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Those with no "Locus Standi" should desist from commenting on J&K, Ladakh: MEA

NEW DELHI, JUN 2: India on Tuesday strongly rejected references to Jammu and Kashmir in a joint press communique issued following the 8th round of the European Union-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue, asserting that those with no "locus standi" on the matter should refrain from commenting on India's internal affairs. During the weekly media briefing, MEA Official Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India categorically rejects such references. Reiterating India's long-standing position, the MEA spokesperson



stressed that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inalienable parts of India, further noting that individuals or entities with no standing in the matter should avoid making comments on issues that are entirely internal to India. "We would like to say that we categorically reject such unwarranted references in the joint press communique on matters internal to India. The Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and

Ladakh are integral and inalienable parts of India. Those who have no locus standi on such matters should desist from making any comment on them," he stated. This comes after a joint press communique issued following the dialogue between Pakistan and the EU on Monday, which stated that Islamabad briefed the European Delegation on Jammu and Kashmir, with the EU side briefing the Pakistani side on the Ukraine war. "The Pakistani side briefed on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. The EU side

briefed on Russia's war against Ukraine," the joint press communique read. Last month, India strongly rejected references to Jammu and Kashmir in a joint statement issued by China and Pakistan, stating that "Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inalienable parts" of the country, and no other country has the locus standi to comment on the same. Responding to media queries on the references to the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the Joint Statement between China and

(Contd on Pg 2)

Statehood Day of Telangana celebrated in Lok Bhavan



SRINAGAR, Jun 2: The Statehood Day of Telangana was celebrated in Jammu Kashmir Lok Bhavan in the presence of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, earlier today. Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said that this is a remarkable coincidence that both Jammu Kashmir and Telangana are considered as sacred lands of Lord Shiva. He also emphasized on rich literary traditions of Telangana and said the great figures in this field inspired and awakened the society. "From the 11th century verses of Malliya Rechanna to the poetic

imagination of modern figures such as Atreya and Dasaarathi Krishnamacharyulu, Telangana's literary tradition has enriched Indian literature. Since ancient times, Telangana's great luminaries have undertaken extraordinary efforts to awaken social consciousness and advance the social reforms," the Lieutenant Governor said. On the occasion, the Lieutenant

(Contd on Pg 2)

GoC White Knight Corps reviews Op Sheruwali as anti-terror operation in Rajouri enters 11th day



JAMMU, JUN 2: General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General P K Mishra, on Tuesday reviewed the progress of Operation Sheruwali, the ongoing anti-terror operation in the dense forests of

assess the operational situation and review efforts to track down suspected terrorists believed to be hiding in the forested terrain of the Manjakote sector. According to the Army, Lt Gen Mishra was briefed on the operational design, ongoing actions and sustainment measures being undertaken by the troops. He also reviewed the logistics framework supporting forces operating in the challenging terrain. "GoC, White Knight Corps, accompanied by GoC Counter Insurgency Force (CIF) Romeo, visited the general area of

(Contd on Pg 2)

CM Omar chairs 9th Governing body meeting of Royal Springs Golf Course

SRINAGAR, JUN 2: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired the 9th Governing Body Meeting of the Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC) at SKICC, where a comprehensive review of the functioning, infrastructure, finances and future development plans of the premier golfing destination was undertaken. Secretary, Royal Springs Golf Course, Haris Ahmad Handoo gave a detailed presentation to the Governing Body, outlining the action taken on decisions made during previous meetings. The presentation also highlighted the



Golf Course's financial and operational performance, membership profile, infrastructure requirements, and proposed strategies for its future development and growth. The Governing Body

reviewed the progress achieved and deliberated on various measures aimed at strengthening the facilities and enhancing the overall functioning of the prestigious Golf Course. The Governing Body discussed several proposals focusing on restoration and renovation of the golf course through engagement of expert consultants, enrolment of new golf playing members, construction of an aesthetically pleasing boundary wall to secure the remaining area of the Golf Course from intrusion of wild animals which is designed in

(Contd on Pg 2)

BRIEF NEWS

Man killed, wife injured as tree falls on them amid strong winds

SRINAGAR, JUN 2: A man was killed and his wife injured after a tree fell on them amid strong winds in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district as rain lashed many parts of the Valley on Tuesday, officials said. The incident took place in the Ganjwara area of the south Kashmir district where a popular tree fell on a CRPF bunker, injuring two civilians - Mohammad Rafiq and his wife Mareena from Brarianang. CRPF personnel were injured in the incident. The couple was shifted to the GMCH in Anantnag, where Rafiq died of his injuries, the officials said. The fallen tree halted traffic for some time, they said. Rain lashed many parts of Kashmir

(Contd on Pg 2)

Army rescues civilians stranded in Kishanganga river

SRINAGAR, JUN 2: The Indian Army has rescued civilians who were stranded in the Kishanganga River due to strong currents in the Gurez sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla, officials said on Tuesday. The civilians were trapped in their vehicles in the Chakwali area of north Kashmir's Gurez Valley after their vehicles became trapped in strong currents during Monday night, they said. The Kishanganga River flows from the Indian side of Kashmir into Pakistan-administered Kashmir, where it changes its name to the Neelum River.

(Contd on Pg 2)

Litchi cultivation gains ground in Jammu as farmers reap higher returns under HDP

JAMMU, JUN 2: Farmers in the Jammu region are increasingly turning to litchi cultivation under the high-density plantation (HDP) programme, attracted by better yields and annual earnings of around Rs 24,000 to Rs 30,000 from a kanal (0.125 acre) of land. Apart from its profitability, litchi also has significant nutritional value. Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Syed told PTL Scores of farmers have taken up the cultivation of the litchi in vast lands on the outskirts

(Contd on Pg 2)

Srinagar airport to be shut for fortnight from Oct 1 for repair; tourism sector may be hit

SRINAGAR, JUN 2: The Srinagar International Airport will suspend all flight operations for 15 days from October 1 for crucial runway maintenance, raising alarm bells within tourism industry that fears the shutdown will deal a massive blow to the sector as it directly clashes with the peak Durga Puja holiday season. According to airport officials, a phased maintenance schedule will begin ahead of the total shutdown and starting from next month, air services will be closed for two days every week, culminating in the full 15-day closure from October 1 to October 15. The runway repairs, essential for operational safety, have led to flight restrictions since April 6 after the Indian Air Force issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) shirking the flights

between 8 am and 5 pm. Earlier, around 25-30 flights used to operate every day but as of now only 18 flights land at the airport. The Kashmir Valley traditionally witnesses a massive influx of tourists from West Bengal during October. This period is fondly called "Golden Kashmir", as during the autumn season leaves of Chinar trees turn golden-yellow. Travel operators and industry leaders fear the closure will lead to widespread cancellations and heavy financial losses for an economy still recuperating from the impact of last year's Pahalgam terror attack. Industry leaders expressed deep concern over the timing of the repairs and appealed to the government and the Airports Authority of India to revisit the schedule. Asif Burza

(Contd on Pg 2)

J&K campaign against drug trafficking: Over 170 cases registered, 202 people held in 50 days

JAMMU, JUN 2: In the first 50 days of Jammu and Kashmir's campaign against drug trafficking, 176 cases were registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and 202 accused persons were arrested or detained, police said on Tuesday. The police's zero-tolerance policy towards narcotics, backed by intelligence gathering, enforcement measures, community participation and legal action, has yielded significant

results in curbing the drug menace, Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Joginder Singh said. Under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the police seized 5.533 kg of heroin, commonly known as chitta, worth Rs 16.60 crore during the period, he said. In addition, 3.250 kg of poppy straw worth around Rs 87,000, 29.267 kg of ganja valued at about Rs 8.78 lakh and 1 kg of opium worth nearly Rs

(Contd on Pg 2)

Govt shunts out 2 top CBSE officials, orders probe into OSM procurement

NEW DELHI, JUN 2: The government on Tuesday removed two top CBSE officials following alleged irregularities in the Class 12 digital evaluation system and ordered a probe by a high-powered committee to investigate how the national educational board procured these marking services. Simultaneously, a 17-year-old student from Jharkhand affected by the CBSE's online marking system, appeared before a parliamentary panel, where he pointed out the anomalies in the tendering process of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to select vendors for online marking and put forth a set of questions for the board. Sarthak Sidhant, who himself appeared in the board examination, presented a seven-page copy of his findings before the Parliamentary Committee for Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, chaired by Congress MP Divyajaya



Singh. The CBSE, meanwhile, said "malicious actors" attempted to disrupt services on its re-evaluation portal through a barrage of cyberattacks, including a denial-of-service attack that caused 1.5 million hits on the platform within two minutes and more than one lakh attempts at unauthorised file access. The CBSE engulfed into a controversy after some class 12 students

alleged that the scanned copies of their answer sheets uploaded by the board did not match their handwriting, raising concerns over possible answer-sheet mismatch in the On-Screen Marking (OSM) system. An official said CBSE chairman Rahul Singh and Secretary Himanshu Gupta have been transferred. Subsequently, the Cabinet Secretary through a memorandum announced constitution of a one-member committee to inquire into matters relating to the procurement of services for the on-screen marking system by the CBSE. The committee will be chaired by S Radha Chauhan, chairperson, Capacity Building Commission, the Cabinet Secretary said. Chauhan has been empowered to obtain the assistance of officials from other departments, as required, while the Capacity Building Commission will provide

(Contd on Pg 2)

Detaining Authority Cannot Act as Rubber Stamp of Sponsoring Agency: HC



JAMMU, JUNE 2 (JNF): The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has quashed the Public Safety Act detention orders passed against Talib Hussain in connection with alleged encroachment over forest land, holding that a detaining authority cannot act as a "rubber stamp" of the sponsoring agency while curtailing the personal liberty of a citizen. Justice Rajesh Sekhri, while allowing HCP No. 117/2024, directed the immediate release of the

petitioner from detention after finding that the orders passed by the District Magistrate, Jammu, were founded on misplaced, vague and legally unsustainable grounds. The petitioner had challenged two detention orders, both bearing No. 27 of 2024 dated June 7, 2024, passed under Sections 8(1)(a) and 8(1)(A)-1 of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978. The detention was based on a dossier submitted by the Divisional

Forest Officer, Jammu Forest Division, alleging that Hussain was a habitual land grabber enlisted in the encroachment list of the Forest Department for alleged occupation of forest land in compartments of the Bahu Forest Range, forming part of the Bahu Conservation Reserve. The dossier further alleged that the petitioner had obstructed demarcation proceedings, attempted land breaking and illegal levelling, engaged in illegal mining over forest land and was involved in carrying out plots for sale as residential plots. The sponsoring authority had also referred to FIR No. 25/2022 of Police Station Channi Himmat and Damage Case No. 04/2024-25. However, the High Court noticed that

(Contd on Pg 2)

FROM PAGE ONE

Those with...

Pakistan, Jaiswal said India's position is consistent and well known to the concerned parties.

"India categorically rejects unwarranted references to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the Joint Statement between China and Pakistan. India's position is consistent and well-known to the concerned parties. The Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India. No other country has the locus standi to comment on the same," he said.

He said India rejects any moves by other countries to reinforce Pakistan's illegal occupation of territories concerning CPEC, impinging on India's territorial integrity.

"As regards the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, some of which are in India's sovereign territory, we resolutely oppose and reject any moves by other countries to reinforce or legitimise Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation of these territories, impinging on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity," Jaiswal said.

"This has been clearly conveyed to Pakistani and Chinese authorities several times," he added.

He said India has never recognised the so-called 1963 boundary agreement.

"We have also seen references to the so-called 'trans-boundary water resources cooperation' between China and Pakistan. As the two countries do not share any boundary, the question of so-called 'trans-boundary water resources cooperation' does not arise. India has never recognised the so-called 1963 boundary agreement between Pakistan and China," Jaiswal said.

This comes in response to a statement released by Pakistan's Foreign Office following talks between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, which stated that the Pakistani side briefed the Chinese side on the "latest developments" in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Chinese side reiterated that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is left over from history, and should be properly and peacefully resolved in accordance with the U.N. Charter, relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements," the statement read.

Statehood...

Governor also paid tributes to the brave freedom fighters and tribal leaders Ramji Gond, Komaram Bheem, and Alluri Sitarama Raju. He said the farmers, soldiers, scientists, entrepreneurs, poets, and artists of the Telangana region have made immense contributions to the nation building.

"As every citizen contributes to our shared progress, let us pledge to draw strength from our diversity, celebrate our rich culture and march together towards a prosperous future," the Lieutenant Governor said.

GoC White...

Gambhir Mughlan to review the progress of Operation Sherwathi and assess the operational situation on the ground," the White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

The Army said the Corps Commander commended the troops for their resilience, professionalism and meticulous execution of operational tasks.

"He praised all ranks for their high morale, relentless focus and ironclad resolve in pursuit of operational objectives," the Army said, adding that the White Knight Corps remains committed to ensuring peace and security through sustained operational excellence.

"The hunt continues," it said further.

The operation was launched on May 23 following intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists in the Dornal-Gambhir Mughlan belt of Rajouri district.

An encounter broke out after a joint team of security forces established contact with the suspected terrorists. Officials said security forces have intensified efforts to flush out the terrorists, carrying out coordinated searches and targeted fire assaults, including the use of multi-barrel grenade launchers, on suspected hideouts located in dense forests marked by deep gorges and natural caves. On Monday, security forces busted a hideout in the area following a brief exchange of fire and detected blood stains, indicating possible injuries to the fleeing terrorists. However, no terrorist has been neutralised so far, officials said.

A day earlier, Lt Gen Mishra, accompanied by GOC Area of Spades Division, visited forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) to review the evolving security situation and operational preparedness. During the visit, he interacted with troops and expressed satisfaction with measures taken to enhance surveillance, precision-strike capability and future warfare readiness, reaffirming the Army's commitment to maintaining dominance along the LoC, officials said.

CM Omar...

harmony with the natural surroundings, renovation of huts, solarization to promote clean energy and reduce electricity expenditure, renovation and improvement in Club facilities, particularly gymnasium, swimming pool, restaurant and revision in steps to boost revenue collection for maintenance of golf course.

The Chief Minister underscored the importance of improving the overall service, other facilities and overall visitor experience at the Golf Course. The Chief Minister emphasized the need to adhere to the accepted engineering standards in turf management and ensuring high quality greens, fairways to match global standards.

CM Omar Abdullah emphasized on development and upgradation of Golf Course infrastructure and amenities to enhance its attractiveness for weekend golfers, corporate groups, tourists, and golfing enthusiasts, thereby promoting the facility as a premier golfing and recreational destination.

The meeting also deliberated on proposals relating to employee welfare, service matters, recruitment rules, financial management and institutional strengthening.

Various initiatives for improving operational efficiency, enhancing service delivery standards and promoting golf tourism in Jammu and Kashmir were also reviewed.

Emphasizing the importance of preserving the Royal Springs Golf Course as one of the country's finest golfing destinations, the Chief Minister directed the Tourism department and the RSGC management to prepare a comprehensive roadmap for the restoration and modernization of the golf course while maintaining its internationally recognized standards and ecological character.

He stressed the need to adopt best practices in golf course management, turf maintenance and hospitality services to further enhance the facility's appeal among domestic and international golfers. He also called for exploring sustainable revenue-generation avenues to ensure the long-term financial viability of the Golf Course while maintaining the exclusivity and quality of its services.

The Chief Minister underscored the immense potential of golf tourism in Jammu & Kashmir and directed RSGC management to formulate a strategy for attracting more national and international tournaments, strengthening promotional efforts and positioning Jammu and Kashmir as a premier golfing destination on the global tourism map.

He further directed that all future development initiatives at the golf course be guided by the principles of environmental sustainability, financial prudence and long-term institutional benefit. He also emphasized the importance of employee welfare, skill upgradation and capacity building for ensuring professional management and efficient service delivery.

The Governing Body reviewed the budget estimates and action plan for the financial year 2026-27 and discussed strategies for enhancing infrastructure, improving visitor facilities and creating additional opportunities for growth of golf tourism in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting concluded with detailed deliberations on the agenda items and directions for taking forward various proposals in accordance with established procedures.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and members of the Governing Body which include Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Ashish Chander Verma, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Shalendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Planning, Development & Monitoring Alice Vaz, Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course Haris Ahmad Handoo, Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajid.

Litchi...

of Jammu city, officials added.

Syed said the administration would provide all necessary support to growers, including assistance in the marketing of litchi and other fruits.

He added that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has appreciated the role of progressive farmers in encouraging small and marginal farmers to diversify towards high-value horticulture crops.

"To promote litchi cultivation and improve productivity, the Horticulture Department is extending subsidies under various schemes," he said, adding that farmers adopting high-density plantation techniques are being provided subsidies of up to 50 per cent, which has encouraged many growers to establish litchi orchards on a larger scale.

"Litchi cultivation performs best in areas with assured irrigation facilities and adequate water availability. Farmers should take up the crop in such locations to achieve better results," Syed said.

He said litchi is gaining popularity not only because of its profitability but also due to its nutritional value.

"The fruit is rich in carbohydrates, natural sugars, vitamin C, potassium and several micronutrients, besides containing antioxidants beneficial for health."

"A single litchi fruit can provide nearly nine per cent of the recommended daily allowance of vitamin C," he said.

The director said the department is providing technical guidance, quality planting material and other support services to improve production and productivity.

"Micro-irrigation systems are also being promoted, alongside high-density plantation techniques."

According to Syed, incentives have encouraged more farmers to adopt litchi cultivation and increase their income. Areas such as Marh and RS Pura, where irrigation facilities are readily available, are witnessing a significant expansion of litchi orchards.

He said the department is also organising training programmes on scientific litchi cultivation, orchard management, pruning and high-density plantation methods to help farmers maximise returns.

"The objective of these initiatives is to strengthen the horticulture sector and enhance farmers' income. More growers should avail themselves of these schemes and adopt modern cultivation practices," he added.

Srinagar...

a prominent hotelier, feels that while upgradation of the airport was very important, the airport should not be fully closed.

"The repair works and upgrades are very important for the future. It is a matter of convenience for travellers, but at the same time, efforts should be made to lessen the inconvenience to the people," Burza, who has properties across the famous tourist destination in the valley, said.

He said the frequency of flights should be increased to compensate for the losses due to closure and also that the frequency of newly started trains should be increased.

Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Javed Ahmad Tenga said that while upgrades are necessary, the government should find alternatives to minimise the impact on the industry.

He suggested that if the suspension is inevitable, authorities must increase the frequency of trains on the Jammu and Kashmir railway lines and introduce new services from Delhi to compensate for the loss of air connectivity. The Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK) termed the move "unfortunate" and "unjustified," noting

that stakeholders were not consulted before the decision was made.

TAAK President Farooq Kuthoo said that tourists are wary of the disruption and that cancellations are already taking place.

"We are already receiving such queries. We appeal to the government to seriously review it," he said, adding the tourism sector is on the revival mode after the Pahalgam attack and "this (closure) will certainly give us one more dent".

With the October closure looming, hospitality and travel stakeholders are urging authorities to reconsider the timeline, saying that cutting off air connectivity during one of the busiest domestic tourism blocks of the year could devastate the local economy.

J&K campaign...

22,000 cases also recovered, he added.

The SSP said that a notorious drug offender was detained under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act as part of efforts to target habitual offenders and dismantle narcotics networks.

Highlighting the financial investigation and asset-tracing component of the campaign, Singh said that 37 vehicles linked to drug-related activities were seized, while 123 grams of gold valued at around Rs 13.70 lakh was frozen. He said that police also froze 26 bank accounts involving transactions of approximately Rs 18 lakh and attached properties worth Rs 5.19 crore in eight cases, including three movable and five immovable properties.

According to the SSP, 22 properties belonging to known drug offenders were demolished in coordination with the district administration.

Administrative action was also initiated against individuals involved in narcotics trafficking, resulting in the cancellation of 27 driving licences and 143 vehicle registration certificates (RCs), he said.

The SSP said Jammu Police further demolished 22 illegal structures, including 11 pucca houses and 11 khullas, which were allegedly being used to facilitate narcotics-related activities.

Describing the fight against drugs as a collective social responsibility, Singh appreciated the cooperation extended by the public, civil society organisations, educational institutions and youth in supporting the campaign.

He urged citizens to continue sharing information about drug peddling and narcotics-related activities with the police, assuring that all credible inputs would be acted upon promptly.

Reiterating the force's commitment to a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir, the SSP said Jammu Police would continue its sustained crackdown on narcotics trafficking under the mission.

He said the police remain committed to protecting the youth and ensuring that drug traffickers find no space to operate in the district.

Govt shunts...

secretarial assistance to the panel.

The committee will submit its report to the Department of Personnel and Training within one month.

The memorandum addressed to Chauhan was shared with the Department of School Education and Literacy, and the Department of Personnel and Training.

Concerns were raised by students and parents over the implementation of the OSM system in the CBSE board examination process.

The board has faced criticism over technical glitches, payment failures and delays in the verification and re-evaluation process, prompting demands for greater transparency and accountability.

Sarthak's presentation to the parliamentary panel was made in the presence of Rahul Singh, before he was shunted out of the CBSE chairmanship, and Secretary, School Education, Sanjay Kumar, along with other officials of the Ministry of Education and the board.

The CBSE handed over a report to the panel members, presenting their side on the problems faced by students, and assured the MPs that the glitches that appeared on its portal have since been rectified and students now have time till June 6 to apply for re-evaluation of their answer-sheets.

Amid the row over the CBSE's OSM system, the committee had summoned top officials of the board and the Ministry of School Education to discuss the issue of using OSM in the Class 12 board exams and the problems faced by students consequently.

The panel also discussed applying the three-language formula in Classes 9 and 10 with the education ministry officials.

On whether he was satisfied with the CBSE's replies, panel chairman Digvijaya Singh said, "That is for the committee to decide."

He did not respond to the three-language formula issue either, saying, "I believe the matter is sub-judice."

"The committee has always been looking at the issues of students and their problems. This is exactly what the committee has done," Singh told reporters when asked about the meeting.

Meanwhile, the CBSE said "malicious actors" attempted to disrupt services on its re-evaluation portal through a barrage of cyberattacks, including a denial-of-service attack that caused 1.5 million hits on the platform within two minutes and more than one lakh attempts at unauthorised file access.

The board said the portal is currently supporting over 8,000 concurrent users, and more than 16,000 students have successfully completed their submissions as of 3 pm.

"While thousands of students accessed the CBSE re-evaluation portal today, malicious actors attempted to disrupt services through a barrage of cyberattacks," the board said on X.

"The most recent being a denial of service attack attempt causing 1.5 million hits on the portal within a matter of 2 minutes and more than 1 lakh attempts of unauthorised file access," it added.

Based on student feedback, the CBSE said it has further refined the platform, including extending session time

limits, to make the process more convenient and seamless.

Detaining...

two other entries relied upon in the detention record, pertaining to alleged encroachment of seven canals and 150 kanals of forest land, were specifically attributed to the petitioner's father, Sain Ditta.

The Court observed that the petitioner was sought to be detained under the PSA partly for acts allegedly committed by his father, which reflected "total non-application of mind" on the part of the detaining authority.

Dealing with the statutory basis of the detention, the High Court held that Section 8(1)(A-1) of the PSA relates to prevention of smuggling of timber or liquor, abetting such smuggling, dealing in smuggled timber or harbouring persons involved in such activities. The Court noted that there was no allegation against the petitioner of timber smuggling, abetment of smuggling, transportation or concealment of smuggled timber, or harbouring persons engaged in such activity.

"The allegations merely refer to the petitioner as a land grabber enlisted in various encroachments of Jammu Forest Division," the Court observed, holding that no ground was made out to sustain the detention under Section 8(1)(A-1) of the PSA.

The respondents had attempted to defend the detention by claiming that the reference to Section 8(1)(A-1) was only a clerical error and that the order was actually passed under Section 8(1)(a), which concerns acts prejudicial to the security of the State or maintenance of public order.

The High Court, however, rejected the contention, observing that the detention order under Section 8(1)(a) also ran in patent contradiction to the grounds supplied to the petitioner, which essentially revolved around allegations of forest encroachment and land grabbing.

The Court said the detaining authority appeared uncertain as to whether the petitioner was being detained for acts prejudicial to public order or security of the State, or for activities relating to alleged smuggling of timber or liquor.

Senior Advocate Rahul Pant, assisted by Advocate Tarun Sharma, appearing for the petitioner, relied upon the Supreme Court judgment in Additional Secretary to the Government of India v. Alka Subhash Gadia to contend that even at the pre-execution stage, a detention order could be interfered with where it was passed for a wrong purpose or on vague, extraneous and irrelevant grounds. The respondents, represented during arguments by Advocate P.D. Singh, had questioned the maintainability of the habeas corpus petition at the pre-execution stage, contending that the petitioner was evading due process of law.

Rejecting the objection, the High Court held that the case fell within the exceptional grounds recognised by the Supreme Court for interference before execution of a detention order, as the orders were passed for a wrong purpose, against a wrong person and on irrelevant grounds.

In significant observations on preventive detention, the Court cautioned against the practice of mechanically reproducing dossiers prepared by sponsoring agencies.

"Such a 'copy-paste' culture on the part of detaining authorities would fundamentally infringe upon fundamental rights of citizens guaranteed under the Constitution," the Court observed.

Justice Sekhri further held that detaining authorities are required to act neutrally while balancing the interest of the State against the liberty of a citizen and "cannot afford to act as a rubber stamp of sponsoring authorities."

The Court emphasised that preventive detention is a drastic precautionary measure meant to prevent future prejudicial acts and cannot be used to punish a citizen on the basis of unsubstantiated claims.

Holding that the case neither involved any threat to the security of the State nor any issue concerning maintenance of public order or timber smuggling under the PSA, the High Court quashed the detention orders and directed the petitioner's immediate release.

However, the Court clarified that the authorities would remain at liberty to avail appropriate civil and criminal remedies against the petitioner in view of the serious allegations regarding encroachment over a huge chunk of forest land. (JNF)

Man...

on Tuesday, with Srinagar and other plain areas in the Valley witnessing a late afternoon shower, bringing respite from the hot conditions, the officials said.

The meteorological department said a spell of rain/thunder shower would continue for a few hours. People have been advised to stay away from loose structures/electric wires/poles and old trees during thunderstorms/lightning.

The weather office also advised suspending boating/shikara rides in the Dal Lake, its surrounding areas and other water bodies for a few hours.

Army...

Amid the ongoing heatwave in Kashmir Valley, tourist footfall has increased in the picturesque Gurez Valley, located close to the Line of Control (LoC), as visitors seek respite from the scorching temperatures.

According to officials, the incident occurred during the night when several people found themselves stranded in the river amid difficult conditions and rising waters.

On receiving information, Army personnel launched a rescue operation and safely evacuated the stranded civilians, they said.

The rescued individuals were provided immediate assistance, including blankets and other essential support, officials added.

The rescued persons expressed gratitude to the Army for the timely intervention.

"We were stuck in the river when Army jawans came and rescued us," one of the rescued civilians said.

Another resident said the soldiers helped them in every possible way during the operation.

Devyani Rana Distributes 500 Kitchen Kits Among Widows in Nagrota Constituency



JAMMU, JUNE 2

In a significant humanitarian initiative aimed at supporting vulnerable sections of society, MLA Nagrota Devyani Rana distributed over 500 kitchen kits in collaboration with Orphans in Need NGO among widows from Amb Gharota and Mathwar Blocks of Nagrota Assembly Constituency.

The initiative brought much-needed relief to hundreds of deserving families and was widely appreciated by local residents and beneficiaries alike.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Nagrota Devyani Rana praised the dedicated efforts of Orphans in Need for their unwavering commitment towards the welfare of widows, orphans, and economically weaker families. She expressed heartfelt gratitude to the organization for extending timely support to vulnerable households.

"The distribution of kitchen kits is not merely an act of charity but a reflection of compassion, humanity, and social responsibility. Widows often

face numerous socio-economic challenges, and such initiatives provide both material support and emotional encouragement. I sincerely appreciate Orphans in Need for reaching out to these deserving families and standing by them in their time of need," she said.

Highlighting the importance of collective social responsibility, the MLA stated that the true strength of a society is reflected in how it treats its most vulnerable members. She noted that organizations like Orphans in Need are playing a vital role in complementing government efforts by supporting those who need assistance the most.

"The dedication shown by social organizations towards public welfare deserves the highest appreciation. Collective efforts by NGOs, public representatives, and community leaders can significantly improve the lives of economically weaker sections and help build a more inclusive and compassionate society," Devyani Rana added.

Reaffirming her commitment

to public welfare, she assured the people of Nagrota that every possible effort would continue to be made towards empowering women, widows, orphans, and marginalized communities.

Speaking during the programme, Sheikh Reyaz, Managing Director of Orphans in Need J&K, reiterated the organization's commitment to serving underprivileged sections of society.

"Orphans in Need has always believed in extending support to those who require it the most. Widows and economically weaker families often face immense hardships in meeting their daily household needs. Through this initiative, we aim to bring relief and dignity to these families. We are grateful to MLA Nagrota Devyani Rana for her support in making this programme successful. Our organization will continue to work tirelessly for the welfare and empowerment of vulnerable sections across Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents and beneficiaries, who expressed gratitude for the timely assistance and humanitarian support.

Among those present on the occasion were Sheikh Reyaz (Managing Director, Orphans in Need J&K), Nazir Ahmed Lone (Project Manager), Bilal Malik, Ashok Sawhney (Incharge Jammu), Mohd. Sadiq, Shakti Khajuria, and Tejinder Kour from the Orphans in Need team.

The beneficiaries conveyed heartfelt thanks to Orphans in Need and MLA Devyani Rana for their continued concern and efforts towards supporting families in need.

MLA Jammu North launches "Khet Bachao Abhiyan"; Calls upon youth to lead farmer awareness movement



JAMMU, JUNE 2

MLA Jammu North, Shri Sham Lal Sharma, today formally launched the month-long Khet Bachao Abhiyan at Village Purkhoo in Sub-Division Marh during a farmers awareness programme organized by the Department of Agriculture, Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu. The programme was attended by Joint Director of the department, More than 300 farmers, members of Youth Clubs under JKICP, NATS Krishi Veers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) participated enthusiastically in the campaign. Prominent youth clubs, including Baba Birfa Nath Youth Club Kanger, Ganpati Youth Club Ghainik, Eco Warrior Youth Club Purkhoo, and Jai Shiv Shanker Youth Club Bhalwal, actively participated in the programme. Addressing the gathering, Shri Sham Lal Sharma emphasized that youth are the future of the nation and have a pivotal role in transforming the agricultural sector. He appreciated the youth clubs for their proactive role and commitment towards agricultural development.

Jammu and called upon them to actively visit villages and create awareness among farmers regarding modern, scientific, and sustainable agricultural practices.

He stressed that the "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" should not remain merely an awareness programme but should evolve into a comprehensive mass movement connecting farms, farmers, and villages. He said that the campaign aims to protect agricultural land, reduce cultivation costs, and ensure timely, need-based technical guidance to farmers through direct field-level interactions.

The MLA further highlighted that minimizing the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides would be one of the key objectives of the campaign. Farmers would be sensitized about the balanced use of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs based on soil testing. He emphasized that special efforts would be made to motivate farmers to adopt green manures, organic inputs, and bio-products for improving soil health and ensuring long-term agricultural sustainability.

Shri Sham Lal Sharma also emphasized the importance of educating farmers about the benefits of Natural Farming and other sustainable agricultural practices. He further stated that greater area coverage should be achieved under the Mission on Aatmanirbharta in Pulses and the National Mission on Edible Oils in the Jammu region. The

campaign would additionally guide farmers on suitable crop options, crop diversification, and climate-resilient farming practices, particularly in areas facing water scarcity and other agricultural challenges, thereby helping them improve productivity, profitability, and sustainability.

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Director Agriculture (Farms/SLUB), Shri Aman Jyoti Sharma, said that the Department of Agriculture is committed to taking scientific and need-based advisory services directly to farmers' doorsteps. He emphasized that under the Khet Bachao Abhiyan, officers and extension staff would regularly interact with farmers to create awareness and provide field-specific advisories.

He reiterated that saving farms, improving soil health, and reducing cultivation costs remain the central objectives of the campaign. He further informed that saturation drives under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and PM-KISAN schemes would be undertaken to ensure that all eligible farmers are covered and receive benefits under these flagship programmes.

The awareness programme also featured expert lectures and interactive sessions by Shri Naresh Kumar from IFCCO, Shri Ranjeet Kumar, Progressive Farmer, Dr. Nazoan Khan, Horticulture Development Officer, Ms. Deepali Chavli, Young Entrepreneur, Shri Suresh Parkash from Ganpati Youth Club, Ms. Sonam Kotwal, representative of Mission YUVA, NATS Krishi Veers Shri Atrava and Ms. Priyanka and officers from Agriculture Department. The speakers highlighted the importance of scientific farming, judicious and balanced use of fertilizers, entrepreneurship, youth participation, and sustainable agricultural development. Awareness and display stalls were also set up by Mission YUVA, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and IFCCO, showcasing various agricultural interventions and entrepreneurship opportunities.

KPC hails amnesty scheme for Delhi-NCR relief holders as a major humanitarian initiative

JAMMU, JUNE 2

The Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC), along with various Kashmiri Pandit organizations of Delhi-NCR and other organizations, expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of India, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and particularly the Hon'ble Government led by Hon'ble Chief Minister Smt. Reekha Gupta Ji for approving the much-awaited One-Time Amnesty Scheme and related relief measures for registered Jammu and Kashmir migrant families residing in Delhi.

This decision brings immense relief and hope to the hundreds of displaced Kashmiri Pandit families who have been living in exile for over three decades following their forced displacement from the Kashmir Valley. The approval of the scheme and the removal of income-related eligibility restrictions demonstrate a humanitarian and compassionate approach towards the suffering migrant community.

Kundan Kashmiri, President

KPC stated that although this step has come after a considerable delay and many relief holders in Delhi-NCR have faced hardships, uncertainty, and financial difficulties during the past nearly two years due to pending issues related to relief disbursement, the announcement has nevertheless been warmly welcomed by the community. He, highly appreciates the decision to provide a fresh opportunity to beneficiary families for updating records, Aadhaar details, and family information without imposing recovery of any excess amount that may have been received due to technical or administrative errors. This reflects a people-friendly and practical approach by the authorities.

KPC also welcome the extension of the cut-off date, continuation of family bifurcation and member updation facilities, and the adoption of Aadhaar-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), which will ensure transparency, efficiency, and timely delivery of relief assistance.

The budgetary provision of Rs. 30 crore made by the Delhi

Government for the financial year 2026-27 further demonstrates its commitment towards the welfare of migrant families.

On behalf of the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community of Delhi-NCR, Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC) conveys its special thanks to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah Ji, Hon'ble Chief Minister Smt. Reekha Gupta Ji, Delhi Government officials, and all concerned administrative authorities who contributed to this important decision.

At the same time, we earnestly hope that all remaining formalities will now be completed promptly and that the pending relief dues and other eligible benefits will be released at the earliest so that the affected migrant families do not have to face further delays and hardships. The Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC) remains committed to raising the genuine concerns of the displaced community and working constructively with all authorities for their welfare, dignity, and rehabilitation.

2 Students from Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), Udhampur, Qualify in JEE Advanced 2026

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 2:

Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), India's leading test preparation institute, proudly announces the commendable performance of its students from Udhampur in JEE Advanced 2026, one of the most competitive engineering entrance examinations in the country. The results were announced today.

A total of 2 students from the Udhampur centre have successfully qualified JEE Advanced 2026, reflecting their dedication, hard work, and commitment towards academic excellence. Their achievement highlights the effectiveness of AESL's structured learning ecosystem, experienced faculty, and student-centric approach to exam preparation.

Among the successful candidates, Abhinav Batta secured an All India Rank (AIR) 2243 with a score of 182 marks, emerging as the top performer from the central region. He was followed by Rohan Kumar Singh, who secured AIR 16751 with a score of 113 marks. Rohan also achieved an impressive Category Rank 4432 in the OBC-NCL (Central List) category, showcasing his strong performance in the examination.

The students were enrolled in AESL's classroom programmes, which focus on building concep-



tual clarity, analytical thinking, and problem-solving skills required to excel in highly competitive examinations such as JEE Advanced.

Expressing their happiness, the students said, "We are grateful to Aakash for its constant guidance, academic support, and mentorship throughout our preparation journey. The study material, classroom sessions, mock tests, and regular assessments helped us strengthen our concepts and improve our performance. This achievement would not have been possible without the support of our teachers and parents."

Congratulating the students on their remarkable achievement, Mr. Vikas Phutela, Deputy Regional Director, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), said, "We are immensely proud of our students for their outstanding performance in JEE Advanced 2026. Their success is a result of unwavering dedication, disciplined preparation, and a strong desire to excel. At AESL, we remain committed to nurturing talent and empowering students to achieve their academic aspirations. We wish all the successful candidates the very best as they embark on the next chapter of their educational journey."

Those who pelted stones at police in Raika Bandi must be arrested under PSA : SS(H)



JAMMU, JUNE 2

Vikrant Kapoor, State President of the Hindustan Shiv Sena, demanded the arrest under the Public Safety Act (PSA) of those protesters who pelted stones at the police in the Raika Bandi forest area. He asserted that strict action must be taken against individuals illegally encroaching upon forest or government lands. He noted that the police were compelled to resort to aerial firing in order to bring the stone-pelting mob under control and maintain law

and order. He further stated that reports have been received indicating that several police personnel sustained injuries during the stone-pelting incident. Kapoor alleged that leaders of certain political parties are attempting to destabilize the atmosphere in Jammu solely to serve their own political interests and move the Hindustan Shiv Sena will not tolerate at any cost.

Vikrant Kapoor made these remarks while interacting with journalists during a press conference held in Jammu. He explained that these protesters, gathered in the Raika Bandi forest (Bandi Ragra) area near Sidhra on the outskirts of Jammu, had resorted to stone-pelting amidst inflammatory speeches and rhetoric. This clearly demonstrates that certain political leaders are attempting to vitiate the atmosphere in Jammu an act that the Hindustan Shiv Sena will not tolerate under any circumstances. He emphasized that strict action must be taken against those illegally encroaching upon forest or government

lands, regardless of the community to which they belong. Furthermore, he asserted that those attempting to disrupt communal harmony and mutual brotherhood should be arrested under the PSA. He noted that the police have registered a case in this regard, but insisted that stringent action must be initiated against the individuals responsible for these acts.

It is pertinent to note that despite repeated warnings and appeals against holding such a protest without proper authorization given the potential for it to trigger law-and-order issues an individual named Talib Hussain associates resorted to stone-pelting. Their intent was to cause injury, obstruct police duties, and disrupt public order. Subsequently, the protesters also began delivering inflammatory speeches and sermons. In response, the police took countermeasures and fired a few rounds in the air. It is reported that several security personnel, including senior police officers, were allegedly injured during the incident.

Focus on Sports Infrastructure in Border District Poonch: BADC

JAMMU, JUNE 2

The Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (BADC), a registered organization working for the welfare of border residents and tribal communities of J&K, has called for focused attention on improving sports infrastructure in the border district of Poonch. The organisation said that many young people in the area are being left behind due to lack of proper facilities.

Chairman Ahmed Malik, Chairman BADC and former

Vice Chancellor, while welcoming the anti-drug stance of Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of J&K, said that sports play an important role in shaping the future of youth and can serve as a real push to pull young people away from drugs and towards playgrounds, arenas and green fields.

However, he pointed out that despite genuine enthusiasm among local youth, many parts of Poonch still lack proper playgrounds, sports equipment and training facilities. Several existing grounds are in poor condi-

tion and need maintenance, while many villages have no basic sports infrastructure at all. Dr. Shazad stated that children and youth in these areas have real talent, but cannot move forward without proper exposure, coaching and facilities. He also noted that sports help build physical fitness, discipline and confidence among young people. The former Vice Chancellor said that Poonch, given its difficult terrain and scattered population, deserves special focus when it comes to sports development.

MLA Arvind sanctions Rs 10 Lakh for upgradation of Sant Kabir Sabha building



JAMMU, JUNE 2

In a significant boost to community infrastructure, Jammu West MLA Arvind Gupta today sanctioned Rs 10 lakh from his Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for the upgradation of the Sant Kabir Sabha Building at Kabir Colony, Ward No. 40 in Jammu West. The announcement was made

during his visit to the Sabha premises, where he interacted with local residents and members of the Sant Kabir Sabha Committee. The sanction aims to improve the building's infrastructure and provide better facilities for social, cultural, and community activities.

Speaking on the occasion, Arvind Gupta said that community institutions play a vital role

in preserving social harmony and cultural values. He assured the residents that the development of public infrastructure and welfare of people remain his top priorities.

'Sant Kabir Sabha has been serving society through various social and cultural initiatives. The upgradation of its building will help strengthen community activities and provide improved facilities to residents. The BJP-led government is committed to ensuring inclusive development and strengthening grassroots institutions,' he said.

The MLA further stated that Jammu West is witnessing rapid development, and every effort is being made to ensure that essential civic amenities and community assets are upgraded for the benefit of the public.

Former Corporator Shri Chaman Lal Bhagat, Mandal President Shri Anil Angral, Shri Raj Kumar Raji, Shri Raj Kumar Sharma, Shri Keshav Chopra, Shri Sucha Singh, Shri Deepak Kumar, and members of the Sant Kabir Sabha Committee were present on the occasion.

The members of the Sabha expressed gratitude to the MLA for sanctioning the funds and hoped that the proposed upgradation work would be completed at the earliest for the benefit of the local community.

BJP will highlight Modi gov't's transformative 12 years of trust, development, public welfare: Sat Sharma



JAMMU, JUNE 2

J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma chaired an organizational meeting at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to review the ongoing party programmes and discuss the roadmap for upcoming activities under the nationwide campaign '12 Saal Vishwaas Ke, Vikaas Ke, Jankalyan Ke'. J&K BJP Vice-Presidents Priya Sethi and Rakesh Mahajan, General Secretaries Baldev Singh Billawaria and Gopal Mahajan, Mann Ki Baat Incharge Vibodh Gupta, Secretaries Reema Padha, Arun Sharma and Pawan Sharma, along with other senior party leaders attended the meeting. Sat Sharma took an in-depth review of various organizational activities being conducted

across Jammu and Kashmir, with special focus on the recently held 134th edition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat'. He sought detailed reports from district and organizational representatives regarding the conduct of the programmes, public participation, outreach efforts and feedback received from listeners. During the discussion, Sat Sharma and Adv. Vibodh Gupta jointly reviewed the areas where the programme witnessed maximum public reach and participation. They also assessed organizational efforts that contributed to the successful conduct of the programme and deliberated on strategies to further deepen its penetration among different sections of society, particularly youth, women, farmers, students and first-time listeners. The BJP President

also held detailed discussions on the forthcoming programmes scheduled from June 5 to June 21 under the campaign '12 Saal Vishwaas Ke, Vikaas Ke, Jankalyan Ke'. He emphasized the need for extensive public outreach to highlight the transformative initiatives, development works and welfare measures undertaken during the twelve years of the Narendra Modi-led government. He discussed the programmes like JanaSampark Abhiyan, Swachhta Pragti Path Yatra, Jan Kalyan Shivar, natural farming, Yog Day, etc.

Priya Sethi stressed the importance of ensuring active participation of women and youth in the upcoming programmes and said that the campaign should effectively communicate the government's achievements at the grassroots level.

Rakesh Mahajan emphasized coordinated organizational efforts to maximize public engagement and awareness during the campaign period.

Baldev Singh Billawaria called upon party workers to reach every section of society and ensure successful implementation of all scheduled programmes.

Gopal Mahajan asked party functionaries to work with dedication and organizational discipline to strengthen the campaign.

Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha observes 56th Balidan Divas of Shaheed Amar Nath Bhagat

JAMMU, JUNE 2

Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha, Bahu Fort, Jammu, observed the 56th Balidan Divas of Shaheed Amar Nath Bhagat with great reverence and paid rich tributes to the veteran social leader on his martyrdom day. Members of the Sabha and prominent citizens remembered the supreme sacrifice made by Amar Nath Bhagat in the struggle for reservation and social justice in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Sham Lal Bason recalled the historic hunger strike undertaken by Amar Nath Bhagat in support of the rights of Scheduled Castes and other marginalized communities. He said that when the government failed to respond positively to the demands raised by Bhagat, he converted his hunger strike into a fast unto death. Despite repeated efforts by the authorities and medical teams to persuade him to end the agitation, Bhagat remained steadfast in his mission and refused all treatment, ultimately attaining martyrdom on June 1, 1970.

Bason further highlighted that Amar Nath Bhagat was born in Champa village of Batote and later emerged as one of the most prominent voices advocating the rights of Scheduled Castes. After shifting



to Jammu, he established his base at Shaheed Chowk and launched a newspaper titled Pasmangdi, through which he raised issues concerning marginalized communities, refugees from West Pakistan and displaced families from Chhamb.

Prof. G.L. Shivgotra, while addressing the gathering, said that a memorandum of demands had been submitted to the government and a formal notice for a hunger strike was served by Bhagat, which commenced on May 31, 1970, at Karan Park opposite the Civil Secretariat. He informed that several activists, including Chano Ram, Krishan Lal, Simar Dass, Majra Singh,

Munshi Ram, Sheru Ram and Charan Dass Thapa, joined the movement in support of the cause.

The speakers described Shaheed Amar Nath Bhagat as a symbol of courage, social justice and selfless service whose sacrifice continues to inspire generations in their fight for equality and dignity. Among those who paid floral tributes and attended the commemorative programme were Bahadur Lal, Parshotam Thapa, Mahesh Shivgotra, Ram Lal Bangotra, Moti Ram Angral, Rattan Bangotra, Om Prakash Thapa, Ajay Bhagat, Satvir Singh, Som Nath and several other members of the community.

Ashok Koul emphasizes ideological commitment and organizational strength

SRINAGAR, JUNE 2

BJP District Srinagar organized a District-Level Training Camp at Church Lane, Srinagar, as part of the ongoing Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Prashikshan Mahabhiyan-2026. Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), J&K BJP, addressed the session on the topic 'Vichar Parivar - JK Waaf Board Chairperson Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, J&K BJP State Secretaries Mudasiir Wani and Arif Raja, Prabhari Srinagar Dr. Shahmaz Ganai, and District President Srinagar Adv. Sheikh Salman were also present on the occasion.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the gathering, said that the strength of the BJP lies in its ideology, dedicated cadre, and commitment to nation-building. He emphasized that the Vichar Parivar is not merely an organizational framework but a collective force working towards the vision of a strong, self-reliant, and culturally vibrant India.

Koul stated that BJP workers must remain firmly rooted in the party's ideology and values



while actively engaging with society to address public concerns. He said that ideological clarity and disciplined organizational work are essential for strengthening the party at every level and effectively serving the people.

Referring to the philosophy of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, Koul said that the concept of Integral Humanism continues to guide the BJP's policies and governance model. He urged party workers to study and propagate these ideals among the masses

and contribute towards realizing the vision of Antyodaya, the upliftment of the last person in society.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from party office bearers, senior leaders, morcha representatives, and grassroots workers. The training camp formed part of the BJP's nationwide initiative to strengthen organizational capacity, ideological understanding, and outreach through systematic cadre training.

Delegation of ASKPC meeting RRC(M) to address NFSA issues for Kashmiri migrants



JAMMU, JUNE 2

High level delegation of one of the apex bodies of both UT and central governments. Members of ASKPC delegation explained with concrete examples the various genuine hardships being faced by both relief and non relief category of displaced Kashmiri Pandits spread all over the globe due to their displacement since 1990, be at their temporary residences in Jammu and Kashmir or at various location all over the

country or at different parts of the world. In the national interests, accepting the introduction of NFSA by the will of government, it ultimately dilute the very internally displaced identity and migrant status of this community, who are forcibly living in exile in their own country. This exercise creates lot of difficulties in getting their meager entitlements faithfully especially by the economically weaker sections and particularly for persons living outside Jammu and Kashmir in terms of getting their relief assistance, doing OTP verification, completing e-KYC formalities and getting relief assistance. This lengthy documentation process and inordinate authentication has ultimately converted this welfare oriented NFSA exercise in to highly stressful and practically difficult process for the survival of displaced community. ASKPC through RRC(M) appealed to the concerned authorities of Jammu and Kashmir government and to the Union Government to find the practically applicable solution to such hardships and address the ground level difficulties before implementing NFSA for displaced.

Continuing her weekly public outreach programme dedicated exclusively to addressing the concerns and grievances of women, BJP State General Secretary and Headquarters Incharge Sanjita Dogra on Tuesday held a women's grievance hearing session at Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan in Kachi Chawni, Jammu. A large number of women from different areas of Jammu visited the party office and shared various issues related to their personal and social lives.

A woman understands another woman's pain better: Sanjita Dogra



JAMMU, JUNE 02

well as several family and social matters that required the intervention of the concerned departments.

Sanjita Dogra listened to each woman's grievances with seriousness and patience, carefully recorded their complaints, and assured them of all possible assistance. She took up genuine cases with the concerned departments and ensured appropriate follow-up for their early resolution. Expressing satisfaction over the increasing participation of women in the weekly grievance hearing programme, Sanjita Dogra said that it is a privilege for her to serve as a bridge between women and the officials responsible for resolving their issues. She added that helping reduce the

hardships faced by women and providing them with a platform where their voices can be heard gives her immense satisfaction. While interacting with the women, Dogra remarked, 'A woman understands another woman's pain better.' She said that women often feel more comfortable sharing their problems, challenges, and personal concerns with other women. This sense of trust and emotional connection is the primary reason why an increasing number of women visit the BJP headquarters every Tuesday to seek guidance, support, and assistance.

Sanjita Dogra further said that the Bharatiya Janata Party has always remained committed to women's empowerment and welfare. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several historic and impactful schemes have been launched to strengthen the social, economic, educational, and health status of women across the country.

Reiterating her commitment to public service, Dogra said that the weekly women's grievance hearing programme will continue to provide a dedicated platform where women can raise their concerns without hesitation and efforts can be made towards their timely resolution.

People of J&K Have Full Faith and trust in Omar-Led Government: Rattan Lal Gupta



JAMMU, JUNE 2

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, with a President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have reposed their faith and trust in the democratically elected Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. The overwhelming public support received by the Government reflects the aspirations of the people for peace, development, good governance, and democratic empowerment.

Interacting with the senior party functionaries at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu today, Rattan Lal Gupta said that it is unfortunate that certain forces, including BJP and other sections of the Opposition, are indulging in a dirty game plan aimed at destabilizing the elected Government. Such attempts

mitted to fulfilling its promises. The Government has consistently focused on public welfare, development, employment generation, social justice, and strengthening democratic institutions, Mr Gupta

The people of Jammu and Kashmir are politically aware and will not allow vested interests to sabotage the democratic process. Those attempting to destabilize the Government for narrow political gains must remember that democracy can flourish only when the people's mandate is respected. It is unfortunate that the Centre is intentionally delaying the restoration of Statehood to J&K that amounts to betray and showing disrespect to the people's mandate, he added.

The National Conference stands firmly committed to safeguarding democratic values and protecting the constitutional rights and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Among others who were present included: Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, S. Tejinder Singh Aman Provincial President Jammu YNC, Chandar Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, S. Gurnam Singh District Secretary Jammu Urban, Taraseem Khullar, Dev Raj, Rashpal Bassa, Sapan Kumar, Arundep Singh and Tejal Singh

are not merely directed against a political party or a government but amount to an assault on the democratic mandate of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The repeated efforts to create uncertainty, spread misinformation, and obstruct the functioning of the Government are against the spirit of the Constitution and democratic norms. Any conspiracy to weaken or topple a democratically elected Government undermines the very foundations of democracy and disrespects the verdict of the people. The LOP and such frustrated and confused BJP leaders are day dreaming for getting the power like Magari Lal's dreams.

Despite numerous challenges, limited powers, and continued administrative constraints, the Omar-led Government has been performing effectively and remains com-

Bhalla flays BJP Government for spiraling prices of essential commodities

JAMMU, JUNE 2

The Jammu and Kashmir Congress on Tuesday staged a massive protest against the spiraling prices of essential commodities, fuel, cooking gas, and other daily-use items, with a large number of party workers, supporters, and local residents participating in the demonstration held in the Bahu constituency of Jammu.

The protest, organized by Latish Sharma, block president Bahu Block was held under the leadership of Yash Sawhney president DCC, Jammu Urban and presided over working president of J&K Congress and former minister Raman Bhalla.

The protest witnessed participants raising slogans against the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre and demanding immediate measures to control inflation and provide relief to people reeling under the rising cost of living. Protesters carried placards and banners highlighting the increasing financial burden on common people, including farmers, traders, labourers, and salaried employees.

Addressing the gathering, J&K Congress Working President and former minister Raman Bhalla alleged that the unprecedented hike in the prices of essential commodities was a direct consequence of what he termed the "pro-rich and anti-poor economic policies" of the BJP-led NDA government.

Bhalla said that soaring prices of food grains, edible oils,



vegetables, pulses, cooking gas, petrol, diesel, medicines, and other household necessities have pushed common people into severe economic distress. He alleged that while large corporate houses continue to benefit from government policies, the poor, middle class, farmers, and small traders are struggling to make ends meet.

"The BJP government had promised 'achhe din' and relief to the common man, but the reality is that inflation has reached alarming levels. Every section of society is suffering due to the continuous rise in prices. Household budgets have been completely disrupted, and people are finding it difficult to meet even their basic needs," Bhalla said.

He accused the Centre of failing to check inflation despite repeated assurances and claimed that the burden of price rise has fallen disproportionately

on weaker sections of society. According to him, the increase in fuel prices has had a cascading effect on transportation costs, ultimately leading to higher prices of essential commodities.

Bhalla said that unemployment and inflation together have created a difficult situation for youth and economically weaker sections, forcing many families to cut down on basic expenditures. He urged the government to reduce taxes on fuel, strengthen market regulation mechanisms, and introduce measures aimed at protecting consumers from rising prices. "The government's priorities appear to be focused on benefiting a select few, while the common citizen continues to suffer," he said. Congress will continue to fight for the rights of the people and raise its voice against policies that are hurting the poor and the middle class," he said.

8th Central Pay Commission holds high-level interaction with JKNOPRUF

JAMMU, JUNE 2

In a significant development for government employees, the 8th Central Pay Commission held a high-level interaction with the leadership of the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the National Old Pension Restoration United Front (JKNOPRUF) to discuss a range of issues concerning employee welfare, pension reforms, and service conditions.

The JKNOPRUF delegation was led by UT President Rajesh Kumar Sharma and included General Secretary Sakoon Manir and Provincial President Kashmir, Binny Tondon. During the meeting, the delegation submitted a comprehensive memorandum highlighting several long-pending demands and grievances of government employees and the teaching fraternity.

The delegation extensively discussed each recommendation contained in the memorandum and emphasized the need for structural reforms aimed at

improving the financial security and service conditions of employees. The representatives stressed that employees across the country, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, have been awaiting meaningful reforms to address concerns related to pension, gratuity, allowances, and welfare measures. Among the key demands raised was the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) by replacing the market-linked New Pension Scheme (NPS), which the delegation argued would provide greater social security and stability to retired employees. The memorandum also sought a minimum retirement factor of 3.2 under the 8th Pay Commission, fixation of minimum basic pay at 757,600 per month, and an increase in annual increments from 3 percent to 5 percent. The delegation further demanded a realistic revision of Dearness Allowance linked to prevailing market prices, enhancement of House Rent Allowance up to 42 percent for X-Class cities, and an

improved Transport Allowance structure reaching up to 79,000 plus DA for employees above Level-8. On welfare measures, JKNOPRUF proposed the introduction of two years of Child Care Leave for male employees to promote shared parenting responsibilities and sought an increase in paternity leave from the existing provisions to 30 days. The memorandum also called for 12 days of annual Earned Leave and leave encashment of up to 120 days for teachers. A major issue highlighted by the delegation was the grant of higher Pay Level-07 to Masters working in Jammu and Kashmir to remove longstanding disparities and align their pay structure with previous pay commission recommendations. According to the delegation, the Commission gave a patient hearing to all issues raised and assured that every point would be carefully examined. The JKNOPRUF leadership expressed optimism after the meeting, stating that the Commission's positive

Omar Abdullah's MLA meet a "Floor Test" of his own leadership: Bali Bhagat

JAMMU, JUNE 2

Senior BJP leader and former minister Bali Bhagat today launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over the June 3 meeting of National Conference legislators, terming it a "political floor test" aimed at assessing whether his own MLAs still stand with him.

Bhagat said that if the National Conference government was stable and united, there would have been no need for such an emergency-style gathering of legislators. He asserted that growing dissatisfaction within the ruling party has compelled Omar Abdullah to personally take stock of his flock before proceeding with any cabinet expansion.

"Tomorrow's meeting is not about governance, public welfare or development. It is a reality check for Omar Abdullah. He wants to know how many MLAs are still with him and how many are preparing to chart their own political course," Bali Bhagat said. The senior BJP leader alleged that deep cracks have emerged within the National Conference, with several legislators unhappy over unfulfilled promises, lack of development



JAMMU, JUNE 2

on the ground and uncertainty surrounding cabinet expansion. "Omar Abdullah knows that cabinet expansion can become the biggest challenge for his leadership. Every MLA expects recognition and representation. The moment deserving legislators are ignored, resentment will surface openly and the National Conference leadership may struggle to contain it," he said.

Bhagat further stated that the Chief Minister is delaying cabinet expansion because he fears political repercussions within his own party. "He understands that if certain MLAs are denied ministerial berths, many of them may

openly revolt or begin exploring other political options. The meeting has therefore been convened to measure loyalty before taking any decision on cabinet expansion," he remarked.

The BJP leader said that instead of focusing on governance, employment, development, statehood and public welfare, the National Conference leadership is busy managing internal contradictions and factionalism.

"People voted for governance, not for internal power struggles. Unfortunately, the NC government has spent more time protecting its political interests than addressing the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Bali Bhagat added that the BJP remains committed to exposing what he termed the failures and contradictions of the ruling dispensation and will continue to raise issues concerning the people both inside and outside the legislature.

"The June 3 meeting will reveal whether Omar Abdullah enjoys the confidence of his own legislators. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are watching closely," he added.

Samvedna is Committed to Work with Police & Adm to Curb Drug Menace: Keshav Chopra

JAMMU, JUNE 2

Under the aegis of the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyaan, Unique Dancing Institute organized an interschool dance competition titled "Nasha Mukta J&K Mahayuddh 2026" at the Jammu Club. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from four hundred school children representing various schools across the region, who showcased their exceptional skills and were later honored with awards for their performances.

Social activist and Chairman of Samvedna Society, Keshav Chopra, graced the occasion as the chief guest, while Sunil Sharma, Director of the Unique Dancing Institute, was also present alongside prominent personalities including anchor Rohit Bhal, who conducted the proceedings of the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Keshav Chopra highly appreciated the mass campaign initiative against drug abuse by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Urban Territory. He lauded the strenuous efforts of the administration and the police in breaking the backbone of drug peddling and narco-terrorism in the region.

Extending the slogan of "Say No To Drugs and Yes to Talent", Chopra urged the youth to



JAMMU, JUNE 2

channel their energy into constructive fields like art and culture. He assured the younger generation of every possible support in their endeavours and solemnized a pledge to work in tandem with the administration and police forces to completely eradicate the menace of narcotics from Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier in the programme, Director of the Institute Sunil Sharma expressed his profound gratitude to Keshav Chopra and all the supporters, school managements, and stakeholders who extended their cooperation in making the mega event a grand success. He reiterated the institute's commitment to pro-

viding a constructive platform for local youth to showcase their potential and stay away from social evils.

Monika Dogra, Principal GD Goenka Chinoor, Havi Mahotra, Principal Kidzee Rehari, Namrita Vij, Principal Dayal C&D Sarwal, Pragati Sharma, Principal Universal Delhi Public School Rehari, Surbhi Gupta, Principal Kidzee Sunderbani, Sonam Mahajan, Principal Wonderwings School Talab Tillo, Shivani Sharma, Principal Success Oriented Playway School Sarwal, Vinay Gupta, Arti Khajuria, Rahul Khatri, Tarun Sharma, Divyansh Baba were special guests.

Investigation 'Lacks Diligence', No Supervisory Oversight: Court Grants Interim Bail in Miran Sahib Abduction Case

JAMMU, JUNE-02 (JNF):

In a sharp indictment of the investigation in an alleged abduction and sexual assault case registered at Police Station Miran Sahib, the Fast Track Court, Jammu, has granted interim bail to accused Reham Ali, observing that the probe prima facie lacked diligence and reflected an "absolute lack of supervisory oversight."

Presiding Officer Amarjeet Singh Langhe passed the order in a bail application arising out of FIR No. 72/2026, registered for offences under Sections 87, 49, 127, 70(1) and 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The Court directed that a copy of the order be sent to the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, for information and necessary indulgence in view of the serious lapses noticed during penal of the case diary.

The case arose from allegations that the prosecutrix, along with her two children, had been kidnapped from the Nursery area of Miran Sahib on May 12, 2026. The petitioner, Reham Ali, was arrested on May 15.

However, the Court noted that a certified copy of the statement of the prosecutrix recorded before the court of the 4th Additional Munsiff/JMIC, Jammu, showed that she was present before that court on May 12 itself, where her statement on oath was recorded in a complaint titled Makho Bibi v. Mold Mirza.

The Court observed that the investigation, till date, did not appear to have focused on this "crucial aspect", despite the allegation in the FIR that the prosecutrix had been kidnapped on the same day.

The order further records that, as per a report submitted by Police Station Miran Sahib before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jammu, on May 20, the prosecutrix, after being recovered on May 17, had stated before police that she had voluntarily married one Sheru and had willingly accompanied him. In strong observation, the Court said the investigation failed to explain why Reham Ali was subsequently rounded up and kept in continued incarceration "sans any evidence", particularly when the prosecutrix did not name him as an accused in her statement recorded under Section 183 of the BNS. The Court also questioned the manner in which suspects were being proceeded against, noting that the Investigating Officer stated that identification of two suspects was yet to be conducted, while the record did not reveal who those suspects were.

"Can a suspect be rounded up before Identification Parade is actually conducted" was another crucial legal aspect requiring examination, the Court observed. The Court further noted that Section 49 of the BNS had been dropped during investigation. It also flagged that although the FIR alleged kidnapping of the prosecutrix along with her two children, the children's statements had

not been recorded till date.

The order also questioned how the victim's family independently travelled to Srinagar and brought back the prosecutrix and her two children without informing Police Station Miran Sahib, despite an FIR already having been registered. The Court additionally remarked that even the two persons named by the prosecutrix in her Section 183 BNS statement had not been apprehended by the police till date.

"All these circumstances," the Court observed, tilted in favour of granting interim bail to Reham Ali, who had been in custody since May 15. The prosecution had opposed the bail application, contending that the accused was involved in serious non-bailable offences, including Section 70(1) of the BNS, inviting punishment up to life imprisonment, and that three co-accused were still at large. It argued that releasing the accused at the investigation stage could adversely affect the probe. Advocate Bhagiarth Singh, appearing for the petitioner, argued that the accused had been falsely implicated and that there was no material connecting him with the alleged offences. Ajay Dogra, APP, represented the Union Territory. The Court committed Reham Ali to interim bail till the next date of hearing on furnishing bail and surety bonds of Rs 25,000 each, subject to conditions that he shall cooperate with the investigation, not tamper with prosecution evidence and not intimidate witnesses.

North in News

EDITORIAL

Social media and its reach, helpful but if mishandled very dangerous

Social media and its reach, helpful but if mishandled very dangerous, because in less than two decades platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, X, Instagram, YouTube, Telegram, and Koo have become the nervous system of public life in India and across the world, compressing distance, time, and hierarchy into a single scroll. With 85 crore internet users in India of which 65 crore are active on social media spending an average of 2.6 hours daily, the sheer scale makes it the most powerful communication tool ever invented, and its helpfulness is undeniable because it has democratized voice, collapsed information asymmetry, and created economic and social capital for millions who were invisible in the pre-digital era. The evidence is everywhere. Governments use social media for last-mile delivery of services with PMO, CMO, and district collector handles answering grievances in real time, and the G20 summit, Chandrayaan-3, and Khelo India were amplified by citizen creators who made policy participatory, and small businesses run entirely on social commerce with 44 percent of MSMEs in India acquiring customers through Facebook and WhatsApp, and education, skilling, and health awareness have penetrated rural India because a 30-second video in Bhojpuri on menstrual hygiene reaches more people than a year of NGO fieldwork, and diaspora Indians stay connected to family and culture, and local artisans get GI-tag recognition because their story trends, and during Covid, social media was the helpline when systems were overwhelmed. During natural disasters it becomes the control room for relief, and for democracy it is revolutionary because every citizen is a broadcaster, every MLA is accountable in comments, and every scheme is audited by reels, and yet the very architecture that makes social media helpful makes it dangerous if mishandled. Because the algorithms are optimized for engagement, not truth, and engagement comes from outrage, fear, novelty, and tribal affirmation, so lies travel six times faster than truth as per MIT research, and a doctored video of a child-kidnapping gang can cause lynchings in 10 States within a week. Deepfakes in 2024-2025 can now clone the voice and face of a CM or a CEO, triggering stock crashes or communal riots before fact-checkers respond. Social media and its reach, helpful but if mishandled very dangerous, and the choice of handling lies with platforms, policymakers, and people together, because the feed is public space, and public space is what we make of it, and we can make it an agora of ideas or an arena of abuse, and the future of democracy, mental health, and social cohesion depends on that choice. That is why every share, every like, every comment is not trivial, it is a brick in the architecture of our common life, and we must lay it with care.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

India and Oman energize a New Economic Corridor



SHRI RAJESH AGRAWAL

The commercial ties between India and Oman echo across centuries, a shared history carried on the sails of ancient dhows and sustained through generations of cultural exchange. The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) will further strengthen this civilizational bond. At a moment when global trade is navigating geopolitical rivalries, supply-chain disruptions and growing protectionism, the agreement reflects India's determination to deepen economic integration with trusted partners. Following the landmark pact with the UAE in 2022, the CEPA firmly anchors India's growing economic engagement with the Gulf.

Bilateral trade has steadily expanded, reaching USD 11.18 billion in FY 2025-26, while services trade stood at USD 863 million in 2024. Economic ties have diversified beyond traditional commodities to include engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, and IT services. Yet significant untapped potential remains. By covering trade in goods and services, investment, professional mobility, and regulatory cooperation, the CEPA creates a comprehensive framework for a more resilient, synchronized and broad-based economic partnership.

A Gateway for India's Export Growth

The CEPA provides duty-free market access for Indian exports

at 98.08 percent of Oman's tariff lines. Prior to the agreement, only around 15 percent of India's exports entered Oman duty-free under the Most Favoured Nation regime, while the remainder faced duties of up to 5 percent. Under the CEPA, 99.38 percent of India's current export volumes now enjoy duty-free entry.

For Indian exporters, the gains are significant. Demand will be driven by Oman's investments in infrastructure, logistics, and industrial diversification under Oman's Vision 2040. Engineering goods exports, valued at USD 875.83 million in FY 2024-25, are projected to rise to between USD 1.3 and 1.6 billion by 2030. The textile and apparel sector will also gain a significant edge over regional competitors through zero-duty access, helping revitalize labour-intensive clusters such as Tirupur, Surat, Ludhiana, and Coimbatore, while generating employment.

Opportunities are far reaching and diverse. Oman's import-dependent pharmaceutical market presents strong prospects for Indian firms. Faster regulatory approvals, recognition of quality certifications, and duty-free access for key products will reduce compliance costs and improve market penetration. Agricultural and food-processing exports, including rice, processed foods, spices, and confectionery, will benefit too.

Opening Markets, Protecting Interests

Consistent with India's recent trade agreements, the CEPA follows a balanced and calibrated approach. While India is opening markets to strengthen competitiveness and integrate into global value chains, it continues to protect sensitive sectors. Key agricultural products such as dairy and cereals, along with industries including rubber, textiles, and footwear, remain safeguarded. This approach combines external

market access with protection against domestic vulnerabilities.

India has committed to liberalizing over 77 percent of its tariff lines, covering nearly 95 percent of imports from Oman. This grants a competitive advantage to Oman's core exports, particularly industrial inputs such as methanol and anhydrous ammonia. Oman secures preferential market access across a broad range of metals and alloys, allowing our countries to capitalize lower production costs.

For sectors where India maintains defensive interests, Oman has been granted access through Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs). This mechanism allows preferential exports of products such as dates, marble, and selected downstream petrochemicals within specified volume limits. This carefully crafted integration strengthens competitiveness while supporting vulnerable sectors during transition.

Trade, Talent and Trust

CEPA offers Indian service providers binding commitments across sectors where India enjoys clear strengths, including IT, professional services, and construction. With provisions allowing up to 100 percent foreign direct investment in several areas, Indian firms will gain greater opportunities to expand their presence in Oman.

The agreement is also a breakthrough for talent. By raising the Intra-Corporate Transferee ceiling to 50 percent, Indian firms now have the flexibility to seamlessly deploy specialized staff and deepen their entrenched market presence. Furthermore, for the first time in any FTA, Oman has established a dedicated mobility regime for independent professionals. As global demographic shifts cause factory labour shortages and modern manufacturing increasingly partners with AI and robotics, this provision sets a powerful global precedent for Indian talent.

The CEPA also includes a ded-

icated healthcare annex that facilitates the integration of traditional systems such as Ayurveda into mainstream healthcare while streamlining licensing procedures for medical professionals. To top it off, a mandated Social Security Agreement negotiation will prospectively protect the Indian diaspora from the burden of dual contributions.

Building Regional Value Chains

The India-Oman CEPA goes beyond tariffs by addressing non-tariff barriers through regulatory cooperation, harmonized standards and conformity assessment procedures. It reflects the high standards increasingly associated with India's modern trade agreements and addresses many of the behind-the-border obstacles that impede commerce.

India is laying the foundations for a more integrated regional trade architecture. Collectively, India's FTA partners now account for nearly 67 percent of global GDP and around 75 percent of global imports in goods and services. Oman occupies a unique geographic position at the crossroads of the Gulf, East Africa, and the wider Indian Ocean region. Omani logistics and industrial hubs such as Sohar, Duqm, and Salalah can integrate value chains that combine Indian manufacturing expertise and talent with the wider Middle East and Africa. The result is a partnership built for regional connectivity and growth.

Trade agreements succeed when they create confidence, for businesses to invest, for workers to acquire new skills and for economies to build enduring partnerships. CEPA achieves precisely that. Transforming a centuries-old relationship into a strategic economic partnership designed for the realities of the twenty-first century.

(The author is Secretary, Dept. of Commerce)

Decade of Broken Promises-From Nirbhaya's Agony to Nangloi's Shame

OMKAR DATTATRAY

The journey from the horrifying night of the December 16, 2012 when a physiotherapy intern was attacked and gangraped in south Delhi and she passed away a fortnight later to the more recent outrage of the Nangloi incident represents not merely a sequence of criminal episodes, but a painful chronicle of fractured assurances, institutional inertia, and societal contradictions. More than a decade has elapsed since the nation erupted in unprecedented grief and fury after the brutal assault on a young woman in Delhi, remembered eternally as Nirbhaya. Streets overflowed with candlelight marches, slogans reverberated across universities and public squares, and the collective conscience of India appeared awakened with rare intensity. Politicians promised transformative reforms, administrators vowed uncompromising vigilance, and the justice system projected itself as newly sensitized toward crimes against women. Yet, as years unfolded, recurring atrocities exposed the disturbing fragility of those assurances. The chasm between rhetoric and reality widened, leaving citizens trapped in a cycle of outrage, promises, forgetfulness, and renewed despair.

The Nirbhaya incident had become more than a criminal case; it evolved into a national

referendum on the condition of women in India. The barbarity of the assault shattered illusions of urban modernity and exposed the dangerous coexistence of economic progress with medieval patriarchal attitudes. Public anger compelled the government to establish committees, strengthen laws, expedite judicial mechanisms, and amplify punishments for sexual violence. Amendments were introduced into criminal jurisprudence, fast-track courts were announced, and there emerged widespread declarations that India would no longer tolerate crimes against women with complacency. The political establishment attempted to portray itself as responsive and determined. Television studios conducted marathon debates on gender justice, while educational institutions organized seminars on women's safety and dignity. However, legislative amendments alone proved incapable of dismantling deeply entrenched social pathologies. The roots of gender violence extend far beyond legal deficiencies. They are nourished by toxic masculinity, distorted notions of honor, unequal power structures, and the normalization of everyday misogyny. In countless households, girls continue to grow within environments where obedience is celebrated more than independence, while boys often inherit subconscious entitlement dis-

guised as cultural tradition. Consequently, despite stronger statutes and intensified media scrutiny, crimes against women persisted with alarming regularity across metropolitan cities, towns, and villages alike.

The recurring nature of such incidents reveals a painful truth: societal memory in India is tragically ephemeral. Each gruesome episode generates temporary indignation, but sustained structural reform remains elusive. After every tragedy, authorities announce stricter policing, enhanced surveillance, women's helplines, and awareness campaigns. Yet implementation frequently descends into bureaucratic lethargy. Many police stations remain inadequately sensitized toward survivors of sexual violence. Victims often encounter skepticism, humiliation, or procedural indifference while attempting to file complaints. Investigations are delayed, forensic infrastructure remains uneven, and judicial processes continue to exhaust survivors emotionally and financially. The persistence of these deficiencies demonstrates that institutional transformation requires far more than ceremonial declarations. The Nangloi incident emerged as another grim reminder that the promises forged in the aftermath of Nirbhaya remain distressingly incomplete. It symbolized the continued vulnerability of

women despite years of proclaimed reforms. The public reaction once again followed a familiar trajectory: outrage on social media, political condemnation, televised debates, and solemn vows of accountability. Yet beneath these repetitive rituals lies growing public cynicism. Citizens increasingly perceive official responses as performative exercises rather than manifestations of genuine resolve. Every fresh crime deepens the perception that the state reacts to gender violence episodically instead of addressing it through sustained preventive frameworks. The tragedy is further compounded by the politicization of women's suffering. Crimes against women often become instruments for partisan combat rather than catalysts for collective reform. Political parties selectively amplify incidents depending upon geographic or ideological convenience, reducing profound human anguish into rhetorical ammunition. This selective outrage weakens the moral seriousness required to combat systemic violence. Genuine gender justice demands a nonpartisan national commitment transcending electoral calculations and ideological rivalries. When public discourse treats women's safety as a political slogan instead of a civilizational imperative, meaningful reform becomes increasingly difficult. Equally troubling.

Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Jammu, Launches International Day of Yoga Awareness Campaign Under the Theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing"

Jammu, June 2, 2026:

As part of the preparations for the forthcoming International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026, the Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Jammu, launched a "Yoga Awareness Campaign" at its campus today under the theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing." The programme aimed to create awareness about the importance of yoga in promoting physical, mental, and emotional well-being across all age groups, with special emphasis on healthy ageing and improved quality of life.

The event commenced with a yoga session in which officers, researchers, technical staff, staff members, patients and their attendants visiting the institute actively participated. Approximately 100 beneficiaries took part in the programme. The yoga session was demonstrated by Dr. Shubam Singh Pathania, who guided the participants through various yoga practices, including asanas, pranayama, and relaxation techniques. The session highlighted the role of yoga in maintaining health, flexibility, mental balance, and vitality throughout life. The enthusiastic participation of patients and staff members added significance to the programme by demonstrating the therapeutic and preventive benefits of yoga in everyday healthcare.

An awareness lecture was subsequently delivered by Dr. Harbans Singh, Head of the Institute, who highlighted the significance of this year's theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing." He emphasised that regular yoga practice can contribute significantly to achieving holistic health and wellness. The programme concluded with an appeal to all staff members, patients, and the general public to embrace yoga as a way of life and actively participate in the activities being organised in the lead-up to the International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2026. The awareness campaign marks the beginning of a series of programmes planned by the Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Jammu, to promote the message of "Yoga for Healthy Ageing" and encourage wider community participation in the celebration of International Day of Yoga 2026.



...cantly to healthy ageing by enhancing physical fitness, improving mental well-being, reducing stress, and supporting the prevention and management of lifestyle-related disorders. He noted that yoga offers a holistic approach to health that enables individuals to remain active, independent, and productive as they age. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Singh encouraged participants to integrate yoga into their daily routine and to promote its benefits within their families and communities. He also underscored the relevance of yoga as a time-tested component of India's traditional knowledge system and its growing global recognition as

a means of achieving holistic health and wellness. The programme concluded with an appeal to all staff members, patients, and the general public to embrace yoga as a way of life and actively participate in the activities being organised in the lead-up to the International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2026. The awareness campaign marks the beginning of a series of programmes planned by the Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Jammu, to promote the message of "Yoga for Healthy Ageing" and encourage wider community participation in the celebration of International Day of Yoga 2026.

DC Srinagar reviews progress under Catch the Rain Program

SRINAGAR, JUNE 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting here at the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to review the progress of Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan 2.0 under Jal Shakti Abhiyan - Catch the Rain Campaign in the District. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Afrah Qureshi, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Joint Commissioner SMC, Suhail Islam, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic, Er Ambreen Anjum, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tariq Ahmad, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, Executive Engineers of I&FC, Water Works Division, Rural Water Works, UEED, SMC, City Drainage, SMC,

LCMA and other concerned. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for effective inter-departmental coordination to achieve the objectives of the campaign. He directed stakeholder Departments to ensure timely completion of ongoing works and stressed the importance of creating sustainable rain water harvesting systems and ground water recharging systems across the district to augment availability of water. The DC directed the Jal Shakti Department to continue the geo-tagging of water sources and recharge structures, while extending technical support to Panchayats in identifying and implementing suitable water conservation interventions. He also emphasized the need to intensify IEC activities across the

District to promote awareness on water conservation, sustainable water management and community participation in safeguarding water resources. Emphasizing the importance of collective action, the DC stated that water conservation is a shared responsibility and called upon all Departments to adopt a coordinated and proactive approach for the successful implementation of Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan 2.0 throughout the District. The DC directed the Education Department to promote rooftop rainwater harvesting structures in educational institutions and conduct awareness programmes among students. He further asked the Education Department to identify "Jal Doots" and "Student Water Champions".

NOTICE

I REYAZ AHMED SHEET? S/O GHULAM HUSSAIN R/O DIGDOLLE TESHIL & DISTRICT RAMBAN, has applied for the registration w of "DEE" class contractor card in the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD NEW-R&B Circle Udhampur-Ramban Circle HQ Udhampur objection if any may be conveyed to the above said office within 07 days within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sl. No. DEE/TRS/JC acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 2026-27-02. Bidders will be able to submit their original sealed bids upto closing date 23.06.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall not be considered. Bidders are allowed to make payments against this tender towards cost of tender document and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREEP portal (ie net banking, debit card, credit card):

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (₹)	Cost of tender form (₹)	Date & time of submission of tender	Earnest Money (₹)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
2026-27-02	Repair/ Reconditioning of 6551 KVA Transformer for 3-phase electric locomotives.	1,33,94,120.04	0	Upto 23.06.2026 15:00 Hrs.	2,67,900/-	07 Months	25.06.2026 15:00 Hrs.	www.irps.gov.in

Tender Notice No. - 230-Elctd/TRS/LDHWC/Transformer/2026-27-02 Dated: 30.05.2026 1859/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NOTICE

I, Divya Devi, D/O Pritam Singh, R/o Village Pernote, Teshil & District Ramban, J&K, hereby inform the general public that due to a clerical error, my name and date of birth in Aadhaar No. 9575 0822 2860 have been wrongly recorded as Divya Devi, DOB 04/08/2006 instead of my correct name Divya Devi, DOB 01/02/2006. The correct particulars may kindly be noted for all official purposes. If any person has any objection regarding the above correction, he/she may submit the same within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

NOTICE

I, Rohit Ahirwar S/O. Ramesh Ahirwar and Suneeta Ahirwar do hereby declare that my mother's name was wrongly written in my school record as Sumita Ahirwar according to my previous documents. I have updated all my documents. Now, I am applying for correction of the same in my school record. Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I, Yasir Ahmed, S/o Abdul Rashid, R/o Begina Seri, Teshil & District Ramban, Jammu & Kashmir, hereby inform the general public that due to a clerical error, my name and date of birth in Aadhaar No. 8964 9201 6374 have been wrongly recorded as Yasir Mohd, DOB 22/09/2005 instead of my correct name Yasir Ahmed, DOB 11/01/2008. The correct particulars may kindly be noted for all official purposes. If any person has any objection regarding the above correction, he/she may submit the same within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

NOTICE

I, Suman D/O. Gulab Sekh and Rina Khatoon do hereby declare that my parents' name was wrongly written in my school record as Suman D/O. Gulam Rasool and Reena according to my previous documents. I have updated all my documents. Now, I am applying for correction of the same in my school record. Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I, Bahar Ahmed Naik, S/o Ghulam Mohd Naik, R/o Farhander Neel, Teshil Ramsoo, District Ramban, J&K, hereby inform the general public that due to a clerical error, the name and date of birth of my minor son in Aadhaar No. 7511 1252 9135 have been wrongly recorded as Azaan Bahar Naik, DOB 06/06/2015 instead of Ayzaan Ahmed Naik, DOB 14/01/2014. The correct particulars may kindly be noted for all official purposes. If any person has any objection regarding the above correction, he/she may submit the same within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

NOTICE

I, Dinesh Kumar Khunte S/O. Dilip Kumar Khunte and Rinabai Bhardwaj born on 04-05-2008, do hereby declare that my date of birth, my name and my parents' name was wrongly written in my school record as 03-05-2008, Dinesh S/O. Dilip Kumar Khunte and Rina Bai Khunte according to my previous documents. I have updated all my documents. Now, I am applying for correction of the same in my school record. Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the publication of this notice.

All J&K Lecturers Association calls on Education Minister at Srinagar

SRINAGAR, JUNE 02: A delegation of All J&K Lecturers' Association called on Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakshena Itoo at Civil Secretariat here today and submitted a detailed representation highlighting several long-pending issues affecting the Lecturer fraternity across Jammu and Kashmir. During the interaction, the delegation apprised the Minister about prolonged stagnation faced by lecturers due to the non-implementation of the Assured Career Progression (ACP) Scheme, delay in finalization of Gazetted Recruitment Rules, regular Annual Transfer Drive as well as large number of vacancies.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION BASOHLI

FRESH SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER (3RD CALL)
e-NIT No.20 of 2026-27 dated 30-05-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for the below noted work:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender document (INRS.)	Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR /B/C	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contr.
1	Restoration of roads by way of removal of slips, P/L wire crates and side drain clearance during the year 2026-27 upto ending 31st of March-2027 (Stage Contract) i) HARBARD road to PMGSY road via GIS Draman in Pvt. Draman. (Length=2.00 kms.) ii) Madhka to Doun road. (Length=1.00 kms.) iii) Khajura to Chenz road. (Length=3.00 kms.) iv) Sandhar link road. (Length=3.00 kms.)	PWD (R&B) Division Basohli	3.33	600/-	2% of Adv. Cost	Stage Contract	06/06/2026 (2:00 P.M. Noon)	'D'
2	Restoration of roads by way of removal of slips/ drain clearance / RBM filling / Hand packing stone during the year 2026-27 upto ending 31st of March-2027 (Stage contract) i) Mahanpur Basohli road Km.31st to 32nd. (Length=2.00 kms.) ii) Madraswaj nagrota road. (Length=2.75 kms.) iii) Dera Sunari road. (Length=4.00 kms.) iv) Old Basohli Plessi road. (Length=3.00 kms.) v) Behan Mandla Chunchloo mata ji road. (Length=7.50 kms.) vi) Khar road Laderi to Laderi Mohalla W.No.65. (Length=0.600 kms.) vii) Link road from Basohli Bam road to Biba Raja Mandli Rohan falling in Basohli Rural Pvt. (Length=0.700 kms.)	PWD (R&B) Division Basohli	3.85	600/-	2% of Adv. Cost	Stage Contract	06/06/2026 (2:00 P.M. Noon)	'D'
3	Restoration of roads by way of removal of slips/ drain clearance / RBM filling / Hand packing stone during the year 2026-27 upto ending 31st of March-2027 (Stage contract) i) Janikhar road upto PMGSY road. (Length=1.75 kms.) ii) Bus Stand to Sorthe. (Length=1.75 kms.) iii) Basohli Dhar-Mahanpur road Km.2nd to Village Thali road. (Length=2.70 kms.) iv) Parsota Morth to Mejra. (Length=0.800 kms.) v) Kathoda Morth to Chamunda Mata Mandir. (Length=0.400 kms.) vi) Prungal link road. (Length= 3.00 kms.) vii) Jandrota to SC Mohalla road. (Length= 0.750 kms.)	PWD (R&B) Division Basohli	3.60	600/-	2% of Adv. Cost	Stage Contract	06/06/2026 (2:00 P.M. Noon)	'D'
4	Restoration of roads by way of removal of slips, P/L wire crates / RBM filling and side drain clearance during the year 2026-27 upto ending 31st of March-2027 (Stage Contract) i) Bhoond to Nagali via Sialig road (Length=10.00 kms.) ii) Subash Memorial School to HSS Bhoond (Length=1.00 kms.) iii) Sialto Leundi. (Length=1.50 kms.) iv) Bani to Dhapgar road (Length=2.00 kms.)	PWD (R&B) Division Basohli	3.84	600/-	2% of Adv. Cost	Stage Contract	06/06/2026 (2:00 P.M. Noon)	'D'
5	Restoration of roads by way of removal of slips / drain clearance during the year 2026-27 upto ending 31st of March-2027 (Stage Contract). i) Bani to Dhapgar road (Length=6.00 Kms.) ii) Slara Jourian Mata ji road. (Length=4.00 kms.)	PWD (R&B) Division Basohli	3.60	600/-	2% of Adv. Cost	Stage Contract	06/06/2026 (2:00 P.M. Noon)	'D'
6	Restoration of roads by way of removal of slips / drain clearance during the year 2026-27 upto ending 31st of March-2027 (Stage Contract). i) Chandal Roulka road (Length=5.00 kms.) ii) Assoo Chachal road (Length=3.50 kms.)	PWD (R&B) Division Basohli	3.60	600/-	2% of Adv. Cost	Stage Contract	06/06/2026 (2:00 P.M. Noon)	'D'

No.417-434
Dated:-30-05-2026
DIP/J-3035/26

Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Basohli



"It is a tremendous honour": Sairaj Bahutule on India spin coach appointment

New Delhi: Newly-appointed India men's cricket team spin-bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule expressed his delight at joining the national setup, calling the opportunity to serve Indian cricket once again "deeply special."

Bahutule's remarks came after he was appointed as the spin-bowling coach of the India men's senior team ahead of the one-off Test against Afghanistan in New Chandigarh. Reacting to his appointment, Bahutule said he was honoured to take up the role and looked forward to contributing to the team's success.

"It is a tremendous honour to be appointed as the Spin Bowling Coach of the Indian Men's Cricket Team. Representing India as a player was a matter of immense pride, and the opportunity to contribute to Indian Cricket once again in a coaching capacity is deeply special. I look forward to working with the players and supporting the team's pursuit of excel-



ence across formats," Bahutule said.

The 53-year-old will oversee India's spin department across formats. Bahutule joins the Indian camp after a stint with Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, where he served as the franchise's spin-bowling coach.

Over the years, the former Indian cricketer has built extensive

coaching experience, having worked with domestic sides Kerala and Bengal, as well as spending time with Rajasthan Royals (RR) between 2018 and 2021.

He later joined the National Cricket Academy (NCA), where he worked with India A teams and was part of the support staff during several senior men's assignments under former head coach Rahul Dravid. Bahutule returned to Rajasthan for the IPL 2025 season before taking up his latest role with Punjab Kings.

As a player, Bahutule represented India between 1997 and 2003, featuring in two Test matches and eight One-Day Internationals. Despite limited opportunities at the international level, he enjoyed a highly successful domestic career spanning nearly two decades. The leg-spinner claimed 630 wickets in 188 first-class matches and picked up 197 wickets in 143 List A games.

Mirroring Messi's WC debut, Yamal to wear number 19 in FIFA WC

Madrid (Spain): Spanish football sensation Lamine Yamal will be wearing the jersey number 19 on his FIFA World Cup debut this year, mirroring Lionel Messi's debut at the grandest stage with Argentina, leaving the number 10 for another star teammate, reported World Soccer Talk.

As per World Soccer Talk, Yamal has been given the 19 number shirt, the number he wore while rising to stardom in Barcelona, before taking Lionel Messi's number 10 jersey, and the one he has proudly donned during his young international career so far having made debut in 2023.

Indian rider Kavin Quintal scores double podium in Spain

Jerez (Spain): Indian motorcycle racer Kavin Quintal of BMW EasyRace Team enjoyed a dream start to his 2026 Copa de Espana de Velocidad campaign, securing two podium finishes during the opening round of the Spanish championship at the Circuito de Jerez.

The Chennai rider, who turned 21 last month, qualified on the front row and delivered two impressive races aboard his BMW Superbike. Kavin finished second in Race 1 and followed it up with a third-place finish in Race 2, announcing himself as an immediate contender in the highly competitive Superbike 1000cc category. His strong weekend came after qualifying second fastest with a lap time of



1:45.549. Race 1 saw him finish runner-up, just 0.605 seconds behind winner Juan Maria Zarza, while he added another podium with third place in Race 2. The podium finishes are an early reward for Kavin's move to the BMW EasyRace Team, one of Spain's leading motorcycle racing outfits. The Chennai rider joined the Spanish squad in April this year after impressing

the team during a wildcard appearance in 2025, when he finished a remarkable fourth on his superbike debut in the championship. For the 2026 season, Kavin has been signed for a full campaign with EasyRace Team, headed by Eduardo Salvador Vera. Spain's leading motorcycle racing outfit. The Chennai rider joined the Spanish squad in April this year after impressing

Arda Guler headlines as Turkiye announces FIFA World Cup squad

Ankara (Turkiye): Turkiye has announced their final squad for the FIFA World Cup 2026 on Tuesday, meeting the deadline for submission ahead of the global tournament set to begin next week. The squad features two of Europe's brightest young talents in Kenan Yildiz and Arda Guler, both of whom are expected to play key roles as Turkiye looks to make a strong impact on the world stage. The FIFA World Cup, to be jointly hosted by the USA, Canada, and Mexico between June 11 and July 19, has been announced. Turkiye has been drawn in a competitive group alongside Australia, Paraguay and co-hosts the United States. They will open their campaign against the Socceros at BC Place on June 13. The squad includes experienced names such as goalkeeper Mert Gunok, Altay Bayindir and Ugurcan Cakir, while the defensive unit features Merih Demiral, Caglar Soyuncu, Ozan Kabak and Ferdi Kadoglu, among others.

In midfield, Turkiye will rely on Hakan Calhanoglu, Orkun Kokcu and Salih Ozcan to provide stability and creativity, supported by Ismail Yuksek and Kaan Ayhan.

Sayali Satghare shines as SOBO Mumbai Falcons clinch historic first win in inaugural T20 Mumbai Women's League

Mumbai: A new chapter in Mumbai cricket history was written on Tuesday as the inaugural T20 Mumbai Women's League got underway at the Wankhede Stadium. India star Sayali Satghare led SOBO Mumbai Falcons from the front with a decisive three-wicket spell as her side began their campaign with a convincing 16-run victory over Thane Sky Risers in the tournament's opening match.

Chasing a challenging 174 opener Anand Patil (46) kept the chase alive for Thane Sky Risers despite losing partners at regular intervals. Mahesh Pokar (23 retired hurt) and Saima Thakor (29) made promising starts



but failed to build on them as the Falcons' attack, marshalled brilliantly by Satghare, kept the pressure firmly on the opposition. In the closing stages, wicketkeeper Khushi

Bhatia produced a spirited 28 off just 16 balls, striking the ball cleanly to keep Thane's hopes alive. However, her dismissal took the penultimate over all but extinguished the Sky Risers' chances

and tilted the match decisively in the Falcons' favour.

Earlier, Thane Sky Risers failed to capitalise on a start from skipper Salma Thakor, who created history by striking off the very first ball of the tournament and then claimed another wicket in the same over. Coupled with nine dropped catches, the lapses allowed SOBO Mumbai Falcons to recover through a late onslaught from Hrupley Gala (45 not out), supported by important knocks from Riya Chaudhari (43), Simran Shaikh (30) and Sarika Kulkarni (26), as they posted a competitive 173/6 in 20 overs.

Cristiano Ronaldo begins his "World Mission" as Portugal team trains ahead of FIFA WC opener

Houston (US): Portugal football icon Cristiano Ronaldo is all set for the "World Mission" as he started training with the squad ahead of his side's FIFA World Cup campaign opener on Tuesday.

The official handle of the Portugal team posted a picture of his team's training session, with the players posing together with smiles on their faces.

Cristiano also posted a picture captioned, "The World Mission Begins". In a bid for his maiden World Cup title, the only title which is left to win for him, the 41-year-old will be making a record-breaking sixth FIFA World Cup

appearance this year, having made his tournament debut back in 2004. Portugal will start their campaign against DR Congo on June 17, before playing Uzbekistan on June 23, and their last group stage game will be against Colombia on June 27.

Recently, Ronaldo finally conquered Saudi Arabia after he guided Al Nassr to their 11th Saudi Pro League (SPL) title after scoring twice in a commanding 4-1 victory over Damac on Friday night, securing the superstar's first league crown in Saudi Arabia since joining the club in January 2023.

Jemimah on overcoming form slump in ICC Women's WC

Mumbai: Indian batter Jemimah Rodrigues spoke about the most anxious she felt while batting in her field during a must-win ICC Women's World Cup campaign against New Zealand last year, adding that her half-century against White Ferns meant more to her than her century in a record-breaking chase against Australia in the semi-final. Rodrigues, who is gunning for some incredible performances to help the T20 team lift her second major white-ball title in the UK, was speaking on JioStar's "Unstoppable".



During the World Cup, she was dropped from an important clash against England after managing

Liverpool great Kenny Dalglish diagnosed with cancer

Liverpool (UK): Liverpool great Kenny Dalglish on Tuesday confirmed he is undergoing treatment for a cancer diagnosis. Dalglish, who won over 30 trophies for Liverpool as a player and a manager, announced the diagnosis on social media. "As my investment social media post has indicated, I am currently undergoing treatment for cancer," said Kenny as quoted by Liverpool's website. "Unlike my mobile phone use, the treatment is going well. Ideally, this would have remained private because that's the way it should be, but my useless technology skills have forced my hand," he added. "Obviously I did not mean to make this matter public so I would appreciate it if the privacy of

my family and myself are respected. As ever, thank you to the wonderful medical staff who have shown incredible care and discretion, not just for me but for many others. They are a credit to themselves," it concluded. Dalglish enjoyed a glittering playing career with Liverpool, scoring 172 goals across 13 seasons and helping the club secure six league titles and three European Cups during one of the most successful periods in its history. He later returned as manager, leading the Reds to three league championships and two FA Cup triumphs during the 1980s. Meanwhile, Liverpool on May 30 announced that Arne Slot will step down as head coach.

Mumbai T20 League 2026: Early momentum was needed, says captain Shardul Thakur after Eagle Thane Strikers' winning start

Mumbai: Eagle Thane Strikers captain Shardul Thakur expressed satisfaction with his side's dominant opening victory in the Mumbai T20 League 2026, stating that gaining early momentum was important in a short tournament format.

The Eagle Thane Strikers emphatically began their campaign with a nine-wicket victory over Bandra Blasters at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday, powered by a magnificent unbeaten century from Shashwat Jagtap and a blistering opening partnership with Sumer Zaveri.

Reflecting on the team's performance after the match, Shardul Thakur praised the energy and fearless approach shown by the younger



members of the squad. "This is a new tournament and looking into our team, there is some fresh energy in terms of youngsters. We just saw the kind of talent they have. They just played in this first game of the tournament, the opening game of the tournament.

So, it's great to see and I must say that I feel energetic again," said Thakur. The India all-rounder, who has represented the country in 85 international matches, emphasised the importance of creating an environment where young players can play with freedom and

U-18 Asia Cup 2026: India register dominant 4-1 win over Korea

Kakamigahara (Japan): The Indian U-18 Men's Hockey Team produced a dominant 4-1 victory against Korea in their third U-18 Asia Cup 2026 Pool A match held in Kakamigahara, Japan. Captain Ketan Kushwaha (3, 36), Varinder Singh (5) and Shahrulk Ali (54) scored for India while Korea's captain Yun Jaehyeok (21) scored his team's lone goal in the match.

India started the first quarter strongly, scoring its early two-goal lead. In the third minute, India earned the first penalty corner of the match and successfully converted it into the opening goal. Rahul Yadav played an incisive pass to captain Kushwaha (3), and although his initial



shot was saved by the Korean goalkeeper, the ball rebounded to him and he slotted it into the net. India built on the momentum and secured the second goal in the fifth minute. Gazeel Khan showed great vision to find Varinder (6), an unmarked next to the goal, and he delivered a calm finish to extend India's lead. Korea slowed the

tempo for the remainder of the first quarter in an attempt to regroup. The second quarter saw end-to-end action from both sides, but neither team created meaningful chances inside the circle. In the 21st minute, Korea found Varinder (6), who successfully converted to reduce the deficit in the first half.

"Group of excitement": Head Coach Graham Arnold reacts to Iraq's FIFA World Cup group

Baghdad (Iraq): Iraq head coach Graham Arnold has described his team's FIFA World Cup 2026 draws as "exciting", saying his players will relish the chance to face some of the biggest names in world football. Speaking during a press conference after the draw, Arnold said many members of his squad are yet to experience playing against elite stars such as Kylian Mbappe, Erling Haaland and Sadio Mane, calling it a privilege to share the pitch with such talent.

"Iraq lost all three of their matches in their previous World Cup appearance in Mexico in 1986, and they will now

face a daunting challenge in Group I clashes against France, Norway and Senegal in the 2026 edition of the World Cup.

"For me, it's a group of excitement because a lot of the players have never played against a player of the calibre of Mbappe, Haaland or Mane, so being on the park with them is a privilege," Arnold was quoted as saying by Reuters. Despite acknowledging the challenge, the Iraq coach struck an optimistic tone, insisting football is ultimately played 11 against 11 and urging his side to approach the tournament without fear.

"Instructions issued across locations to ensure safe homecoming of Hajj pilgrims": Kiren Rijiju

New Delhi: Union Minister Kiren Rijiju reaffirmed the Government of India's commitment to the welfare of minority communities on Tuesday, saying that extensive coordination among various ministries had helped ensure the smooth running of this year's Hajj operations.

He added that the return journey of Indian pilgrims has now begun, with instructions issued across locations to ensure their safe homecoming.

Speaking to reporters in New Delhi, Rijiju highlighted the arrangements made by the government to facilitate the pilgrimage and ensure the safety and well-being of pilgrims throughout the process.

"Every year, hundreds of thousands of Muslims depart from here to perform the Hajj pilgrimage, and the



Government of India strives to ensure that every pilgrim completes their Hajj successfully and returns home safely. This year, we managed the bus operations very efficiently, having undertaken preparations right from the very beginning," Rijiju told reporters here. He said all Indian pilgrims who travelled for Hajj were safe and that preparations were in place for their return. "As per the latest reports we have received, all the pilgrims who departed from here for the Hajj are safe and

sound. The schedule for their return journey has now commenced, and instructions have been issued across all locations to ensure their safe return home. Their families will undoubtedly be overjoyed, as it brings immense happiness to everyone when those who undertook the Hajj pilgrimage return to their homeland," he added. The Minister also spoke about the religious significance of Hajj for Muslims around the world. "Indeed, for anyone who undertakes the Hajj, it represents the fulfilment of a lifelong aspiration. It is the cherished desire of every Muslim to perform the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lifetime," Rijiju said. He thanked several ministries for working together to manage the large-scale operation and ensure the comfort and safety of pilgrims.

ED attaches Rs 1,000-crore assets in Chhattisgarh liquor scam, tightens noose around syndicate

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth over Rs 1,000 crore in connection with the alleged Chhattisgarh liquor scam, marking a major escalation in its ongoing money laundering probe.

In a statement, ED said its Raipur zonal office issued three Provisional Attachment Orders (PAOs) on May 28 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, targeting properties with a deed value of around Rs 200 crore and an estimated market value exceeding Rs 1,000 crore.

ED said the investigation stems from an FIR registered by the Economic Offences Wing/ Anti-Corruption Bureau (EOW/ACB), Raipur.

"Demolished before scheduled court hearing": AIMIM leader Waris Pathan on Mumbai's Aarey Dargah

Mumbai: Amid heavy police deployment and restricted access, AIMIM leader Waris Pathan was on Tuesday barred from entering the site of a demolished dargah in Goregaon's Aarey colony, triggering sharp protests from the leader over the timing of the administrative action.

Pathan, who was stopped by security forces from entering the site, accused the authorities of misusing power and bypassing judicial procedures while the matter remained sub-judice.

Addressing reporters near the demolition site, Waris Pathan said, "They are not allowing me to go inside the dargah premises. They have completely demolished it. An urgent petition was filed yesterday by the trustees of the



dargah, and the matter was listed for a hearing at 2:00 PM today at the Dindoshi Court. However, before that could happen, authorities arrived at 9:00 AM this morning and began tearing down the entire structure." Questioning the urgency of the local administration's action, the AIMIM leader claimed that the law was not allowed to take its due course. "What is this? At least give us a fair opportunity to approach the judiciary. The matter was filed in court: it was sub-judice and pending before the judge. The trustees have legally moved the court, yet you did not even allow them their day in court. The hearing was scheduled for 2:00 PM," Pathan added.

He further alleged that state machinery was hastily deployed to prevent public or political representatives from accessing the area. "Instead, you use your power, you misuse the courts, you deploy your police machinery, and you come here just to demolish everything. You are not allowing a single person to enter the premises, and even I am being barred from entering," the AIMIM leader stated.

"Though it has been delayed, it was not denied...": DK Shivakumar on his elevation as Karnataka Chief Minister

New Delhi: Karnataka Chief Minister-designate DK Shivakumar, who is slated to take oath tomorrow, has said that the opportunity to serve the state in the top political post was "delayed but not denied" and that he will seek to take along all sections of society in the journey to take the state forward. Shivakumar said that he has risen through dedication and hard work. He also talked about "tough, troubling time", apparently referring to protracted speculation about his elevation. "It was not a dream. It was a dedication. Dedication with hard work. So it was a tough, troubling time. Though it has been delayed, it was not denied. I feel there's no Shivakumar here. It is a Congress worker, who stood on this democratic set-up with the history of the Congress party," Shivakumar said. The change in guard of the Congress government in Karnataka is taking place after it has completed three years. There has been repeated speculation about a leadership change in the state and Shivakumar's elevation from his role as Deputy Chief Minister since the Congress government completed half its five-year term.

Students Federation of India activists march to CBSE regional office in Kerala, demand Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation

Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala): Activists of the Students' Federation of India (SFI) on Tuesday staged a massive protest march to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Regional Office here, demanding immediate rectification of lapses in the conduct of CBSE examinations.

The protest march was formally inaugurated by SFI State Secretary PS Sanjeev, who sharply criticised the central authorities for putting the future of thousands of students at stake due to administrative shortcomings.

Meanwhile, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports Chairman Digvijaya Singh on



Tuesday said the panel would consider concerns raised by students regarding the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) On-Screen Marking (OSM) system after hearing a presentation by class 12 student Sarthak Sidhant. The committee is currently examining the

implementation of the OSM system in CBSE Class 12 examinations, along with the concerns related to evaluation practices and transparency in the assessment.

Speaking to reporters after the committee meeting, Singh confirmed that Sidhant made a presentation before the panel and

that the committee would deliberate on the issues raised, as well as the responses submitted by the CBSE.

Earlier in the day, Sidhant appeared before the committee at Parliament House Annex and highlighted alleged discrepancies in CBSE's OSM tendering process. The student claimed that changes in tender clauses relating to performance standards, blacklisting provisions and qualification criteria appeared to favour a particular service provider.

Sidhant also advocated greater transparency in educational procurement systems and suggested that the OSM system should undergo wider pilot testing before large-scale implementation.

NIA chargesheets 31 accused for pre-poll blockade, judicial officers' detention in Malda during electoral roles revision in Bengal

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency has chargesheeted 31 accused in four separate cases linked to the Malda Special Intensive Revision (SIR) related road blockades and illegal detention of judicial officers, the agency said on Tuesday. The chargesheets have been filed before the NIA Special Court in Kolkata based on various digital, technical, documentary and oral evidence, as well as examination of several witnesses to the incidents that rocked the region ahead of the West Bengal assembly polls in April. As per the NIA, the accused have been charged under respective relevant sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, National Highways Act, 1956, and West Bengal Maintenance of Public Order (WBMPPO) Act, 1972.

"Specific roles played by each of the accused have been detailed in the chargesheets, which clearly establish their involvement in the road blockades and illegal detention and restraint of judicial officers engaged in the special intensive revision of electoral rolls at various locations in Malda district," stated the NIA.

Saket building collapse: Court grants three-day police custody of building owner

New Delhi: Delhi's Saket court on Tuesday granted three days' police custody to Karamveer, the owner of the multi-storey building that collapsed in South Delhi's Saket area, resulting in the death of six people and injuries to eight others.

The Delhi Police had arrested Karamveer in connection with the case and produced him before the Saket court, seeking five days' police custody for further interrogation.

Judicial Magistrate First Class Nirmala Singh allowed the plea in part and granted three days' police custody of the accused.

While seeking 5 days of police custody, the Delhi Police submitted that custodial interrogation of the accused was necessary to verify the ownership records of the building and identify other persons allegedly involved in the matter who



are currently absconding. The investigating officer informed the court that the ownership details of the property need to be verified through records available with the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) office.

The police further submitted that the building had allegedly been constructed illegally by a previous builder and that details regarding the builder and

the circumstances surrounding the construction need to be ascertained from the accused during interrogation.

According to the prosecution, further investigation is required to establish the ownership chain of the building, verify relevant records, and identify all persons responsible for the construction and maintenance of the structure.

Tibet advocacy takes centre stage in Sydney as activists mark Chushi Gangdruk anniversary, Tiananmen Massacre

Sydney (Australia): Tibet advocacy, cultural preservation and calls for greater international awareness of the Tibetan cause were at the forefront of commemorative events held in Sydney over the weekend to mark the 68th anniversary of the founding of Chushi Gangdruk and the 37th anniversary of the Tiananmen Massacre, according to the Tibet Information Office, Canberra. The Dawo Sangmo, Chinese Liaison Officer of the Tibet Information Office, participated in a gathering on May 30 commemorating the founding of Chushi Gangdruk, the Tibetan resistance movement established in 1958. The event brought together community leaders, activists and supporters, including Bill Crews, Professor Chongyi Feng, representatives of Tibetan organisations and members of the Tibetan diaspora.

According to the Tibet Information Office, Sangmo used the occasion to stress the importance of safeguarding Tibetan identity, culture and heritage amid what she described as the growing impact of China's Sinicisation policies in Tibet. She encouraged Tibetan youth to take a more active role in advocacy efforts and contribute to raising awareness about Tibet's situation at both the community and international levels.

"EU should first prove its impartiality": Iran accuses Kaja Kallas of 'warmongering' to appease US

Helsinki (Finland): The Iranian Embassy in Finland has lambasted the European Union (EU) for its failure to uphold the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), accusing the bloc of adopting a "malign approach" to satisfy the interests of the US.

In a strongly worded statement shared on social media platform X, the Iranian mission specifically targeted EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, labelling her among "certain warmongering officials" allegedly pushing for hostile measures against Tehran.

The EU already had an opportunity to demonstrate genuine goodwill by fulfilling its commitments under the JCPOA. Instead, it adopted a malign approach led by certain warmongering officials - Kaja Kallas - attempting to activate the so-called snapback mechanism and pursuing other hostile measures - merely to appease the U.S.," the embassy stated.

The snapback mechanism refers to a provision within the 2015 nuclear deal that allows a participant state to restore all UN sanctions on Iran if Tehran is

found to be in significant non-compliance. The embassy's remarks come at a time of heightened tension between Tehran and Brussels over Iran's nuclear program, its regional influence, and its alleged military support for Russia in the Ukraine conflict - all charges that have been denied by Tehran. The Iranian mission challenged the EU's diplomatic standing, asserting that the bloc lacks the moral authority to claim "economic leverage" or "nuclear expertise" in negotiations until it proves its neutrality. "Before claiming to possess economic leverage, nuclear expertise, and direct engagement," the EU should first prove its impartiality and genuine good faith, rather than relying on symbolic gestures," the X post further read.

European Union's Kaja Kallas had while addressing a press conference in Islamabad on June 1, stated that "any temporary peace agreement between the United States and Iran must be followed by deeper talks about Tehran's nuclear stockpiles, missiles, and other critical issues."

Nepal opposition continues protest in parliament demanding Prime Minister's resignation over border remarks

Kathmandu (Nepal): Opposition parties in Nepal's House of Representatives have continued their protest against the statement of Prime Minister over border demanding his resignation.

The opposition lawmakers who continued to picket the rostrum of the parliament chanting slogans demanding resignation of the Prime Minister Balendra Shah over his remarks on border issues on Sunday.

Lawmakers raised objections over the Prime Minister's statement made on May 31, in which he reportedly suggested that Nepal had encroached upon Indian territory. Opposition parties argued that the



remarks were serious enough to require either an apology or resignation.

"What the Supreme Executive Chief of our country said in this sovereign parliament is a matter known to everyone here. This is a seriously objectionable matter. It is against the national interest. It is a matter that will affect

sovereignty and geographical integrity. If this was done by mistake or unintentional slip of the tongue, then it should not be allowed to continue for too long. It is causing great damage to the country. If this was done intentionally, then this is a seriously objectionable matter. We believe that he should resign on this matter," CPN-UML.

Two pilots killed in military training plane crash in Taiwan

Taipei (Taiwan): Two Taiwan Air Force pilots were killed after a T-34 trainer aircraft crashed in southern Taiwan, local media reported on Tuesday morning.

Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te expressed condolences for the two Air Force lieutenant colonels who were killed in the crash and a task force had been established to probe the cause of the accident and prevent similar tragedies, CNA reported.

According to the country's Air Force, the aircraft, was being flown by Lt. Col. Lu Chi-yu and Lt. Col. Kuo Chun-nan on a simulated engine-failure training mission when the plane crashed near the northern end of the runway at 8:08 am (local time) at Gangshan Air Base in Kaohsiung, killing both pilots, Focus Taiwan news outlet reported.

India continues to strengthen Africa's public health preparedness amid Ebola outbreak

New Delhi: India has extended urgent medical assistance to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to support their Ebola response efforts, in response to a request received from the African Union Commission.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has stated that India's support is tailored to meet the needs of the Africa CDC to contain the Ebola outbreak in some parts of Africa, and to strengthen public health preparedness and regional response capacities.

The MEA informed that as an urgent response, the first tranche of about 25 tons of urgent medical supplies was dispatched on May 24 to Kampala, Uganda, comprising protective gear, medical monitoring equipment, essential medicines and sup-



plements. After receiving a more detailed list of requirements from Africa CDC, MEA has now mobilised a larger second tranche of 43 tons, comprising protective gear, diagnostic and monitoring devices, sample transport kits, infection prevention supplies, medicines and supplements. The second tranche will be reaching Kampala on 2 June 2026 and

handed over to the Africa CDC. The Ministry of External Affairs highlighted how India's support reflects its enduring commitment to partnership with African countries, including in supporting them to respond to public health situations on the continent. "Our Missions in Addis Ababa and Kampala remain closely engaged."

Tata Sons Chairman visits upcoming India's first private defence MRO facility for C-130J aircraft, set to be commissioned by December 2026

Bengaluru (Karnataka): Tata Sons Chairman on Tuesday visited Tata Advanced Systems Ltd's (TASL) upcoming Defence Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility near Bengaluru Airport, which is set to become India's first private-sector defence MRO centre for the Lockheed Martin C-130J transport aircraft.

According to the statement released by Tata Sons, the facility, which is developed by TASL over 16 acres of land and will span 15,000 square metres. It is scheduled to be commissioned by December 2026.

"TASL is setting up India's first private



defence MRO facility here, spanning 15,000 square metres on 16 acres of land. The facility is slated for commissioning by end-December 2026 and will conduct heavy maintenance and avionics upgrades for the Lockheed Martin C130J transport aircraft employing over 250 personnel," the statement said.

Chandrasekaran was accompanied by Sukaran Singh, Managing Director of Tata

Advanced Systems Ltd, and other senior management officials during the visit.

The Tata Sons Chairman also visited TASL's Electronic City facility, where he reviewed the company's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) manufacturing operations, optronics product lines and land mobility platforms.

According to the statement, Chandrasekaran was briefed on TASL's indigenous loitering

munitions platform, which now features "operational ranges extending from 50 km to hundreds of Km and heavier payload capabilities."

The company said the visit also included a review of TASL's land mobility business, which has supplied more than 4,000 multi-axle high mobility platforms to international customers over the past three years.

"The Land Mobility Division has internationalized the footprint, extended the reach and supplied over 4000 such multi axle high mobility platforms with applications to Royal Moroccan Army and Armenian Armed Forces.

West Asia conflict raises raw material costs; cable and wire makers increase prices: Crisil Ratings

New Delhi: Tightening global supplies amid the West Asia conflict have pushed up prices of key raw materials used in cables and wires, increasing costs for a sector that supplies critical infrastructure projects across power, renewable energy, real estate and data centres, according to a report by Crisil Ratings.

The report said prices of copper and aluminium – two major inputs for cable and wire manufacturers have risen 22-27 per cent, while the price of polyvinyl chloride (PVC), another key raw material, has increased by around 12 per cent over the last fiscal.

Jio tops TRAI Delhi drive tests with 243.98 mbps download speeds, leads in voice quality too

New Delhi: Reliance Jio has recorded the fastest average download speeds and best voice quality in Delhi, according to independent drive tests conducted by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in April 2026. The regulator's tests across hotspots, walk-test locations and the Noida Sector 121 to IGI Airport route show Jio outperforming peers on key data and voice parameters. According to the TRAI report, Jio's average download speed stood at 243.98 Mbps in the Delhi circle, significantly higher than Airtel's 169.80 Mbps, Vodafone Idea's 26.26 Mbps, and MTNL's 4.43 Mbps. TRAI also measured data service latency or internet response time. Jio led with 20.33 milliseconds, while MTNL recorded 22.84 ms, Vodafone Idea 37.57 ms and Airtel 43.76 ms. Voice performance was another strong area for Jio.

TRAI noted that Jio and Vodafone Idea both maintained a Call Setup Success Rate exceeding 99 per cent, while Airtel's rate was 97.22 per cent. Jio recorded the best Call Setup Time at 0.56 seconds and topped voice quality with the highest Mean Opinion Score of 4.36. "Jio also excelled in the time required to connect a call, recording the best Call Setup Time at 0.56 seconds. Furthermore, Jio topped the charts in voice quality, achieving the highest Mean Opinion Score (MOS) of 4.36," the TRAI report stated. Signal coverage on the airport route was a highlight. During voice testing, poor signal was observed on just 0.15 per cent of the route for Jio, compared to 0.41 per cent for Airtel, 0.57 per cent for Vodafone Idea and 72.48 per cent for MTNL. In data testing as well, poor signal on the airport route was recorded on 2.52 per cent.

Nifty closes above 23,400 as IT rally powers late rebound; Sensex up 382 points

New Delhi: Indian benchmark indices ended higher in a volatile session on Tuesday after trading in the red for most of the day, with the Nifty 50 closing comfortably above the 23,480 mark on a late rally led by heavyweight IT stocks.

At close, the Sensex was up 382.50 points or 0.52 per cent at 74,649.84, and the Nifty was up 100.95 points or 0.43 per cent at 23,483.55.

The Nifty opened with a downside gap and tested prior swing low support, which also turned out to be the day's low, according to Sudeep Shah, Head - Technical and Derivatives Research at SBI Securities. The index then staged a steady pullback to close at 23,483, forming a bullish candle on the daily chart and indicating buy-



ing interest at lower levels. About 2,222 shares advanced, 1,803 declined, and 165 were unchanged.

The rally was powered by IT counters as the index also turned up 4.3 per cent, significantly outperforming the broader market. TCS, Infosys, HCL Technologies and Tech Mahindra emerged as the top Nifty gainers.

"Today's Nifty move due to mainly IT sector," said Mahesh M Ojha of

KC Securities. He attributed the buying to rupee depreciation, which is positive for IT, and buzz around global tech companies.

Current study showing in some cases AI cost is higher from human being so the reason is for buying in IT also many stocks has faced lot of selling pressure suddenly rebound from lower levels as many Nifty stocks are available at attractive levels," Ojha added.

India set to emerge as one of world's key AI, hyperscale infrastructure markets: Knight Frank

New Delhi: India is poised to emerge as one of the world's most important AI and hyperscale infrastructure markets, driven by rapid expansion in data centre capacity, rising artificial intelligence workloads and strong policy support, according to Knight Frank India's latest data.

The report noted that India's data centre sector has entered a defining phase of expansion, with live IT capacity across the country's seven primary markets surpassing 1.6 GW by the end of 2025.

"India's data centre industry is entering a once-in-a-generation infrastructure cycle," the report said, adding that the growth is being driven by "AI-led digital transformation, hyperscale cloud expansion, sovereign data requirements and proactive policy support." The report highlighted that India added 371.5 MW of live capacity in 2025, following 261.6 MW added in 2024, reflecting a sustained growth cycle supported by strong demand from hyperscalers and AI-led workloads. Cumulative colocation lease activity reached 2.06 GW in 2025, with AI emerging as a key demand driver. "AI-related colocation leasing alone reached 345 MW during the year, more than doubling compared with 2024," the report said.

NHPC OFS over-subscribed 3.47 times on Day 1, opens door for Govt to exercise full 3% green shoe option

New Delhi: The government's Offer for Sale in NHPC Limited received an enthusiastic response from investors on the opening day, with the issue getting over-subscribed 3.47 times on Tuesday. The strong demand from non-retail investors has now paved the way for the government to exercise the entire 3 per cent green shoe option, taking the total stake sale to 100 per cent of paid-up equity.

Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, Secretary, Anshu Chawla posted on X that "allocation will be on price priority basis" and "government has decided to exercise the entire green shoe option." Following the robust response, retail investors and employees get to bid on June 3. The NHPC

OFS was launched with a base offer of 3 per cent of equity at a floor price of Rs 71 per share, with an additional 3 per cent green shoe option in case of over-subscription. Government proposes to sell 30,13,51,044 equity shares, 3 per cent paid-up equity, the base size. It has the option to additionally sell up to 30,13,51,044 shares under the over-subscription option. After the over-subscription, the base plus green shoe will represent 6 per cent of total paid-up equity as on March 31, 2026, collectively 60.27,02,088 shares. Up to 45,20,265 shares are reserved for eligible

employees, who can apply up to Rs 5 lakh, with allocation considered up to Rs 2 lakh first. The green shoe trigger mirrors the pattern seen in recent CPSE divestments. The government recently completed an OFS for Coal India Limited, which was over-subscribed 8.14 times on day one only. Central Bank of India's OFS too was over-subscribed 2.35 times on day one, though DIPAM has not announced green shoe exercise for that sale yet.

For NHPC, the 3.47x over-subscription on day one from non-retail investors paved the way for the government to exercise the full green shoe immediately, rather than wait for retail bidding. The move will help the Centre mop up more proceeds from the sale at Rs 71 per.

No intention to further increase prices as of now despite global crisis: Mother Dairy Chairman

New Delhi: Mother Dairy has no plans to increase prices of its dairy products for now, despite global uncertainties and inflationary pressures, as the company has already factored recent input cost increases into its pricing, said the Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Mother Dairy, Manesh Shah.

"The increase in the inputs which has happened, we have already factored in and as of now we have no intention to increase the price, but then if the situation continues and if there is further escalation in the inputs for them, we will see at that point of time. But as of now there is no intention," Shah told in the national capital on the sidelines of launch of their naturally degradable milk pouch in soil.

Shah also said Mother Dairy is looking to expand its export footprint and increase overseas revenues in the coming years.

"We are exporting as of now and we are exploring various other countries where we can export. It's a continuous process and we want more revenues to come from the exports so that we can pass on more money or higher margin to the producers," he said.

Indian travellers can now make UPI payments at over 4.5 mn merchant outlets in Cambodia: NPCI

New Delhi: NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPPL), the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), in partnership with ACLEDA Bank Plc, has launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) acceptance in Cambodia through KHQR, the country's national QR code system.

The launch was formally announced at a ceremony in Phnom Penh attended by National Bank of Cambodia Governor Chea Seray and representatives from the Reserve Bank of India. The event marked the first phase of the cross-border QR payment linkage between India and Cambodia.

With the rollout, Indian users can make QR-based payments using their UPI-enabled applications by scanning Bakong's KHQR codes at more than 4.5 million merchant outlets across Cambodia, including tourist attractions, restaurants, retail stores and other establishments. According to the announcement, the next phase will enable Cambodian visitors to make pay-

ments at millions of UPI QR-enabled merchant locations across India using their Cambodian banking and payment applications, enabling a two-way interoperable payment corridor between the two countries. The initiative is expected to facilitate real-time and interoperable digital transactions while improving payment efficiency between India and Cambodia.

Ritesh Shukla, MD and CEO, NPCI International, said, "At NPCI International, our aim is to extend India's digital payment innovations to global markets through trusted partnerships. Enabling UPI acceptance in Cambodia marks a significant milestone in this journey. It ensures that Indian travellers enjoy a familiar, secure and seamless payment experience abroad, while Cambodian merchants gain access to millions of digital-first consumers. This collaboration not only strengthens real-time payment connectivity between our two ecosystems but also lays the groundwork for deeper tourism

and commercial engagement." The companies said merchants in Cambodia will benefit from access to a large Indian customer base, improved cash management and reduced dependence on physical currency. Commenting on the partnership, in Phnom Penh, President and Group Managing Director of ACLEDA Bank Plc, said, "ACLEDA Bank Plc is proud to launch Phase 1 of our cross-border interoperability initiative, enabling Indian travellers to execute secure digital transactions via UPI-enabled applications across our extensive KHQR merchant network." He added that integrating the payment systems of Cambodia and India would help remove transaction-related friction and foreign exchange volatility for travellers while providing local merchants access to a large digital consumer market. "Ultimately, this collaboration drives financial inclusion and strengthens the bilateral economic corridor through robust, scalable technology," he said.

MSMEs to bear bigger hit than large firms from West Asia conflict: Crisil

New Delhi: While COVID-19 impacted both large and small players, the burden of the prolonged West Asia crisis is double for Indian small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The geopolitical turmoil will chop 100 bps off MSME revenue this fiscal, says Crisil. Indian MSMEs are facing dual challenges amid the West Asia crisis - "production cuts and revenue losses due to reduced availability of raw material such as gas and, second, margin compression stemming from trade disruptions and limited pricing power to pass on increasing commodity and energy costs," the report said. "Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, large players had seen revenue decline by 0-1% in fiscals 2020 and 2021, while MSMEs experienced a 3-5% drop. The Ebitda margin of MSMEs had also declined 80 bps to 4.7% in fiscal 2021," Crisil said. Crisil further noted, "units heavily reliant on energy inputs, particularly those in clusters with limited access to gas or lower ability to switch to alternative fuels, will be hit hardest."

As per Crisil Intelligence's latest MSME Report, "revenue growth will moderate to 7.5% down 100 basis points (bps) compared with fiscal 2026, while earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) margin will decline 50-100 bps to 5-5.5%."

Adani portfolio records highest annual capex by Indian corporate at Rs 1.52 lakh crore



New Delhi: Adani Portfolio delivered the highest annual capex by any Indian corporate at Rs 1,52,967 crore (USD 16.1 billion) for the financial year 2026. The Indian conglomerate directed over 80 per cent of these total investments toward its core infrastructure platforms spanning energy, utilities, transport, and logistics. According to an Adani release, the massive capital deployment accelerated the total asset base of the portfolio to Rs 7,85,096 crore (USD 82.8

billion). The financial year saw the operationalization of several strategic assets across multiple verticals. These include 5.1 GW of renewable energy capacity and 1.38 GWh of battery energy storage systems, which later scaled to 3.37 GWh. In the transport and logistics space, projects like the Navi Mumbai International Airport, the Guwahati Terminal, and the Ganata Expressway entered operations, alongside a new copper smelter in the primary industries

EY report declares BIRC 2025 world's largest rice conference: BIRC 2026 to be nearly three times bigger

New Delhi: The Bharat International Rice Conference (BIRC) 2025 has been recognised as the world's largest-ever dedicated rice conference, according to the Post Conference Impact Assessment Report prepared by global consulting and professional services firm Ernst & Young (EY).

The report states that BIRC 2025 attracted 10,854 visitors, including 1,083 international buyers from more than 90 countries, along with 154 exhibitors representing the entire rice value chain. The assessment describes the event as the largest dedicated rice gathering ever organised globally in terms of participation and scale. According to the EY report, BIRC 2025 generated export commitments worth approximately USD 3.02 billion (around Rs 33,453 crore), representing 8.63 million metric tonnes of rice trade commitments. The conference also generated more than 3,200 business leads, creating significant commercial opportunities across the rice ecosystem.

The report highlights that BIRC emerged as a comprehensive platform bringing together exporters, international buyers, farmers, millers, shipping lines, customs house agents, quality inspection agencies,

India, Germany explore cooperation in quantum communication, space and deep-tech innovation

New Delhi: India and Germany on Tuesday explored expanded cooperation in quantum communication, photonics, quantum satellite communication, space technologies and other frontier areas of deep-tech innovation, during a high-level meeting between visiting German delegation and Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology Jitendra Singh.

According to the Ministry of Science & Technology, the discussions took place when Minister of State, President of the Free State of Thuringia,



Germany, called on Jitendra Singh in New Delhi. The meeting brought together representatives from government, research institutions and industry from both sides to identify pathways for linking innovation ecosystems and accelerating collaboration in advanced technologies. Welcoming the delegation, Jitendra

Singh said India and Germany share a strong partnership in science and technology. "India and Germany share a strong partnership rooted in science, technology, innovation and people-to-people ties," Jitendra Singh said, adding that scientific collaboration in advanced technologies is one of the strongest pillars of bilateral engagement.

Javed Rana reviews developmental issues of Trehgam Constituency

Directs officers to ensure timely execution of projects, effective public service delivery

SRINAGAR, JUNE 2: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review developmental issues and ongoing works pertaining to the Assembly Constituency Trehgam represented by MLA Mir Saifullah.

The meeting was convened to assess the progress of various infrastructure and public welfare projects in Trehgam. Kupwara and to discuss measures for expediting developmental initiatives in the constituency. Detailed deliberations were held on issues related to



water supply, road connectivity, public infrastructure and other sectoral requirements raised by the concerned legislator.

During the meeting, the Minister took a comprehensive review of ongoing and proposed works being executed by different departments. He stressed

the need for close inter-departmental coordination to ensure timely completion of projects and prompt resolution of issues affecting the public.

Javed Rana underscored the government's commitment towards balanced and inclusive development, stating that the aspirations

and genuine concerns of the people must be addressed in a time-bound manner. He directed the officers to identify bottlenecks hindering the progress of developmental works and take immediate corrective measures for their resolution.

The Minister emphasised that public welfare remains the top priority of the government and called for greater responsiveness, accountability and efficiency in service delivery. He instructed the concerned departments to maintain regular monitoring of projects and ensure that developmental benefits reach the people at the grassroots level without delay.

At Government High School Naidkhai, a peer selection programme titled "Leaders" was organised under NMBA to identify responsible students who would promote anti-drug awareness among their peers. Similar awareness activities were conducted at High School Koraghal and High School Keton,

Peer Selection, Pledge Ceremonies held across Bandipora under NMBA

BANDIPORA, JUNE 02: Various educational institutions across district Bandipora on Tuesday organised peer selection programmes, pledge ceremonies and awareness activities under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) to promote anti-drug awareness and student leadership.

At Government High School Naidkhai, a peer selection programme titled "Leaders" was organised under NMBA to identify responsible students who would promote anti-drug awareness among their peers. Similar awareness activities were conducted at High School Koraghal and High School Keton,



where students participated in programmes highlighting the harmful effects of substance abuse and the importance of a healthy lifestyle. At HSS Quilnuqam, a Peer Selection, Leader Selection and Pledge

Taking Ceremony was organised in which students and staff members actively participated. The selected peer leaders pledged to uphold the values of leadership, responsibility, discipline and teamwork.

Director Agriculture Kashmir reviews implementation of "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" across Kashmir Division

SRINAGAR, JUNE 01: Director Agriculture Kashmir today reviewed the implementation of the month-long "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" during a meeting with all Chief Agriculture Officers of Kashmir Division. The campaign is being conducted from 1st June to 30th June, 2026 with the objective of promoting sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices among the farming community. During the review meeting, the Director assessed the preparedness and action plan of all districts and emphasized the need for effective grassroots-level outreach to ensure the successful implementation of the mission. He impressed

upon the officers to intensify activities related to the promotion of Natural Farming, judicious and balanced use of fertilizers, soil sampling, and dissemination of Soil Health Cards among farmers. He also stressed the importance of creating awareness regarding soil health management and conservation of agricultural land for sustainable crop production. The Director directed the field functionaries to conduct extensive awareness programmes, demonstrations, farmer interactions, and educational campaigns involving farmers, students, and other stakeholders throughout the campaign period. He emphasized that the active partici-

ipation of educational institutions and youth would play a vital role in spreading awareness about soil conservation and sustainable farming practices. Highlighting the significance of the initiative, the Director said that the campaign aims to safeguard soil fertility, reduce indiscriminate use of chemical inputs, and encourage environmentally sustainable agricultural practices for long-term productivity and food security. The officers assured the Director that all planned activities under the Khet Bachao Abhiyan would be carried out in a mission mode across the Kashmir Division during the month-long campaign.

Bandipora witnesses series of awareness programmes under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan

BANDIPORA, JUNE 02: A series of awareness and outreach programmes were organised across Bandipora district under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a healthy and drug-free society.

At HKM Degree College Bandipora, the NSS Youth Club in collaboration with the Department of Kashmiri organised an Essay Writing Competition on the theme "Ill Effects of Drug Addiction on Youth." The programme was conducted under the supervision of Convener, NCORD Cell, Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wazay. The competition aimed to create awareness among



students regarding the adverse effects of drug addiction on youth, families and society. A large number of students participated enthusiastically and expressed their views through thoughtful and

informative essays. The programme encouraged students to reflect upon the importance of leading a healthy and drug-free life and contributed towards the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

Meanwhile, under the aegis of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, the Red Ribbon Youth Club in collaboration with the NSS Youth Club of HKM Degree College Bandipora organised a rally on drug abuse awareness. Students and faculty members participated enthusiastically in the rally and raised slogans highlighting the harmful effects of substance abuse and the importance of building a drug-free society. The rally aimed to sensitize the youth about the growing menace of drug addiction and encourage them to adopt a healthy and responsible lifestyle.

As part of the prelude to the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026, an Awareness-cum-Yoga Session was organised at Umam Public Secondary School Malangam. During the session, awareness was imparted regarding the significance of Yoga Asanas, pranayama, meditation and Yog Nidra in combating addiction. Subsequently, a yoga session was conducted by Mir Shabreema, Yoga Instructor. AHWC Kehnoosa. Around 200 participants attended the programme. In another programme, a Special Yoga Session-cum-Awareness Programme was conducted at Umam Public Secondary School Malangam for selected student demonstrators under the vision of Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan and the Directorate of Ayush J&K's commitment to preventive healthcare.

Mass awareness, outreach activities conducted across Budgam under NMBA

BUDGAM, JUNE 02: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), a series of awareness, outreach, pledge-taking and enforcement activities were organized across various parts of District Budgam with active participation from government departments, educational institutions and local communities. Awareness programmes were conducted in several areas of the district to educate people, particularly youth and farmers, about the harmful effects of drug abuse. Posters carrying anti-drug messages were displayed and distributed among the public, while field-level interactions were held to encourage community participation in the fight against substance abuse and illicit cultivation of narcotic crops. Inspections and monitoring drives were carried out at various locations to ensure compliance with relevant regulations and to strengthen vigilance against the misuse and illegal movement of narcotic substances. The

Forest Department organized pledge-taking ceremonies, plantation drives and awareness programmes under the NMBA banner. Officials and field staff reaffirmed their commitment towards building a drug-free society and encouraged greater public participation in the campaign. Educational institutions also played an active role in spreading awareness. Various activities, including cultural programmes and anti-drug awareness skits, were organized to sensitize students and the general public about the social, economic and health consequences of drug addiction. These initiatives highlighted the importance of informed choices, community support and collective responsibility in addressing the drug menace. The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials, students, staff members and local residents, reflecting a shared commitment towards the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

Secretary DLSA Budgam conducts inspection visit to Legal Aid Clinic Soibugh Daharmunah

BUDGAM, JUNE 02: As part of the calendar of activities, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam conducted an inspection visit to the Legal Aid Clinic at Soibugh Daharmunah. The inspection was carried out under the supervision of O.P. Bhagat, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Budgam. The primary objective of the visit was to assess the functioning of the Legal Aid Clinic, evaluate the accessibility of legal aid services to the public, and review the availability of infrastructure and furniture at the clinic. During the inspection, the

Secretary interacted with the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) posted at the clinic and inquired about the number of aid seekers visiting the centre, the nature of grievances brought before them, and the assistance and remedies being provided. She also reviewed the infrastructure and facilities available at the clinic for the effective discharge of duties. The Secretary emphasized the crucial role of PLVs in ensuring access to justice and advised them to continue discharging their responsibilities with dedication and commitment for the welfare of the general public and legal aid seekers in particular.

DC Bandipora reviews developmental works, Public issues in Gurez

BANDIPORA, JUNE 01: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a review meeting with district and sectoral officers at Dak Bungalow Dewar to assess the progress of ongoing developmental works and implementation of various government schemes in Sub-Division Gurez. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner particularly reviewed ongoing health sector projects and healthcare facilities in the sub-division and stressed the timely completion of all works for improved public service delivery. In the meeting, she also reviewed fire and emergency preparedness measures and the functioning of recently constituted fire safety audit committees. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure proper preparedness, availability of necessary equipment and manpower, and strengthened coordination among departments for effective implementation of fire safety measures and developmental programmes across Gurez.

Various public issues and developmental concerns were also discussed, including matters related to Irrigation and Flood Control. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to take timely measures for ensuring smooth irrigation facilities and prompt redressal of public grievances. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed waste management measures, particularly plastic waste management in Gurez, including the progress of the segregation shed being established in the sub-division. She issued strict directions for clearance of all legacy waste and directed all BDOs to ensure effective cleanliness measures across Gurez. The DC further stressed the early operationalisation of the segregation shed to ensure proper waste disposal and sanitation management in the area. Among others, the meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Panzayat Bandipora, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Gurez, District Information Officer Bandipora.

DC Pulwama chairs 33rd NCORD meeting; Reviews Anti-Drug measures in district

PULWAMA, JUNE 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired the 33rd meeting of the Narcotic Coordination Centre (NCORD) at Circuit House Pulwama to review the progress achieved under the ongoing anti-drug campaign and assess the implementation of various measures aimed at curbing drug abuse and illicit cultivation in the district. At the outset, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pulwama presented a detailed overview of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), highlighting its objectives, key interventions and activities being undertaken under the ongoing 100-day intensive campaign being implemented across the district under the abhiyan. The presentation focused on

awareness activities, community participation, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and enforcement measures being carried out by different stakeholder departments. Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated all departments and stakeholders for the successful conduct of the Mega Padayatra led by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Pulwama on May 19, which witnessed overwhelming public participation and highlighted the collective resolve against drug abuse. The DC sought detailed Action Taken Reports from all departments regarding the implementation of the action plan formulated under the 100-day intensive campaign. He stressed the need for sustained and coordinated efforts to ensure the objectives of the

campaign are achieved in a time-bound manner. Reviewing the measures undertaken to achieve the objectives of the campaign, Dr. Qayoom sought detailed reports from all Tehsilidars regarding destruction drives, sensitization of field functionaries, mobilization of Numberdars and Chowkidars, and awareness events conducted at the grassroots level. The Tehsilidars informed the chair that certifications declaring villages free from illicit poppy cultivation had been received from the field functionaries. The DC directed them to constitute verification committees and conduct thorough ground-level verification before final certification. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the activities



being conducted at the Panchayat level under the campaign and sought details from the Assistant Commissioner Development and Block Development Officers regarding public participation, outreach programmes and awareness events organized across rural areas. He directed the officers to intensify activities, prepare

a comprehensive action plan and organize multiple awareness programmes at different locations within Panchayats to ensure maximum outreach and community involvement. Officers from the Education and Health Departments briefed the meeting about the awareness initiatives being conducted in educational insti-

tutions and healthcare facilities. The DC emphasized the importance of involving youth, students, parents and community leaders in the campaign to build a strong social movement against drug abuse. The functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) Pulwama and Drug De-Addiction Centre Tral was also reviewed. During the meeting, the status of OPD and IPD services, admissions, rehabilitation and relapse management. It was informed that rehabilitated individuals are being linked with various Government-sponsored schemes and educational institutions to facilitate their reintegration into mainstream society. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure continued follow-up and support

for recovered individuals. The DC also reviewed the progress achieved in the destruction of wild cannabis and sought details from the Forest, Public Works and other concerned Departments regarding measures undertaken in this regard. He directed the concerned departments to intensify field inspections and ensure complete eradication of wild cannabis from identified areas. The Assistant Drug Controller apprised the meeting about inspections conducted across medical establishments, enforcement actions taken, and measures adopted to prevent misuse of pharmaceuticals. The DC directed the concerned authorities to further strengthen monitoring mechanisms and intensify enforcement drives across the district. On the occasion, Senior

Superintendent of Police Pulwama, Tanshree, and Senior Superintendent of Police Awantipora, Sajad Ahmad Shah, briefed the chair on the enforcement measures undertaken by the Police, including registration of NDPS cases, arrests, seizures, attachment and destruction of properties acquired through drug proceeds, suspension and cancellation of passports and driving licences, Aadhaar recommendations and other stringent actions taken against drug peddlers and traffickers. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the status of NDPS cases in the district, including cases under investigation, prosecution and trial. The DC directed the concerned agencies to strengthen coordination between investigation.



CS stresses strengthening AYUSH infrastructure, outreach and wellness tourism in J&K

Chairs Governing Body Meeting to approve Action Plan for 2026-27

SRINAGAR, JUNE 02: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired the Governing Body Meeting of the J&K AYUSH Society under the National AYUSH Mission (NAM), during which the State Annual Action Plan (SAAP) 2026-27 was approved for onward submission to the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Planning; Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Managing Director, National Health Mission;



Director, AYUSH, and other senior officers. Emphasizing the growing importance of AYUSH systems in preventive and holistic healthcare, the Chief Secretary called for the formulation of a robust wellness policy in collaboration with private stakeholders. He observed that

wellness tourism has emerged as a major attraction across the country and holds immense potential for Jammu and Kashmir, given its globally acclaimed tourist destinations. Drawing examples from states such as Kerala, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, he

stressed the need to position J&K as a prominent wellness and healthcare destination. The Chief Secretary directed the department to ensure the availability of services under major AYUSH Public Welfare Programmes in every Medical College and

District Hospital across the UT. These include the National Programme for Prevention and Management of Osteoarthritis and other Musculoskeletal Disorders, National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS), AYUSH Maternal and Neo-natal Intervention, AYUSH Geriatric Healthcare Services, Healthy Lifestyle through AYUSH for School Children, AYUSH Palliative Services and AYUSH Mobile Medical Units.

MLA Reasi, PGTI delegation call on CM Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, JUNE 02: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Reasi, Kuldeep Raj Dubey, today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and discussed various developmental issues and matters related to public welfare in his constituency. During the meeting, the MLA apprised the Chief Minister of several priority concerns and developmental requirements of the Reasi constituency. He also highlighted issues pertaining to public welfare and sought timely intervention for their resolution. The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the issues raised and assured due consideration of the



matters projected by the MLA. Meanwhile, a delegation of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), led by its Chief Business Officer Vikas Singh, also called on the Chief Minister. The delegation apprised the Chief Minister of its plans to conduct golf

tournaments in Kashmir and discussed various aspects related to the promotion of golf in the region. The delegation also briefed him on the activities of the PGTI and its efforts towards expanding the sport's reach across the country.

DLSA Reasi spreads legal awareness through IEC campaign



REASI, JUNE 02: District Legal Services Authority Reasi, under the visionary leadership of its Chairman (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge) Khalil Choudhary and the guidance of Secretary Pooja Gupta, organised a series of legal awareness programmes in different parts of the District. An IEC campaign themed "Say No to Drugs" was organized at Village Angralla-Mahore by the local Para Legal Volunteers

(PLVs). The participants were sensitized to the physical, mental, social, and economic consequences of substance abuse. The PLVs also highlighted the role of the Legal Services Institutions in providing legal aid and support to eligible persons and informed the participants about various welfare schemes and legal services available through DLSA and TLSC. An awareness programme on the Functions of Legal

Aid Clinic was organized at Panchayat Akhli by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of TLSC Katra. The participants were informed about the availability of free legal aid for women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, victims of trafficking, members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and other marginalized sections of society. Meanwhile, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA hosted an awareness programme on Samadhan Samaroh-an initiative of the Supreme Court of India to facilitate the settlement of cases pending before the Sessions Courts. The PLVs highlighted the significance of the initiative in ensuring amicable, efficient, and speedy resolution of disputes, thereby reducing litigation and promoting access to justice.

MLA Sham Lal launches "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" at Purkhood

Calls upon youth to lead Farmer Awareness Movement

JAMMU, JUNE 02: Member Legislative Assembly Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma today formally launched the month-long Khet Bachao Abhiyan during a farmers' awareness programme here at Village Purkhood in Sub-Division Muthi. The programme was attended by Joint Director Agriculture (Farms/SLUB) Aman Jyoti Sharma; District Agriculture Officer Vinod Khajuria; SMS (DL) Sham Khajuria and Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO) Khalid Hassan Tantray, along with officers and field functionaries of the department. More than 300 farmers, members of JKCIIP Youth Clubs, NATS Krishi Veers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) participated enthusiastically in the campaign. Prominent youth clubs, including Baba Birfa Nath Youth Club Kanger, Ganpati Youth Club Ghaik, Eco Warrior Youth Club Purkhood and Jai Shiv Shanker Youth Club Bhalwal, actively participated in the programme.



Addressing the gathering, Sham Lal Sharma emphasized that youth are the future of the nation and have a pivotal role in transforming the agricultural sector. He appreciated the spirit of the youth clubs being promoted and supported by the Agriculture Department Jammu. He encouraged them to visit villages and spread awareness among farmers regarding modern, scientific and sustainable agricultural practices. "Khet Bachao Abhiyan needs to be promoted as a comprehensive mass movement connecting farms, farmers and vil-

lages. The campaign aims to protect agricultural land, reduce cultivation costs and ensure timely, need-based technical guidance to farmers through direct field-level interactions," he emphasised. "Minimizing the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides will be one of the key objectives of the campaign," the MLA highlighted. Farmers would be sensitized about the balanced use of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs based on soil testing, he informed. He emphasized that special efforts would be made to

motivate farmers to adopt green manures, organic inputs and bio-products for improving soil health and ensuring long-term agricultural sustainability. Sham Lal Sharma also emphasized the importance of educating farmers about the benefits of Natural Farming and other sustainable agricultural practices. Joint Director Agriculture (Farms/SLUB) said that the Department of Agriculture is committed to take scientific and need-based advisory services directly to farmers' doorsteps. "Under the Khet Bachao Abhiyan, field officers and extension staff will regularly interact with farmers to create awareness and provide field-specific advisories. Saving farms, improving soil health and reducing cultivation costs are the central objectives of the campaign," he highlighted. He further informed that saturation drives under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and PM-KISAN schemes would be undertaken to ensure that all eligible farmers are covered and receive benefits under these flagship programmes.

DC reviews status of Telecom Services in Ramban district

Directs for expediting coverage in shadow areas before SANJY-2026

RAMBAN, JUNE 02: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting of the District Level Telecom Committee to review the status of telecom services and signal coverage scenario in the district. The meeting focused on ensuring seamless and reliable connectivity in the district, particularly in remote areas and along the National Highway, in view of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026. The meet-



ing was attended by SSP Arun Gupta; Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak;

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Divisional Engineer BSNL Luxmi Narayan Saini; Dy. SP Police Telecom Mishra; Tehsildar Headquarters Reejuta Mahajan; Divisional Forest Officers, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B), representatives from Army and other concerned officers. Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars, departmental officers and representatives of private telecom companies participated

virtually. Reviewing the progress of ongoing telecom infrastructure projects, the Deputy Commissioner directed BSNL and private telecom service providers to expedite execution of projects for providing signal coverage in all identified shadow areas, including tourist destinations and local religious pilgrimage routes identified by the District Administration in coordination with Police, Army and other departments.

DC Kishtwar flags off Holy Mace of Shri Mindal Mata Yatra

KISHTWAR, JUNE 02: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today flagged off the first batch of devotees for the revered Shri Mindal Mata Yatra here from the historic Shree Gori Shankar Mandir, Sarkoot. The sacred Pavitra Chari (Holy Mace) was received yesterday at Shree Gori Shankar Mandir by Deputy Commissioner along with the ADC Pawan Kotwal and other officers of the Civil and Police Administration and the Head Priest of the temple Mahant Ram Saran Dass Ji Maharaj. The holy mace rested overnight at the temple before commencing its onward journey today. The annual pilgrimage is being organized

by Aadi Shakti Devi Chandike Sewak Sanstha, Doda (J&K) led by Pooj Singh Ji Maa Sevak (Chief Patron) and Prof. D. S. Manhas (President). A large number of devotees, locals and officers from the Civil and Police Administration gathered at the temple premises to accord a warm send-off to the Pavitra Chari. Devotees paid obeisance and prayed for peace, prosperity and well-being. The yatra will proceed through Padder, Sohail, Tiyani Padder, Luj and Pangli before reaching the revered shrine of Shri Devi Maa Chandi at Mindhal, located in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh via the Gulabgarh-Sansari-Himachal Pradesh route.

Doda gears up to host 2-day Lavender Festival 2026; DC reviews preparations

DODA, JUNE 02: Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal along with Director CSIR-IIM Jammu Dr. Zabeer Ahmed today chaired a meeting to review arrangements for 2-day Lavender Festival 2026 scheduled to be held on June 6 and 7 at Government Degree College (GDC) Bhadarwah. Experts, scientists, aroma industry professionals and stakeholders from across the country would participate in the festival and share valuable knowledge with farmers and visitors. The event being held on the College Campus would also witness active participation from students.

Bhadarwah has been hosting the event since 2022 for it being the birthplace of the Lavender Mission in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Doda, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhadarwah, ASP Headquarters, Programme Officer ICDS, Superintendent Engineer Jai Shakti Department, Principal GDC Bhadarwah, Divisional Forest Officer Bhadarwah, Chief Planning Officer, Chief Executive Officer Bhadarwah Development Authority, Joint Director Education, district officers and representatives from line depart-



ments. Reviewing the preparations, the Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to ensure the timely completion of arrangements and work in close coordination for the successful conduct of the festival. Agriculture, Horticulture, Floriculture and other allied departments were asked to actively participate in the festival and set up stalls showcasing respective schemes, innovations and services. The meeting finalized arrangements related to sanitation, water and power supply, medical facilities, transportation, security and safety measures. The DC directed the stakeholder departments

to formulate meticulous plans to complete the arrangements well in advance. The ADC Bhadarwah was designated as the Nodal Officer for overall coordination and management of the festival. The Director CSIR-IIM Jammu gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation, highlighting the potential of lavender cultivation in transforming the rural economy of the district. He noted that the lavender farmers of Doda have played a vital role in promoting aromatic crop cultivation and strengthening rural livelihoods. He expressed hope that the lavender sector would continue to boost the district's

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