

# THE CHECKPOST

DISPATCH

Truth from the Last Mile.

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REGIONAL NATIONAL WORLD BUSINESS TECH SPORTS OPINION

WEEKLY EDITION



**REGIONAL**  
**Dignitaries, Public Representatives Meet LG Manoj Sinha in Srinagar**  
PAGE 2



**NATIONAL**  
**Rahul Gandhi Calls for Opposition Unity, Alleges Democratic Institutions Under Pressure**  
PAGE 7



**INTERNATIONAL**  
**UN Security Council Urges Taliban to Reverse Restrictions on Women**  
PAGE 13



**BUSINESS**  
**IMF Says Global Economy Remains Resilient Despite Middle East Tensions**  
PAGE 8

### IN BRIEF

**HEALTH**  
**Experimental Lupus Drug Shows Promising Results in Mid-Stage Clinical Trial**  
A new treatment for systemic lupus erythematosus has demonstrated significant reductions in disease activity, offering hope for patients living with...

**TECHNOLOGY**  
**China Expands AI and Semiconductor Self-Reliance Drive**  
Beijing is accelerating investments in artificial intelligence and domestic chip production as part of a broader strategy to reduce dependence...

**SPORTS**  
**USA Thrash Paraguay 4-1 at SoFi Stadium in Electric World Cup Home Debut; Balogun Bags Brace, Pulisic Dazzles**  
Folarin Balogun scored twice and Christian Pulisic put on a masterclass as the United States delivered a dominant 4-1 home...

**NATIONAL**  
**CJP Launches Nationwide Agitation Over Exam Irregularities, Demands Education Minister's Resignation**  
The organisation unveiled an education reform manifesto and announced a countrywide campaign against alleged examination irregularities, paper leaks and delays...

**BUSINESS**  
**India's Trade Deficit Narrows in May as Exports Register Growth**  
Improved export performance and

## REGIONAL Omar Abdullah Meets PM Modi, Presses for Early Restoration of Statehood

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 11 JUN, 2026



The Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister discussed statehood, economic development and tourism promotion during a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

NEW DELHI, June 11: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed a range of issues concerning the Union Territory, including the early restoration of statehood, economic...

FULL REPORT CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 ▶

## REGIONAL Statehood Protest in Delhi Will Go Ahead as Planned: Omar Abdullah

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026



The Chief Minister said the National Conference-led Government remains committed to pressing for the restoration of Statehood and will raise the issue at the start of Parliament's Monsoon Session.

SRINAGAR, June 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today reaffirmed that the proposed protest in New Delhi demanding the restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 ▶

## REGIONAL ED Summons Prominent Gulmarg Hoteliers in Roshni Land Case Probe



## NATIONAL Modi Becomes India's Longest-Serving Elected PM, Surpassing Nehru's Record at 4,399 Days; Cabinet Passes Congratulatory Resolution

On June 10, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed 4,399 consecutive days in office, surpassing Jawaharlal Nehru's record to become India's longest continuously serving elected Prime Minister — a milestone marked by...

Prime Minister Narendra Modi created a new chapter in India's political history on June 10, 2026, by becoming the country's longest continuously...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 ▶



## REGIONAL LG Manoj Sinha Highlights Role of Scientific Research at Immunology Conference

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha emphasized the importance of scientific innovation, medical research and interdisciplinary collaboration while addressing the annual conference of the Indian Immunology Society.

JAMMU, June 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha delivered the keynote address at the annual conference of the Indian Immunology Society, underscoring the...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 ▶

### INSIDE TODAY

- P2 · Dignitaries, Public Representatives Meet LG Manoj Sinha in Srinagar
- P7 · Rahul Gandhi Calls for Opposition Unity, Alleges Democratic Institutions Under Pressure
- P13 · UN Security Council Urges Taliban to Reverse Restrictions on Women
- P8 · IMF Says Global Economy Remains Resilient Despite Middle East Tensions
- P14 · PV Sindhu Exits Australian Open Semifinal; Goes Down 22-20, 21-12 to World Champion Yamaguchi in Thriller
- P10 · OpenAI Sees Rapid Growth in Enterprise AI Adoption Worldwide
- P12 · Over 31 Lakh Patients Benefit from National Dialysis Programme, Government Reports
- P6 · INDIA Bloc Demands Education Minister's Resignation, Seeks CJI Intervention on Electoral Issues

## REGIONAL

## Dignitaries, Public Representatives Meet LG Manoj Sinha in Srinagar

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 15 JUN, 2026



Several political leaders, social figures and delegations called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to discuss development, public welfare and ongoing initiatives in Jammu and Kash...

SRINAGAR, June 14: A series of meetings were held at Raj Bhavan in Srinagar on Saturday as prominent dignitaries, elected representatives and delegations called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to discuss various issues concerning development, public welfare and social initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir.

Former Governor of Punjab Vijayender Pal Singh Badnore met the Lieutenant Governor and exchanged views on matters of public importance. Former Union Minister Dr. Karan Singh also called on the Lieutenant Governor and discussed issues related to the development and progress of Jammu and Kashmir.

Former Minister Ajatshatru Singh, accompanied by Dr. Ritu Singh and Ranvijay Singh, paid a courtesy visit and appreciated the administration's efforts under the "Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan." They lauded the campaign's role in raising awareness among youth and mobilizing society against drug abuse. During the meeting, Dr. Ritu Singh also presented details of initiatives undertaken by Delhi Public School institutions in support of the anti-drug campaign.

The delegation further expressed appreciation for the establishment of the Shri Raghunath Ji Ki Maha Aarti Sanstha, describing it as an initiative that has enhanced religious and cultural activities while attracting devotees and tourists alike.

MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrotia also met the Lieutenant Governor and discussed developmental priorities of his constituency, including infrastructure, civic amenities, employment opportunities and public welfare schemes. He also commended the administration's ongoing anti-drug campaign across the Union Territory.

Among others who called on the Lieutenant Governor were Sanjay Kumar Puri, Senior Director, National Informatics Centre (NIC) J&K; Irfan Manhas, former Vice Chairman of the District Development Council Shopian; a delegation of Mehboob-ul-Alam Sports Club Kashmir; and representatives of the Kashmir Timber Association. The delegations discussed issues concerning sports promotion, trade, public welfare and development initiatives in the Union Territory.

## REGIONAL

## Deputy Chief Minister Reviews Development Projects in Bandipora

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 14 JUN, 2026



BANDIPORA, June 10: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary conducted an extensive tour of Bandipora district to assess the progress of several ongoing developmental projects and directed executing agencies to ensure quality work and timely completion of all projects.

Accompanied by MLA Bandipora Nizamud-Din Bhat and MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected a number of infrastructure projects aimed at improving connectivity, public facilities and educational infrastructure in the district.

During the visit, Choudhary reviewed the construction of the 1x20-metre double-lane composite bridge at Naninara, Sumbal, and instructed the concerned agencies to expedite work while strictly adhering to quality standards. He also visited the proposed Sumbal Foot Bridge near the shrine of Ahmad Sahib Naninara and assured local residents that the long-pending project would be taken up on priority.

The Deputy Chief Minister inspected ongoing works at Garoora Bridge and reviewed the development of a car parking facility at Gulshan Chowk in Bandipora town. He observed that the parking project would help ease traffic congestion and improve traffic management in the busy market area.

At Nadim Memorial Higher Secondary School, Kaloosa, he inspected the Girls Hostel and Composite Building and emphasized the need for strengthening educational infrastructure. He also reviewed progress on the Sopore-Bandipora Road and directed officials to accelerate work to improve connectivity and commuter safety.

During interactions with local residents and public delegations, Choudhary assured that genuine grievances and developmental demands would be addressed. He also directed the

construction of a new bridge on the Bandipora-Sopore road and announced the release of ₹1.2 crore for the project.

Reiterating the government's commitment to balanced development, the Deputy Chief Minister called upon all departments to ensure speedy execution of projects so that their benefits reach the public without delay.

## REGIONAL

## Javed Rana Calls for Scaling Up Rainwater Harvesting Across J&K

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 14 JUN, 2026



JAMMU, June 12: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology, Environment and Tribal Affairs Javed Ahmed Rana on Thursday stressed the need to significantly expand



## REGIONAL

## Karra Demands Restoration of Statehood, Raises Issues of Youth and Common People

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 15 JUN, 2026

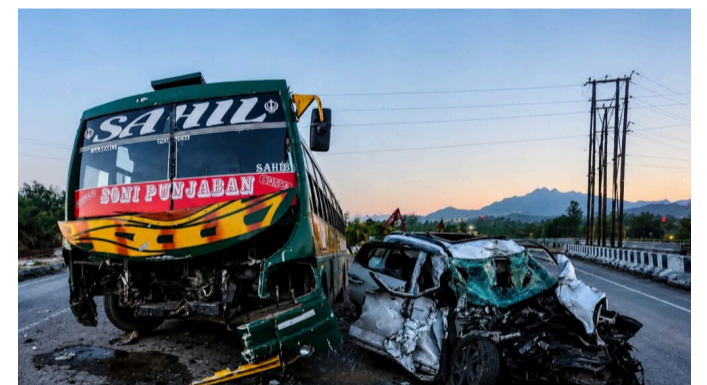
JAMMU, June 14: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee President Tariq Hameed Karra on Sunday renewed the party's demand for the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and called for greater attention to issues affecting youth and common people.

The remarks came during the launch of a five-day padyatra in Jammu under the banner "Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq", aimed at mobilizing public support for the restoration of statehood and raising concerns over various socio-economic issues. The march was attended by senior Congress leaders, party workers and local residents.

Addressing the gathering, Karra described the campaign as a people's movement focused on restoring the democratic and constitutional rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He alleged that despite repeated assurances, the demand for restoration of statehood remains unfulfilled and said the Congress would continue its struggle through democratic means until the objective is achieved.

The Congress leader also raised concerns over unemployment, inflation, rising fuel prices and economic challenges faced by ordinary citizens. Referring to issues affecting students, he criticized alleged irregularities in examinations and demanded accountability from the authorities concerned.

Senior Congress leaders accompanying the padyatra said the campaign seeks to highlight public grievances and bring attention



## REGIONAL

## Three Haryana Tourists Killed, Two Injured in Car-Bus Collision Near IIM Jammu

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 15 JUN, 2026

JAMMU, June 13: Three tourists from Haryana were killed and two others injured after a car collided with a bus near the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu on Friday, officials said.

According to reports, the accident occurred when a car carrying tourists from Haryana was involved in a collision with a passenger bus near the IIM Jammu area. The impact of the collision was severe, resulting in the death of three occupants of the car at the scene or shortly after the accident.

Two other occupants sustained injuries and were rushed to a nearby medical facility for treatment. Hospital authorities said the injured were undergoing treatment and their condition was being closely monitored.

Police and emergency response teams immediately reached the spot and launched rescue operations. The bodies of the deceased were shifted for medico-legal formalities, while efforts were made to clear the traffic disruption caused by the accident.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the collision occurred due to circumstances that are being examined by the authorities. Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the accident.

The incident has once again highlighted concerns regarding road safety on busy stretches around Jammu. Authorities have urged motorists to exercise caution, adhere to traffic regulations and avoid rash driving to prevent such tragedies.

## REGIONAL

## Delegations Meet Minister Javed Rana, Seek Infrastructure and Development Upgrades

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026



Public representatives and delegations from various parts of Jammu and Kashmir raised concerns related to water supply, roads, civic amenities and ongoing development projects during the meeting.

SRINAGAR, June 15: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology, Environment and Tribal Affairs Javed Ahmed Rana today met several public delegations, elected representatives and individuals at the Civil Secretariat and reviewed a wide range of developmental issues concerning different regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those who called on the Minister was MLA Lolab Kaiser Jamsheed Lone, who projected several constituency-related demands and sought intervention for the augmentation of public infrastructure, improvement of drinking water supply schemes, irrigation facilities and expeditious completion of ongoing developmental works. The legislator also highlighted issues concerning civic amenities and public service delivery in his constituency.

Several deputations from different districts also met the Minister and apprised him of local developmental concerns. A delegation from the Pir Panjal region raised issues related to the implementation of works under the Jal Jeevan Mission and urged the Government to ensure the timely completion of ongoing projects to provide adequate drinking water facilities to the people.

Another delegation sought the Minister's intervention for blacktopping of roads in their area and highlighted various civic and infrastructure-related issues requiring immediate attention. Representatives from different parts of Kashmir also projected demands related to road connectivity, power supply, healthcare facilities, potable water schemes and pending development projects.

Giving a patient hearing to the delegations, Rana assured them that all genuine issues and demands would be examined on priority. He reiterated the Government's commitment towards responsive governance and effective public service delivery.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to follow up on the issues raised during the meetings and take necessary action for their early resolution. He emphasized that developmental benefits must reach every section of society in a transparent and time-bound manner.

The interactions formed part of the Government's ongoing efforts to strengthen public outreach and address grassroots concerns through direct engagement with citizens and public representatives.

## REGIONAL

## DC Poonch Reviews Progress of Telecom Connectivity Projects

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 14 JUN, 2026



POONCH, June 13: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma chaired a meeting of the District Telecom Committee (DTC) to review the progress of telecom connectivity projects being implemented across the district and address issues affecting their execution.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Shafket Hussain Bhat, Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, district officers, representatives of BSNL, Airtel and other

stakeholders involved in telecom infrastructure development.

A detailed review of the 4G Saturation Project revealed that allotment orders have been issued for 27 out of 40 identified state land sites, while Forest Rights Act certification has been obtained for 13 forest land locations. Officials informed the meeting that installation of mobile towers has been completed at 17 sites, of which 13 are already operational, while work on the remaining sites is at different stages of completion.

The committee also reviewed proposals for establishing additional 4G towers at Army and BSF locations and discussed land allotment issues related to telecom infrastructure in border villages. It was informed that surveys and re-verification exercises are underway in 133 identified border villages to assess mobile connectivity requirements.

Progress under the Amended BharatNet Programme was also reviewed. Officials reported that surveys have been completed in Poonch and Mandi blocks, while work is currently in progress in Surankote and Mendhar blocks.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to expedite pending formalities related to land

allotment, revenue documentation and site clearances. He stressed that improved telecom connectivity is vital for governance, education, healthcare, emergency response and socio-economic development, particularly in remote and border areas of the district.

The meeting concluded with directions for close coordination among departments and service providers to ensure timely completion of all telecom infrastructure projects.



## REGIONAL

## Poonch Police Reunite West Bengal Youth With Family After Nine Years

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026

POONCH, June 15: Demonstrating its commitment to public service beyond routine law enforcement, District Police Poonch successfully reunited a youth with his family after nearly nine years of separation through sustained investigation and inter-state coordination.

According to police officials, the youth had arrived in Poonch around nine years ago but was unable to provide any reliable information regarding his family, native place or identity. Over the years, efforts continued to ascertain his background and trace his relatives.

Through meticulous inquiry, verification of available information and coordination with authorities in different states, Poonch Police eventually succeeded in establishing his identity as Sudesh Pal Topno, son of Abhiram Topno, a resident of West Bengal. After confirming all relevant details and completing the required formalities, the police contacted his family and facilitated the reunion.

The youth was formally handed over to his parents in an emotional meeting that brought an end to almost a decade of uncertainty and separation. Family members expressed profound gratitude to the police for their dedication, patience and relentless efforts in locating their missing son and restoring him to his loved ones.

Police officials said the case highlights the importance of perseverance, coordination and community-oriented policing in addressing humanitarian issues. They noted that tracing missing persons and reconnecting them with their families remains an



## REGIONAL

## CM Reviews Muharram Arrangements Across Jammu and Kashmir

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026

SRINAGAR, June 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess preparations for the smooth observance of Muharram across Jammu and Kashmir, directing all departments to ensure timely and coordinated arrangements for devotees and the general public.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, several Cabinet Ministers, legislators, senior administrative officers, representatives of Shia organisations, clerics, civil society members and community leaders. Officials from districts across Jammu and Kashmir also participated through virtual mode.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister reviewed the status of arrangements related to power supply, drinking water, healthcare, sanitation, traffic management and road infrastructure. He said preparations had been underway for several weeks and emphasized that the Government was committed to ensuring that all facilities are made available without any shortcomings.

Omar Abdullah directed the Power Development Department to maintain uninterrupted electricity supply at major congregation venues and procession routes. He instructed officials to keep backup arrangements, including generators and inverter systems, ready to avoid disruptions during religious gatherings.

The Jal Shakti Department was directed to ensure the availability of safe drinking water, while water tankers and static distribution points were ordered to be deployed in areas expected to witness large crowds. The Health and Medical Education Department was

## REGIONAL

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

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 9 JUN, 2026



At least fifteen passengers sustained injuries after a canter bus lost control and veered off the road on the Jammu–Rajouri–Poonch National Highway.

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

## Mehbooba Mufti Calls for People's Participation in Ensuring Successful Amarnath Yatra

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026



PAHALGAM, June 15: Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti has called upon the people of Kashmir to actively support the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, describing the annual pilgrimage as an opportunity to foster goodwill, strengthen national unity and counter negative perceptions about Kashmir and its people.

Addressing people in Pahalgam, Mehbooba said every pilgrim visiting Kashmir should be regarded as a guest of the Valley and welcomed with warmth, respect and hospitality. She emphasized that the experiences carried back by pilgrims to different parts of the country play an important role in shaping public perceptions about Kashmir and its people.

The former Chief Minister stated that safeguarding the Yatra should not be viewed solely as the responsibility of security agencies but as a collective responsibility of society. She urged local communities to contribute towards ensuring that pilgrims have a safe, comfortable and memorable experience during their visit.

Mehbooba said that at a time when social and political divisions are increasingly visible across the country, the Amarnath Yatra can serve as a bridge for strengthening human connections and promoting mutual understanding. She argued that direct interaction between local residents and pilgrims can help challenge misinformation and prejudice through personal experiences and positive engagement.

Highlighting Kashmir's long-standing traditions of hospitality, compassion and coexistence, she said every interaction with pilgrims offers an opportunity to showcase the Valley's cultural values and inclusive spirit. According to her, such outreach can help reinforce bonds between people from different regions and communities.

The PDP leader further stressed that the Yatra should be a locally supported and community-driven process that reflects the true ethos of Kashmir. She expressed confidence that with public participation and cooperation, the pilgrimage would continue to serve as a symbol of harmony, peace and shared cultural heritage.

The annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra attracts thousands of devotees from across

the country and remains one of the most significant religious pilgrimages in Jammu and Kashmir.

## REGIONAL

## GMC Kathua Installs 20 Hydraulic Emergency Beds to Enhance Patient Care

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 14 JUN, 2026



KATHUA, June 13: Government Medical College (GMC) Kathua and its Associated Hospital have strengthened their emergency healthcare infrastructure with the installation of 20 modern movable hydraulic emergency beds in the Emergency Department.

The newly introduced hydraulic beds are designed to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of critically ill patients within the hospital premises. Hospital authorities said the beds would enable patients requiring urgent diagnostic procedures, including CT scans, as well as those needing transfer to Intensive Care Units



## REGIONAL

## Seven Booked Under NDPS Act in Anti-Drug Crackdown in Anantnag

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026

ANANTNAG, June 16: Continuing its drive against drug abuse under the ongoing anti-narcotics campaign, Anantnag Police has booked seven individuals under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act after they tested positive for drug consumption at different locations in the district.

According to police, a special checking exercise was conducted in Bijbehara in coordination with a medical team using Rapid Drug Detection Kits. During the operation, five individuals were found positive for the consumption of narcotic substances. Separate cases under Section 8/27 of the NDPS Act were registered against all five persons at Police Station Bijbehara, and legal proceedings have been initiated.

In another operation carried out by Police Station Kokernag, two individuals were apprehended at different locations after receiving specific information regarding suspicious activity. Both were subjected to medical examination, and the test reports confirmed the consumption of narcotic substances. Subsequently, separate FIRs under Section 8/27 of the NDPS Act were registered against them and investigations have been taken up.

Police officials said the action forms part of a broader strategy to curb drug abuse and dismantle the network of narcotics consumption and trafficking in the district. Authorities have reiterated their commitment to a zero-tolerance policy against drugs and stated that regular monitoring, testing drives and enforcement measures will continue across vulnerable areas.

The police have also appealed to the public to actively support



## REGIONAL

## Mega Health Camp Held in Mankote, Assistive Devices Distributed to Specially-abled Persons

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026

POONCH, June 15: A mega health camp was organized in the Aspirational Block Mankote through the joint efforts of the Indian Army's 30 Punjab Regiment, the Health Department and various NGO partners, benefiting a large number of residents from the area.

A dedicated medical team was deputed under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer Poonch, Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan, and Block Medical Officer Mendhar, Dr. Ghazala, to provide comprehensive healthcare services to the local population. The initiative also received support from the Aspirational Block Programme (ABP) Fellow.

During the camp, residents were offered a range of healthcare services, including medical consultations, health screenings, distribution of medicines and awareness programmes on various health-related issues. Medical professionals examined patients and provided treatment and counselling aimed at promoting preventive healthcare and early diagnosis of illnesses.

A major highlight of the camp was the distribution of assistive devices to specially-abled individuals as part of a welfare initiative undertaken by the Indian Army. Beneficiaries were provided wheelchairs, prosthetic limbs, walking sticks, hearing aids and specially designed mobility scooters free of cost to enhance their mobility, independence and quality of life.

Officials said the camp was aimed at improving access to healthcare services in remote areas while addressing the needs of

## REGIONAL

## DC Bandipora Reviews Education Initiatives, Emphasises Technology-Driven Learning

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026



Deputy Commissioner Indu Kanwal Chib directed officials to strengthen digital education programmes, improve data management and enhance the use of technology for better learning out...

BANDIPORA, June 15: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Indu Kanwal Chib today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Education Department to assess the progress of various educational initiatives and technology-based programmes being implemented across the district.

The meeting, held at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora, focused on key educational interventions including APAAR ID generation, UDISE data updation, Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK), ULLAS and support mechanisms for Children With Special Needs (CWSN). Officials also reviewed the status of ongoing digital learning and governance initiatives aimed at improving educational outcomes.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of technology-driven education and directed officials to ensure accurate data collection, timely updation of records and regular monitoring of educational programmes. She observed that real-time data capturing plays a vital role in strengthening academic monitoring, improving institutional learning management and enabling informed decision-making.

Chib instructed the concerned officers to monitor technology-based interventions, including various educational bots and digital platforms, on a weekly basis to

ensure their effective implementation and progress. She also stressed the need for close coordination with Common Service Centres (CSCs) to facilitate Aadhaar enrolment and correction services for students facing difficulties.

The meeting reviewed several issues related to the UDISE portal, including student records, infrastructure details and teacher data. Heads of Institutions and departmental officials were directed to take immediate corrective measures to ensure the accuracy and completeness of information uploaded on the portal.

While reviewing the functioning of the Vidya Samiksha Kendra, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the significance of digital learning tools and data-driven governance in improving attendance, academic performance and administrative efficiency. She called for maximum participation of students and teachers in digital learning initiatives to strengthen the education system across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the administration's commitment to leveraging technology for enhancing educational standards and ensuring better learning opportunities for students throughout Bandipora district.

## REGIONAL

## SSP Anantnag Reviews Security Arrangements for Amarnath Yatra 2026

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 14 JUN, 2026



ANANTNAG, June 13: As part of preparations for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, Senior Superintendent of Police Anantnag, Amod Ashok Nagpure, IPS, conducted a comprehensive review of security and pilgrim-facilitation arrangements at key locations in the Pahalgam sector.

During the inspection, the SSP visited the Frisking Point at Nunwan, Nunwan

Base Camp and Sarbal Bridge, where he reviewed the security measures put in place for the annual pilgrimage. He also inspected the ongoing repair and construction works of the Joint Police Control Room (JPCR) and assessed the progress of infrastructure development aimed at ensuring effective coordination during the Yatra.

The officer reviewed the installation and operational readiness of CCTV surveillance systems and examined overall arrangements related to crowd management, access control and monitoring of sensitive locations along the route.

Emphasizing the importance of a secure and well-coordinated pilgrimage, SSP Nagpure directed officers to ensure robust security mechanisms, enhanced surveillance coverage and close coordination among all stakeholder agencies. He also stressed the timely completion of ongoing works and called for maintaining a high level of preparedness to address any eventuality during the Yatra period.

Officials were instructed to focus equally on the safety and convenience of pilgrims by ensuring efficient facilitation measures

and uninterrupted communication systems at all key locations.

The review forms part of the broader preparations being undertaken by the administration and security agencies to ensure the smooth, safe and hassle-free conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, one of the country's most significant annual pilgrimages.



## REGIONAL

## Budgam Police Register FIR Over Social Media Content Allegedly Promoting Religious Hatred

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026

BUDGAM, June 15: Police in Budgam have registered a case against unidentified individuals for allegedly creating and circulating social media content capable of promoting enmity between religious groups and hurting religious sentiments.

According to officials, FIR No. 163/2026 has been registered at Police Station Budgam under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) following reports regarding the dissemination of provocative videos and misinformation on social media platforms. The content is alleged to have the potential to incite hatred, create divisions among communities and disturb public order, particularly in view of the forthcoming holy month of Muharram.

Police said the action was initiated after receiving credible inputs about the circulation of material aimed at creating communal tensions. An investigation has been launched to identify all individuals involved in creating, uploading, sharing or forwarding the content.

Officials stated that digital evidence is being examined and legal action will be taken against those found responsible in accordance with the law. They emphasized that any attempt to disturb communal harmony or exploit religious sensitivities through social media would be dealt with strictly.

Appealing to the public, police urged citizens to exercise caution while using social media platforms and refrain from sharing unverified, provocative or misleading content that could hurt



## REGIONAL

## Udhampur Administration Finalises Arrangements for International Yoga Day

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026

UDHAMPUR, June 15: The Udhampur administration has finalized arrangements for the celebration of International Yoga Day 2026, with Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa chairing a review meeting of officers from various departments to assess preparedness and ensure smooth conduct of the event.

During the meeting, officials held detailed discussions on venue management, logistical support, participation plans and coordination among departments for the district-level function and other yoga events scheduled across the district. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of timely preparations and directed all concerned departments to complete necessary arrangements well in advance.

Sherpa stressed the need for close inter-departmental coordination to ensure the successful organization of the programme and instructed officers to encourage maximum public participation at all designated venues. He said International Yoga Day provides an important opportunity to promote healthy lifestyles, physical fitness and awareness about the benefits of yoga among people of all age groups.

The AYUSH Department was directed to deploy qualified yoga instructors and make all necessary logistical arrangements for conducting yoga sessions at various locations. Officials were also asked to ensure the availability of required infrastructure and facilities for participants.

Senior officers from different departments attended the meeting and reviewed their respective responsibilities regarding the event.

## 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

## Southwest Monsoon Advances into Andhra, Bihar, Odisha by June 15; Delhi-NCR Under Thunderstorm Alert Till June 21

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 16 JUN, 2026



The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has reported steady and significant progress of the Southwest Monsoon 2026, with the weather system advancing further north and remaining ahead of its usual schedule. A series of official updates issued during the week indicate that the monsoon's coverage has expanded rapidly across eastern and southern India.

On June 12, the IMD confirmed that the monsoon had progressed into additional areas of West Bengal and Bihar. By June 15, the system had covered the remaining parts of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, while extending into more regions of Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand and Bihar. Meteorologists noted that the current position of the monsoon is considerably ahead of its normal mid-June extent and compares favourably with the pace recorded in recent years.

According to the IMD, atmospheric conditions are expected to remain conducive over the next four to five days, allowing further advancement into more parts of Maharashtra, the remaining regions of Karnataka and sections of south Chhattisgarh. As of June 15, the Northern Limit of Monsoon passed through Harnai, Solapur, Hyderabad, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Kalingapatnam, Paradeep, Baripada, Purulia, Dhanbad and Muzaffarpur.

The early progress of the monsoon is being viewed positively for agriculture and water resources, as it could aid sowing operations and contribute to the replenishment of reservoirs across several states.

Meanwhile, the IMD has issued a weather alert for Delhi-NCR for the period between June 16 and June 21. The forecast warns of thunderstorms accompanied by

lightning, gusty winds of 40 to 50 kilometres per hour, and gusts reaching up to 60 kilometres per hour. Dust storms are also likely during this period.

Weather reports indicate that June 20 and 21 may witness the most intense weather activity in the national capital region. Residents have been advised to remain cautious and follow official advisories during periods of adverse weather.

Heavy rainfall has also been forecast for Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and sub-Himalayan West Bengal. Coastal Karnataka and parts of Tamil Nadu are expected to continue receiving heavy to very heavy showers, with authorities closely monitoring the situation.

With the monsoon gaining momentum, meteorologists expect rainfall activity to intensify across more regions of the country in the coming days, bringing much-needed relief from summer heat and supporting agricultural activity.



## NATIONAL

## CJP Launches Nationwide Agitation Over Exam Irregularities, Demands Education Minister's Resignation

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 11 JUN, 2026

PUNE, June 12: The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Thursday launched a nationwide protest campaign against alleged irregularities in examinations and recruitment processes, beginning its agitation from the campus of Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) in Pune.

Addressing a press conference, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke announced the release of the party's education manifesto and reiterated the organisation's demand for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. He alleged that repeated examination-related controversies had adversely affected the future of millions of students across the country.

According to Dipke, the manifesto proposes a series of reforms aimed at improving transparency and accountability in the education and examination system. Key recommendations include measures to prevent question paper leaks, ensure timely declaration of results, strengthen oversight of examination authorities and address delays in recruitment and entrance examinations.

The campaign comes amid growing public debate over alleged irregularities in competitive examinations and recruitment processes. Organisers said the movement would remain peaceful and operate within constitutional and democratic norms.

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk is also expected to participate in the agitation. The organisers stated that the campaign will travel through several cities, including Jaipur, Lucknow, Amritsar



## NATIONAL

## NEET Re-Exam on June 21: Admit Cards Released, AI Facial Biometrics Deployed Nationwide, Dedicated Leak-Reporting Portal Live

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 16 JUN, 2026

With the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination scheduled for June 21, the National Testing Agency (NTA) has intensified efforts to restore confidence in the country's largest medical entrance examination following the cancellation of the original test over allegations of a paper leak.

As of June 16, the agency has released admit cards for candidates through the official portal, while advance city intimation slips have already been issued. More than 220 examination cities in India and abroad have been readied to conduct the re-examination, reflecting the scale of the exercise.

In a move aimed at enhancing transparency and public participation, the NTA has introduced a dedicated online platform allowing citizens to report suspicious activities, misleading claims or any alleged irregularities associated with the re-examination process. Officials view the initiative as an important confidence-building measure in the wake of concerns raised after the June 3 examination was cancelled.

Meanwhile, investigations into the alleged paper leak continue. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is pursuing inquiries across multiple states, including Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Delhi. Judicial proceedings related to the case are also underway, with the Rouse Avenue Court continuing hearings concerning the custody of key accused Shubham Khairnar.

A major technological feature of the upcoming examination is the

## NATIONAL

## Rahul Gandhi Calls for Opposition Unity, Alleges Democratic Institutions Under Pressure

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026



The Congress leader urged regional parties to unite under a common strategy of resistance, arguing that conventional political methods alone would not be sufficient to challenge th...

NEW DELHI, June 13: Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi has called on parties within the INDIA bloc to unite around what he described as a common democratic struggle, asserting that traditional political strategies would only be effective if elections in the country are conducted in a completely free and fair manner.

In remarks made during discussions with INDIA bloc leaders, Gandhi argued that opposition parties must recognize what he described as a fundamental challenge facing India's democratic framework. He contended that there should be "no doubt" about the seriousness of the situation and urged regional parties, including the Trinamool Congress (TMC), Samajwadi Party (SP), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and others, to come together and adopt a coordinated approach.

According to Gandhi, opposition parties should not remain under any illusion that electoral competition alone would be enough to counter the BJP. He alleged that key democratic institutions have increasingly come under the influence of the ruling establishment and maintained that a broader movement based on unity and resistance would be necessary to protect constitutional values and democratic processes.

The Congress leader stressed that the INDIA bloc must move beyond electoral calculations and focus on building a united front capable of defending institutions and raising issues affecting the public. He argued that cooperation among opposition parties would be essential in confronting challenges related to governance, democracy and electoral processes.

Gandhi's remarks come amid efforts by the INDIA alliance to strengthen coordination among its constituent parties ahead of future political contests. Opposition leaders have recently discussed issues ranging from electoral reforms and parliamentary strategy to economic concerns and governance, while seeking to maintain unity despite ideological and regional differences.

The BJP has consistently rejected opposition allegations regarding democratic institutions and electoral processes, maintaining that India's democratic system remains strong and robust. Gandhi's comments, however, are expected to further shape the political discourse as opposition parties intensify efforts to build a common platform ahead of future elections.

## NATIONAL

## Bharat Innovates 2026: India's Deep-Tech Startups Shine on Global Stage at VivaTech; France Hails India as 'Country of Innovation'

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 16 JUN, 2026



India marked a major milestone in its innovation journey with the launch of Bharat Innovates 2026 at the VivaTech conference in Nice, France, presenting 138 carefully selected deep-tech startups before leading global investors, technology companies and policymakers on the sidelines of the G7 Summit.

The showcase, jointly inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, represented India's most ambitious international startup outreach initiative to date. Addressing the gathering, Macron described India as a "country of innovation," highlighting the changing perception of India among European nations—from being viewed primarily as a large market and IT services provider to emerging as a hub of cutting-edge innovation and intellectual property.

The participating startups represented a wide range of sectors, including artificial intelligence, clean energy, fintech, advanced manufacturing, sustainable agriculture and new economic technologies. These domains have become key areas of cooperation under the India-France Year of Innovation 2026 framework, which seeks to strengthen bilateral collaboration in emerging technologies and entrepreneurship.

The event brought Indian entrepreneurs into direct contact with leading venture capital firms, European technology companies and international stakeholders, offering opportunities for investment, partnerships and global market access.

Bharat Innovates 2026 also received significant attention in India, with

Akashvani's Spotlight programme dedicating a special segment to the initiative under the title "Bharat Innovates 2026: Showcasing India's Startup Revolution to the World."

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who had first highlighted the initiative during a deep-tech pre-summit at IIT Bombay in March, described the event as a defining moment for India's startup ecosystem on the international stage.

Industry observers believe the initiative reflects India's growing ambition to establish itself among the world's leading innovation economies. By providing global exposure to emerging enterprises and fostering international collaborations, Bharat Innovates 2026 is expected to strengthen India's position in the global technology landscape and inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs.

The showcase also underscores the increasing role of startups and innovation diplomacy in India's broader foreign policy and economic engagement with strategic partners such as France and the European Union.

Bharat Innovates 2026 also received significant attention in India, with



## NATIONAL

## Historic NITI Aayog Meet: All 28 CMs Attend for First Time; Modi Stresses Viksit Bharat, Lakhpati Didis & Cyber Fraud Fight

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 16 JUN, 2026

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 11 chaired the 11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, marking what officials described as a significant milestone in cooperative federalism. For the first time since the formation of the Governing Council, Chief Ministers of all 28 states participated in the meeting. Lieutenant Governors and Administrators representing all Union Territories were also in attendance, along with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Held under the theme "Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat@2047", the meeting brought together leaders from across the political spectrum. Among those present were newly elected Chief Ministers, including West Bengal's Suwendu Adhikari, Tamil Nadu's C. Joseph Vijay and Karnataka's D.K. Shivakumar, alongside veteran leaders such as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Addressing the gathering, Prime Minister Modi underscored the importance of harnessing India's demographic dividend, noting that nearly 70 crore Indians are below the age of 25. He stressed the need to invest in education, skill development and capacity-building to transform the country's young population into a driving force for achieving the vision of a developed India by 2047.

The Prime Minister also called upon states to intensify efforts to expand the number of "Lakhpati Didis" from three crore to six



## NATIONAL

## 13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum Concludes with Ministerial Declaration; India Leads 'Cities for People' Agenda Under BRICS Chairship

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 16 JUN, 2026

India successfully concluded the 13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum under its 2026 BRICS Chairship, with member countries adopting a Ministerial Declaration aimed at strengthening cooperation on inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban development. The event marked the fourth occasion on which India hosted the forum and brought together ministerial delegations from all 11 BRICS nations.

Held over two days at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan in New Delhi, the forum was inaugurated by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar. Representatives from Brazil, Russia, Indonesia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates participated in discussions focused on the future of urbanisation and sustainable city development.

The forum was organised around the theme, "Cities for People: BRICS Cooperation for Inclusive and Resilient Urban Futures." Deliberations covered key issues such as equitable urban growth, climate-resilient infrastructure, disaster preparedness, institutional strengthening, digital innovation and citizen-centric governance. These themes were incorporated into the Ministerial Declaration, which outlines the broad framework for urban cooperation among BRICS countries over the coming decade.

As part of the event, two publications—"India's Urban Transformation: Stories of Change" and "Cities for People: Urban Stories from BRICS Nations"—were unveiled, highlighting

## BUSINESS

## IMF Says Global Economy Remains Resilient Despite Middle East Tensions

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026



The International Monetary Fund has said the global economy continues to show resilience despite geopolitical uncertainty, though risks linked to energy markets and regional confi...

WASHINGTON, June 15: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has stated that the global economy is not currently heading towards a major slowdown despite ongoing tensions in the Middle East and concerns over global trade and energy markets.

Speaking ahead of international economic consultations, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said recent geopolitical developments have increased uncertainty but have not yet significantly altered the institution's baseline growth projections. She noted that economic activity in several major economies has remained stronger than anticipated, supported by resilient labour markets, consumer spending and investment.

The IMF acknowledged that conflicts in key regions, particularly in the Middle East, continue to pose risks to global growth due to their potential impact on energy prices, trade routes and investor confidence. However, it emphasized that financial markets and supply chains have thus far demonstrated a degree of adaptability, helping limit broader economic disruptions.

Georgieva cautioned that prolonged instability or further escalation of geopolitical tensions could place additional pressure on inflation and global economic activity. Rising oil prices, shipping disruptions and increased uncertainty remain among the key risks being closely monitored by policymakers and financial institutions worldwide.

The IMF also highlighted the importance of maintaining sound fiscal and monetary policies while encouraging investment in productivity-enhancing sectors such as technology, infrastructure and clean energy. According to the Fund, many economies have made progress in controlling inflation without triggering severe economic contractions, contributing to a more stable outlook than previously feared.

While warning that global risks remain elevated, the IMF's assessment suggests that the world economy continues to display resilience amid a challenging geopolitical environment. Economists say the outlook offers cautious optimism, though sustained stability will depend on developments in conflict zones, commodity markets and international trade over the coming months.

## INTERNATIONAL

## Pentagon Adds Alibaba, Baidu, BYD to Military-Linked Companies List

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026



WASHINGTON, June 10: The U.S. Department of Defense has added several major Chinese corporations, including technology giants Alibaba and Baidu as well as electric vehicle manufacturer BYD, to a list of companies that it says have ties to China's military establishment.

The updated list, released by the Pentagon, identifies firms that Washington believes are connected to China's military-industrial complex. While inclusion on the list does not automatically trigger sanctions or business restrictions, it can increase scrutiny from U.S. regulators and

discourage investment by American entities.

The move is part of broader U.S. efforts to address concerns regarding the relationship between China's civilian technology sector and its military modernization programmes. American officials have argued that certain Chinese companies may contribute to military research, surveillance capabilities or strategic technologies that could support Beijing's defence objectives.

Chinese authorities and the companies named on the list have repeatedly denied allegations of military links, maintaining that they operate as independent commercial enterprises. Beijing has criticised similar measures in the past, describing them as attempts to suppress Chinese businesses and hinder the country's technological development.

The inclusion of Alibaba, Baidu and BYD is significant due to their prominent roles in e-commerce, artificial intelligence, cloud computing and electric vehicle manufacturing. Analysts say the decision reflects growing U.S. concerns about emerging technologies and their potential national security implications.

The latest action comes amid continuing competition between the world's two largest economies over trade, technology,

artificial intelligence and strategic influence. Observers believe the move could further strain relations between Washington and Beijing at a time when both countries are attempting to manage broader geopolitical differences.

## NATIONAL

## India, France Set Target to Double Bilateral Trade in Five Years

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 15 JUN, 2026



NICE (FRANCE), June 14: India and France have agreed to double their annual bilateral trade from the current USD 16 billion to USD 32 billion over the next five years, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron held wide-ranging talks aimed at



## BUSINESS

## India's Trade Deficit Narrows in May as Exports Register Growth

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026

NEW DELHI, June 15: India's merchandise trade deficit narrowed in May as exports recorded healthy growth despite continued challenges in the global economy. Official data released by the Ministry of Commerce showed that the country's exports rose during the month, supported by stronger shipments from key sectors and sustained demand in several international markets.

Merchandise exports stood at approximately USD 45.2 billion in May, while imports were recorded at around USD 73.4 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of USD 28.21 billion. The figure marked a modest improvement compared to previous months and reflected a gradual strengthening of India's external trade position.

Economists attributed the improvement to higher exports of engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and electronic products, alongside continued strength in services exports. India's services sector, particularly information technology, business services and financial services, continued to generate a substantial surplus, helping offset part of the merchandise trade gap.

Trade experts noted that ongoing negotiations on free trade agreements and efforts to diversify export destinations are contributing to improved market access for Indian products. However, they cautioned that geopolitical tensions, fluctuations in commodity prices and uncertainty in major global economies continue to pose risks to trade growth.

The moderation in crude oil prices during parts of the month also helped contain the import bill, offering some relief to the country's



## BUSINESS

## India's Wholesale Inflation Rises on Higher Fuel and Energy Costs

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026

NEW DELHI, June 15: India's wholesale price inflation accelerated in May, driven primarily by rising fuel and energy costs, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The increase reflects the continuing influence of global commodity prices and geopolitical developments on the country's inflation outlook.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rate rose to 9.68 per cent year-on-year during May, compared to lower levels recorded in previous months. Officials attributed the rise largely to higher prices of petroleum products, natural gas, electricity and other energy-related commodities. The increase came amid fluctuations in international crude oil markets and concerns over supply disruptions linked to tensions in the Middle East.

Economists noted that energy prices play a crucial role in determining production and transportation costs across sectors. As fuel becomes more expensive, industries often face higher operating expenses, which can eventually influence the prices of manufactured goods and services.

Despite the rise in wholesale inflation, analysts pointed out that retail inflation remains relatively stable and within the Reserve Bank of India's comfort range. However, they cautioned that sustained increases in energy costs could place upward pressure on consumer prices if global conditions remain uncertain.

Industry representatives have urged close monitoring of fuel prices and supply chains, emphasizing the importance of maintaining price stability to support economic growth. Some

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km/day  
Average rail  
track laid

NOW  
2014-25

**8.57**  
km/day  
Average rail  
track laid

HOW?

- **Higher Capex:**  
From Rs. 3.62 Lakh Cr (2004-14) to Rs. 17 Lakh Cr+ (2014-25)
- **370% Increase:**  
Massive rise in railway infrastructure investment
- **Speed & Scale:**  
Faster execution and rapid network expansion

## TECHNOLOGY

# OpenAI Sees Rapid Growth in Enterprise AI Adoption Worldwide

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026



Businesses across industries are increasingly integrating artificial intelligence into daily operations, driving strong growth in enterprise demand for AI-powered tools and automat...

SAN FRANCISCO, June 13: OpenAI has reported significant growth in the adoption of artificial intelligence by businesses worldwide, as organizations increasingly deploy AI systems to enhance productivity, automate workflows and support decision-making processes.

The company said enterprises across sectors including finance, healthcare, education, manufacturing and professional services are expanding the use of AI-powered tools to streamline operations and improve efficiency. Businesses are utilizing advanced AI models for tasks such as content generation, customer support, software development, data analysis and research assistance.

Industry observers note that the rapid growth of enterprise AI reflects a broader shift in how organizations approach digital transformation. Companies are moving beyond experimental use cases and increasingly integrating AI into core business functions. This trend has led to growing demand for enterprise-grade AI solutions that offer security, compliance controls and scalable deployment capabilities.

OpenAI executives have highlighted the rising role of AI agents capable of performing more complex tasks independently, including managing workflows, analyzing large datasets and assisting employees with routine activities. The emergence of such systems is expected to further accelerate adoption across industries.

Technology analysts believe enterprise AI represents one of the fastest-growing segments of the global software market. Organizations are investing heavily in artificial intelligence to improve productivity, reduce operational costs and gain competitive advantages in an increasingly digital economy.

Despite the enthusiasm surrounding AI adoption, experts emphasize the importance of responsible implementation, data security and governance frameworks to ensure that AI systems operate transparently and effectively. As businesses continue to embrace artificial intelligence, enterprise AI is expected to become a defining feature of the modern workplace and a major driver of future technological innovation.

## TECHNOLOGY

## India, France Launch Joint Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Framework

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026



NICE (FRANCE), June 15: India and France have announced the creation of a Joint Artificial Intelligence Working Group and unveiled a comprehensive framework aimed at expanding cooperation in artificial intelligence, digital innovation and advanced technologies.

The initiative was among the key outcomes of talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron during the Prime Minister's visit to France. Officials said the new framework will facilitate collaboration

in AI research, governance, capacity building, industry partnerships and the responsible deployment of emerging technologies.

The two countries also adopted the India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030, which seeks to strengthen cooperation between research institutions, universities, startups and technology companies. The roadmap focuses on critical and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, digital public infrastructure and next-generation computing systems.

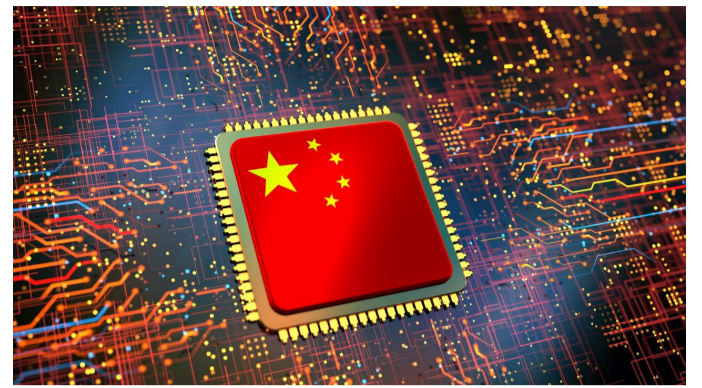
According to officials, the Joint AI Working Group will promote knowledge-sharing, joint research projects and policy coordination on issues related to AI safety, ethics and regulation. The partnership is expected to support innovation ecosystems in both countries while encouraging the development of practical AI solutions for sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, manufacturing and public services.

The announcement comes at a time when governments worldwide are working to harness the benefits of artificial intelligence while addressing concerns related to data privacy, security and governance. Both India and France have emphasized the importance of developing human-centric and trustworthy AI systems

that promote economic growth while safeguarding public interests.

Experts believe the initiative will further strengthen technological ties between the two countries and create new opportunities for innovation, investment and talent exchange. The collaboration is also expected to enhance India's growing role in the global artificial intelligence landscape and support efforts to build resilient digital economies.

The AI partnership forms part of a wider package of agreements covering trade, defence, innovation, education and digital cooperation, underscoring the expanding strategic relationship between India and France.



## TECHNOLOGY

## China Expands AI and Semiconductor Self-Reliance Drive

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026

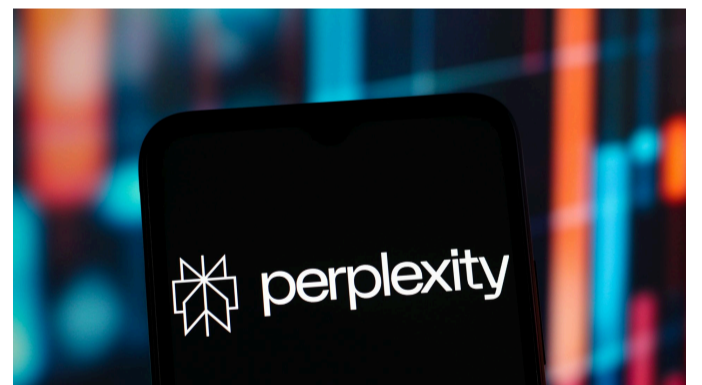
BEIJING, June 14: China has intensified efforts to achieve greater technological self-reliance by expanding support for its artificial intelligence and semiconductor sectors, amid continuing competition with the United States and other advanced economies.

Chinese authorities have announced new measures aimed at boosting domestic innovation, strengthening chip manufacturing capabilities and accelerating the development of next-generation AI technologies. The initiatives form part of Beijing's long-term strategy to build a resilient technology ecosystem capable of supporting economic growth and national security objectives.

The push comes as Chinese technology firms continue to face restrictions on access to advanced semiconductor equipment and high-performance chips from foreign suppliers. In response, the government has increased funding for research institutions, semiconductor manufacturers and technology startups working on critical technologies.

Officials have emphasized the importance of achieving breakthroughs in areas such as advanced chip design, artificial intelligence infrastructure, cloud computing and industrial automation. Several provinces have also unveiled investment programmes designed to attract talent and support local technology industries.

Industry analysts say the self-reliance campaign is reshaping China's technology landscape by encouraging domestic companies to develop alternatives to imported technologies. Major



## TECHNOLOGY

## Perplexity Targets 2028 IPO Amid Intensifying Artificial Intelligence Race

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026

SAN FRANCISCO, June 14: Perplexity, one of the fastest-growing artificial intelligence startups, is reportedly targeting an initial public offering (IPO) in 2028, signalling confidence in its long-term growth prospects despite fierce competition in the global AI sector.

According to media reports, the company intends to pursue a stock market listing irrespective of whether rivals such as OpenAI or Anthropic go public before then. The move reflects the growing maturity of the artificial intelligence industry and increasing investor interest in companies developing AI-driven products and services.

Founded as an AI-powered search and information platform, Perplexity has gained attention for its ability to provide conversational answers supported by real-time information sources. The company has attracted substantial funding from investors who view artificial intelligence as one of the most transformative technologies of the coming decade.

The reported IPO plans come amid a rapidly evolving AI landscape where technology firms are competing to develop more capable models, expand enterprise offerings and secure larger shares of a growing market. Major investments in generative AI, search technologies and intelligent digital assistants have intensified competition among startups and established technology companies alike.

Industry analysts note that investor enthusiasm for artificial intelligence remains strong, with valuations of leading AI firms



# ORTHOPAEDICS

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## HEALTH

## Over 31 Lakh Patients Benefit from National Dialysis Programme, Government Reports

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026



India's flagship dialysis initiative has delivered more than four crore dialysis sessions, significantly reducing treatment costs for patients suffering from chronic kidney disease...

NEW DELHI, June 15: The Government of India has reported major progress under the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP), with more than 31.74 lakh patients receiving dialysis treatment and over 4.25 crore haemodialysis sessions conducted across the country.

According to official data, the programme is currently operational across all 36 States and Union Territories, covering 751 districts through 1,816 dialysis centres equipped with over 13,000 haemodialysis machines. The initiative was launched to provide free and affordable dialysis services to patients suffering from end-stage renal disease, particularly those from economically weaker sections.

Government estimates indicate that the programme has helped patients save more than ₹10,000 crore in out-of-pocket healthcare expenses by reducing the financial burden

associated with long-term dialysis treatment. Chronic kidney disease remains a major public health challenge in India, with thousands of new patients requiring dialysis every year.

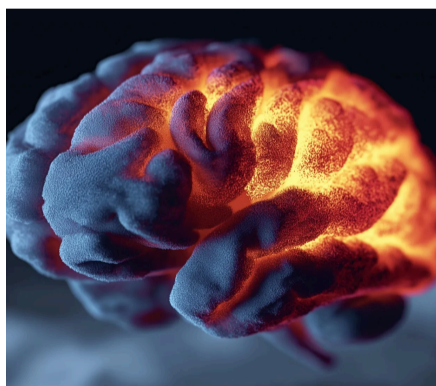
The programme has also strengthened healthcare accessibility through the "One Nation, One Dialysis" framework, allowing patients to access treatment services across different locations using digital health records and integrated registration systems.

Health experts say the expansion of dialysis services represents a significant step in addressing non-communicable diseases and improving healthcare access for vulnerable populations. The government's latest report highlights the growing scale of India's efforts to tackle chronic kidney disease while reducing the economic burden on affected families.

## HEALTH

## New Study Identifies Potential Biological Trigger Behind Alzheimer's Disease

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026



BOSTON, June 13: Scientists have identified a new biological pathway that may play a critical role in the development and progression of Alzheimer's disease, one of the world's most common neurodegenerative disorders.

The research, published this week by an international team of neuroscientists, suggests that specific cellular processes involved in brain inflammation and nerve-cell damage may contribute more significantly to the disease than previously understood. The findings could help explain how Alzheimer's develops and progresses in affected individuals.

Using advanced laboratory models, researchers discovered that disrupting this

newly identified pathway reduced damage to brain cells and improved cognitive function in preclinical studies. The team also tested an experimental compound that successfully slowed the accumulation of harmful changes associated with memory loss and neurodegeneration.

Scientists said the discovery opens new avenues for therapeutic development, particularly at a time when the global burden of Alzheimer's disease continues to rise due to ageing populations. Current treatments primarily focus on managing symptoms, while researchers worldwide are seeking therapies capable of slowing or halting disease progression.

Medical experts described the findings as an important step toward a better understanding of the complex biological processes underlying Alzheimer's disease. They cautioned, however, that further research and human clinical trials will be necessary before the experimental approach can be translated into approved treatments.

The study has generated considerable interest within the scientific community and may contribute to future efforts to develop more effective therapies for millions of people living with dementia worldwide.

## HEALTH

## mRNA Cancer Vaccines Show Breakthrough Results in Major Clinical Studies

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026



CHICAGO, June 12: Scientists have reported significant progress in the development of mRNA-based cancer vaccines, with new clinical data showing encouraging results against melanoma, pancreatic cancer and certain brain tumours.

The findings were presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), one of the world's largest cancer research conferences. Researchers said personalized mRNA vaccines are being designed to train the immune system to recognize and attack cancer cells based on the unique genetic characteristics of a patient's tumour.



## HEALTH

## Experimental Lupus Drug Shows Promising Results in Mid-Stage Clinical Trial

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026

NEW YORK, June 14: Pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson has announced encouraging results from a Phase-2 clinical trial of nipocalimab, an experimental therapy being developed for the treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), a complex autoimmune disease affecting millions worldwide.

According to data presented this week, patients receiving the treatment experienced significant reductions in disease activity compared to those receiving standard care alone. Researchers reported improvements across several clinical measures, including reduced inflammation and better control of symptoms associated with moderate-to-severe lupus.

Systemic lupus erythematosus occurs when the immune system mistakenly attacks healthy tissues and organs, causing inflammation that can affect the skin, joints, kidneys, heart and other parts of the body. Despite advances in treatment, many patients continue to experience disease flare-ups and long-term complications.

Scientists involved in the study said nipocalimab works by targeting specific immune pathways believed to play a key role in autoimmune diseases. The therapy is designed to reduce harmful immune responses while preserving normal immune function.

Medical experts described the findings as an important development in lupus research, noting that new treatment options are urgently needed for patients who do not respond adequately to existing therapies. The positive results pave the way for larger



## HEALTH

## Hormone-Disrupting Chemicals Detected in Breast Milk, Study Finds

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026

SAN FRANCISCO, June 14: A new study presented at ENDO 2026, the annual meeting of the Endocrine Society, has found evidence of hormone-disrupting chemicals in breast milk and the urine of infants, highlighting the widespread presence of environmental contaminants in everyday life.

Researchers analyzed samples collected from mothers and infants and detected several endocrine-disrupting compounds, including substances commonly found in plastics, food packaging, personal care products and industrial materials. These chemicals are known to interfere with the body's hormonal systems and have been linked to developmental, reproductive and metabolic health concerns.

Scientists noted that infants may be particularly vulnerable to such exposures because hormones play a critical role in growth, brain development and overall health during early life. While the study did not establish direct health effects in the children examined, researchers emphasized the importance of understanding how long-term exposure may influence development.

The findings add to a growing body of evidence suggesting that environmental chemicals are increasingly present in human biological samples worldwide. Researchers called for further studies to assess the health implications of these exposures and identify strategies to reduce contact with potentially harmful substances.

Public health experts stressed that breastfeeding remains the

## INTERNATIONAL

## UN Security Council Urges Taliban to Reverse Restrictions on Women

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026



The Security Council has unanimously adopted a resolution extending the United Nations mission in Afghanistan and calling on the Taliban administration to uphold the rights of women...

UNITED NATIONS, June 16: The United Nations Security Council has unanimously adopted a resolution urging Afghanistan's Taliban authorities to swiftly reverse restrictions imposed on women and girls while extending the mandate of the UN political mission in the country for another year.

The resolution renews the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) until June 17, 2027, authorizing it to continue supporting humanitarian operations, promoting inclusive governance and facilitating engagement between Afghanistan and the international community.

Council members expressed concern over continuing restrictions on women's rights, education and participation in public life. The resolution's adoption follows reports that around 30 women were recently detained in the western city of Herat for allegedly violating the Taliban administration's dress code regulations. International human rights organizations have repeatedly voiced concerns over measures limiting the freedom and opportunities available to Afghan women and girls.

The Security Council called on Afghan authorities to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and

stressed the importance of inclusive governance without discrimination. It also urged stronger efforts to address security threats posed by terrorist and extremist groups operating within Afghanistan.

Under the renewed mandate, UNAMA will continue coordinating humanitarian assistance, supporting development initiatives and facilitating dialogue between the Taliban authorities, regional countries and the broader international community. The mission is also expected to assist efforts aimed at promoting stability, economic recovery and constructive engagement with global institutions.

The resolution reflects continued international concern over developments in Afghanistan nearly five years after the Taliban returned to power. While humanitarian agencies continue to provide assistance to millions of Afghans facing economic hardship, the international community remains divided over formal recognition of the Taliban administration, with human rights issues remaining a central point of concern.

The unanimous adoption of the resolution underscores the Security Council's continued commitment to supporting the Afghan people while encouraging policies that promote stability, inclusiveness and respect for fundamental rights.

## INTERNATIONAL

## Russia Launches One of Largest Aerial Attacks on Ukraine

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026



KYIV, June 15: Russia launched one of its largest aerial assaults on Ukraine in recent months, deploying hundreds of drones and scores of missiles against targets across the country, Ukrainian officials said.

According to Ukrainian authorities, the overnight attack targeted multiple regions, including the capital Kyiv and several strategic infrastructure facilities. Air defence systems were activated across the

country as officials worked to intercept incoming missiles and drones. Several areas reported damage to residential buildings, energy facilities and public infrastructure.

The attack came amid intensified fighting along key frontlines and follows a series of long-range strikes by both sides. Ukrainian officials described the assault as one of the most extensive combined missile and drone attacks since the beginning of the conflict.

In response, Ukraine reportedly carried out strikes against military and industrial facilities inside Russian territory, targeting locations linked to logistics and energy infrastructure. Both sides continue to accuse each other of escalating hostilities despite ongoing international efforts to encourage negotiations.

The latest developments have drawn renewed attention from Western allies, who have reiterated support for Ukraine while calling for an end to attacks on civilian infrastructure. Analysts warn that the conflict is entering a more intense phase as both nations seek to gain strategic advantages ahead of potential diplomatic initiatives.

The war, now well into its fifth year, continues to have significant humanitarian and economic consequences, affecting global energy markets, food supplies and regional security. International observers have expressed concern that continued escalation could further complicate efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement.

## INTERNATIONAL

## G7 Summit Opens in France Amid Ukraine, Middle East Crises

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026



## INTERNATIONAL

## China Sanctions Philippine Defence Chief Amid South China Sea Tensions

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026

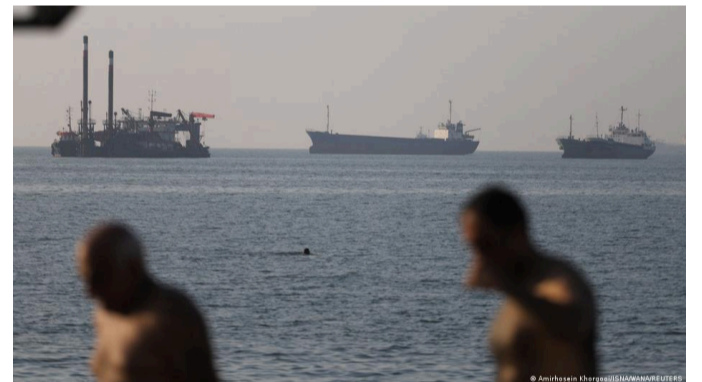
BEIJING, June 11: China has imposed sanctions on Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro and members of his immediate family, marking a fresh escalation in tensions between Beijing and Manila over competing claims in the South China Sea.

According to China's Foreign Ministry, the sanctions prohibit Teodoro and his family from entering mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau. Chinese entities have also been barred from engaging in business dealings or cooperation with them. Beijing accused the Philippine defence chief of making remarks that allegedly harmed China's interests and bilateral relations.

The move comes against the backdrop of increasingly frequent confrontations between Chinese and Philippine vessels in disputed areas of the South China Sea. Manila has repeatedly accused Beijing of aggressive actions in contested waters, while China maintains its claims over large portions of the strategically important maritime region.

Teodoro dismissed the sanctions, stating that he has no assets in China and no intention of travelling there. Philippine officials have also reiterated their commitment to defending the country's maritime rights and territorial claims under international law.

The South China Sea remains one of Asia's most sensitive geopolitical flashpoints, with overlapping claims involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and other regional states. Analysts warn that continued confrontations could further complicate regional security and increase tensions between China and countries aligned with the United States.



## INTERNATIONAL

## U.S.-Iran Ceasefire Deal Raises Hopes for Regional Stability Amid Israeli Concerns

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026

WASHINGTON, June 16: The United States and Iran have moved closer to ending months of conflict after reaching a preliminary ceasefire agreement that includes plans to reopen the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz and resume diplomatic negotiations on key security issues.

The framework agreement, announced following intensive diplomatic efforts, extends the existing ceasefire and seeks to create conditions for a broader and more permanent settlement. The deal includes commitments to reopen maritime routes through the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial corridor for global oil shipments, and establish a roadmap for further negotiations on regional security and Iran's nuclear programme.

The agreement has been welcomed by the United Nations and several international stakeholders, who view it as an important step toward reducing tensions in the Middle East after months of military confrontations that disrupted energy markets and heightened regional instability.

However, significant hurdles remain. Israel, which was not directly involved in the negotiations, has expressed concerns that the agreement does not adequately address issues related to Iran's missile programme, regional influence and support for allied groups in the region. Israeli leaders have maintained that they reserve the right to act independently in defence of national security interests.

The proposed agreement also envisages future discussions on sanctions relief, nuclear inspections and broader regional de-

## SPORTS

## PV Sindhu Exits Australian Open Semifinal; Goes Down 22-20, 21-12 to World Champion Yamaguchi in Thriller

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 16 JUN, 2026



PV Sindhu's impressive run at the Australian Badminton Open 2026 in Sydney came to a heartbreaking end on June 13 as she lost to Japan's world champion Akane Yamaguchi 22-20, 21-12...

PV Sindhu's impressive campaign at the BWF Australian Open 2026 came to an end on June 13 in Sydney, with the two-time Olympic medallist suffering a straight-games defeat to Japan's world champion Akane Yamaguchi in the women's singles semifinals.

In a contest that lasted 43 minutes, top seed Yamaguchi prevailed 22-20, 21-12 to book her place in the final. The result marked the 29th meeting between the two long-time rivals, with Sindhu continuing to hold a narrow 15-14 advantage in their head-to-head record.

The opening game produced high-quality badminton and remained closely contested throughout. Sindhu, seeded third and ranked World No. 10, began aggressively and held the lead at the mid-game interval. Yamaguchi responded with a six-point surge to move ahead 15-11, but Sindhu fought back brilliantly to level the scores and even reached game point at 20-19. However, the Japanese star maintained her composure and won three consecutive points to take the first game 22-20.

The momentum shifted decisively in the second game. Yamaguchi raced into a commanding lead after winning seven successive points to establish a 13-6 advantage. From there, the reigning world champion controlled the rallies and closed

out the match 21-12, ending Sindhu's hopes of reaching her first final of the season.

Sindhu had entered the semifinal after a dominant quarterfinal performance against Chinese Taipei's Chen Su-yu, whom she defeated 21-6, 21-9 in only 27 minutes. The Australian Open marked her second semifinal appearance of the 2026 BWF World Tour season, having also reached the last four of the Malaysia Open Super 1000 in January.

The former world champion is still searching for her first title since winning the Syed Modi International in 2024. Despite the semifinal loss, her performances in Sydney earned valuable ranking points and offered encouraging signs as she continues preparations for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic cycle.

India's campaign at the Super 500 event also came to an end on June 13 after men's doubles pair MR Arjun and Hariharan Amsakarunan retired from their quarterfinal against Chinese Taipei's Chen Cheng Kuan and Liu Kuang-Heng.

For Yamaguchi, the victory represented her 14th win over Sindhu and secured another chapter in one of modern badminton's most celebrated rivalries.

## SPORTS

## India Beat Afghanistan by 7 Wickets in Rain-Hit 1st ODI; Gill Hits 84\*, Debutants Brar & Dubey Take 3 Wickets Each

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 16 JUN, 2026



India made a winning start to their maiden bilateral One-Day International series against Afghanistan, registering a comfortable seven-wicket victory in the opening match at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala on June 13. Rain earlier in

the day forced the contest to be reduced to 25 overs per side, but the shortened game still produced several standout performances.

Afghanistan's innings was headlined by an explosive century from wicketkeeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who smashed 102 runs off just 51 deliveries. His aggressive strokeplay gave the visitors a competitive total to defend, but the remainder of the batting lineup struggled to build partnerships against India's debutant pace attack.

Making their ODI debuts, Gurnoor Brar and Harsh Dubey impressed with the ball, claiming three wickets apiece and triggering a collapse that restricted Afghanistan to 194 runs. Their performances provided an encouraging glimpse into India's emerging pace resources.

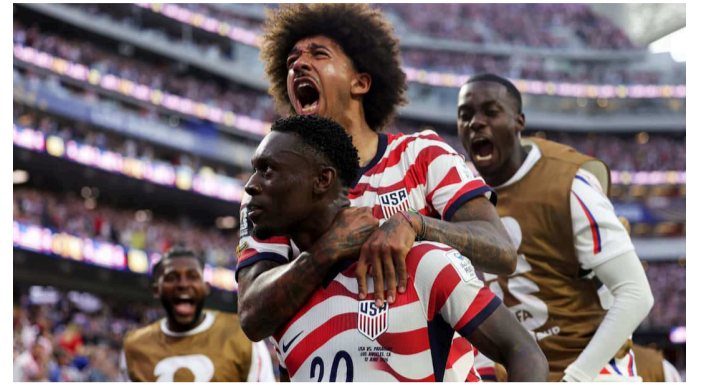
Chasing the target, India were led by captain Shubman Gill, who produced an unbeaten 84 off 66 balls. The stylish right-hander anchored the innings with authority and once again underlined his importance to India's long-term plans in

the 50-over format ahead of the 2027 World Cup.

Returning to the ODI side, Ishan Kishan contributed a fluent 34 runs, while KL Rahul accelerated in the closing stages with an unbeaten 39 from just 19 deliveries to seal victory with 13 balls remaining.

Gill's match-winning knock earned him the Player of the Match award and also saw him achieve a major personal milestone. In the process, the Indian captain became the fastest Indian and the second-fastest batter overall to reach 3,000 runs in One-Day Internationals.

The comprehensive victory gives India a 1-0 lead in the series and provides momentum heading into the remaining matches, while Afghanistan will take encouragement from Gurbaz's remarkable century despite the defeat.



## SPORTS

## USA Thrash Paraguay 4-1 at SoFi Stadium in Electric World Cup Home Debut; Balogun Bags Brace, Pulisic Dazzles

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 16 JUN, 2026

The United States marked their FIFA World Cup homecoming in style on June 12, producing an impressive display to defeat Paraguay 4-1 at a packed SoFi Stadium. Backed by an enthusiastic home crowd, the co-hosts delivered one of their most dominant performances in World Cup group-stage history and signalled their intent to challenge for a deep run in the tournament.

The Americans seized control early, opening the scoring within the first seven minutes and maintaining their intensity throughout the contest. Forward Folarin Balogun starred with two goals, registering his first World Cup strikes, while captain Christian Pulisic orchestrated much of the attacking play with a series of incisive runs and creative contributions that repeatedly troubled the Paraguayan defence.

Speaking after the match, Pulisic described the performance as an "incredible start" to the tournament, reflecting the confidence and momentum generated by the convincing victory.

The 4-1 result not only gave the United States three valuable points but also established them as one of the leading contenders in Group B. Analysts and broadcasters in the country hailed the display as another landmark moment for football in the United States, pointing to the growing popularity and maturity of the sport ahead of the latter stages of the competition.

The combination of Balogun's finishing ability and Pulisic's leadership and creativity emerged as a key factor behind the team's success, while the atmosphere inside the sold-out SoFi



## SPORTS

## Deepthi Sharma's 5/10 and Mandhana's 68 Fire India to Crushing 64-Run Win Over Pakistan at Sold-Out Edgbaston

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 16 JUN, 2026

India made an emphatic start to their ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 campaign, defeating arch-rivals Pakistan by 64 runs at Edgbaston in Birmingham on June 14. The contest drew a record attendance of 18,814 for a group-stage match and witnessed several memorable performances as India secured a commanding win.

Batting first, India posted 170 for 6, their highest-ever total against Pakistan in Women's T20 World Cup history. The innings was built around a superb knock from vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, who struck an elegant 68 off 44 deliveries after India had slipped to 18 for 2 in the early stages. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur contributed a steady 36, while wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh provided the finishing flourish with an explosive 34 from just 17 balls.

Pakistan's chase began positively, but India's bowlers soon tightened their grip on the match. The standout performer was all-rounder Deepthi Sharma, who delivered one of the most remarkable spells in Women's T20 World Cup history. She returned figures of 5 for 10 and, in the process, became the highest wicket-taker in Women's T20 International cricket, surpassing the previous mark of 166 wickets.

Deepthi also produced a crucial moment in the field by running out Pakistan opener Muneeba Ali with a direct hit from short third. Muneeba had scored 41 runs and was threatening to keep Pakistan in contention before her dismissal shifted the momentum firmly in India's favour.

## PUBLIC NOTICES · TENDERS · AUCTIONS · RECRUITMENT

## PWD (R&amp;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&amp;B) — JAMMU &amp; 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&amp;K — SECURITY &amp; 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 DEPARTMENTS — KATHUA

Ref: E-NIT-01 of 2026-27

**Barbed Wire Fencing of 07 Kanals of Land at Chak Phoola, Kathua**

Barbed wire fencing of 07 kanals of government land at Chak Phoola, Kathua — supply of posts, barbed wire and allied material with in-situ erection. Percentage-rate / item-rate against BoQ; refer the e-NIT on jktenders.g...

**Type:** Works  
**Last date:** 22 Jun 2026  
**Est. cost:** Refer NIT  
**EMD:** Refer NIT (CDR)  
**Location:** Chak Phoola, Kathua, J&K  
**Contact:** Concerned procuring authority, Kathua · Refer NIT PDF

## MECHANICAL &amp; HYDRAULIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD (M&amp;HDB) — BARAMULLA

Ref: M&amp;HDB/TS/2026-27/09/549-53

**Repair & Maintenance of Snow Clearance Machinery at Tangmarg, Baramulla**

Repair and maintenance of snow-clearance equipment stationed at Tangmarg under the Mechanical & Hydraulic Development Board, Baramulla — servicing, spares and overhaul ahead of the winter season. Estimated about ₹2.49 la...

**Type:** Service  
**Last date:** 22 Jun 2026  
**Est. cost:** Approx. ₹2.49 lakh  
**EMD:** Refer NIT  
**Location:** Tangmarg, Baramulla, J&K  
**Contact:** Executive Engineer, M&HDB, Baramulla · Refer NIT PDF

## FOREST / SOCIAL FORESTRY (FSC) DIVISION — NARBAL

Ref: FSC Narbal — Tree Auction Notice 2026-27

**Auction of Trees around the Divisional Premises, FSC Division Narbal**

Public auction of standing/marked trees around the divisional premises of the FSC Division, Narbal. Intending bidders should refer the auction notice for the lot details, reserve price, EMD and auction terms.

**Type:** Service  
**Last date:** 25 Jun 2026  
**Est. cost:** As per auction lots  
**EMD:** Refer auction notice (EMD)  
**Location:** Narbal, Budgam, J&K  
**Contact:** Divisional Forest Officer, FSC Division Narbal · Refer auction notice

## J&amp;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 Jul 2026  
**Est. cost:** Refer RFP  
**EMD:** Refer RFP  
**Location:** Chenab Valley, J&K  
**Contact:** General Manager (Civil), JKSPDC · Refer RFP document

## HOUSING &amp; 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

## CHIEF ENGINEER (PROJECTS) — VIJAYAK, BORDER ROADS

Ref: CE(P)/VJK/06/2026-27

**HMP Road Resurfacing — Surface Preparation & Bituminous Laying (Ladakh)**

Hot-mix-plant road resurfacing under Chief Engineer (Projects), Vijayak — surface preparation and laying of bituminous layers on a strategic Ladakh-sector road. Estimated about ₹3.10 crore; refer the NIT for the section...

**Type:** Works  
**Last date:** 7 Jul 2026  
**Est. cost:** Approx. ₹3.10 crore  
**EMD:** Refer NIT  
**Location:** Ladakh sector  
**Contact:** Chief Engineer (Projects), Vijayak · Refer NIT PDF

## DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM — KARGIL

Ref: 11DTL2026

**Design, Fabrication & Installation of Tourism Pavilion for Travel Trade Shows, Kargil**

Design, fabrication and installation of a tourism pavilion for domestic travel trade shows, on behalf of the Department of Tourism, Kargil — including stall design, fabrication, transport, installation and dismantling at...

**Type:** Service  
**Last date:** 29 Jul 2026  
**Est. cost:** Refer tender  
**EMD:** Refer tender  
**Location:** Kargil, Ladakh  
**Contact:** Director / Deputy Director, Tourism, Kargil · Refer tender document

## J&amp;K PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (JKPSC)

Ref: Notification No. 04-PSC (DR-P) of 2026 (dated 09-06-2026)

**JKPSC Recruitment — Assistant Professor (Hospital Administration), SKIMS Soura, Srinagar**

The J&K Public Service Commission has notified the post of Assistant Professor (Hospital Administration) at the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, Srinagar, under the Health & Medical Education...

**Type:** Recruitment  
**Last date:** 11 Jul 2026  
**Est. cost:** 01 post (Open Merit)  
**Location:** SKIMS Soura, Srinagar, J&K  
**Contact:** J&K Public Service Commission · jkpsc.nic.in

## J&amp;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

## REGIONAL

## Omar Abdullah Meets PM Modi, Presses for Early Restoration of Statehood

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 11 JUN, 2026

NEW DELHI, June 11: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed a range of issues concerning the Union Territory, including the early restoration of statehood, economic development, infrastructure projects and tourism promotion.

During the meeting, Omar Abdullah highlighted several matters of importance to Jammu and Kashmir and stressed the need for the early restoration of statehood. He emphasized that the return of statehood remains a key aspiration of the people and is essential for strengthening democratic governance and accelerating development in the Union Territory.

The Chief Minister also discussed the economic situation in Jammu and Kashmir, ongoing developmental initiatives and measures required to further boost growth and employment opportunities. Special attention was given to the tourism sector, which remains a major contributor to the region's economy. Omar Abdullah urged continued support for initiatives aimed at attracting more visitors and strengthening tourism-related infrastructure.

The meeting also reviewed various developmental projects and issues concerning public welfare. Both leaders exchanged views on the progress of ongoing schemes and the need to ensure that the benefits of development reach all sections of society.

During the interaction, Omar Abdullah congratulated Prime Minister Modi on completing 12 uninterrupted years in office, describing the achievement as a significant milestone in Indian politics.

## NATIONAL

## Modi Becomes India's Longest-Serving Elected PM, Surpassing Nehru's Record at 4,399 Days; Cabinet Passes Congratulatory Resolution

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 16 JUN, 2026

Prime Minister Narendra Modi created a new chapter in India's political history on June 10, 2026, by becoming the country's longest continuously serving elected Prime Minister. With 4,399 consecutive days in office, Modi surpassed the record held by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, marking a significant milestone in independent India's democratic journey.

Narendra Modi first assumed office on May 26, 2014, and returned to power with a stronger mandate in 2019. He secured a historic third consecutive term after being sworn in again on June 9, 2024, despite the Bharatiya Janata Party registering a lower seat tally compared to its performance in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

To commemorate the occasion, the Union Cabinet adopted a formal resolution congratulating the Prime Minister and acknowledging his leadership. Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the resolution expressed gratitude for Modi's efforts aimed at empowering the poor, marginalized and underprivileged sections of society. The adoption of the resolution by the Cabinet underscored the significance attached to the milestone at the institutional level.

Later, addressing leaders of the National Democratic Alliance at a conclave held at Bharat Mandapam, Prime Minister Modi focused on the country's long-term development agenda. He highlighted the importance of safeguarding the interests of the emerging neo-middle class and stressed that people who have recently risen out of poverty

## REGIONAL

## Statehood Protest in Delhi Will Go Ahead as Planned: Omar Abdullah

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026

Srinagar, June 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today reaffirmed that the proposed protest in New Delhi demanding the restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir will proceed as scheduled, stating that the issue remains a key commitment of the elected Government.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Omar said the planned demonstration at Jantar Mantar during the commencement of Parliament's Monsoon Session is intended to remind the Centre of its commitment to restore Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that the demand is rooted in assurances made before the Supreme Court, Parliament and the people of the Union Territory.

The Chief Minister disclosed that he had recently discussed the matter with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting in New Delhi. Besides Statehood, the discussions also focused on the financial position of Jammu and Kashmir and measures required to accelerate developmental activities across the Union Territory.

On the issue of reservation rationalisation, Omar said the Government would soon submit its response to clarifications sought by the Centre. He stated that the Cabinet Sub-Committee had already completed its report, which was approved by the Cabinet and forwarded through the Lieutenant Governor to the Union Government. Following queries raised by the Centre, the concerned department has prepared detailed replies, which will be placed before the Cabinet for approval before being sent back.

The Chief Minister also welcomed pilgrims arriving for the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra and expressed confidence that extensive preparations undertaken by the administration would ensure a smooth and successful pilgrimage. He said

## REGIONAL

## LG Manoj Sinha Highlights Role of Scientific Research at Immunology Conference

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 11 JUN, 2026

Jammu, June 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha delivered the keynote address at the annual conference of the Indian Immunology Society, underscoring the critical role of scientific research and innovation in addressing emerging healthcare challenges and advancing national development.

Addressing scientists, researchers, academicians and healthcare professionals, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the growing importance of immunology in understanding diseases, developing effective treatments and strengthening public health systems. He stressed that advances in biomedical research have significantly improved disease prevention and patient care, particularly in the wake of recent global health challenges.

Sinha lauded the contributions of India's scientific community in the fields of immunology, biotechnology and medical sciences, noting that research-driven innovation is essential for achieving self-reliance in healthcare and improving the quality of life for citizens. He called for greater collaboration between academic institutions, research organizations and industry to accelerate scientific discoveries and translate them into practical healthcare solutions.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasized the need to nurture young researchers and create an ecosystem that encourages scientific inquiry, innovation and excellence. He said that investments in research and development would play a crucial role in addressing future health challenges and strengthening the country's healthcare infrastructure.

The annual conference brought together experts from across the country to discuss recent developments in immunology, emerging research trends and advancements in disease diagnosis, prevention and treatment. The event provided a

## REGIONAL

## ED Summons Prominent Gulmarg Hoteliers in Roshni Land Case Probe

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026

Srinagar, June 15: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned nine prominent hoteliers from Gulmarg, including Jammu and Kashmir Hoteliers Club Chairman Mushtaq Ahmad Ganai, popularly known as Chaya, as part of a money laundering investigation related to alleged irregularities in land transactions under the erstwhile J&K Roshni Act.

The summons have been issued under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), directing the hoteliers to appear before the agency on scheduled dates and furnish financial, property and revenue-related records. Those summoned include Mushtaq Ahmad Burza and Manzoor Ahmad Burza of the ITC Group, Nazir Ahmad Mir of M&Co, Manzoor Ahmad Khan of Hotel Khalil Palace, Abdul Hamid Dar of Hotel Mama Palace, Syed Musadiq Shah of Pride Resort, Ibrahim Khan of Kolahoi Greens and Sadaf Shah of Hotel Alpine Ridge.

According to the notices, the individuals have been asked to provide details of bank accounts, movable and immovable assets, lease deeds, land records, income tax returns of the last five years and documents related to applications filed under the erstwhile Roshni scheme.

The investigation stems from an Anti-Corruption Bureau case relating to the alleged transfer of ownership rights over prime state land in Gulmarg in violation of provisions of the J&K State Lands (Vesting of Ownership Rights to the Occupants) Act, 2001. Investigators are examining whether the alleged land transfers resulted in unlawful financial gains that could constitute proceeds of crime under the PMLA.

Officials said the ED is scrutinizing records pertaining to more than 35 kanals of prime land in Gulmarg allegedly transferred to beneficiaries in 2008. The agency is expected to determine whether the transactions involved money laundering or financial