

THE CHECKPOST

DISPATCH

Truth from the Last Mile.

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EMAIL editor@checkpostdispatch.com
PHONE +91 97975 86033
WEB www.checkpostdispatch.com
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The WHO released its first comprehensive clinical-management guidelines for filovirus diseases such as Ebola and Marburg, with 16 evidence-based recommendations...

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Six labourers were killed and about 20 injured when a pickup van collided head-on with a truck on the Chhindwara-Betul...

NATIONAL
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Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 23rd PM-KISAN instalment of over Rs 18,880 crore to more than 9.44 crore farmers...

REGIONAL

LG Sinha Leads Yoga Day Celebrations By Dal Lake

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



Thousands joined Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for the 12th International Day of Yoga at Dal Lake in Srinagar, with Prime Minister Modi's address telecast live.

SRINAGAR, June 21: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday led the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in celebrating the 12th International Day of Yoga, joining thousands of yoga enthusiasts at a session held on...

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REGIONAL

Tharoor Clarifies 'Normalcy' Remarks on J&K Amid Congress Criticism

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



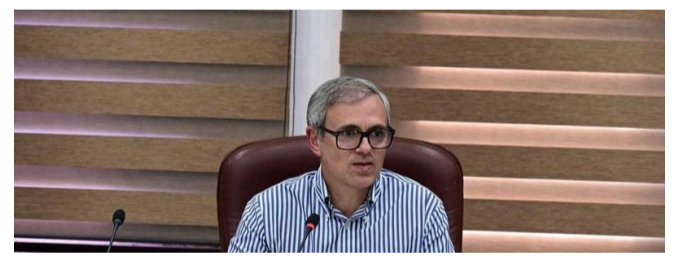
Congress MP and Parliamentary Standing Committee Chairman Shashi Tharoor defended his recent remarks on improving conditions in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that his observations were limited and not intended as a comprehensive...

Jammu, June 22: Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs Chairman Shashi Tharoor on Monday sought to clarify his recent comments on the "encouraging progress towards..."

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Cabinet Clears Reply To Centre On Reservation Report



The Omar Abdullah-led Cabinet approved the Social Welfare



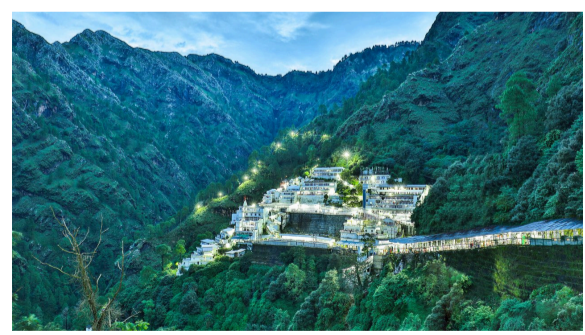
REGIONAL

CM Omar Reviews Preparations for Kheer Bhawani Mela at Tulmulla Shrine

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the revered Kheer Bhawani Temple in Ganderbal to assess arrangements for the annual mela scheduled on June 22. He assured devotees that all necessary facilities would be...

Ganderbal, June 18: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday visited the Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tulmulla in Ganderbal district to review preparations...

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REGIONAL

Vaishno Devi Yatra Crosses 50 Lakh Pilgrim Mark in 2026

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra has crossed the 50-lakh pilgrim mark this year, recording a significant rise in footfall compared to 2025. Shrine Board officials attributed the growth to enhanced facilities...

Katra, June 23: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra has achieved a major milestone during the current calendar year, with the number...

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REGIONAL

CBI Registers FIR Against SMC Officials in Bribery Case

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



A Srinagar Municipal Corporation Executive Engineer and a peon have been booked by the CBI in an alleged bribery case linked to the clearance of a contractor's bill. The agency cau...

Srinagar, June 22: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered an FIR against two officials of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) in connection with an alleged bribery case linked to the processing of a contractor's bill and signing of an official agreement.

According to the CBI, the case arose from a complaint filed by a contractor whose firm had been awarded the work of installing a nine-metre high mast pole and a 200-watt high mast light at Saderbal Chowk in Srinagar in April 2025.

The agency said the work was completed within the stipulated period and the bill was submitted for payment. However, the bill allegedly remained pending as the agreement had not been signed by the concerned Executive Engineer.

The contractor alleged that when he met Executive Engineer Sajad Kawoosa on June 18 to pursue the matter, the officer demanded a bribe of Rs 10,000 for signing the agreement and facilitating the clearance of the bill. Unwilling to pay the bribe, the contractor approached the CBI and lodged a written complaint.

Following verification, the CBI allegedly established a demand for Rs 5,000 by Sajad Hussain Bhat, a peon posted in

the office of the Executive Engineer, Left River Works Division (LRWD), Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

The verification report further indicated that the demand was allegedly made by the peon in conspiracy with Executive Engineer Sajad Kawoosa and that the officer had conveyed the demand through hand gestures.

Acting on the complaint, the CBI laid a trap and allegedly caught Sajad Hussain Bhat red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 5,000. He was immediately taken into custody.

The agency also conducted searches at the residence of Sajad Kawoosa near Gurdwara Shaheed Bunga in the Bhagat Barzulla area of Srinagar.

Based on the findings of the verification and trap proceedings, the CBI registered FIR No. RC1232026A0006 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended, read with Section 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), against Sajad Kawoosa, Executive Engineer and In-Charge Superintending Engineer, SMC, and Sajad Hussain Bhat, Peon, SMC.

The CBI said investigations are continuing and efforts are underway to trace and apprehend the absconding officer. Kawoosa has reportedly been directed to appear before the agency on June 24.

REGIONAL

Operation Sheruwali Enters 32nd Day In Rajouri

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



RAJOURI, June 23: The joint anti-terror Operation Sheruwali entered its 32nd day on Tuesday, with security forces continuing an intensive search operation in the upper reaches of Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir. The operation, launched in late May, remains focused on the rugged Dorimal-Gambir Mughlan area in the Manjakote sector. Multi-agency teams have been combing the densely

forested and mountainous terrain in pursuit of armed militants believed to be hiding in the belt. Officials said security forces remained alert and committed to maintaining peace and security in the area, with checkpoints, patrols and door-to-door searches forming part of the prolonged operation. The difficult topography and thick forest cover have made the operation a slow, painstaking exercise, with troops methodically clearing one stretch after another. Additional reinforcements have been deployed to seal possible escape routes along the higher ridges. The Rajouri-Poonch belt has witnessed repeated counter-terror operations in recent years, prompting forces to sustain a continuous grid in the region. Authorities have appealed to residents to cooperate with security personnel and to report any suspicious movement in the affected pockets.

REGIONAL

Devotees Throng Kheer Bhawani Mela In Tulumulla

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



TULMULLA, June 22: Hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits on Monday thronged the revered Mata Kheer Bhawani temple at Tulumulla in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district to mark the annual Jyeshtha Ashtami mela. Devotees offered milk and kheer at the sacred spring of the Ragnya Devi temple and performed traditional rituals as part of the centuries-old festival,



REGIONAL

Panchayats Must Be Centres Of Innovation: LG Sinha

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

SRINAGAR, June 23: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday called upon panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir to emerge as centres of innovation, digital governance and public trust, stressing that grassroots institutions must evolve beyond their administrative roles. Addressing the regional workshop "Seva Se Samridhi: Panchayat-Led Service Delivery" at SKICC in Srinagar, the LG described panchayat-led service delivery as one of the most important components of the governance system and a subject close to his heart. "A developed India cannot be imagined without developed villages," Sinha said, adding that the administration needed panchayats where governance was not imposed from above but shaped by local communities themselves. Highlighting the strides made in digital governance, he noted that 4,211 of the 4,290 panchayats in the Union Territory had been connected digitally, achieving around 98 per cent connectivity. Over 1,100 government services had been made available online within three years, supported by more than 15,000 Common Service Centres. The LG said digital transactions in J&K had surged from about two crore in 2016-2018 to over 50 crore in the first six months of 2023, even as 79 panchayats in remote and border areas still awaited digital connectivity.



REGIONAL

Hundreds join Yoga prelude at scenic Sanasar in Ramban

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

RAMBAN, June 19: Hundreds of people joined a yoga prelude to International Day of Yoga at the scenic tourist destination of Sanasar in Ramban district on Friday, with participants performing asanas amid rolling green meadows, towering pine forests and a tranquil lake. The event was organised by the Directorate of AYUSH, J&K, in collaboration with the District Administration Ramban. Held under this year's theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing", the gathering drew enthusiastic participation from officials, students, yoga practitioners and local residents from across the district. Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan and Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta joined the participants and performed various yoga asanas alongside them. The officials led a collective pledge encouraging people to adopt yoga as a regular part of their daily routine for a healthier and more balanced lifestyle. The choice of Sanasar, one of the region's most picturesque high-altitude spots, was aimed at blending wellness with the natural beauty of the Chenab valley ahead of the main International Yoga Day celebrations on June 21. Organisers said the prelude was part of a series of run-up activities across Ramban to build momentum and public participation for the flagship observance.

REGIONAL

DC Poonch Sanctions ₹1 Lakh for Nutritional Support to Tuberculosis Patients

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



In a significant step towards strengthening patient care, the district administration has sanctioned financial assistance for nutritional support to tuberculosis patients, recognis...

Poonch, June 18: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Sharma has sanctioned an amount of ₹1 lakh through the Indian Red Cross Society, Poonch, for providing nutritional assistance to patients undergoing treatment for tuberculosis (TB) in the district.

As part of the initiative, food baskets containing essential nutritional items were distributed among TB patients at the District Tuberculosis Centre (DTC), Poonch. The programme was conducted under the supervision of Chief Medical Officer Poonch Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan and District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Mohd Azam.

The initiative is aimed at supplementing the dietary requirements of TB patients, many of whom require enhanced nutritional intake to support their recovery and strengthen their immune systems during the course of treatment. Health experts have consistently emphasised that adequate nutrition is a key factor in improving treatment outcomes and reducing the risk of complications associated with the disease.

Officials said the assistance would help beneficiaries access essential food items that contribute to better health and improved adherence to prescribed medication. Proper nutrition not only accelerates recovery but also enables patients to complete the lengthy treatment regimen more effectively.

Speaking on the occasion, health officials highlighted the importance of community support and welfare measures in the fight against tuberculosis. They noted that alongside medical treatment, nutritional care remains an integral component of the government's efforts to eliminate TB and improve public health outcomes.

The beneficiaries welcomed the initiative and expressed gratitude to the district administration and health department for extending support during their treatment. Officials stated that such welfare measures are expected to encourage patients to continue treatment regularly and contribute towards achieving the goal of a TB-free society.

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 vulnerable sections of society. The initiative also focused on raising awareness about health, hygiene and the importance of regular medical check-ups.

The programme reflected the coordinated efforts of the Indian Army, civil administration, healthcare authorities and voluntary organizations in promoting inclusive healthcare and social welfare. Local residents appreciated the initiative

and expressed gratitude to the organizers for bringing essential medical services and assistance directly to the community.

The organizers reiterated their commitment to continuing such outreach programmes to improve healthcare access and community well-being in underserved areas of the district.

REGIONAL

Poonch Pandits to revive Kheer Bhawani mela at Budha Amarnath

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



POONCH, June 18: Kashmiri Pandits of Poonch will perform a hawan at the historic Shri Budha Amarnath shrine in Mandi on June 22, the occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami, to celebrate the traditional Mata Kheer Bhawani mela. The community has



REGIONAL

Poonch Police Conduct Drug Awareness Drive at Loran School Under Nasha Mukta J&K Campaign

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

Poonch, June 19: Continuing its efforts to combat substance abuse and promote a drug-free society, Poonch Police organised an awareness programme at Yaseen English School, Loran, under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Campaign.

The programme was conducted by Police Station Loran with the objective of sensitising students about the growing threat of drug addiction and encouraging them to play an active role in preventing the spread of narcotics in society. During the interactive session, police officers highlighted the serious physical, psychological, social and legal consequences associated with substance abuse.

Students were informed about how addiction can adversely affect health, education, family life and future career prospects. The speakers stressed the importance of making responsible choices and remaining vigilant against the influence of drugs and other harmful substances.

Special emphasis was laid on the role of youth in building a healthy and progressive society. Police officials encouraged students to act as ambassadors of awareness within their communities and help spread the message of a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

The awareness programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 200 students and members of the teaching staff, who actively interacted with the speakers and expressed their commitment to supporting anti-drug initiatives. Participants



REGIONAL

Poonch hosts district-level girls taekwondo competition

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

POONCH, June 20: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Poonch organised the AAG Girls Inter-Zone District-Level Taekwondo Competition at the Sports Stadium Poonch, drawing enthusiastic participation from young athletes representing various zones of the district. The championship was held as part of the Departmental Activity Calendar 2026-27, with the aim of promoting sports culture and encouraging greater participation of girls in sporting activities across the Union Territory. The event was inaugurated by Musthaq Ahmed, Incharge Manager Sports Stadium Poonch, who served as chief guest. In his address, he underlined the importance of sports in shaping personality and encouraged the students to compete with discipline, dedication and sportsmanship. The competition was held under the overall supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Poonch, Mohd Qasim. Among those present were Kuldeep Kumar, Incharge ZPEO Kanuyian, and Sarla Bakshi, Incharge ZPEO Poonch. Vijay Kumar, PEM and Activity Incharge, and Satinderpal Singh, PET, coordinated the bouts, while the matches were officiated by Rajinder Singh, National Referee and Taekwondo Coach. Officials said such district-level events help identify talent and build a competitive sporting base among girls in the border district.

REGIONAL

Baramulla celebrates International Yoga Day at stadium

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



Hundreds of youth, students and elderly residents joined a mass yoga session at Showkat Ali Sports Stadium, with the DC, DIG and SSP taking part on the 12th International Day of Yo...

BARAMULLA, June 21: The 12th International Day of Yoga was celebrated with enthusiasm across Baramulla district on Sunday, with the main function held at the Showkat Ali Sports Stadium, where hundreds of youth, students and elderly residents gathered for a mass yoga session. Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, S.F. Hamid, Deputy Inspector General of Police North Kashmir, Dr. Vinod Kumar, and Senior Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Gurinderpal Singh, along with other officers, joined the participating youth for the celebration. During the event, trained instructors guided the attendees through various asanas and breathing exercises.

The Baramulla session was held in synchronisation with the national event, which was led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Kolkata. This year's theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing", resonated with the local community, who turned out in large numbers to take part in the programme. Officials said the large turnout reflected the growing popularity of yoga as a tool for physical and mental well-being in the border district. Similar yoga sessions were organised simultaneously at sub-divisional headquarters, educational institutions and health centres across Baramulla, ensuring widespread participation in the day's observance.

REGIONAL

DC Doda reviews arrangements for annual religious yatras

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



DODA, June 18: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Krishan Lal, on Thursday chaired a meeting to review arrangements for the conduct of annual religious yatras in the district, directing officers to ensure that all facilities are in place well in advance. The Deputy Commissioner directed all Additional Deputy Commissioners, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Tehsildars to personally review arrangements at the yatra locations. He emphasised the identification of vulnerable and disaster-prone stretches along the yatra routes, particularly in high-altitude areas, so that adequate precautions could be taken. He instructed that langars be established only at safe locations outside disaster-prone areas, in the interest of the safety of pilgrims and volunteers. The meeting reviewed arrangements relating to security, traffic regulation, transportation, healthcare, fire and emergency response, sanitation, power and water supply, and communications. The Deputy

Commissioner sought close coordination among the line departments for the smooth conduct of the pilgrimages. The review was attended by the SSP Doda, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Superintending Engineer PWD, Chief Medical Officer and various district officers, with some officials joining through virtual mode. Officials were asked to complete preparations within set timelines and submit compliance reports.

REGIONAL

DC Poonch Reviews Muharram Arrangements at Imambargah Aaliya

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



Poonch, June 18: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Sharma on Wednesday visited Imambargah Aaliya in Poonch town to assess the arrangements being made for the ongoing observance of Muharram and review the preparedness of various departments responsible for providing public services during the holy month.

Accompanied by senior officers from the district administration and allied departments, the Deputy Commissioner conducted an on-site inspection of facilities available for devotees and took stock of measures put in place to ensure the smooth conduct of religious activities.

During the visit, he directed the concerned departments to maintain uninterrupted electricity supply, ensure the availability of safe drinking water, strengthen sanitation and cleanliness measures and provide all necessary civic amenities required by devotees. He stressed that no inconvenience should be caused to the Shia Muslim community during the observance of Muharram and instructed officials to remain vigilant in addressing public requirements promptly.

The Deputy Commissioner also interacted with representatives of Anjuman Jafria Poonch and sought feedback regarding the arrangements. Members of the organisation welcomed the visit and appreciated the administration's efforts in making advance preparations for the religious observance. They expressed satisfaction over the coordination being maintained between various departments and community representatives.

Officials said special attention is being given to crowd management, cleanliness, public health services and other logistical arrangements to facilitate devotees participating in Muharram gatherings and processions.

Reaffirming the administration's commitment to communal harmony and public welfare, the Deputy Commissioner stated that all departments have been directed to work in close coordination to ensure the peaceful and dignified



REGIONAL

DC Budgam finalises district Yoga Day arrangements

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

BUDGAM, June 17: Deputy Commissioner Budgam Athar Aamir Khan chaired a meeting on Wednesday to review and finalise arrangements for the district-level celebration of International Yoga Day to be observed on June 21. He directed all concerned officers to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the smooth and successful conduct of the event across the district. The DC directed that International Yoga Day be marked in all government and private schools, colleges, and at all Ayushman Arogya Mandirs across Budgam to ensure the message of healthy living reaches every section of society. The district-level function, he said, would witness participation from government officers, students, athletes, NCC and NSS cadets, healthcare workers, yoga enthusiasts and the general public. During the meeting, officials reviewed arrangements relating to sanitation, drinking water, seating, medical aid, security, transportation, logistics and publicity for the celebration. The DC asked departments to coordinate closely so that the observance, part of the wider International Day of Yoga programme being held across Jammu and Kashmir, is conducted seamlessly and draws wide community participation in promoting fitness, wellness and a healthy lifestyle. He stressed grassroots-level outreach so that the day reaches villages and remote pockets of the district.



REGIONAL

DC Kishtwar sets deadlines for CDF, MPLADS works

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

KISHTWAR, June 22: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of developmental works being executed under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) in the district. The Deputy Commissioner conducted a constituency-wise and work-wise assessment of all sanctioned projects and stressed the need for their timely completion. He fixed June 30, July 15 and July 31, 2026 as deadlines for completion of the pending works, and directed that these timelines be formally recorded for future monitoring. Sharma emphasised the importance of regular monitoring and close coordination among the executing departments. He said the timely completion of sanctioned works remained a priority of the district administration so that developmental benefits reach the public without delay. The Deputy Commissioner made it clear that unnecessary delays in project execution would not be tolerated and that accountability must be maintained at all levels. He asked the concerned engineers and officers to expedite ground-level execution and to flag any bottlenecks promptly for redressal. The meeting was attended by senior officers and engineers associated with the implementation of the two schemes in Kishtwar district.

REGIONAL

DC Poonch Participates in Annual Bhandara at Baba Budh Giri Ji Ashram

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma attended the Annual Bhandara at Baba Budh Giri Ji Ashram in Behramgala, where he joined devotees in religious ceremonies and reviewed...

Poonch, June 21: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma on Sunday visited the historic Baba Budh Giri Ji Ashram at Behramgala in Surankote and participated in the Annual Bhandara, a prominent religious event that attracts devotees from different parts of the district and adjoining areas.

The Deputy Commissioner performed Havan and offered prayers for peace, prosperity and communal harmony. He was accompanied by DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range Sandeep Wazir, SSP Poonch Shafket Hussain Bhat, SDM Surankote Farooq Khan, Tehsildar Surankote Ashfaq Hussain and other officers from the civil and police administration.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with members of the Ashram Committee and devotees who had gathered to participate in the annual religious congregation. He lauded the organisers for successfully conducting the event and appreciated their efforts in preserving the spiritual traditions and cultural heritage associated with the shrine.

Members of the Ashram Committee raised several issues related to the development of infrastructure at the religious site. They sought assistance for the construction of a dedicated Langer Shed, improvement of the approach road leading to the temple and other facilities aimed at enhancing convenience for pilgrims.

Responding to the demands, the Deputy Commissioner assured the committee that the district administration would examine all genuine requirements and take appropriate steps to strengthen facilities at the shrine. He emphasized the importance of improving infrastructure at religious places that attract large numbers of devotees and contribute to the region's social and cultural fabric.

The visit concluded with the administration reiterating its commitment to ensuring better facilities, smooth management and a safe environment for pilgrims visiting Baba Budh Giri Ji Ashram throughout the year.

REGIONAL

Cloudburst hits Gurez's Tulail valley; dozens of houses damaged

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



BANDIPORA, June 17: A massive cloudburst tore through Tartei Kilo village in the Tulail valley of the Gurez area on Wednesday, damaging dozens of residential houses and submerging hundreds of acres of agricultural land, officials said. No loss of life was reported as residents fled to higher ground with their children and livestock. The sudden surge of water and debris created a flood-like situation that swept through fields and damaged a vital bridge in the area. Traffic on the road near Jamlan bridge was temporarily suspended after water levels rose sharply with the heavy flow of rainwater and debris. Lieutenant Governor

Manoj Sinha said that while several houses had suffered damage, fortunately no casualties were reported, and directed the Deputy Commissioner to immediately provide relief to affected families. The Gurez cloudburst was among several that struck the Jammu region on the same day, with reports of flash floods also from Doda, Kishtwar and Poonch districts amid a stalled monsoon producing extreme localised rainfall. District authorities deployed teams to assess the damage and begin restoration of the snapped road link to the remote frontier valley.

REGIONAL

Doda Police Seize Dumper Carrying Mining Material Without Valid Documents

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



Doda, June 19: Doda Police have intensified action against illegal mining and unauthorized transportation of mineral resources, seizing a dumper found carrying mining material without the required legal documents in Bhallah area of the district.

The vehicle, bearing registration number JK02CX-1951, was intercepted by a police team from Police Post Bhallah during routine traffic checking conducted as part of an ongoing drive to curb unlawful mining activities and ensure compliance with mining regulations.

During inspection, police officials found the dumper loaded with Bajri (gravel). However, the driver failed to produce a valid e-Challan or Form-F, documents that are mandatory for the lawful transportation of mining material under the existing mining regulations.

The vehicle was reportedly being driven by Mohammad Sadiq, a resident of Drudu in Bhaderwah. Following verification, the police seized the dumper and informed the District Mineral Officer (DMO), Doda, for further legal action under the relevant provisions of law.

Officials said illegal extraction and transportation of mining material not only causes significant revenue losses to the government but also poses environmental challenges by disturbing ecological balance and affecting riverbeds and natural resources.



REGIONAL

SSP Reasi reviews Vaishno Devi yatra track security

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

REASI, June 21: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Reasi, Mukund Tibrewal, conducted a comprehensive on-foot security assessment of the Mata Vaishno Devi yatra track and the Bhawan area on Sunday to ensure the safety of pilgrims. Accompanied by Superintendent of Police, Katra, Kameshwar Puri and officials of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the SSP reviewed the entire security grid along the pilgrimage route. He inspected various ingress points and assessed the effectiveness of pilgrim screening, frisking procedures and the operational readiness of baggage-scanning systems. Tibrewal also visited the Sanjichhat area along the track and carried out a security audit of the helipad and its surrounding perimeter to ensure the safety of helicopter operations. The accommodation facilities of deployed personnel were also examined. The SSP directed all deployed personnel to maintain the highest level of vigilance in view of the increased pilgrim influx during the summer vacation. He stressed the need for regular and effective patrolling along the yatra route, particularly during odd hours, to maintain a strong deterrent against any nefarious designs of anti-national elements.



REGIONAL

Seven drug peddlers held, heroin seized in Samba operations

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

SAMBA, June 21: Police arrested seven drug peddlers and seized over 38 grams of heroin in a series of separate operations across Samba, Kathua and Doda districts over the weekend, officials said. The largest haul came in Samba, where a vehicle was intercepted at Barian-Supwal along the Jammu-Pathankot National Highway. During the checking, police recovered 22.28 grams of heroin and a sharp-edged weapon from the SUV and arrested four occupants, identified as Bikram Kumar, Bodh Raj alias Shama, Malkit Singh and Jaspreet Singh. The vehicle was also seized. In a separate Samba operation, Rafiq Poswal of Nanak Chack was held with nearly five grams of heroin. In Kathua, police arrested Kuldeep Singh of Mangtian Morh during frisking and recovered close to five grams of heroin, while in Doda, Aqib Javeed of Doda town was held with 6.90 grams of heroin and his two-wheeler seized. A police spokesperson said all the arrested drug peddlers were booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, with investigations under way to trace the wider supply chain. The drives are part of the sustained anti-narcotics campaign across the Jammu region.

NATIONAL

Cockroach Janata Party Protest Enters Fourth Day at Jantar Mantar

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



The Cockroach Janata Party's protest over the alleged examination paper leak entered its fourth day at Jantar Mantar, with demonstrators demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the alleged examination paper leak controversy.

New Delhi, June 23: The Cockroach Janata Party's (CJP) overnight protest at Jantar Mantar entered its fourth consecutive day on Tuesday, with demonstrators continuing to press for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the alleged examination paper leak controversy.

The protesters have also demanded financial assistance for the families of students who allegedly died by suicide following the controversy and called for the cancellation of the examination.

Amid slogans and protest songs, the group accused Delhi Police of attempting to curtail the demonstration area during the night. In social media posts, the CJP alleged that police personnel tried to shift barricades and reduce the size of the protest site.

According to the protesters, participants gathered near the barricades after noticing the alleged move and prevented any

changes to the designated protest area. The group further claimed that authorities attempted to bring a truck into the Jantar Mantar premises to further restrict the demonstration space.

Videos shared by the protesters showed demonstrators singing patriotic songs and raising slogans while maintaining their sit-in protest.

The demonstration is being held under tight security arrangements, with police personnel deployed around Jantar Mantar and barricades erected at the venue. Delhi Police had not issued any public response to the allegations at the time of reporting.

This is the second protest organised by the Cockroach Janata Party at Jantar Mantar over alleged examination paper leaks, with participants seeking accountability from the Centre and education authorities.

NATIONAL

Modi disburses Rs 2,400 crore under jobs incentive scheme

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



NEW DELHI, June 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday disbursed incentives worth around Rs 2,400 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY) at a programme held at Vigyan Bhawan in the capital. The flagship employment-linked incentive scheme, introduced in the first Union Budget of the government's third term, carries an outlay of nearly Rs 1 lakh crore and aims to support the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs over two years. Officials said the scheme had already supported 15 lakh employment opportunities. Under Part A, first-time employees registered with the EPFO and earning up to Rs 1 lakh a month are eligible for an incentive equal

to one month's wage, capped at Rs 15,000, paid in two instalments. Under Part B, employers generating additional employment receive up to Rs 3,000 per month per additional worker for two years. "PM-VBRY is the identity of a new India. It represents an India where employment generation is at the core of the country's spirit," Modi said. He added that the scheme was promoting formalisation of jobs and expanding social security coverage among young first-time workers entering the labour force.

NATIONAL

Modi leads 12th Yoga Day at Kolkata's Red Road

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



KOLKATA, June 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday led the main national celebration of the 12th International Day of Yoga from the

historic Red Road in Kolkata, performing the Common Yoga Protocol alongside thousands of participants from early morning. The 2026 theme was "Yoga for Healthy Ageing," framing yoga as a lifelong practice for active and dignified ageing. The event at Red Road began at 5 a.m., with arrangements made for tens of thousands of participants, while millions joined virtually across India and abroad. Through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, more than 210 Indian missions organised celebrations at nearly 2,500 locations worldwide, alongside major domestic sites including the Red Fort, Haridwar, Konark and Leh. "Yoga is not only essential for our personal lifestyle today. Yoga is also a necessity for a better future for the world," Modi told the gathering, and was seen helping participants correct their postures. It was the first time the lead national Yoga Day event was held in West Bengal. The Ministry of Ayush said its Yoga Sangam portal had crossed six lakh organisational registrations ahead of the day.



NATIONAL

Six labourers killed in highway collision in Chhindwara

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

CHHINDWARA, June 22: Six people were killed and around 20 injured when a pickup vehicle carrying labourers collided with a truck near Temni Khurd village on the Chhindwara-Betul highway in Madhya Pradesh on Monday. The accident occurred around 10 a.m. The dead, residents of Machhera village, had boarded the pickup to go for farm work; among them were four women and two men, identified by police as Babbu Rajbaita, Santosh Sawner, Savitri Banke, Shivkali, Leelavati Sheelu and Shakravarti Sheelu. Around 20 injured persons were taken to the Chhindwara district hospital, with one critically injured person referred to a medical college in Nagpur. Police said they were investigating whether speeding and overloading of the pickup contributed to the head-on collision, which left the vehicle mangled and debris strewn across the road. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh each for the families of the deceased, Rs 1 lakh each for the seriously injured and Rs 50,000 each for the other injured. The crash was the second deadly highway accident in a week, underscoring persistent road-safety concerns on the state's intercity routes.



NATIONAL

India hosts 16th BRICS security advisers' meeting; Doval chairs

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

NEW DELHI, June 22: India hosted the 16th meeting of BRICS National Security Advisers in the capital, chaired by NSA Ajit Doval, under the theme "Non-traditional security challenges confronting the world today." The two-day conclave, held during India's BRICS Chairship year, brought together security chiefs and heads of delegation from the bloc's expanded membership comprising India, Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the UAE. Delegates exchanged views on the rapidly evolving nature of security threats, including cybersecurity, artificial intelligence-driven risks and digital vulnerabilities, and reviewed the outcomes of the BRICS Joint Working Groups on Counter-Terrorism and on security in the use of information and communication technologies. On the sidelines, Doval held bilateral talks with senior officials from Brazil, Ethiopia, South Africa, China and Iran. India holds the BRICS Chairship for 2026, its fourth time after 2012, 2016 and 2021, under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." Russian Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu was among the senior figures who travelled to New Delhi for the meeting, which officials said reinforced India's growing role in shaping the bloc's security agenda.

NATIONAL

Right to walk on footpaths a fundamental right: Supreme Court

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



The Supreme Court held that the right to walk on demarcated footpaths is a fundamental right that must take priority over motor vehicles, directing the Centre to frame a legal fram...

NEW DELHI, June 19: The Supreme Court has held that the right to walk on a demarcated footpath is a fundamental right under the Constitution and takes priority over the movement of motorised vehicles. A bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Atul S. Chandurkar ruled that the right flows from the guarantee of free movement under Article 19(1)(d), as well as the rights to life, expression, assembly and association. "The citizen's fundamental right to walk on a demarcated footpath is primary and shall have priority over movement by motorised vehicles," the court said. The judgment arose from an appeal concerning the death of a five-year-old boy fatally

struck by a tanker lorry while being walked to school in an area without a footpath or pedestrian crossing. The bench said urban development authorities, municipal corporations, municipalities and panchayats have an enforceable duty to provide and maintain footpaths, and that citizens may seek compensation for violations independent of remedies under the Motor Vehicles Act. It directed the Registry to re-number the matter as a petition titled "Re: Fundamental Right to Walk and Footpath" and urged the Union government to frame a comprehensive legal framework protecting pedestrians.

NATIONAL

Six killed as luxury bus rams parked truck near Vadodara

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

VADODARA, June 17: At least six people were killed and about 20 injured when a private luxury bus crashed into the rear of a stationary truck around 4 a.m. near Kotambi village on the Vadodara-Halol highway in Gujarat. The bus was travelling from Rajasthan to Surat when the collision occurred. According to police, the truck driver had pulled over to check tyre pressure when the speeding bus struck it from behind, completely crushing the front portion of the bus. Most of the passengers were residents of Rajasthan. "The impact of the collision was severe, and the front portion of the bus was completely crushed," Vadodara District Superintendent of Police Sushil Agrawal said. The National Disaster Response Force assisted in rescue operations, and the injured were shifted to nearby hospitals. A video of the mangled bus circulated widely after the crash. The accident renewed concern over night-time highway safety and the condition of long-distance private bus services in the region, with police investigating whether overspeeding and driver fatigue contributed to the early-morning collision.

NATIONAL

Murmu, Modi launch Rs 47,600-crore projects in Odisha

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



RAIRANGPUR, June 20: President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday jointly inaugurated and laid foundation stones for development projects worth over Rs 47,600 crore at Rairangpur in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, marking the second anniversary of the BJP government in the state. The event coincided with President Murmu's birthday and her return to her home region. The projects spanned energy, industrial infrastructure, roads, drinking water, healthcare, education, tourism and irrigation, with reports indicating around 60 projects inaugurated and 12 foundation stones laid. Among the marquee initiatives was the Rs 25,016-crore Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited project at Lakhanpur in Jharsuguda, along with the 600 MW Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project and a Stage-II expansion of the IB Thermal Power Station comprising two units of 660 MW each. A satellite centre of AIIMS Bhubaneswar and

a mega integrated rural piped water supply project for mining-affected villages in Kusumi block were also part of the package. Officials said the projects aimed to accelerate industrial growth and improve basic services across the tribal-dominated districts of northern Odisha.



NATIONAL

Delhi High Court upholds temporary nationwide Telegram ban

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

NEW DELHI, June 19: The Delhi High Court has upheld the Central government's temporary, platform-wide blocking of the messaging app Telegram in India, ordered under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act as a precaution against organised paper-leak rackets ahead of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination. Justice Tejas Karia, who reserved judgment after a hearing on June 18, pronounced the decision on Friday. The court sustained the blocking of Telegram until June 22 and the disabling of the app's message-edit feature until June 30. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appeared for the Centre. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had issued an emergency order blocking the platform, with a review committee holding that the measures were "necessary and proportionate" for "protecting the integrity of the examination" and maintaining "public order." The court held that Section 69A empowers the Centre to block an entire intermediary platform, and not merely specific content hosted on it, finding the action neither excessive nor disproportionate and that procedural safeguards had been followed. The restriction affected an estimated 150 million-plus Indian users, reviving debate over the proportionality of platform-wide shutdowns.



NATIONAL

Doval, Wang Yi note progress in normalising India-China ties

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

NEW DELHI, June 22: National Security Adviser Ajit Doval met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the BRICS National Security Advisers' meeting here, with the Ministry of External Affairs describing the talks as "constructive and forward-looking." The MEA said the two sides "reviewed recent developments in bilateral relations and noted progress towards gradual normalisation." Doval underlined that "stable, predictable and constructive bilateral relations contribute to building of trust and better understanding" between the two countries. The meeting came more than 18 months after India and China agreed to resolve the eastern Ladakh military standoff, and less than a month after officials met in Beijing under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs. Doval and Wang serve as the Special Representatives for the boundary question, the highest-level channel for talks on the disputed frontier. The Indian side at the meeting included Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, Ambassador Vikram Doraiswami and Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai. The exchange added to a series of recent diplomatic and military-level contacts aimed at restoring trust along the Line of Actual Control following the 2020 clashes.

BUSINESS

Oil Rises as U.S.-Iran Talks in Switzerland Are Postponed

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

LONDON, June 19: Oil prices rose on Friday after talks between the United States and Iran in Switzerland were abruptly postponed, reviving uncertainty over efforts to turn an interim agreement into a durable peace settlement in the Middle East. Brent crude futures, the international benchmark, gained 0.9 percent to settle at \$80.57 a barrel. The move reversed part of a steep slide earlier in the week, when Brent had fallen to \$78.24, its lowest since early March, on hopes that a framework deal would reopen the Strait of Hormuz and ease supply disruptions. Switzerland's foreign ministry said the negotiations scheduled at Buergenstock

would not proceed as planned, while the White House said Vice President JD Vance was no longer travelling to the talks, citing unresolved logistical issues. The postponement came amid intensified military conflict in the region. "Over the last four trading sessions, Brent has fallen by \$17 a barrel, a discernible vote of confidence that the worst is behind us," said Tamas Varga, analyst at PVM Oil Associates, before the talks collapsed. Crude had spiked more than 50 percent during the conflict but remained only modestly above pre-war levels.

BUSINESS

Reliance Clears Jio IPO, Posts Record Annual Profit

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

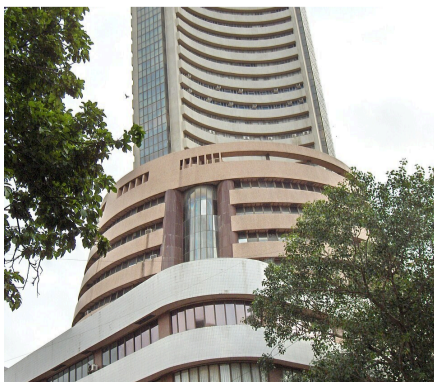


MUMBAI, June 19: Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani on Friday announced that the board of Jio Platforms had cleared a long-awaited initial public offering, with a draft red herring prospectus filed with market regulator SEBI, at the conglomerate's 49th annual general meeting. The proposed Jio IPO comprises a fresh issue of up to 27 crore equity shares of face value Rs 10 each, in a listing process Ambani said would be led by his children Akash, Isha and Anant Ambani. "It will unlock great value for RIL shareholders," he told the meeting. Ambani said Reliance had delivered its strongest-ever performance, with record revenue, EBITDA and net profit in the year. Consolidated revenue rose 9.8 percent year-on-year to Rs 11.76 trillion, while net profit surged 17.8 percent to Rs 95,754 crore. A dividend of Rs 6 per share for FY26 was proposed. The chairman also outlined plans for a sovereign artificial intelligence backbone at Jamnagar, with a first phase of 120 megawatts of computing infrastructure to be commissioned by end-2026, powered by clean energy. Jio is additionally evaluating a low-Earth-orbit satellite network to extend connectivity to remote and border regions.

BUSINESS

Sensex, Nifty Close Higher as Pharma, Reliance Lead Rebound

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



MUMBAI, June 22: Indian benchmark indices closed higher on Monday, supported by broad-based buying in pharmaceutical and technology stocks, a rally in Reliance Industries after its annual general meeting and softer crude oil prices. The BSE Sensex ended at 77,094.07, up 291.17 points or 0.38 percent, while the NSE Nifty 50 settled at 24,102.90, gaining 89.80 points or 0.37 percent. Market breadth was positive, with about 2,500 stocks advancing against 1,688 declines on the BSE. Pharma, IT, media, metal, auto and energy indices led the gains, with Cipla, Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Sun Pharma among the top performers. The technology sector rebounded after a selloff in the previous session. FMCG and consumer durables were the only major laggards as investors booked profits. Reliance Industries advanced amid optimism over its AI initiatives and the planned listing of Jio Platforms unveiled at last week's AGM. Easing crude prices, tied to U.S.-Iran negotiations, helped soothe inflation concerns, while foreign institutional inflows and domestic buying underpinned sentiment. Broader markets also gained, with the Nifty Midcap 100 up 0.3 percent and the Smallcap 100 rising 0.6 percent. Analysts said traders would seek confirmation of momentum in coming sessions.

BUSINESS

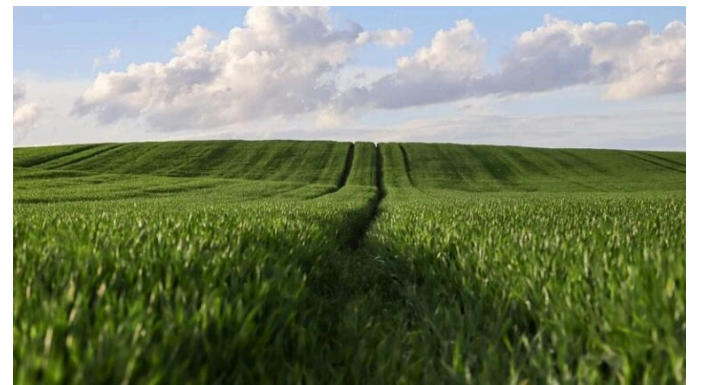
Fed Holds Rates Steady in Warsh's First Meeting

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



WASHINGTON, June 17: The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday left its benchmark interest rate unchanged at a target range of 3.50 to 3.75 percent, holding policy steady for a fourth consecutive meeting as it weighed elevated inflation against a still-solid economy. The Federal Open Market Committee voted 12-0 to maintain the federal funds rate, with the decision taking effect on June 17. It marked the first meeting chaired by Kevin Warsh, who succeeded Jerome Powell at the central bank. In its statement, the committee said inflation "remains elevated relative to the Committee's 2 percent goal, in part reflecting supply shocks that have driven price increases in certain sectors, including energy." The language pointed to

pressures stemming from the recent surge in oil prices tied to Middle East tensions. Policymakers' updated projections signalled a hawkish shift. The median estimate for the fed funds rate at the end of 2026 rose to 3.8 percent, up from 3.4 percent in March, suggesting officials now see at least one rate increase as likely this year. The Fed also dropped earlier language that had hinted at a bias toward cuts.



NATIONAL

Modi releases Rs 18,880-crore PM-KISAN instalment from Bengal

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

TARAKESWAR, June 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday released the 23rd instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme from Tarakeswar in West Bengal's Hooghly district, transferring more than Rs 18,880 crore directly into the bank accounts of over 9.44 crore farmers across the country. The disbursement included benefits for more than 2.18 crore women farmers. In West Bengal alone, over Rs 907.21 crore reached more than 45.35 lakh beneficiaries. With this release, cumulative assistance under the scheme since its launch on February 24, 2019, crossed Rs 4.46 lakh crore. At the same event, the Prime Minister rolled out digital agriculture initiatives, including services linked to crop insurance, the Kisan Credit Card and Direct Benefit Transfers, alongside natural farming and district-focused programmes. More than one crore farmers were expected to join via video conferencing at Krishi Vigyan Kendras, ICAR institutes, agricultural universities and mandis nationwide. The choice of Bengal underscored the BJP's outreach in a politically crucial state, with officials describing the event as a step in building a "new growth story" for the region's farm economy.

BUSINESS

NSE Files for India's Largest-Ever IPO at Rs 30,000 Crore

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

MUMBAI, June 17: The National Stock Exchange of India on Wednesday filed its draft red herring prospectus with the Securities and Exchange Board of India for an initial public offering estimated at around Rs 30,000 crore, in what is set to become the country's largest-ever public issue. The proposed size would surpass Hyundai Motor India's Rs 27,859-crore listing, currently the biggest on record. The IPO is structured entirely as an offer for sale, meaning the exchange itself will not receive any proceeds; net amounts after taxes and expenses will go to the selling shareholders. State Bank of India is the biggest seller, offloading up to 2.48 crore shares, alongside MS Strategic (Mauritius), Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, Aranda Investments, Bank of Baroda and Stock Holding Corporation of India. Life Insurance Corporation, the largest shareholder with a 10.72 percent stake, Premji Invest and investor Radhakishan Damani have opted not to sell and will retain their holdings. The filing marks a milestone for an exchange whose listing plans had been delayed for nearly a decade by regulatory hurdles and the collocation controversy. Analysts expect strong demand for the marquee offering once it opens.



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TECHNOLOGY

FortiBleed Leak Exposes Credentials For 73,000 Fortinet Firewalls

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



A data leak dubbed FortiBleed exposed VPN credentials for nearly 74,000 internet-facing FortiGate firewalls worldwide, prompting a CISA advisory urging organisations to rotate pass...

WASHINGTON, June 18: A newly disclosed data leak dubbed "FortiBleed" has exposed VPN credentials for 73,932 internet-facing Fortinet FortiGate firewalls at organisations worldwide, one of the most significant incidents to hit the security vendor. The trove, first identified by security researcher Bob Diachenko, contained usernames, email addresses and plaintext passwords spanning 21,632 unique domains across 194 countries. Diachenko said the database included entries tied to major firms such as Chevron, Samsung, Foxconn, Comcast and AT&T. Researchers believe the data was harvested from exported FortiGate configuration files, though the exact method of compromise remains

unclear and could involve previously disclosed flaws or infostealer malware. Some analysts estimate roughly half of all internet-reachable FortiGate devices may be affected. The US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency issued an advisory on Thursday urging Fortinet users to harden their devices. Security experts recommended that affected organisations immediately rotate passwords, enforce multi-factor authentication and review gateway logs for suspicious activity. Fortinet firewalls and VPNs are widely deployed across corporate and government networks, making exposed administrator credentials a serious risk for downstream intrusions and ransomware.

TECHNOLOGY

Premji Invest Leads \$190 Million Round In Upscale AI

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



SANTA CLARA, June 22: Upscale AI, a startup building networking switch silicon for large artificial-intelligence clusters, said on Monday it had raised \$190 million in a Series A-1 round, pushing its valuation to \$2 billion and its total funding to \$500 million. The round was led by Premji Invest, the India-based fund founded by Wipro chairman Azim Premji, which has previously backed CrowdStrike and Sysdig. Chip giant Nvidia joined as a new investor, alongside Salesforce Ventures, Temasek and Seligman Ventures, with returning backers including Mayfield and Tiger Global. The Santa Clara company is building a full-stack, open-standard AI networking fabric spanning silicon, systems and software, aiming to connect accelerators, memory and storage for large-scale workloads. It is positioning itself to challenge Broadcom's grip on the networking-chip market. "AI infrastructure is being redefined at cluster scale, and

networking is one of the most critical bottlenecks," said chief executive Barun Kar. Upscale AI reached the \$2 billion mark in under 18 months, reflecting investor appetite for the plumbing that ties together the GPUs powering modern AI systems.

TECHNOLOGY

Nvidia Unveils Liquid-Cooled Data Centre Design Cutting Water Use

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



SANTA CLARA, June 22: Nvidia unveiled a new data-centre design it says will largely solve artificial intelligence's growing water problem, using a fully liquid-cooled system that recirculates coolant in a closed loop without drawing in fresh water. The company said its Rubin generation of AI infrastructure is the first to achieve 100 percent liquid cooling, with every chip and networking component cooled by liquid and no fans anywhere in the system. The coolant, a mix of water and propylene glycol, can operate at temperatures up to 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees

Fahrenheit), far higher than earlier systems. "We have eliminated massive amounts of power usage and pretty much all water usage," said Ali Heydari, Nvidia's director of data-centre cooling and infrastructure. The company estimated a 50-megawatt facility could save more than \$4 million a year in cooling-related energy and water costs. Nvidia cautioned the gains depend on local climate, with hotter regions still needing extra cooling when outdoor temperatures near 115 degrees Fahrenheit. The design lands as AI data-centre spending heads toward trillion-dollar levels, intensifying scrutiny of the industry's energy and water footprint.



TECHNOLOGY

Sony Launches Xperia 1 VIII Flagship With Upgraded Telephoto

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

LONDON, June 19: Sony released its new Xperia 1 VIII flagship smartphone in the United Kingdom and Europe on Friday, continuing a line aimed at enthusiasts who still want features other makers have dropped. The handset starts at 1,399 pounds in Britain and 1,499 euros in Europe for the 256GB model, rising to 1,849 pounds for a 1TB Native Gold version sold only through Sony's own store. Pre-orders bundle a free pair of Sony's WH-1000XM6 headphones. The phone keeps a 6.5-inch LTPO OLED display with a 120Hz adaptive refresh rate and is powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 chip, paired with 12GB of RAM and expandable storage via microSD. Its headline upgrade is a new telephoto camera built around a 48-megapixel 1/1.58-inch sensor, a sizeable jump from the smaller unit in last year's Xperia 1 VII, promising better low-light shots and more natural background blur. Notably, the Xperia 1 VIII retains a 3.5mm headphone jack and microSD slot, making it one of the only 2026 flagships to keep both features that rivals have largely abandoned.



TECHNOLOGY

EU Picks Domyn-Led Consortium To Build Sovereign AI Model

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

BRUSSELS, June 19: The European Commission on Friday named the EUROPA consortium, led by the Italian firm Domyn, as the winner of its Frontier AI Grand Challenge, a flagship contest to build a sovereign, open-source European artificial intelligence model. The Commission said the project will develop a frontier general-purpose model covering all 24 official EU languages, with a computational capacity equivalent to at least 400 billion parameters. The system is intended to rely on efficient, modular designs such as Mixture-of-Experts architectures. The challenge is run jointly with the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking, which will give the winning project access to AI-optimised supercomputers for one year. "Europe can lead in advanced AI on its own terms," said Henna Virkkunen, the Commission's Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy. "EUROPA will build a frontier European AI model in all 24 EU languages, showing that we can match the best while staying true to our values." The selection marks a push by Brussels to narrow the gap with US and Chinese AI developers and reduce reliance on foreign systems for critical applications.



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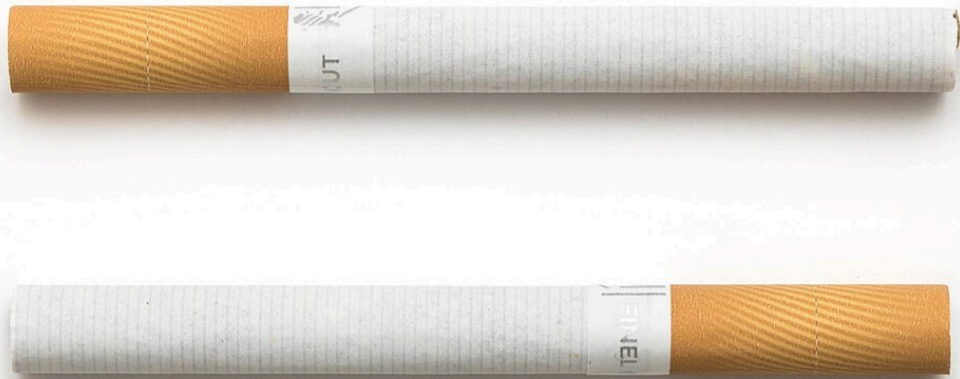
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HEALTH

FDA rejects smoking-cessation pill cytisinicline over factory issues

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



Achieve Life Sciences received an FDA Complete Response Letter for cytisinicline, citing manufacturing deficiencies rather than clinical concerns, delaying what could be the first...

SEATTLE, June 22: Achieve Life Sciences said the US Food and Drug Administration has issued a Complete Response Letter for cytisinicline, its experimental smoking-cessation pill, citing manufacturing deficiencies at a third-party facility rather than any problem with the drug itself. The FDA identified no deficiencies regarding the clinical efficacy or safety of cytisinicline, the company said. The letter stemmed from current Good Manufacturing Practice issues at a contract manufacturer, which received an "Official Action Indicated" classification for general matters unrelated specifically to the drug. Had it been approved, cytisinicline

would have been the first new pharmacotherapy for smoking cessation since varenicline in 2006. The plant-based alkaloid targets nicotinic acetylcholine receptors and was studied in more than 1,500 participants across two successful Phase 3 trials and a long-term safety study. "The FDA's feedback provides a clear and actionable path forward. Our clinical data stands on its own," said chief executive Andrew D. Goldberg. The company plans to resubmit its application in the fourth quarter of 2026 with a new manufacturing partner, Adare Pharma Solutions, targeting approval in the first half of 2027.

HEALTH

Study: most people miss heart-protecting flavanols despite eating produce

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



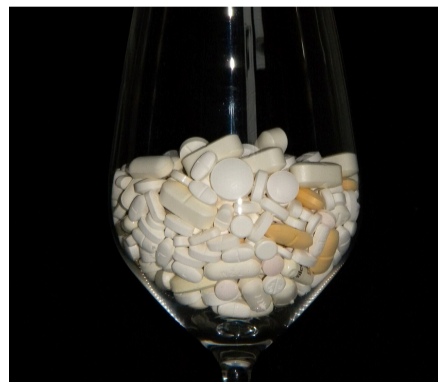
READING, June 19: Eating the recommended five daily servings of fruit and vegetables may not be enough to protect the heart unless those servings are rich in flavanols, according to research drawing fresh attention this week. The study, published in the journal *Food & Function* and led by scientists at the University of Reading with Harvard Medical School, the University of California Davis and Mars, Inc., analysed dietary biomarker data from more than 30,000 people in the United Kingdom and United States. Researchers found that fewer than 20% of people reach the flavanol intake associated with cardiovascular benefit. Even many who ate five servings of produce a day fell short of the roughly 500 milligrams per day linked to reduced cardiovascular mortality in the earlier COSMOS trial. The findings suggest specific choices matter more than total quantity, with foods such as blackberries,

plums, apples, cherries and green tea sharply raising flavanol intake. "Flavanols can significantly reduce the risk of dying from cardiovascular disease, but only if you consume enough of them," said lead author Dr Javier Ottaviani. "The specific choices you make matter far more than the total amount."

HEALTH

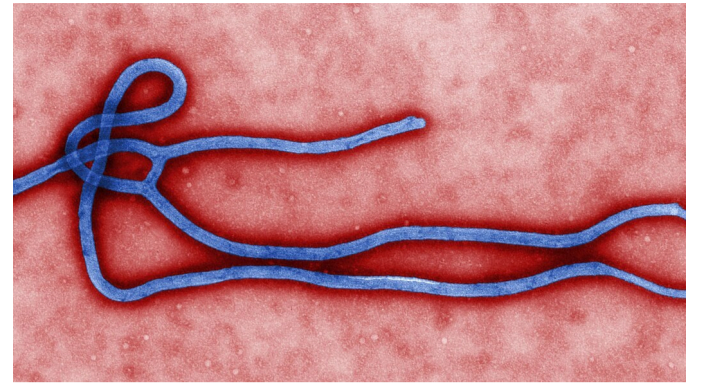
FDA clears first oral carbapenem antibiotic for complicated UTIs

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



WASHINGTON, June 17: The US Food and Drug Administration has approved Utebzi (tebipenem pivoxil), the first and only oral carbapenem antibiotic, for adults with complicated urinary tract infections, including pyelonephritis, who have limited or no alternative oral treatment options. Developed by GSK with Spero Therapeutics, the drug offers a pill alternative to therapies that until now required intravenous administration. The approval rests on the Phase III PIVOT-PO trial, which enrolled 1,690 patients and compared oral tebipenem pivoxil against intravenous imipenem-cilastatin.

Tebipenem achieved a 58.5% overall success rate versus 60.2% for the IV comparator, meeting the study's non-inferiority threshold. The United States records more than three million complicated UTI cases each year, with treatment failure affecting up to 34% of patients and costs exceeding six billion dollars annually. Carbapenems are standard for severe or resistant infections but have been available only intravenously, increasing hospital stays. "The approval of Utebzi provides the first and only oral carbapenem antibiotic for appropriate adults with complicated UTIs," said GSK's Tony Wood. The drug is expected to reach US patients by the end of 2026.



HEALTH

WHO issues first comprehensive guidelines for Ebola, Marburg care

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

GENEVA, June 17: The World Health Organization has issued its first comprehensive guidelines for the clinical management of filovirus diseases, including Ebola and Marburg, as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda battle an outbreak caused by the Bundibugyo virus. The guidelines contain 16 evidence-based recommendations covering early supportive care, laboratory testing, treatment of dehydration and shock, management of bacterial co-infections, identification of clinical deterioration, and structured after-care for survivors. WHO noted that 72 outbreaks of Ebola and Marburg diseases have been reported in Africa since 1967, with case fatality rates ranging from 25% to 90% in severe outbreaks. There are no licensed vaccines or specific treatments for Marburg, Bundibugyo or Sudan virus diseases, making supportive care central to improving survival. "These new guidelines are a perfect example of how WHO leverages science to better protect and care for people during outbreaks," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The release comes as WHO scales up surveillance, contact tracing and clinical preparedness in affected regions, where the current Bundibugyo outbreak has been declared a public health emergency of international concern.



HEALTH

US measles cases hit 2,104 as elimination status nears collapse

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

ATLANTA, June 18: The United States has recorded 2,104 confirmed measles cases in 2026, according to data published June 18 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, putting the country's measles elimination status at its greatest threat since it was achieved in 2000. Cases have been reported across 41 jurisdictions, with 30 outbreaks accounting for 93% of infections. About 92% of this year's cases involved people who were unvaccinated or whose vaccination status was unknown, and roughly 6% of patients required hospitalisation, mostly children. Three deaths have occurred since 2025, including two unvaccinated children in Lubbock, Texas, and an unvaccinated adult in Lea County, New Mexico. Public-health officials attribute the surge to declining vaccination coverage. Coverage of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine among kindergarten-age children fell from 95.2% in the 2019-2020 school year to 92.5% in 2024-2025, below the roughly 95% threshold needed to prevent sustained spread. The outbreak is part of a broader regional surge; in the Americas, Mexico, Guatemala, the United States and Canada together account for the overwhelming majority of confirmed cases this year.

INTERNATIONAL

US and Iran reach 'road map' for final peace deal in Switzerland

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



Mediators Qatar and Pakistan reported encouraging progress as Washington and Tehran agreed a framework for a final settlement, even as Trump renewed threats over Lebanon and the St...

STANSSTAD (Switzerland), June 21: The United States and Iran agreed on a road map toward a final peace deal after high-level talks at the Buergenstock resort near Lake Lucerne, with mediators Qatar and Pakistan saying the negotiations made "encouraging progress." The talks build on a memorandum of understanding signed on June 17 that aims to end the 2026 Iran war within 60 days. Vice President JD Vance led the US delegation, sitting alongside Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and the prime ministers of Qatar and Pakistan. "We've already made

great progress over just the last few hours," Vance told reporters. The two sides agreed to set up a High-Level Committee to oversee working groups on nuclear issues, sanctions and dispute resolution. The diplomacy was overshadowed by President Donald Trump's threats. He warned that Washington would "hit Iran very hard again" unless Tehran reined in Hezbollah in Lebanon, and floated taking over the Strait of Hormuz. Ghalibaf cautioned the US to "be careful with their statements," saying Iran's forces were "ready to respond" amid continued Israeli strikes.

INTERNATIONAL

UN Security Council Urges Taliban to Reverse Restrictions on Women

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 16 JUN, 2026



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



INTERNATIONAL

Taiwan to join US in tightening advanced chip export controls

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

TAIPEI, June 18: Taiwan said it would work with the United States to tighten controls on advanced chips and semiconductor manufacturing equipment, deepening cooperation aimed at keeping cutting-edge technology out of China's reach. Deputy Economic Affairs Minister Ho Chin-tsang said the island, home to TSMC, would coordinate closely with Washington. TSMC is estimated to produce roughly 90 percent of the world's most advanced chips, giving Taiwan outsized leverage in the global technology supply chain. The move aligns Taipei with US efforts to restrict Beijing's access to the chips that power artificial intelligence and military systems. The announcement came as the Pentagon expanded its list of Chinese firms deemed affiliated with the country's military to 188 entities, adding technology giants including Alibaba, Baidu and Tencent. From June 30, the US Defense Department is barred from signing new contracts with the listed companies and their subsidiaries. Alibaba rejected the designation, saying it was "not a Chinese military company" and would pursue legal action. The escalation came amid increased Chinese military maneuvers around Taiwan, which analysts warn could disrupt supply chains and deter investment.



INTERNATIONAL

Mindanao quake toll climbs past 77 as aftershocks persist

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

GENERAL SANTOS (Philippines), June 19: The death toll from the powerful magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck offshore Sarangani in the southern Philippines on June 8 climbed past 77, as rescue and recovery efforts pressed on amid relentless aftershocks. More than 8,500 aftershocks had been recorded as of June 19, the largest measuring magnitude 6.5. Authorities reported over 1,339 people injured and at least 31 missing, while around 346,000 individuals were displaced across the Mindanao region. The quake destroyed more than 15,000 homes and damaged some 87,000 others, with over 1,000 schools affected. Buildings collapsed in General Santos City, the worst-hit urban centre. The tremor triggered a tsunami with a maximum run-up of 2.5 metres, with waves observed as far as Indonesia, Malaysia and Japan. Two people drowned in General Santos. Economic losses in the city alone were estimated at one billion pesos. The earthquake also caused damage and one death in Indonesia's North Sulawesi province. Officials warned that aftershocks could continue for weeks as displaced families remained in evacuation centres across the region.

SPORTS

Cerundolo wins Queen's, first Argentine champion

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



Francisco Cerundolo battled back to beat Tommy Paul in the longest final in Queen's Club history, becoming the first Argentine man to lift the grass-court title and claiming his bi...

LONDON, June 21: Francisco Cerundolo captured the biggest title of his career on Sunday, fighting back to beat Tommy Paul and become the first Argentine man to win the Queen's Club Championships in London. Cerundolo lost a tight opening set on a tie-break before recovering to win 6-7(4), 6-4, 6-3 at the HSBC Championships. At three hours and three minutes, it was the longest final in the tournament's history. The triumph was the fifth ATP Tour title for the Argentine and his first at ATP 500 level, on a surface long

considered his weakest. The grass-court event serves as a key warm-up for Wimbledon, which begins on June 29. "I would never imagine lifting this trophy," Cerundolo said after his victory, describing himself as "super proud" of breaking new ground for Argentine tennis at the historic west London venue. Paul, the American who had been chasing his own grass-court breakthrough, was edged out after a gruelling contest that swung Cerundolo's way over the final two sets, denying him the title.

SPORTS

Chopra fourth in Doha as Pathirage stuns javelin field

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



DOHA, June 19: India's Neeraj Chopra opened his 2026 season with a fourth-place finish in the javelin at the Doha Diamond League on Friday, as Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage stunned a star-studded field. Chopra, the reigning Olympic and world medallist, began with a foul before recovering with throws of 82.77m and a best of 85.69m in the third round. He later managed 83.45m but missed the final round after failing to break into the top three. The mark was enough to clear the Commonwealth Games qualifying standard. Pathirage won the event with a throw of 88.68m, ahead of Grenada's Anderson Peters (86.38m) and Curtis Thompson of the United States (85.99m). The meeting also produced a record-breaking run on the track, as Olympic champion Marileidy Paulino of the Dominican Republic clocked 48.91 seconds to win the women's 400m. Her time shattered the previous Doha meeting record of 49.83, shared by Allyson Felix and Salwa Eid Nasser, with Poland's Natalia Bukowiecka second in 50.10.

SPORTS

Mbappe double sends France into World Cup last 32

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026



PHILADELPHIA, June 22: Kylian Mbappe marked his 100th appearance for France with two goals as Les Bleus beat Iraq 3-0 to book their place in the round of 32 at the 2026 World Cup on Monday. Mbappe struck in the 14th and 54th minutes, lifting his career World Cup tally to 16 and moving him into a tie for second on the all-time list. Ousmane Dembele added the third for the 2022 finalists in their Group I encounter. The match at Philadelphia was interrupted by the tournament's first weather delay, with play suspended for just over two hours at half-time after heavy rain and an approaching thunderstorm swept the venue. France returned after the break to seal the win in difficult conditions. The victory underlined the depth and form of Didier Deschamps' side as the group stage progressed. Mbappe's milestone cap and double provided the headline, the forward continuing to climb the French and World Cup scoring charts as France set their sights on the knockout phase.



SPORTS

Jaiswal ton, Prasidh five-for seal India's 3-0 sweep

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

CHENNAI, June 20: India completed a clinical 3-0 sweep of their first bilateral ODI series against Afghanistan, romping to a nine-wicket win in the third ODI at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Saturday. Asked to bowl first, Prasidh Krishna ripped through the top order on his way to a maiden ODI five-for, reducing the visitors before captain Hashmatullah Shahidi resisted with a defiant 102. Afghanistan were bowled out for 218. The chase never looked in doubt. Rohit Sharma made a brisk 79 and added a commanding opening stand with Yashasvi Jaiswal, who brought up his second ODI hundred with a six to finish unbeaten. India reached 224 for 1 in just 28.4 overs, requiring under 29 overs to knock off the modest total. Jaiswal was named Player of the Match, while captain Shubman Gill, who amassed 238 runs across the series, was adjudged Player of the Series. The result underlined India's superiority across both formats of the tour, having earlier won the one-off Test by an innings.



SPORTS

Messi brace makes him World Cup's all-time top scorer

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

DALLAS, June 22: Lionel Messi became the all-time leading goalscorer in men's World Cup history as Argentina defeated Austria 2-0 on Monday to seal their passage to the knockout rounds of the 2026 tournament. Messi opened the scoring in the 38th minute, converting a cutback at the AT&T Stadium, and added a second deep in stoppage time after an initial shot was blocked. The two goals took his World Cup tally to 18, moving him clear of Germany's Miroslav Klose, who had held the record with 16. The Argentina captain had earlier missed a penalty in the ninth minute, but recovered to dominate a match in which Austria failed to register a shot on target in the first half. A crowd of 70,649, heavily pro-Argentina, roared the holders to victory. The win gave the defending champions six points from two games, confirming their progression with matches still to spare. "It was a crucial victory, hard-fought and well-earned," Messi said, adding that it gave the team "peace of mind for what lies ahead."

PUBLIC NOTICES · TENDERS · AUCTIONS · RECRUITMENT

GOVERNMENT OF J&K — STATUTORY BODY (RAJOURI)

Ref: e-Tender 56111374

Supply of Laptops (Intel Core Ultra, 16GB RAM) — Rajouri

Supply of laptop computers (Intel Core Ultra processor, 16 GB RAM; quantity 02) for a government establishment at Rajouri. Bidders should refer the e-tender on jktenders.gov.in for the detailed technical specification, w...

Type: Supply
Last date: 2 Jul 2026
Est. cost: Refer e-tender
EMD: Refer e-tender
Location: Rajouri district, J&K
Contact: Concerned procuring authority, Rajouri · Refer NIT PDF

GOVERNMENT OF J&K — STATUTORY BODY (RAJOURI)

Ref: e-Tender 56111352

Supply of Automotive & Electrical Components (17 Items), Rajouri

Supply of assorted automotive and electrical components (17 line items) for a government department at Rajouri. Refer the e-tender for the item schedule, quantities and qualification.

Type: Supply
Last date: 2 Jul 2026
Est. cost: Refer e-tender
EMD: Refer e-tender
Location: Rajouri district, J&K
Contact: Concerned procuring authority, Rajouri · Refer NIT PDF

MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES (MES) — UDHAMPUR

Ref: e-Tender 143788014

Roof Treatment of Vivekananda Block, Conference Hall & Aryabhata Block, APS Udhampur

Waterproofing / roof treatment of the Vivekananda Block, Conference Hall and Aryabhata Block at Army Public School (APS) Udhampur. Refer the NIT for the scope, BoQ and contractor eligibility.

Type: Works
Last date: 8 Jul 2026
Est. cost: Refer NIT
EMD: Refer NIT
Location: Udhampur, J&K
Contact: Garrison Engineer, MES Udhampur · Refer NIT PDF

GOVERNMENT OF J&K — STATUTORY BODY (KISHTWAR)

Ref: e-Tender 56112046

Supply of IT Maintenance Items & Printer Components, Kishtwar

Supply of IT maintenance consumables and printer components for a government office at Kishtwar. Estimated about ₹1.55 lakh; refer the e-tender for the item list and delivery terms.

Type: Supply
Last date: 30 Jun 2026
Est. cost: Approx. ₹1.55 lakh
EMD: Refer e-tender
Location: Kishtwar district, J&K
Contact: Concerned procuring authority, Kishtwar · Refer NIT PDF

GOVERNMENT OF UT LADAKH — STATUTORY BODY (KARGIL)

Ref: e-Tender 56112076

Supply of Stores & Equipment (Metal, Clocks, Handles & Allied Items), Kargil

Supply of assorted stores and equipment — metal/potassium items, clocks, handles and allied hardware — for a government department at Kargil. Estimated about ₹13.37 lakh; refer the e-tender for the full schedule.

Type: Supply
Last date: 1 Jul 2026
Est. cost: Approx. ₹13.37 lakh
EMD: Refer e-tender
Location: Kargil, Ladakh
Contact: Concerned procuring authority, Kargil · Refer NIT PDF

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT — KARGIL (CAPEX)

Ref: e-Tender 56111856

Re-modeling of Irrigation Khul Makhaldoor at Head Work, Kargil

Re-modeling of the irrigation khul Makhaldoor at the head work under CAPEX, Kargil. Estimated about ₹24.19 lakh; percentage/item-rate against BoQ — refer the e-tender.

Type: Works
Last date: 8 Jul 2026
Est. cost: Approx. ₹24.19 lakh
EMD: Refer NIT (CDR)
Location: Kargil, Ladakh
Contact: Executive Engineer, Irrigation, Kargil · Refer NIT PDF

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT — KARGIL

Ref: e-Tender 56111852

Renovation of Irrigation Channel — Asthana Yoglungs via Lamfet, Sankoo (Kargil)

Renovation of the irrigation channel from Asthana Yoglungs via Lamfet at Sankoo, Kargil. Estimated about ₹49.48 lakh; refer the e-tender for the section-wise BoQ and qualification.

Type: Works
Last date: 8 Jul 2026
Est. cost: Approx. ₹49.48 lakh
EMD: Refer NIT (CDR)
Location: Sankoo, Kargil, Ladakh
Contact: Executive Engineer, Irrigation, Kargil · Refer NIT PDF

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT — KARGIL

Ref: e-Tender 56111851

Construction of Water Reservoir Tank with C.C. Bunding at Talmadoo, Kargil

Construction of a water reservoir tank with cement-concrete bunding at Talmadoo, Kargil. Estimated about ₹32.49 lakh; refer the e-tender for drawings, BoQ and completion period.

Type: Works
Last date: 8 Jul 2026
Est. cost: Approx. ₹32.49 lakh
EMD: Refer NIT (CDR)
Location: Talmadoo, Kargil, Ladakh
Contact: Executive Engineer, Irrigation, Kargil · Refer NIT PDF

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT — KARGIL

Ref: e-Tender 56111845

Restoration / Construction of Water Reservoir Tank at Mohalla Doks, Choskore (Kargil)

Restoration and construction of a water reservoir tank at Mohalla Doks, Choskore, Kargil. Estimated about ₹55.48 lakh; refer the e-tender for the BoQ and qualification.

Type: Works
Last date: 8 Jul 2026
Est. cost: Approx. ₹55.48 lakh
EMD: Refer NIT (CDR)
Location: Choskore, Kargil, Ladakh
Contact: Executive Engineer, Irrigation, Kargil · Refer NIT PDF

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT — KARGIL

Ref: e-Tender 56111849

Upgradation / Renovation of Canal at Lalung (RD 2150–2210 m), Kargil

Upgradation and renovation of the canal at Lalung between RD 2150–2210 metres, Kargil. Estimated about ₹2.82 lakh; refer the e-tender for the BoQ.

Type: Works
Last date: 8 Jul 2026
Est. cost: Approx. ₹2.82 lakh
EMD: Refer NIT (CDR)
Location: Lalung, Kargil, Ladakh
Contact: Executive Engineer, Irrigation, Kargil · Refer NIT PDF

J&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&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

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REGIONAL

LG Sinha Leads Yoga Day Celebrations By Dal Lake

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

SRINAGAR, June 21: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday led the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in celebrating the 12th International Day of Yoga, joining thousands of yoga enthusiasts at a session held on the banks of the picturesque Dal Lake in Srinagar. The celebrations saw the participation of government officials, citizens and youth, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address from the national event telecast live for the gathering. The LG underlined the significance of yoga in promoting holistic well-being. "True health means balancing the body, mind and emotions. Yoga teaches us to turn inward," Sinha said, adding that yoga guides society toward a healthier and happier future. He linked the practice to the ongoing "Drug-Free Jammu Kashmir" movement, noting that yoga was driving real change by aiding both prevention and recovery among the youth.

Similar events were held across the districts of the Union Territory, drawing schoolchildren, officials and members of the public. The annual observance, marked worldwide on June 21, again turned the iconic Dal Lake into a centrepiece for the Valley's participation in the global event.

REGIONAL

CM Omar Reviews Preparations for Kheer Bhawani Mela at Tulmulla Shrine

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

Ganderbal, June 18: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday visited the Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tulmulla in Ganderbal district to review preparations for the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela, scheduled to be held on June 22.

During the visit, the Chief Minister inspected facilities being arranged for devotees expected to arrive from across the country and abroad to participate in the religious festival and offer prayers at the shrine of Goddess Ragnya Devi.

Addressing media persons, Abdullah said the mela is an important religious occasion and the administration is committed to ensuring a smooth and comfortable pilgrimage experience for all devotees.

"As the local MLA, I have come to review the arrangements, assess the preparations and identify any pending requirements," he said.

The Chief Minister interacted with temple priests and officials of the local administration to review ongoing works and discuss measures needed ahead of the festival. He said certain requirements highlighted during the visit would be addressed before the commencement of the mela.

The annual Kheer Bhawani Mela is one of the most significant religious events for the Kashmiri Pandit community. Held at the historic Ragnya Devi Temple in Tulmulla village, the festival attracts thousands of devotees who gather to seek blessings of the Goddess.

The shrine is dedicated to Goddess Ragnya Devi, regarded as the presiding deity and protector of Kashmiri Hindus. The festival derives its name from 'Kheer', a traditional milk-and-

REGIONAL

Tharoor Clarifies 'Normalcy' Remarks on J&K Amid Congress Criticism

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

Jammu, June 22: Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs Chairman Shashi Tharoor on Monday sought to clarify his recent comments on the "encouraging progress towards normalcy" in Jammu and Kashmir after the remarks drew criticism from sections within his own party.

Speaking to reporters during the committee's visit to Jammu, Tharoor said his observations were based solely on discussions with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and should not be interpreted as a detailed evaluation of the overall situation in the Kashmir Valley. He emphasized that he had not yet interacted with a wider cross-section of political leaders, civil society representatives or residents and therefore was not in a position to make a comprehensive assessment.

The Congress leader explained that the Parliamentary Standing Committee's visit was focused on issues falling under the domain of external affairs, including India-Pakistan relations, Sino-Indian relations and the functioning of passport services in the region. He maintained that examining domestic political conditions was not part of the committee's mandate.

Tharoor's clarification came a day after he shared a social media post describing his meeting with the Lieutenant Governor as positive and noting signs of outreach to various sections of society. While acknowledging that several challenges still remain, he said the interaction had left him more optimistic about the situation than before.

During the visit, the committee reviewed the functioning of the Regional Passport Office and Passport Seva Kendras, with members stressing the need for faster passport processing and improved service delivery. The delegation also held discussions with officials from the Ministry of External Affairs, police and

REGIONAL

Vaishno Devi Yatra Crosses 50 Lakh Pilgrim Mark in 2026

BY KARAN KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

Katra, June 23: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra has achieved a major milestone during the current calendar year, with the number of devotees visiting the Holy Cave Shrine crossing 50 lakh.

As of June 22, a total of 50.70 lakh pilgrims have undertaken the sacred pilgrimage to seek the blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi. The figure represents a substantial increase over the corresponding period last year, when approximately 39.84 lakh devotees had visited the shrine.

The current year's pilgrimage has witnessed an increase of 10.86 lakh pilgrims, reflecting growing devotion among devotees from across India and abroad.

Officials said the surge in pilgrim footfall demonstrates the strong faith of devotees and their confidence in the arrangements made by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and other agencies involved in managing the pilgrimage.

Under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the Shrine Board has undertaken several initiatives to improve the pilgrimage experience. These include upgrades in infrastructure, accommodation, sanitation, healthcare facilities, crowd management systems, battery car services, ropeway operations, disaster preparedness and digital services.

The Shrine Board expressed confidence that the encouraging trend would continue during the remaining months of the year, further strengthening one of the country's most revered pilgrimage destinations.

REGIONAL

Cabinet Clears Reply To Centre On Reservation Report

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 23 JUN, 2026

JAMMU, June 22: The Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, on Monday gave its nod to the Social Welfare Department's response to queries raised by the Union Government on the contentious reservation report. The Cabinet Sub-Committee had revised reservation allocations in December 2025, reducing the Economically Weaker Sections quota from 10 per cent to 3 per cent and the Reserved Backward Areas category from 10 per cent to 7 per cent, thereby raising the share of Open Merit candidates. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs had subsequently raised data-related queries on the report, which the Social Welfare Department addressed after what officials described as an over month-long exercise. Apart from the reservation matter, the Cabinet also took up multiple developmental projects submitted by various departments for approval. The reservation issue has been politically sensitive in the Union Territory, with several groups closely tracking changes to the quota structure. The meeting marked another step in the elected government's effort to finalise the revised framework and forward its considered response to the Centre for further processing.