

# THE CHECKPOST

DISPATCH

Truth from the Last Mile.

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WEEKLY EDITION



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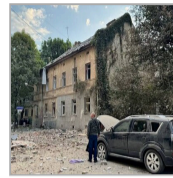
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REGIONAL

## LG Manoj Sinha to Review Amarnath Yatra Preparations Ahead of Shah's Meeting

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is scheduled to review arrangements for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra as authorities intensify preparations to ensure a smooth and secure pilgrimage.

*SRINAGAR, June 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will chair a high-level review meeting to assess preparedness for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, just two days*

REGIONAL

## BOPEE Cancels M.Sc Nursing Entrance Examination Over OMR Data Discrepancy

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 8 JUN, 2026



The Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations has cancelled the M.Sc Nursing entrance test after detecting discrepancies in OMR sheet data, with a fresh examination to be conducted later.

*The Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (JKBOPEE) has cancelled the M.Sc Nursing Entrance Examination. Discrepancies in candidate data on Optical Mark Recognition...*

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The National Conference legislature party has announced a protest demonstration in the national capital on the opening day of the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament, pressing the Centre to restore full statehood...

*In a major escalation of its campaign over Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional status, the ruling National Conference (NC) Legislature Party has announced...*

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*Jammu, June 2: A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan was injured in an accidental firing incident at Jammu Railway Station on...*

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## REGIONAL

## Mehbooba, Omar Trade Barbs Over Call for Political Unity in Jammu and Kashmir

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 2 JUN, 2026



A call for political unity in Jammu and Kashmir sparked a public confrontation between PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah after disagreements emerged over po...

Srinagar, June 2: A fresh political row erupted in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday after Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti appealed for greater political unity among regional parties, only to find herself engaged in a war of words with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over claims of political outreach and communication.

In a letter addressed to political leaders across Jammu and Kashmir, including those from rival parties, Mehbooba urged the region's leadership to rise above political differences and work collectively to safeguard Jammu and Kashmir's identity, constitutional rights and public interests. Drawing parallels with recent political coordination witnessed in Ladakh, she stressed the need for a united voice on issues affecting the people of the Union Territory.

## REGIONAL

### At Least 11 Killed, Scores Injured in Clashes Between Protesters and Security Forces in PoJK

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



MUZAFFARABAD, June 9: Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) witnessed a major outbreak of violence after clashes erupted between security forces and anti-government protesters, resulting in the deaths of at least 11 people and injuries to dozens of others. The unrest has triggered fresh concerns over law and order and public discontent in the region.

According to reports, the violence broke out during demonstrations organized by a protest group demanding political and economic reforms. The protests escalated into confrontations with police and security personnel, leading to the use of force to disperse the crowds.

## HEALTH

### NFHS-6 Data: Tobacco Use Among J&K Men Drops Sharply From 39% to 30%

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 4 JUN, 2026



Tobacco Use Declines Significantly in J&K, NFHS-6 Data Shows Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a notable reduction in tobacco consumption over the last five years, according to findings from the National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6). The latest data indicates that tobacco use among men aged 15 years and above has fallen from 38.5 per cent in NFHS-5 (2019-21) to 30.1 per cent in NFHS-6 (2023-24), marking a decline of more than eight percentage points.

Among women, tobacco consumption registered a smaller decrease, dropping from 3.6 per cent to 3.1 per cent during the same period. Health experts attribute the modest change to the already low prevalence of tobacco use among women in the Union Territory.



## REGIONAL

### BJP Legislators Raise Concern Over Resource Allocation, Allege Jammu Neglect

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 8 JUN, 2026

JAMMU, June 8: Several Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislators have voiced strong concerns over the allocation of government resources in Jammu and Kashmir, alleging that the Jammu region is being sidelined in key developmental initiatives while a larger share of funds and projects is directed towards the Kashmir Valley.

During discussions on regional development and public infrastructure, the legislators highlighted what they termed as persistent disparities in the distribution of resources, recruitment opportunities, and developmental works. They argued that Jammu contributes significantly to the Union Territory's economy and population and therefore deserves proportional attention in government planning and expenditure.

The legislators called upon the administration to adopt a balanced approach in the allocation of funds for roads, healthcare, education, tourism, irrigation and other public welfare projects. They maintained that equitable development is essential for ensuring regional harmony and addressing long-standing grievances among residents of Jammu.

The BJP leaders also stressed the need for greater transparency in developmental spending and project implementation. They urged the government to release detailed data on resource allocation to dispel concerns regarding regional imbalance.

The issue has once again brought the debate over equitable regional development to the forefront, with political representatives demanding that future policies and investment



## REGIONAL

### Centre Sanctions Rs 500 Crore for Central University of Kashmir Expansion: Vice Chancellor

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 8 JUN, 2026

The Central University of Kashmir (CUK) is poised for a major expansion after receiving a sanction of Rs 500 crore from the Centre for infrastructure development and campus enhancement, according to the university's Vice Chancellor. The allocation is among the largest ever made to a higher educational institution in Jammu and Kashmir and is expected to significantly strengthen the university's academic and research capabilities.

The funding will be utilised to develop new academic buildings, advanced research facilities, residential accommodations, and digital learning infrastructure. University officials believe the investment will not only improve the overall quality of education but also help attract talented students and faculty members from across the country.

The move assumes added importance in view of the longstanding shortage of quality higher education infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, which has compelled many students to pursue studies in metropolitan centres such as Delhi, Chandigarh and other states. Policymakers have identified the strengthening of central educational institutions within the Union Territory as a crucial component of efforts aimed at developing human capital and expanding access to quality education.

Officials also expect the expansion to create opportunities for collaborations with leading national and international research institutions, thereby enhancing the university's academic profile and promoting innovation-driven learning.

## REGIONAL

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

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha urged citizens to join hands in making Jammu and Kashmir drug-free, warning that cross-border drug trafficking is destroying lives and funding terror...

POONCH, June 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday joined the 'Drug-Free J&K' campaign and led a padyatra in Poonch, calling for a united societal movement against drug abuse and narco-terrorism across the Union Territory.

Addressing participants, the Lieutenant Governor said the anti-drug padyatra has now covered all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, reflecting the administration's commitment to eliminating the menace of narcotics. He emphasized that the campaign's objective is not only to eradicate drug addiction but also to dismantle networks involved in drug smuggling and narco-terrorism.

Sinha said the fight against drugs was entering a crucial phase and urged every citizen, panchayat and ward to actively participate in awareness drives, rehabilitation efforts and the

identification of drug peddlers. He called upon society to work collectively over the next 43 days to transform every village, locality and household into a drug-free zone.

Highlighting the challenges faced by border districts, the Lieutenant Governor noted that Poonch remains vulnerable to cross-border drug smuggling attempts. He warned that narcotics trafficking is not only destroying the future of young people but is also being used to finance terrorist activities.

Recalling his visits to all districts of Jammu and Kashmir over the past 57 days, Sinha assured the public that those involved in harming society through drugs would face strict action. He reiterated the administration's resolve to build a healthier, safer and drug-free future for the youth of the Union Territory.

## REGIONAL

## DIG Sandeep Wazir Reviews Progress of 100-Day Nasha Mukh J&K Campaign in Poonch

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



POONCH, June 3: Deputy Inspector General of Police, Rajouri-Poonch Range, Sandeep Wazir, IPS, chaired a review meeting at the District Police Office Poonch to assess the implementation and progress of the 100-Day Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan being conducted across the district.

The meeting was attended by senior police officers who presented updates on enforcement measures, anti-narcotics operations, awareness programmes and community outreach initiatives undertaken as part of the campaign. A detailed review was conducted of the

efforts aimed at curbing drug abuse and dismantling narcotics trafficking networks in the region.

## REGIONAL

## Awareness Programme on Right to Information Act Held in Mendhar

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



MENDHAR, June 4: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Poonch organized an awareness programme on the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 at Boys Higher Secondary School Mendhar as part of its ongoing legal literacy and public awareness initiatives.

The programme was conducted under the directions of the Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority and under the guidance of Chairman DLSA Poonch, Sushil Singh, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Poonch. The event was

also held under the supervision of Secretary DLSA Poonch, Rafaqat Hussain Mir, Sub-Judge Poonch, and Munsiff/JMIC Mendhar, Ms Roopsi.

During the programme, participants were informed about the key provisions of the RTI Act, its significance in ensuring transparency and accountability in public administration, and the procedures for seeking information from government departments and public authorities. Speakers highlighted the role of the legislation in empowering citizens and strengthening democratic governance.

Students, members of the public and legal volunteers actively participated in the session and interacted with resource persons on various aspects of the Act. Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) were also present and assisted in conducting the programme.

The organizers emphasized the importance of legal awareness among citizens and encouraged participants to make use of the RTI Act responsibly to promote transparency and safeguard their rights. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks and a call for greater public participation in legal awareness initiatives.



## REGIONAL

## 280 Arrested, Drugs Worth Rs 18 Crore Seized in J&K's 50-Day Anti-Narcotics Blitz

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 4 JUN, 2026

The Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyaan has recorded significant gains during its first 50 days, with Jammu and Kashmir Police intensifying the crackdown on narcotics across the Jammu-Samba-Kathua (JSK) range. Officials have termed the results a major milestone in the Union Territory's ongoing campaign against drug trafficking and abuse.

According to police figures, 237 cases were registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act during the period, leading to the arrest or booking of 280 individuals allegedly involved in the illegal drug trade. Enforcement agencies also seized substantial quantities of contraband, including 6.842 kg of heroin (commonly known as chitta), 1.032 kg of opium, 29.087 kg of poppy straw, and nearly 37 kg of other banned substances.



## REGIONAL

## International Athletes from Poonch Honoured for Bringing Glory to District

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026

POONCH, June 5: In a moment of pride for District Poonch, three accomplished international athletes met Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police Shafqat Hussain Bhat to share their recent sporting achievements and discuss their experiences representing the district and the country on international platforms.

The delegation included Abhilove Kour, who represented India at the Asian Lacrosse Championship in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where the Indian team clinched the Gold Medal. Her achievement has been widely hailed as a significant milestone for sports in Poonch and Jammu and Kashmir.

Joining her were international Taekwondo players Wajid Iqbal and Khalida Jabeen, who delivered impressive performances at the 1st PTF India Open International Taekwondo Championship 2026 held in Srinagar.

## REGIONAL

## Kupwara Police Holds Beat-Level Conference to Strengthen Community Policing

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



The conference focused on enhancing the effectiveness of beat policing, improving record maintenance and reinforcing the responsibilities of field officers.

KUPWARA, June 7: District Police Kupwara organized a Beat-Level Conference at the District Police Lines (DPL) Kupwara to review and strengthen the implementation of the beat policing system across the district.

The conference was held under the supervision of Senior Superintendent of Police Kupwara, Al Tahir Gilani (JKPS), and was attended by all Beat In-Charges of the district. The proceedings were supervised by DySP SOG Headquarters Kupwara, who served as the designated Nodal Officer for the programme.

During the session, officers were briefed on the proper maintenance of Beat Books and Patrol Books, which play a crucial role in documenting field activities and ensuring effective policing at the grassroots level. Participants were also sensitized about the duties and responsibilities of Station House Officers (SHOs), Investigating Officers (IOs), Malkhana In-Charges (MHCs) and Beat Officers.

The conference emphasized the objectives of the Beat Policing System, including strengthening police-public relations, improving intelligence gathering and ensuring timely response to local issues. Discussions were also held on field-level challenges faced by officers and strategies to enhance coordination and operational efficiency.

Senior officers stressed the importance of professionalism, accountability and regular interaction with local communities to build public trust and maintain law and order. Best practices for effective beat policing were also shared during the programme.

The initiative forms part of the district police's efforts to improve grassroots policing and ensure better service delivery through enhanced community engagement and proactive law enforcement.

## REGIONAL

## Patnitop Eyes Global Stage as Ministry of Tourism Mulls Premium Destination Status

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 4 JUN, 2026



Patnitop Eyes Global Recognition as Stakeholders Discuss Inclusion Under Centre's Tourism Scheme

Patnitop, the picturesque hill destination nestled in Udhampur district, took a step towards gaining international prominence as key stakeholders gathered on Wednesday to discuss its potential development under the Ministry of Tourism's Global Destination Scheme.

The consultation meeting, chaired by Chenani MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia, was attended by Patnitop Development Authority (PDA) Chief Executive Officer Virender Kumar Manyal, the Sub-

Divisional Police Officer of Chenani, representatives of the Block Development Council, and members of various tourism-related associations, including hoteliers, restaurateurs, photographers, traders, and local business owners.

During the discussions, participants highlighted several priorities aimed at enhancing Patnitop's tourism infrastructure.

## REGIONAL

## No Flight Operations at Srinagar Airport on Mondays, Tuesdays from July to September

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 2 JUN, 2026



Srinagar, June 1: Air travel to and from Kashmir is set to face temporary disruptions as the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has announced the suspension

of flight operations at Srinagar International Airport every Monday and Tuesday between July 1 and September 30, 2026.

The decision has been taken to facilitate the ongoing resurfacing and upgradation of the airport runway, a critical infrastructure project intended to improve safety standards and operational performance. Airport authorities have issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) informing airlines and stakeholders about the temporary closure schedule.

According to officials, no commercial flight operations will be permitted during the designated closure days throughout the three-month period.



## REGIONAL

## Two Drug Peddlers Held with Heroin at Tikri Naka

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026

UDHAMPUR, June 10: Continuing its crackdown on drug trafficking under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan, Udhampur Police arrested two alleged drug peddlers and recovered heroin from their possession during a routine checking operation at Tikri on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

According to police, a naka party from Police Post Tikri intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number HR51BF9856 during checking at Tikri Naka. During the search operation, the occupants of the vehicle were identified as Rohit Koul, son of Surinder Koul, and Pankaj Sharma, son of Rattan Sharma, both residents of Jagti Colony, Nagrota, Jammu.

Police officials stated that upon conducting their personal search, approximately 16.01 grams of heroin was recovered from their possession. The accused were immediately taken into custody and the contraband was seized as per legal procedures.

Following the recovery, a case under FIR No. 139/2026 was registered at Police Station Rehambal under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Further investigation has been initiated to ascertain the source of the narcotics and identify any links to larger drug trafficking networks.

Police reiterated their commitment to eradicating drug abuse and narcotics trafficking from the region and urged citizens to cooperate with law enforcement agencies by reporting any information related to drug-related activities.



## REGIONAL

## DIG Shiv Kumar Sharma Leads Plantation Drive on World Environment Day

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026

UDHAMPUR, June 5: Marking World Environment Day, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Udhampur-Reasi Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma, IPS, led a plantation drive at the Range Police Headquarters in Udhampur and planted saplings along with police officers and personnel to reinforce the importance of environmental protection.

The initiative was subsequently extended to several locations, including the CRPF 6th Battalion Headquarters, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board office premises and Police Station Katra. The drive witnessed participation from senior civil, police and paramilitary officials, reflecting a collective commitment towards environmental conservation and sustainable development.

## REGIONAL

## Beopar Mandal Demands Relief for Traders After Bufliaz Market Fire

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



Traders' representatives have urged the administration to provide immediate financial assistance to shopkeepers affected by a devastating fire that destroyed several shops in Bufliaz...

SURANKOTE, June 10: Beopar Mandal Surankote and Beopar Mandal Bufliaz have appealed to the district administration to provide immediate relief and compensation to traders who suffered heavy losses in a major fire incident that gutted multiple shops in Bufliaz, the gateway to the historic Mughal Road.

Addressing a press conference, Tehsil President Beopar Mandal Surankote Azhar Manhas expressed concern over the losses suffered by the affected shopkeepers. He said that around fifteen shops were destroyed in the blaze, which reportedly broke out due to an electrical short circuit during the early hours of the morning.

Manhas stated that most of the affected traders belong to economically weaker families and depend entirely on their businesses for livelihood. He urged Deputy Commissioner Poonch to personally visit the affected area, assess the

damage and take immediate steps to provide financial assistance to the victims.

The traders' body demanded that compensation be sanctioned from the State Disaster Relief Fund on priority to help the affected families rebuild their businesses and recover from the losses. Representatives of the Beopar Mandal assured the victims of their full support and said they would continue to pursue the matter with the authorities.

The fire caused extensive damage to commercial establishments at Bufliaz, a key trading location situated at the starting point of the Mughal Road. While no loss of life was reported, traders estimated substantial financial losses as goods and property were destroyed in the incident.

The administration is expected to assess the damage and consider relief measures for the affected shopkeepers.

## REGIONAL

## Four Injured as Dumper Plunges into Gorge Near Sunchan Gali

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



MAHORE, June 9: Four persons were injured after a dumper met with an accident near Sunchan Gali in the Dharmari area of Reasi district on Monday, officials said.

According to reports, the dumper bearing registration number JK20B-3991 was travelling from Arnas to Mahore when the driver allegedly lost control of the vehicle. The vehicle subsequently veered off the road and plunged nearly 70 to 80 feet into a gorge, resulting in injuries to all four occupants.

Soon after the accident, local residents and personnel from Arnas Police rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation. The injured were evacuated from the accident site and shifted to the nearby

Health Centre at Dharmari, where they received first aid treatment before being referred to District Hospital Reasi for specialized medical care.

The injured have been identified as Mohd Yaseen, 32, the driver of the vehicle and a resident of Ganjot; Manzoor Ahmed, 36, a resident of Mahore who was working as a helper; his wife Rubina Begum, 30; and their two-year-old child.

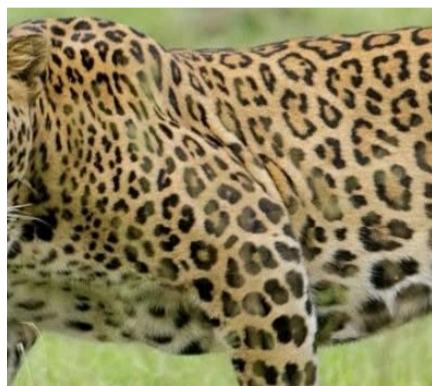
Hospital sources said the injured sustained multiple injuries and were undergoing treatment at District Hospital Reasi. Their condition was reported to be stable.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident and initiated an investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the accident. Authorities have urged motorists to exercise caution while driving on hilly roads, particularly during adverse road and weather conditions.

## REGIONAL

## 9-Year-Old Boy Killed in Leopard Attack in Kupwara Village

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



KUPWARA, June 9: A nine-year-old boy lost his life after being attacked by a leopard in Manzpathra village of Chowkibal area in Kupwara district on Monday, triggering panic among local residents and renewed concerns over increasing human-wildlife conflict in the region.

According to reports, the attack occurred near the local high school when the child came under attack by the wild animal. Residents immediately rushed to the spot and shifted the injured boy to a nearby medical facility for treatment. However, despite efforts by doctors, he succumbed to his injuries.



## REGIONAL

## 15 Injured as Bus Skids Off Road Near Tandwal in Rajouri

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026

RAJOURI, June 8: Fifteen people were injured in a road accident after a canter bus skidded off the road near the Tandwal area of Rajouri district on Monday.

According to officials, the bus bearing registration number JK11A-071 was travelling on the Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch National Highway when the driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle near Tandwal. The bus subsequently veered off the road, resulting in injuries to several passengers on board.

Soon after the accident, local residents and emergency responders rushed to the spot and launched rescue operations. The injured passengers were evacuated and shifted to a nearby hospital, where they received medical treatment.

Hospital authorities stated that the injured were undergoing treatment and their condition was being monitored. No fatalities were reported in the incident.

Police have taken cognizance of the accident and initiated an investigation to ascertain the circumstances that led to the vehicle losing control. Authorities are examining all aspects of the incident, including road conditions and mechanical factors.

Road accidents on hilly stretches of the Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch National Highway continue to remain a matter of concern, with officials regularly advising motorists to exercise caution and adhere to traffic safety regulations while travelling through the region.



## REGIONAL

## Two J&K Volleyball Players Selected for India U-17 National Coaching Camp

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026

JAMMU, June 4: Jammu and Kashmir's growing presence in national sports received a major boost as two young volleyball players from the Union Territory were selected for the Boys U-17 National Volleyball Coaching Camp 2026. Nasir Ajaz Sofi of Baramulla and Rehan Parvez of Poonch secured their places among 26 players shortlisted from across the country following the national selection trials held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

The selection trials, conducted by the Steering Committee of the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) on May 28 and 29, witnessed participation from 173 aspiring volleyball players representing various states and Union Territories.

## NATIONAL

**JEE-Advanced data breach claims misleading, factually incorrect: IIT-Roorkee**

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 8 JUN, 2026



IIT Roorkee and the Ministry of Education have rejected reports of a major data breach involving JEE (Advanced) aspirants, stating that a temporary cloud-storage misconfiguration d...

**IIT Roorkee, Education Ministry Deny JEE (Advanced) Data Breach Claims**

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee and the Ministry of Education have dismissed reports alleging a data breach and privacy violations affecting lakhs of JEE (Advanced) aspirants, describing the claims as misleading and factually incorrect.

In a series of statements issued on June 5, IIT Roorkee, which conducted JEE (Advanced) 2026, said the information being circulated on social media misrepresented the nature of the incident and amounted to an attempt to spread misinformation.

## NATIONAL

**Cockroaches Descend on Jantar Mantar: CJP Protest Rocks Delhi as Sonam Wangchuk Joins Youth Uprising**

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 6 JUN, 2026



Youth-Led Cockroach Janta Party Stages First Protest Over NEET-UG 2026 Leak. What began as an online satirical response to controversial remarks made during a Supreme Court hearing has evolved into a full-fledged youth movement. Hundreds of students, young professionals, and parents gathered at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Saturday for the first public demonstration organised by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), demanding accountability over the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak and seeking the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

The movement traces its origins to May 16, 2026, when Boston University alumnus and political communications strategist Abhijeet Dipke launched the CJP following remarks attributed to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant during a hearing a day earlier.

## NATIONAL

**D.K. Shivakumar Takes Oath as Karnataka Chief Minister, Begins New Political Chapter**

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 4 JUN, 2026



Bengaluru, June 3: Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday took oath as the Chief Minister of Karnataka at a grand ceremony held at the Glass House in Bengaluru, formally assuming leadership of the state after being unanimously elected leader of the Congress Legislature Party.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by senior Congress leaders, party workers, elected representatives and invited dignitaries. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot administered the oath of office and secrecy to Shivakumar, who becomes one of the most influential Congress leaders to occupy the state's top post in recent years.

Shivakumar's elevation came after outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah proposed his name as the new leader of the Congress Legislature Party during a meeting held at the Vidhan Soudha. The meeting was overseen by AICC General Secretaries K.C. Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala. Following discussions among senior leaders, the party formally

endorsed Shivakumar's candidature for the chief ministership.

A seasoned politician and former Deputy Chief Minister, Shivakumar has long been regarded as one of the Congress party's key strategists in Karnataka. He played a crucial role in strengthening the party's organisational structure and was instrumental in several major electoral campaigns over the past decade.

In his first remarks after taking oath, Shivakumar pledged to continue the government's commitment to development, welfare and inclusive governance. He also expressed gratitude to the Congress leadership, party workers and the people of Karnataka for their trust and support.

The new Chief Minister is expected to travel to New Delhi in the coming days for consultations with the Congress high command regarding the composition of his Council of Ministers. Political observers anticipate a balanced cabinet reflecting regional, social and political representation across the state.

Siddaramaiah, who stepped down from the post last week, congratulated Shivakumar and assured full cooperation in ensuring continuity of governance. Congress leaders described the transition as a smooth and democratic process aimed at strengthening the party's administration in Karnataka.

The swearing-in marks the beginning of a new phase in Karnataka politics, with expectations high regarding governance, development initiatives and the implementation of the Congress government's key promises in the years ahead.



## NATIONAL

**CBSE 12th Result: Of over 11 lakh answer books requested, only 3.8 lakh entered re-checking process**

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 8 JUN, 2026

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has revealed that more than 1.6 lakh Class 12 students submitted applications concerning over 3.8 lakh answer books during the verification and re-evaluation phase conducted between June 2 and June 7.

The figures were released as the board responded to concerns raised by students and parents regarding the functioning of its Post-Result Services Portal. CBSE stated that the portal remained fully operational throughout the notified period and was monitored with the assistance of government technical agencies and teams from premier institutions, including the IITs.

According to the board, dedicated cybersecurity teams continuously tracked the system to safeguard it against malicious traffic and cyber threats.

## NATIONAL

**IIT Roorkee Allows JEE Advanced 2026 Counselling, Final Admission Subject to Class 12 Eligibility**

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 8 JUN, 2026

IIT Roorkee, the organising institute for JEE Advanced 2026, has issued an important clarification regarding the admission process for successful candidates, stating that those who have qualified the entrance examination can participate in the Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JoSAA) counselling and indicate their preferred Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) programmes. However, final admission and seat confirmation will depend on candidates meeting the prescribed Class 12 eligibility requirements.

Under the existing rules, general category candidates are required to secure a minimum aggregate of 75 per cent marks in their qualifying board examinations, while candidates belonging to SC, ST and PwD categories must obtain at least 65 per cent marks to be eligible for admission.

## NATIONAL

## INDIA Bloc Demands Education Minister's Resignation, Seeks CJI Intervention on Electoral Issues

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



Opposition leaders resolved to intensify coordination on key national issues, including electoral transparency, unemployment, inflation and farmers' concerns, during a meeting in N...

NEW DELHI, June 10: Leaders of the INDIA bloc held a meeting in the national capital and adopted a series of resolutions focusing on electoral processes, economic challenges and parliamentary coordination ahead of the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament.

Briefing the media after the meeting, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said the alliance unanimously agreed to send a letter to the Chief Justice of India seeking intervention on issues related to alleged electoral irregularities and concerns over the integrity of the voting process. The letter is expected to be submitted shortly.

The opposition alliance also unanimously demanded the immediate resignation of the Union Education Minister, citing concerns linked to issues in the education sector. Leaders said accountability must be ensured in matters affecting students and educational institutions.

The meeting further called upon the Union Government to convene an all-party meeting to discuss pressing national issues, including unemployment, inflation, the economic situation, farmers' concerns and other matters affecting the common people.

To strengthen coordination among alliance partners, it was decided that INDIA bloc leaders would meet every two months. The next meeting of the alliance has been scheduled to take place in Hyderabad.

The leaders also resolved to maintain close parliamentary coordination during the Monsoon Session. Daily strategy meetings will be held in the office of the Leader of the Opposition to ensure a united approach on key legislative and political issues.

The meeting reflected the opposition alliance's efforts to consolidate its position on major national concerns and prepare for upcoming parliamentary debates.

## NATIONAL

## Fire Breaks Out at Delhi Hotel a Day After Malviya Nagar Tragedy; No Casualties Reported

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 4 JUN, 2026



New Delhi, June 4: A fire broke out in the basement of a hotel in Delhi's Humayunpur area near Safdarjung Enclave on Thursday evening, prompting a swift response from the Delhi Fire Services. Fortunately, no casualties or injuries were reported in the incident.

According to officials, the blaze originated in the basement of the hotel, following which fire tenders were rushed to the spot to contain the flames and prevent the fire from spreading to other parts of the building. Firefighters managed

to bring the situation under control, and all occupants were reported safe.

## NATIONAL

## Malviya Nagar Hotel Owner Shifts Blame as Probe Into Deadly Fire Intensifies

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 4 JUN, 2026



New Delhi, June 4: The investigation into the deadly fire at a hotel in South Delhi's Malviya Nagar, which killed 21 people and injured several others, has taken a new turn after hotel owner Lovkesh Bajaj reportedly sought to distance himself from the management of the property and blamed others for operational and safety failures.

According to investigators, Bajaj claimed during questioning that he was not directly involved in the day-to-day functioning of the hotel and that another individual was responsible for handling billing, accounts and overall operations.



## NATIONAL

## NTA Rejects NEET-UG Re-Exam Paper Leak Claims, Warns of Strict Action

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 7 JUN, 2026

NEW DELHI, June 7: The National Testing Agency (NTA) has categorically denied reports circulating on social media and messaging platforms claiming that the question paper for the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination has been leaked or is being sold online.

In an official statement, the agency described the allegations as "false and fraudulent" and urged students and parents not to fall prey to misinformation being spread through unauthorized channels. The clarification comes amid growing concern among candidates after several posts and videos alleged that the re-examination paper scheduled for June 21 was available for purchase through social media groups and messaging applications.

The NTA said there is no evidence of any leak, advance access, or sale of the examination paper. It further stated that suspicious links and online claims have been referred to cybercrime authorities for verification and appropriate action. The agency warned that individuals involved in spreading rumours or attempting to mislead candidates would face strict legal consequences.

The re-examination was announced following the cancellation of the earlier NEET-UG 2026 test amid paper leak allegations. Since then, authorities have introduced enhanced security measures and tighter monitoring protocols to ensure the integrity of the examination process.

The NTA has advised aspirants to rely only on official notifications



## NATIONAL

## Cooking Gas Gets Costlier Again as LPG Prices Rise by ₹29 Per Cylinder

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 7 JUN, 2026

New Delhi, June 6: Households across the country will have to pay more for cooking gas from June 7 after oil marketing companies announced a fresh increase of ₹29 in the price of a standard 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder. With the revision, consumers in Delhi will now pay ₹942 per cylinder, up from ₹913 earlier.

The latest hike comes at a time when international energy markets remain unsettled due to geopolitical tensions and supply concerns. Fuel retailers have been under pressure from rising import costs, prompting periodic revisions in domestic fuel prices despite efforts to shield consumers from the full impact of global trends.

This is the second increase in LPG prices within a span of three months.

## BUSINESS

## APEDA Facilitates India's First Sea Shipment of Millet Functional Foods to New Zealand

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 8 JUN, 2026



The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has facilitated a landmark first sea shipment of value-added, botanically infused millet functional foods...

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has enabled a pioneering sea shipment of botanical-infused millet functional foods from Karnataka to New Zealand, marking a significant step in India's efforts to expand the global footprint of value-added agri-products.

Officials described the consignment as the first of its kind, comprising premium millet-based products enriched with herbs and botanicals and aimed at health-conscious consumers in New Zealand. The shipment highlights the growing international demand for nutritious, innovative and sustainably produced food products originating from India.

## BUSINESS

## India Emerges as Trusted Global Investment Hub, Says Commerce Minister Goyal at Citi Conference

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 8 JUN, 2026



Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said that India has established itself as one of the world's most reliable and attractive destinations for investment, driven by economic reforms, strong growth prospects and increasing global confidence in the country's economy.

Speaking at the Citi India Conference 2026, Goyal highlighted the government's commitment to achieving the goal of transforming India into a USD 5 trillion economy. He noted that India's strategy of expanding trade relations with Europe, Latin America and Africa has helped reduce dependence on any single export market and strengthened the country's economic resilience.

## NATIONAL

## PM Modi Reviews Economic Growth Roadmap with Advisory Council

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 7 JUN, 2026



NEW DELHI, June 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday held a high-level meeting with members of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), focusing on measures to strengthen India's economic growth and maintain macroeconomic stability in an increasingly uncertain global environment.

During the meeting, council members presented their assessments on domestic and international economic developments, including the impact of ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia on global trade, energy markets and inflation. Discussions also covered ways to enhance India's competitiveness and sustain its position as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

The Prime Minister stressed the need to accelerate reforms aimed at improving the ease of living and ease of doing business. He highlighted the importance of creating a conducive environment for investment, innovation and job creation while ensuring that economic growth remains broad-based and inclusive.

Members of the council exchanged views on policy initiatives that could help India navigate external challenges while capitalising on emerging opportunities in global supply chains and manufacturing. Long-term strategies for boosting productivity, attracting investment and strengthening economic resilience were also discussed.

The meeting underscored the government's continued emphasis on proactive economic management and structural reforms as India seeks to maintain strong growth momentum despite evolving global challenges.



## BUSINESS

## AI Reshaping Indian IT Jobs: Net Hiring by Top 5 Firms Falls 7,000 in FY26 as Headcount Rationalisation Accelerates

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 8 JUN, 2026

India's information technology services industry, valued at nearly USD 250 billion, is undergoing one of its most significant transformations in decades, with the rapid adoption of generative artificial intelligence altering traditional employment patterns across the sector.

According to Sushovon Nayak, Senior Research Analyst at Anand Rathi Institutional Equities, the country's top five IT companies recorded a combined decline of around 7,000 employees during the financial year ending March 2026. He attributed the trend to widespread "headcount rationalisation" as companies increasingly focus on productivity and automation.

Industry experts point to the growing capabilities of generative AI and large language models as the primary drivers behind the shift.



## BUSINESS

## India's Steel Sector Posts 9% Demand Growth in May 2026; Green Steel Drive Gains Pace

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 8 JUN, 2026

India's steel industry maintained its growth trajectory in May 2026, with domestic consumption increasing by nearly 9 per cent compared to the same period last year. The rise in demand has been driven by robust activity in the construction sector, sustained infrastructure spending, and healthy growth in the automobile industry.

Industry analysts noted that increasing production levels and ongoing capacity expansion by leading steel manufacturers have reinforced the sector's positive outlook. Large-scale public investments in highways, railways and urban infrastructure projects have continued to provide a steady pipeline of demand, supporting the industry's expansion.

Beyond production growth, the sector is also witnessing a gradual shift towards environmentally sustainable manufacturing. Under the government's Green Steel Initiative, steelmakers are being encouraged to adopt cleaner technologies, including hydrogen-based processes and electric arc furnace systems, aimed at reducing carbon emissions.

India has set ambitious goals to emerge as a major global supplier of green steel by 2030. The transition is expected to strengthen the country's competitiveness in international markets, particularly as regions such as the European Union introduce stricter carbon border adjustment mechanisms and sustainability standards.

Industry associations have also highlighted the indirect benefits of the government's ₹76,000 crore India Semiconductor Mission and



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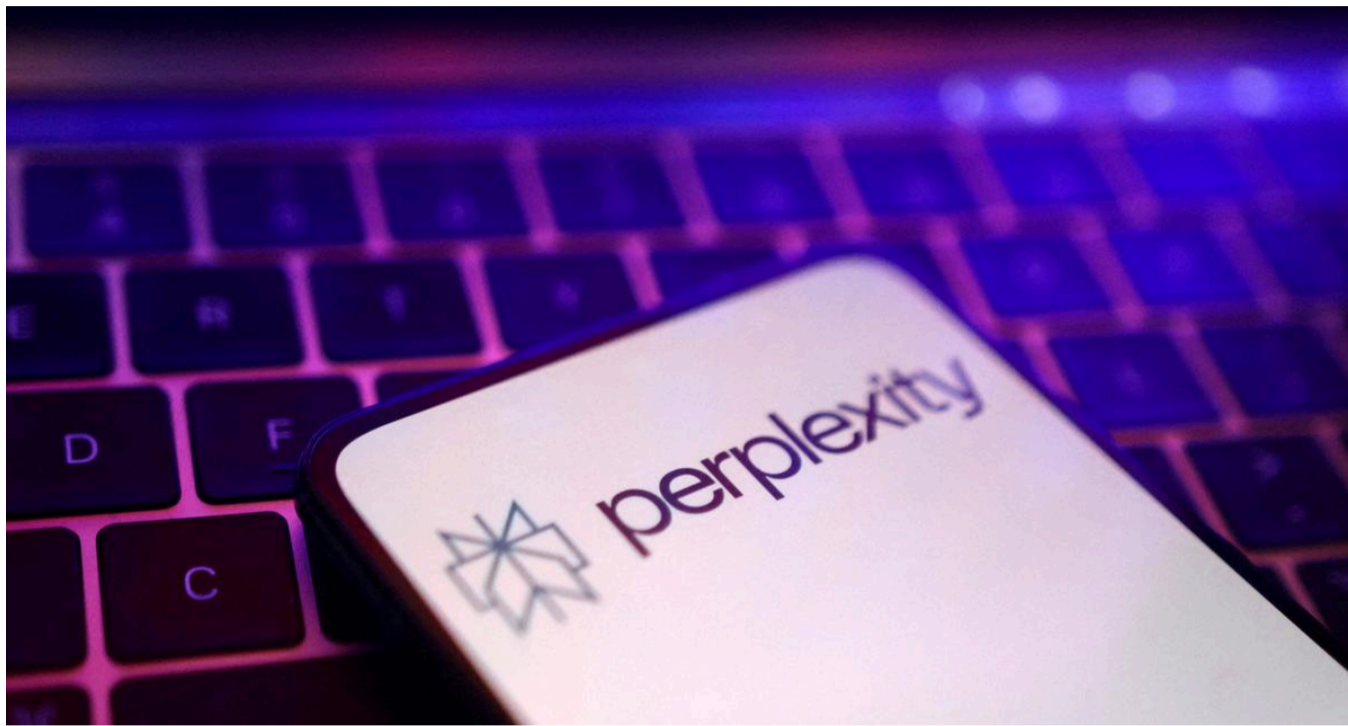
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## TECHNOLOGY

## Perplexity Targets 2028 IPO, Unfazed by OpenAI or Anthropic Listing Plans

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



AI-powered search startup Perplexity is reportedly aiming for a public listing by 2028, regardless of whether rivals OpenAI or Anthropic pursue their own stock market debuts.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 9: Artificial intelligence startup Perplexity is reportedly preparing for an initial public offering (IPO) by 2028, signaling confidence in its long-term growth strategy despite increasing competition in the rapidly evolving AI industry.

According to reports, the company does not view the potential public listings of AI rivals OpenAI or Anthropic as a determining factor in its own plans. Perplexity's leadership is said to be focused on expanding the company's user base, strengthening its technology platform and building a sustainable business model before entering public markets.

## TECHNOLOGY

## India Targets AI Leadership by 2047 with 38,000 GPUs, 500 Data Labs and Semiconductor Mission 2.0

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 8 JUN, 2026



The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has enabled a pioneering sea shipment of botanical-infused millet functional foods from Karnataka to New Zealand, marking a significant step in India's efforts to expand the global footprint of value-added agri-products.

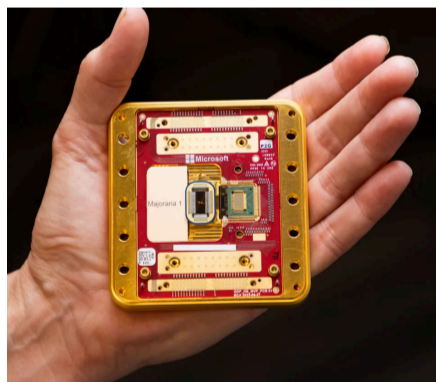
Officials described the consignment as the first of its kind, comprising premium millet-based products enriched with herbs and botanicals and aimed at health-conscious consumers in New Zealand. The shipment highlights the growing international demand for nutritious, innovative and sustainably produced food products originating from India.

Millet, promoted by the government under the "Shree Anna" initiative and championed globally during the International Year of Millets, have emerged as a key component of India's agricultural export strategy.

## TECHNOLOGY

## Microsoft Unveils AI-Designed Quantum Chip, Targets Commercial Quantum Systems by 2029

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 3 JUN, 2026



San Francisco, June 3: Microsoft has revealed its next-generation quantum computing processor, Majorana 2, claiming significant advances in reliability and performance that could accelerate the arrival of practical quantum computers. The technology giant said the new chip was redesigned with the help of artificial intelligence and has dramatically shortened its roadmap towards commercially useful quantum systems.

The company stated that Majorana 2 is built on a new materials architecture that replaces conventional aluminium-based superconducting components with lead-based materials identified through AI-assisted materials research. According to Microsoft, the redesigned chip has delivered major gains in qubit stability and reliability, with some performance metrics improving by as much as 1,000 times compared to earlier designs.

For the first time, Microsoft has publicly set a target year for practical quantum computing, saying it now expects to develop commercially useful quantum

machines by 2029. The timeline places the company alongside rivals such as IBM, which recently announced a similar goal for large-scale quantum systems by the end of the decade.

Quantum computers are expected to solve highly complex problems that would take conventional computers thousands of years to process, with potential applications in medicine, chemistry, materials science, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. Major technology firms including Google, Amazon, IBM and several Chinese research initiatives are currently competing to achieve scalable quantum computing.

Microsoft said the breakthrough was made possible through the use of its AI-driven research platform, which helped scientists identify and optimise new materials for quantum hardware development. The company believes the advances have effectively cut its projected development timeline in half.

However, the announcement has also attracted scrutiny from parts of the scientific community. Some physicists have questioned Microsoft's claims regarding the underlying quantum phenomena used in the chip and have called for greater public disclosure of experimental data. Microsoft has defended its findings, stating that sufficient evidence has been provided to relevant research and government bodies supporting the project.

The unveiling of Majorana 2 marks one of the most significant developments in the global race for quantum computing and highlights the growing convergence of artificial intelligence and advanced hardware research. If Microsoft's projections prove accurate, the technology could usher in a new era of computing capable of addressing challenges far beyond the reach of today's most powerful supercomputers.



## TECHNOLOGY

## Apple Unveils Smarter AI-Powered Siri at WWDC 2026

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026

CUPERTINO, June 9: Apple announced a major overhaul of its virtual assistant Siri during its annual Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC), unveiling new artificial intelligence capabilities designed to make the assistant more intelligent, personalized and useful in everyday tasks.

The upgraded Siri is powered by Apple's latest AI technologies and is capable of understanding personal context, maintaining conversational continuity and performing actions across applications with greater accuracy. The company said the new features will enable users to interact with their devices in a more natural manner, reducing the need for repetitive commands.

Apple demonstrated how Siri can access information from messages, emails, calendars and other applications—with user permission—to provide more relevant responses and assistance. The assistant will also be able to perform multi-step tasks, summarize information and help users navigate between apps more efficiently.

The announcement reflects Apple's broader push into generative AI as competition intensifies among major technology companies. Industry analysts view the upgraded Siri as a significant step toward integrating AI more deeply into the Apple ecosystem while maintaining a strong focus on privacy and on-device processing.

The new AI-powered features are expected to roll out in phases across supported Apple devices, with developers gaining early access through beta releases following the conference.



## TECHNOLOGY

## AI Agents Need Identities, Security and Governance Like Employees: Satya Nadella

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 8 JUN, 2026

NEW DELHI, June 8: As artificial intelligence becomes increasingly integrated into business operations, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella has emphasized the need for robust governance frameworks to manage AI agents in the workplace. He stated that autonomous AI systems will require identities, access controls and security protocols similar to those assigned to human employees.

Speaking about the future of enterprise AI, Nadella noted that organizations are rapidly moving toward environments where AI agents can perform tasks, make decisions and interact with digital systems on behalf of users. As these capabilities expand, businesses will need mechanisms to determine what an AI agent is authorized to access, modify or execute.

According to Nadella, the next phase of AI adoption will focus not only on intelligence and productivity but also on trust, accountability and governance. He highlighted the importance of identity management systems that can track the actions of AI agents, ensure compliance with organizational policies and prevent unauthorized activities.

Industry experts believe that as AI-powered assistants become more autonomous, companies will need to establish clear rules governing their deployment, much like existing frameworks for employees and contractors. Security, auditing and regulatory compliance are expected to become key pillars of enterprise AI strategies.

The remarks underscore the growing recognition that the



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## HEALTH

# Cancer Breakthroughs Take Centre Stage at ASCO 2026 Conference

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



Researchers unveiled promising advances in cancer treatment at ASCO 2026, highlighting new therapies that could improve survival rates and expand treatment options for patients wor...

CHICAGO, June 9: Significant developments in cancer research and treatment were presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting 2026, one of the world's largest gatherings of oncology experts. Scientists and pharmaceutical companies showcased encouraging clinical trial results across multiple cancer types, including lung, prostate and gastrointestinal cancers.

Among the key highlights were advances in precision medicine, immunotherapy and next-generation targeted treatments designed to attack cancer cells more effectively while reducing side effects. Researchers reported positive outcomes from studies involving bispecific antibodies, novel drug combinations and therapies tailored to specific genetic mutations.

Several presentations focused on improving outcomes for patients with advanced-stage cancers, where treatment

options have traditionally been limited. Early clinical data indicated that newer therapies could extend progression-free survival and enhance quality of life for certain patient groups.

Experts attending the conference noted that artificial intelligence and genomic profiling are increasingly playing a role in identifying the most effective treatment strategies for individual patients. These technologies are expected to accelerate the development of personalized cancer care in the coming years.

The findings presented at ASCO 2026 are likely to influence future treatment guidelines and regulatory decisions, with many of the experimental therapies expected to move toward broader clinical adoption pending further evaluation. The conference reaffirmed the rapid pace of innovation in oncology and the ongoing effort to improve outcomes for cancer patients worldwide.

## HEALTH

## Experimental Pancreatic Cancer Drug Shows Major Survival Gains in Clinical Trial

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



CHICAGO, June 9: A promising experimental drug for pancreatic cancer has demonstrated significant survival benefits in a clinical trial presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting 2026, marking what experts describe as a potential breakthrough in the treatment of the disease.

The drug, known as daraxonrasib, was tested in patients with advanced pancreatic cancer carrying specific KRAS gene mutations. According to researchers, patients receiving the therapy experienced substantially longer survival periods compared with outcomes typically seen using existing treatment approaches. The

findings have generated considerable interest within the oncology community, where progress against pancreatic cancer has historically been slow.

Pancreatic cancer remains one of the most lethal malignancies worldwide due to its tendency to be diagnosed at advanced stages and its resistance to many conventional treatments. Survival rates have improved only gradually over the past several decades, making new therapeutic advances particularly significant.

Scientists involved in the study said the drug works by targeting cancer-driving genetic mutations that fuel tumour growth. The treatment also demonstrated a manageable safety profile during the trial, with researchers continuing to evaluate its long-term effectiveness and potential use alongside other therapies.

Experts believe the findings could pave the way for a new generation of precision medicines for pancreatic cancer, potentially improving outcomes for thousands of patients diagnosed with the disease each year.

## HEALTH

## GSK to Acquire Cancer Drug Developer Nuvalent in \$10.6 Billion Deal

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



British pharmaceutical giant GSK agreed to acquire U.S.-based biotechnology company Nuvalent for approximately \$10.6 billion. The deal strengthens GSK's oncology market presence and precision cancer treatments.

Nuvalent develops targeted therapies for lung cancer and other solid tumors. Its drug candidates showed promising clinical trial results.

GSK said the acquisition aligns with its strategy to invest in medicines addressing unmet needs. The deal enhances research capabilities and provides access to potential blockbuster therapies.



## HEALTH

## Incyte Signs \$2 Billion Deal for Experimental Blood Disorder Therapy

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026

WILMINGTON, June 9: U.S.-based biopharmaceutical company Incyte has entered into a licensing agreement worth up to \$2 billion to acquire rights to an experimental therapy for von Willebrand disease, strengthening its portfolio in rare blood disorders and hematology treatments.

The deal centers on VGO039, an investigational drug being developed for patients suffering from von Willebrand disease, a genetic bleeding disorder caused by deficiencies or abnormalities in a key blood-clotting protein. The condition can lead to prolonged bleeding episodes, excessive bruising and complications during surgery or injury.

Under the agreement, Incyte will make a substantial upfront payment and additional milestone-based payments tied to the drug's clinical and commercial progress. The company believes the therapy has the potential to address significant unmet medical needs and improve treatment options for patients who currently rely on limited therapies.

The transaction reflects growing investment in rare disease treatments, a segment of the pharmaceutical industry that has attracted increased attention due to advances in biotechnology and precision medicine. Companies are increasingly targeting specialized conditions where innovative therapies can deliver meaningful clinical benefits.

Industry experts note that successful development of the therapy could position Incyte as a stronger player in the hematology market while offering new hope to patients affected by inherited



## HEALTH

## GSK Partners with Engitix to Advance Liver Fibrosis Drug Research

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026

LONDON, June 9: Pharmaceutical major GSK has entered into a research collaboration with biotechnology company Engitix to accelerate the development of treatments for liver fibrosis, a progressive condition that can result in severe liver damage, cirrhosis and liver failure if left untreated.

Under the agreement, valued at approximately £45 million, the two companies will combine their expertise to identify and develop novel therapeutic targets aimed at slowing, halting or potentially reversing the progression of fibrosis. The partnership will leverage Engitix's proprietary human tissue platform, which enables researchers to better understand the biological mechanisms driving liver disease.

Liver fibrosis remains a major global health challenge, with limited treatment options currently available beyond managing underlying causes such as obesity, alcohol-related liver disease and viral hepatitis. As rates of metabolic disorders continue to rise worldwide, the demand for effective therapies addressing liver damage has increased significantly.

GSK stated that the collaboration aligns with its strategy of investing in innovative science and partnering with emerging biotechnology firms to accelerate drug discovery. Researchers involved in the project hope that improved understanding of fibrosis pathways will lead to more effective medicines capable of addressing an area of substantial unmet medical need.

The agreement reflects growing industry interest in chronic liver diseases, which are increasingly viewed as one of the next major

## INTERNATIONAL

# Russia Launches Fresh Wave of Strikes Across Ukraine

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



Russian missile and drone attacks have targeted multiple Ukrainian cities, escalating tensions as the conflict enters another critical phase with no immediate diplomatic breakthrough...

KYIV, June 10: Russia has launched a new series of missile and drone strikes across Ukraine, targeting key infrastructure and urban centres in one of the largest aerial assaults reported in recent weeks. Ukrainian authorities said the attacks caused casualties and damage to residential areas, energy facilities and transportation infrastructure.

Air defence systems were activated in several regions as Ukrainian forces sought to intercept incoming missiles and drones. Officials reported that emergency crews were deployed to affected areas to assist residents and assess the extent of the damage.

The latest strikes come amid continued fighting along the eastern and southern fronts, where both sides remain engaged in intense military operations. Despite periodic

diplomatic efforts by international actors, prospects for a ceasefire remain uncertain as hostilities continue.

Military analysts believe the renewed attacks reflect Russia's strategy of maintaining pressure on Ukraine's infrastructure and defence capabilities. Ukrainian officials, meanwhile, have reiterated calls for additional military and air defence support from Western allies.

The conflict, now well into its fourth year, continues to have significant geopolitical and economic consequences, influencing energy markets, global food supplies and international security policies. World leaders have repeatedly urged a peaceful resolution, but the situation remains volatile as both sides continue military operations across multiple regions of the country.

## INTERNATIONAL

## Iran-Israel Hostilities Pause Amid Diplomatic Push, Tensions Remain High

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



JERUSALEM, June 10: Iran and Israel have stepped back from renewed military confrontation following a brief but intense exchange of missile and drone attacks that threatened to reignite a broader regional conflict. The de-escalation came after international diplomatic efforts and calls for restraint from global leaders.

The latest flare-up began after Israeli military actions in Lebanon triggered a direct Iranian missile response, marking the first such attack since a ceasefire arrangement earlier this year. Israeli air defence systems intercepted several incoming projectiles, while both countries exchanged warnings of further retaliation.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu subsequently announced that

Israel would suspend direct attacks on Iran, while emphasizing that any future aggression would be met with a strong response.

## INTERNATIONAL

## European Nations Accelerate Defence Spending Amid Evolving Security Challenges

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



BRUSSELS, June 10: European governments are continuing to expand defence budgets and modernize their armed forces in response to evolving security concerns across the continent. The latest announcements reflect a broader shift in defence policy as nations seek to improve military readiness and strengthen collective deterrence capabilities.

Countries across Europe have outlined plans to invest in advanced weapon systems, air defence networks, cyber

security infrastructure and military mobility projects. Defence officials say the additional spending is intended to address emerging threats while ensuring that armed forces remain equipped to operate effectively in a rapidly changing security environment.



## INTERNATIONAL

## India Delivers Sharp Rebuke to Pakistan at UNGA: 'J&K Was, Is and Will Always Remain Part of India'

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 6 JUN, 2026

India issued a strong diplomatic response to Pakistan at the United Nations General Assembly on Friday after Islamabad once again raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir during deliberations on the UN Security Council's Annual Report. Exercising India's right of reply, Permanent Representative to the UN Parvathaneni Harish dismissed Pakistan's remarks as an attempt to propagate misleading and one-sided narratives on matters internal to India.

Addressing the General Assembly, Harish reiterated New Delhi's long-standing position that Jammu and Kashmir is an inseparable and sovereign part of India. He asserted that repeated statements from Pakistan would neither alter historical realities nor influence India's stance on the region.



## INTERNATIONAL

## U.S.-China Trade Talks Resume Amid Ongoing Technology Disputes

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026

BEIJING, June 10: The United States and China have renewed diplomatic engagement through a fresh round of trade and economic discussions aimed at stabilizing relations between the world's two largest economies. The talks come amid continuing disagreements over export controls, semiconductor technology, artificial intelligence and market access.

Officials from both countries described the discussions as constructive, although significant differences remain on several strategic issues. Washington continues to maintain restrictions on the export of advanced semiconductor technologies and related equipment to China, citing national security concerns. Beijing, meanwhile, has repeatedly called for the removal of what it views as unfair trade and technology barriers.

Economic experts note that relations between the two nations have improved compared to previous years, but competition in critical technologies remains a major source of friction. The outcome of the discussions could influence global supply chains, investment flows and the broader technology sector.

Businesses and financial markets are closely monitoring developments, as any easing of tensions could provide greater certainty for multinational companies operating across both economies. Conversely, a failure to resolve key disputes could lead to further restrictions and economic uncertainty.

The latest dialogue reflects ongoing efforts by both governments to maintain communication channels while managing strategic competition in trade, technology and global economic leadership.

## SPORTS

## Arjun Erigaisi Continues Strong Run at UzChess Cup 2026

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi registered another important victory at the UzChess Cup, reinforcing his position among the world's elite chess players.

TASHKENT, June 10: Indian chess star Arjun Erigaisi delivered a crucial win at the UzChess Cup 2026, continuing his impressive form in one of the strongest tournaments on the international chess calendar.

Facing a highly rated opponent, Erigaisi displayed precise calculation and strategic control to secure a valuable point in a fiercely competitive field featuring several of the world's leading Grandmasters. The victory strengthens his standing in the tournament and further enhances his growing reputation as one of India's most promising chess talents.

The 22-year-old has enjoyed a remarkable rise in recent years, consistently competing against top-ranked players and delivering strong performances in elite events across the globe. His latest success comes at a time when Indian chess is

experiencing unprecedented growth, with several young Grandmasters making their mark on the international stage.

Chess analysts praised Erigaisi's composure and ability to convert small advantages into winning positions, qualities that have become hallmarks of his playing style. The result also contributes valuable rating points as he continues his pursuit of higher rankings in the global standings.

India's emergence as a major force in world chess has been driven by a new generation of talented players, and Erigaisi remains at the forefront of that movement. With several rounds still remaining in the tournament, attention will remain focused on whether the Indian Grandmaster can maintain his momentum and challenge for the title.

## SPORTS

## World Cup 2026 Begins Amid Visa and Travel Controversies

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



MEXICO CITY, June 11: The 2026 FIFA World Cup has kicked off across the United States, Canada and Mexico amid growing controversy surrounding visa restrictions, travel policies and immigration-related challenges affecting several participants and officials.

In the days leading up to the tournament, multiple reports emerged of visa delays and entry-related difficulties involving players, team officials, journalists and match officials. The issue gained international attention after Somali referee Omar Abdulkadir Artan, selected to officiate at the World Cup, was denied entry into the United States despite holding a valid visa, preventing him from making his tournament debut.

Concerns have also been raised by several national teams regarding visa

processing for support staff and federation officials. Iran's football delegation reportedly faced difficulties obtaining travel clearance, prompting the team to establish its base in Mexico rather than the United States for parts of the tournament.

The expanded 48-team tournament is expected to attract millions of spectators and is the largest World Cup in history. However, advocacy groups and football stakeholders have warned that travel restrictions and immigration policies could affect fan attendance from certain countries.

Despite the off-field challenges, organizers expect the month-long tournament to deliver a global celebration of football. Attention now shifts to the action on the pitch as teams begin their quest for the sport's most prestigious trophy while FIFA and host nations continue addressing concerns surrounding access and participation.

## SPORTS

## Serena Williams Returns to Competitive Tennis After Nearly Four Years

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



LONDON, June 9: Tennis legend Serena Williams has returned to competitive action nearly four years after stepping away from the sport, marking one of the most talked-about moments of the 2026 tennis season. The former World No. 1 made her comeback appearance at the Queen's Club Championships, competing in the doubles event as a wildcard entrant.

Williams, widely regarded as one of the greatest players in tennis history, partnered with rising Canadian talent Victoria Mboko for her return to the grass courts that played a significant role in her illustrious career.



## SPORTS

## India A Secure Thrilling Victory Over Sri Lanka A in Tri-Series Clash

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026

COLOMBO, June 10: India A produced a determined performance to defeat Sri Lanka A in a closely contested match of the ongoing tri-series, showcasing the depth of talent emerging through the country's cricket development system.

After being tested by a disciplined Sri Lankan side, India A held their nerve in key moments to secure an important victory. Contributions from both the batting and bowling departments proved crucial as the visitors overcame several challenging phases during the contest.

The match featured impressive performances from a number of young Indian cricketers seeking to strengthen their case for higher honours. Batters laid a solid foundation through vital partnerships, while the bowlers delivered under pressure during the closing stages to deny Sri Lanka A a successful chase.

Team management will be encouraged by the composure displayed by several emerging players, many of whom are regarded as potential future members of the senior national side. The victory also highlighted India's strong bench strength and the effectiveness of its domestic and developmental cricket structure.

For Sri Lanka A, the defeat was a setback despite several notable individual performances. The hosts remained competitive throughout the match but were unable to capitalize on key opportunities during crucial moments.

The result improves India A's standing in the tri-series and provides valuable momentum ahead of the remaining fixtures, with selectors closely monitoring performances as they assess



## SPORTS

## ICC Rates Lord's Pitch 'Unsatisfactory' After England-New Zealand Test

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026

LONDON, June 10: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has officially rated the pitch used for the England-New Zealand Test at Lord's as "unsatisfactory", citing excessive assistance to bowlers and concerns over the balance between bat and ball throughout the match.

The decision follows an assessment by match officials after the Test concluded in just over two days, with batters from both sides struggling to cope with uneven bounce and pronounced seam movement. Several players and commentators had questioned the quality of the surface, arguing that it failed to provide a fair contest between bat and ball.

Under ICC regulations, venues receiving an "unsatisfactory" rating accumulate demerit points, and repeated poor ratings could result in sanctions or restrictions on hosting international matches. While Lord's remains one of cricket's most historic grounds, the rating has sparked debate about pitch preparation standards at elite venues.

Cricket analysts noted that challenging conditions are an accepted part of Test cricket, but emphasized that pitches should still allow a balanced contest and enable matches to progress beyond the early stages. The rapid conclusion of the Test reignited discussions on what constitutes an ideal Test match surface.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and officials at Lord's are expected to review the findings and address concerns before future international fixtures. The development has become one of the most talked-about issues in world cricket ahead of the busy

## PUBLIC NOTICES · TENDERS · AUCTIONS · RECRUITMENT

**HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPT (HAUDD) — MUNICIPAL COUNCIL RAJOURI**

Ref: e-NIT 2026\_HAUDD\_310747\_1

**Used Water Management Project — 4.5 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant, Municipal Council Rajouri (UWM-SBM 2.0)**

Design and construction of a 4.5 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant for Municipal Council Rajouri under UWM-SBM 2.0 — including interception & diversion structures at outfalls, conveying mains, intermediate pumping stations, SBR...

**Type:** Works  
**Last date:** 13 Jun 2026  
**Est. cost:** Refer NIT (major project)  
**EMD:** Refer NIT (CDR)  
**Location:** Municipal Council Rajouri, J&K  
**Contact:** Executive Officer, Municipal Council Rajouri / EE concerned · Refer NIT PDF

**GOVERNMENT OF J&K — GEM (RAJOURI)**

Ref: GEM/2026/B/7634699

**Repair of Thermal Imager (TDS FH, S.No 100047), Rajouri**

Repair and servicing of a thermal imaging device (TDS FH, serial no. 100047) for a government establishment at Rajouri, floated on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). Bidders may refer the GeM bid document for the techni...

**Type:** Service  
**Last date:** 19 Jun 2026  
**Est. cost:** Refer GeM bid  
**EMD:** Refer GeM bid  
**Location:** Rajouri district, J&K  
**Contact:** Concerned procuring authority (via GeM) · gem.gov.in

**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

**PWD (R&B) — JAMMU & KASHMIR**

Ref: e-NIT 2026\_PWDJK (Roads, FY 2026-27 Non-Plan)

**Restoration & Maintenance of Various Roads under PWD (R&B), J&K (FY 2026-27)**

Annual restoration and maintenance of various roads across PWD (R&B) sub-divisions for the financial year 2026-27 (Non-Plan) — patch repair, pothole filling and surface renewal on selected routes. A series of small perce...

**Type:** Works  
**Last date:** 25 Jun 2026  
**Est. cost:** Approx. ₹2.49 lakh per package  
**EMD:** Refer NIT (CDR)  
**Location:** Jammu & Kashmir (multiple sub-divisions)  
**Contact:** Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B), concerned sub-division · Refer NIT PDF

**GOVERNMENT OF J&K — SECURITY & CONSTRUCTION WING (JAMMU)**

Ref: 130/4115/26-27/S&amp;C

**Supply & Construction of Elevated Front Bulletproof Sentry Posts (06 Nos), Jammu**

Supply and construction of six (06) elevated front bulletproof sentry posts for a government security installation at Jammu. Fabrication, supply and in-situ construction to the specified ballistic standard; refer the bid...

**Type:** Works  
**Last date:** 29 Jun 2026  
**Est. cost:** Refer bid document  
**EMD:** Refer bid document  
**Location:** Jammu, J&K  
**Contact:** Concerned procuring authority, Jammu · Refer bid document

**GOVERNMENT OF J&K — GEM (BARAMULLA)**

Ref: GEM/2026/B/7575002

**Supply of Office Furniture & Equipment — Admirahs, Sofas, Beds, Chairs & Tables, Baramulla**

Supply of office furniture and equipment — steel admirahs, sofas, beds, chairs and tables — for a government office at Baramulla, floated on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). Refer the GeM bid for the item schedule, qu...

**Type:** Supply  
**Last date:** 10 Jun 2026  
**Est. cost:** Refer GeM bid  
**EMD:** Refer GeM bid  
**Location:** Baramulla district, J&K  
**Contact:** Concerned procuring authority (via GeM) · gem.gov.in

**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, ARI & Trainings / Government Press, Industries & Commerce / Handicrafts & Handloom, Hi...

**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

## CLASSIFIEDS · PROPERTY · VEHICLES · MATRIMONIAL · JOBS

**PROPERTY****Raja Property — Plots, Kothi & Flats for Sale (Channi / Sainik Colony)**

Plots, kothi and flats for sale: 1. Rama Channi Housing: 4, 7 & 12 marla corner park-facing plots. 2. Channi: 7 & 12 marla kothi and 60-foot-road plot. 3. Saini...

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

**PROPERTY****K Deep Properties — Plots & Kothis (Channi Himmat / Sainik Colony)**

1. 4, 7 & 12 marla and one-kanal plots and kothis for sale at Channi Himmat, Jammu. 2. 10 marla plot for sale at Sainik Colony on 48-ft wide road. 3. To-let ser...

K D Singh · 7889351433, 9419131005 · Channi Himmat / Sainik Colony, Jammu

**PROPERTY****Furnished Commercial Space — 1700 sq.ft. Green Belt Park Main Road**

Fully furnished with decor — 1700 sq.ft of space available at Green Belt Park, main road, prime location.

· 9419182482, 9596884422 · Green Belt Park, Main Road, Jammu

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

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

· 7889901414, 9419132797, 9419192018 · Upper Roop Nagar, Sec-2, Jammu (opp. JDA Park)

**PROPERTY****12 Marla Plot for Sale — Greater Kailash**

12 marla residential plot for sale at Greater Kailash.

· 9469370000 · Greater Kailash, Jammu

**PROPERTY****Duplex House for Sale — Extension Trikuta Nagar (5 Marla, 4 BHK)**

5 marla duplex at Extension Trikuta Nagar — 4 BHK plus one servant quarter, terrace garden, inside parking for 2 cars. All documents complete.

· 6006797189 · Extension Trikuta Nagar, Jammu

**PROPERTY****Gulshan Property — Land, Plots & Houses (Sehora / Nanak Nagar / Chowadi)**

Property dealer listings: 1. 25 marla land with old house at Mootpur Sehora. 2. 14 marla land with old house at Nanak Nagar Sec-14. 3. 10 marla corner plot near...

Gulshan (Property Dealer) · 9419184644 · Sehora / Nanak Nagar / Chowadi, Jammu

**PROPERTY****Land for Sale — Old Satwari, Govindpora (58 Marla)**

Plot measuring 58 marlas for sale at Old Satwari, Govindpora, near Pir Baba.

· 9419106421 · Old Satwari, Govindpora, Jammu

**PROPERTY****Commercial Land for Hotel — Patnitop (near Nag Temple) + Plot, Roop Nagar**

Commercial land for hotel/resort at Patnitop near Nag Temple — prime commercial property, 5+5 kanal. Also: 12½ marla plot at Sector-3, Roop Nagar.

· 9419182382, 7889939589 · Patnitop (near Nag Temple) / Sector-3, Roop Nagar

**PROPERTY****Two Rooms Set for Rent — Below Purani Mandi, Main Jammu City**

2 rooms, 1 bathroom, 1 kitchen with verandah set on 2nd floor available for rent below Purani Mandi, main Jammu city. For small family / government employees /...

· 9419196399 · Below Purani Mandi, Main Jammu City

**PROPERTY****Two Halls for Rent — Gandhi Nagar (Main Metadoor Route, near Bata)**

Two halls for rent at main Metadoor route, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, near Bata showroom — ground floor 1500 sq.ft and first floor 800 sq.ft.

· 9320681198 · Gandhi Nagar (near Bata Showroom), Jammu

**PROPERTY****Two Prime Residential Plots — Ahinsa Colony, Talab Tillo**

Two prime residential plots in Jammu: · 12 marla plot (40' x 82'). · 9.7 marla plot (40' x 66'). At Ahinsa Colony, Talab Tillo (near Agriculture Office).

· 9419190248 · Ahinsa Colony, Talab Tillo, Jammu

## REGIONAL

**LG Manoj Sinha to Review Amarnath Yatra Preparations Ahead of Shah's Meeting**

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026

**S**RINAGAR, June 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will chair a high-level review meeting to assess preparedness for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, just two days before Union Home Minister Amit Shah's scheduled review of the pilgrimage arrangements.

The meeting is expected to bring together senior officials from the civil administration, police, security agencies, health services, disaster management authorities and the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board to evaluate the status of various logistical and security measures being put in place for the pilgrimage.

Officials are likely to review arrangements related to accommodation, transportation, medical facilities, sanitation, communication systems, power supply and emergency response mechanisms along the yatra routes. Special attention is also expected to be given to security planning, considering the large number of pilgrims anticipated to participate in the annual pilgrimage.

The Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is one of the most significant religious pilgrimages in the country and requires extensive coordination among multiple departments to ensure the safety and convenience of devotees. Authorities have already initiated infrastructure upgrades and deployment planning along both the traditional Pahalgam route and the Baltal route.

The review assumes significance as Union Home Minister Amit Shah is also scheduled to hold a meeting on the yatra arrangements later this week. The administration is aiming to ensure seamless coordination among all stakeholders ahead of the commencement of the pilgrimage season.

Officials have reiterated their commitment to providing a safe, secure and comfortable experience for devotees undertaking the annual pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine.

## POLITICS

**NC legislators to march in New Delhi, demand statehood restoration as Parliament reconvenes**

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 4 JUN, 2026

**I**n a major escalation of its campaign over Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional status, the ruling National Conference (NC) Legislature Party has announced plans to hold a demonstration in New Delhi on the opening day of Parliament's Monsoon Session, demanding the restoration of full statehood and constitutional safeguards for the Union Territory.

The decision was taken during a meeting of the NC Legislature Party in Srinagar, where senior leaders resolved that elected representatives from Jammu and Kashmir would march to Parliament to press the Centre to fulfil its commitment to restore statehood, which was withdrawn following the reorganisation of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories in August 2019.

Addressing the media after the meeting, the party's chief spokesperson and senior leadership stressed that the protest was intended to send a strong message to the Union Government regarding the prolonged delay in implementing the promise of statehood.

## REGIONAL

**BOPEE Cancels M.Sc Nursing Entrance Examination Over OMR Data Discrepancy**

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 8 JUN, 2026

**T**he Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (JKBOPEE) has cancelled the M.Sc Nursing Entrance Examination.

Discrepancies in candidate data on Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) sheets were detected during post-examination scrutiny.

JKBOPEE announced the cancellation and assured candidates a fresh test would be conducted. The revised schedule will be notified separately.

The Board expressed regret for inconvenience, prioritizing examination system credibility.

## REGIONAL

**PDP MLA Joins Farmers' Protest Against Eviction Drive in Pulwama**

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 8 JUN, 2026

**S**RINAGAR, June 8: Tensions surfaced in south Kashmir's Pulwama district as scores of farmers and local residents staged a protest against what they described as attempts by authorities to evict cultivators from land they have tilled for decades. The demonstration gained political attention after a Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) MLA joined the protest and voiced support for the agitating farmers.

Protesters alleged that government agencies had initiated measures that could displace several families dependent on agricultural land for their livelihood. They argued that many cultivators have been working on the land for generations and that any eviction would severely impact rural incomes and food security.

Addressing the gathering, the PDP legislator accused the administration of ignoring the concerns of local farmers and urged the government to adopt a humanitarian approach. The MLA called for an immediate halt to any eviction-related action until a comprehensive review of the affected cases is carried out.

The demonstrators demanded legal safeguards for genuine land tillers and sought clarity regarding the government's land management policies. They warned that uncertainty over land ownership and cultivation rights could trigger further unrest in rural areas.

The protest highlights the continuing debate in Jammu and Kashmir over land rights, with political parties and farmer groups urging the administration to balance developmental objectives with the interests and livelihoods of traditional cultivators.

## REGIONAL

**CISF Jawan Injured in Accidental Firing Incident at Jammu Railway Station**

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 2 JUN, 2026

**J**ammu, June 2: A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan was injured in an accidental firing incident at Jammu Railway Station on Tuesday, prompting an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the mishap.

According to officials, the incident occurred when the CISF personnel was present at the railway station awaiting a train for deployment in connection with the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra. During this period, his service rifle reportedly went off accidentally, causing injuries to the jawan.

The injured personnel was immediately rushed for medical treatment and provided necessary assistance. Officials confirmed that no other passenger, railway employee or security personnel was injured in the incident.

Security personnel and railway authorities quickly secured the area following the firing, preventing panic among passengers and ensuring normal operations at the station. Preliminary reports suggest the incident was accidental in nature, though the exact cause of the firearm discharge is yet to be determined.

Police have initiated legal proceedings and launched an investigation to ascertain the circumstances that led to the accidental firing. Authorities are expected to examine weapon handling procedures and other relevant factors as part of the inquiry.

The incident comes at a time when security forces are preparing for large-scale deployment for the Amarnath Yatra, one of the country's largest annual pilgrimages, which involves extensive security arrangements across Jammu and Kashmir.