

THE CHECKPOST

DISPATCH

Truth from the Last Mile.

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SPORTS

Virat Kohli Leads RCB to Back-to-Back IPL Glory as Bengaluru Defeat Gujarat Titans in Final

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026



Virat Kohli delivered on the biggest stage once again, guiding Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a second consecutive IPL title with a composed match-winning innings against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad.

NATIONAL

CUET-UG Chaos Sparks Outrage as Technical Glitches Leave Thousands Stranded

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026



Widespread technical failures at multiple CUET-UG examination centres triggered confusion, delays and cancellations, leaving thousands of students and anxious parents demanding accountability from authorities.

New Delhi, May 31: The Common University Entrance Test (CUET-UG) 2026 witnessed major disruption across several examination centres on Friday after technical glitches delayed and...

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Operation Sheruwali Enters Day 10, Massive Anti-Militancy Hunt Intensifies in Rajouri-Poonch



REGIONAL

J&K Hajj Pilgrims Threaten Flight Boycott Over Baggage Restrictions

Hundreds of Hajj pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir have voiced anger over reduced baggage allowances and the road transportation of luggage, alleging discriminatory treatment and seeking immediate intervention.

Srinagar, May 31: A row has erupted over baggage restrictions imposed on Hajj pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir returning from Saudi Arabia...

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REGIONAL

Ladakh Administration Revises Dearness Allowance for Employees Under 6th Pay Commission

The Ladakh Administration has approved an increase in Dearness Allowance for employees covered under the 6th Central Pay Commission, providing additional financial relief amid rising living costs.

LEH, May 29: The Union Territory Administration of Ladakh has revised the Dearness Allowance (DA) for government employees drawing salaries under the 6th...

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REGIONAL

LG Manoj Sinha Leads Massive Anti-Drug Padyatra in Kulgam, Calls for United Fight Against Narco-Terrorism

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha led a large public padyatra in Kulgam under the Drug-Free Jammu and Kashmir campaign, urging citizens to join hands with the administration in elimi...

Kulgam, June 1: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday led a massive "Drug-Free J&K Padyatra" in Kulgam, drawing significant public participation as part of the administration's ongoing anti-drug campaign aimed at tackling substance abuse and narco-terrorism across Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a public gathering after the padyatra, the Lieutenant Governor said the movement had evolved into a people-driven campaign, with parents, teachers, religious leaders, youth volunteers and civil society members actively joining efforts to make villages and towns free from the menace of drugs. He stressed that the fight against addiction requires sustained public participation, vigilance and community support alongside enforcement measures.

Sinha observed that the campaign, launched under the broader "Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir" initiative, has gained momentum over the past several weeks and is not merely a public health effort but also a critical national security mission. He said drug trafficking and terrorism have become deeply interconnected, with narcotics networks often providing financial support to extremist activities. According to him, every effort to curb the drug trade weakens the ecosystem sustaining violence and instability in the region.

Highlighting recent enforcement action, the Lieutenant Governor stated that hundreds of cases have been registered against drug traffickers and peddlers during the ongoing campaign, while large-scale operations have been launched to dismantle supply chains and identify those involved in narcotics smuggling. He said the administration is simultaneously focusing on awareness, rehabilitation and community engagement to help affected youth return to mainstream society.

The padyatra witnessed participation from residents, youth groups, officials and volunteers, reflecting growing public mobilisation against drug abuse in South Kashmir. Authorities had also issued traffic advisories and diversion plans in Kulgam ahead of the event to facilitate the large-scale rally and ensure smooth movement during the programme.

The Kulgam event forms part of a series of anti-drug marches and awareness campaigns led by the Lieutenant Governor across different districts, including Srinagar, Pulwama, Budgam and Shopian, under the 100-day "Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir" campaign launched earlier this year.

REGIONAL

CM Omar Abdullah Inaugurates Additional Accommodation Block at Circuit House Church Lane

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026



Srinagar, June 1: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday inaugurated an additional accommodation block at Circuit House Church Lane in Srinagar, marking another step towards strengthening administrative and hospitality infrastructure in the Union Territory.

The newly constructed facility has been developed to augment accommodation capacity at the prestigious government guest house and provide improved lodging arrangements for visiting officials, dignitaries and guests. The project is expected to ease accommodation constraints and enhance the overall functionality of the Circuit House complex.

During the inauguration, the Chief Minister inspected the newly created facilities and reviewed the infrastructure developed under the project. Officials briefed him about the design, amenities and utility of the new accommodation block, which has been constructed as part of the government's broader effort to modernise public infrastructure and improve administrative facilities.

The inauguration reflects the government's ongoing focus on upgrading civic and institutional infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir. In recent months, the administration has undertaken multiple projects aimed at improving residential, accommodation and public service facilities for government employees and visiting officials.

Senior officers of the Estates Department and other officials were present on the occasion. The upgraded facility is expected to strengthen hospitality arrangements in Srinagar and support the increasing administrative requirements of the Union Territory, particularly during official visits, meetings and government functions.



REGIONAL

Garbage Crisis Deepens in Kathua as Sanitation Workers' Strike Continues

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 30 MAY, 2026

KATHUA, May 29: Kathua town is witnessing an escalating sanitation crisis as garbage continues to pile up across roadsides, residential localities, and public spaces due to the ongoing strike by sanitation workers, creating concern among residents over public health and cleanliness. (dailyexcelsior.com)

Overflowing waste dumps have been reported from multiple areas of the town, with residents complaining that the prolonged disruption in garbage collection has created unhygienic conditions and foul smell in several neighbourhoods. The situation has become particularly worrying amid rising temperatures and prevailing weather conditions that could accelerate the spread of infections and disease.

Local residents have urged the administration to intervene immediately and find a solution to the dispute before the situation worsens further. Many citizens expressed concern that unattended garbage could lead to mosquito breeding and increase the risk of diseases such as dengue, malaria, and other seasonal infections.

While residents acknowledged the importance of addressing the demands of sanitation workers, they stressed that public hygiene cannot be allowed to suffer for an extended period. Several citizens called for constructive dialogue between the authorities and protesting employees to ensure that both workers' concerns and public interests are addressed simultaneously.

The sanitation workers' union has reportedly maintained its strike, stating that long-pending issues affecting workers have not yet been resolved. Union representatives have indicated that the



REGIONAL

Omar Abdullah Calls Meeting of NC MLAs, Independent Allies on June 3; Congress Yet to Receive Invite

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026

Srinagar, June 1: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has called an important meeting of National Conference (NC) legislators and Independent MLAs supporting the ruling alliance on June 3 at his Gupkar residence in Srinagar, triggering political discussion after Congress leaders confirmed that they have not received any invitation so far.

According to reports, Omar Abdullah personally wrote to NC legislators and four Independent MLAs allied with the party, inviting them to attend the meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. on June 3. In his communication, the Chief Minister said the meeting would deliberate upon "matters of collective importance" and issues concerning public welfare, while stressing that attendance was mandatory due to the significance of the discussions.

The Independent legislators reportedly invited include Pyare Lal Sharma, Rameshwar Singh, Muzaffar Khan and Choudhary Akram, all of whom have been supporting the National Conference-led government. CPM leader and MLA M.Y. Tarigami, another ally of the ruling coalition, also indicated that he would attend the meeting if formally invited.

However, the absence of an invitation to the Congress, which has six MLAs and remains a key ally of the National Conference, has fuelled speculation regarding the dynamics within the alliance. Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hamid Karra and Congress Legislature Party leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir both confirmed that the party had not received any invitation for the

REGIONAL

BJP Poonch Plans Outreach Campaign to Mark 12 Years of Modi Government

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026



The BJP in Poonch has finalized a series of public outreach programmes from June 5 to 21 to highlight the achievements and welfare initiatives of the Narendra Modi-led government o...

Poonch, May 31: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Poonch on Saturday held a Yojana Baithak to chalk out plans for celebrating the completion of 12 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership at the Centre under the theme "12 Years of Vishwas, Vikas and Jan Kalyan."

The meeting focused on finalising a district-wide programme schedule and public outreach campaign to be conducted from June 5 to June 21. Party leaders discussed strategies to connect with people at the grassroots level and create awareness about various welfare schemes and developmental initiatives launched by the Union Government during the last twelve years.

The meeting was attended by BJP State General Secretary Gopal Mahajan, ST Morcha State President Choudhary Gani, District President Gurdeep Singh Khalsa, former MLC Pardeep Sharma, Sah Prabhari Rajesh Raina, District General Secretary Gulzar Jatt and several senior party leaders, office-bearers, Morcha representatives and workers from across the district.

Addressing the gathering, party leaders highlighted what they described as the transformative impact of various flagship programmes and reforms introduced under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. They stated that the upcoming campaign would serve as a platform to inform citizens about government initiatives related to infrastructure development, social welfare, economic growth and public service delivery.

The leaders called upon party workers to actively participate in the programmes and ensure effective public engagement throughout the celebration period. Emphasis was also laid on strengthening organisational activities and expanding outreach efforts in both urban and rural areas of the district.

The meeting concluded with party members reaffirming their commitment to making the campaign a success and taking the message of development and welfare schemes to every section of society across Poonch district.

REGIONAL

MLA Ajaz Ahmed Jan Distributes Sports Equipment, Encourages Youth Participation in Athletics

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026



Poonch, May 30: In a significant initiative aimed at promoting sports and empowering young athletes, MLA Haveli, Ajaz Ahmed Jan distributed sports equipment among players from various disciplines, including cricket and volleyball, during a function held at Dak Bungalow Mandi in Poonch.

The programme attracted a large gathering of sportspersons, youth, sports enthusiasts and local residents, reflecting the growing interest in sporting activities across the district. The initiative was

aimed at providing aspiring athletes with essential resources while encouraging greater participation in sports at the grassroots level.

Addressing the gathering, Ajaz Ahmed Jan highlighted the role of sports in fostering discipline, teamwork and physical fitness among young people. He said sports not only contribute to overall personality development but also help steer youth away from negative influences by promoting constructive engagement and healthy lifestyles.

The MLA noted that Poonch has produced talented sportspersons who have represented the region at various levels and stressed the need to provide them with adequate facilities and opportunities. He assured participants that efforts would continue to improve sports infrastructure and make quality equipment accessible to emerging athletes across the district.

Players who received the equipment welcomed the initiative and expressed gratitude for the support. They stated that access to proper sporting gear would help them improve their performance and pursue their goals with greater confidence and dedication.

Local residents and community members also appreciated the programme, describing it as a positive step towards strengthening the sporting ecosystem in the district. They observed that such initiatives not only support athletes

materially but also inspire more young people to take up sports and recreational activities.

The event concluded with participants reaffirming their commitment to promoting sportsmanship and healthy living, while expressing hope that continued support for sports would help unlock the immense athletic potential of Poonch's youth.

REGIONAL

DC Poonch Reviews Progress of NH-144A and RTS Road Projects, Directs Removal of Bottlenecks

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026



Poonch, May 30: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch, Ashok



REGIONAL

Youth Trek to Jalamang Promotes Fitness, Eco-Tourism and Drug-Free Living

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026

Rajouri, May 29: In an inspiring initiative aimed at encouraging healthy lifestyles among youth, a team of young trekkers successfully completed a one-day trekking expedition to the picturesque Jalamang meadow in Darhal Valley, highlighting the region's untapped tourism potential while spreading awareness against drug abuse.

Organised under the themes "Say No to Drugs – Choose Life," "Young India, Fit India," and "Explore the Hidden Tourism Potential of Darhal Valley," the expedition brought together local youth committed to promoting outdoor activities and positive community engagement. Before embarking on the trek, the participants submitted a memorandum outlining the objectives of the campaign and stressing the importance of steering young people towards fitness and adventure.

Led by Tahir Mustafa, the trekking team traversed nearly 20 kilometres through dense forests, rugged mountain slopes, rocky trails, flowing streams and lush alpine meadows. Starting from Budhkhani near Darhal, the trekkers crossed several scenic locations before reaching the breathtaking Jalamang meadow after more than four hours of continuous trekking.

Surrounded by towering trees and nourished by crystal-clear mountain streams, Jalamang left participants captivated with its natural beauty. The trekkers described it as one of the most stunning yet unexplored destinations in the region, possessing immense potential for eco-tourism and adventure tourism.

Speaking after the expedition, the organisers emphasised that



REGIONAL

World No Tobacco Day Observed Across Poonch With Anti-Addiction Awareness Campaign

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026

Poonch, May 31: World No Tobacco Day 2026 was observed across Poonch district on Saturday with a range of awareness activities aimed at educating people about the health risks associated with tobacco and nicotine consumption. The programmes were organised under the global theme, "Unmasking the Appeal – Countering Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction."

The district-wide campaign was conducted under the directions of Mission Director, National Health Mission J&K, Akriti Sagar (IAS), Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma and Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Poonam Sethi. The activities were carried out under the overall supervision of Chief Medical Officer Poonch, Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan.

The main event was held at Government District Hospital Poonch under the supervision of Medical Superintendent Dr. Mohd Shafeeq, while similar awareness programmes were organised in Mandi, Surankote and Mendhar blocks by the respective health authorities.

During the sessions, doctors and health experts highlighted the serious health consequences of tobacco use and warned against the growing appeal of nicotine products among youth. Speakers drew attention to marketing strategies that often portray tobacco and nicotine-based products as fashionable or less harmful, despite their well-documented health risks.

Health officials stressed that tobacco use remains one of the leading causes of preventable illness and death globally.

NATIONAL

J&K Chief Justice Arun Palli Recommended for Elevation to Supreme Court

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 28 MAY, 2026



The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the elevation of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Chief Justice Arun Palli to the Supreme Court, marking a major judicial development...

JAMMU, May 28: In a significant development for the judiciary, the Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the elevation of Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, Justice Arun Palli, as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

The recommendation was made during recent Collegium meetings chaired by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, where five names were cleared for appointment to the apex court. Apart from Justice Arun Palli, the Collegium also recommended the names of four other senior judges and legal experts for elevation.

Justice Palli currently serves as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and took oath in that role in April last year after being transferred from the Punjab and Haryana High Court. Legal observers describe his proposed elevation as an important moment for the Union Territory's judicial representation at the national level.

Known for handling constitutional, civil, criminal, labour, and administrative matters during his judicial career, Justice Palli has served in multiple important legal and judicial positions over the years. Before joining the bench, he practiced extensively at the Punjab and Haryana High Court and was later designated as a Senior Advocate.

The Collegium's recommendations come shortly after the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court was increased from 34 to 38 judges in an effort to reduce case backlog and strengthen judicial capacity. Two additional vacancies are also expected in the coming weeks due to scheduled retirements in the apex court.

The recommendations will now be sent to the Central Government for approval and formal appointment procedures.

REGIONAL

Residents Demand Immediate Repair of Dilapidated SSP Office-RP Gate Road Stretch in Poonch

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026



Poonch, May 31: Growing concern has emerged among residents over the poor condition of the road stretch extending from the SSP Office to RP Gate in Poonch, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). The road has reportedly deteriorated significantly, with large potholes and damaged patches making travel increasingly difficult and unsafe.

According to residents, the condition of the road has worsened over time, posing a serious threat to motorists, pedestrians and especially two-wheeler riders. They

fear that if immediate repairs are not undertaken, the damaged stretch could become the cause of a major accident.

While blacktopping work was recently carried out on a portion of the road between the SSP Office and Jahaz Ground, the remaining section up to RP Gate continues to remain in a neglected state. Commuters have expressed disappointment that the improvement work was left incomplete, leaving one of the busiest stretches in the town riddled with potholes and uneven surfaces.

Former Chairman of the Municipal Council Poonch, Advocate Sunil Sharma, also raised the issue and called upon the Border Roads Organisation to complete the blacktopping of the remaining road section without delay. He said that repairing the damaged stretch would not only improve road connectivity but also ensure the safety and convenience of the general public.

Residents have appealed to the concerned authorities to take prompt action and complete the resurfacing work at the earliest. They expressed hope that the BRO would address the issue in the larger public interest and ensure that the entire road corridor is brought into a safe and motorable condition before the onset of further weather-related damage.

REGIONAL

J&K Police Weightlifter Nirbhai Singh Strikes Gold After Years of Perseverance

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026



Jammu, May 29: Demonstrating extraordinary determination and resilience, Special Police Officer (SPO) Nirbhai Singh of the Jammu and Kashmir Police Weightlifting Team secured a gold medal at the ongoing All India Police Weightlifting Cluster Championship in Haryana, ending years of pursuit for the top honour.

Nirbhai's triumph comes after a remarkable journey marked by perseverance and consistency. Having narrowly missed the gold medal in the previous three editions of the championship, he continued to work



REGIONAL

Farooq, Omar Receive Eid Greetings From Leaders, Workers and Citizens

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 29 MAY, 2026

SRINAGAR, May 29: National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and the party's Vice President and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday met party leaders, legislators, workers, and people from different parts of the Union Territory who visited their Gupkar residence to convey Eid-ul-Adha greetings.

The gathering, held on the third day of Eid celebrations, saw the participation of political leaders, party functionaries, supporters, and citizens from various districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Visitors extended their festive wishes and exchanged greetings with the senior National Conference leadership.

During the interaction, Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah thanked the visitors for their warm wishes and emphasized the importance of maintaining close engagement with the public. They urged party leaders, elected representatives, and workers to remain accessible to the people and continue addressing public concerns with commitment and sincerity.

The leaders stressed the need for strengthening grassroots outreach and ensuring that governance and public service remain focused on the needs and aspirations of ordinary citizens. They also highlighted the importance of unity, social harmony, and collective efforts towards the development and progress of Jammu and Kashmir.

Several senior leaders and legislators were present on the occasion, including Cabinet Minister Sakina Itoo, Rajya Sabha Member Shammi Oberoi, MLA Gurez Nazir Ahmad Gurezi, and



REGIONAL

CM Omar Abdullah Hands Over Compassionate Appointment Orders to 52 Beneficiaries

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 26 MAY, 2026

Srinagar, May 26: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday handed over compassionate appointment orders to 52 beneficiaries under SRO-43 and the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS), reaffirming the government's commitment towards supporting families affected by the loss of earning members in service.

According to officials, the appointment orders were distributed to eligible candidates belonging to different districts of the Union Territory. The beneficiaries were provided government employment under provisions meant for dependent family members of deceased government employees and victims of terrorism-related incidents.

The Chief Minister extended his best wishes to the appointees and urged them to discharge their responsibilities with dedication, sincerity, and a strong sense of public service. He said the government remains committed to ensuring timely assistance and compassionate support to deserving families facing difficult circumstances.

Officials stated that the initiative forms part of the administration's broader effort to clear pending cases under SRO-43 and RAS schemes while making the process more transparent and efficient. The government has been emphasizing faster disposal of compassionate appointment cases to reduce hardships faced by affected families.

The appointment distribution ceremony was attended by senior

REGIONAL

PoJK Youth Crosses LoC in Uri to Meet Woman, Both Detained by Security Forces

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026



A young man from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir allegedly crossed the Line of Control in Uri to meet a local woman, triggering a security investigation after both were detainee...

Srinagar, May 31: In an unusual incident along the Line of Control (LoC) in North Kashmir's Uri sector, security forces apprehended a young man from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) who had allegedly crossed into Indian territory to meet a woman from the border area, officials said on Sunday.

The individual was identified as Zeeshan Ahmad Mir, a resident of Muzaffarabad in PoJK. According to officials, he was intercepted by Army personnel in the Silikote area of Uri after crossing the heavily guarded LoC. A local woman, identified as Iram Bano of Tilawari village in Uri, was also detained for questioning in connection with the case.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the two were allegedly in contact for some time and may have developed a relationship through social media and phone communication. Security agencies suspect that the PoJK resident crossed the border specifically to meet the woman, though officials have

stressed that all aspects of the case are still being examined and no final conclusions have been drawn.

The Army's Chinar Corps confirmed the apprehension of the intruder, stating that alert troops intercepted and detained him while maintaining restraint during the operation. He was later handed over to Jammu and Kashmir Police for further legal proceedings.

Officials said security agencies are investigating whether the incident was purely linked to a personal relationship or if any other motive may have been involved. Authorities are also examining how the youth managed to cross the LoC and reach the Uri sector without being detected earlier.

The incident has drawn widespread attention across the region, highlighting the complex human stories that occasionally emerge from areas divided by the LoC, where families, social ties and personal relationships have historically existed across the border despite decades of conflict and strict security restrictions.

REGIONAL

District Police Ramban Felicitates SPO Kuldeep Singh on Retirement

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026



Ramban, May 30: District Police Ramban on Saturday accorded a warm farewell to Special Police Officer (SPO) Kuldeep Singh on the eve of his retirement from service, recognising his dedication and commitment during his tenure with the department.

A farewell function was organised at the District Police Lines (DPL) Ramban, where senior officers and colleagues gathered to honour the retiring officer and acknowledge his valuable contributions to policing and public service. The event was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Ramban Arun Gupta, DySP DAR Kuldeep Kumar, DySP Operations Manisha

Kumari and other officers and personnel of the district police.

As a token of appreciation, the department presented a memento to Kuldeep Singh in recognition of his sincere service and professional commitment. The occasion provided an opportunity for fellow officers and staff members to reflect on his career and express gratitude for his dedication, integrity and cooperative spirit.

Addressing the gathering, SSP Arun Gupta lauded the retiring officer for his professionalism, discipline and unwavering devotion to duty throughout his service. He wished him good health, happiness and success in the years ahead.

DySP DAR Kuldeep Kumar also highlighted Kuldeep Singh's contributions to the department, describing him as a committed and responsible officer whose work ethic would continue to inspire younger members of the force.

Several officers and colleagues shared their experiences and appreciated the retiring official for his courteous conduct, teamwork and dedication to public service. The programme concluded with the presentation of mementos and best wishes for a peaceful, healthy and fulfilling retired life.

REGIONAL

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sanctioned for Panchari, Bringing Major Educational Boost to Region

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 29 MAY, 2026



UDHAMPUR, May 29: The sanction of a new Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) at Panchari in Udhampur district has generated widespread enthusiasm among residents, who have hailed the decision as a significant milestone for the educational development of the region.

According to an official order issued by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), the school will commence operations from the 2026-27 academic session under the Civil Sector. The institution will initially



REGIONAL

Col Rajesh Gupta (Retd) Takes Charge as Zila Sainik Welfare Officer Udhampur

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026

Udhampur, May 30: A formal handing-over and taking-over ceremony was held at the Zila Sainik Welfare Office (ZSWO), Udhampur, marking a transition in leadership as Col Rajesh Gupta (Retd), a distinguished Army veteran from Doda district, assumed charge as the new Zila Sainik Welfare Officer.

Col Gupta took over responsibilities from Wing Commander Tirath Singh (Retd) in the presence of officials and staff of the welfare office. As part of the transition process, a detailed briefing was conducted to ensure continuity of services and smooth implementation of ongoing welfare initiatives for the armed forces community.

During the handover, the outgoing officer apprised his successor of the office's functioning, key welfare schemes, ongoing projects and issues concerning ex-servicemen, war widows, Veer Naris and their dependents. The briefing focused on maintaining efficiency in service delivery and ensuring uninterrupted support to beneficiaries.

After assuming charge, Col Rajesh Gupta interacted with the staff and outlined his vision for strengthening welfare outreach and enhancing the effectiveness of services being provided to the veteran community. He stressed the importance of prompt grievance redressal, improved coordination with stakeholders and greater awareness among beneficiaries regarding various welfare schemes and entitlements.

The newly appointed officer also underscored the need for a compassionate and service-oriented approach in addressing the



REGIONAL

Doda Police Launches Legal Awareness Drive on Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita in Schools

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026

Doda, May 30: In a continued effort to promote legal literacy and strengthen community policing, Doda Police organised a series of awareness programmes on the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) across educational institutions in the district, engaging students in discussions on law, justice and civic responsibility.

The programmes were conducted at Government High School Bun, Iqra International Academy Akramabad and Kidzee Kingdom Doda, where a large number of students participated enthusiastically. The initiative was aimed at familiarising young minds with the provisions and objectives of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which forms a key part of India's new criminal justice framework.

During the sessions, police officials conducted awareness lectures and interactive activities, including quizzes, essay-writing competitions and debates, to help students better understand the legal system and the importance of the rule of law. Participants were also educated about their rights, duties and responsibilities as citizens and the role they can play in building a just and accountable society.

The students actively engaged in the discussions and displayed keen interest in learning about the newly enacted criminal laws. The interactive format of the programme encouraged participation and provided a platform for students to raise questions and share their views on legal and social issues.

Officials said the initiative forms part of Doda Police's broader

NATIONAL

Supreme Court Refuses Plea for NEET-UG Retest in Computer-Based Mode

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026



The Supreme Court has declined to entertain a petition seeking a fresh NEET-UG examination in computer-based mode, observing that policy decisions regarding the conduct of examinat...

Supreme Court Refuses Plea for NEET-UG Retest in Computer-Based Mode

The Supreme Court has declined to entertain a petition seeking a fresh NEET-UG examination in computer-based mode, observing that decisions regarding the conduct and format of examinations fall within the domain of the competent authorities.

New Delhi, June 1: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking a re-conduct of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test Undergraduate (NEET-UG) examination in a computer-based format, declining to interfere with the existing examination process adopted by authorities.

The petition sought directions for conducting NEET-UG through a computer-based test (CBT) mode instead of the traditional pen-and-paper format, citing concerns related to transparency, security and examination management. However, the apex court observed that matters concerning the mode of conducting examinations are policy decisions best left to expert bodies and the authorities responsible for administering such tests.

A vacation Bench comprising Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Manmohan reportedly questioned the need for judicial intervention in the examination process and indicated that courts cannot routinely interfere in academic

and administrative decisions unless there is a clear legal or constitutional issue involved.

During the hearing, the petitioner argued that conducting the examination in CBT mode could help reduce irregularities and improve efficiency. The Court, however, was not persuaded by the submissions and declined to entertain the plea, effectively allowing the present examination format to continue.

The decision comes amid increased public scrutiny of national-level entrance examinations following recent debates over examination management and technical challenges in various competitive tests. NEET-UG remains one of the country's largest entrance examinations and serves as the gateway for admission to undergraduate medical courses.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) currently conducts NEET-UG in pen-and-paper mode, citing the large number of candidates appearing across thousands of centres nationwide and the logistical complexities involved in conducting the examination in a computer-based format.

With the Supreme Court declining to intervene, any future change in the mode of conducting NEET-UG is likely to depend on policy decisions taken by the concerned authorities and examination bodies.

POLITICS

Opposition Leaders Condemn Attack on Abhishek Banerjee, Call It Assault on Democracy

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026



Kolkata, May 31: Political leaders from across the opposition spectrum have condemned the recent attack on Trinamool Congress (TMC) national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee during his visit to Sonarpur in West Bengal, with many describing the incident

as a disturbing reflection of the growing culture of political violence in the country.

The attack reportedly took place when Banerjee visited the area to meet families allegedly affected by post-election violence. During the visit, protesters reportedly hurled eggs and stones, while videos circulating on social media showed chaotic scenes and heavy sloganeering. The TMC accused BJP supporters of orchestrating the incident, a charge rejected by the BJP.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge strongly criticised the attack, stating that political differences can never justify violence and that democratic values must be protected regardless of party affiliations. Similar reactions came from several opposition leaders, including Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who urged accountability and condemned the use of force in political disputes.

The controversy has further intensified political tensions in West Bengal, where allegations of post-poll violence and political confrontations have continued

since the recently concluded Assembly elections. Opposition leaders described the incident as an attack not only on an individual leader but also on democratic norms and political freedom.

The incident has triggered a wider debate over political intolerance and security of public representatives, with demands for a thorough investigation and stronger measures to prevent violence during political activities.



POLITICS

INDIA Bloc to Hold Key Meeting on June 6 to Discuss Future Strategy

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026

New Delhi, May 29: Leaders of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) are scheduled to meet on June 6 in what is being viewed as a significant effort to revive coordination within the opposition coalition and formulate a joint political strategy for the months ahead.

The meeting, the first major gathering of the alliance after a considerable gap, is expected to focus on reviewing the prevailing political situation in the country, strengthening opposition unity and discussing future plans on key national issues. Sources indicated that senior leaders from constituent parties are likely to deliberate on organisational coordination, parliamentary strategy and upcoming political challenges.

The proposed meeting comes amid renewed calls from several opposition leaders for greater coordination within the alliance. Earlier, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee had indicated that INDIA bloc leaders were likely to meet in the first week of June to chalk out a common strategy and strengthen opposition efforts.

Political observers view the June 6 meeting as an important opportunity for the alliance to reaffirm its unity after months of limited collective engagement. The discussions are also expected to take place against the backdrop of recent political developments in several states and growing debate over issues related to governance, electoral processes and federal relations.

While the detailed agenda has not been officially announced, alliance leaders are expected to explore ways to enhance



POLITICS

Cockroach Janta Party Founder Abhijeet Dipke to Return to India on June 6, Plans Protest in Delhi

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026

New Delhi, June 1: Abhijeet Dipke, the founder of the rapidly growing satirical political movement known as the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), has announced that he will return to India on June 6 to launch a peaceful protest in New Delhi seeking the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over a series of examination-related controversies.

In a video message shared on social media, Dipke called upon students, job aspirants and supporters to gather in Delhi and participate in a peaceful demonstration at Jantar Mantar. He said the protest is aimed at raising concerns over alleged irregularities and lapses in major examinations, including the NEET-UG controversy that triggered widespread debate across the country.

Dipke, a political communications strategist currently based in the United States, said he would arrive in Delhi on June 6 and seek official permission for the proposed protest. He urged young people to exercise their democratic rights and demand accountability through peaceful and constitutional means.

The Cockroach Janta Party emerged last month as an internet-driven satirical movement that quickly gained nationwide attention, particularly among young Indians frustrated over unemployment, examination issues and governance concerns. The movement's social media presence has expanded rapidly, attracting millions of followers and sparking widespread political discussion.

In recent weeks, the movement has also attracted controversy.

POLITICS

Supreme Court Says Consenting Adult Sex Workers Cannot Be Detained Against Their Will

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026



In a significant ruling, the Supreme Court has held that voluntary adult sex workers cannot be forcibly rescued or confined in protection homes, stressing that consent and personal...

New Delhi, May 31: The Supreme Court has ruled that consenting adult sex workers cannot be “rescued”, detained or institutionalised against their will merely because they are engaged in sex work, drawing a clear distinction between human trafficking and voluntary adult sex work while issuing a comprehensive framework to combat trafficking across the country.

The judgment came in the long-pending Prajwala case concerning human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. A Bench of the apex court observed that authorities often fail to differentiate between trafficked victims and adults who voluntarily engage in sex work, leading to arbitrary detention and unnecessary interference in personal liberty.

The Court emphasised that consent must remain the primary factor in determining whether a person is a victim of trafficking or an adult exercising personal choice. It directed

authorities to conduct an early assessment to identify voluntary adult sex workers and avoid coercive action unless there are clear concerns regarding force, threat, coercion or exploitation.

While strengthening measures against trafficking, the Court stated that rescued victims must be treated as individuals with agency rather than passive subjects of rehabilitation. It also raised concerns over provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act that are frequently used against trafficking victims and recommended legislative reforms to prevent their criminalisation.

The judgment further directed states and union territories to improve victim protection mechanisms, strengthen anti-trafficking infrastructure and ensure dignified rehabilitation measures. The matter will be reviewed again later this year to monitor compliance with the directions issued by the Court.

INTERNATIONAL

India Rejects China-Pakistan Remarks on Jammu & Kashmir

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 27 MAY, 2026



NEW DELHI, May 27: India on Tuesday issued a sharp diplomatic response to China and Pakistan after a joint statement between the two countries referred to Jammu and Kashmir and projects linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Responding to media queries, the Ministry of External Affairs stated that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh “have been, are, and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India.” The government further asserted that no foreign country has any authority to comment on India’s internal matters relating to the Union Territories.

The statement came after talks in Beijing between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, where both sides discussed expanding strategic cooperation and reiterated support for CPEC projects.

India also strongly opposed projects being carried out under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in Pakistan-occupied territories, maintaining that such activities violate India’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. The MEA reiterated that New Delhi has consistently conveyed its objections to both Beijing and Islamabad regarding these projects.

The Centre additionally rejected references made by China and Pakistan regarding so-called “trans-boundary water cooperation,” pointing out that the two countries do not share a direct boundary in the concerned region. India also reiterated that it has never recognised the 1963 boundary agreement signed between Pakistan and China.

Political and strategic observers believe the latest exchange reflects continuing tensions surrounding Kashmir, regional connectivity projects, and geopolitical competition in South Asia.

The development comes amid broader diplomatic activity involving China, Pakistan, India, and regional security concerns across Asia, particularly at a time when infrastructure corridors and strategic influence in the region remain highly sensitive issues.

NATIONAL

Vijay Holds First Official Meeting With PM Modi After Becoming Tamil Nadu CM

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 27 MAY, 2026



NEW DELHI, May 27: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay on Wednesday held his first formal meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi after assuming office earlier this month, marking an important moment in Centre-state political relations.

The meeting is being seen as significant because it comes shortly after Vijay’s party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), formed the government in Tamil Nadu following a major electoral victory that reshaped the state’s political landscape.

During the interaction, Vijay is understood to have discussed several



NATIONAL

India Confirms BrahMos Missile Deal With Vietnam, Indonesia Pact Nears Finalisation

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026

New Delhi, May 31: India has officially confirmed that it has signed an agreement with Vietnam for the supply of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system, marking another significant step in the country’s growing defence export ambitions and strategic outreach in Southeast Asia.

The announcement was made by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh during the Shangri-La Dialogue security summit in Singapore. Responding to questions on potential buyers of the missile system, Singh stated that while discussions with both Vietnam and Indonesia had reached advanced stages, the agreement with Vietnam had already been signed, though it had not yet been publicly announced.

Developed jointly by India and Russia, the BrahMos missile is regarded as one of the world’s fastest operational supersonic cruise missiles and has become a key component of India’s defence export strategy. India had earlier secured its first overseas BrahMos export deal with the Philippines in 2022, valued at nearly \$375 million.

Reports suggest the Vietnam deal could be worth around ₹6,000 crore and may include training, maintenance and logistical support packages, though official financial details have not been disclosed.

The development comes amid increasing geopolitical competition in the Indo-Pacific region and growing security concerns in the South China Sea, where both Vietnam and the Philippines have



NATIONAL

Supreme Court Upholds EC’s Power To Conduct SIR Exercise

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 28 MAY, 2026

NEW DELHI, May 27: In a major ruling with significant political and constitutional implications, the Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the Election Commission of India’s authority to conduct the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, rejecting challenges filed against the exercise.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant observed that the revision process was legally valid and consistent with the constitutional objective of maintaining free and fair elections. The Court stated that ensuring accurate and updated voter lists was directly connected to the integrity of India’s democratic system.

The judgment came after multiple petitions alleged that the SIR exercise could lead to arbitrary deletion of voters and misuse of citizenship verification mechanisms. However, the Court ruled that the Election Commission had acted within its statutory powers and had not violated constitutional provisions while carrying out the revision process.

The Court further clarified that the exercise was aimed at maintaining clean and credible electoral rolls and did not amount to a final determination of citizenship status. It also noted that procedural safeguards, correction mechanisms, and opportunities for redress had been incorporated during the process.

In its observations, the Supreme Court remarked that the SIR exercise “breathes life into the Constitution” by strengthening electoral transparency and democratic participation. The bench additionally directed that lists of deleted voters and reasons for deletion should remain accessible to maintain transparency in the

NATIONAL

Fuel Prices Hit Highest Levels Since 2022 Amid Global Oil Disruptions

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 30 MAY, 2026



Petrol and diesel prices in India have climbed to their highest levels in nearly four years after a series of sharp revisions driven by rising crude oil prices, Middle East tension...

NEW DELHI, May 30: Fuel prices across India remained unchanged on Friday after four consecutive hikes over the past two weeks, but petrol and diesel continue to trade at their highest levels since 2022, increasing pressure on household budgets, transport operators, and businesses.

The latest round of revisions pushed petrol prices in New Delhi to ₹102.12 per litre, while diesel is currently retailing at ₹95.20 per litre. In Mumbai, petrol has risen to ₹111.18 per litre and diesel to ₹97.83, with several other major cities also witnessing steep increases.

The surge follows four separate fuel price hikes since mid-May, resulting in cumulative increases of nearly ₹7.5 per litre in several cities. Oil marketing companies have attributed the revisions to rising international crude oil prices and mounting losses linked to global energy market volatility.

Analysts say the primary trigger behind the spike has been escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia, particularly the ongoing U.S.–Iran conflict and disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil transit

corridors. Crude oil prices recently crossed the \$100-per-barrel mark, significantly increasing import costs for major energy-consuming nations such as India.

India imports a large share of its crude oil requirements, making domestic fuel prices highly sensitive to international market fluctuations. Experts warn that prolonged instability in Gulf energy routes could further impact fuel costs, inflation, logistics expenses, and overall economic activity.

The recent increase has sparked calls from transport associations and industry groups for the government to consider reducing taxes on fuel, particularly as international crude prices have shown signs of easing in recent days. Several organisations argue that consumers and businesses should receive relief if global oil prices continue to decline.

While prices have temporarily stabilised, market observers caution that future revisions will largely depend on developments in West Asia, crude oil movements, and the overall stability of global energy supply chains.

BUSINESS

Oil Prices Jump Over 2% as Escalating Israel-Lebanon Conflict Fuels Supply Concerns

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026



Beijing, June 1: International crude oil prices rose more than 2 per cent in early trading on Monday after Israel expanded its military incursion into southern Lebanon despite a ceasefire announced earlier this year, triggering renewed concerns over stability in the Middle East and the security of global energy supplies.

Brent crude futures climbed above \$93 per barrel, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude approached the \$90 mark as investors reacted to the intensifying conflict between Israeli forces

and the Iran-backed Hezbollah group. Market analysts said the escalation significantly reduced hopes of an early diplomatic breakthrough in the region.

The latest surge followed reports that Israeli troops had been ordered to advance further into Lebanon, marking one of the most serious escalations since fighting resumed despite a ceasefire reached in April. The conflict has increasingly become a major spillover of the broader regional tensions involving Iran, Hezbollah and Israel.

Energy markets were further rattled by concerns surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most strategically important oil transit routes through which nearly one-fifth of global oil and gas supplies pass. Reports of additional mines allegedly being deployed in the region have heightened fears that shipping disruptions could persist even if diplomatic efforts succeed in reducing hostilities.

Analysts noted that geopolitical risks are currently outweighing concerns about slowing global demand, particularly after recent economic data from China pointed to weaker manufacturing activity. Investors remain focused on the possibility of supply shortages if tensions continue to escalate across the region.

The rise in oil prices also comes amid uncertainty surrounding ongoing discussions involving the United States, Iran and regional stakeholders over extending ceasefire arrangements and preventing a wider conflict. Any prolonged disruption in the Middle East, experts warned, could have significant consequences for global energy markets, inflation and fuel prices worldwide.

Market observers said traders will closely monitor military developments and diplomatic negotiations in the coming days, as further escalation could push crude prices even higher and increase volatility across international financial markets.



BUSINESS

GST Collections Rise to ₹1.94 Lakh Crore in May, Growth Moderates to 3.2%

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026

New Delhi, June 1: India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections rose to more than ₹1.94 lakh crore in May 2026, reflecting a 3.2 per cent increase compared to the corresponding month last year, according to official data released on Sunday.

While the collections remained above the ₹1.9 lakh crore mark, the growth rate moderated significantly compared to recent months and also declined from the record ₹2.42 lakh crore GST revenue collected in April 2026. Economists attributed the slowdown partly to the exceptionally high base in the previous month as well as softer growth in domestic transactions.

According to the data, gross GST revenue in May stood at approximately ₹1.94 lakh crore against ₹1.88 lakh crore collected during the same period last year. Net GST revenue after refunds also registered a modest increase, indicating continued resilience in tax collections despite global economic uncertainties and rising energy costs.

Tax experts noted that although the pace of growth has slowed, the sustained collection level reflects stable economic activity, continued compliance by taxpayers and the expanding GST base. Strong revenues from imports and consumption-linked sectors have remained key contributors to overall collections in recent months.

The latest figures come after April witnessed the highest-ever monthly GST collection of ₹2.42 lakh crore, driven largely by year-end business settlements, increased imports and robust compliance. As a result, analysts had expected some moderation in



BUSINESS

Industrial Output Growth Slows to 4.9% in April Despite Strong Manufacturing Performance

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026

New Delhi, June 1: India's industrial output growth moderated to 4.9 per cent in April 2026, according to official data released on Monday, marking the first Index of Industrial Production (IIP) release under the newly revised base year series of 2022–23.

The latest figures showed that manufacturing, which carries the highest weight in the index, remained the key driver of industrial activity with a growth rate of 6.2 per cent. However, weakness in mining and relatively slower growth in the energy sector weighed on overall industrial expansion.

According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), mining and quarrying contracted by 5.1 per cent during April, while electricity and gas supply recorded a growth of 4.9 per cent. The newly introduced water supply, sewerage and waste management segment registered a growth of 6.6 per cent.

The April industrial growth rate was lower than the 5.7 per cent expansion recorded in the corresponding month last year. Economists attributed part of the moderation to pressures arising from rising energy costs and disruptions linked to ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia, which have affected fuel supplies and industrial input costs.

The revised IIP series introduces major methodological changes, including a new base year of 2022–23, updated sectoral weights, an expanded item basket and broader industrial coverage aimed at better reflecting the current structure of the Indian economy.



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TECHNOLOGY

Nvidia Unveils RTX Spark Chip for Windows Laptops in Major Consumer PC Push

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026



Artificial intelligence giant Nvidia has entered the consumer PC processor market with the launch of its new RTX Spark chip, aiming to power a new generation of AI-focused Windows...

Taipei, June 1: Nvidia on Monday unveiled its first major Windows laptop processor, the RTX Spark superchip, marking a significant expansion beyond its traditional graphics processing business and into the rapidly evolving consumer PC market driven by artificial intelligence. The announcement was made ahead of Computex 2026 in Taipei, one of the world's largest technology exhibitions.

The RTX Spark is an Arm-based system-on-chip developed in partnership with MediaTek and combines CPU, GPU and AI-processing capabilities into a single platform. Nvidia said the chip is designed to support advanced AI applications directly on personal computers, enabling users to run AI agents, large language models, content creation tools and high-performance computing workloads without relying heavily on cloud infrastructure.

Announcing the launch, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang described the development as a major shift in personal computing, stating that Microsoft and Nvidia are working together to "reinvent the PC" for the age of artificial intelligence. The company said the new platform has been optimised for Windows and is capable of supporting both traditional applications and next-generation AI-driven experiences.

Industry analysts view the move as Nvidia's most direct challenge yet to dominant laptop chipmakers such as Intel,

AMD, Qualcomm and Apple. The launch also signals Nvidia's attempt to diversify beyond its booming data-centre and AI infrastructure business, which has driven the company to record revenues and become one of the world's most valuable technology firms.

According to Nvidia, more than 40 devices powered by RTX Spark are expected from manufacturers including Dell, HP, Lenovo, Asus and Microsoft. Reports suggest the flagship version of the chip could feature up to 20 CPU cores, advanced Blackwell-based graphics and support for up to 128 GB of unified memory, positioning it among the most powerful AI-capable laptop processors announced so far.

Technology experts believe the launch could reshape competition in the Windows ecosystem by accelerating the adoption of AI-powered personal computers and reducing dependence on conventional x86-based chip architectures. However, questions remain regarding pricing, software optimisation and how quickly consumers and developers will embrace the new platform.

The RTX Spark announcement is being seen as one of the most significant consumer technology launches of the year, underscoring Nvidia's growing ambition to influence not only AI infrastructure but also the future direction of everyday computing.

TECHNOLOGY

Microsoft Set To Launch New AI Coding Model Amid Race for Developer Tools

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 29 MAY, 2026



SAN FRANCISCO, May 29: Microsoft is expected to introduce a new proprietary artificial intelligence coding model at its annual Build developer conference next week, signalling a major step in the company's effort to expand its own AI ecosystem and compete more aggressively

in the rapidly growing market for AI-powered software development tools.

According to recent reports, the upcoming model is being designed primarily to enhance GitHub Copilot, Microsoft's AI-assisted coding platform used by millions of developers worldwide. The company is also reportedly preparing additional specialised AI systems focused on transcription, reasoning, speech processing, and image analysis.

The move comes as competition in the AI coding sector intensifies. Tools such as Anthropic's Claude Code and other advanced developer-focused AI systems have gained significant traction among programmers, increasing pressure on Microsoft to strengthen its own offerings.

Industry analysts believe the announcement reflects Microsoft's broader strategy of becoming less dependent on OpenAI, which has been a key technology partner behind several of Microsoft's AI products. While the partnership remains important, both companies have reportedly been adjusting their relationship and pursuing greater

technological independence in recent months.

The Build conference, one of Microsoft's most important annual developer events, is expected to showcase the company's next phase of AI integration across software development, cloud infrastructure, enterprise applications, and productivity tools. Investors have reacted positively to reports surrounding the upcoming launch, with Microsoft shares gaining strength amid expectations that the company could further expand its position in the global AI market.

The development highlights the escalating battle among major technology firms including Microsoft, Google, OpenAI, Anthropic, and other AI startups, all competing to dominate what is increasingly becoming one of the most commercially valuable sectors in the technology industry. Experts believe advanced coding assistants may soon become standard tools for software engineering, automation, and enterprise development worldwide.



SPORTS

Zee Secures FIFA World Cup 2026 Broadcast Rights in India, Set to Stream Tournament on ZEE5

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026

New Delhi, June 1: Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL) has officially acquired the Indian broadcast and streaming rights for the FIFA World Cup 2026, bringing football's biggest global tournament to Indian audiences through its television network and digital platform ZEE5.

The agreement, announced just days before the start of the tournament, grants Zee rights to 39 FIFA events between 2026 and 2034, including the FIFA World Cup 2026, FIFA World Cup 2030 and the FIFA Women's World Cup 2027. The deal marks Zee's first major partnership with FIFA and is being viewed as one of the company's most significant entries into the sports broadcasting sector.

The FIFA World Cup 2026, scheduled to be jointly hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico, will begin on June 11 and will feature an expanded 48-team format for the first time in the tournament's history. Indian viewers will be able to watch matches across Zee's newly launched Unite8 Sports channels, while live streaming will be available on ZEE5.

The rights deal concludes months of negotiations and uncertainty surrounding the Indian broadcast package. Industry reports had suggested that FIFA initially sought a significantly higher valuation before revising expectations amid limited bidding interest and concerns over late-night match timings in the Indian market due to North American hosting.

Zee officials described the acquisition as a major opportunity to



TECHNOLOGY

Anthropic Unveils Claude Opus 4.8, Prepares Launch of Powerful 'Mythos' AI Model

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 29 MAY, 2026

SAN FRANCISCO, May 29: Artificial intelligence firm Anthropic has announced the release of Claude Opus 4.8, an upgraded version of its flagship AI model, while simultaneously revealing plans to introduce its far more advanced "Claude Mythos" system in the coming weeks. The announcement marks another major development in the rapidly intensifying global race among AI companies.

According to the company, Claude Opus 4.8 delivers significant improvements in coding, reasoning, long-duration task execution, and enterprise-focused AI workflows. Anthropic stated that one of the model's most important upgrades is improved reliability, with the system being far less likely to produce unsupported or misleading responses compared to earlier versions.

The company claims that Opus 4.8 is approximately four times better than its predecessor at identifying flaws in its own outputs and acknowledging uncertainty when information is insufficient. Industry observers say this reflects growing efforts among AI developers to address concerns surrounding AI hallucinations and factual inaccuracies.

Alongside the model launch, Anthropic introduced new "Dynamic Workflows" capabilities that allow AI agents to coordinate large-scale tasks through hundreds of parallel sub-agents. The feature is expected to strengthen the use of AI systems in software development, research, data analysis, and enterprise automation.

The bigger announcement, however, was Anthropic's confirmation



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HEALTH

Global Cancer Care May Face 100 Million Workforce Shortfall by 2050, Study Warns

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026



A major international study has warned that the world could face a shortage of nearly 100 million cancer care workers by 2050, with nurses and diagnostic specialists expected to be...

Chicago, June 1: The global healthcare system is heading towards a major cancer workforce crisis, with a projected shortfall of nearly 100 million cancer care professionals by 2050, according to a landmark report presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) annual meeting and published in *The Lancet Oncology*.

Researchers warned that the anticipated workforce gap comes at a time when global cancer cases are expected to rise dramatically. Annual cancer diagnoses, currently estimated at around 20 million worldwide, could exceed 35 million by 2050, translating to nearly 100,000 new cases every day.

The report projected that the largest shortages would occur among nurses, with a deficit of about 65 million professionals, followed by diagnostic personnel, including imaging and laboratory specialists, where shortages could reach nearly 16 million. Experts cautioned that these gaps could significantly delay cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment, ultimately affecting survival outcomes across both developed and developing nations.

The study highlighted that low- and middle-income countries, particularly in Africa, are expected to face the most severe workforce shortages. However, researchers stressed

that even high-income countries are unlikely to escape the impact, as ageing populations and rising cancer incidence continue to increase pressure on healthcare systems.

According to the findings, one in every three cancer cases globally currently goes undiagnosed, while in some regions of Africa the figure may be as high as 60 per cent. Researchers warned that without urgent investment in workforce development, training and healthcare infrastructure, cancer-related deaths could rise substantially in the coming decades.

The report called for immediate action through expanded workforce training programmes, greater use of digital health technologies and artificial intelligence, improved retention strategies and stronger international partnerships. Experts also emphasised the importance of prevention, early screening and strengthening diagnostic capacity to reduce the growing burden of cancer worldwide.

Researchers concluded that strategic investment in the global cancer workforce could prevent millions of deaths and significantly improve access to timely diagnosis and treatment, helping health systems prepare for the sharp rise in cancer cases expected by mid-century.



HEALTH

Ebola Alert Intensifies in India After Bengaluru, Nagpur Cases Trigger Precautionary Measures

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 27 MAY, 2026

NEW DELHI, May 27: Indian health authorities have intensified precautionary measures and surveillance systems after separate Ebola-related alerts emerged in Bengaluru and Nagpur involving travellers returning from Uganda, where cases linked to the ongoing African outbreak have been reported.

In Nagpur, a 47-year-old man who recently arrived from Uganda has been placed under 21-day home isolation as a preventive measure, despite showing no symptoms of the disease. Local health teams are reportedly monitoring his condition closely.

The development follows a separate incident in Bengaluru, where a Ugandan woman was isolated after reporting mild body pain upon arrival at the airport. Authorities later clarified that no Ebola infection has been confirmed in India and that her test sample returned negative.

The Union Health Ministry has meanwhile issued travel advisories urging Indian citizens to avoid non-essential travel to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and South Sudan until further notice. Airports and health surveillance units across the country have also been placed on alert following the World Health Organization's declaration of the outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

The current outbreak involves the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus, considered particularly concerning because no fully approved vaccine or targeted treatment currently exists for the strain. Uganda and Congo have already reported multiple



ENTERTAINMENT

Virat Kohli-Anushka Sharma's RCB Victory Post Crosses 1 Million Likes in Just 30 Minutes

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026

Mumbai, June 1: Actor Anushka Sharma and cricketer Virat Kohli once again captured the internet's attention after a celebratory post following Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL 2026 triumph crossed one million likes in just 30 minutes, becoming one of the fastest-engaging celebrity posts of the year.

The post was shared shortly after RCB defeated Gujarat Titans by five wickets in the IPL 2026 final in Ahmedabad to secure their second consecutive championship title. Anushka posted a heartfelt photograph with Kohli from the post-match celebrations, congratulating him and the team on the historic achievement. The image quickly spread across social media platforms, drawing an overwhelming response from cricket fans and followers of the celebrity couple.

The celebrations had already generated significant buzz during the final, where Kohli remained unbeaten on 75 runs and sealed victory with a six. Moments later, he turned towards the stands and blew a flying kiss to Anushka Sharma, a gesture that instantly went viral and became one of the defining visuals of the championship night.

Following the win, emotional scenes unfolded as Kohli celebrated with teammates, family members and supporters. Videos showing Kohli dancing with teammates and sharing joyful moments with Anushka were widely circulated online, further amplifying fan engagement.

RCB's successful title defence marked another major milestone in

ENTERTAINMENT

Sanjay Gupta Questions Bollywood's Remix Obsession After Fresh Song Recreations Spark Debate

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026



Mumbai, June 1: Filmmaker Sanjay Gupta has sparked a fresh debate on originality in Bollywood after expressing concern over the increasing trend of remixing iconic film songs instead of creating new music.

Gupta's remarks came following the release of recreated versions of two popular Bollywood tracks — **Chunnari Chunnari** from the upcoming film **Hai*

*Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai** and **Ucha Lamba Kad Forever** from **Welcome To The Jungle**. Both songs are modern adaptations of chartbusters that enjoyed massive popularity during their original releases.

Reacting to the trend, Gupta posted on social media that if every major hit song from the past two decades continues to be remixed today, there may be little left for future generations to recreate. His comment quickly gained attention online and resonated with sections of audiences who have repeatedly criticised Bollywood's reliance on nostalgia-driven content.

The discussion comes amid growing controversy surrounding the remix of **Chunnari Chunnari**, originally featured in the 1999 film **Biwi No. 1** starring Salman Khan and Sushmita Sen. The recreated version featuring Varun Dhawan faced backlash on social media, with many fans arguing that the remake lacked the charm and energy of the original song.

Similarly, the recently released **Ucha Lamba Kad Forever** revisits the popular song from the 2007 comedy **Welcome**, this time featuring Akshay Kumar alongside Disha Patani. While the track generated considerable online buzz, it also reignited discussions about Bollywood's

increasing dependence on remakes and recycled content.

In another social media post, Gupta went a step further and posed a hypothetical question about what would happen if Bollywood were suddenly barred from making sequels, remakes, prequels and remixes. He suggested that such a scenario could either usher in a new era of creativity or expose the industry's heavy dependence on existing intellectual property.

The remarks have once again brought attention to a long-running debate within the film industry, where supporters of remixes argue that they introduce classic songs to younger audiences, while critics maintain that excessive reliance on old hits reflects a lack of original musical innovation.

INTERNATIONAL

Nepal PM's Remarks on Border Encroachment Trigger Uproar in Parliament

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026



Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah has sparked a political controversy after stating that Nepal has also encroached upon certain Indian territories, drawing sharp criticism from op...

Kathmandu, May 31: Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah on Sunday triggered a political storm after acknowledging in Parliament that Nepal has also encroached upon some Indian territories, a statement widely described as unprecedented from a serving Nepali head of government.

The remarks came during a parliamentary discussion on border-related issues and immediately drew strong reactions from opposition lawmakers, who accused the government of departing from Nepal's long-held position on territorial disputes with India. Several members demanded clarification, arguing that the statement could undermine Nepal's claims in areas that remain subject to boundary disagreements between the two neighbouring countries.

According to reports, Shah's comments marked the first known public admission by a Nepali Prime Minister that encroachment concerns may exist on both sides of the border. The statement led to uproar in the House, with opposition

leaders questioning the basis of the observation and seeking a detailed explanation from the government.

Border issues have remained a sensitive subject in Nepal's domestic politics, particularly since the dispute over Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura intensified in recent years. Successive governments in Kathmandu have maintained that these territories belong to Nepal, while India has rejected those claims and asserted its own position.

Political analysts said the Prime Minister's remarks are likely to generate wider debate within Nepal, as territorial issues often evoke strong public sentiment and cross-party reactions. The controversy is also expected to prompt discussions on the future course of diplomatic engagement between Kathmandu and New Delhi on unresolved boundary matters.

The government has not yet issued any detailed clarification on the remarks, even as opposition parties continue to press for an explanation in Parliament.

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. Warns It Can Resume Military Action Against Iran as Deal Remains Uncertain

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 30 MAY, 2026



WASHINGTON, May 30: The United States on Saturday issued a strong warning to Iran, stating that it remains fully capable of resuming military action if ongoing negotiations fail to produce an acceptable agreement, underscoring the fragile state of diplomacy in the Middle East.

Speaking during the Shangri-La Dialogue security summit in Singapore, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Washington possessed the military capability and resources necessary to restart strikes against Iran if required. He emphasized that American forces

remained prepared despite ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at avoiding further escalation.

The warning comes as negotiations between Washington and Tehran continue amid uncertainty over a proposed agreement intended to ease tensions following months of military confrontation, attacks on strategic targets, and disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz. The waterway remains one of the world's most important energy routes, carrying a significant share of global oil shipments.

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly stated that any agreement must ensure that Iran is permanently prevented from developing nuclear weapons. While the White House recently signalled progress in discussions, Iranian officials have denied that any final deal has been reached and insist that major differences remain unresolved.

Key points of disagreement reportedly include sanctions relief, Iran's nuclear activities, maritime security in the Gulf region, and broader regional military issues. Iranian representatives have maintained that negotiations are ongoing but cautioned against what they described as exaggerated claims regarding an imminent breakthrough.

The prolonged standoff has already affected global energy markets, with

fluctuations in oil prices and concerns over shipping security contributing to wider economic uncertainty. International observers say countries heavily dependent on Gulf energy supplies, including India and several Asian economies, are closely monitoring developments.

Analysts believe the coming days could prove crucial in determining whether diplomacy succeeds in reducing tensions or whether the region risks another phase of military confrontation. Despite ongoing negotiations, both Washington and Tehran continue to publicly maintain firm positions on their core demands, leaving the future of any agreement uncertain.



BUSINESS

India, US Begin Crucial Four-Day Trade Talks to Finalise Interim Agreement

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026

New Delhi, May 31: India and the United States are set to commence a crucial four-day round of trade negotiations from June 1 in New Delhi, with both sides seeking to finalise the details of a proposed interim trade agreement and accelerate discussions on a wider Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

The talks will be led by India's chief negotiator Darpan Jain, Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, and the US delegation headed by chief negotiator Brendan Lynch. The discussions are expected to focus on key issues including market access, tariff structures, non-tariff barriers, customs facilitation, investment promotion and economic security cooperation.

The upcoming negotiations follow the framework agreement reached between the two countries in February this year, when both sides agreed to pursue an interim trade arrangement as part of a broader effort to strengthen economic ties and move towards a comprehensive trade pact.

Officials believe the discussions come at a critical time as both nations seek to recalibrate trade commitments amid evolving global economic conditions and changes in the US tariff regime. The interim agreement is expected to address immediate trade concerns while laying the groundwork for long-term cooperation in strategic sectors.

The June 1-4 talks will mark the latest phase of sustained engagement between New Delhi and Washington, following earlier rounds of negotiations held in Washington and regular consultations between trade officials. Commerce Ministry officials



INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine Intensifies Strikes on Russian Oil Infrastructure as Fears of Escalation Grow

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 30 MAY, 2026

KYIV, May 30: Ukraine has intensified its campaign against Russian oil facilities and energy infrastructure, launching fresh drone strikes on key fuel storage and export sites as Kyiv braces for a possible new wave of Russian missile and drone attacks.

According to Russian regional authorities, Ukrainian drones targeted multiple oil-related installations overnight, including fuel depots and storage facilities in southern Russia. Fires were reported at several locations following the attacks, adding to a growing pattern of Ukrainian strikes aimed at disrupting Russia's energy revenues and wartime logistics.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy defended the operations, stating that Russia's energy infrastructure remains a legitimate target because oil exports continue to finance Moscow's military campaign. Over recent months, Ukraine has increasingly expanded its long-range drone capabilities, allowing strikes deep inside Russian territory against refineries, terminals, fuel depots, and logistics hubs.

At the same time, Ukrainian authorities have warned that Russia may be preparing a major retaliatory offensive. Zelenskyy said intelligence assessments suggest Moscow is planning additional large-scale attacks involving missiles and drones against Ukrainian cities and critical infrastructure. Ukrainian air defence units have reportedly been placed on heightened alert.

The latest developments come after Russia recently launched one of its heaviest aerial assaults on Kyiv, using a combination of

SPORTS

PSG Retain Champions League Title After Dramatic Shootout Victory Over Arsenal

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026



Paris Saint-Germain secured back-to-back UEFA Champions League titles after edging Arsenal in a tense penalty shootout, becoming the first club since Real Madrid to successfully de...

Budapest, May 31: Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) cemented their place among Europe's football elite after defeating Arsenal 4-3 in a penalty shootout to retain the UEFA Champions League title following a gripping 1-1 draw after extra time at the Puskás Arena in Budapest.

The final began brightly for Arsenal, who took an early lead through Kai Havertz in the sixth minute, raising hopes of securing the club's maiden Champions League trophy. PSG, however, gradually regained control of possession and found the equaliser in the 65th minute when Ousmane Dembélé calmly converted a penalty to bring the French champions back into the contest.

Despite several chances at both ends, neither side managed to find a winner in regulation or extra time, forcing the final into a nerve-racking shootout. PSG held their composure from the spot, while Arsenal's hopes were dashed when defender Gabriel Magalhães sent his penalty over the crossbar, handing the French side a 4-3 victory.

With the triumph, PSG became the first club since Real Madrid's historic three-title run between 2016 and 2018 to successfully defend the Champions League crown. Under manager Luis Enrique, the Paris-based side has transformed from perennial contenders into a dominant European force, combining attacking flair with tactical discipline and resilience.

For Arsenal, the defeat marked another painful chapter in their pursuit of a first European title despite an impressive campaign that included a Premier League triumph and a strong run through the Champions League. Manager Mikel Arteta's side earned widespread praise for their performances throughout the season but fell agonisingly short on football's biggest club stage.

The victory sparked celebrations among PSG supporters, while football analysts described the achievement as a defining moment in the club's history and a sign of its growing dominance in European football.

SPORTS

Svitolina Fights Back to Defeat Bencic, Sets Up All-Ukrainian French Open Quarter-Final

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026



Paris, May 31: Seventh seed Elina Svitolina battled back from a set down to defeat Switzerland's Belinda Bencic 4-6, 6-4, 6-0 and secure a place in the quarter-finals of the French Open, continuing her impressive run of form on clay this season.

Svitolina, who arrived at Roland Garros fresh from her title-winning campaign in Rome, struggled to find rhythm early in the contest as Bencic edged a competitive opening set. The Swiss player, an Olympic gold medallist and former world number four, looked composed and capitalised on key opportunities to move ahead.

However, the momentum shifted dramatically in the second set as Svitolina raised her intensity and began dictating rallies from the baseline. The Ukrainian levelled the match at one set apiece before completely dominating the deciding set, where she did not concede a single game and closed out victory in emphatic fashion.

The win sends the 31-year-old into her sixth French Open quarter-final and keeps alive her pursuit of a maiden Grand Slam title. Her reward is a highly anticipated all-Ukrainian showdown against Marta Kostyuk, who earlier stunned four-time French Open champion Iga Świątek in one of the tournament's biggest upsets.

The quarter-final guarantees Ukraine its first women's singles semi-finalist at Roland Garros in the Open Era, adding emotional significance to a match involving two of the country's leading players. Both Svitolina and Kostyuk have frequently spoken about representing Ukraine on the international stage amid the ongoing conflict in their homeland.

With confidence soaring after her recent clay-court success and a dominant finish against Bencic, Svitolina enters the last eight as one of the strongest contenders remaining in a women's draw that has already witnessed several major upsets.

SPORTS

Cristian Volpato Switches Allegiance From Italy to Australia Ahead of 2026 FIFA World Cup

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026



Sydney, May 31: In one of the most intriguing developments ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Australian-born midfielder Cristian Volpato has officially switched his international allegiance from Italy to Australia, reviving his hopes of playing on football's biggest stage.

The 22-year-old attacking midfielder, who plays for Serie A side US Sassuolo, had previously represented Italy at the Under-19, Under-20 and Under-21 levels and was widely regarded as a promising prospect



SPORTS

Rituraj Gaikwad Replaces Injured Riyan Parag in India A Squad for Sri Lanka Tri-Series

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026

New Delhi, May 31: India batter Rituraj Gaikwad has been named as a replacement for injured all-rounder Riyan Parag in the India A squad for the upcoming 50-over tri-series in Sri Lanka, featuring hosts Sri Lanka A and Afghanistan A.

Parag, who was earlier appointed vice-captain of the squad, has been ruled out after sustaining a hamstring injury. According to reports, the Assam all-rounder had been carrying the injury through the latter stages of the IPL season and will now undergo rehabilitation under the supervision of the BCCI Centre of Excellence.

The inclusion marks a significant return for Gaikwad, who has been rewarded for his consistent performances in domestic and international cricket. The Maharashtra batter was among the standout performers during his recent appearances for India A and has remained a strong contender in the national white-ball setup.

The tri-series is expected to serve as an important platform for emerging players to stake their claim for higher honours, with selectors closely monitoring performances ahead of future international assignments. India A will take on Sri Lanka A and Afghanistan A in the tournament, which is seen as a crucial developmental competition for the country's next generation of cricketers.

Parag's absence is considered a setback for the side given his recent rise in Indian cricket and growing reputation as a versatile all-rounder. However, Gaikwad's inclusion adds experience and



SPORTS

Darko Stosic Knocks Out Greg Hardy Despite Massive Weight Disadvantage at FNC 31

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026

Belgrade, May 31: Former UFC heavyweight and ex-NFL player Greg Hardy suffered a devastating knockout defeat against Serbian MMA veteran Darko Stosic during the co-main event of Fight Nation Championship (FNC) 31 in Belgrade, despite entering the bout with a staggering 52-pound weight advantage.

The controversy surrounding the fight had begun even before the opening bell after Hardy missed the heavyweight limit by approximately 25 pounds during the official weigh-in, tipping the scales at around 291 pounds. Despite the significant disparity, Stosic agreed to proceed with the contest.

For much of the fight, Hardy attempted to use his size and physicality against the Serbian fighter. However, Stosic remained composed and gradually broke down his opponent before producing a dramatic finish midway through the third round. After landing a powerful leg kick, the former UFC veteran connected with a crushing overhand right that sent Hardy crashing to the canvas. A follow-up hammer fist forced the referee to stop the contest at 2:42 of the round.

The victory marked Stosic's second consecutive win and further strengthened his standing on the European MMA circuit. Hardy, meanwhile, dropped to 1-1 in MMA since leaving the UFC in 2022 and continued a difficult run across combat sports that has included appearances in boxing, bare-knuckle fighting and mixed martial arts.

Hardy, once a prominent NFL defensive end before transitioning to

PUBLIC NOTICES · TENDERS · AUCTIONS · RECRUITMENT

**IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT —
DIVISION POONCH**

Ref: e-NIT 2026_IFC_310307 (Packages 1-3)

Construction of Flood Protection Works at Flash-Flood Damaged Spots, District Poonch (Phase I)

Construction of flood protection works (FPW) — crate-wire revetments, retaining and protection walls — at spots damaged by heavy rain and flash floods across District Poonch, under the Irrigation & Flood Control Department...

Type: Works
Last date: 11 Jun 2026
Est. cost: Refer NIT (per package)
EMD: Refer NIT (CDR)
Location: Poonch district, J&K
Contact: Executive Engineer, I&FC Division Poonch · Refer NIT PDF

**IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT —
DIVISION POONCH**

Ref: e-NIT 2026_IFC_310307 (Packages 4-5)

Construction of Flood Protection Works at Flash-Flood Damaged Spots, District Poonch (Phase II)

Second phase of the I&FC flood-protection programme for District Poonch — restoration and protection works at further spots damaged during the recent heavy rain and flash floods. Two work packages; scope and BoQ per the...

Type: Works
Last date: 11 Jun 2026
Est. cost: Refer NIT (per package)
EMD: Refer NIT (CDR)
Location: Poonch district, J&K
Contact: Executive Engineer, I&FC Division Poonch · Refer NIT PDF

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ — BLOCK
MATHWAR**

Ref: e-NIT 2026_RDPR_311123 (Dhanu)

**Tile Work, Lane Concreting & Bathroom Works —
Dhanu, Block Mathwar (Nagrota), Rajouri**

Cluster of MGNREGA/Finance-Commission works in Panchayat Dhanu, Block Mathwar (Nagrota), Rajouri — tile work at Kuldev Sthan and the main road to the Masjid, lane concreting near Peer Baba, and construction of community...

Type: Works
Last date: 11 Jun 2026
Est. cost: Refer NIT (rural works cluster)
EMD: Refer NIT (CDR)
Location: Dhanu, Block Mathwar (Nagrota), Rajouri district, J&K
Contact: Block Development Officer, Block Mathwar · Refer NIT PDF

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ — BLOCK
MATHWAR**

Ref: e-NIT 2026_RDPR_311123 (Sarote)

**Tin Shed, Tile Work & Allied Works — Sarote, Block
Mathwar (Nagrota), Rajouri**

Rural works in Panchayat Sarote, Block Mathwar (Nagrota), Rajouri — construction of a tin shed at Main Chowk Sarote, tile work at Putti Mahasha ward, and tile and allied works at Madan Lal locality, under the Rural Devel...

Type: Works
Last date: 11 Jun 2026
Est. cost: Refer NIT (rural works cluster)
EMD: Refer NIT (CDR)
Location: Sarote, Block Mathwar (Nagrota), Rajouri district, J&K
Contact: Block Development Officer, Block Mathwar · Refer NIT PDF

PWD (R&B) — JAMMU

Ref: e-NIT 2026_PWDJK_311241_1

**Construction of Elevated Corridor / Flyover from
Amphalla Chowk to Roop Nagar, Jammu**

Construction of an elevated corridor (flyover) connecting Amphalla Chowk to Roop Nagar, Jammu, under PWD (R&B) — a major urban-mobility package intended to decongest the Amphalla-Roop Nagar stretch. Qualifying bidders sh...

Type: Works
Last date: 22 Jun 2026
Est. cost: Refer NIT (major project)
EMD: Refer NIT
Location: Amphalla — Roop Nagar, Jammu, J&K
Contact: Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B), concerned division Jammu · Refer NIT PDF

JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT — J&K

Ref: e-NIT 2026_PHE_307506_1

**Construction of 250mm Dia Gravel-Packed Production
Tube Well for WSS Venkara**

Construction of one 250mm nominal-dia casing, gravel-packed production tube well for the Water Supply Scheme Venkara, under the Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Baramulla. Drilling, casing, gravel packing and development as...

Type: Works
Last date: 11 Jun 2026
Est. cost: Refer NIT
EMD: Refer NIT
Location: Venkara, Baramulla district, J&K
Contact: Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division, Baramulla · Refer NIT PDF

JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT — J&K

Ref: e-NIT 2026_PHE_307393_1

Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme Chatterhama

Augmentation of the Water Supply Scheme at Chatterhama under the Jal Shakti (PHE) Department to improve drinking-water availability. Civil and pipeline works as per the NIT and BoQ.

Type: Works
Last date: 11 Jun 2026
Est. cost: Refer NIT
EMD: Refer NIT
Location: Chatterhama, Srinagar district, J&K
Contact: Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division, Srinagar · Refer NIT PDF

**HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPT (HAUDD) —
SRINAGAR**

Ref: e-NIT 2026_HAUDD_310543 (Zones I-III)

**Maintenance of Drainage Network — North, South &
Dood Ganga Sub-Divisions (Zones I-III), Srinagar**

Annual maintenance of the urban drainage network across the North (Zone I), South (Zone II) and Dood Ganga (Zone III) sub-divisions of Srinagar, ahead of the monsoon, under HAUDD. De-silting, repair and upkeep of drains...

Type: Service
Last date: 11 Jun 2026
Est. cost: Refer NIT (per zone)
EMD: Refer NIT
Location: Srinagar, J&K
Contact: Executive Engineer, Drainage Division, HAUDD Srinagar · Refer NIT PDF

**IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT — TAWI
PUMP HOUSE, JAMMU**

Ref: e-NIT 2026_IFC_311088_1

**Supply of Consumable Material & Spares for 1000HP /
750KW HT Slip-Ring Induction Motors**

Supply of consumable material and spares for the 1000HP/750KW HT slip-ring induction motors at the Tawi Pump House, Jammu, under the Irrigation & Flood Control Department, to keep the lift-irrigation/pumping infrastru...

Type: Supply
Last date: 11 Jun 2026
Est. cost: Refer NIT
EMD: Refer NIT
Location: Tawi Pump House, Jammu, J&K
Contact: Executive Engineer, I&FC (Mechanical), Jammu · Refer NIT PDF

FOREST DEPARTMENT — BASOHLI/SAMBA

Ref: e-NIT 2026_FD_310648_1 (series)

**Installation of Forest Boundary Pillars — Degode,
Dobaoh Nandani, Sarna & Keoli Forests, Samba**

Installation of demarcation boundary pillars across the Degode, Dobaoh Nandani, Sarna and Keoli (Purmandal) forest compartments in Samba, under the Forest Department, to firm up forest boundaries. A series of NITs floate...

Type: Works
Last date: 11 Jun 2026
Est. cost: Refer NIT (per compartment)
EMD: Refer NIT
Location: Samba district, J&K
Contact: Divisional Forest Officer, concerned Forest Division · Refer NIT PDF

HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT — J&K

Ref: e-NIT 2026_HME_310065_1

**Rate Contract for Supply of Allopathic Drugs for the Year
2026-28**

Fixation of a two-year rate contract (2026-28) for the supply of allopathic drugs to government health institutions across J&K, under the Health & Medical Education Department. Manufacturers/authorised suppliers may refe...

Type: Supply
Last date: 11 Jun 2026
Est. cost: Refer Bid Document (rate contract)
EMD: Refer Bid Document
Location: Jammu & Kashmir (UT-wide)
Contact: Director, Health Services / concerned procurement cell · Refer bid document

**POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (DISTRIBUTION)
— J&K**

Ref: e-NIT 2026_PDD_310490_1

**Replacement of 33KV VCB and 33KV C&R Panels at
Receiving Station Shereen Bagh**

Replacement of the 33KV Vacuum Circuit Breaker (VCB) and 33KV Control & Relay (C&R) panels at the Shereen Bagh receiving station, under the Power Development Department, to improve grid reliability. Supply-cum-installati...

Type: Works
Last date: 11 Jun 2026
Est. cost: Refer NIT
EMD: Refer NIT
Location: Shereen Bagh, Srinagar, J&K
Contact: Executive Engineer, EM&RE / Grid Division, PDD · Refer NIT PDF

**J&K STATE POWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(JKSPDC)**

Ref: e-NIT 2026_SPDC_310458_1

**Preparation of Detailed Project Report — Baglihar Hydro
Electric Project Stage III**

Engagement of a consultant for preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Stage III of the Baglihar Hydro Electric Project, under JKSPDC. Eligible consultancy firms should refer the RFP for scope, qualification...

Type: Service
Last date: 27 Jun 2026
Est. cost: Refer RFP
EMD: Refer RFP
Location: Chenab Valley, J&K
Contact: General Manager (Civil), JKSPDC · Refer RFP document

**HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPT (HAUDD) —
SRINAGAR**

Ref: e-NIT 2026_HAUDD_311004_1

**Development of 800 TPD Integrated Solid Waste
Management Facility at Achan, Srinagar (RFP)**

Request for Proposal for development of an 800 TPD Integrated Solid Waste Management facility at the Achan site, Srinagar, under HAUDD — a PPP/turnkey package for processing the city's municipal solid waste. Refer the RF...

Type: Works
Last date: 3 Jul 2026
Est. cost: Refer RFP (major project)
EMD: Refer RFP
Location: Achan, Srinagar, J&K
Contact: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation / HAUDD · Refer RFP document

J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB)

Ref: Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2026 (dated 25-05-2026)

**JKSSB Recruitment — 130 Posts (Electrician, Plumber,
Lab/Library/Computer Assistant, Binder, Head Weaver,
Machineman, Horticulture Technician & Others)**

The J&K Services Selection Board has notified 130 UT/Divisional/District cadre posts across six departments — Agriculture Production (17), ARI & Trainings / Government Press (42), Industries & Commerce / Handicrafts & Ha...

Type: Recruitment
Last date: 21 Jul 2026
Est. cost: 130 posts (UT/Divisional/District cadre)
Location: Jammu & Kashmir (UT-wide)
Contact: J&K Services Selection Board · jkssb.nic.in

**INDIRA GANDHI GOVERNMENT DENTAL COLLEGE
(IGGDC), JAMMU**

Ref: IGGDC Jammu — Senior Resident/Registrar 2026

**IGGDC Jammu — Senior Resident / Registrar,
Periodontology (01 Post)**

Indira Gandhi Government Dental College, Jammu invites online applications for 01 post of Senior Resident/Registrar in

SPORTS

Virat Kohli Leads RCB to Back-to-Back IPL Glory as Bengaluru Defeat Gujarat Titans in Final

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 1 JUN, 2026

Ahmedabad, May 31: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) successfully defended their Indian Premier League crown after defeating Gujarat Titans by five wickets in the IPL 2026 final at the Narendra Modi Stadium, capping off another memorable campaign with Virat Kohli at the centre of the celebrations.

Chasing a target of 156, Bengaluru made an aggressive start as Virat Kohli and Venkatesh Iyer added 62 runs for the opening wicket in just 27 deliveries, immediately putting Gujarat's bowlers under pressure. Kohli looked in complete control from the outset and reached his half-century in only 25 balls, the fastest IPL fifty of his career.

Despite Gujarat attempting a comeback through Rashid Khan and a few middle-order breakthroughs, Kohli anchored the chase with characteristic composure. The former RCB captain remained unbeaten on 75 off 42 balls and fittingly sealed the victory with a six, bringing an emotional end to another successful season for the Bengaluru franchise. Moments later, celebrations erupted as Kohli acknowledged the crowd and shared a flying-kiss gesture towards actor Anushka Sharma in the stands, a moment that quickly went viral across social media.

The triumph further cemented Kohli's legacy with the franchise he has represented since the inaugural IPL season in 2008. Having endured heartbreak in the 2009, 2011 and 2016 finals before finally lifting the trophy in 2025, Kohli once again played a defining role in Bengaluru's championship run. He finished the season as the team's leading run-scorer with 675 runs and continued to deliver in crucial matches.

RCB's title defence also placed them in elite company, making them only the third franchise after Chennai Super

REGIONAL

J&K Hajj Pilgrims Threaten Flight Boycott Over Baggage Restrictions

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026

Srinagar, May 31: A row has erupted over baggage restrictions imposed on Hajj pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir returning from Saudi Arabia, with many threatening to boycott their return flights unless the decision is reviewed. The pilgrims have expressed concern over last-minute changes to baggage arrangements, claiming they were initially assured a significantly higher baggage allowance before embarking on the pilgrimage.

According to the revised arrangement, pilgrims travelling on the Ahmedabad-Srinagar sector will be permitted to carry only limited baggage by air, while a substantial portion of their luggage will be transported separately by road from Ahmedabad to Srinagar. The move has sparked widespread resentment among pilgrims, many of whom have purchased gifts, dates, Zamzam water and other items for their families after completing the sacred pilgrimage.

Pilgrims have questioned why such restrictions are being applied to travellers from Jammu & Kashmir and have sought clarity from the authorities. Several have raised concerns about the safety, timely delivery and possible damage to their belongings during road transportation.

Officials have attributed the decision to operational constraints at Srinagar Airport arising from ongoing runway maintenance and flight load restrictions. The J&K Hajj Committee has assured pilgrims that necessary arrangements are being made and that their baggage will be delivered safely.

The issue has also drawn political attention, with leaders urging the authorities to ensure fair treatment and a hassle-free return for pilgrims. As frustration grows among those awaiting their journey home, many hope a resolution will be reached before the return flights commence.

NATIONAL

CUET-UG Chaos Sparks Outrage as Technical Glitches Leave Thousands Stranded

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026

New Delhi, May 31: The Common University Entrance Test (CUET-UG) 2026 witnessed major disruption across several examination centres on Friday after technical glitches delayed and, in some cases, halted examinations, leaving thousands of candidates stranded for hours amid uncertainty and confusion.

Students reported reaching their centres on time, completing biometric verification and taking their seats before being informed of server-related issues that prevented the examination from commencing. At many centres, candidates were made to wait for several hours with repeated assurances that the problem would soon be resolved. However, conflicting instructions from authorities and local centre staff created chaos, with some students being told that the examination had been cancelled while official updates later described the situation as only a delay.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) attributed the disruption to a technical fault reported by its technology partner, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). While the agency stated that the issue was eventually resolved and compensatory time was provided, many candidates had already left their centres after waiting for hours without clarity.

By evening, NTA acknowledged that 3,765 candidates who had completed registration and were present at examination centres could not take the test and would be given a one-time opportunity to reappear. Parents at several locations reportedly filed complaints, alleging poor communication and mismanagement.

The incident has intensified scrutiny of the NTA, which has faced criticism in recent months over the handling of several national-level examinations. Students, educators and

REGIONAL

Ladakh Administration Revises Dearness Allowance for Employees Under 6th Pay Commission

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 29 MAY, 2026

LEH, May 29: The Union Territory Administration of Ladakh has revised the Dearness Allowance (DA) for government employees drawing salaries under the 6th Central Pay Commission, increasing the rate from 257 percent to 262 percent of Basic Pay. The enhancement has been approved by Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena and will take effect retrospectively from January 1, 2026.

Officials said the revised allowance is intended to offset the impact of inflation and rising living expenses for employees who continue to remain under the pre-revised 6th Pay Commission pay structure. The increase mirrors similar revisions recently implemented for eligible government employees in Jammu and Kashmir.

Under the revised order, arrears accumulated from January 2026 onwards will be released according to applicable service and pension rules. Employees covered under older provident fund schemes are expected to receive arrear adjustments through their respective accounts, while applicable payments for other categories will be processed separately as per government guidelines.

The move is expected to benefit a section of serving employees who continue to draw pay under the 6th Central Pay Commission framework. Financial experts note that Dearness Allowance revisions are periodically introduced to help government employees cope with inflationary pressures and changes in the cost of living.

The latest revision comes amid a series of administrative measures relating to employee welfare, salary restructuring, and financial adjustments being implemented across Jammu &

REGIONAL

Operation Sheruwali Enters Day 10, Massive Anti-Militancy Hunt Intensifies in Rajouri-Poonch

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 31 MAY, 2026

Rajouri, May 31: One of the longest anti-militancy operations in recent years in the Pir Panjal region entered its eighth day on Saturday, as Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF personnel intensified efforts to track down suspected militants hiding in the dense forests of Rajouri and adjoining Poonch district.

The operation, codenamed "Operation Sheruwali", was launched on May 22 following intelligence inputs about militant presence in the Gambhir Mughalan-Dorimal forest belt of Manjakote in Rajouri district. Over the past week, the search area has been expanded towards Surankote in Poonch, with security agencies deploying drones, helicopters, thermal surveillance equipment, sniffer dogs and para commandos to comb the rugged terrain.

Officials believe two to five militants are operating in the forest corridor stretching between the Rajouri-Surankote axis and the Thanamandi-Buffliaz belt. Security sources said the militants are highly trained in jungle warfare and have been continuously changing locations to avoid direct contact with search teams.

Although forces reportedly established brief contact with the militants during the initial phase of the operation, no fresh encounter has taken place in recent days. Investigators suspect that one militant may have been injured, as blood traces were recovered from the forest area during searches.

The operation is being conducted in a region that has witnessed several deadly militant attacks in recent years, including the 2023 ambushes in Rajouri-Poonch that claimed the lives of ten security personnel. Officials said the thick forests and interconnected mountain routes of the Pir Panjal range continue to provide natural cover and escape corridors for militants.