any religion.

In an interview with India TV, Aamir Khan clarified that 'PK' doesn't intend to hurt or mock any religion. He said, "We're not against any religion. We respect all religions and all religious people. That film tells us to be cautious of those who exploit religion to fool the common man in order to extract money from them. You'll find people like that in every religion. That was the film's only purpose. So stay away from those kinds."

'PK' found itself at the centre of controversy due to its portrayal of organised religion, and particularly for its subplot involving a love story between a Hindu woman (played by Anushka Sharma) and a Pakistani Muslim man (played by Sushant Singh Rajput).

The film drew criticism from certain sections, who accused it of promoting 'love jihad'.

Reacting to these accusations, Aamir Khan, who played PK in the film, said, "When people from two religions fall in love and wish to get married, that's not always love jihad. It so happens that they love each other, that union is just



humanity. It's above religion."

For the unversed, 'love jihad' is a controversial and unproven conspiracy theory that alleges Muslim men deliberately marry women of other religions, particularly Hindus, to convert them to Islam.

Khan further questioned whether his sisters and daughter marrying Hindu men would also be labelled as 'love jihad'.

When asked about how his children were named, Aamir responded, "My kids were named by my wives. I never interfered in that. Husbands don't have much of a say anyway," he joked.

Aamir Khan's 'Sitaare Zameen Par' is set to hit theatres this Friday. Also starring Genelia Deshmukh, the film is directed by RS Prasanna.

Anupama Parameswaran: 'People trolled me saying I can't act'

Though South actress made a stellar debut with Nivin Pauly's super-hit Premam, the going has never been easy for her in the Malayalam film industry. The actress, who has since then only done three other Malayalam films in the past decade and went on to become an established star in the Telugu industry, is now set for her comeback in a titular role in Suresh Gopi's upcoming movie - Janaki vs State of Kerala (JSK).

Thankful to those who hated me: Anupama Parameswaran

At the film's audio launch in Kochi on June 16, the actress talked about how her share of detractors in the industry led to her taking a decision to do only films that excited her. "A lot of people have trolled me, saying that I can't act," she said. "Irrespective of all of that, this film's director (Pravin Narayanan) cast me as the lead character. This movie has a heart and



it is Janaki, and thank you for entrusting me with her."

Anupama, who has been part of hits such as Dragon and Tillu Square the past year, said she did JSK at a time "when I decided I will only commit movies that excite me in Malayalam".

"I went through a huge transformation in my career and life during the COVID lockdown, and I immensely appreciate Pravin for showing faith in me, to pull off such a deep character," she said. "The movie revolves around a strong female character, and I am thankful that Pravin trusted me with her. That in itself feels like an achievement. I am thankful to everyone - those who have supported me as well as those who hated me - for making me who I am today."

Suresh Gopi cites examples of Asin and Nayanthara's rise to stardom

The actress found support in her co-star Suresh Gopi, who essays a lawyer in the film that is set to hit theatres on June 27. The actor-politician cited examples of South stars such as Simran, Nayanthara and Asin, who were initially disregarded in the industry and then went on to become superstars. He said that like them, Anupama too will become a leading star. The same directors who had disregarded her in Malayalam will chase her for her dates in the future, he noted.

Anupama also remarked that JSK gave her an opportunity to act with Suresh Gopi, whom she has been a fan of. "I have grown up watching Thenkasipattanam, Summer in Bethlehem and Chinthamani Kola Case. Acting with him in this film presented some of the most exciting and challenging times for me in my life, and that too in the very first schedule," said the actress.

Dipika Kakar reveals the toughest thing she had to do after cancer diagnosis

After being discharged from the hospital 11 days post-cancer surgery, actor Dipika Kakar is now opening up about her experience. She shared that one of the most challenging aspects following her cancer diagnosis was having to abruptly wean her son Ruhaan off breastfeeding in just one night.

Dipika gets emotional

The actor opened up about the most challenging thing she had to do after getting to know about her diagnosis in her vlog, which was titled "Duaon Ke Liye Dil Se Shukriya". Earlier this month, Dipika Kakar underwent a 14-hour-long surgery for her stage 2 liver cancer. She is married to actor Shoaib Ibrahim.

Dipika said, "Sabse pehli jo cheez karni thi, jo I think mere liye sabse zyada...one of the most difficult things is pure ek mahine mein rahi hai, was weaning off Ruhaan in one night. Mere paas option hi nahi tha. I had to do that and main bohrot royi us raat ko. Main bohrot zyada royi. (The very first thing I had to do -- and I think this has been one of the hardest things for me in the entire past month -- was weaning Ruhaan off in just one night. I had no other option. I had to do it, and I cried a lot that night. I cried so much)".

She mentioned that while Ruhaan was nearing two years old and would eventually have to stop breastfeeding, she hadn't anticipated it would happen in this manner. The actor was seen getting emotional at multiple points in the video.



The actor added, "But ab body mein hazaar dawaaiyaan jayengi, treatment hoga, and aisi situation mein bachhe ko aap na feed karo wohi better hota hai. (But now, with so many medicines going into my body and treatment starting, it's better not to breastfeed a child in such a situation)".

Dipika also took the opportunity to express her gratitude through her vlog, thanking her fans for their prayers and heartfelt wishes, which she described as truly special. She shared, "I've cried a lot -- out of happiness -- knowing that so many people love me so much. I feel truly blessed. And I also feel a little proud that I've earned so much love".

Some time back, in Shoaib's vlog, Dipika confirmed that she is now 'free from the tumour', noting that further treatment is still required.

Dipika Kakar undergoes 14-hour-long surgery

Dipika Kakar was diagnosed with a tumour in her liver in May. Earlier this month, Dipika underwent a 14-hour-long surgery for her stage 2 liver cancer. In his Vlog video on YouTube, Shoaib shared that during the surgery, Dipika's gall bladder as well as a small portion of her liver were removed. "Her tumour was taken out nicely. The gall bladder was also taken out after surgery because of a stone. Because the liver had a tumour, some portion, a small percentage of it, was also cut. There is nothing to stress about it since the liver is an organ that regenerates itself," he said.

The actor also took to Instagram to update her fans and followers about her health, revealing that she has been diagnosed with stage 2 liver cancer. A part of her note read, "As you all are aware last few weeks have been quite difficult for us... walking into the hospital for a pain in the upper area of my stomach... and then finding out it's a tennis ball size tumour in the liver and then Finding out that the tumour is Second stage Malignant (Cancerous) ... it has been one of the most difficult time we have seen, experienced!"

Dipika met Shoaib Ibrahim on the set of Sasural Simar Ka, and the couple later tied the knot in 2018 in the presence of friends and family. They welcomed their first child, son Ruhan, in 2023.

Diljit Dosanjh, Ahan Shetty join Sunny Deol and Varun Dhawan for Border 2



Actors Diljit Dosanjh and Ahan Shetty have joined co-stars Sunny Deol and Varun Dhawan to commence shooting the third schedule for their upcoming film "Border 2".

A sequel to JP Dutta's 1997 war epic "Border", is directed by Anurag Singh and produced by JP, Nidhi Dutta and Bhushan Kumar of T-Series.

The film is slated to hit the big screen on January 23, 2026.

Sunny shared the post on his Instagram handle on Tuesday, featuring all the actors posing for a picture, joined by Bhushan, Anurag, Nidhi and co-producers Shiv Chanana and Binoy Gandhi.

"When all 'Forces' Come together! #BORDER2 Diljit Dosanjh & Ahan Shetty join Sunny Deol and Varun Dhawan as the battalion kicks off the 3rd schedule at Pune's National Defence Acad-

emy," read the caption. "On-ground, they're joined by Producers Bhushan Kumar & Nidhi Dutta, Director Anura Singh, Co-producers Shiv Chanana and Binoy Gandhi, as the film moves full throttle! Mark your calendars: Border2 hits theaters on Jan 23, 2026," he added.

According to the makers, the film is set against a backdrop of "patriotism and courage" and promises to deliver "unparalleled action, gripping drama, and emotional depth."

"Border", which chronicled a pivotal chapter from the 1971 India-Pakistan war, was a hit at the box office when it was released in June 1997.

The film also starred Suniel Shetty, Jackie Shroff, Akshaye Khanna, Sudesh Berry and Puneet Issar.

India cannot afford to be divided over languages, says VP Dhankhar

PUDUCHERRY, Jun 17 (Agencies): India, an aspirational nation in the world, cannot afford to be divided on the issue of languages, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Tuesday and appealed to the people to consider the future well-being of the country and “get over this storm.”

Also, he made a strong pitch for implementing the National Education Policy 2020 in letter and spirit, as it was a “game changer” in the education sector that could spur further development of the country.

Speaking at the Pondicherry University here, Dhankhar who is the chancellor of the varsity, without naming anyone, lamented that there was opposition to languages. “India is the most aspirational nation in the world as a result of phenomenal development in the last decade,” the Vice President said and asked “how can we be divided on languages?”



No country in the world was so rich as India when it came to languages. Sanskrit has global importance and this language along with Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Bengali and Assamees were 11 classical languages.

“In Parliament the discourse is allowed by the members in 22 languages. Our languages

indicate inclusivity. Sanatan teaches to be in togetherness for the same sublime purpose,” Dhankhar added. He appealed to everyone to “soul search, be reflective and rise to the occasion and marvel at our great accomplishments.”

Further, he said: “Look at our destination, take into account the future and let us get over the storm.”

Sonia Gandhi responding well to treatment; her diet being monitored: Hospital



NEW DELHI, Jun 17 (Agencies): Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi who was hospitalised owing to a stomach-related issue is responding well to treatment but her discharge date has not yet been

decided, the hospital said on Tuesday.

The 78-year-old Congress leader was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on Sunday evening.

In a statement, chairman of the hospital Ajay Swaroop, said, “She is

stable and responding well to treatment. She is recovering from a stomach infection. Her diet is being closely monitored, and she remains under observation. As a precautionary measure, her discharge date has not yet been decided.”

“Our team of doctors, Dr S Nundy and Dr Amitabh Yadav, is closely monitoring her health and diet, he added

On June 9, the former Congress president underwent a medical check-up at the same hospital. Two days before the check-up, she underwent some tests at the Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) in Shimla after she complained of high blood pressure.

Census directly related to public welfare, must be done honestly: Mayawati

LUCKNOW, Jun 17 (Agencies): Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Tuesday said the census is directly related to the welfare of people and must be conducted honestly and on time.

In a series of posts in Hindi on X, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister targeted the BJP over its 11-year rule at the Centre, asking if it has been able to eradicate poverty and unemployment from the country. “The national and caste census was pending since the time of the Congress... the process has now begun. The census is directly related to public welfare, and it should be completed honestly and on time in the interest of the country,” she said.

The government on Monday issued a notification for conducting India’s 16th census. It will be carried out with a reference date of October 1, 2026, in the



snow-bound areas like Ladakh and March 1, 2027, in the rest of the country.

In the upcoming census, caste enumeration will also be done, the first such exercise since Independence. The last comprehensive caste-based count was done by the British between 1881 and 1931. Caste was excluded from all census operations conducted since Independence.

The decision to include caste enumeration in the upcoming census was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs,

chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on April 30.

In another post, Mayawati said preparations are going on to formulate a strategy for the upcoming Bihar assembly elections.

Commenting on the 11-year rule of the BJP at the Centre, she asked if the achievements that the party claims to have made are really benefiting the people.

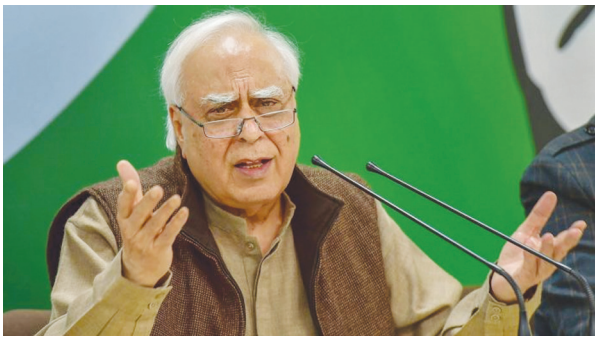
“Has the BJP been able to eradicate poverty, unemployment, pain and sufferings of the people? The people will give the answer at the right time,” she said.

Cash discovery row: Sibal says Govt’s intention is to take control of judges’ appointments

NEW DELHI, Jun 17 (Agencies): Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Tuesday alleged that the real motive of the Government in moving towards bringing an impeachment motion against Justice Yashwant Varma for alleged corruption is to take control of appointment of judges by doing away with the Collegium system and bringing in the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC).

Sibal, who is also a senior advocate, also accused the government of having a selective approach in handling the cases of Justice Varma and Justice Shekhar Yadav, against whom Opposition MPs have submitted a notice in the Rajya Sabha for moving an impeachment motion for making allegedly “communal” remarks last year.

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has underlined the Government’s resolve to



take all political parties on board in moving the impeachment motion against Justice Varma. A fire incident at Varma’s residence in the national capital in March, when he was a judge at the Delhi High Court, had led to the discovery of several burnt sacks of cash at the outhouse.

Addressing a press conference, Sibal said the intention of the Government is to finish the Collegium system and to take control of the appointment of judges.

Talking about Justice Varma, Sibal said, “I can say with utmost responsibility that he is one of the finest judges that I

have argued before. You ask any lawyer in the High Court or Supreme Court, there is not a whiff of any wrongdoing by this judge. You ask any lawyer in Allahabad.”

“It is shocking that you (the government) are targeting a judge against whom there is no evidence and you are protecting a judge against whom there is no evidence required because his statement is in the public domain and there is an impeachment motion pending before the Chairman and he has been sitting on it for verification of signatures,” Sibal said.

Rijiju wants to bring a

motion on the first day of Parliament’s Monsoon session to put the Supreme Court’s in-house inquiry report in Justice Varma’s case in the public domain, he said.

“For what? Why are you protecting Shekhar Yadav?” Sibal added.

Why isn’t the opposition not realising that the game plan is to take away the power to appoint judges from the Collegium and give it to the NJAC, Sibal alleged, adding “That is the whole purpose of this exercise”.

Slamming the government, he said it took a decision against a high court judge without any inquiry and procedure.

“The judge was not even heard. This is absolutely shocking... Unfortunately, the political class is brought into the act,” he said.

Sibal last week had questioned why Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has not taken any action

on the notice for moving an impeachment motion against Justice Yadav of the Allahabad High Court and alleged the government was trying to save the judge who made “totally communal” remarks last year.

The Rajya Sabha MP had also said the whole incident smacks of “discrimination” as on one hand, the Rajya Sabha secretariat wrote to the Chief Justice of India not to go ahead with an in-house inquiry against Yadav as a petition was pending against him before the Upper House, while did not do so in the case of Justice Varma.

Sibal has said if the government tries to remove Varma citing the in-house Supreme Court inquiry against him without the impeachment procedure as claimed by some reports, it would be unconstitutional and would be met with strong opposition for endangering judicial independence.

Woman burns son’s hands, legs with hot iron rod for being ‘naughty’, arrested

HUBBALLI, Jun 17 (Agencies): A woman has been detained in Karnataka’s Hubballi for allegedly burning her son’s hands, legs, and neck using a hot iron rod as punishment for being “naughty”, police said on Tuesday.

Anusha Hulimara has been detained by the police and an investigation has been initiated.

The incident occurred in Tippu Nagar, fourth Cross, in Old Hubballi town on Monday, they said.

According to police sources, the accused reportedly became furious with her child’s behaviour and resorted to the brutal punishment.

Hulimara allegedly inflicted severe burn injuries on the child’s limbs and neck using a

hot metal rod.

The child’s cries drew the attention of nearby residents, who intervened to rescue the boy.

Shocked by the inhumane act, the locals immediately informed the police.

Old Town Hubballi police arrived at the scene, detained the woman and initiated further

investigation.

The Child Welfare Department officials have been asked to intervene and provide necessary support and care to the victim.

In a disturbing video, the child is seen showing severe scald marks on his foot, hands and face and telling people that his mother branded him.

36 Days into marriage, jharkhand woman poisons husband to death



GARHWA, Jun 17 (Agencies): Following the sensational honeymoon murder case in which Sonam Raghuvanshi allegedly killed her husband Raja Raghuvanshi, another gruesome case of spousal murder has emerged from Jharkhand’s Garhwa district.

A 22-year-old woman allegedly poisoned and killed her husband just 36 days after their wedding, police officials said on Tuesday.

The accused, identified as Sunita, was arrested on Monday evening and is being sent to judicial custody.

According to the police, the incident came to light after the victim’s mother, Rajmati Devi, filed a complaint

accusing her daughter-in-law of murder.

As per the FIR, the victim, Budhnath Singh, a resident of Bahokundar village under Ranka police station limits, was married to Sunita, daughter of Raghunath Singh of Vishunpur village in Chhattisgarh’s Ramchandrapur police station area, on May 11 this year.

Trouble reportedly began the day after the wedding when Sunita returned to her parental home. She expressed her displeasure with the marriage, stating that she did not like Budhnath at all and would not live with him.

However, family members from both sides tried to save the marriage. A panchayat was

held on June 5, following which Sunita returned to her marital home with Budhnath.

On June 14, the couple visited Ramanujan market in Chhattisgarh. Police say Sunita allegedly convinced Budhnath to buy pesticide from the market under the pretext that she needed it for agricultural use.

It is alleged that on the night of June 15, Sunita mixed the pesticide into her husband’s food. Budhnath was found dead the next morning after he failed to wake up.

His body was sent for post-mortem examination, and the cause of death will be confirmed after the report is received.

Confirming the arrest, the Ranka police station in-charge said, “We have taken the victim’s wife into custody based on the mother’s complaint. Post-mortem is being done. We will know the cause of the death after the report comes. Further investigation is underway.”

10 arrested in gang rape of 20-year-old woman at Odisha beach

BHUBANESWAR/BERHAMPUR, Jun 17 (Agencies): Ten persons were arrested on Tuesday in connection with the gang rape of a 20-year-old woman at the famed Gopalpur beach in Odisha, the police said.

The incident happened on Sunday night when the woman, an undergraduate student at a private college, went to the beach along with her boyfriend, who is her classmate, on the occasion of the Raja festival, they said.

The woman, in her complaint lodged at the Gopalpur police station, alleged that when they were sitting at an isolated place on the beach, a group of 10 persons approached them, rounded up her boyfriend and took turns to rape her.

“Initially, seven persons were detained

for interrogation. Later, all 10 accused were arrested,” said a police officer.

The accused were nabbed while they were trying to flee to another state, he said.

Medical examination of the survivor has been conducted, he added.

Police said the survivor lived in a private mess along with three other women.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Pravat Parida said she has spoken to SP Saravana Vivek M and has ordered a thorough investigation and necessary steps to ensure that such incidents do not happen in the future.

The incident sent shockwaves across the state as tourists from far-off places visit the beach in the Ganjam district.

One dead, six injured in blast at pharmaceutical unit in Nagpur district

NAGPUR, Jun 17 (Agencies): One person was killed and six others injured in a blast at a pharmaceutical company’s unit in Nagpur district on Tuesday, police said.

The explosion occurred in a glass-lined reactor at the unit of Ankit Pulps and Boards Pvt Ltd, located in Bhillgaon, eastern Maharashtra. The cause of the blast has not yet been determined.

A senior police official informed agency that the incident took place at around 11 am, resulting in the death of one individual and injuries to six others. One of the injured is reported to be in critical condition and is currently undergoing treatment along with the others at a hospital in Kamptee town nearby.

The company manufactures microcrystalline cellulose (MCC), a substance widely used in the pharmaceutical and food industries, primarily as a binder and filler (excipient) in drug formulations.

According to the company’s website, it specialises in the production of excipients for various pharmaceutical applications.

Real end, not just a ceasefire: Trump's endgame on Iran-Israel conflict

Trump, who left the G7 summit early due to the Middle East situation, said the US is looking at a "real end" to Iran-Israel conflict and not a ceasefire.

WASHINGTON, Jun 17 (Agencies): With the Israel-Iran conflict entering its fifth day and fears of a wider regional war mounting, US President Donald Trump has made it clear he isn't after a mere pause in hostilities. Speaking aboard Air Force One, Trump told reporters, "We're looking at better than a ceasefire."

He then clarified what he meant by "better than a ceasefire". "A real end. Not a ceasefire. An end," Trump was quoted as saying by the BBC.

His remarks came amid rising global concern and diplomatic urgency around the ongoing conflict that has left hundreds dead across both countries and rattled oil markets.

Pressed further about the US position and the help extended to Israel, Trump said, "Right now, we're doing pretty well. Remember, Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon."

Meanwhile, the US President has indicated that he "may" send senior American officials such as Vice President JD Vance or Middle East Envoy Steve Witkoff to engage Iran diplomatically, as per a report



by news agency.

Trump hinted at Israel's continued offensive. "You're going to find out over the next two days. You're going to find out. Nobody's slowed up so far," Trump was quoted as saying by a CBS journalist.

Though he left the G7 summit early to return to Washington, Trump denied it had anything to do with ceasefire negotiations. Responding to French President Emmanuel Macron's statement that the US had proposed a ceasefire, Trump wrote on Truth Social, "Wrong! He has no idea

why I am now on my way to Washington, but it certainly has nothing to do with a Cease Fire. Much bigger than that."

A Politico pool report cited Trump as demanding a "complete give up" by Iran in terms of its nuclear ambitions. He reiterated on Monday: "Simply stated, IRAN CAN NOT HAVE A NUCLEAR WEAPON. I said it over and over again! Everyone should immediately evacuate Tehran!"

Meanwhile, Iran has responded with fresh missile and drone strikes targeting Israeli cities.

Iranian state media said explosions and air defence activity lit up the skies over Tehran and Natanz on Tuesday. In Kashan, Israeli strikes reportedly killed three people and injured four.

Israel's military said it had killed Iran's wartime chief of staff and conducted major operations against weapons depots and missile sites. The toll on both sides continues to rise — Iran reports 224 deaths, largely civilians, while Israel has reported 24 civilian fatalities.

Tehran has reached out to Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, urging them to convince Washington to press Israel for an immediate ceasefire.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on X, "If President Trump is genuine about diplomacy and interested in stopping this war, next steps are consequential. Israel must halt its aggression, and absent a total cessation of military aggression against us, our responses will continue."

China, meanwhile, has advised its citizens to leave Israel, citing worsening security conditions as Israeli airspace remains shut.

Gaza rescuers say Israel army kills at least 50 people near aid site

The overall death toll in Gaza since the war broke out on October 7, 2023 has reached 55,432 people, according to the health ministry.



GAZA, Jun 17 (Agencies): Gaza's civil defence agency said that Israeli forces on Tuesday killed at least 50 people gathered near an aid distribution site in Khan Yunis in the territory's south, updating an earlier toll.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal told agency that at least 50 people were killed and more than 200 wounded as thousands of Palestinians

gathered to receive flour at a charity aid centre in the morning.

"Israeli drones fired at the citizens. Some minutes later, Israeli tanks fired several shells at the citizens, which led to a large number of martyrs and wounded," he said.

The Israeli army told agency it was "looking into" the incident.

Gaza's health ministry later reported that as a result of the incident,

"51 martyrs and more than 200 injuries have arrived at Nasser Medical Complex, including 20 in critical condition".

The Gaza Strip has been ravaged by more than 20 months of war between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas, with the situation continuing to deteriorate on the ground.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said on Monday that 5,139 people have been killed since Israel resumed strikes on the territory on March 18 following a truce.

The overall death toll in Gaza since the war broke out on October 7, 2023 has reached 55,432 people, according to the health ministry.

Nine killed, 26 injured in explosion at fireworks plant in China

BEIJING, Jun 17 (Agencies): Nine people have died and 26 others injured when a massive explosion rocked a fireworks factory in central China.

The explosion took place at Linli County in Hunan province on Monday, official media reported on Tuesday.

Videos on state-run media platforms showed the massive explosion followed by a thick plume of smoke rising from the factory site.

The blast caused extensive damage to the neighbourhood buildings, where people were seen scrambling for cover to escape the falling debris.

A search and rescue operation is currently underway, and an investigation team has been formed to determine the cause of the accident,



the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

China's Ministry of Emergency Management said on Tuesday that it has dispatched a team to guide the rescue efforts at the site.

The ministry has urged relevant authorities to promptly identify all indi-

viduals affected by the explosion and to ensure that no secondary accidents occur.

Efforts must be made to ascertain the cause of the explosion as soon as possible and to hold those responsible accountable, it said.

US lawmakers propose to mark July 6 as "Day of Compassion" to honour Dalai Lama's 90th birthday, reaffirm support for Tibetan rights

WASHINGTON, Jun 17 (Agencies): US Congressman Michael McCaul, alongside Congressman Jim McGovern, has put forward a bipartisan resolution in Congress to mark 6 July 2025 as "A Day of Compassion" in celebration of Tibetan spiritual leader 14th Dalai Lama's 90th birthday, according to Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) statement shared on X.

Representative McCaul remarked that the Dalai Lama has exemplified peace and compassion, even while facing persecution from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). He recalled his meeting with Dalai Lama in Dharamsala last year and conveyed his support for the rights of the Tibetan people and their peaceful return to their homeland, as mentioned in the post.

McGovern commended the Dalai Lama for advocating religious tolerance, non-violence, and peace, stating that his guidance is more crucial today than ever. He expressed a desire for the Dalai Lama's next birthday



to be celebrated in Lhasa, Tibet.

Tencho Gyatso, President of the International Campaign for Tibet, expressed approval of the resolution as a significant symbol of backing for the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people, particularly those in Tibet who are unable to publicly celebrate his birthday due to Chinese

restrictions, according to the CTA's post on X.

Representatives Joe Wilson, Mike Lawler, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Jamie Raskin, Jan Schakowsky, and Young Kim have also supported the resolution.

Since the 1950s, Tibetans in China have faced oppression following the Chinese govern-

ment's annexation of Tibet. The uprising in 1959 resulted in the Dalai Lama's exile and intensified repression. Tibetan culture, language, and religious practices have been systematically suppressed.

Various accounts indicate that monasteries in China are closely monitored, and religious activities experience considerable restrictions. There is widespread surveillance, and dissent is met with harsh penalties. Protests against cultural annihilation and human rights abuses have led to acts of self-immolation. Educational systems promote Mandarin over the Tibetan language.

The Chinese government portrays Tibetan activism as separatism, justifying its stringent policies. Despite international concern, Beijing continues to impose strict control, framing its actions as efforts toward development and stability while limiting access to the region for outsiders.

Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazakhstan to cement Central Asia ties

Central Asia is also an important target for China in its Belt and Road initiative -- which uses huge infrastructure investments as a political and diplomatic lever.

ASTANA, Jun 17 (Agencies): Chinese President Xi Jinping met Central Asian leaders at a summit in Kazakhstan on Tuesday, his second trip to the region in under a year as Beijing competes with Russia for influence there.

The summit in Astana brings together Xi -- who arrived in the Kazakh capital on Monday -- and the leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Under Russia's orbit until the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the five countries of Central Asia have courted interest from major powers, including China and the United States since becoming independent.

The region is rich in natural resources and strategically located at the crossroads of

Europe and Asia.

In a meeting with Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov on Tuesday, Xi called for the two countries to "scale up trade and investment and expand cooperation in emerging sectors", Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported.

The two sides should "advance high-quality construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway and foster new drivers of growth in clean energy, green minerals and artificial intelligence", Xi reportedly said.

In talks with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Xi said Beijing "firmly supports Tajikistan in safeguarding its national independence, sovereignty and security", according to Xinhua.

The Chinese leader also held talks with

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Turkmen President Serdar Berdimukhamedov, according to Beijing's state media.

While Central Asian leaders continue to view Russia as a strategic partner, ties with Moscow have loosened since the war in Ukraine.

The five nations are taking advantage of the growing interest in their region and coordinating their foreign policies.

They regularly hold summits with China and Russia to present the region as a unified bloc and attract investment.

High-level "5+1" format talks have also been organised with the European Union, the United States, Turkey and other Western countries.

"The countries of the region are balancing between different cen-



tres of power, wanting to protect themselves from excessive dependence on one partner," Kyrgyz political scientist Nargiza Muratalieva told agency. Biggest trade partner Russia says China's growing influence in the region does not pose a

threat.

"There is no reason for such fears. China is our privileged strategic partner, and the countries of Central Asia, naturally, are our natural historical partners," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters

on Monday.

But China has now established itself as Central Asia's leading trading partner, far outstripping the EU and Russia.

Central Asia is also an important target for China in its Belt and Road initiative -- which uses huge infrastructure investments as a political and diplomatic lever.

Construction of the Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan-China railway and the China-Tajikistan highway, which runs through the Pamir Mountains to Afghanistan, are among the planned investments.

New border crossings and "dry ports" have already been built to process trade, such as Khorgos in Kazakhstan, one of the largest logistics hubs in the world. "Neither Russia nor

Western institutions are capable of allocating financial resources for infrastructure so quickly and on such a large scale, sometimes bypassing transparent procedures," said Muratalieva.

Kazakhstan said last week that Russia would lead the construction of its first nuclear power plant but that it wanted China to build the second.

"Central Asia is rich in natural resources such as oil, gas, uranium, gold and other minerals that the rapidly developing Chinese economy needs," Muratalieva said.

"Ensuring uninterrupted supplies of these resources, bypassing unstable sea routes, is an important goal of Beijing," the analyst added. Human rights

China also positions itself as a supporter of the predominantly authoritarian Central Asian leaderships.

At the last Central Asia-China summit, Xi called for "resisting external interference" that might provoke "colour revolutions" that could overthrow the current leaders in the region.

"Beijing sees the stability of the Central Asian states as a guarantee of the security of its western borders," Muratalieva said.

Central Asia border's China's northwestern Xinjiang region, where Beijing is accused of having detained more than a million Uyghurs and other Muslims, part of a campaign the UN has said could constitute "crimes against humanity".

Interio introduces Flexible Café furniture solutions for modern Indian offices



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 17: Interio, one of India's leading furniture brands under the Godrej Enterprises Group, has launched its latest innovation in workspace furniture - the Pep-Up Café Table Range. This new category of furniture combines functionality, style and ergonomic comfort to transform informal collaboration zones in modern offices.

Designed to meet the evolving needs of India's diverse workplaces, Pep-Up offers a vibrant mix of forms, colors and finishes ideal for breakout zones, office cafés, lounge areas and meeting corners. Available in three contemporary understructures - Pod, Rod and 4-Leg Tables, the range is built to support the dynamic and collaborative nature of today's work culture.

Commenting on this innovative concept, Sameer Joshi, Sr. Vice President and Head of B2B Business, Interio said, "t Interio, we create products that take a human-centered approach and offer flexible space solutions for

workspaces. Pep-Up is more than a table—it's a social enabler. It brings employees together, encourages creative interactions, and creates vibrant corners where ideas thrive. With these new offerings, we aim to blur the lines between work and leisure zones by offering furniture that's flexible, durable and expressive. Godrej Interio's institutional furniture business is expected to grow by 19% by FY27 and we plan to introduce over 45 new SKUs in the institutional furniture segment over the next two years."

The modern Indian workplace has changed significantly, driven by technological advances, modern workspace design and new office setups. Corporate cafeterias have evolved from simple convenience facilities to important tools for improving employee satisfaction and productivity.

They are no longer just places to grab a quick meal but have become central to building a sense of community and well-being among employees. These

spaces encourage networking and collaboration in a relaxed setting, where ideas can flow freely over a cup of coffee or during a shared lunch break. The casual atmosphere of a cafeteria creates meaningful conversations and knowledge exchange, ultimately improving the creative and innovative environment.

The Pep-Up range supports flexible interior layouts through three distinct understructure designs - Pod, Rod and 4-Leg—available in square, round and rectangular shapes with regular and high table height options.

This versatility accommodates dining zones, breakout areas, one-on-one discussions and waiting lounges across different floor plans and workplace cultures. Available in multiple color and material combinations with solid and wood grain finishes, the tables integrate seamlessly into modern Indian office aesthetics while delivering premium quality and tech-integrated flexibility that enhances contemporary workplace lifestyles.

NCC Cadets of Infantry and Naval units of GDC Doda donated blood on World Blood Donor Day

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jun 17: In a remarkable display of social responsibility and humanitarian spirit, the NCC cadets of Naval and Infantry wings of Government Degree College Doda participated in a blood donation camp organized to mark World Blood Donor Day. The event was conducted at the Govt. District Hospital Doda and aimed at spreading awareness about the importance of voluntary blood donation.

18 NCC cadets, enthusiastically came forward to donate blood, setting an inspiring example for the youth of the region. The initiative was held under the supervision of Worthy Principal Dr Javed Iqbal Zargar and NCC Officers Lt Dr Jaswant Singh ANO Infantry wing and Dr. Barkat Ali CTO Naval wing of the college and medical experts ensured safe and



hygienic procedures during the entire process.

Principal of the college Dr. Javed Iqbal appreciated the

noble efforts of the cadets and said, "The participation of our NCC cadets in this life-saving cause reflects the values of discipline, service, and selflessness that the NCC embodies. Their contribution today may help save many lives."

The event also featured an awareness session by Lt Dr Jaswant Singh on the significance of regular blood donation and how it contributes to saving lives during emergencies, surgeries, and for patients suffering from critical illnesses.

The college administration, along with the NCC unit, expressed their gratitude to the District Hospital team for their cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to continuing such initiatives in the future.

The programme concluded with a pledge by the cadets to promote blood donation as a routine act of service to humanity.

“The Golden Years: A Life of Care and Cheer”

When work is done and clocks slow down,
And silver grace replaces crown,
Retirement comes with peaceful light,
But only shines if we live it right.

A happy life needs thoughtful pace,
With daily smiles and gentle grace,
But never forget—though time is free,
Precautions guard tranquility.

Have your health checks, don't delay,
A small test now saves pain one day.
Keep numbers close, don't let them grow,
Before they strike with silent blow.

Stay active—walk, stretch, and breathe,
Let nature's calm your soul beneath.
Eat with care, and sleep with peace,
Let every worry find its release.

Meet old friends, make memories new,
Find little joys in all you do.
Give your wisdom, share your role,
Keep young at heart, and rich in soul.

Be aware, but don't be scared,
Life's still a journey best when shared.
A mindful step, a cautious way—
Will gift you joy each golden day.

Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain
State yoga Commissioner
Jammu



Army contingent departs for India-France Joint Military exercise Shakti

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Jun 17: The Indian Army contingent departed today to participate in 8th edition of the biennial India-French Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI.

The exercise will be conducted at Camp Larzac, La Cavalerie, France from 18th June 2025 to 1st July 2025. The Indian contingent comprising of 90 personnel is being represented primarily by a Battalion of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles besides personnel from other arms and services. The French contin-

gent comprising of 90 personnel will be represented by personnel from the 13th Foreign Legion Half- Brigade (13th DBLE). Exercise SHAKTI is a biennial training engagement between the Indian and French Armies, aimed at enhancing interoperability, operational coordination, and military to military connect.

This edition will focus on joint operations in a sub-conventional environment under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, with training being conducted in semi-urban terrain.

The exercise will pro-

vide a platform for both contingents to rehearse and refine tactical drills, share best practices in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs), train on new generation equipment (contemporary military technologies) and strengthen physical endurance.

It will also foster esprit-decorps, mutual respect and professional camaraderie between the two armies. Exercise SHAKTI-VIII underscores the growing defence cooperation between India and France and will strengthen strategic ties between the two friendly nations.

FromPage No: 1

Union Home Secretary arrives in Srinagar to review Amarnath Yatra security preparedness

agencies are attending the meeting.

The annual Amarnath Yatra to the holy cave shrine situated 3888 metres above sea level will last for 52 days this year, beginning on July 3 and ending on August 9.

Pilgrims approach the cave shrine either through the longer traditional Pahalgam route or the shorter Baltal route. Those using the Pahalgam route in Anantnag district reach the cave shrine after three days, while those using the Baltal route in Ganderbal district return to the base camp the same day after having 'darshan' inside the cave shrine.

The cave shrine houses an ice stalagmite structure that waxes and waxes with the phases of the moon. Devotees believe that the ice stalagmite structure symbolises the mythical powers of Lord Shiva.

This year's Amarnath Yatra is taking place in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, and the authorities are taking no chances with the security arrangements put in place for the Yatra.

A multi-layered security manned by the Army, CAPFs and the J&K Police is already in place at the cave shrine, base camps and transit camps in addition to the route right from Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu (starting point) for escorted convoys carrying the pilgrims to Baltal and Pahalgam.

Authorities have made arrangements for RFID tracking of yatis, real-time weather alerts, emergency evacuation protocols, and dedicated health camps to ensure the

smooth conduct of the yatra. RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) is a technology that uses radio waves to identify and track tags attached to objects.

Officials said that all aspects, including the minute details of security, have been attended to and there is a complete synergy between the army, CAPFs and the local police, all of whom are working as a well-oiled machine to ensure that every aspect of security is taken care of.

CM Omar Abdullah meets tour operators, discusses measures to promote tourism in J&K

environment. The presence of dedicated tourism officers, trained police personnel, and round-the-clock support systems instills a sense of security and comfort for every traveller," the IATO said.

"IATO appeals to all its members, and the larger travel fraternity in India and internationally, to confidently promote Jammu and Kashmir as a premier tourist destination. We assure travellers that Kashmir is open, vibrant, and ready to host them. The valley, in all its natural splendour, is offering not just scenic beauty but a rejuvenating and secure holiday experience," it added.

The IATO urged the media and travel influencers to share the positive developments and support this effort in rebuilding trust and dispelling unfounded apprehensions.

The IATO said its delegation witnessed first-hand the peaceful and welcoming atmosphere prevailing across all the locations they visited.

"Pahalgam, Srinagar and surrounding areas are absolutely

safe for tourists. The hospitality, warmth, and readiness of the local tourism industry are clearly visible, and we were heartened to see that both government authorities and private stakeholders are working together seamlessly to ensure the safety, comfort and memorable experiences of all visitors," it added.

Parks at Tourist destinations in J&K, Including some in Pahalgam, reopened

terrorists in Baisaran meadows in Pahalgam, a popular tourist spot.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday ordered the reopening of 16 parks — eight each in Jammu region and Kashmir Valley. He said the destinations would be reopened in a phased manner.Jammu food guide

In the first phase, eight parks were reopened in the Kashmir valley.

Betaab Valley in Pahalgam and the parks near Pahalgam market, Verinag, Kokernag and Achabal gardens in Anantnag district, Badamwari Park, Duck Park near Nigeen, and Taqdeer Park near Hazratbal in Srinagar were reopened on Tuesday.

Similarly, eight destinations were reopened in Jammu region as well including Sarthal and Dhaggar in Kathua, Devipindi, Siyad Baba and Sula Park in Reasi, Guldanda and Jai Valley in Doda, and Pancheri in Udhampur.

A large number of school children welcomed the tourists at Verinag — a famous park in south Kashmir's Anantnag, the officials said.

"We were already feeling good and happy to have come here, but the reopening of the park and the welcome we got is very nice," a tourist from Patiali, Punjab, said.

"We are happy that this park opened after so many days. We have come here with our families and we will visit the park to show them beautiful Kashmir," Barkat Ali, a tourist from Bikaner area of Rajasthan, said.

"It is a wonderful feeling and experience. We heard that the park was reopening today, so we came. But, the welcome we got is truly the best experience which we cannot express in words," another tourist from Punjab said. They appealed the tourists to come to Kashmir in large numbers.

Tourist police personnel were also deployed to assist the visitors. Local MLA Ghulam Ahmad Mir also welcomed the reopening of the park.

Rana reviews water supply schemes in Pir Panjal Region

for the ensuing year to ensure uninterrupted water supply to the residents of the region. He directed the concerned departments to prepare detailed plans, taking into account the region's specific needs and challenges.

The Minister also stressed the need for regular water quality tests to ensure the provision of safe drinking water to the public. He directed the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) officials to prioritize water quality monitoring and take corrective measures wherever necessary.

The meeting also reviewed the progress on the ongoing projects of Water Supply Schemes in the region.

Rana expressed concern over delays and directed the concerned officers to fast-track the completion of these projects, ensuring high-quality workmanship.

The Minister also reviewed the implementation of the Jal Jeevan

Mission in the Pir Panjal Region. He emphasized the importance of community participation and involvement in ensuring the sustainability of water supply schemes.

The Minister reaffirmed the commitment of J&K Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah towards providing safe and reliable drinking water to the residents of J&K including the Pir Panjal Region. He assured that his department would work tirelessly to address the region's water supply challenges and ensure the well-being of its residents.

Revenue official booked for disproportionate assets in North Kashmir

check period, the patwari had incurred significant expenditures and accumulated assets that were prima facie disproportionate to his known sources of income.

"Details unearthed during the verification included purchase of land at Hamdaniya Colony, Bemina, and construction of a double-storey house there; construction of another house at Doniwari Lolab; purchase of a Hyundai Venue car and a two-wheeler; considerable expenses on bank loan repayments; and payments for his children's education, including MBBS admission abroad and nursing admission in Amritsar," it reads.

The verification further revealed that, upon learning about the complaint, the patwari began securing multiple bank loans—reportedly up to Rs 75 lakh—in an apparent attempt to conceal illegal income and mislead investigators.

"The acts of omission and commission by the accused patwari constitute a cognisable offence of criminal misconduct punishable under Section 5(1)(e) read with Section 5(2) of the J&K Preven-

tion of Corruption Act, Svt. 2006," the statement said.

Accordingly, FIR No. 03/2025 was registered on June 16, 2025, against the accused under the relevant provisions of the Act.

Following the registration of the case, the ACB obtained search warrants from the Anti-Corruption Court Baramulla and conducted searches at multiple premises linked to the accused.

"During the searches, incriminating material including receipts for gold purchases, iPhone 15 and 15 Pro, and other items relevant to the investigation were recovered and seized in the presence of magistrates and witnesses as per the law," the statement added.

Further investigation is underway.

Amarnath Yatra routes declared 'No Flying Zone' from July 1 to Aug 10

undertaken for smooth and peaceful conduct of the yatra.

"All stakeholders have discussed the prevailing security scenario in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and have proposed additional logistics provisions," the order said.

It said the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has also advised that the entire route of Shri Amarnathji Yatra may be declared as 'No Flying Zone' from July 1 to August 10.

"Therefore, with a view to ensure strengthened security during the Shri Amarnathji Yatra, 2025, all the routes of Shri Amarnathji Yatra are hereby declared as 'No Flying Zone', including both Pahalgam axis & Baltal axis," the order said.

The beefed up security measures come in the backdrop of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people dead.

The Amarnath yatra attracts thousands of pilgrims from all over the country reach year.

IGNOU notifies much awaited learner support centre in GGM Science College for B.Sc., M.Sc. Zoology

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 17: With the approval of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Open University, based on the recommendations of the Sub-Committee of Student Support Centre (SSC) in its 9th Meeting held on May 7, 2025, IGNOU has notified the Learner Support Centre (LSC) in the prestigious Govt. Gandhi Memorial Science College, Canal Road, Jammu for BSCM (Bachelor of Science) and MSCZOO (Master of Science in Zoology) programmes. The Code allotted to the LSC is 12133. This will be an LSC in the regular category and the first ever Learner Support Centre of IGNOU in the entire Jammu division to have been notified exclusively for Science programmes.

IGNOU has recently thrown its online portal open for fresh admissions for the July 2025 admission cycle on June 10, 2025. IGNOU Offers more than 250 programmes at UG, PG, Diploma, PG Diploma, PG Certificate and Certificate levels. The minimum eligibility criteria for UG courses is that students must pass



10+2 from a recognized university and for PG courses, candidates must be a graduate from a recognized university. The desirous candidates can submit the application form through online mode.

The applicants can access the admission portal on the University's National website www.ignou.ac.in Homepage or directly follow the link <https://ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in>. Candidates aspiring for admission will be able to complete their admission process on this portal before the deadline. The last date to apply for admission through the online portal has been fixed for July 15, 2025. "The desirous candidates who wish to be a member of IGNOU extended family must avail this opportunity and apply for any of the programmes of their choice well before the

last date approaches", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu. Dr. Sandeep also cautioned the prospective learners not to fall in trap of any fraudulent persons or callers who may approach for payment of admission fees through QR Codes, WhatsApp or any other social media platforms because IGNOU does not ask for any such details on any platforms other than the University website itself.

In a press statement, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu, Dr. Sandeep Gupta expressed his happiness about the activation of LSC in the GGM Science College Jammu and stated that the same has been possible because of the kind support and proactive approach of Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal GGM Science College, Jammu. Dr. Sandeep also stated that the opening of the first ever LSC in the region exclusively for Science stream programmes will bring huge relief to the learners of Science programmes particularly with regard to conduct of practicals and practical examinations.

DC Kishtwar reviews arrangements for Urs of Shah Farid-Ud-Din (RA)

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jun 17: Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, on Tuesday convened a meeting of all the concerned district officers from line departments to review the arrangements for the Urs of Shah Farid-Ud-Din Sahib (RA), scheduled for June 21st, 2025.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed various arrangements including the provision of accommodation for devotees, power and water supply, firewood, ration, LPG, sanitation, security, medical care, transportation, fire tender services, and overall traffic management. He issued a slew of directions to the concerned departments. SSP Kishtwar assured that comprehensive security arrangements will be put in place during the Urs celebrations.

The DC directed the XEN, Jal Shakti, to ensure the availability of sufficient drinking water for devotees/Ziareens at all shrines and at Biat-Ul-Ziareen, with a backup provision of water tankers.

The DC also directed the EO, Municipal Council Kishtwar, to



carry out repair and replacement of non-functional streetlights in the town, in the adjoining areas of the shrines, and in the Chowgan ground to facilitate hassle-free movement of devotees. He also emphasized cleanliness around both shrines and stressed the lime lining of roads leading to them.

He further directed the EO, Municipal Council Kishtwar, to undertake desilting and clean-

ing of lane drains around the shrines and throughout Kishtwar town.

Additionally, the ARTO, DTI, and police administration were instructed to devise a proper transport plan, arrange additional buses for the smooth to-and-fro movement of pilgrims, and manage traffic and vehicle parking effectively. The JPDCI Kishtwar was directed to ensure an uninterrupted power supply

at both shrines and the accommodation areas for Ziareens, with provisions for generator sets as backup.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the setup of a Joint Information Dissemination Booth by the Civil Administration and Police to spread awareness, provide information, and facilitate public announcements.

Representatives from the Auqaf Kishtwar and Sajada-e-Nasheen (from both shrines) apprised the DC of various issues. The DC listened attentively and issued necessary directions on the spot, assuring them of full support from the administration.

Necessary directions were also given to the FCS&CA, Health Department, Fire and Emergency Services for making efficient and adequate arrangements. The meeting was attended by Naresh Singh, SSP Kishtwar; Pawan Kotwal, ADC Kishtwar; Idrees Lone, ACR Kishtwar; Rishi Kumar Sharma, PO ICDS Kishtwar; Kaiser Bhawani, CEO Kishtwar Development Authority besides other District and Sectoral Officers and representatives of socio-religious organizations.

Randhawa inaugurates upgradation of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Park into Vertical Garden at Digiana



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 17: In a major step towards promoting eco-friendly urban development, MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa on Tuesday inaugurated the upgradation of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Park into a Vertical Garden at Digiana, Jammu. The initiative is aimed at beautifying public spaces while contributing to environmental conservation.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Sham Choudhary (Ex-Minister), senior officials from the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) who have played a vital role in executing the project.

Also present on the occasion were prominent public representa-

tives and local leaders including Ritika (Mandal President), Narinder Koki, Bharat Bhushan, Sahil Mahajan, Vinod Sharma, Rajan Badyal, Lok Nath, Satpaul Badyal, along with many local residents and dignitaries who welcomed the initiative.

While addressing the gathering, MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa highlighted the importance of green zones within city areas.

He said, "We are committed to creating cleaner and greener surroundings for our citizens. This vertical garden project is a step in that direction. Not only will it provide a healthier environment, but it will also serve as a model for future sustainable development projects in Jammu."

Ambedkar's Constitution opened ways for SCs to become DM, CM, and PM: Balbir

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 17: Balbir Ram Rattan, spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir, and former Vice Chairperson, stated that the Constitution of India — a monumental contribution of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar — has provided equal opportunities for Scheduled Caste (SC) individuals to reach top positions like District Magistrate (DM), Chief Minister (CM), and even Prime Minister (PM). He said this constitutional framework stands as a symbol of social justice, equality, and inclusiveness.

He made these remarks during a meeting with key party workers from the Scheduled Caste community, where he discussed the provisions made by Dr. Ambedkar in the Constitution for the upliftment of marginalized communities. Balbir said that under various articles of the Constitution, every citizen has the right to progress in education,



employment, business, and public life without any discrimination. He emphasized that Dr. Ambedkar ensured the inclusion of such provisions that enabled socially disadvantaged groups to integrate into the mainstream.

He added that in the past, when caste-based discrimination was at its peak, it was extremely difficult for a dalit to even attain an education. But in today's India, a person from a Scheduled Caste category can not only become a district officer through administrative services but can also rise to the highest offices like Chief Minister and Prime Minister. Balbir further asserted that this transformation has only

been made possible due to the Constitution, which prioritizes equality and social justice. He urged the youth to embrace education as their most powerful tool and to make positive contributions to society by utilizing the rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

He also appreciated the welfare schemes launched by the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which are focused on uplifting dalits, backward classes, and the underprivileged.

Present at the meeting were Jagdish Bhagat, Vijay Anand Gill, Ashok Gandhi, G.R. Bhagat, R.K. Raina, and others.

Committee on Public Undertakings holds introductory-cum-review meeting

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 17: The Committee on Public Undertakings of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Tuesday convened an introductory-cum-review meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar.

The meeting was presided over by Committee Chairman, Ali Mohammad Sagar and attended by the members including Ali Mohammad Dar, Baldev Raj Sharma, Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Showkat Hussain Ganai, Said U Din Bhat and Tanvir Sadiq.

The Chairman emphasised the importance of proactive participation from all members and officials in strengthening the operations and efficiency of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

He highlighted the urgent need to take concrete steps for revival of loss-making Corporations. He stressed the importance of robust audits and evaluations to ensure added transparency and accountability. He instructed the concerned departments to submit the status of public undertakings



along with audit reports to enable informed decision-making and reforms.

"The aim of the Committee is to ensure that our public undertakings are functional, contributing to economic development and creating business and employment opportunities for the people," said the Chairman.

During the session, the Principal Accountant General informed on the audit procedures and offered recommendations to further enhance the performance of public sector corporations in Jammu and Kashmir.

Emphasis was given on holding Corporation wise review meetings, while members of the Committee committed to work collectively for improvement in the sector.

They also gave their suggestions regarding various issues pertaining to the sector.

Also present in the meeting were JPN Singh, Principal Accountant General J&K, Srinagar; Manoj Pandita, Secretary Legislative Assembly, Director General Accounts and Treasuries, Director General Expenditure Finance and other concerned officers.

Fourth batch of trekkers flagged off for Dharamshala

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 17: Patron of the Club Ashwani Sharma, former MLA along with advisor of the club Vivek Chauhan and principal of MHAC School, Nagbani Sonia Anand flagged off the 4th group comprising 182 students including 98 girls for the Dharamshala Himalayan Programme being organized by Tawi Trekkers J&K in the Dauladhars of Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. The group included 161 students of MHAC Nagbani and 21 students of J K Montessorie School, Talab Tillo. Eight teachers of MHAC School, Nagbani Shiv Datt, Reetu, Anuj Khokher, Neelakshi, Ameet Rajput, Neetu, Pardeep



Kour and Sonu and Vandana of JK Montessorie School also accompanied the group. The group is being led by President of Tawi Trekkers J&K Shavetica Khajuria, a trained mountaineer and an international Judge in sport climbing and Amit Khajuria, a veteran organiser of Himalayan Trekking Programmes. With this total participation in the Dharamshala Programme has gone up to 400.

Meanwhile, the 3rd group of trekkers of MHAC School, Nagbani has reached back Jammu after visiting various historical, spiritual and heritage sites besides enjoying a soft trek from Bhagshu Nag to Gallu temple and Dharamkot, popularly called mini Israel.

It may be mentioned here that Tawi Trekkers J&K, a non profit making organisation, has been organizing Himalayan Trek-

king Programmes in Dalhousie -Chamba, Kullu-Manali and Dharamshala areas of Himachal Pradesh since 1994. Over the years these programmes have emerged as the most popular activity of the club for students during summer vacations in which over 16000 boys and girls have participated so far. The purpose of these programme is to take the students away from the heat and dust and also hustle and bustle of city life and bring them close to nature.

Meanwhile, a small group of about 10 members of the club shall undertake a high altitude trek to Triund, an elegant meadow situated at an altitude of over 10000ft in Dhauladhars of Himachal Pradesh.

GGF felicitates Jammu Airport Director Dr. Sanjeev Garg on his superannuation

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 17: A delegation from the Gandhi Global Family (GGF), led by Padma Shri I.D Soni, felicitated Jammu Airport Director Dr Sanjeev Kumar Garg and Babita Garg on the occasion of his forthcoming superannuation, which is scheduled for June 30, 2025.

The delegation commended Garg for his exemplary administrative acumen, visionary leadership, and unwavering dedication to the growth and transformation of Jammu Airport.

Over the course of his illustrious tenure, the airport witnessed a series of remarkable developments that have significantly elevated its operational capacity and public service standards.

Key accomplishments under his stewardship include handover of land for the establishment of a well-structured taxi stand to ease passenger movement and improve connectivity; extension of the runway, enabling accommodation of larger aircraft and enhancing aviation safety protocols; successful implementation of various developmental projects under the ambit of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), benefiting both the airport ecosystem and surround-

ing communities; initiation of construction work for a modern, state-of-the-art terminal building aimed at offering world-class facilities to travelers; and improved operational efficiency and passenger experience through infrastructure upgrades and staff empowerment initiatives. In acknowledgment of his outstanding service and impactful leadership, the Gandhi Global Family presented Garg with a commemorative trophy and a citation certificate, symbolizing gratitude and recognition for his meaningful contributions to civil aviation and regional development.

The felicitation ceremony was attended by several eminent personalities and well-wishers, including Padma Shri Ramalo Ram, D.R. S.P. Verma, Dinesh Gupta, Naresh Maini, Kirtan Singh, Raj Kumar Sharma, Amit Verma, S.K.Vaid, Shoba Ram, Raman Gupta, Ankush Varma, and Ch. Mumtaz Ahmad Kabir.

The event was an emotional and celebratory occasion, marked by heartfelt tributes, warm interactions, and a collective expression of appreciation for Garg's immense contribution to the progress and modernization of Jammu Airport. His legacy will continue to inspire future leaders in the aviation sector.

Preparations at Beckenham done, headshots completed; India all set for first Test against England in Leeds

LONDON, Jun 17 (Agencies): The Indian team concluded preparations in Beckenham, posed in front of the cameras for the official shoot, and is now bound to leave for Leeds for the opening Test of the highly anticipated series against England, scheduled to begin on June 20 at Headingley.

On Tuesday, the BCCI took to X and shared a video of Indian players posing in front of the camera for the official photoshoot, which was filled with banter, smiles and laughter.

Jasprit Bumrah pointed towards India's logo, vice-captain Rishabh Pant wittily smiled, and young Nitish Kumar Reddy raised his bat and wore a beaming smile. Seasoned all-



rounder Shardul Thakur had an intense look, Sai Sudharsan invoked laughter, and KL Rahul and Washington Sundar posed animatedly.

Before heading to Leeds, India bolstered its preparations at Beckenham and hosted an intra-squad match to fine-tune the tactical aspect of the game. The

five challenging Tests will mark the commencement of their campaign in the World Test Championship 2025-27 cycle and a new era in Indian cricket.

India will enter a territory where they last marshalled a Test series triumph in 2007. Even though India's fortune hasn't changed in Eng-

land, the Three Lions have transformed into a formidable force under the tutelage of head coach Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes' captaincy. The dynamic duo has not lost a Test series at home since McCullum took over the managerial duties in 2022.

The fourth-ranked Test

team will line up without its batting bigwigs Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, who bid adieu to the Test format last month. Along with the batting wizards, India won't have the presence of its frontline crafty off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who retired from international cricket midway through the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

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.

Panthers level ball-tampering charges against Ashwin-led Dragons

CHENNAI, Jun 17 (Agencies): Allegations of ball-tampering have been levelled against R Ashwin-led Dindigul Dragons in the ongoing Tamil Nadu Premier League by Seicham Madurai Panthers, who have been directed to present evidence for the "post-facto and speculative" charges by the event's organisers.

The Panthers accused Dragons of tampering with the ball by using towels "treated with chemicals" during a match at Salem.

However, it's understood that the towels in question were provided by the state cricket association to wipe the ball if it got wet. The drying was done in the presence of the on-field umpires.

Therefore, the TNPL has asked the Panthers to submit proof at the earliest to "substantiate" their charges.

"The allegation appears to be post-facto, speculative in nature and based solely on internal team communications without supporting evidence," TNPL CEO Prasanna Kannan wrote in his mail, which is in PTI's possession, to the Panthers.

Kannan further noted that no complaint was lodged by the on-field umpires or the match referee during or after the match.

"The towels in question were TNCA-

issued and equally available to both teams. The Playing Control Team—including umpires and the match referee—maintained full oversight of the ball throughout the match," he said.

It has been learned that the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association has formed an internal committee to discuss the issue.

"Should the franchise possess credible and verifiable evidence, they may submit a formal request for an Independent Commission of Inquiry by 3 pm on June 17, along with supporting material (video, photographic or testimonial)," said Kannan.

The chain of events started when Panthers CEO Mahesh S wrote to TNPL claiming "blatant" ball tampering by defending champions Dragons.

In his letter, Mahesh also asked the TNPL top-brass to conduct a probe into the source of towels.

In the match at the Salem Cricket Foundation Ground, Dragons defeated Panthers by nine wickets.

Batting first, Panthers made 150 for 8 in 20 overs but Ashwin went wicketless, while conceding 27 runs in his four overs.

However, he made a 29-ball 49 while batting as an opener as Dragons chased down the target in 12.3 overs.

"Way he is aggressive as captain, you can't be as coach": Karthik's clear-cut take on Gambhir's style

LONDON, Jun 17 (Agencies): Former wicketkeeper batter Dinesh Karthik believes India head coach Gautam Gambhir is tactically "very good," but he feels man management remains an area he would examine.

While Gambhir extended India's dominance in limited-overs cricket, red-ball cricket remains a format in which he has yet to establish supremacy. In his first Test assignment, India convincingly won against Bangladesh but lost the plot against New Zealand and Australia.

India was pummeled by the Kiwis on home turf to a historic 3-0 whitewash. This was followed by a collective failure to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia for the first time in a decade, which was topped up by agonisingly crashing out of the World Test Championship race despite being favourites.

As India faces another task, Karthik believes that even though Gambhir defends his players, he can't be as aggressive as a coach as he was during his captaincy days.

"Tactically, Gauti (Gautam Gambhir) is a very good coach. Man management is the area that I am sure he would be looking at. But one thing about him is that he is looking out for his players which is massive. What I feel at times is that the way he is aggressive as a captain, you can't be as a coach. You are managing different individuals. Once you let them out in the park, you trust them to do the job. That is the challenge," Karthik said on the Sky Sports Cricket Podcast.

Throughout India's turbulent phase, the entire team and management were surrounded by controversies, suggesting rifts between players

and the coaching staff. With a new sunrise marking the beginning of the latest chapter in Indian cricket, Gambhir would be keen on embracing the opportunity with both hands.

Gambhir and his troops will kick off their campaign in the latest WTC cycle with five gruelling Tests against England, commencing June 20 at Headingley. The intensity of the challenge will be further heightened considering the absence of batting mainstays Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, who pulled the curtain down on their respective careers last month.

Shubman Gill was deemed Rohit's successor and was crowned with the title of Test captaincy. Rishabh Pant was named his deputy, and young blood was infused into the squad to fill the void. Gambhir left the Indian camp due to family emergency.

After Paris heartbreak, Krishna Nagar eyes success in Asian Para Badminton Championship

JAIPUR, Jun 17 (Agencies): Indian Paralympics gold medalist para-shuttler Krishna Nagar spoke on his preparations for the Asian Para-Badminton Championship, saying that after failing to defend his title in the Paris Paralympics last year, he feels the extra motivation to make up for it.

Krishna spoke to ANI earlier last week. The tournament will kick off today in Thailand and run until June 22.

Speaking about missing out on a medal at Paris after his mid-match retirement due to an injury, he said, "You can call it extra motivation or pressure, but I will make up for it. I will try my best. I am expecting a good performance (at Asian Championships)."

He also has a great level of expectations from the Indian contingent. More than 70 players from the country are taking part in this tournament.



"I think India will secure a lot of medals this time. There is open entry in the competition this time around as many players can participate. I think more than 70 players are participating from our country. More than 15 or 20 medals are possible for India," he said.

Krishna is in a better mental state heading into the competition, but he battled sickness for a while.

"I was sick for 10-12 days. At the last tourna-

ment in Dubai, I was not feeling well. I had fever, weakness and food poisoning. The time frame between that tournament and the Asian Championships was shorter. It took me days to recover. I feel much fitter now. I can play better now. I hope I can give my best," he added.

The Paralympian admitted learning a lot from able-bodied shuttlers and Olympians like PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen and acknowledged that the sport does not

differentiate between able-bodied and Para-shuttlers. He also admitted that after success in the 2020 and 2024 Paralympics, Indian shuttlers have improved big time, and there is much better competition worldwide.

"We do not differentiate. We both are doing well at our respective levels. We learn a lot from PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen, who have been playing longer than I have. Everyone is getting better in para-badminton, and there is much bigger competition. After 2021 (when the Tokyo Paralympics took place amid the COVID-19 pandemic), players have brought variations to their game. We need to give 10 times more because by the time the 2028 Paralympics arrive, the game will change a lot more by then," he said.

In Tokyo, Indian para-shuttlers got four medals, including two gold, a silver and a bronze each. In 2024,

the number increased to five, with a gold, two silver and bronze medals each.

Krishna admitted that the government and media have played a big role in uplifting Paralympians over the last few years.

"Everyone has had a big role to play. The government has played a big role. They took out TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme) for able-bodied and differently-abled athletes. Things are made available at the right time. There is no differentiation.

The media coverage has also played a big role in the world recognising me at this level. Sponsors have been very supportive. But still, the algorithm is favouring cricket a little too much. We do realise that we have come up watching and playing that game, but the popularity of other sports is not that much," he concluded.

New Zealand captain Sophie Devine to retire from ODIs after 50-Over World Cup 2025

WELLINGTON, Jun 17 (Agencies): New Zealand captain Sophie Devine is set to retire from ODI cricket after the 50-Over World Cup, which will be held in India and Sri Lanka later this year. Despite her retirement from the ODIs, Devine will remain available for T20Is due to a casual playing agreement for the 2025-26 season.

The 35-year-old's decision comes just before New Zealand's 17-player women's contract list is about to be unveiled. Devine will continue to lead the White Ferns in the marquee event, and after her last dance, a new skipper will be appointed to fill in the gap.

During her 19-year stellar career, Devine emerged as one of the most prolific all-rounders in women's cricket. She broke into the international scene in 2006 at the age of 17.

She is second for the most number of appearances in ODIs for the New Zealand

women's team behind Suzie Bates and is the fourth-highest run-getter with a tally of 3990 in the format and stands in contention to cross 4000-run landmark to move to third, ahead of Debbie Hockley, by the end of the World Cup.

With his enchanting spells, Devine, with 107 scalps, occupies the second spot among New Zealand women's all-time ODI wicket-takers. She became permanent captain in 2020 and has since led the team to new heights, including a bronze medal win at the Commonwealth Games in 2022 and a maiden ICC Women's T20 World Cup victory last year.

"It feels like the right time for me to start stepping away. I feel very fortunate to have NZC's support in finding a solution that means I can still give to the White Ferns. It's important that everyone knows I'm focused and dedicated to giving this group everything I can before I step away. I'm



really excited by where this young group's going and I'm looking forward to playing my part in the next six to nine months," Devine said in a statement released by New Zealand Cricket.

Head of women's high performance, Liz Green, reflected on Devine's decision and said, "Sophie's given nearly 20 years of service to the White Ferns and NZC is fully supportive of her quest to find more balance at this stage in her career," Green said, adding, "We're pleased to be able to reach an agreement that means she can continue to be involved with the White

Ferns on a case-by-case basis, whilst opening up the opportunity for another player to be contracted in full."

NZC chief executive Scott Weenink added, "Sophie has been an extraordinary leader and ambassador for the White Ferns. Supporting her move to a casual playing agreement will allow her to continue contributing to the White Ferns environment. Her legacy as one of the game's greatest all-rounders and her commitment to nurturing the next generation make this a positive step for both her and the White Ferns."

World Padel League gears up for its third season with two new franchises

MUMBAI, Jun 17 (Agencies): After making a successful India debut in February this year, the World Padel League (WPL), licensed and managed by Iconik Sports and Events Ltd., announced the return of its much-anticipated third season. The league, supported by the Indian Padel Federation, is set to take place between August 12 to August 16 at the Nesco Centre in Mumbai, promising fans world-class padel action.

In the upcoming season, WPL is set to grow from four franchises to six, with two new teams joining the mix. The addition of the new teams is a testament to the growth and popularity of padel in India and the continued success of WPL in its debut year in the country. In the past year, India has witnessed over double growth in padel participation and infrastructure development, signalling the country's growing

appetite for the sport.

With the successful conclusion of the previous season in February 2025, which saw 32 international players battle it out for the trophy, the stage is now set for an even more exciting third edition. The upcoming season promises five days of action-packed matches in the heart of Mumbai, featuring top global padel players - a treat and a massive opportunity for the Indian padel community.

Expressing excitement for the upcoming season, Hemali Sharma, Co-Founder, World Padel League, said, "The growth of padel in India has been a journey to watch out for. Just six months since our last edition, Season 3 of the WPL marks a major milestone as we expand the scale of competition and set new benchmarks for the sport. India is fast emerging as a high-potential growth hub for padel. Our ambition

goes beyond fostering the sport as we aim to craft a dynamic, world-class sporting experience that captivates seasoned fans and first-time audiences alike."

Commenting on the league, Krishnan Kannan, Promoter, Iconik Sports and Events Ltd. added, "When we decided to bring WPL for the Indian audiences early this year, our aim was to scale the league and bring world-class action tailored for this rapidly expanding market. With new teams and an extended player roster, Season 3 of the World Padel League is a celebration of the sport's incredible progress and a glimpse of where it's headed. The energy this season is electric, and the journey has just started."

Sneha Abraham Sehgal, President, Indian Padel Federation, added, "The World Padel League has played a crucial role in elevating padel's vis-

ibility in India. With a growing ecosystem of players, clubs, and infrastructure investments, the country is poised to become a key padel destination in the region. Initiatives like the WPL blend international talent with local engagement, giving budding players the encouragement to elevate their game at par with global standards. We are happy to extend our continued support to the league."

Held at the Nesco Centre, the last edition delivered edge-of-the-seat action and culminated with the SG Pipers Cheetahs clinching the title by defeating the Vernost Jaguars in a thrilling final. With two new teams joining the fray, season 3 promises a dynamic fusion of world-class sport and high-voltage entertainment. Fans can expect fierce rivalries, intense matches, and a festival-like atmosphere as the league returns this August.

Commissioner JMC visits Rajendra Bazar to address civic issues

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 17: Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, conducted a visit to Rajendra Bazar in Ward No. 5 of Jammu city on Tuesday, following an invitation from the Rajendra Bazar Market Association. The purpose of the visit was to assess the civic issues being faced by traders and the general public in the area and to discuss developmental needs.

During the interaction, members of the Market Association apprised the Commissioner about various issues being faced by them. They



emphasized the need for improved sanitation, requesting that regular cleaning of drains and thorough maintenance of the market lanes be ensured.

Additionally, with rising temperatures, the members highlighted the

necessity of accessible drinking water facilities. While water coolers have been installed by JMC, the association requested that water purifiers also be added to ensure the availability of clean drinking water. They also demanded

the repair and maintenance of street lights in the area to ensure public safety and convenience.

Dr. Yadav reiterated JMC's commitment to improving civic amenities and working in collaboration with local stakeholders for

the betterment of the city. He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned for taking prompt action to resolve the issues, Dr. Yadav assured the members of the association that their grievances would be addressed at the earliest.

Among others, Health Officer, JMC, Dr. Vinod Sharma, Executive Engineer Division- 1 Rajesh Kumar and Executive Engineer, Electricity, Simarpal Singh besides, President of market association Krishna Lal Gupta, Chairman Arun Gupta, and large number of locals were also present.

Dimple leads protest of J&K transporters, demands halt to E-Rickshaw Expansion



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 17: Chairman of the Jammu & Kashmir All Black Auto Union and President of Mission Statehood, Sunil Dimple, led a massive protest today in Jammu, joined by more than 500 drivers, auto owners, and transporters from across the region.

them due to free ticket policies.

He added that many of these E-rickshaws are being driven by unskilled and non-professional outsiders, including people from other states and countries such as Rohingyas, Burmese nationals, and migrants from Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, who, he claimed, are also involved in illegal activities including drug trade and law-and-order violations.

Dimple expressed deep concern over the direct train services between Delhi, Katra, and Kashmir, warning that it would divert all tourist traffic away from Jammu, leaving the city's business community, including hoteliers and transporters, in a state of economic despair.

He proposed that Jammu Railway Station be declared a central boarding and deboarding station, and that all trains heading to Kashmir from Delhi should pass through Jammu to protect the local economy. Transporters also raised issues of financial stress, stating that they are unable to repay bank loans, afford insurance premiums, token taxes, and that there is no work due to the dominance of E-buses,

which often carry passengers in overloaded conditions, leaving none for autos and matadors. They accused the E-rickshaw operators of not following traffic rules or staying within their designated zones, creating further chaos on the roads.

Dimple strongly criticized the issuance of heavy e-challans, which he said are automatically sent via SMS and have crippled the financial stability of transport workers and even common citizens. He emphasized that these issues must be resolved urgently to prevent a complete breakdown of the traditional transport system in Jammu and Kashmir.

Several other transport union leaders, including Sanjay Sehthi, Haneef Chowdhry, Ajit Singh, Pawan Sharma, Vijay Kumar, Altaf Shaha, Gurjeet Singh, Satish Manhas, Deepak Gupta, Shamsher Chand, Joginder Kumar, Narinder Kumar, and Ramzan Malik, also joined the protest and echoed similar concerns. The protest concluded with a strong call for government intervention, urging authorities to take concrete steps to rescue the struggling transport sector before the situation worsens.

DC Kishtwar calls for mission-mode implementation of HADP & Credit Link Schemes

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jun 17: Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and various Credit Link Schemes being implemented in the district.

During the meeting, Nodal Officer HADP & Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Kishtwar, Sh. Kushal Chandail, presented a detailed report outlining the achievements and current implementation status of HADP initiatives across the district.

The DC conducted an in-depth evaluation of several flagship schemes including Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Krishi Kalyan Groups (KKGs), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) and others.

He emphasized the need for accelerated execution and wider



public outreach, directing field officers to redouble their efforts.

Underscoring the importance of organic farming and its potential as a revenue-generating model, the DC instructed officials to create mass awareness campaigns and engage with the community, including religious heads of all communities, to

promote HADP schemes using a cluster-based approach.

The review also covered the physical and financial progress in key allied sectors such as Horticulture, Fisheries, Sheep Husbandry, and Animal Husbandry.

The DC issued new targets and urged line departments to

work in coordination to ensure Kishtwar ranks among the top-performing districts in the UT under HADP.

He also set targets for enhanced registrations on Daksh Kisan Portal and Kisan Sathi Portal, and directed focused awareness on millets promotion as part of the CAPEX 2025-26 action plan.

Further, a detailed review of Credit Link Schemes was undertaken including Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Animal Husbandry Development Fund (AHDF), Agriculture Loan Fund (ALF), PMFME, and National Livestock Mission (NLM). The DC emphasized a holistic and mission-mode approach to increase uptake and impact.

The meeting was attended by Rishi Kumar Sharma GM DIC Kishtwar, Idrees lone ACR Kishtwar, Shahnawaz Bali CPO Kishtwar, Kushal Chandail CAO Kishtwar, Sajid Mustafa CHO Kishtwar, DSHO Kishtwar, LDM Kishtwar, DAO Kishtwar and other allied Sectoral officers.

Dr. Rajeev Bhagat starts macadamization project on Saidgarh to Rehal Bazar Road



Top News Report

BISHNAH, Jun 17: Bringing a wave of relief and improved connectivity for the residents of Bishnah, Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA Bishnah, officially commenced the macadamization work on the vital road stretch connecting Rehal Bazaar to Saidgarh Chowk and extending towards the Petrol Pump at Saidgarh Chowk.

This crucial infrastructure upgrade, initiated under the ambitious "Cities and Town Programme" of the Capex Budget, carries an estimated cost of Rs. 25 Lacs and is being executed by the Public Works Department (R&B) Sub Division Bishnah.

The kick-off ceremony, held amidst a palpable sense of optimism and community spirit, saw Dr. Bhagat emphasizing his unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for the citizen's Bishnah Constituency through robust infrastructure development. However, its

dilapidated state, characterized by potholes and uneven surfaces, posed considerable challenges, especially during monsoons.

The macadamization of this stretch is expected to bring a significant reduction in travel time, enhance road safety, and facilitate smoother movement of goods and people, thereby boosting local economic activities.

The project encompasses a comprehensive approach to road construction, involving several key components to ensure durability and longevity. It includes 0.625 Km of WMM, which forms the base layer of the road, providing a strong and stable foundation. This will be followed by 0.675 Km of 50 MM thick Bituminous Macadam, acting as a binder course that adds structural strength. Finally, 0.775 Km of 25 MM thick SDBC will be laid as the wearing course, offering a smooth, resilient, and long-lasting surface. This layered construction approach,

as explained by PWD (R&B) officials, is crucial for building a road that can withstand heavy traffic and varying weather conditions.

Present at the auspicious occasion were several prominent figures, including Mahant Ram Narayan, AEE PWD Rafiq Ahmad, Rajeev Sharma, Supinder Sharma, Captain Bodh Raj, Abhishek Khajuria, and Raghu-nandan Sharma, along-side numerous other esteemed members of the local community. Their presence signified the collective anticipation and support for the project, reflecting a shared vision for progress in the Bishnah constituency.

Dr. Bhagat reiterated his commitment to transforming Bishnah into a Model Constituency, assuring the public of continued efforts to address their developmental needs.

He urged the executing agency, PWD (R&B), to maintain the highest standards of quality and ensure timely completion of the work, emphasizing that public welfare remains the top priority.

The macadamisation of the Rehal Bazaar to Saidgarh Chowk and Petrol Pump Road is not just about laying asphalt; it symbolizes a step forward in enhancing regional connectivity and fostering a more accessible and prosperous future for the residents of Bishnah.

Raju Jandyal honoured by Tirupati Balaji Temple Jammu for outstanding social service



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 17: Renowned social activist Raju Jandyal was honoured by the Tirupati Balaji Temple, Jammu, for his exceptional contribution to community service during the temple's 2nd annual celebrations. The recognition was formally presented by Temple Inspector Sai Krishna, in the presence of a visiting priest from Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, Shri Tharun Kumar, who also offered his blessings to Jandyal.

Inspector Sai Krishna lauded Raju Jandyal for organizing a community langar with deep devotion and a selfless spirit. "People like Raju Jandyal are rare in today's society," he remarked. "His commitment to public welfare and religious service is truly commendable. He has even pledged to continue this noble initiative by holding langars once every week going forward."

Expressing his heartfelt gratitude, Raju Jandyal thanked the temple authorities for the honour and acknowledged the

spiritual encouragement received from Shri Tharun Kumar. He affirmed his ongoing dedication to support the temple and contribute actively to its religious and social activities in the future.

The event highlighted the temple's commitment to recognizing individuals who embody values of service, devotion, and community upliftment, with Raju Jandyal standing as a shining example.

NMOPS appoints Mohd Mahroof Choudhary as Chief Spokesperson

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 17: The National Movement for Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS) Jammu & Kashmir Unit is pleased to announce the appointment of Mohd Mahroof Choudhary, Senior Vice Chairman of Teachers Forum, as its Chief Spokesperson. In this role, he will lead NMOPS' efforts to advocate for the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and raise awareness about the importance of a secure retirement plan

for employees.

As Chief Spokesperson, Mohd Mahroof Choudhary will engage with the media, stakeholders, and the public to highlight the benefits of OPS and the need for pension reform.

He will work closely with NMOPS leaders and members to mobilize support for the movement and push for policy changes benefiting employees and retirees.

"We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mohd Mahroof Choudhary as our

Chief Spokesperson," said Sheikh Mohd Ashraf, State President NMOPS. "His experience and expertise will be invaluable in amplifying our message and advocating for employees' and retirees' rights."

Mohd Mahroof Choudhary is a seasoned advocate for employee welfare, actively involved in initiatives promoting employees' and retirees' interests. His appointment is a significant step in NMOPS' efforts to build a stronger, more united movement for pension reform.

Mahant Rohit Shastri meets DC Akshay Labroo, presents felicitation volume on LG Sinha

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 17: Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust and recipient of the State Award, paid a courtesy visit to Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar district.

During the meeting, Mahant Shastri presented a special felicitation volume published in honour of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri



Manoj Sinha, acknowledging his contributions to Jammu & Kashmir's development and cul-

tural revival.

The interaction also included a meaningful discussion on the pro-

motion and revival of Devvani Sanskrit across the Union Territory. Mahant Shastri highlighted the Trust's ongoing initiatives aimed at preserving Sanskrit heritage and urged support for reconnecting the youth with India's ancient linguistic and cultural roots.

DC Akshay Labroo appreciated the efforts and assured full cooperation for the promotion of Sanskrit and related cultural initiatives in the district.