

THE CHECKPOST DISPATCH

Truth from the Last Mile.

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EMAIL editor@checkpostdispatch.com
PHONE +91 97975 86033
WEB www.checkpostdispatch.com
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Shorter, kinder TB regimen rolls out in Indian clinics
A six-month, all-oral course replaces a punishing two-year regimen of daily injections for drug-resistant tuberculosis.

TECHNOLOGY
Quantum mission funds eight hubs as India chases its first useful qubit
The eight-year, Rs 6,003-crore mission backs computing, communication, sensing and materials work at IITs and partner institutes.

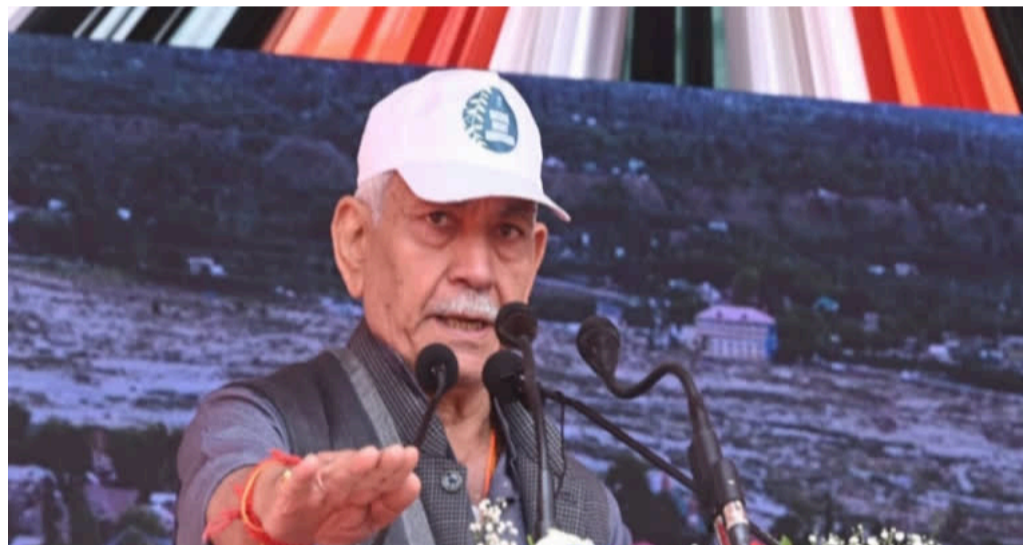
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Premier League Goes Down to the Wire on Final Day Amid Guardiola Farewell at City
The 2025-26 Premier League season climaxed on Sunday with all ten matches kicking off simultaneously, as Pep Guardiola bid an emotional farewell to Manchester City after a decade...

REGIONAL

LG Manoj Sinha Warns Drug Smugglers of "Lifetime Consequences"

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has announced stricter anti-narcotics measures, warning drug traffickers of property seizure and long-term penalties.

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



REGIONAL

Rajouri Encounter Enters Second Day, Additional Troops Deployed

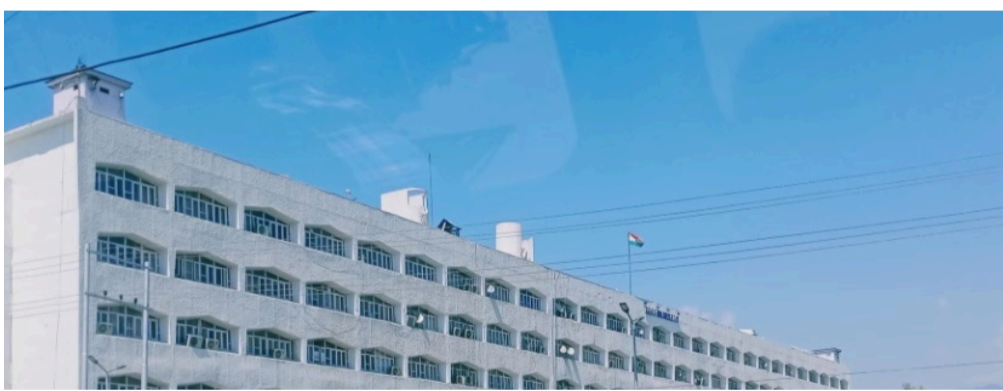
BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



RAJOURI, May 24: A major anti-terror operation continued for the second consecutive day in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district after an encounter broke out between security forces and suspected militants in a forested area of the Pir Panjal region.

Officials said additional troops, drones, and surveillance units were deployed after militants reportedly opened fire during a search operation launched on the basis of intelligence inputs. Security agencies have intensified combing operations across nearby areas to prevent any escape attempt.

The operation comes amid heightened security preparations



REGIONAL

J&K Government Announces Austerity Measures Across Departments

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

SRINAGAR, May 24: The Jammu and Kashmir government has issued a fresh set of austerity measures aimed at controlling administrative expenditure and promoting financial discipline across departments.

According to an official circular, departments have been directed to avoid unnecessary expenditure, including restrictions on official dinners, ceremonial events, purchase of new vehicles, and non-essential travel. Authorities have also discouraged holding exhibitions and conferences outside the Union Territory unless absolutely necessary.

Officials stated that the measures are intended to ensure efficient utilisation of public resources while prioritising developmental and welfare-related spending. The administration has reportedly instructed departments to focus on expenditure directly linked to governance, infrastructure, and public service delivery.

The move comes amid broader discussions around fiscal management and resource allocation in Jammu and Kashmir following recent infrastructure and tourism recovery initiatives....



REGIONAL

Massive Security Grid Activated Ahead of Amarnath Yatra

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

SRINAGAR, May 24: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have accelerated security and logistical preparations for the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra scheduled to begin on July 3, amid heightened focus on pilgrim safety following recent security concerns in the region.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha recently reviewed preparedness measures and directed security agencies to maintain the "strongest possible security grid" across both the Pahalgam and Baltal routes. Officials said intelligence coordination, drone surveillance, checkpoint monitoring, and deployment planning are being expanded ahead of the pilgrimage season.

The Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board has also intensified arrangements involving accommodation, medical aid, RFID-based pilgrim tracking, disaster response systems, and route management. Registration for the Yatra has already crossed 3.5 lakh pilgrims, according to recent reports.

Security forces have increased area domination exercises and anti-terror operations in vulnerable zones, particularly in parts of South Kashmir and the Pir Panjal region. Officials said special focus is being placed on convoy movement security, mountain surveillance, and emergency evacuation preparedness....

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REGIONAL

Omar Abdullah Government Orders Inquiry Into Jammu Demolition Drive

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA



The Jammu and Kashmir administration has ordered an inquiry into a controversial demolition drive conducted to clear alleged encroachments on forest land in Jammu.

JAMMU, May 24: The Omar Abdullah-led government has constituted a two-member committee to investigate a recent demolition drive carried out in Jammu's Sidhra area to remove alleged illegal encroachments from forest land.

The demolition operation triggered political debate and public concern after reports emerged regarding damage to residential structures and allegations of procedural irregularities. Several local residents claimed insufficient notice had been provided before the operation.

Government officials said the inquiry committee has been tasked with examining whether due legal procedures were followed during the drive and whether administrative guidelines were properly implemented.

The administration has maintained that protecting forest land and preventing illegal encroachments remain important governance priorities. However, authorities also emphasised the need for accountability and transparency in enforcement actions.

Political parties and civil society groups have reacted differently to the development. While some supported the action against illegal occupation of public land, others demanded safeguards to ensure ordinary residents are not unfairly affected.

Officials said the committee is expected to submit its findings in the coming weeks.

REGIONAL

Budgam Minor's Death Sparks Public Outrage, Probe Intensified

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



BUDGAM, May 24: Public anger and grief spread across parts of central Kashmir after the body of a missing minor girl was recovered in Budgam district under circumstances that police described as a prima facie case of rape and murder.

Senior Superintendent of Police Budgam stated that an FIR had been registered under relevant legal sections after the girl had earlier been reported missing by her family. Authorities said forensic and investigative teams were examining all aspects of the case.

The incident triggered emotional scenes during the victim's funeral, with residents demanding swift justice and stronger protection measures for women and children.

Political leaders, civil society groups, and local organisations condemned the

incident and urged authorities to ensure speedy investigation and prosecution.

Police officials stated that multiple suspects were being questioned while surveillance footage and forensic evidence were under examination.

The tragedy has reignited debate across Jammu and Kashmir regarding women's safety, child protection mechanisms, and policing effectiveness in sensitive criminal cases.

Authorities appealed for calm while assuring strict legal action against those responsible.

The incident has become one of the most discussed and emotionally charged developments in the Valley this week.

REGIONAL

Debate on Statehood Restoration Continues in Jammu and Kashmir

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



SRINAGAR, May 24: Political debate surrounding the restoration of full

statehood to Jammu and Kashmir has continued to dominate discussions within the Union Territory's political landscape.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and several regional political parties have repeatedly advocated restoration of statehood following the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory in 2019.

The issue has remained politically significant after the formation of the elected Legislative Assembly in 2024. Supporters of restoration argue that statehood would strengthen democratic governance, administrative autonomy, and political representation.

The central government has previously indicated that restoration of statehood could be considered at an appropriate stage, although no official timeline has been announced so far.

Political parties across Jammu and Kashmir continue expressing differing views regarding the pace and framework of any future constitutional or administrative changes.

Analysts believe the issue carries long-term political importance because it directly affects governance structures, centre-state relations, and public sentiment within the Union Territory.

The debate has also intensified alongside broader discussions involving economic development, tourism recovery, security, and administrative reforms.

Observers expect the subject of statehood restoration to remain one of the most important political issues in Jammu and Kashmir over the coming months.



REGIONAL

J&K Pushes Tourism Revival With Reopening of Destinations

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

SRINAGAR, May 24: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has announced that all remaining tourist destinations currently under restrictions are expected to reopen as part of the government's broader tourism revival strategy.

Addressing the Assembly, Abdullah said the administration has gradually restored tourism activity following the setbacks caused by security concerns and the 2025 Pahalgam terror attack. The government is also planning to introduce nine new tourist destinations aimed at diversifying tourism across the Union Territory.

Officials stated that infrastructure gaps in major destinations such as Gulmarg, Pahalgam, and Sonamarg are being addressed through ongoing development projects. Improvements involving sanitation, transportation, public facilities, and tourist services are reportedly nearing completion in several locations.

Tourism remains one of Jammu and Kashmir's most important economic sectors, supporting hospitality, transport, handicrafts, and local businesses across the region. Recent data indicates that tourist arrivals have steadily improved despite earlier disruptions.

The administration has also stressed the importance of sustainable and repeat tourism rather than relying solely on seasonal visitor inflow.

Industry stakeholders have welcomed the reopening plans, stating that revival of tourism activity is critical for employment generation and economic stability in Kashmir and Jammu regions.



REGIONAL

Census 2027 Preparedness Reviewed for Jammu Municipal Corporation Area

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

JAMMU, May 24: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Amit Sharma on Sunday chaired a detailed review with the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) to assess preparedness for Census 2027, with focus on enumeration block formation, training of field staff and rollout of digital data capture systems. The meeting, attended by the Commissioner JMC, senior officials of Census Directorate, ward officers and information technology teams, examined ward-wise mapping, identification of difficult-to-enumerate pockets, and arrangements for hostel-resident, floating and homeless populations across the city. Sharma directed officials to complete the enumeration block carving exercise within the stipulated timeline and ensure that no habitation, slum cluster or peri-urban pocket is left out of the frame. Officials informed the meeting that Census 2027 will be India's first fully digital census, with field functionaries using mobile applications for both house listing and population enumeration phases. The Centre has indicated that "shadow areas" in J&K will see internet connectivity boosts to support seamless data uploads. Sharma asked JMC to coordinate closely with the Census Directorate for staff selection, master trainer identification, and citizen awareness drives. He stressed that accuracy of enumeration in urban Jammu — a fast-growing migration destination — will be central to planning for the next decade.

REGIONAL

Choose Life, Not Drugs : District Administration Poonch

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



District Administration Poonch Holds Exhibition Cricket Match Under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

POONCH, MAY 24: As part of the ongoing 100 Days Campaign under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan launched by the Government, an Exhibition Cricket Match was organised today at the Sports Stadium Poonch between teams of the District Administration Poonch.

The event was aimed at spreading awareness against drug abuse and encouraging youth to adopt a healthy, disciplined and positive lifestyle through sports and recreational activities.

The match witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers and officials of the administration. The team of DC Office led by ADC Poonch, emerged victorious after an exciting contest played in a spirited atmosphere.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC highlighted the importance of collective efforts in combating the menace of drug addiction and reiterated the message of "Choose Life, Not Drugs." They emphasized that sports serve as a powerful medium to engage youth in constructive activities and promote physical and mental well being.

The event also witnessed active support and appreciation from spectators, who lauded the initiative undertaken by the District Administration Poonch under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

The District Administration reaffirmed its commitment towards creating mass awareness against substance abuse through community participation, youth engagement and sports based initiatives across the district.

REGIONAL

DDC Poonch Reviews Public Grievances and Developmental Issues of Hillkaka Area at Outreach Meeting

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



Poonch, May 21: District Development Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a special public outreach and review meeting with a deputation from Hillkaka and adjoining areas at the Conference Hall of the DC Office, Poonch, to assess public grievances and developmental requirements of the far-flung region.

The meeting included civil society members, prominent citizens, youth representatives, local inhabitants and people from different walks of life from Hillkaka and adjoining areas. Deputation highlighted issues on road connectivity, healthcare, school education, power supply, banking services,

telecommunication, horticulture and agriculture.

Sharma assured that all genuine issues raised would be addressed in a time-bound manner. He directed concerned officers to take immediate measures for prompt redressal and better inter-departmental coordination.

Road connectivity was discussed; PMGSY and PWD were instructed to expedite works and identify critical stretches. Healthcare services were reviewed, with a directive to strengthen facilities and ensure staff and medicines.

School education matters were examined; directions were issued to improve infrastructure, staff availability and overall functioning. Power Development Department was asked to ensure uninterrupted supply.

Banking facilities and telecommunication connectivity were reviewed; Sharma assured steps with agencies to improve mobile network and banking services. All bank branches at Draba Surankote will serve Hillkaka residents.

Horticulture and agriculture promotion was addressed; officers were directed to provide support and technical assistance to youth, farmers and horticulturists.

Sharma reiterated the administration's commitment to equitable development of remote and border areas, stating that public outreach programmes are conducted regularly to bring governance to the people. Residents appreciated the initiative and hope issues will be resolved soon.

REGIONAL

CMO Poonch Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan Conducts High-Level Review of Health Services in Mendhar

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



Chief Medical Officer Poonch, Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan, today conducted a thorough review of the entire health sector functioning in Block Mendhar, emphasizing zero tolerance towards laxity and calling for highest standards of patient-centric healthcare delivery.

Chairing the meeting at the Conference Hall of Block Medical Officer Office Mendhar, Dr. Khan evaluated progress on flagship programmes: Mother and Child Health, NTEP, NMBA, NCD Screening, RBSK, AB-PMJAY SEHAT, PM RAHAT, JSY, JSSK, HPV Vaccination, 102 & 108 Ambulance Services, Mobile Medical Unit, NQAS, DVDMS, Mental Health Programme, AMBA, JK SEHAT App, Vay Vandana Cards, and SNCU functioning.



REGIONAL

DC Poonch Chairs DLAC Meeting on Food Safety and Healthy Diets.

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

Poonch, May 23 : Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of the District Level Advisory Committee (DLAC) on Food and Healthy Diets at the DC Office Poonch to review food safety measures and promote healthy dietary practices in the district.

During the meeting, Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Poonch, Tariq Mehmood presented a detailed overview of the activities and achievements of the Food Safety Department. He highlighted various initiatives being implemented under programmes such as Eat Right School, Eat Right Campus, Hygiene Rating and other food safety awareness campaigns aimed at ensuring the availability of safe and hygienic food to the public.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the department and stressed the need for regular inspections of all Food Business Operators (FBOs), especially those dealing with high-risk food categories. He directed the concerned officers to ensure strict adherence to hygiene and food safety standards across the district.

The meeting focused on strengthening inter-departmental coordination to promote safe, nutritious and hygienic food while encouraging the public to adopt healthy eating habits.

Among others present in the meeting were Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik; General Manager DIC, Naheem Un Nissa Bhatti; Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan; Chief Agriculture Officer, Jograj Salathia; DySP Headquarters, Neeraj Sharma; Chief Inspector FCS&CA, Mohan



REGIONAL

DC Poonch Reviews Arrangements for Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

Poonch, May 22 : Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting in the Conference Hall of Dak Bungalow Poonch to review the arrangements for the forthcoming Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

The Yatra schedule was announced for August 16 to August 27, 2026. The inaugural function will be held in Jammu on August 16, and the first batch of pilgrims is scheduled to reach Poonch on August 17.

Attendees included Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, Superintendent of District Jail Iftikhar Ahmed Choudhary, officers from defence, police, Assistant Commissioner Development Shakeel Ahmed Malik, General Manager DIC Naheem Un Nissa Bhatti, district officers, executive engineers, religious heads and Yatra committee members.

Religious heads raised issues and demands for smooth conduct. The Deputy Commissioner stressed foolproof security, traffic management, sheds, registration facilities, control rooms, sanitation, toilets, safe drinking water, medical facilities and accommodation for pilgrims. He directed all concerned officers to complete arrangements well in advance.

Executive Engineers were ordered to clear road patches and blacktop the Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Temple road before the Yatra and maintain the National Highway for smooth vehicular movement.

The meeting also focused on sanitation at langar sites. Municipal authorities were directed to place adequate dustbins and ensure

REGIONAL

DIG RP Range Chairs Comprehensive Security Review Meeting at DPO Poonch

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



Assess the prevailing security scenario and review the operational preparedness of the district police and allied units

Poonch, May 21, 2026: A comprehensive security review meeting was chaired today by Sandeep Wazir, DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range, at the District Police Office Poonch to assess the prevailing security scenario and review the operational preparedness of the district police and allied units.

The meeting was attended by senior Superintendent of police Sh Shafket Hussain JKPS and other officers, operational heads, and all Special Operations Group Incharges of District Poonch. During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on various security-related aspects including counter-terrorism measures, anti-infiltration mechanisms, border security management, area domination plans, surveillance systems, and inter-agency coordination.

The DIG conducted a detailed review of the overall security architecture and operational strategy in the district and directed officers to maintain a high level of alertness, particularly in sensitive and border areas. He emphasized the importance of strengthening intelligence networks, enhancing real-time information sharing, and ensuring prompt response mechanisms to effectively counter any emerging security challenges.

Reviewing the functioning and deployment pattern of SOG units, the DIG stressed the need for sustained anti-terror

operations, proactive policing, and seamless coordination with sister security agencies. He instructed all officers to remain vigilant against anti-national elements and continue focused operations to maintain peace, stability, and public confidence across the region.

Special emphasis was laid on intensified night domination, effective naka checking, Cordon and Search Operations (CASOs), and close monitoring of vulnerable and strategically significant areas. Officers were directed to enhance surveillance on suspicious activities and ensure strict implementation of security measures at the grassroots level.

While appreciating the dedication, professionalism, and commitment displayed by officers and personnel working in challenging operational conditions, the DIG urged all ranks to continue discharging their duties with utmost discipline, coordination, and devotion towards safeguarding public safety and national security.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the commitment of District Police Poonch towards maintaining peace, public order, and a robust security environment across the district through coordinated and people-friendly policing initiatives.

REGIONAL

Meningitis Scare in Ganderbal as Cases Emerge in Kangan Block

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



GANDERBAL, May 23: The Health Department has put schools across Kangan block of Ganderbal district on alert after a cluster of suspected meningitis cases surfaced in recent days, triggering an active screening drive across surrounding hamlets. According to officials, several children and young adults reported high fever, severe headache, neck stiffness and other indicative symptoms, prompting the district health team to deploy rapid response units to the affected pockets.

Block Medical Officers have been directed to coordinate with school heads, anganwadi workers and community volunteers to identify and refer any suspected case to the District Hospital without delay. Health Department functionaries are conducting awareness sessions on early warning signs, hygiene, and the need to avoid self-medication in symptomatic children. Surveillance has been intensified along Kangan-Gund-Sonmarg axis. Senior officials said laboratory samples have been collected and sent for confirmatory testing, while contact tracing has been initiated for known clusters. Pediatric wards at Ganderbal District Hospital have been kept on standby, and emergency referral linkages with SKIMS Soura and SMHS Hospital Srinagar have been activated. Officials urged parents to seek immediate medical advice for any unexplained febrile illness.

REGIONAL

Hailstorm Devastates Baramulla Orchards; Minister Javid Dar Inspects Damage

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



BARAMULLA, May 24: Agriculture Production Minister Javid Ahmad Dar on Sunday inspected hailstorm-hit orchards across several pockets of Baramulla district after intense weather activity overnight battered apple bloom and standing horticulture produce across north Kashmir. The minister, accompanied by senior officials of the Horticulture, Agriculture and Revenue departments,



REGIONAL

KISHTWAR POLICE DESTROYED ILLEGAL OPIUM CULTIVATION IN PADDAR: TWO CASES REGISTERED

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

Kishtwar, May 23, 2026: Kishtwar Police developed reliable information regarding illegal cultivation of opium poppy in the Paddar area. A police team raided Village Karthie, Tehsil Atholi Paddar. Mohd. Akbar S/O Ghulam Qadir was found cultivating opium illegally. Case FIR No. 11/2026 U/S 8/18 NDPS Act was registered. About 25 kilograms of opium poppy plants were destroyed.

In another raid at Village Kijaie, police found Abdul Latief Bichoo S/O Abdul Aziz Bichoo and Abdul Kabir S/O Ghulam Rasool Shah involved in similar illegal cultivation. Case FIR No. 12/2026 U/S 8/18 NDPS Act was registered. Around 35 kilograms of opium poppy plants were recovered from Abdul Latief Bichoo and about 25 kilograms from Abdul Kabir. All were destroyed on the spot.

SSP Kishtwar stated such drives will continue. Anyone involved in drug cultivation or trafficking will face strict legal action. He appealed to the public to share information regarding narcotics.



REGIONAL

Dy. Advocate General Meenakshi Slathia Leads Call for United Front Against Drug Abuse in Jammu

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

JAMMU – Deputy Advocate General Meenakshi Slathia called for a unified strategy to combat drug abuse at a legal symposium. She framed the issue as a critical test of regional social resilience.

Slathia spoke at a lecture organized by CMH College of Legal Studies supporting the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. She backed the 100-day anti-drug campaign launched by Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha.

“This is not a battle law enforcement can win alone,” she said. “We need inclusive participation from parents, teachers, community leaders, and students.” She highlighted the NDPS Act and stressed prevention, rehabilitation, and coordination.

Mr. Manoj Saguna, Superintendent of the Narcotics Control Bureau Jammu, offered insights on drug trends. Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali, Chairman of CMH College, presided.

Slathia urged: “No single agency or department can eradicate this evil in isolation. It demands a symphony of efforts.” The 100-day campaign is a catalyst, but resolve must be indefinite. CMH College will host follow-up workshops.

REGIONAL

Police Attach Properties Worth Rs 5 Crore in Major Anti-Drug Crackdown

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



In one of the largest crackdowns under PIT-NDPS provisions, Jammu and Kashmir Police have attached drug-trafficking-linked properties valued at over Rs 5 crore across multiple dist...

SRINAGAR, May 24: Jammu and Kashmir Police have attached properties worth over Rs 5 crore belonging to suspected narcotics traffickers in a sweeping action under provisions of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act. Officials said the attachments span residential properties, commercial assets, vehicles and bank holdings linked to identified peddlers and their financiers across districts. The crackdown follows weeks of intelligence-led mapping of drug supply networks, financial trails and beneficial ownership of suspect assets. Police said the action is aimed at dismantling the economic backbone of the trafficking ecosystem rather than restricting

operations to seizures and arrests alone. The move comes against the backdrop of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's repeated warnings of "lifetime penalties" — including asset seizure, Aadhaar cancellation and forfeiture of government benefits — for those convicted in narcotics cases. LG Sinha, addressing a public event, reiterated that the government is preparing a comprehensive rehabilitation policy for youth addicted to drugs, with the focus on community-based treatment, vocational reintegration and family counselling. Police officials said more property attachment orders are in the pipeline as investigations progress.

REGIONAL

First Cochlear Implant Surgery Performed at GMC Rajouri

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



RAJOURI, May 24: The Government Medical College and Associated Hospital Rajouri has performed its first cochlear implant surgery, a procedure that promises to transform care access for hearing-impaired children in the Pir Panjal belt. The complex surgery was conducted under the expert guidance of Dr Rajiv Kapila and Dr Padam Singh Jamwal, supported by GMC Rajouri's anaesthesia, audiology and pediatric teams. Hospital authorities described the procedure as a "defining moment" for the institution, which was elevated to a tertiary care facility in recent years. Families from far-flung tehsils of Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi and Doda traditionally had to travel to Jammu, Srinagar or even Delhi for such specialised interventions, often facing prohibitive costs and long waiting periods. With the new capability now operational at GMC Rajouri, patients eligible under government-funded schemes for hearing rehabilitation will be able to access

surgery, follow-up audiology, and speech therapy closer home. The Health and Medical Education Department officials said the milestone is part of a broader plan to bring high-end surgical specialities to all GMCs across Jammu and Kashmir. Plans are being worked out to formalise referral pathways from district hospitals and to position GMC Rajouri as a regional centre for advanced ENT and audiology services.

REGIONAL

Forest Minister Javed Rana Reviews Implementation of Forest Rights Act in J&K

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



JAMMU, May 24: Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Javed Ahmad Rana on Saturday chaired a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 across Jammu and Kashmir, directing the department to expedite verification, approval and disposal of pending claims of forest-dwelling communities. The Minister was apprised about the district-wise status of individual and community forest rights

claims, the progress of Gram Sabha-level scrutiny, and bottlenecks at the Sub-Divisional and District-Level Committees. Officials informed the meeting that significant numbers of claims from tribal-dominated districts of Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Anantnag and Kupwara are at various stages of disposal. Rana directed that genuine claims should not be allowed to lapse on procedural grounds and asked field officers to handhold communities through documentation requirements. The Minister, who has been at the centre of recent political debate over demolition drives in Jammu, used the platform to underline that the Omar Abdullah-led government remains "committed to protecting the rights and dignity" of forest dwellers, gujjars, bakerwals and traditional users of forest land. Officials were directed to operationalise FRA cells at the district level, accelerate satellite imagery-based ground-truthing, and submit fortnightly compliance reports to the Minister's office.



REGIONAL

DPS Srinagar Alumna Seerat Parvaiz Earns Admission to Harvard Business School

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

SRINAGAR, May 22: Seerat Parvaiz, an alumna of Delhi Public School Srinagar, has earned admission to Harvard Business School, one of the world's most competitive management programmes, becoming the latest in a growing list of Kashmiri students breaking into top global institutions. Parvaiz, whose journey began in the classrooms of DPS Srinagar, has built her profile through a blend of academic excellence, professional experience in finance and strategy, and sustained engagement with social impact initiatives. School authorities described the achievement as a "moment of immense pride" not only for the institution but for the Valley's broader student community, where aspirations are increasingly turning international. Family members said Parvaiz has consistently credited her foundational years in Srinagar for shaping her work ethic and academic discipline. Educators in the Valley said her success comes at a time when Kashmiri students are securing admissions to Ivy League and top Russell Group universities at unprecedented rates, driven by stronger mentorship networks, exposure to standardised testing, and growing access to scholarship pathways. The development was widely shared across social media on Friday, drawing congratulations from political leaders, alumni, and educationists.



REGIONAL

Parliamentary Defence Committee Visits Gulmarg, Reviews Troop Preparedness

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

BARAMULLA, May 23: Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence on Saturday visited Gulmarg in Baramulla district to take stock of troop preparedness, logistical capacity, and operational readiness of formations holding the Line of Control in the strategic north Kashmir sector. The Committee, comprising Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs from across party lines, was briefed by senior Army commanders on the security situation, terrain challenges, counter-infiltration grid, and force modernisation requirements specific to the Pir Panjal and Kazinag ranges. Members interacted with troops deployed at high-altitude posts, reviewed habitat conditions, communication infrastructure, and medical evacuation capabilities. Army officials presented an overview of operations conducted during the past winter, snow clearance arrangements, and the calibration of the counter-infiltration posture ahead of the summer infiltration window. The Committee also examined civil-military coordination mechanisms ahead of the Amarnath Yatra, where the Army plays a critical role in route domination and convoy security. Defence officials said the visit underscores the parliamentary oversight role on forward areas and will help inform allocations, force structure reviews and welfare measures for personnel deployed in some of the world's most demanding operational environments.

REGIONAL

Over 300 Tourists Rescued in 7-Hour Operation as Gulmarg Gondola Malfunctions Amid Heavy Rain

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 25 MAY, 2026



A major technical snag halted Asia's highest cable car at Gulmarg, leaving over 300 tourists stranded mid-air inside 65 cabins, before a coordinated seven-hour multi-agency rescue...

SRINAGAR, May 25: Over 300 tourists were left stranded mid-air for hours inside 65 cabins of the famed Gulmarg Gondola cable car on Monday after a major technical snag halted Asia's highest ropeway, triggering panic among holidayers before a massive multi-agency rescue operation brought them down safely. The seven-hour operation, hampered by heavy rain across the meadow resort in Baramulla district, ensured the safe evacuation of all passengers — some of whom had been trapped in cabins dangling nearly 500 feet above the ground, officials said. The technical glitch struck around noon, prompting immediate suspension of both phases of the cable car service. Joint teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Indian

Army's Chinar Corps worked through the afternoon and evening, using ropes and ladders to extract passengers cabin by cabin. By late afternoon, 179 tourists had already been brought down, with the remainder evacuated in subsequent phases. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the government was "closely monitoring" the situation, posting on X that "all cabins are intact" and there was "no cause for panic." On his instructions, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, accompanied by local MLA Farooq Ahmed Shah, visited the resort to oversee ground coordination. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said he had directed DGP Nalin Prabhat to proceed to the site. The Gulmarg Gondola has seen technical halts in the past, including a 2017 high-wind accident that claimed seven lives.

REGIONAL

500 NCC Cadets from Across India Pound Dal Lake Boulevard in 'Run with Pride – Run for India' Unity Run

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 25 MAY, 2026



SRINAGAR, May 24: The summer capital came alive on Sunday morning as nearly 500 National Cadet Corps cadets, drawn from a cross-section of India's states and Union Territories, took to the streets of Srinagar for a 5-kilometre Unity Run carrying the theme "Run with Pride – Run for India." The marathon-style event was woven into the larger programme of the Special National Integration Camp currently underway in the Valley, and was meant to put on display the colour, vigour and pluralism of young India in one of the country's most picturesque settings. Starting from the manicured terraces of Nishat Garden and winding along the

legendary Boulevard road on the banks of Dal Lake, the runners covered the postcard-perfect stretch before drawing to a close at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC). The Director General of the National Cadet Corps, Lieutenant General Virendra Vats, flagged off the run and watched the column of cadets surge forward in coordinated waves, their tracksuits and tricolour streamers turning the lakefront into a moving canvas of red, white and saffron. Organisers said the activity was designed to do more than just push physical endurance; the underlying intent was to give shape to the idea of "Unity in Diversity" through a shared experience that cut across language, region and culture. Officials associated with the camp said the participation of cadets from every corner of the country, side by side with their peers from Jammu and Kashmir, was a visible reaffirmation of the cadet movement's role as a binding thread in the national fabric. The morning's run drew warm applause from morning walkers and Boulevard residents, with several stepping out of their homes and shikaras to cheer the young marchers as they passed by.

REGIONAL

Udhampur Police Bulldoze Illegal Property of Notorious Drug Peddler Tarlochan Dutt at Samroli Along NH-44

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 25 MAY, 2026



UDHAMPUR, May 25: In a strong and visible strike against the drug ecosystem operating along the Jammu-Srinagar arterial route, District Police Udhampur, working hand-in-glove with the District Administration, brought down an unauthorised constructed property valued at several lakhs of rupees belonging to a notorious narcotics smuggler at Samroli on Monday. The action targeted Tarlochan Dutt, son of Hans Raj, a resident of Samroli in the Chenani belt, who has been on the police radar as a habitual offender. Dutt is named in FIR No. 111/2025 registered at Police Station Chenani under Sections 8/20 of the



REGIONAL

Minister Sakeena Itoo Meets Bereaved Family in Budgam, Demands Exemplary Action Against Culprits Excerpt:

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 25 MAY, 2026

BUDGAM, May 24: Sakeena Itoo, Cabinet Minister handling the portfolios of Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, on Saturday called on the grieving family at the centre of the recent tragedy in Budgam district to personally convey her condolences and stand with them in their moment of loss. During an emotional interaction with the relatives, the Minister offered her heartfelt sympathies and reassured them that the government would walk shoulder to shoulder with them as they cope with the aftermath of the incident, which has left the wider community shaken. Itoo did not mince words while reacting to the episode, describing it as deeply disturbing and entirely out of place in any society that values human dignity and the rule of law. She pressed for a swift and time-bound inquiry, urging that the probe be conducted without delay and that every person found complicit be brought before the law and dealt with firmly. Calling for an exemplary verdict, the Minister said the response must serve as a clear message that such acts will not be tolerated under any circumstances. The visit was attended by a delegation of senior public representatives, including former Supreme Court judge and MLA Pampore Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi, MLA Zainapora Showkat Hussain Ganie, and Aga Syed Mehmood, among others, all of whom joined the Minister in extending support to the affected family and echoing the call for justice.



REGIONAL

Veteran Kashmiri Scholar Prof Shafi Shauq Receives Padma Shri at Rashtrapati Bhavan; Brij Lal Bhat to Follow

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 25 MAY, 2026

NEW DELHI, May 25: President of India Droupadi Murmu on Monday handed over the Padma Awards to 66 eminent citizens at the first Civil Investiture Ceremony of the year, held in the grand surroundings of Rashtrapati Bhavan. The honours, considered amongst the most prestigious civilian recognitions bestowed by the Republic, were given out across a wide spread of disciplines spanning literature, education, science, the arts, public affairs and social service. Representing Jammu and Kashmir at the ceremony was Prof Shafi Shauq, who was decorated with the Padma Shri for his lifelong service to Kashmiri letters and the teaching profession. A prolific author, critic, translator and educator, Prof Shauq has to his credit a staggering body of over 106 books across Kashmiri, English, Hindi and Urdu. A native of Shopian in south Kashmir, he pursued his higher studies at the University of Kashmir, where he subsequently spent more than three decades shaping generations of students. His tenure at the varsity included stints as Head of the Department, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and Dean of the Faculty of Oriental Learning. His name is closely linked with the modern renaissance of Kashmiri language scholarship through landmark works such as Kaeshur Lughat, Yaad Aasmaanan Hinz, Zabaan ti Adab, Kaeshri Adabuk Tawaarikeh and Kaeshur Grammar. Prof Shauq has also enriched the field through his translation series The Best of Kashmiri Literature and through scripts authored for television and cinema. His shelf of honours already carries the Sahitya Akademi Award for Poetry, the Sahitya

NATIONAL

Rubio's India Visit Signals Push to Repair Trump-Modi Relations

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's India visit is being seen as a major diplomatic effort to strengthen Washington's strategic and economic partnership with New Delhi.

NEW DELHI, May 24: United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio began a high-profile visit to India this week amid growing efforts by Washington to strengthen ties with New Delhi following recent tensions surrounding trade, energy imports, and regional geopolitics.

Rubio met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior Indian officials to discuss trade cooperation, energy security, defence partnerships, and Indo-Pacific strategy. The visit is being viewed as an important diplomatic attempt to reinforce relations between the Trump administration and the Modi government after disagreements over tariffs and India's earlier purchases of Russian oil.

During the meetings, both sides emphasised the importance of strategic cooperation in technology, defence manufacturing, semiconductor supply chains, and artificial intelligence. Rubio also reportedly conveyed an invitation from Trump for Modi to visit the White House later this year.

The United States and India recently announced an interim trade framework intended to reduce tariff barriers and

increase bilateral investment. Washington has been pushing for expanded energy exports to India while simultaneously seeking stronger alignment against Chinese economic influence in Asia.

Analysts believe the relationship between Trump and Modi remains strategically important despite occasional economic disagreements. Both governments continue to view each other as critical partners in balancing China's growing regional influence.

The visit also comes at a time when international tensions involving Iran, Ukraine, and global energy markets are reshaping geopolitical alliances. Observers say Washington is increasingly prioritising India as a long-term strategic partner in both economic and security matters across the Indo-Pacific region.

Diplomatic experts suggest the success of ongoing trade negotiations could significantly influence the future direction of India-U.S. relations in the coming years.



NATIONAL

Dharmendra Pradhan Assures "Error-Free" NEET Retest Amid National Outrage

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

NEW DELHI, May 24: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has assured students and parents that the upcoming NEET-UG 2026 re-examination scheduled for June 21 will be conducted without irregularities following allegations of paper leaks and malpractice in the original exam.

Addressing public concerns, Pradhan acknowledged the stress faced by nearly 22 lakh aspirants and said the government was committed to restoring trust in the examination system. He urged students and families to maintain confidence in the National Testing Agency (NTA), Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the National Education Policy framework.

The controversy erupted after reports emerged alleging that portions of the NEET examination paper had been leaked through digital channels before the exam. Opposition parties and student organisations launched protests across several states, demanding accountability and reforms within the NTA.

The Education Ministry has since initiated high-level review meetings, increased surveillance on digital platforms such as Telegram, and announced additional security measures for the re-test. Officials say technological and administrative reforms are being introduced to prevent future breaches.

The NEET controversy has once again placed India's competitive examination system under national scrutiny. Critics argue that repeated irregularities are eroding public confidence in national entrance exams, while supporters of the government insist reforms are already underway.



NATIONAL

Opposition Intensifies Pressure Over NEET Leak Controversy

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

NEW DELHI, May 24: Political pressure on the central government intensified this week as opposition leaders continued protests over the alleged NEET-UG 2026 paper leak controversy, calling for accountability and systemic reforms in India's examination process.

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi accused the government of failing to protect the future of nearly 22 lakh medical aspirants and demanded the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Gandhi stated that protests would continue until responsibility for the alleged irregularities was fixed.

Congress workers and student groups organised demonstrations in multiple cities, alleging serious lapses within the National Testing Agency. Several opposition parties also questioned the credibility of the examination system and accused the government of reacting too slowly to the controversy.

The Centre, however, defended its handling of the issue, stating that investigations are ongoing and reforms are being implemented to secure the retest process. Government officials maintain that strict measures, including enhanced cybersecurity and monitoring mechanisms, are being introduced nationwide.

The NEET controversy has evolved beyond an educational issue into a major political debate surrounding governance, institutional accountability, and youth trust in public systems. Analysts say the issue resonates strongly with middle-class families because of the intense competition surrounding medical admissions in India.

The dispute is expected to dominate national political discourse

NATIONAL

Cockroach Janta Party' Movement Sparks National Debate Online

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



MUMBAI, May 24: A rapidly growing online movement known as the "Cockroach Janta Party" (CJP) has captured national attention after gaining millions of followers across social media platforms within days of its launch.

Founded by social media strategist Abhijeet Dipke, the movement uses satire and political humour to highlight concerns surrounding unemployment, rising living costs, examination controversies, and perceived failures in governance. The movement's name reportedly emerged after controversial remarks comparing

unemployed youth to "cockroaches" sparked widespread backlash online.

The movement has particularly resonated with Gen Z users and students frustrated by employment challenges and recurring examination controversies such as the ongoing NEET paper leak issue. The group has also launched online campaigns demanding accountability from government authorities, including calls for Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation.

Supporters describe the movement as a peaceful digital protest reflecting the frustrations of young Indians, while critics argue it risks oversimplifying serious national issues through satire. Political observers note that the phenomenon highlights the growing influence of internet-driven political mobilisation among younger voters.

The movement recently claimed that its website and social media accounts faced restrictions, allegations that intensified debates around free speech and digital dissent in India.

Although not officially registered as a political party, the Cockroach Janta Party has become one of the most discussed online movements in the country, reflecting wider conversations about youth aspirations and political engagement.

NATIONAL

Heatwave Conditions Grip Several Northern States

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



NEW DELHI, May 24: Several states across northern and central India continued to experience intense heatwave conditions this week as temperatures crossed seasonal averages in multiple cities, raising concerns about public health and water availability.

Meteorological officials noted unusually high daytime temperatures in Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh, with dry winds and prolonged heat exposure. Authorities urged citizens to avoid outdoor activity during peak afternoon hours.

BUSINESS

Global Markets Shaken by Energy Crisis and Bond Volatility

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



Rising oil prices, geopolitical uncertainty, and fears of inflation are creating fresh turbulence across global financial markets.

NEW YORK, May 24: International financial markets witnessed renewed volatility this week as escalating geopolitical tensions pushed oil prices sharply upward and triggered fears of another inflationary cycle. Concerns surrounding the Strait of Hormuz and instability in the Middle East have become major drivers of investor anxiety.

Crude oil prices reportedly crossed significant psychological levels after fears emerged that shipping disruptions could affect global energy supplies. At the same time, government bond yields in the United States, United Kingdom, and Japan surged to levels not seen in years, reflecting uncertainty about future inflation and interest rate policies.

Economists warn that higher borrowing costs could slow economic growth across several major economies already facing fragile recoveries. Financial analysts also noted that central banks may find it difficult to cut interest rates if energy-driven inflation continues rising.

Technology companies linked to artificial intelligence, however, continue attracting investor attention despite broader market turbulence. Firms involved in AI infrastructure and semiconductor manufacturing have shown resilience even as traditional sectors face pressure.

Global markets are also reacting to uncertainty surrounding U.S.-China relations, ongoing military conflicts, and trade disruptions. Shipping, manufacturing, and aviation industries are particularly vulnerable to further instability in fuel prices and international logistics.

Experts caution that if geopolitical tensions worsen, especially around Iran or Ukraine, global markets could face prolonged uncertainty. Investors are increasingly balancing optimism surrounding AI-driven growth with fears of recessionary pressures triggered by geopolitical conflict and inflation.

BUSINESS

Global Markets Swing Amid AI Boom and Inflation Fears

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



NEW YORK, May 24: Global financial markets witnessed sharp fluctuations this week as investors reacted simultaneously to booming artificial intelligence investments and growing fears of inflation linked to energy prices and geopolitical tensions.

Technology companies associated with AI infrastructure, semiconductor manufacturing, and cloud computing continued attracting strong investor interest, with major firms linked to generative AI reporting rising demand for advanced computing systems. Analysts say AI remains one of the strongest drivers of global market optimism in 2026.

At the same time, rising oil prices and supply chain concerns linked to the Iran crisis have intensified fears that inflation could remain elevated for longer than expected. Bond yields in several major economies have risen amid uncertainty surrounding future interest rate decisions.

Economists warn that higher energy costs could weaken consumer spending and industrial activity, potentially offsetting gains from technology-led growth. Some analysts have also cautioned about the possibility of speculative excess in AI-related stocks, comparing current valuations to earlier technology bubbles.

Meanwhile, central banks across major economies continue monitoring inflation, employment trends, and geopolitical developments before making further monetary policy adjustments.

Financial experts believe the coming months could remain highly volatile as markets attempt to balance rapid technological transformation with growing geopolitical and macroeconomic risks.

BUSINESS

India's Infrastructure and Manufacturing Push Draws Global Attention

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



NEW DELHI, May 24: India's large-scale investment in infrastructure and manufacturing continues attracting international attention as global companies increasingly view the country as a long-term strategic economic partner.

Government-led initiatives involving highways, railways, logistics corridors, semiconductor manufacturing, renewable energy, and industrial production are contributing to India's growing economic influence. Analysts say multinational firms are increasingly diversifying supply chains toward India amid geopolitical uncertainty and shifting global trade dynamics.



BUSINESS

Reliance-NVIDIA Partnership Accelerates India's AI Infrastructure Push

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

MUMBAI, May 24: India's artificial intelligence ambitions received a major boost as Reliance Industries and NVIDIA continued expanding their partnership aimed at building advanced AI infrastructure and computing capabilities within the country.

The collaboration focuses on developing high-performance data centres, AI cloud infrastructure, and large-scale computing systems powered by NVIDIA's advanced AI processors. Industry experts say the initiative could position India as a significant global hub for artificial intelligence development and deployment.

Reliance is reportedly building one of India's largest AI-focused data centre ecosystems in Gujarat, while NVIDIA is providing advanced GPU technology and cloud computing support. The companies have also discussed developing AI models tailored for Indian languages and domestic applications.

Mukesh Ambani recently stated that India could become one of the world's largest "intelligence markets" as demand for AI-powered services rapidly increases across sectors including healthcare, education, finance, governance, and manufacturing.

The development comes amid increasing global competition in AI infrastructure between the United States, China, and other major economies. India is attempting to strengthen domestic capabilities while reducing dependence on foreign technology ecosystems.

Experts believe AI infrastructure investment could create opportunities in semiconductor manufacturing, cloud services, software development, and digital innovation. However, challenges involving power consumption, chip availability, regulation and



NATIONAL

Centre Expands Railway Modernisation and Infrastructure Push

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

NEW DELHI, May 24: The central government this week announced fresh progress on multiple railway modernisation and infrastructure expansion projects aimed at improving transportation efficiency and boosting economic development across India.

Officials said work on station redevelopment, electrification, high-speed rail corridors, and freight infrastructure has accelerated under ongoing national infrastructure programmes. Several new Vande Bharat train services are also expected to be introduced in additional states over the coming months.

The Ministry of Railways stated that investments in logistics and rail connectivity are intended to reduce transportation costs, strengthen supply chains, and improve passenger convenience. Government representatives described infrastructure expansion as one of the key pillars of India's long-term economic strategy.

The projects are also expected to generate employment opportunities in construction, engineering, manufacturing, and associated sectors. Analysts note that infrastructure spending has remained one of the government's strongest economic focus areas despite global economic uncertainty.

Officials further highlighted ongoing upgrades involving digital signalling systems, railway safety mechanisms, and modern passenger amenities at major junctions. Several state governments are also coordinating with the Centre on urban transport integration projects.

Supporters of the programme say improved connectivity could

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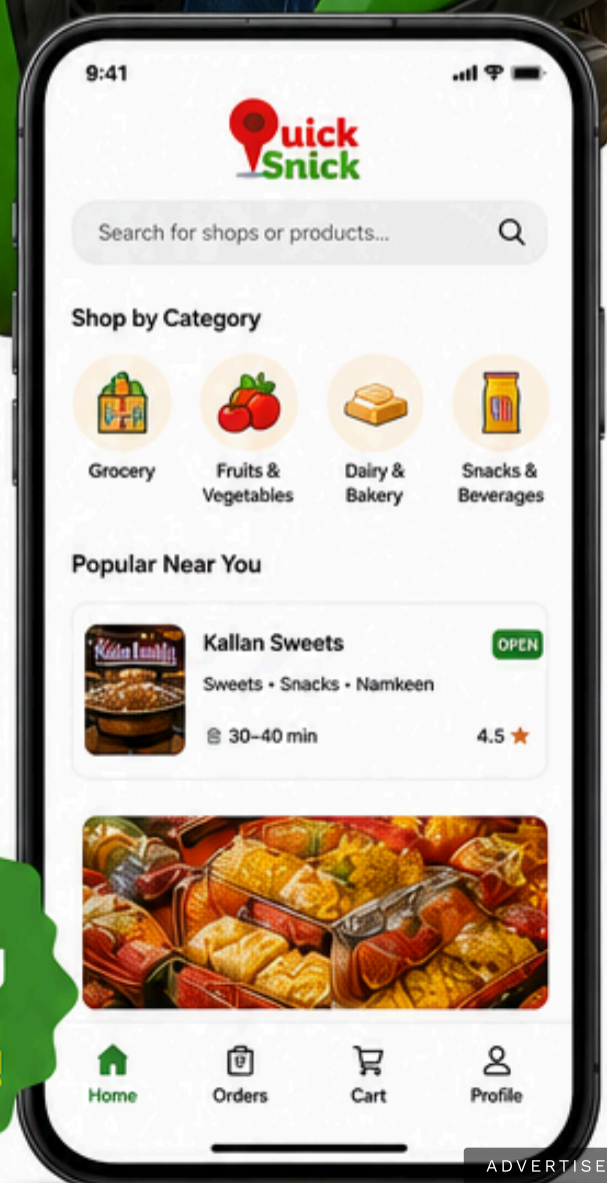
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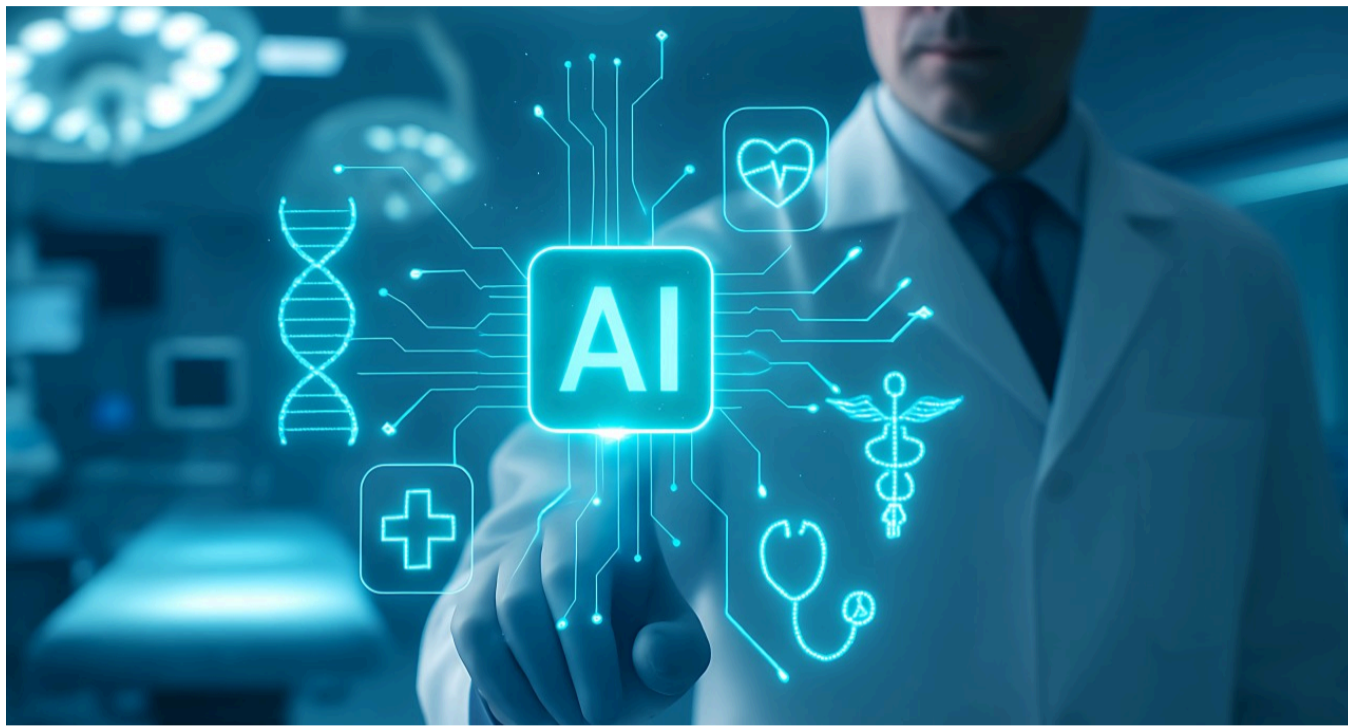
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TECHNOLOGY

AI tools speed up diagnostics in Indian hospitals as oversight catches up

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 25 MAY, 2026



Government and private hospitals are folding AI into routine imaging even as regulators race to set rules for clinical use.

Government and private hospitals across India are folding artificial intelligence into routine diagnostics, from reading chest X-rays for tuberculosis to flagging strokes on CT scans, even as regulators race to set rules for clinical use. Doctors at AIIMS, Tata Memorial Centre and several state-run district hospitals now use AI-assisted screening for tuberculosis, breast cancer and diabetic retinopathy. In radiology departments, software trained on tens of millions of images is helping junior residents catch findings they might otherwise miss during night shifts. The pull is straightforward. India has roughly one radiologist for every 1,00,000 people, well below World Health Organization recommendations. Triage tools that surface high-risk scans first can shave hours off

reporting times in overcrowded centres. But the rollout is outpacing the rules. The Indian Council of Medical Research issued ethical guidelines for AI in healthcare in 2023, and the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation is drafting a separate medical-device pathway for software tools. Hospitals are largely on their own to validate accuracy against Indian patient data, which often differs from the western datasets used to train the underlying models. Patient consent practices remain uneven. Several radiology vendors process scans on overseas cloud servers, raising data-protection concerns under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act. For now, regulators say AI tools must remain advisory: a doctor signs off on every report.

TECHNOLOGY

ISRO clears another Gaganyaan abort test as crewed launch nears

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 25 MAY, 2026



The Indian Space Research Organisation has completed a fresh round of crew-escape rocket tests for the Gaganyaan human-spaceflight mission, narrowing the gap toward the country's first indigenous crewed orbital flight. The latest test, conducted from Sriharikota, fired the launch-escape system that would pull the crew module clear of the rocket in an emergency. The capsule splashed down in the Bay of Bengal and was recovered by Indian Navy ships, validating sea-recovery procedures. Gaganyaan, first announced in 2018, aims to put two or three astronauts into low Earth orbit aboard an indigenous capsule lifted by an LVM3 rocket. The crew has been selected from Indian Air Force test pilots and is training at the Astronaut Training Facility in Bengaluru and at Russia's Star City. The programme has slipped from its original 2022 target. ISRO has said an uncrewed test flight will precede the crewed mission, with the

human flight pushed into 2026 to allow more abort and life-support qualification rounds. The mission is expected to cost about Rs 9,000 crore and feeds into longer-range plans: a small space station, the Bharatiya Antariksha Station, by 2035, and an Indian on the Moon by 2040. Behind the headline targets is a quieter industrial story. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Larsen and Toubro and a roster of mid-sized vendors are building structural and propulsion hardware once sourced abroad.

TECHNOLOGY

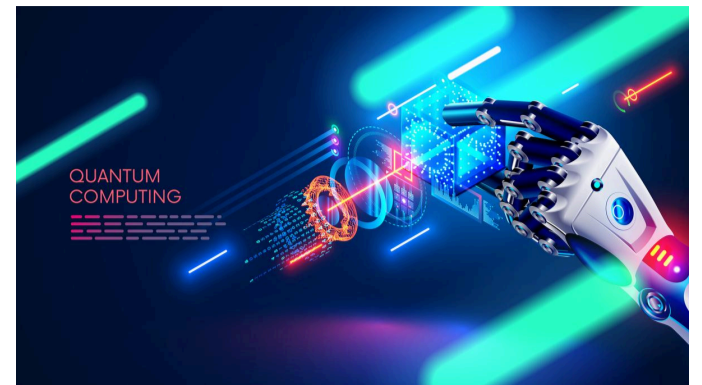
Google Storms the Smart-Glasses Arena With Gemini-Powered Eyewear, Throws iPhone Support at Meta's 85% Stronghold

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 25 MAY, 2026



MOUNTAIN VIEW, May 25: Google has finally laid its cards on the table in the booming AI wearables race, using the Google I/O 2026 keynote at Shoreline Amphitheatre to formally unveil a line of Gemini-powered "intelligent eyewear"

built jointly with Samsung and styled by Warby Parker and Gentle Monster, with Gucci and parent group Kering Eyewear cued up to join the roster later. The eyewear is slated to hit shelves in fall 2026 in select markets, though pricing remains unannounced — industry watchers peg the likely range at USD 600 to 900. In a striking shift away from the platform tribalism that has dominated the smart-glasses category, Google has confirmed that its glasses will pair seamlessly with both Android phones and Apple iPhones at launch, making them the first Android XR hardware to be cross-compatible out of the gate. The decision is widely seen as a strategic strike at Meta, whose Ray-Ban-branded smart glasses ended 2025 with over seven million units shipped and roughly an 85 per cent slice of the global market. The first-generation Google product is an audio-first device — no display embedded inside the lens, just speakers, microphones, a 12-megapixel camera and the ever-present Gemini assistant, woken with a "Hey Google" cue or a tap on the temple. Once active, Gemini is pitched as far more capable than the rival Meta AI for multi-step everyday chores: pulling up restaurant reviews of whatever the wearer is looking at, dictating texts, summarising incoming messages, providing turn-by-turn navigation, translating speech and signage in real time, capturing photos and editing them on the fly with Google's Nano Banana image engine, and even ordering coffee through services such as DoorDash. The hardware, reportedly built around a Qualcomm Snapdragon AR1 chip — the very same silicon inside Meta's Ray-Bans — weighs around 50 grams and packs a 155mAh battery according to leaks of the

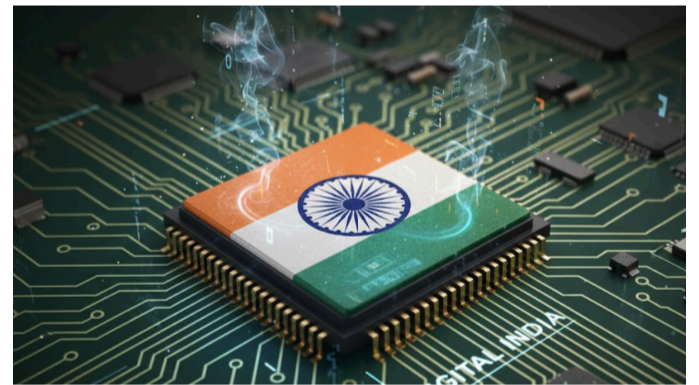


TECHNOLOGY

Quantum mission funds eight hubs as India chases its first useful qubit

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 25 MAY, 2026

Researchers at the Indian Institutes of Technology in Bombay, Madras and Kanpur are building working quantum prototypes under the National Quantum Mission, the Centre's eight-year, Rs 6,003-crore push to anchor a sovereign quantum-technology base. The mission, approved in 2023, funds four thematic hubs covering quantum computing, communication, sensing and materials. Eight Indian institutes are leading the work, with industry partners ranging from Tata Consultancy Services to startups spun out of academic labs. The near-term targets are modest by global standards: intermediate-scale quantum computers in the 50- to 1,000-qubit range, satellite-based quantum key distribution over 2,000 kilometres, and high-sensitivity magnetometers for navigation. By comparison, IBM has demonstrated systems above 1,000 qubits and Google has claimed a "beyond-classical" benchmark. What India brings is talent volume and an engineering culture that has scaled space and atomic-energy missions before. Bengaluru-based QpiAI and Hyderabad's BosonQ Psi are among a small but growing crop of startups working on quantum software and applications. The Department of Telecommunications has run quantum-secured trial links between Vigyan Bhawan and Sanchar Bhawan in Delhi. Critics warn the funding is spread thin across too many hubs. Programme officials counter that early-stage research benefits from parallel bets. Real applications — drug-design simulations, faster optimisation for logistics, unbreakable communications — remain years away. The mission's bet is that India needs the muscle in place before then.



TECHNOLOGY

First Indian-made chips inch toward market as Dholera and Sanand plants ramp up

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 25 MAY, 2026

The Tata Electronics fab under construction in Dholera, Gujarat is moving toward equipment installation, marking the first heavy-duty semiconductor manufacturing plant on Indian soil and a long-promised pillar of the country's electronics self-reliance push. The Rs 91,000-crore facility, a joint venture with Taiwan's PSMC, will start with 28-nanometre logic chips — generations behind cutting-edge nodes but still in heavy demand for automotive, industrial and consumer electronics. A separate Tata assembly-and-test plant at Jagiroad in Assam, and a Micron memory-packaging unit at Sanand, are running on parallel timelines. The India Semiconductor Mission, launched in 2021, underwrites half the capital costs for approved projects. Six plants have so far cleared the central approval gate. The strategic logic is straightforward. India imports nearly all of its chips, with bills running above Rs 1.5 lakh crore a year, and any disruption — pandemic-era shortages were the recent warning — ripples through phones, cars and defence systems alike. State governments in Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh are competing to host the next round of fabs. The harder questions sit downstream. Skilled-workforce gaps, water and ultra-pure-chemical supply chains, and the slow build of design ecosystems will determine whether the fabs become permanent fixtures or stranded assets. Industry executives caution that first wafers from Dholera will reach customers no earlier than late 2026, with full-volume production stretching into 2027.

HEALTH

Diabetes diagnoses are arriving earlier in life across Indian cities

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 25 MAY, 2026



A national survey finds 10.1 crore Indians have diabetes and another 13.6 crore are pre-diabetic, with cases now common in people in their thirties.

A national diabetes survey has confirmed what physicians in urban Indian hospitals have been reporting for years: the disease is reaching patients a decade or more younger than in earlier generations, with cases now common in people in their thirties and forties. The ICMR-INDIAB study, conducted across all states and Union Territories and published in 2023, found that 10.1 crore Indians have diabetes and another 13.6 crore are pre-diabetic. The bigger surprise was the spread. Once concentrated in metros, prevalence is now rising sharply in smaller cities and rural belts of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Punjab. The drivers are familiar. Sedentary office work, calorie-dense processed foods, late-night eating and shrinking sleep windows all contribute. South Asians also carry a known genetic predisposition: they develop insulin

resistance at lower body-mass-index levels than European populations. What has changed is the age of onset. Endocrinologists at AIIMS Delhi and the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation report cases of Type 2 diabetes in people in their late twenties — once a near-medical curiosity, now a regular outpatient finding. Treatment options have expanded, including a newer class of drugs known as GLP-1 receptor agonists that lower blood sugar and aid weight loss. But access is uneven, and out-of-pocket costs remain a barrier outside metropolitan centres. Public-health experts argue the answer must move upstream: school-canteen rules, urban walking infrastructure and clearer food labels stand to do more, over time, than any new prescription.

HEALTH

India's 'Silent Killer': Ovarian Cancer Cases on the Rise as Late Diagnoses Continue to Cost Lives

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 25 MAY, 2026



NEW DELHI, May 25: India is quietly facing a rising tide of ovarian cancer, a disease that doctors describe as one of the cruellest in the cancer family because it almost never announces itself until it is too late. Marked annually on May 8 as World Ovarian Cancer Day, the disease has earned its nickname of "the silent killer" for good reason — its initial signs are so generic that they routinely get brushed off as ordinary bloating, indigestion, period trouble, stress or simple ageing, until the malignancy has already spread beyond the ovaries. Unlike breast or cervical cancer, where mammography and Pap smears have proven their worth, ovarian cancer has no comparable population-level screening tool, leaving women and even general physicians without an early-warning system. India today accounts for

the second-largest case load of ovarian cancer in the world, and Global Cancer Observatory estimates put the country's annual new caseload in the tens of thousands, with mortality stubbornly high precisely because diagnoses arrive late. Hospital-based studies from across the country, including a recent cohort analysis from eastern India, show that nearly three out of every four patients are detected only at advanced stages, when survival drops sharply. Oncologists point to a clutch of converging factors driving the rise: changing reproductive patterns including delayed pregnancies and lower fertility, the obesity epidemic, longer life expectancy, and the genetic load carried by women with mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes or a family history of breast, ovarian or colon cancer. Risk climbs steadily after the age of 35 and peaks between 55 and 64. Awareness remains worryingly thin — a community-based study from north Bengaluru found that fewer than three in ten women had even basic knowledge of the disease. Specialists urge women to take seriously any persistent bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, early satiety, urinary frequency or unexplained fatigue lasting more than two to three weeks, and to push for evaluation with transvaginal ultrasound and CA-125 testing where indicated, even if those tools are imperfect. The bigger fix, doctors argue, will require sustained public messaging on early symptoms, broader genetic counselling for high-risk families, and faster referral pathways to gynaecologic oncologists — measures that together can shift diagnosis upstream and give women a real fighting chance.

HEALTH

Ebola Outbreak in DRC, Uganda 'Will Get Worse Before It Gets Better,' Warns WHO Chief Tedros

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 25 MAY, 2026



GENEVA, May 25: The Ebola outbreak unfolding across the Democratic Republic of Congo and neighbouring Uganda is poised to deepen before relief is in sight, World Health Organization chief Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus cautioned on Monday, as case counts climbed sharply and a hospital in north-eastern Congo became the latest flashpoint in a deeply unsettled response. Briefing reporters virtually, the WHO Director-General disclosed that the Democratic Republic of Congo had now logged in excess of 900 cases along with more than 220 deaths, of which 101 cases and 10 deaths stand laboratory-confirmed. Uganda, where the virus has slipped across the border on the backs of travellers, has confirmed five imported cases and one death so far. "We



HEALTH

Shorter, kinder TB regimen rolls out in Indian clinics

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 25 MAY, 2026

A six-month, all-oral regimen for drug-resistant tuberculosis is moving into routine use at government clinics across India, replacing a punishing two-year course of daily injections that drove many patients to abandon treatment. The new regimen, known as BPaL-M and built around bedaquiline, pretomanid, linezolid and moxifloxacin, was cleared by India's Central TB Division in early 2024 following World Health Organization recommendations. Treatment trials reported cure rates close to 90 per cent — comparable to or better than older regimens, and reached in a third of the time. India carries the world's largest tuberculosis burden, with about 28 lakh new cases reported in 2024 and an estimated 1.1 lakh of those drug-resistant. Older regimens lasted 18 to 24 months and included daily injections that frequently caused hearing loss. Default rates above 25 per cent were common. The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme has begun distributing the new regimen through state TB control offices, and the Drug Controller General granted full approval to bedaquiline production by Indian generic manufacturers in 2023. That step has cut the per-patient drug cost from roughly Rs 2 lakh to under Rs 50,000. Treatment is still demanding — patients take 14 tablets a day at peak — and side effects need close monitoring. But for the first time, doctors say, the regimen is one most patients can finish. A target to eliminate tuberculosis from India by 2025 has slipped, but officials say the new regimen marks the steepest single advance in decades.



HEALTH

Schools test counsellor programmes as adolescent stress rises

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 25 MAY, 2026

Several state education departments have begun piloting in-school counselling programmes for higher-secondary students, responding to mounting evidence that anxiety, depression and exam-related stress are rising among Indian adolescents. The Central Board of Secondary Education has long required affiliated schools to appoint trained counsellors, but compliance has been patchy. Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra and Delhi have started staffing dedicated counsellors at government schools, in some cases sharing one between cluster schools, with helpline tie-ups for after-hours support. The pressure is real. A 2023 World Health Organization report estimated that one in seven Indian adolescents experiences a mental-health condition in any given year. The National Crime Records Bureau has consistently flagged exam pressure as a contributor to youth suicide, and Kota — the coaching capital for engineering and medical entrance tests — saw a record number of student deaths in 2023, prompting district administrators to mandate weekly counsellor sessions. Programmes typically combine one-to-one counselling, classroom modules on stress management and a parent-engagement track. Teachers are being trained to spot warning signs, with referral pathways to district psychiatric services. Funding remains the bottleneck. Indian government health spending on mental health is roughly 1 per cent of the health budget, far below WHO recommendations. The newly expanded Tele-MANAS national helpline is filling some of the gap, handling over 18 lakh calls since its 2022 launch. Counsellors say school-based work is only the start: family conversations remain the harder, longer task.

INTERNATIONAL

China–Russia Axis Deepens Amid Rising Global Tensions

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



Beijing and Moscow have renewed their strategic partnership with strong criticism of U.S. foreign policy, signalling a sharper geopolitical divide that could reshape global alliances...

BEIJING, May 24: Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin held a high-profile summit in Beijing this week, presenting a united front against what they described as “irresponsible” Western policies. The meeting comes at a time when conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East continue to destabilise global diplomacy and energy markets.

The two leaders pledged stronger cooperation in artificial intelligence, defence coordination, energy, and regional security. Although reports suggest disagreements remain over a proposed gas pipeline deal, the summit demonstrated the growing political alignment between the two powers. Putin described relations with China as “unprecedented,” while Xi warned that the world was entering a phase of “heightened instability.”

International observers believe the summit is intended to counter increasing U.S. influence in Asia and Europe. The meeting also followed recent reports alleging covert Chinese assistance to Russian military training linked to the Ukraine war. Western governments have expressed concern that the growing partnership could challenge the existing global balance of power.

The summit additionally focused on tensions in the Middle East, with both leaders calling for restraint and ceasefire efforts. Analysts say China is increasingly positioning itself as a diplomatic powerbroker while simultaneously strengthening strategic ties with Moscow.

The renewed China–Russia alignment is expected to influence global trade, defence arrangements, and diplomatic negotiations in the months ahead, especially as international conflicts continue to intensify across multiple regions.

INTERNATIONAL

International Concern Grows Over Expanding Security Threats in Europe

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



BRUSSELS, May 24: European security concerns intensified this week after a drone entered Lithuanian airspace, triggering emergency alerts and forcing political leaders into temporary security shelters. The incident has added to growing fears that the Ukraine conflict could increasingly spill beyond its current boundaries.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen described Russian threats against Baltic nations as unacceptable, warning that instability in the region threatens the security of the entire European Union. NATO officials also expressed concern about rising military provocations near alliance borders.

The situation escalated further after reports emerged that a Romanian NATO fighter jet had intercepted and downed a suspected stray drone near Estonia. Security agencies across Eastern Europe are now reviewing emergency preparedness measures amid fears of accidental escalation.

Poland and Finland have also strengthened border monitoring and defence coordination in response to increasing regional uncertainty. Several European governments are urging NATO to expand surveillance and missile defence capabilities along the alliance’s eastern flank.

Analysts believe the incidents highlight how the Ukraine war continues to reshape European security architecture. Countries once considered distant from frontline risks are now investing heavily in military readiness and civilian defence infrastructure.

The developments come at a time when Europe is simultaneously managing economic pressures, energy concerns, and diplomatic tensions involving Russia, China, and the Middle East. Experts warn that sustained instability could fundamentally alter Europe’s political and defence priorities for years to come.

INTERNATIONAL

Trump Claims Iran Peace Deal Near Amid Hormuz Crisis

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



United States President Donald Trump claimed Washington and Tehran are close to finalising a peace agreement ending military escalation around Iran and the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump said negotiations were “largely completed” and the agreement could reopen the Strait, through which nearly one-fifth of the world’s oil supply passes.

The proposed framework includes a phased ceasefire, partial easing of sanctions on Iranian oil exports, and negotiations regarding Iran’s nuclear programme. Pakistan and Gulf nations reportedly played a mediation role.

Iranian officials reacted cautiously, denying a final agreement. Tehran



INTERNATIONAL

Massive Russian Missile Assault Strikes Kyiv

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

KYIV, May 24: Ukraine’s capital Kyiv came under a massive overnight missile and drone assault this week, marking one of the most significant attacks of the year. According to international reports, Russia used a combination of ballistic, hypersonic, and drone-based weapon systems in the operation.

Explosions were reported across multiple districts of Kyiv as air defence systems attempted to intercept incoming missiles. Civilian casualties and infrastructure damage have been confirmed, while emergency services continued rescue operations through the night.

Russian state media claimed the strikes targeted strategic and military infrastructure linked to Ukraine’s defence operations. Ukrainian authorities, however, accused Moscow of deliberately escalating attacks against civilian areas to weaken public morale.

The latest strike comes amid growing concerns within NATO and the European Union regarding Russian military activity near Baltic states and Eastern Europe. European leaders have warned that regional security risks are increasing rapidly, particularly after recent drone incidents involving Lithuania and Estonia.

International analysts believe the war is entering a more volatile phase, with Russia intensifying long-range attacks while Ukraine continues to seek Western military support. The conflict has already caused severe economic disruption across Europe, including higher energy costs, military spending pressures, and concerns over future regional stability.

Despite repeated diplomatic initiatives, no major breakthrough in



INTERNATIONAL

Middle East Crisis Intensifies After Gaza Flotilla Interception

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

JERUSALEM, May 24: A major international controversy unfolded this week after Israeli authorities intercepted a flotilla carrying humanitarian activists attempting to deliver aid to Gaza. More than 50 boats and hundreds of activists were reportedly stopped in international waters, triggering criticism from several Western governments and human rights organisations.

The controversy intensified after footage emerged allegedly showing detained activists being mocked during custody. Countries including Canada, Germany, Ireland, Spain, and the United Kingdom summoned Israeli diplomats seeking explanations over the incident.

Meanwhile, tensions between the United States and Iran have also escalated sharply. U.S. military forces reportedly boarded an Iranian oil tanker amid increasing confrontation around the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world’s most critical oil transit routes. Former U.S. President Donald Trump warned that military action against Iran could intensify if diplomatic negotiations fail.

Iran responded by warning of broader regional consequences if further attacks occur. Military tensions have already impacted global oil markets, with fears growing over disruptions to shipping and energy supply chains.

The developments come alongside continuing violence in Gaza and Lebanon, where airstrikes and border clashes have kept the region unstable despite repeated international calls for ceasefire negotiations.

Analysts warn that simultaneous crises involving Gaza, Israel,

SPORTS

Punjab Kings Storm Into IPL 2026 Playoffs After 7-Wicket Demolition of Lucknow Super Giants

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



Punjab Kings sealed their berth in the IPL 2026 playoffs with a clinical 7-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants in Lucknow, knocking Delhi Capitals out of the race and tightening t...

LUCKNOW, May 24: Shreyas Iyer-led Punjab Kings booked their place in the IPL 2026 playoffs with a clinical seven-wicket victory over Lucknow Super Giants at the Ekana Cricket Stadium on Saturday night, taking their tally to 15 points and effectively ending Delhi Capitals' postseason hopes. Chasing 197 after LSG posted 196 for 6 on the back of Inglis's 72, Punjab Kings tore into the chase with intent, knocking off the runs with overs to spare in a near-flawless display of power-hitting and rotation. The win takes PBKS into the IPL playoffs for the third time in franchise history and only the third time they will compete beyond the league

stage. Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Gujarat Titans and Sunrisers Hyderabad had already sealed three of the four playoff spots, and the fourth has now narrowed to a fight involving Punjab Kings, Rajasthan Royals and Kolkata Knight Riders depending on results from Sunday's double-header at the Wankhede and Eden Gardens. Mumbai Indians and Lucknow Super Giants are out of contention, while Chennai Super Kings ended their season earlier — the first time the five-time champions have failed to reach the playoffs in successive editions. The Qualifier 1 begins later this week, with the IPL 2026 final scheduled for May 31.

SPORTS

Sabalenka Cuts Media Short as French Open Players Protest Prize Money Share

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



PARIS, May 23: World number one Aryna Sabalenka cut short her French Open news conference on Friday as part of a coordinated 15-minute limit on media duties imposed by a collective of around 20 top tennis players in protest at the prize money on offer at Grand Slam tournaments.

The 15-minute restriction was a symbolic gesture, representing the roughly 15 per cent share of tournament revenue that players currently receive as prize money. Leading names including men's world number one Jannik Sinner, four-time Roland Garros champion Iga Swiatek, and American star Coco Gauff joined the work-to-rule action. Novak Djokovic did not personally participate but voiced support for the principle.

Sabalenka, recently praised by Djokovic for taking a leading role on the issue, said the action was not about her own pay

packet. "It's not about me. It's about the players who are lower in the ranking, who are suffering. But as the world No. 1, I feel like I have to stand up and fight for those players," she said.

The protest group has asked the Slams to pay 22 per cent of revenue in prize money by 2030. This year's Roland Garros prize fund has risen 9.5 per cent to €61.7 million, with singles champions to receive €2.8 million each — an increase the players' group has called inadequate when compared to the 20 per cent annual rise at last year's US Open and nearly 16 per cent at the 2026 Australian Open.

Player demands also extend to pension and healthcare contributions, maternity support, and a stronger voice in scheduling decisions. Tournament director Amélie Mauresmo said she was "very sad" about the protest. Sabalenka had earlier warned that players will boycott a Grand Slam "at some point" if their concerns remain unaddressed.

SPORTS

Federation Cup Athletics Returns to Ranchi as India's Top Track Stars Eye Asian Games Berth

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026



RANCHI, May 22: India's premier domestic track and field competition, the 29th National Senior Athletics Federation Competition, got underway at Ranchi from May 22, with the country's top track and field stars descending on Jharkhand's capital for what doubles as a critical selection trial for upcoming international assignments. The four-day meet, running through May 25, has been designated by the Athletics Federation of India as the final selection trial for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and the Asian U-23 Athletics Championships. Odisha's ace sprinter Animesh Kujur was among the early names in focus, with selectors closely tracking sprint and middle-distance performances against AFI qualifying benchmarks. Officials confirmed favourable weather conditions through the opening sessions, with multiple personal bests recorded in field disciplines. AFI



SPORTS

Premier League Goes Down to the Wire on Final Day Amid Guardiola Farewell at City

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

LONDON, May 24: The 2025-26 Premier League season reached its dramatic conclusion on Sunday with all ten fixtures kicking off at 3pm BST, blending title-decided celebrations with a charged battle for European places and the final relegation spot. The day was overshadowed by the emotional farewell to Pep Guardiola, who is leaving Manchester City after a decade in charge that delivered six Premier League titles, multiple domestic cups, and a Champions League trophy. City hosted Aston Villa in his final home match, with the Spaniard already confirmed as Champions League-bound alongside league leaders Arsenal. Liverpool, with a three-point cushion in the European race, took on Brentford at Anfield, while Bournemouth — whose 17-match unbeaten run already guaranteed Europa League football — looked to push for a Champions League spot at Nottingham Forest. The relegation drama centred on Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United, with Burnley and Wolverhampton Wanderers already confirmed as going down. Erling Haaland leads the Golden Boot standings with 24 goals, and Brighton hosted Manchester United knowing a win would seal European qualification regardless of other results. Enzo Maresca is reportedly being lined up as Guardiola's successor at the Etihad.



SPORTS

Sinner, Gauff Headline French Open 2026 as Roland Garros Welcomes Grand Slam Action

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 24 MAY, 2026

PARIS, May 24: The second Grand Slam of the tennis calendar, the French Open, got underway at Stade Roland-Garros on Sunday with World No. 1 Jannik Sinner installed as overwhelming favourite to complete the career Grand Slam. The Italian arrives in Paris on a 29-match winning streak, having swept five ATP Masters 1000 titles in 2026 at Indian Wells, Miami, Monte-Carlo, Madrid and Rome. The men's draw opens up with the absence of two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz, sidelined by injury, leaving Novak Djokovic — drawn on the opposite half of the bracket — as the most credentialed challenger to Sinner. The Serb opens against home favourite Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard, while three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka begins what is expected to be his final Roland-Garros appearance against 17-seed Arthur Fils. In the women's draw, American Coco Gauff begins her title defence against Taylor Townsend, having defeated Aryna Sabalenka in last year's final. Prize money has been raised by 10 per cent, with the singles champions taking home USD 3.2 million each. The men's final is scheduled for June 7 and the women's final for June 6 on Court Philippe-Chatrier.

PUBLIC NOTICES · TENDERS · AUCTIONS · RECRUITMENT

**HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
(HAUDD) — URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
DEPT**

Ref: E-NIT No 13 of 2026-27 Dated 23-05-2026

**Used Water Management Project in Municipal Council
Rajouri under UWM-SBM 2.0**

Design and Construction of 4.5 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) including jungle clearing, site levelling, construction of Interception and Diversion Structures at outfalls, Conveying Mains, and Intermediate Pumping Stat...

Type: Works**Last date:** 13 Jun 2026**Est. cost:** ₹ 31.60 Crore**EMD:** ₹ 63.21 Lakh (exemption allowed)**Location:** Rajouri, Rajouri district, J&K**Contact:** Executive Engineer, Sewerage and Drainage Division (West) Jammu · Refer NIT PDF**PWD (R&B) — RAJOURI CIRCLE, UNDER CE PWD
JAMMU**

Ref: NIT No 19 of 2026-27 Dated 23-05-2026

**Restoration/Maintenance of Various Roads under PWD
(R&B) Sub Division Manjakote — Emergency Basis**

Emergency restoration and maintenance of various roads under PWD (R&B) Sub Division Manjakote, Rajouri district. Scope includes slips and drain clearance, snow clearance, filling of ruts, restoration of damaged crate wal...

Type: Works**Last date:** 1 Jun 2026**Est. cost:** Refer Documents (percentage-rate BoQ)**EMD:** ₹ 10,000 (CDR)**Location:** Manjakote, Rajouri district, J&K**Contact:** Executive Engineer, PWD R&B Division Rajouri · Refer NIT PDF**RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ — XEN REW
POONCH**

Ref: e-NIT 01 of REW Poonch 2026-27 Dated 23-05-2026

**Construction of B/Path from House of Ch. Fazal to
Masjid Mohalla Bokna, Panchayat Khari, Block Poonch
under MPLAD 2026-27 (1st Call)**

Construction of pedestrian bridle path (B/Path) from the house of Ch. Fazal to the Masjid in Mohalla Bokna, Panchayat Khari, Block Poonch under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme 2026-27. Scope includes s...

Type: Works**Last date:** 2 Jun 2026**Est. cost:** ₹ 3 Lakh**EMD:** ₹ 6,000 (CDR)**Location:** Mohalla Bokna, Panchayat Khari, Block Poonch, J&K**Contact:** Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch · Refer NIT PDF**HAUDD — DIRECTORATE OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES
JAMMU, MC HIRANAGAR**

Ref: MC/H/2026-27/153-158 Dated 23-05-2026

**E-Auction of Shop No. 07 at Ward No. 4 Opposite
Municipal Office Hiranagar**

E-Auction conducted by Municipal Committee Hiranagar (Kathua district) for leasing/allotment of Shop No. 07 located at Ward No. 4, opposite the Municipal Committee Office, Hiranagar. Reserve price set at approximately ₹...

Type: Auction**Last date:** 2 Jun 2026**Est. cost:** ₹ 8.45 Lakh (reserve price)**EMD:** ₹ 2 Lakh**Location:** Hiranagar, Kathua district, J&K**Contact:** Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Hiranagar · Refer NIT PDF**PWD (R&B) — RAJOURI CIRCLE, UNDER CE PWD
JAMMU**

Ref: NIT No (companion to 19 of 2026-27) Dated 23-05-2026

**Restoration/Maintenance of Various Roads under PWD
(R&B) Sub Division Rajouri — Emergency Basis**

Companion tender to the Manjakote works, but for roads under PWD (R&B) Sub Division Rajouri proper. Scope identical: slips and drain clearance, snow clearance, filling of ruts, restoration of crate walls, and other damag...

Type: Works**Last date:** 1 Jun 2026**Est. cost:** Refer Documents (percentage-rate BoQ)**EMD:** ₹ 10,000 (CDR)**Location:** Rajouri, Rajouri district, J&K**Contact:** Executive Engineer, PWD R&B Division Rajouri · Refer NIT PDF**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA EMARKETPLACE (GEM) —
JAMMU BUYER**

Ref: GeM/2026 — Corrigendum (TOT Ref 141947876)

**Corrigendum: Electrocardiography (ECG) Machine (V2),
Qty: 2**

GeM procurement of 2 units of Electrocardiography (ECG) Machines, specification V2, for a government health institution in Jammu. Corrigendum issued; bidders should refer to the latest GeM bid document for revised techni...

Type: Supply**Last date:** 30 May 2026**Est. cost:** Refer Documents**EMD:** Refer Documents**Location:** Jammu, Jammu district, J&K**Contact:** Refer GeM bid document · Refer GeM bid document**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA EMARKETPLACE (GEM) —
BUDGAM BUYER**

Ref: GeM/2026 — Corrigendum (TOT Ref 141947610)

**Corrigendum: Repair and Overhauling Service — Diesel
Generators (DG Sets), Charge-Discharge Device**

GeM service tender for repair and overhauling of diesel generator sets (DG Sets) including charge-discharge device servicing. Buyer is a government office in Budgam district. Corrigendum issued; bidders should refer to t...

Type: Service**Last date:** 26 May 2026**Est. cost:** Refer Documents**EMD:** Refer Documents**Location:** Budgam, Budgam district, J&K**Contact:** Refer GeM bid document · Refer GeM bid document**HAUDD — DIRECTORATE OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES
JAMMU, MC HIRANAGAR**

Ref: MC/H/2026-27 Hiranagar Shop Series Dated 23-05-2026

**E-Auction of Shop (Variant) at Ward No. 4 Opposite
Municipal Office Hiranagar**

Companion e-auction within the MC Hiranagar batch dated 23-05-2026 for leasing/allotment of a shop unit at Ward No. 4 opposite Municipal Committee Office, Hiranagar. Reserve price approximately ₹ 8.6 lakh. Bidders must s...

Type: Auction**Last date:** 2 Jun 2026**Est. cost:** ₹ 8.60 Lakh (reserve price)**EMD:** ₹ 2 Lakh**Location:** Hiranagar, Kathua district, J&K**Contact:** Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Hiranagar · Refer NIT PDF**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA EMARKETPLACE (GEM) —
JAMMU BUYER**

Ref: GeM/2026 (TOT Ref 141947697)

Car Accessories, Qty: 2

GeM bid for supply of car accessories (2 units) for a government department in Jammu division. Detailed specifications, brand requirements and delivery terms available in the GeM bid document.

Type: Supply**Last date:** 27 May 2026**Est. cost:** Refer Documents**EMD:** Refer Documents**Location:** Jammu, Jammu district, J&K**Contact:** Refer GeM bid document · Refer GeM bid document

CLASSIFIEDS · PROPERTY · VEHICLES · MATRIMONIAL · JOBS

BUSINESS**Building Construction — Residential &
Commercial (A to Z Solutions)**

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· 9541476075 · Jammu

PROPERTY**Raja Property: Plots, Kothis & Shops for
Sale — Sainik Colony / Channi / Chowadi**

Plots, homes, kothis and shops for sale: 1. Sainik Colony: private 5 marla plot & 12 marla plot. 2. Sainik Colony: new 10 marla duplex kothi. 3. Channi: private...

Raja Property (Jamwal) · 7006145015 · Sainik Colony / Channi / Chowadi, Jammu

PROPERTY**3 BHK Society Flat for Sale — Sector 22
Dwarka, New Delhi**

3 BHK society flat with 3 toilets and study room on first floor for sale at Sector 22, Dwarka, New Delhi.

· 7889529017 · Sector 22, Dwarka, New Delhi

PROPERTY**Home Stay / Rental Accommodation — Mall
Road, Kud (Patnitop)**

Rental accommodation at Mall Road, Kud (Patnitop). One-room set and two-room set, fully furnished. Booking available on monthly and daily basis at main Mall Roa...

· 7006958690, 9205019544 · Mall Road, Kud, Patnitop

PROPERTY**Sharma Properties Jammu — Plots, Houses,
Shops & Rentals**

Sharma Properties — Jammu. · Panama Chowk: 1 kanal plot for sale — prime location, ideal for residence or investment. · Gandhi Nagar (Medicare Road): 1.75 kanal...

Sharma Properties · 9596886217 · Jammu (Panama Chowk / Gandhi Nagar / Pirmitha)

PROPERTY**4 Marla Corner Plot for Sale — Tara Vihar,
Paloura**

A corner plot measuring 4 marla at Tara Vihar, Paloura is for sale in a nice residential area. Only serious buyers may call.

· 9541722324 · Tara Vihar, Paloura, Jammu

PROPERTY**2 BHK Flat for Sale — Palam Sector 8,
Dwarka, New Delhi**

2 BHK with 2 toilets flat for sale near Sector 8, Dwarka (New Delhi). 2nd floor, with lift and parking. Sun facing, freehold property. Location: Palam, Sector 8...

Rs 55 Lakh

· 7889529017 · Palam, Sector 8, Dwarka, New Delhi

PROPERTY**To Let — Two Rooms / Hall — Gandhi Nagar,
Jammu (No Brokers)**

To let at first floor, Gandhi Nagar (no brokers). A) Two rooms / kitchen / washroom & verandah — Rs 20,000 p/m. B) Hall 405 sq.ft with washroom — Rs 23,000 p/m.

Rs 20,000 / Rs 23,000 per month

· 9797342393 · Gandhi Nagar, Jammu

PROPERTY**House for Immediate Sale — Sarwal Colony,
Jammu (11 Marla)**

Single-storey residential house comprising 2 bedrooms, lobby, drawing room, kitchen and verandah on 11 marlas of land at prime location of Sarwal Colony, Jammu...

· 9711191110 · Sarwal Colony, Jammu (opp. Dewan Janjghar)

PROPERTY**Rent / Lease — 3 BHK Furnished Flat &
Shop/Office — Rehari Colony**

For rent / lease at Main Rehari Colony (Bakshi Nagar Road): · 3 BHK fully furnished flat. · Shop / office — suitable for library, medical centre, office, paying...

· 9103305569, 9906019502 · Main Rehari Colony (Bakshi Nagar Road), Jammu

PROPERTY**Godown for Rent — Lower Belicharana,
Jammu**

For rent at Lower Belicharana: 2 godowns on ground floor (1,600 sq.ft area) and first floor (2,000 sq.ft area with washroom).

· 7780937192 · Lower Belicharana, Jammu

PROPERTY**Two Banquet Halls for Sale — Village
Salehar, Bishnah (16 Kanals)**

Two banquet halls for sale, constructed on 16 kanals of registered land at Village Salehar, Bishnah. Price negotiable.

Negotiable

· 7889796614 · Village Salehar, Bishnah, Jammu

PROPERTY**M/s Shivam Property — Plots, Kothis &
Shops Across Jammu**

M/s Shivam Property. 1. 10 marla plot (park face) for sale at Sainik Colony. 2. 12x20 shop for sale at Marble Market. 3. 4.5 marla kothi (duplex) for sale at Ex...

PROPERTY**3 BHK Home for Sale — Upper Roop Nagar,
Sec-2 (4 Marla)**

3 BHK home at Upper Roop Nagar, Sector-2, near Hanuman Mandir. Area: 4 marla. 3 bedrooms with attached dressing rooms, 3 washrooms, open modular kitchen, lobby...

PROPERTY**3 BHK Apartment for Rent — Shopping
Center, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu**

Spacious 3 BHK apartment available for rent at Shopping Center, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu. 3 bedrooms, 2 washrooms, big balcony, spacious living room, separate lobby...

PROPERTY**10 Marla Plot for Sale — Sainik Colony,
Sector B**

Excellent location: 10 marla plot on a 48 ft wide road in Sainik Colony, Sector B. All amenities including public park, Jodhamal School, Ankur Maitrika Hospital...



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