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SYSTEM

OBSERVER

"Observing the System, Informing the World"

J&K gun battle enters day 3 as militants, forces engage in fierce firefight

SRINAGAR

The massive anti-militancy operation in the forested areas of Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, entered third day today, with fierce

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PM MODI DEDICATES SUCCESS OF OPERATION SINDOOR TO MAHADEV, SLAMS OPPOSITION

SYSTEM OBSERVER VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday invoked Lord Shiva's 'Rudra roop' (fierce form) to describe India's resolute action against terrorism, saying Operation Sindoor show-

cased the country's strength to the world and delivered a clear message that anyone who dares attack India will not be spared, not even in 'Pataal Lok'.

Addressing a public meeting in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi, the prime minister also accused the Congress of repeatedly insulting the valour of the armed forces and even terming 'Operation Sindoor' a "tamasha" (spectacle).

"Can 'Sindoor' ever be a joke? They dared to insult the sacred mark of our sisters and the valour of our soldiers," he said.

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NEET-PG Exam conducted across 301 cities; over 2,42,000 candidates appear

SYSTEM OBSERVER NEW DELHI

More than 2,42,000 candidates on Sunday appeared for the NEET-PG exam, which is conducted by the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) for admission to various post graduate medical courses.

The exam was

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Akhnoor Land Scam: Fard Issued in Deceased Man's Name; FIR Registered

Legal Heir Alleges Inaction Against Main Accused in Written Complaint

AVINASH BASSAN

SYSTEM OBSERVER AKHNOOR

A sensational land scam has come to light in Akhnoor, shaking the local administration. In this case, a land ownership document (fard) was fraudulently issued in the name of a deceased man, prompting his legal heir, Neelkanth, to accuse revenue officials and influential local individuals of orchestrating the fraud in collusion. Although

an FIR (No. 0129) has been registered at PS Akhnoor, the complainant alleges that no substantial action has been taken against the main accused, whose names were clearly

In a written complaint submitted to the SDM Akhnoor, Neelkanth identified a local trader residing in Ward No. 6 of Akhnoor as the main planner and conspirator behind the scam. He alleged that this individual, along with a few others, attempted to exploit internal connections within the revenue department to push through the fraudulent land deal. These names, however, have not been included in the official FIR.

Neelkanth

mentioned in a written submission to the SDM Akhnoor.

According to documents accessed by System Observer, the fard was processed under Application No. 126924052025220895 15 and finalized on June 3, 2025, by the office of the Tehsildar Akhnoor. Despite multiple prior objections, the application was approved by field staff,

and Patwari Mukesh Sharma issued a verification stating the land was "fit for sale." Critically, this was done without following the mandatory legal procedure of mutation, even though Neelkanth had already been legally recorded as the rightful heir following the death of his father, Bhola Nath, on October 24, 2022.

In an exclusive conversation with System Observer, Neelkanth claimed this was not a clerical error but a deliberate act of fraud,

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Akhnoor Cooperative Marketing Society Under Scrutiny: Public Demands Transparency in Shop Allotment and Revenue Use

System Observer Exclusive

AVINASH BASSAN

AKHNOOR

The Akhnoor Cooperative Marketing Society Ltd., registered under JRCS/560/R on 1st Magh 1999 (Vikrami Samvat) with the Joint Registrar Cooperative Societies, Jammu, was founded to uplift farmers and agriculturists across the Akhnoor region. As per the latest available audit conducted for the financial year 2014-15 under Section 64 of the J&K Cooperative

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Societies Act No. X of 1989, the society's objectives include marketing of agricultural produce, providing loans, arranging fertilizers and seeds, constructing storage godowns, and acting as a government agent. Covering villages like Chowki Choura, Sungal

FROM PAGE-1

PM Modi.....

"My heart was filled with sorrow for the 26 people who lost their lives in the Pahalgam terror attack ... My promise to avenge 'Sindoor' of our daughters was fulfilled with blessings of Mahadev," he said, adding, "I dedicate the success of the operation at the feet of Mahadev."

The prime minister stressed that the "unity of 140 crore countrymen" became the "strength of Operation Sindoor".

"Shiva means welfare, but when terrorism and injustice raise their ugly head, Mahadev takes his 'Rudra roop'. During Operation Sindoor, the world witnessed this very form of India," the prime minister said, warning that "whoever attacks India will not survive, even in Pataal Lok (netherworld)".

Taking a dig at the Opposition, Modi alleged that while the country was celebrating the success of Operation Sindoor, "some people in our own country were troubled by it".

"Congress and its allies are unable to digest the fact that India demolished terrorist hideouts inside Pakistan," he said.

"Aren't you proud of Operation Sindoor? Aren't you proud that India destroyed terror bases (in Pakistan and PoK)," the prime minister asked the gathering.

He added, "You all must have seen the visuals of how our drones and missiles precisely struck and reduced terrorist headquarters to rubble.

"Several air bases in Pakistan are still in ICU. While Pakistan's anguish is understandable, what's shocking is that Congress and Samajwadi Party leaders are also unable to cope with it."

Modi also attacked the Samajwadi Party (SP) for questioning the timing of Operation Mahadev, in which three Pahalgam attack terrorists were killed.

"One of their leaders asked in Parliament — 'why were the attackers of Pahalgam killed now'. Should I call and ask Samajwadi leaders whether to strike now or later? Should we wait and let the terrorists escape?" Modi asked.

"These are the same people who, during their rule in Uttar Pradesh, gave clean chits to terrorists and withdrew cases against those involved in bomb blasts," Modi claimed, adding that such parties are now disturbed because terrorists are being eliminated.

"This is 'Naya Bharat' (New India), which worships Lord Shiva but turns Kaal Bhairav against its enemies when needed," the prime minister said.

Modi stressed that Operation Sindoor has demonstrated India's indigenous defence capabilities to the world.

"The power of our locally developed missiles, drones and air defence systems was on full display (during Operation Sindoor). Our BrahMos missile instilled such fear in the enemy that people in Pakistan can't sleep peacefully even in their dreams."

Expressing pride as an MP from Uttar Pradesh, the PM announced that BrahMos missiles will soon be manufactured in Lucknow.

"Weapons made in the UP Defence Corridor will become the backbone of India's military strength," he said, asking the crowd if they felt proud of India's self-reliant defence capabilities.

Issuing a stern warning, he declared, "If Pakistan dares to repeat its mistakes, missiles made in UP will wipe out terrorists."

Launched on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives, Operation Sindoor showcased calibrated, tri-services action targeting terror hideouts in Pakistan.

During his visit to Varanasi — his Lok Sabha constituency for the third term running — the prime minister inaugurated and laid the foundation for development projects worth over Rs 2,000 crore, besides distributing the 20th installment of the PM KISAN Samman Nidhi worth Rs 20,500 crore to over 9.70 crore eligible farmers nationwide.

NEET-PG Exam.....

conducted in a single shift on the computer-based platform across 301 cities and in 1,052 test centres, official sources said.

This is the largest computer-based exam in India in terms of number of candidates which has been conducted in a single shift.

The NBEMS had engaged more than 2,200 faculty members from various medical colleges and accredited hospitals to ensure zero tolerance towards use of unfair means cases.

The NBEMS had also written to the chief secretaries, DGPs of all the states to ensure adequate law and order, cyber security and uninterrupted

power supply at all the test centres. Assistance had also been sought from district administration and police in this regard.

In order to prevent any kind of cyber scam at test centres, NBEMS took assistance from the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs.

Around 300 cyber commandos fanned out to various exam centres, especially the sensitive ones, to prevent any kind of cheating at these test centres, officials said.

NBEMS deployed more than 200 personnel at its office to continuously view the live CCTV feed in a real time manner which was been received from all the test centres.

Senior faculty members, Dean/Director of Medical Colleges and NBEMS governing body members visited the exam centres as a flying squad.

Mobile signals at all the test centre were blocked by installing adequate number of mobile signal jammers.

NEET-PG is held for admission to various postgraduate medical courses like MD, MS and PG diploma. (Agencies)

Akhnoor Cooperative.....

Gurha, Devipur, Dadora, Khadhandra, Muthi Mera, Ambaran, Barui, and others, the society supervises around 10 primary cooperative societies and has an estimated 100 members including 5 directors and a chairman.

However, serious allegations have now emerged around the misuse of society-owned assets, particularly 45 shops and several open spaces located in high-value zones near Old and New SDH Akhnoor. These were allegedly leased out at nominal rates to influential individuals without any public bidding or transparency. Local villagers, once shareholders, were reportedly removed arbitrarily by the registrar, raising further concerns.

The founding chairman, Babu Isher Dass, is said to have donated land for the society's noble purposes-now allegedly betrayed by a system of favouritism, subletting, and rent manipulation. Claims suggest that only 20% of the actual income from these shops was deposited in the society's treasury, while large sums were diverted by a select few for personal gain.

Many shop allottees-allegedly prominent public figures of Akhnoor-are said to have dues pending for years, yet continue to earn lakhs monthly from subletting these shops. No rent revisions have been implemented for long periods, further deepening suspicions.

This issue has become the talk of the town, with growing demands from the public for a transparent investigation under the Cooperative Societies Act, ensuring accountability of all past and present office-bearers. There's a strong call to restore the core vision of the society, originally meant to serve farmers-not enrich a privileged few.

Akhnoor Land.....

allegedly supported by officials at various levels. He accused the Patwari, Girdawar, Naib Tehsildar, and Tehsildar of knowingly issuing an

illegal fard and conspiring to carry out an unlawful registry.

"The department is shielding its employees to cover up corruption and irregularities. They were on the verge of executing an illegal registry, but I intervened just in time," Neelkanth said.

While FIR No. 0129 has been formally registered, Neelkanth expressed deep dissatisfaction with the pace and seriousness of the investigation. He noted that the Investigating Officer (IO) initially gave assurances of a fair inquiry but is now conveniently on leave, raising concerns about deliberate delays and potential cover-up as alleged by the Complainant Neelkanth.

"This is nothing but lip service. The real culprits are being protected, and the department is refusing to take accountability," he added.

The revenue department, in its response to the SDM Akhnoor, claimed that the change in parentage in the fard was made by the applicant. However, legal experts and local residents have dismissed this explanation as weak and evasive, suggesting it may be part of a broader attempt to cover up deliberate misconduct.

As the scandal widens, citizens have demanded a comprehensive probe into the entire working of the Halqa-particularly focusing on the conduct of Patwari Mukesh Sharma and his associates over the past years. With strong documentary evidence, an FIR in place, and growing public attention, pressure is mounting on the administration to act decisively and ensure those responsible are held legally accountable.

J&K gun.....

exchanges of gunfire continuing between holed up militants and security forces.

The encounter, which began on Friday evening in the Akhal Khulsan forest, has so far resulted in the deaths of two militants - one suspected to be a local - while a soldier has been injured in the ongoing exchange of fire.

The operation, led by joint teams of the Army, CRPF, and Jammu and Kashmir Police, continues amid heavy gunfire as security forces intensify their efforts to flush out the remaining militants entrenched in the rugged terrain.

"Intense fire fight continued through the night in the vast forest area and the operation is going on," said a security officer. "We are ensuring a tight cordon so that no holed up terrorist man-ages to flee. There is possibility that operation may prolong."

Senior security officials are camping in Kulgam and monitoring the operation.

Sources said when the operation was launched on Friday, the security forces had an input about presence of at least four to militants being present in the area.

This is the second major encounter in Kashmir in a week.

On July 28 security forces eliminated three Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists in an encounter in the Harwan-Dachigam forest area on the outskirts of Srinagar. A day later Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in Parliament that the three militants were responsible for the April 22 attack in Pahalgam, where 25 tourists and a local pony rider were killed .

Police Station Miran Sahib, Jammu, busted Inter-district vehicle theft Module:Four arrested

SYSTEM OBSERVER JAMMU

In a major breakthrough against organized vehicle theft, Miran Sahib Police Station Bishnah,Inspector Jai Paul Sharma and ASI Pintoo Kumar under the supervision of SDPO R S Pura and SP Headquarters Jammu busted a well-coordinated theft module operating across districts, leading to the arrest of four accused so far. The module was actively involved in stealing, dismantling, and selling vehicles as scrap, with more arrests expected in the coming days.

FIR No. 94/2025 was registered on 15.07.2025 under Section 303(2) BNS at Police Station Miran Sahib. Acting

swiftly on inputs and CCTV analysis, the police team zeroed in on a location in Meen Charka, Bari Brahmana, where the stolen vehicles were being dismantled.

The mastermind, Mohammad Younis, a resident of Smailpur Kothri,had set up a tin-covered shed on his land for carrying out these illegal activities. He led a gang that includes Mohammad Hassan alias Raju, R/o Ragura Majheen (absconding), Sukhwinder Kumar alias Billa, R/o Bansultan, Miran Sahib (absconding), Bikram Singh alias Bikki, R/o Simbal Camp (arrested), Mohammad Yaqoob, R/o Bari Khad, Bari Brahmana (arrested), Zakir Hussain, R/o Kralpora, Handwara (arrested)

The gang had recently stolen a truck (JK02AE-7469) from Basti Govindpur, Simbal Morh. The vehicle was dismantled and loaded into a Tata Mobile bearing suspicious dual registration numbers—JK02E-8809 and JK02V-5762. Investigations are underway to verify the authenticity of the engine and chassis numbers.

Two additional individuals—Mohit, a scrap dealer, and Sajad Hussain, brother of the main accused, who purchased scrap parts from the stolen truck have also been found involved and are currently absconding.

Some parts from the stolen truck have been recovered, and further recovery operations are in progress.

60 KG adulterated cheese seized in Akhnoor: alarming breach of public health safety, probe initiated

AVINASH BASSAN
SYSTEM OBSERVER
AKHNOOR

In a deeply disturbing revelation that underscores serious lapses in food safety enforcement, Akhnoor Police today seized approximately 60 kilograms of adulterated cheese being transported into the region-raising pressing con-

**System Observer
Exclusive**

cerns over public health and regulatory failure.

Acting on specific intelligence, Police Station Akhnoor swiftly laid a naka and intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number JK02AK-9327. Upon inspection, the police discovered a large consignment of suspicious dairy product packed in unhygienic conditions.

The driver, Ram Paul, son of Bishamber Ram of Khour, failed to produce any documentation or explanation regarding the source, quality, or intended destination of the cheese. Suspecting foul play, the police immediately alerted the Food Safety Department.

Soon after, the Food Safety Officer (FSO), Akhnoor, arrived on site and conducted on-spot preliminary testing. The results were unequivocal-the cheese was found to be adulterated and unfit for human consumption. The entire stock was destroyed on the spot in accordance with food safety protocol. Legal proceedings have been initiated and further investigation is underway to trace the supply network.

A Growing Public Health Crisis?

This is not an isolated inci-



dent. It is reflective of a wider, alarming pattern-where adulterated food products, especially milk and dairy, continue to infiltrate local markets with little oversight or timely intervention.

Repeated exposes by the System Observer have previously highlighted the sale of unlabelled, unpackaged, and suspicious food items in open markets of Akhnoor, Jourian, and adjoining areas. However, routine market checks by the Food Safety Department remain absent or superficial, allowing violators to operate with impunity.

Citizens at Risk - Who's Accountable?

The fact that adulterated dairy products-consumed daily by families and children-can reach markets undetected reflects a systemic collapse in regulatory enforcement. Experts warn that such adulterants, often chemical-based, can lead to serious health disorders, including food poisoning, kidney damage, and long-term gas-

trointestinal illnesses.

"This isn't just about food safety violations-it's about criminal negligence. Someone is playing with the lives of innocent people," said a retired medical officer speaking to System Observer.

Police Call for Vigilance

Akhnoor Police have urged the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious food-related activity. Authorities have also hinted at widening the probe, potentially leading to crackdowns on local suppliers and cold-chain handlers involved in this illegal trade.

"We will not allow public health to be compromised. A full investigation is underway, and those behind this racket will be brought to justice," said a senior police official from Akhnoor.

This incident is a clear wake-up call to both the public and the administration. Strict, routine inspections, public awareness, and accountability are no longer optional-they are essential for protecting lives.

4.14 lakh pilgrims visits Amarnath Shrine this year, yatra suspended a week earlier

SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU

More than 6,000 pilgrims paid obeisance to Lord Shiva at the holy cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas on the final day of this year's annual Amarnath Yatra, taking the total number of yatris to 4.14 lakh, officials said.

The last year saw more than 5.10 lakh pilgrims pay their respects at the shrine.

A total of 6,497 pilgrims had darshan at the 3,800-metre-high holy cave shrine on Saturday, the officials said.

They said the yatris included 4,586 males, 1,299 females, 62 children, 51 sadhus, five sadhvis and 494 security forces personnel.

So far, 4,14,311 yatris have visited the cave shrine since the yatra started on July 3, the officials added.

The authorities on Saturday suspended this year's annual Amarnath Yatra, just a week before its scheduled conclusion, due to the need for maintenance on the tracks that were damaged by the recent heavy rainfall.

The yatra was scheduled to conclude on August 9 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. However, authorities decided to shorten it by a week, citing "critical repair and maintenance works" to be undertaken in the wake of the heavy rainfall.

SSB Jawan Dies After Falling From Roof In J&K's Doda

SYSTEM OBSERVER
DODA

A jawan of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) died after falling from the roof of a building in Gandoh area of Doda district on Saturday, officials said.

An official said that the deceased has been identified as Rajinder Prasad Bagriya, 37, son of Ramnivas Bagriya, a resident of, Nagwa, Sikar, Rajasthan. He was posted with 7 BN F Company of SSB at Gandoh.

The jawan was critically injured in the fall and was immediately shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) Doda, where doctors declared him brought dead, reported news agency JKNS.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident.

Deadly Gattu thread trade exposed: Two arrested in Jammu region as police intensify crackdown

AVINASH BASSAN
JAMMU

In a major offensive against the illegal trade of banned Chinese synthetic thread (Gattu Dore), Jammu Police have arrested two individuals from separate locations-Pouni Chak (Domana) and Garkhal (Akhnoor)-for selling this deadly nylon-based thread, notorious for causing fatal injuries to humans, birds, and animals.

Arrests in Domana and Akhnoor

On July 31, the Police Post Pouni Chak team apprehended Ishwer Mehra, son of Late Kamal Kumar, a resident of Om Nagar, Udheywala. A total of 20 rolls of banned synthetic thread were recovered from his possession. A case was registered under FIR No. 172/2025, Section 223 of the BNS at Police Station Domana.

In a separate but equally significant action on August



1, the Border Police Post Garkhal arrested Rajat Singh alias Raju, 30, son of Bagh Singh, resident of Dabbey, Tehsil Marh, Jammu. He was caught with four rolls of the banned thread. Police registered FIR No. 131/2025, under Section 223 of the BNS at Police Station Akhnoor.

Public Safety Threat - Who is to Blame?

These arrests come at a time when kite flying activi-

ties increase, and so do the gruesome injuries and fatalities caused by Gattu Dore, which is illegal, non-biodegradable, and dangerously sharp. Victims have included motorcyclists, children, and even birds, many of whom have died due to slashed throats and entanglement.

The System Observer has repeatedly raised alarms over the unchecked presence of these threads in local

markets, calling into question the role of importers, wholesalers, and enforcement agencies.

"Who is truly accountable for the deaths caused by these threads? Is it just the roadside seller, or is there a larger, protected trade network at play?"

Despite a ban, the thread continues to find its way into shops and stalls, especially during festive seasons. Repeated tragedies have not

triggered lasting reform or robust enforcement.

Police Urge Public Vigilance

The Jammu Police have reaffirmed their zero-tolerance policy toward the sale and use of Gattu Dore and have urged the public to report any suspicious sale or stockpiling of banned thread to the nearest police station.

"This thread is not just illegal-it is lethal. We are determined to end its circulation before more lives are lost," stated a senior police official.

These back-to-back arrests underscore the urgent need for a coordinated crackdown, not just on street-level vendors but on the entire supply chain fueling this silent killer. The System Observer will continue to monitor this growing public safety crisis until accountability is fixed and lives are no longer put at risk by a thread.

Inter-district vehicle theft gang busted in Miran Sahib, four held

SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU

Police in Miran Sahib area today claimed to have busted an inter-district vehicle theft module with the arrest of four accused involved in stealing, dismantling and selling vehicles as scrap.

A police official said acting on leads in case FIR number 94/2025 registered under section 303(2) of BNS at Police Station Miran Sahib, a police team raided a shed at Meen Charkha, Bari Brahmana and found a man, Mohammad Younis of Smailpur Kothri, dismantling a stolen vehicle.

According to him, the police team got to know from the accused that he was operating the racket along with five other individuals.

Accordingly, he said, Younis and his three associates-Bikram Singh alias Bikki of Simbal Camp, Mohammad Yaqoob of Bari Khad, and Zakir Hussain of Kralpora, Handwara-were arrested, while two others, identified as Mohammad Hassan alias Raju of Majheen and Sukhwinder Kumar alias Billa of Bansultan, Miran Sahib, remained at large.

The police official said, during the raid, police found that a truck recently stolen from Basti Govindpur, Simbal Morh, was being dismantled and loaded into a suspicious Tata Mobile.

"The vehicle's engine and chassis numbers are under verification," he said.

He said, two more persons-Mohit, a scrap dealer, and Sajad Hussain, brother of the main accused (Mohammad Younis)-have also been found involved and are absconding.

"Police have recovered several parts from the stolen truck, and further recovery operations are underway," added the police official.

NCB Jammu arrests drug trafficking accused after 3 years

SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU

The Jammu Zonal Unit of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has arrested a key accused involved in major drug trafficking cases in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir.

As per an NCB handout, the accused was wanted in connection with the seizure of 4,320 capsules of Tramadol (SpasmoProxyvon Plus) and 360 bottles of Codeine-based cough syrup in February 2022, along with another seizure of 590 bottles of Codeine-based cough syrup in May 2022.

It said the investigations revealed that he was the main receiver of both consignments and was also involved in four other narcotics-related cases registered by Jammu and Kashmir Police.

"He had been evading arrest for the last three years," the statement said.

The NCB officials said the arrest highlights their continued efforts to crack down on drug traffickers in line with the vision of a Drug-Free India.

Meanwhile, citizens have been urged to support the fight against drugs by reporting any related information on the toll-free MANAS National Narcotics Helpline number 1933.

The NCB has promised to keep the identity of the informers confidential.

Elections for JMC Trade Unions should be fare: Gill

SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU

JMC Workers Union has demanded that the upcoming elections for Trade Unions of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) should be as per the established rules and regulations of the local body.

Addressing a press conference here today, Rinku Gill, president of JMC Workers Union, said that the contesting candidates for these elections should be registered with their union and all the unions participating in the elections should also be properly registered.

"We expect that the elections should be peaceful and fare," he further said.

Gill also said that they expect that those who emerge as winners should work for the workers and other employees of JMC so that long pending demands of JMC employees are fulfilled.

"We will co-operate with the election authorities in every way for ensuring fare elections," he maintained.

Crackdown on Modified Vehicles in Jammu: Traffic Police Intensify Drive Amid Rising Road Safety Concerns

SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU

In a determined move to enhance road safety and curb unlawful vehicle alterations, the Traffic Police City Jammu have launched a special drive against modified vehicles, issuing 30 challans to violators in a single day during their ongoing crackdown. The campaign targets vehicles modified in ways that are not consistent with the specifications listed in their Registration Certificates (RCs)-a practice deemed illegal under motor vehicle regulations.

Officials from the Traffic Police reiterated their strict stance against unauthorized vehicle modifications, warning that such alterations not only breach the law but also endanger both the driver and the public. "We once again appeal to the public to avoid tampering with their vehicles beyond what is permitted by the RC. Any deviation from the standard norms can lead to legal action," a traffic police spokesperson said.

Rising Concern: Rash Driving & Hit-and-Run Cases Spike in Jammu

The drive comes amid a disturbing rise in rash driving and hit-and-run cases in various parts of Jammu. Such incidents, often involving unregistered or illegally modified vehicles, have contributed to growing insecurity among citizens, particularly in densely populated urban zones and accident-prone corridors.

System Observer's Repeated Warnings



The System Observer newspaper has previously raised multiple red flags over the increasing number of vehicles operating without registration numbers in Jammu city. These vehicles pose a serious security threat, allowing violators to escape accountability in cases of traffic violations and criminal activities. Despite public outcry and repeated media coverage, concrete action in this direction remains pending.

Public Applauds Traffic Police Efforts

Despite these concerns, the general public has shown

appreciation for the recent intensified efforts of the Traffic Police City Jammu. Many citizens believe that such focused crackdowns are a step in the right direction toward restoring order on the roads and ensuring compliance with traffic norms.

As enforcement agencies continue to act against violators, the message is clear: Road safety and lawful conduct cannot be compromised. Citizens are encouraged to cooperate with law enforcement and report instances of traffic violations to help create a safer environment for all.

Shri Ram Leela Club holds preparatory meeting for Janmashtami Shobha Yatra in Akhnoor



SYSTEM OBSERVER
AKHNOOR

Shri Ram Leela Club Akhnoor organized a meeting at Shri Radha Krishna Temple under the chairmanship of its president, Brijpal Mehta, to discuss the arrangements for the upcoming Shobha Yatra on the occasion of Shri Krishna Janmashtami Mahotsav.

Addressing the gathering, Brijpal Mehta announced that

this year's Shobha Yatra will be taken out on Janmashtami day, August 16, starting at 3:00 PM from Shri Radha Krishna Temple near the Bus Stand. The grand procession will pass through the main areas of the town before culminating back at the temple. He extended a heartfelt invitation to all religious devotees and community members to participate in the Shobha Yatra and contribute to its spiritual vibrancy.

Former BJP MLA Rajiv Sharma, who was also present, expressed pride in the long-standing tradition of the Janmashtami Shobha Yatra in Akhnoor. "We are proud to say that this tradition has been carried forward with devotion for the last 45 years," he said. He also emphasized the importance of involving the younger generation in such religious celebrations to ensure that the cultural and spiritual heritage of the region continues to thrive. He assured that all possible support will be extended for the successful organization of the event.

The meeting also highlighted the participation of various social and religious organizations in the Shobha Yatra, aiming to make it a grand and inclusive celebration.

Prominent individuals who attended the meeting included Pandit Ganesh Dutt, Tarsem Mahajan, Vinod Gupta, Rakesh Gupta, Ravi Verma, Kamal Mehta, Pawan Sharma, Raju Palbhalia, Pandit Mohini Sharma, Parshottam Mahajan, Subhash Chandra, and Mohan Singh Jamwal. The collective commitment of these members reaffirmed the community's dedication to preserving and promoting religious traditions in Akhnoor.

PM Kisan Yojana program organized, MLA Mohan Lal listens virtual address of PM with farmers



**SYSTEM OBSERVER
AKHNOOR**

A special program was organized by the Agriculture Department in Lower Sungal B Panchayat of Akhnoor to mark the release of the 20th installment to the farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman

Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme. A large number of farmers were present in the program and listened to the address of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on virtual mode.

Akhnoor MLA Mohan Lal was the chief guest at the program. On this occasion, Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer

(SDAO) Rajan Sharma, Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO) Yogesh Mehta, former Sarpanch Shamsher Singh, former Sarpanch Rampal Sharma, BJP Mandal President Shamsher Das, Jagdish Singh, Gullu Ram, Ganesh Sharma and many other dignitaries were present.

Officials of the Agriculture Department interacted with the farmers and gave information about various government agriculture projects including PM Kisan Yojana. Farmers were told that under the scheme, eligible farmers are given assistance of ₹6,000 annually in three installments directly in their Aadhaar-linked bank accounts.

In the program, special emphasis was laid on completing e-KYC, linking Aadhaar, and updating land records so that farmers can easily avail the benefits of the scheme. Officials also heard the problems of the farmers and assured them of a solution.

APS Akhnoor wins Bronze Medal in CBSE Cluster-XVIII Under-14 Boys Football Tournament

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
AKHNOOR**

Army Public School Akhnoor performed brilliantly and secured Bronze Medal in the Under-14 (Boys) category in the CBSE Cluster-XVIII Football Tournament (2025-26) held from 27th to 31st July 2025 at Om Prakash Bansal Modern School, Gobindgarh (Punjab).

32 renowned schools of the region participated in this prestigious tournament and displayed their best game amidst tough competition. The youth football team of APS Akhnoor started its campaign with full enthusiasm and discipline. In the first match, the team made its intentions clear by defeating Norwood School, Balachaur 3-0 in a spectacular manner. After this, the team defeated Dohba Public Senior Secondary School 1-0 in a close match.

In the quarter-finals, APS Akhnoor displayed a brilliant game against Cambridge



International School Phagwara and won 2-0 and entered the semi-finals. In the semi-finals, the team faced King Edward Public School Mahilpur. Both the teams displayed excellent sportsmanship and patience. No team could score a goal in the stipulated time, due to which the match was decided by

penalty shootout. Unfortunately, APS Akhnoor could not make it to the finals, but on the basis of total points, the team captured the bronze medal. The hard work and guidance of coach Hrithik Manhas played an important role in this achievement.

National sentiments hurt by sports relations with Sindoor's killers

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

Restoration of sports relations with Pakistan, which has been playing the dirty game of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir for the last 4 decades, including Pulwama, Pahalgam attacks, will be an act that hurts the public sentiments of the nation, betting money during the match nourishes terrorism, when water, air space can be stopped, why sports relations?, stated by Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena(UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit.

Led by party state chief Manish Sahni, demonstrated vigorously near the Muthi state office in Jammu, holding plac-

ards that read "Sports relations with the killers of Sindoor are intolerable", "Water and air-space stopped, why Cricket?", "Nurturing terrorism through match betting", etc.

Sahni said that any kind of relations with the enemies of Sindoor cannot be tolerated. After being humiliated and pleading during Operation Sindoor, Pakistan has once again started infiltrating the border and nurturing terrorists. 98 terrorist incidents took place in Jammu and Kashmir from January to July this year (2025) and 32 terrorists were killed.

After Operation Sindoor, 13 terrorists were killed in 13 terrorist incidents in May, 4 terrorists were killed in 12 incidents

in June and 3 terrorists were killed in 8 incidents in July. On the very first day of August, a terrorist was killed in Kulgam, Kashmir, while the encounter is still going on.

Sahni said that the tail named Pakistan will never straighten up. During the Indo-Pak cricket match, betting kingpin Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar and his henchmen hiding in Pakistan's lap become more active. Because the most betting is done when these two countries come face to face.

A large part of this money is used to nurture terrorists.

Sahni has also accused BCCI of hurting national sentiments and filling its coffers.

Rekha Mahajan urges Ashish Sood to reject early release plea of Priyadarshini's killer

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir Vice President, Rekha Mahajan has written a strong letter to Ashish Sood, Minister for Home Affairs, Delhi, urging the Sentence Review Board (SRB) to firmly reject the early release plea of Santosh Kumar Singh, who was convicted for the heinous rape and murder of Priyadarshini Mattoo in 1996.

In her letter, Rekha Mahajan emphasized that granting leniency to a convict in such a brutal and premeditated crime would not only embolden other criminals but also undermine the public's faith in the judicial system.

"This is not just about one case — it's about the message we send to society," she wrote.

Rekha highlighted the relentless struggle Priyadarshini's family undertook to secure justice and reminded that her parents had demanded the harshest punishment for their daughter's murderer.

"The pain and trauma they endured cannot be forgotten. The psychological assessments submitted to the SRB should not overshadow the sheer gravity of this crime," she asserted.

Calling the case a litmus test for justice, Rekha Mahajan appealed to the Minister to uphold the spirit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" initiative, and to ensure that the justice system remains a pillar of hope for women across the nation.

"By rejecting his plea, you will not only honor Priyadarshini's memory but also send a strong message that crimes against women will not be forgiven," she said.

Law Dept unveils first of its kind "Citizen Centric Services" initiative to boost legal access in J&K

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
SRINAGAR**

In a significant move to enhance the citizen services, the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs today presented to the Chief Secretary, Atal Dooloo a new initiative on 'Citizen Centric Services'. The presentation, led by Secretary Law, Achal Sethi, in presence of Secretary, IT, Dr Piyush Singla; SIO, NIC, JS Modi and others detailed a comprehensive plan to leverage a mobile application and helpline to provide a wide range of legal and administrative services to the public.

The initiative is structured into ten distinct modules, each designed to simplify public access to key services including Legal Aid/Advice Module. This module would help the citizens to seek legal aid and advice via a mobile app or helpline. The module will connect them with Legal Aid Counsels and Pro Bono Counsels and provide contact details for the State and District Legal Services Authorities (SLSA/DLSA). The mobile application will provide easy access to both Central and UT Acts, Rules & Notifications, with links to the Law Department's website and the India Code website.

It will have unique feature of providing enrolment process, welfare schemes, notary and oath commissioner services and a list of government advocates besides standing counsels and career guidance for Advocates. App will provide unique features for guiding the citizens for registration of documents and registration of marriages under different Laws.

This module will offer a list of MLAs with their contact details, information on legislative business, committee reports, and Q&As in the Legislative Assembly. It will also provide a link to live proceedings and a platform for public opinion on draft legislation.

The mobile app will also feature information on various courts, including the Supreme Court, High Court and District Courts, along with cause lists and the status of cases. It will also provides information on landmark judgments and details of courts and their locations.

The module further envisages guiding citizens on law-related education, providing a list of National Law Universities (NLUs) and local universities offering law courses. It will also offer advice from legal experts on how and when to apply. The citizens can also find details on the registration process, including office locations, model templates, a checklist of required documents and a list of stamp vendors.

Passenger assaulted 4 staffers at Srinagar Airport on Jul 26; FIR Filed: SpiceJet



**SYSTEM OBSERVER
NEW DELHI**

SpiceJet on Sunday said a senior Army officer, who was to board a flight to Delhi, assaulted four airline ground staffers at the Srinagar airport on July 26, and one of them suffered a spinal fracture.

An FIR has been registered with the local police, and the airline has initiated the process to place the passenger on the no-fly list in accordance with civil aviation regulations, the airline said and added that the assault happened after the passenger was told to pay for the extra cabin baggage.

Video clips of the incident shared on social media showed the passenger assaulting the staff and one of them being hit with a queue stand at the airport.

The injured were taken to the hospital and are undergoing

treatment.

"A passenger grievously assaulted four SpiceJet employees at the boarding gate of flight SG-386 from Srinagar to Delhi on July 26, 2025. Our staff members suffered a spinal fracture and serious jaw injuries after being attacked with punches, repeated kicks and a queue stand," SpiceJet said in a statement.

According to the airline, one employee collapsed unconscious on the floor but the passenger continued kicking and hitting the fainted employee.

"Another staff member suffered bleeding from the nose and mouth after receiving a forceful kick to the jaw while bending down to assist the colleague who had fainted," it added.

SpiceJet said the passenger, a senior Army officer, was carrying two pieces of cabin baggage weighing a total of 16 kilo-

grammes, more than double the permitted limit of 7 kilograms.

"When politely informed of the excess baggage and asked to pay the applicable charges, the passenger refused and forcefully entered the aerobridge without completing the boarding process – a clear violation of aviation security protocols. He was escorted back to the gate by a CISF official," the statement said.

At the gate, the airline said the passenger grew increasingly aggressive.

It could not be immediately ascertained whether the passenger was detained at the airport after the incident.

An FIR has been registered with the local police, and the airline has initiated the process to place the passenger on the no-fly list in accordance with civil aviation regulations, the statement said.

SpiceJet has also written to the civil aviation ministry, apprising them about the murderous assault on its staff and has requested appropriate action against the passenger.

The airline also said that it has secured the CCTV footage of the incident from the airport authorities and handed it over to the police.

Strongly condemning any act of violence against its employees, SpiceJet said it will pursue this matter to its fullest legal and regulatory conclusion.

Meanwhile, IndiGo, on Saturday, announced imposing a flying ban on the passenger who slapped a co-traveller onboard the Mumbai-Kolkata flight on Friday. (Agencies)

CCI J delegation meets state taxes commissioner, raises concern over harassment by Enforcement Wing

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

A delegation of Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu headed by its President Sh. Arun Gupta called on Commissioner State Taxes Sh. P.K.Bhat where Additional Commissioner Enforcement Madam Namrata Dogra was also present. During discussion Sh. Arun Gupta apprised the Commissioner State Taxes about the Callous attitude of the officials of the Enforcement wing of State Taxes Department in Jammu province who are deliberately harassing the innocent businessmen of Jammu by imposing huge penalties on the pretext of minor issues such as E-way bill, mismatching of Vehicles No's and other minor issues. Sh. Arun Gupta pointed out that the businessmen are depositing the GST amount honestly, no penalties should be imposed on minor defaults.

Sh. Arun Gupta further said that as & when the office bearers of Chamber of Commerce & Industry approached the enforcement team of the State Taxes Department they informed us that they have got the target of revenue collection and have also been asked/authorized by the department to penalize the defaulting traders even on minor defaults / issues to complete the assigned target.

While reacting on the issues/complaints raised by Chamber team, Commissioner State Taxes assured that no penalties shall be imposed on the minor issues.

He further assured that very shortly a meeting between the enforcement wing and Chamber of Commerce & Industry shall be arranged to resolve the issue.

The other office bearers who accompanied the delegation include Sh. Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Sh. Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Sh. Manish Gupta, Secretary General, Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Secretary and Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer.

GLDM Degree College organises awareness programme titled 'Mental Well-Being'

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
HIRANAGAR**

Recognizing the growing stress levels among students and young professionals, Red Ribbon Club of Govt. GLDM Degree College, Hiranagar organized a seminar/ awareness program titled "Mental Well-Being: Navigating Stress from Classroom to Workplace". The initiative aimed to address mental health challenges across academic and professional settings while promoting practical strategies for emotional resilience.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students Through panel discussions, interactive workshops, and counselling sessions, the program explored the transition-related anxieties students face as they step into the workplace and the mental toll of managing high expectations in competitive environments.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Neha Sharma, Medical Officer at Govt. Hospital, Hiranagar, emphasized, "Stress is not limited to boardrooms or classrooms. It follows us through every transition in life. Equipping individuals with the tools to manage stress early on is key to ensuring mental well-being and sustained productivity." The program also featured real-life testimonials from students and young professionals who have successfully navigated mental health struggles, reinforcing the message that seeking support is a strength, not a weakness.

Dr. Pragya Khanna, Principal of the College, highlighted, "Mental health awareness must be deeply integrated into our education system and workplace culture. Preparing youth to handle transitions with confidence and care is our collective responsibility."

This initiative served as a timely reminder that mental wellness must be nurtured not just in personal life, but across educational and professional spaces. The event was coordinated by Prof. Roopali Jamwal, Convener of the Red Ribbon Club. Dr. Bharat Bhushan member, RRC concluded the event by extending the vote of thanks. Prof. Rakesh Sharma along with the members of RRC felicitated the speaker of the occasion.

BJP Kisan Morcha holds Farmers' Outreach Programme in Gharkhal

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Kisan Morcha organized a farmers' outreach programme today at village Gharkhal in Pargwal Mandal, Akhnoor district. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local farming community, with over 150 farmers in attendance.

The programme was led by BJP Kisan Morcha State President Rakesh Pant, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his continued commitment to the welfare of Indian farmers.

In his address, Rakesh Pant highlighted the recent disbursement of the 20th instalment of the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, which has provided direct financial assistance to farmers across the country. He said the scheme is a "revolutionary step towards empowering the farming community and ensuring their economic stability."

Pant emphasized that the Narendra Modi government has consistently prioritized agricultural reforms and farmer welfare through landmark schemes and initiatives. He urged the



farmers present to make full use of the benefits being extended under the PM-Kisan Yojana and other agricultural development programmes launched by the central government.

Also present at the programme were prominent BJP leaders including Akhnoor District President Kuldeep Banotra, Dr. Amin, Javed Ahmad Mir, Anita Rajput, Balwinder Sharma, Amandeep Singh, Sunny, and Dalbir Singh Pawar. Each of the leaders interacted with the farmers, listened to their concerns, and assured them of continued support from the BJP government at both central and state levels.

Speaking at the event, Kuldeep Banotra said the government's consistent outreach to farmers and its people-first policies are transforming rural India. He lauded the Modi-led administration for its vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" and noted that schemes like PM-Kisan are directly contributing to grass-roots development.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks to all participants and a pledge from the BJP Kisan Morcha to continue working in close coordination with farmers to address their needs and support agricultural growth.

Morchas are the soul of the party, key to social connect: Ashok Koul



**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

In a massively attended programme held at the BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, Braham Jyot Satti was warmly felicitated on his nomination as the President of the BJP OBC Morcha for Jammu & Kashmir.

Senior BJP leaders, office bearers, and Morcha activists gathered in large numbers to congratulate Satti and express confidence in his committed and energetic leadership.

Prominent BJP leaders who graced the occasion included BJP J&K General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, Vice President Rashpal Verma, General Secretaries Baldev Singh Billawaria and Gopal Mahajan, MLA Yudhvir Sethi, BJP Treasurer Prabhat Singh, National Executive Member OBC Morcha Captain Ramesh Prajapati, Jammu District President Rajesh Gupta, and former Morcha President Sunil Prajapati.

While addressing the gathering, Ashok Koul highlighted the

critical organizational role of the Morchas in BJP's structure and vision. He stated, "Morchas are the soul of the party at the grassroots. They not only represent the voice of specific communities but also act as a bridge between the party and society. The OBC Morcha, in particular, plays a crucial part in mobilizing and empowering a large segment of the population that forms the backbone of our social fabric."

Koul further added, "Braham Jyot Satti has consistently demonstrated an exceptional commitment to both the organization and the OBC community. His organizational discipline, ability to connect with the common man, and drive to execute programmes that reflect the party's core values of 'Antyodaya' and social justice make him an ideal leader. Under his leadership, the Morcha will further strengthen its booth-level presence, engage youth and marginalized voices, and play a pivotal role in enhancing BJP's reach across Jammu & Kashmir."

Rashpal Verma praised

Braham Jyot Satti felicitated on his appointment as BJP OBC Morcha President for J&K

Satti's proven capabilities and expressed confidence that he would continue to expand the organizational structure of the Morcha and actively address the socio-economic issues faced by backward classes in the Union Territory.

Baldev Singh Billawaria appreciated Satti's deep connection with the grassroots, stating that his ability to mobilize communities for various welfare and awareness initiatives reflects his strength as a mass leader.

Gopal Mahajan extended his best wishes and expressed hope that Satti will tirelessly work for the upliftment of the OBC community while contributing to the party's mission of inclusive growth and good governance.

Yudhvir Sethi remarked, "Satti's clarity of thought and unwavering dedication have already made a significant impact. His reappointment will not only energize the Morcha but also broaden the BJP's outreach among backward classes, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas."

In his address, Braham Jyot Satti expressed heartfelt gratitude to the party's national and state leadership for the trust placed in him. "It is a matter of great honor to serve once again as the State President of BJP OBC Morcha. I am committed to deepening our engagement with the community and will work with full devotion to fulfill the party's vision of an empowered, just, and inclusive Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

Dr. Tahir Chowdhary slams CM Omar Abdullah for ignoring Jammu in tourism pitch

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

BJP spokesperson Dr. Tahir Chowdhary has slammed Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, for repeatedly sidelining Jammu in his public outreach and tourism promotion campaigns.

Reacting to Omar Abdullah's participation in a tourism-related event in Ahmedabad, Dr. Chowdhary said the focus of the Chief Minister's address — and even the event's backdrop — was solely on "Kashmir tourism" rather than the entire Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Instead of promoting Jammu and Kashmir as one integrated tourist destination, Omar Abdullah once again chose to highlight only Kashmir. This is not the first time he has ignored Jammu's identity, culture, and tourism potential," Dr. Chowdhary said.

He alleged that this reflects a deeper pattern of discrimination by Kashmir-centric political parties, who "deliberately alienate Jammu" not only in tourism promotion, but also in equitable job opportunities, developmental projects, and political representation.

Dr. Chowdhary further stated, "Leaders like Omar Abdullah must remember they represent the entire Union Territory, not just one region. The people of Jammu are equal stakeholders and deserve equal opportunities in every sector. This step-motherly treatment will no longer be tolerated."

He also accused the National Conference leadership of engaging in "double-faced politics" — seeking votes from both Jammu and Kashmir during elections, but neglecting Jammu's interests once in power.

"During campaigns, they make grand promises to Jammu's people, but after the elections, their real priorities become clear. Such politics of discrimination and neglect will be exposed, and the people of Jammu will hold them accountable," he asserted.

Dr. Chowdhary urged Omar Abdullah to publicly clarify why Jammu was excluded from his tourism pitch and to assure the region's residents of equal treatment in future initiatives.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra slams NC-Led govt for Governance Lapses in J&K

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

In a scathing critique of the NC-led government in Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge of BJP (J&K), said that the Omar Abdullah-led dispensation is derailing the development momentum initiated by the Central government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He accused the government of failing to deliver on basic governance and ignoring the aspirations of the people.

Dr. Mahotra said that the Jammu region, in particular, is reeling under sheer government apathy. The administration appears indifferent to the genuine problems of the people, and the common man continues to suffer amid growing administrative failures. He noted that instead of focusing on the real issues, the ruling NC leadership is indulging in political rhetoric and diversionary tactics, particularly around the issue of statehood, to hide its inability to govern effectively.

He reminded the government of the grand promises made by the National Conference in its 2024 poll manifesto. These included a war on drug abuse, job creation, filling government vacancies, financial assistance of ₹5000 per month to female heads of families, free 200 units of electricity, access to clean drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, hydroelectric development, and 12 free LPG cylinders per year. "Today, those promises are either forgotten or unfulfilled, exposing the disconnect between words and actions," he said.

Dr. Mahotra emphasized that critical sectors such as education, healthcare, focused tourism, PHE, PDD etc. are languishing for want of attention. He said that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah must rise to the occasion and shoulder the responsibility of accelerating the development initiatives laid out by the Modi government for J&K.

The fight of Talwara migrants shall be taken to its logical conclusion: Harsh Dev

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

Carrying forward the legacy of Panthers Party's crusade against discrimination and persecution perpetuated upon Talwara (Jammu) migrants who were living in wretched conditions in Reasi devoid of basic amenities, the JKNPP (I) State President and former Minister Harsh Dev Singh called on the Govt of Jammu & Kashmir to project the multifarious issues faced by the said migrants. Leading a delegation of 'Migrants Action Committee Talwara, District Reasi' headed by Mr. Jagdev Singh President of the committee, the former Minister sought immediate action for addressing the most genuine grievances of the said distressed class of people. He was addressing the press conference in Jammu today.

Addressing the media, Mr. Singh said neglected militancy sufferers from hillocks of Jammu region had been facing hardships since 1998 when scores of poor hand to mouth living families had to flee from

their dwellings in mountainous areas. He said that it was only Panthers Party which stood with them in all odds and continued to fight for their justice and rights. He said due to the relentless efforts of the Panthers Party in the court of law, the Honble Supreme Court of India had directed the govt of J&K to release the relief in the favour of Talwara migrants at par with Kashmiri migrants in the year 2015. He said the migrants were living a miserable life. "The dilapidated condition of residential units, lanes, drains and lack of other amenities at the colony of Talwara migrants has added to the woes of the people. They should be immediately provided proper accommodation and all other facilities at par with Kashmir migrants in consonance with the rulings of the Supreme Court.", Singh demanded.

Mr. Harsh Dev Singh also regretted the non-extension of benefits under the centrally sponsored schemes to the habitations of migrants thereby doling out a discriminatory treatment to them. He said that

migrants' children were even bereft of scholarships and old aged migrants deprived of pensions. Further highlighting the grievances of the migrants, Mr. Singh demanded release of cattle feed payment @ Rs300/- per cattle per month as directed by the Honble Supreme Court of India, the release of 2950 quintals of ration w.e.f April 2015 to December 2015, the release of kerosene oil w.e.f March 2016 till date, the release of pending arrears from 1998 to 2017 at par with Kashmiri migrants as directed by Honble Supreme Court of India, the registration of left out and bifurcated families besides newly born and married family members, the curtailment of power supply, transport facilities to the migrant students from Talwara to Reasi, protection wall to the nallah passing through the colony to save the colony from floods, etc.

Mr. Singh further called upon the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his personal intervention to take stock of the miserable plight of the Jammu migrants.

EDITORIAL

CADET CORPS IN COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT

The cadet corps in India, especially the National Cadet Corps (NCC), has played a significant role in shaping disciplined and patriotic citizens. Formed with the vision of preparing youth for national service and leadership, the cadet corps act as a vital link between academic education and military training. Its role in the country's development is multi-dimensional—contributing to defence preparedness, social responsibility, national unity, and youth empowerment. One of the most important contributions of the cadet corps is the promotion of discipline and nationalism among the youth. The training cadets receive includes regular drills, parades, and physical activities that instil a sense of time management, responsibility, and teamwork. These attributes help create a generation that is not only aware of its rights and duties but also respects national symbols and values. Participating in national celebrations, Republic Day camps, and awareness campaigns nurtures a strong feeling of patriotism and belonging towards the country. In addition to discipline, cadet

corps focus greatly on developing leadership and character. Young cadets are given responsibilities during camps and exercises, which help them build confidence and learn to lead teams. Leadership learned in these early years goes a long way in building future administrators, defence officers, educators, and entrepreneurs. By encouraging decision-making, critical thinking, and empathy, cadet corps play a silent yet strong role in preparing young minds to become capable and responsible leaders of tomorrow. Cadets also contribute significantly to society through social service and disaster response. During natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, and earthquakes, cadets are often seen volunteering in relief operations. Their quick training and sense of discipline allow them to assist in evacuation, distribute relief materials, and maintain order in chaotic situations. Besides this, they take active roles in public service campaigns such as blood donation drives, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission), anti-drug campaigns, and awareness programs related to health, hygiene, and education. These efforts contribute to the overall social development of the nation. Though cadet corps are not part of the regular army, their

training includes basic military knowledge, physical endurance, and understanding of national security. Many cadets go on to join the armed forces, police, or paramilitary services. In this way, cadet corps help strengthen the nation's defence readiness by serving as a feeder organization for well-prepared and motivated recruits. Even those who choose civilian careers carry with them a sense of duty and alertness, contributing to national security in their own ways. Another key aspect of the cadet corps is their role in promoting national unity. India is a land of diverse languages, religions, and cultures. Through camps and national-level events, cadets from various parts of the country come together, live together, and learn to appreciate differences. This experience fosters the principle of 'Unity in Diversity', a cornerstone of Indian democracy. These young cadets become agents of harmony and peace in their communities, promoting mutual respect and understanding. Cadet training also plays a vital role in promoting physical and mental fitness. Activities like obstacle training, shooting, yoga, trekking, and adventure sports develop not just physical strength but also mental resilience and emotional stability. A physically and mentally strong youth population is essential for the



progress of any nation, and the cadet corps contribute to building that strength in a structured and purposeful way. Lastly, the cadet corps open doors to employment and development opportunities for youth. NCC certificates are valued in both government and private sectors. Many competitive exams offer preference to NCC cadets, and scholarships or special quotas are available in defence and paramilitary services.

What has been missed is India's digital sovereignty

SMITA
PURUSHOTTAM, PARMINDER
JEET SINGH

The India-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (FTA), called the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), has been lauded by the Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, as the 'gold standard' for all India's trade deals. Mr. Goyal has asserted that no compromise was made in any sensitive sector. Evidently, the Minister seemed to be counting only agriculture and labour-intensive manufacturing as sensitive sectors — which they are. But remarkably, despite the wide coverage the FTA has received, the impact on India's other, highly sensitive digital sector, which permeates every sphere of national activity and holds the key to our future, has gone without official comment or media scrutiny.

We argue that the compromises made in the digital sector through the India-U.K. FTA have profound consequences for India's digital sovereignty — a term frequently invoked in high-level political discourse. India has completely flipped on several core positions that it has long maintained at global forums, including at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Source code disclosure

The most surprising giveaway is on India's sovereign right to seek ex ante access to the source code for foreign digital goods or services, even for those deemed sensitive. This is very different from getting source code ex post for a specific investigation or remedy, which is allowed under the agreement. Regulators in different sectors often have strict disclosure rules, such as for food and medicine ingredients. Software now permeates nearly every product, including telecom, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and health applications, whereby it may be crucial for the regulators to be able to 'look under the



hood' of software, for safety, security and general compliance requirements, and to enable urgent, real-time upgrades.

Giving up this right is a 180-degree turn from India's steadfast stand at the WTO and other forums. Even the United States, which first included source code related prohibitions in its FTAs and at the WTO, withdrew this formulation last year, recognising its domestic regulatory, law enforcement and security imperatives. In the U.S. driven Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), the 'source code disclosure' provision applied only to mass-market software such as Microsoft's operating systems — meaning not to niche and custom-made software. It specifically excluded software for critical infrastructure. In the U.K. FTA text, the prohibition applies to all software. Businesses are always free to enter, or avoid, transactions requiring disclosure of source code. What is sacrificed here are India's regulatory rights in this regard, for all times to come, in a sector that has just begun to take shape.

Surrendering a critical national resource
Granting equal and non-

discriminatory access for U.K. parties to 'Open Government Data' — a term from the pre-digital era which then meant government transparency, and access to its statistics — constitutes another major giveaway. This is because data is not what it used to be. Today, it has acquired an entirely new avatar, being the digital era's most valuable resource. AI, where heated competition for global mastery is raging, is but patterns derived from data, which is why data is deemed to be priceless.

This concession is very significant, even though this provision is yet at a 'best endeavour' level, and non-binding. It is incomprehensible why India (where the intention to be an AI superpower is a staple of top-level political rhetoric), has conceded that national data held by the government is not a sovereign resource but an international free for all. Facilitating foreign access to such data poses risks of eroding India's competitive advantage in using India's own data to create Indian AI products, and also serious security risks as national data can be weaponised.

The most contested issues in digital trade are the 'free flow of data' and

'data localisation'. While India seems to have largely stood its ground on these issues, its commitment to "enter into consultations to extend appropriate equivalent disciplines" to the U.K. if India agrees to any concessions with another country, denotes a dangerous regress, and visible vulnerability, with regard to India's long-held positions on these key issues.

This matter links to the one above on India's data being an important national economic resource as well as the need to safeguard it from a security point of view. Again, last year, owing to similar considerations, the U.S., the original proponent of 'free flow of data' and 'prohibition on data localisation', withdrew from these stances at the WTO.

It is difficult to understand how Indian negotiators could be so naive or negligent in agreeing to the above concessions. Digital trade concessions are not like those on commodities, where tariffs can be applied one day and removed on another.

Digital trade texts are essentially about rule making for a new global digital order. We either fully opt into western, Big Tech-oriented, digital architectures,

or we maintain sufficient autonomy and sovereignty. This is because once the digital rules and systems are set, they are almost impossible to roll back. India's digital concessions are thus buttressing a set of rules for a global digital ecosystem from which India cannot extricate itself later. And India is doing all this in a reactive mode without a clear road map of its own.

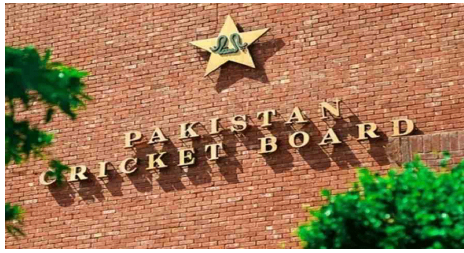
It seems that the U.K. was able to extract all the above concessions, the absolute opposite to what India has stood for till now, because, unlike manufacturing and agriculture, there is no specific political 'constituency' for digital sovereignty. But it is perhaps an even more important issue in the mid to long term. We may be seeing a repeat of how India lost out on early industrialisation and had to suffer grievous colonial exploitation, causing a loss of wealth and independence. In making these digital concessions, we may be giving up our digital future, independence and prosperity.

India must act quickly
India needs to develop and negotiate towards a global digital architecture that protects and furthers its digital sovereignty. As a late starter in 'digital industrialisation', it should create the space required for India to become a digital superpower and not a digital colony.

For this, India needs to urgently formulate a full-fledged digital sovereignty and 'digital industrialisation' policy which should then inform and guide its trade negotiations. Our negotiators must be accompanied by digital sovereignty experts with access to the top political leadership, which has the core responsibility for safeguarding India's long-term digital interests. These interests are often not so visible, and, therefore, tend to get bypassed and not fought for.

(Courtesy: The Hindu)

PCB issues 'blanket ban' on future participation in WCL



LAHORE

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Sunday announced a blanket ban on its players' participation in future editions of the World Championship of Legends (WCL), accusing the tournament organisers of being "biased" and lacking sporting integrity.

The decision follows a sequence of events in which the Indian team forfeited both their group-stage clash and semifinal against Pakistan, citing the country's stand against bilateral sporting ties with the neighbouring country after the gruesome Pahalgam terror attack.

"The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announces that it is issuing a blanket ban from future participation in the World Championship of Legends (WCL)," the PCB said in a statement after its board of governors meeting held virtually under the chairmanship of Mohsin Naqvi.

The PCB also took strong exception to the WCL's decision to award points to India despite the forfeiture, calling it "tainted with hypocrisy and bias." India and Pakistan had been slated to meet in the group stage, but the Indian side — featuring Shikhar Dhawan, Yuvraj Singh, Irfan Pathan, Suresh Raina, and Harbhajan Singh — refused to play, citing national sentiment following the terror attack and India's subsequent 'Operation Sindoor'.

With India also pulling out of the semifinal, Pakistan advanced direct-

ly to the final.

"The PCB reviewed with considerable disappointment WCL's appalling conduct of awarding points to a willfully forfeiting team, and the content of the press releases of the WCL announcing the cancellation of the scheduled India vs. Pakistan legends matches, which were tainted with hypocrisy and bias." Criticising the tournament's handling of the situation, the PCB said, "The cancellation was not based on cricketing merit but on appeasing a specific nationalistic narrative. This sends an unacceptable message to the international sporting community." The board further stated that it could not allow its players to participate in events where "the spirit of the game is overshadowed by skewed politics that undermine the very essence of sportsmanship and the gentleman's game." The WCL, which is co-owned by Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn, had earlier issued an apology for "hurting the feelings of many and stirring emotions" following the cancellation of the group stage match.

"We sincerely apologise again for hurting the sentiments and hope people will understand that all we ever wanted was to bring a few happy moments to the fans," the WCL had said.

The PCB, however, termed the apology "farcical," accusing the organisers of caving to "a specific nationalistic narrative." "The WCL's apology for 'hurting the sentiments', whilst being farcical, inadvertently acknowledges that the cancellation was not based on cricketing merit, but rather on succumbing to a specific nationalistic narrative," the PCB said.

"This bias, masquerading as sensitivity, sends an unacceptable message to the international sporting community." PCB said it had no choice but to implement the ban.

Netizens applaud Dhawan, India legends for refusing to play Pakistan in WCL



NEW DELHI

In one of the most defining moments of the World Championship of Legends 2025, Shikhar Dhawan and the India Legends made a statement that echoed far beyond the cricket field.

Days before the highly anticipated semifinal clash between India and Pakistan, Dhawan, when asked whether he would play, responded with measured intensity: "You shouldn't have asked this. And even if I didn't play earlier, I still won't play now."

These were a reaffirmation of a decision he had officially communicated to the organisers as early as May 11. Citing the emotional aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, Dhawan made it clear he would not step onto the field against Pakistan. And in an extraordinary show of solidarity, the rest of the India Legends squad — led by captain Yuvraj Singh and comprising cricketing greats like Harbhajan Singh, Irfan Pathan, Suresh Raina, and Yusuf Pathan — stood united in boycotting the match, choosing principle over participation.

What followed was an outpouring

of respect from fans across the globe with Instagram reels, emotional edits, and patriotic montages honouring the team's decision. India's refusal to play was reposted across social media. Hashtags like #MeraDeshtaabePehle, #IndiaLegends, and #RespectDhawan trended for days.

India Champions entered the semifinals of the ongoing World Championship of Legends after defeating West Indies Champions in just 13.2 overs in their last group match on Tuesday.

Earlier, the league stage game between the two nations was officially called off, following strong objections from Indian players and a principal tournament sponsor, which was followed by public declarations from former India cricketers.

Fans hailed the India Legends not for walking away from a match, but for standing tall in the face of compromise. In an era where athletes are often weighed down by commercial deals and diplomatic tightropes, India Legend's firm, unapologetic stand — and the team's collective backing — reminded everyone of the deeper purpose sport can serve.

Rahil Pillarisetty pulls off close win in a thrilling finish; double for Bengaluru teenager Savion Sabu

Coimbatore

Rahil Pillarisetty from Hyderabad and Bengaluru teenager Savion Sabu hogged the limelight with contrasting victories in the two premier Pro-Stock categories as the Rolon Round of the MRF MMSC-FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship concluded at the Kari Motor Speedway here today.

While 27-year-old Rahil (RACR Castrol Power1) maintained impressive pace to fight off strong challenge to win the Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open race, Savion swept to a comfortable victory, his second of the weekend, for the Bengaluru-based Mad Rabbit Racing team.

Savion's team-mate and fellow-Bengalurean Varun Patil topped the Stock 301-400cc (Novice) race for his second win in four starts this season, while Coimbatore's Raj Kumar took the honours in

the Super Stock 165cc Intermediate as he led a 1-2 finish for Motul Sparks Racing with Mohamed Samrul Zubair from

Hyderabad in tow.

Meanwhile, Daniel Lalhriatkima from Mizoram and Assam's Johring Warisa scripted history of sorts

by delivering a first double podium for North-East and for their team, Yakuza Racing India which was formed only this year. Daniel finished first and Johring came in third behind Coimbatore's Hari Haran (RACR Castrol Power1) in the Stock 165cc (Novice) race.

Like in Race-1 on Saturday, there was plenty of drama in today's second outing, but Rahil steered clear of incidents after an early scare in the first lap when Johann Reeves Emmanuel (Motul KTM Gusto Racing India) crashed as the duo lined up for a right-hander.

Thereafter, Rahil and Race-1 winner, Pune's Sarthak Chavan (Petronas TVS Racing) did the front-running, but not for long. Young Bengalurean, Chiranth Vishwanath (Petronas TVS Racing), having started last in the 12-bike grid, sliced his way to join the front-runners.

Chiranth and Sarthak made contact twice during the race and on the second occasion, the latter crashed and eventually limped home eighth. Rahil managed to stay in front of the chasing Chiranth for a fine win. Veteran Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power1) finished third.

Hari Haran (Coimbatore) extended his domination in the Rookie (RTR 200) category of the Petronas TVS India One-Make Championship by notching up another win, while Hyderabad's Mohamed Samrul Zubair took the honours in the Expert (RR 310) race for his first win of the season in this class.

Jammu's Raivat Dhar registered his first win in the Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup (Honda CB 300F) to make significant progress in the points standings.

The results (Provisional - all 10 laps unless mentioned):

Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open (Race-2): 1. Rahil Pillarisetty (Hyderabad, RACR Castrol Power 1) (12mins, 06.332secs); 2. Chiranth Vishwanath (Bengaluru,

Petronas TVS Racing) (12:08.080); 3. Rajini Krishnan (Chennai, RACR Castrol Power 1) (12:08.813).

Pro-Stock 165-200cc Open (Race-2, 6 laps):

1. Savion Sabu (Bengaluru, Mad Rabbit Racing) (07:53.791); 2. Mohan Babu (Chennai, Rockers Racing) (08:04.778); 3. Soorya PM (Chennai, LG Racing) (08:08.914).

Super Stock 165cc Intermediate (Race-2):

1. Raj Kumar (Coimbatore, Motul Sparks Racing) (14:05.693); 2. Mohammed Samrul Zubair (Hyderabad, Motul Sparks Racing) (14:10.424); 3. Kamal Navas (Chennai, Rockers Racing) (14:20.307).

Stock 301-400cc (Novice) (Race-2, 3 laps):

1. Varun Patil (Bengaluru, Mad Rabbit Racing) (13:30.012); 2. Raivat Dhar (Jammu, MAI Racing) (13:35.235); 3. Tanay Gaikwad (Pune, Motul Sparks Racing) (13:35.649).

Stock 165cc (Novice) (Race-2):

1. Daniel Lalhriatkima (Aizwal, Yakuza Racing,

India) (14:44.900); 2. Hari Haran R (Coimbatore, RACR Castrol Power 1) (14:44.973); 3. Johring Warisa (Assam, Yakuza Racing, India) (14:47.551).

Petronas TVS India One-Make Championship:

Expert (RR 310) (Race-2): 1. Md Samrul Zubair (Hyderabad) (13:01.120); 2. Abdul Basim RS (Chennai) (13:01.970); 3. Mohan Babu P (Chennai) (13:08.384).

Rookie (Apache RTR 200) (Race-2, 7 laps):

1. Hari Haran R (Coimbatore) (10:20.524); 2. Joshua A (Bengaluru) (10:28.966); 3. Steve Waugh Sugi S (Tiruchi) (10:29.321).

Electric RTR (6 laps):

1. Sarthak Chavan (Pune) (07:14.816); 2. Chiranth Vishwanath (Bengaluru) (07:18.552); 3. Rakshith Dave (Chennai) (07:30.791).

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup:

Honda CB 300F (Race-2): 1. Raivat Dha (Jammu) (13:58.576); 2. Tejash BA (Tumkuru) (13:58.587); 3. Swaroop Krishna P (Chennai) (14:10.268)

I was tortured, asked to name Narendra Modi in Malegaon blast case: Pragya Singh Thakur



MUMBAI

Former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur, acquitted in the September 2008 Malegaon blast case, on Saturday alleged that she was tortured by the investigating officers who asked her to name several persons including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This is the first time Thakur has made this sensational claim which finds no mention in the 1036-page judgment of the special NIA court acquitting all seven accused in the case.

Thakur appeared before the sessions court here on Saturday to complete her surety formalities. Speaking to reporters outside, she claimed that she was tortured during her interrogation.

Notably, special judge A K Lahoti in his judgment has dismissed Thakur's claims of tor-

ture and ill-treatment.

"They (officers) told me to take PM Modi's name, as at the time I was staying in Surat (Gujarat). There are several names like Bhagwat (apparent reference to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat) and so on, but I did not take anyone's name as I did not want to lie," Thakur told reporters.

She had put all this in writing, she claimed.

"Their objective was to torture me. They said if I did not take the names, then they will torture me. The names include Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Sudarshan ji, Indresh ji, Ram ji Madhav, and many more, which I can't recall at the moment," Thakur said.

The former BJP MP alleged that she was detained illegally even in the hospital where she had fainted and her lungs had collapsed.

"I am writing my story in which I will mention all this. The truth will come out. This is a victory of religion, victory of Sanatan dharma, and victory of Hindutva...this is a Sanatani Rashtra, and it is always victorious. They tried very hard by torturing me and bringing all devotees of the country in this...we will try so that they are punished," she said.

The court in its judgment said while Thakur had alleged ill-treatment, no evidence was presented to support her

claims.

It also referred to a Supreme Court order of 2011 in which it rejected her claims of illegal custody, torture and detention. The trial court further said that Thakur had not made any complaint before the court in Nashik when she was produced for remand after her arrest.

"There is no evidence (of torture and ill-treatment) brought to my notice and hence, I am not inclined to accept the submission," judge Lahoti said.

Thakur, meanwhile, said the whole case against her was baseless.

She described Param Bir Singh, then assistant commissioner of police with the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), as a "wicked person".

"Singh, (then ATS chief) Hemant Karkare and Sukhwinder Singh tortured me and wanted me to tell lies. But I refused," she alleged.

Six people were killed and 101 were injured in a blast at Malegaon in Maharashtra's Nashik district on September 29, 2008.

The special court on July 31 acquitted Thakur, Lt Col Prasad Purohit and five others in the case noting that the prosecution had not adduced cogent and reliable evidence to warrant conviction and to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt. (Agencies)

Rajnath dares Rahul to detonate 'atom bomb of evidence' against EC, Cong leader claims it will send a 'shockwave'

NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday dared Rahul Gandhi to detonate at once the "atom bomb of evidence of vote theft" which he claimed to have against the Election Commission even as the Congress leader said release of data collected by the party in Karnataka will send a 'shockwave' through the electoral system.

Gandhi repeated his claim made on Friday that the data to be released soon will be literally like an 'atom bomb' and escalated his offensive against the EC, alleging that the polling system in the country is "already dead" and the 2024 Lok Sabha election was "rigged".

"In the coming few days, we are going to prove to you without any doubt how a Lok Sabha election can be rigged, and it was rigged," he claimed at an event in Delhi. A protest by Gandhi has been planned in Bengaluru on August 5 against the alleged incidents of "vote theft".

Amid the raging row over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, Gandhi, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, has alleged that elections are being "stolen" in the country and claimed that his party has figured out the modus operandi of "vote theft" by studying a parliamentary constituency in Karnataka.

Addressing a function in Patna organised by a media house, Singh slammed Gandhi for his claim.

"Rahul Gandhi says he is in possession of an atom bomb. If it is so, he should detonate it at once. He should just ensure that he is himself out of harm's way", said the former BJP president, tongue in cheek.

Gandhi had claimed that his party has an 'atom bomb' of evidence to prove "vote chori" by the EC for the BJP, remarks that evoked a sharp response from the poll panel.

The EC termed Gandhi's remarks as "baseless and wild allegations".

Singh also said the nation remembers his past rhetoric.

"He had threatened Parliament of an earthquake, but when he spoke, it turned out to be a damp squib".

The Union minister said the Election Commission of India is an institution that enjoys a reputation for unquestionable integrity.

"It is pulling out all the stops to ensure that the upcoming assembly polls in Bihar are held in a free and fair manner. It does not behove the Leader of the Opposition to make frivolous statements about a constitutional body," the BJP leader said.

Addressing the inaugural function of the day-long legal conclave on the theme 'Constitutional Challenges: Perspectives and Pathways' in Delhi, Rahul Gandhi alleged that the prime minister is sitting on his chair with a "thin majority" and had there been a difference of a few seats, he would have not been there.

He cited data collected by the Congress from an Assembly segment in a parliamentary constituency in Karnataka, where the party checked the photographs and names of electors physically and reportedly found out that 1.5 lakh votes were "fake" out of a total of 6.5 lakh voters.

"You will see the shockwave that is going to go through the electoral system when we release this data. It is literally like an atom bomb." "The truth is that the election system in India is already dead. Please remember one thing that the prime minister enjoys a very slim majority. If 10-15 seats were rigged, and we suspect the actual figures to be closer to 70-80 to 100, he would not have been the prime minister of the country," Gandhi claimed.

Sharpening his attack on the EC, the former Congress chief said, "It's very clear that the institution that protects this (Constitution), and defends it has been obliterated and taken over".

Gandhi also said that he did not have the proof earlier and that is why he could not make such statements before.

"But, I am making this statement confidently now because I have 100 per cent proof. And, whoever I have shown it to has fallen off the chair. They literally said how can it be possible. But it is possible, it's happening, literally," he claimed.

Gandhi said he has been speaking about the election system as he always had a suspicion that there was something wrong.

"Right from 2014, I had a suspicion that there is something wrong, something is not adding up. I had suspicion about the Gujarat Assembly elections... About this ability to score sweeping victories. Congress doesn't get a single seat in Rajasthan, doesn't get a single seat in Madhya Pradesh, doesn't get a single seat in Gujarat... This was surprising to me," he said.

Constitution Under Siege, BJP doing ideological coup to replace republic with theocratic State: Sonia



NEW DELHI,

Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Saturday alleged that the Constitution is "under siege" as the ruling BJP is using its power to dismantle the very framework it long opposed.

She alleged that the BJP is seeking to bring an "ideological coup" by replacing our democratic republic with a theocratic corporate state serving the powerful few.

In her special message read out at the day-long national legal conclave on 'Constitutional Challenges - Perspectives and Pathways', Ms. Gandhi said the Congress would oppose every attempt to undermine the Constitution in Parliament, in courts and on the streets,

asserting that it is not just a political but an ideological commitment to defend every Indian's dignity.

"Today, the Constitution is under siege. The BJP-RSS, which never fought for freedom or upheld equality, now uses its power to dismantle the very framework it long opposed," she said.

"Their ideological forebears glorified Manusmriti, rejected the tricolour, and envisioned a Hindu rashtra, where democracy is hollow and discrimination is the law. In power, they've eroded institutions, criminalised dissent, targeted minorities and betrayed Dalits, Adivasis, OBCs and the working poor.

"Now they seek to erase socialism and secularism, pillars of Ambedkar's vision of equal citizenship. This is not reform, but an ideological coup replacing our democratic republic with a theocratic corporate state serving the powerful few," the former Congress chief alleged.

She stressed that India yearns for the inclusive, just and democratic nation envisaged by our freedom fighters and Constitution makers.

"That is what the Congress party stands and fights for. We will oppose every attempt to undermine the Constitution, in Parliament, in courts, and on

the streets. This is not just political, it is our ideological commitment to defend every Indian's dignity. I commend Abhishek Manu Singhvi and his team for reigniting this vital conversation. Our mission is clear - to reclaim the republic and protect the rights of each and every person," she said in her message.

Ms. Gandhi said the Constitution is more than a legal charter and claimed that it is the moral foundation of our democracy, built on justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.

Noting that the Constitution was shaped through the sacrifices and vision of the Indian National Congress, she said even before independence, the Congress imagined a constitution, "by Indians, for Indians".

From the Nehru Report in 1928 to the demand for a Constituent Assembly in 1934, Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru laid the groundwork and B.R. Ambedkar, as chairman of the Drafting Committee, gave form to these ideals. "He warned that without social and economic justice, political democracy would be just a top dressing," she said.

"The Congress recognised this and acted on it, expanding rights, strengthening institutions, and upholding dignity and inclusion," she said.

Eight dead, 3 missing after flash floods in Vietnam



HANOI

Eight people have died and three others remain missing following flash floods and landslides in recent days in Vietnam's northern province of Dien Bien, local media reported on Saturday.

As of 6 a.m. Saturday, around 60 houses had been swept away or damaged by floodwaters, according to the Vietnam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority.

Thirty villages remain isolated due to disrupted traffic.

Nearly 700 personnel, including police, military forces, local militia and members of various mass organisations, have been deployed to search for the missing, Xinhua reported, quoting Vietnam News Agency.

During a field visit to Xa Dung commune on Saturday morning, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha urged local authorities to act swiftly to ensure that no resident is left hungry, cut off for extended periods, or without access to information.

He emphasised that the safety of

both rescue workers and flood-affected residents must be guaranteed under all circumstances.

These flash floods come just weeks after Typhoon Wipha struck coastal areas between Hung Yen and Ninh Binh provinces of Vietnam, sustaining maximum winds of 88 km per hour, equivalent to level 8-9 on the Beaufort scale, with gusts reaching level 11, according to the National Centre for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting.

A suspension bridge in Dien Bien province partially collapsed due to prolonged heavy rains, injuring four people, according to local media reports.

Power outages were reported in parts of Tien Hai commune in Hung Yen province.

Meanwhile, central provinces such as Thanh Hoa and Nghe An recorded rainfall of 150 to 200 mm.

The effect of Typhoon Wipha, the third tropical storm to hit Vietnam so far this year, damaged 357 houses while inundating more than 400 hectares of rice fields and other crops across the province, the report added.

North Korea accuses US drills with South Korea, Japan as practice for 'preemptive strikes'

SEOUL

North Korea on Saturday lambasted recent US military drills with South Korean and Japanese forces, accusing them of being preparations for "preemptive strikes" against it.

The Rodong Sinmun, the North's main newspaper, made the accusation in an article, taking issue with US-led air drills that began last month near Japan and recent air logistics drills between South Korean and US Marines.

"(They) are aimed at conducting pre-emptive strikes against our Republic," the article read. "To ensure peace on the Korean Peninsula and in the region, indiscriminate military actions by the United States, Japan and South Korea must stop."

The article also criticised ongoing trilateral military cooperation among South Korea, the United States and Japan, accusing it of being intended to "crush" the North by collective military force, Yonhap news agency reported.

It said it is only "fair and upright" for the North to bolster its defence force in response to such activities.

South Korea has recently made efforts to strengthen three-way secu-

rity cooperation with the United States and Japan amid evolving nuclear and missile threats from North Korea.

North Korea on Friday slammed the US and Japan for turning their alliance into a threatening "nuclear" coalition, claiming the move justifies its own defence buildup.

The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) issued the criticism in an article by a North Korean international affairs analyst, citing last year's upgrade of US-Japan consultations on extended deterrence to the ministerial level and the two countries' recent reaffirmation of extended deterrence guidelines.

Extended deterrence refers to the US' stated commitment to using the full range of its military capabilities, including nuclear arms, to defend its ally.

North Korea also cited Japanese authorities' recent tour to a base for US B-52 strategic bombers and the staging of a joint military drill simulating nuclear use.

It claimed that the US is driving the regional situation to a "dangerous touch-and-go" condition by deploying nuclear strategic assets at naval and air bases in Hawaii, Guam and Japan and staging joint military drills with its "junior allies."



Moscow have more nuclear subs at sea than US: Russian lawmaker hits back at Trump



MOSCOW

A senior Russian lawmaker has claimed that Russia currently has more nuclear submarines deployed in the world's oceans than the United States, responding sharply to US President Donald Trump's recent statement about dispatching two nuclear subs to "appropriate regions" following remarks made by former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

Viktor Vodolatsky, first

deputy chairman of the State Duma Committee on CIS Affairs, Eurasian Integration and Relations with Compatriots, said that the ships that Trump ordered to be redirected "to the appropriate regions" have long been under control, and Moscow does not need to respond to the US leader's comment.

"There are significantly more our [nuclear] submarines in the world's oceans, [and they] have the strongest, most powerful

weapons. This is why, let [Trump's] two boats float, they have been at gunpoint for a long time. There can be no answer from us, because we understand perfectly well who Donald Trump is. These last months have shown that he is changing his mind 24 hours a day," Russian state-run news agency TASS quoted Vodolatsky as saying.

Trump announced the move on Friday on his social media platform in response to what he called "highly provocative statements" from Medvedev.

"Based on the highly provocative statements of the Former President of Russia, Dmitry Medvedev, who is now the Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, I have ordered two Nuclear Submarines to be positioned in the appropriate regions, just in case these foolish and inflammatory statements are more than just that. Words are very important, and can often lead to unintended consequences, I hope this

will not be one of those instances. Thank you for your attention to this matter," Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

Trump did not say which submarines were being deployed or where.

Meanwhile, Vodolatsky asserted that it would be more logical for the US to focus on the ongoing efforts, including the formation of Russian-American negotiating groups and visits of delegations to Russia and the United States.

"And the elaboration of a principal agreement that should be concluded between Russia and America so that the whole world calms down and stops talking about the outbreak of World War III," he added.

The fight started when Medvedev, who is now the deputy chair of Russia's National Security Council, posted on X earlier in the week in English that Trump's "each new ultimatum is a threat and a step towards war" between the US and Russia.

Medvedev made the com-

ments in response to Trump shortening the deadline for a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine from the original 50 days to ten days, which will end next week.

"Trump's playing the ultimatum game with Russia: 50 days or 10... He should remember 2 things: 1. Russia isn't Israel or even Iran. 2. Each new ultimatum is a threat and a step towards war. Not between Russia and Ukraine, but with his own country. Don't go down the Sleepy Joe road!," Medvedev posted on X. Furthermore, on Thursday, he commented on Trump's words about the Russian economy and urged the American leader not to forget about the danger of the "dead."

"About the 'dead economy' of India and Russia and 'entering dangerous territory' - well, let him remember his favorite movies about the walking dead, as well as how dangerous a non-existent 'dead hand' can be," Medvedev wrote.

‘Son of Sardaar 2’ Movie Review: A rollercoaster of laughs, love and Punjabi swag



The King of Sequels is back, and this time, he's bringing more heart, more laughs, and a whole lot of swagger. Son of Sardaar 2 is Ajay Devgn's full-on family entertainer that delivers on every front – emotion, comedy, drama, and unapologetic Punjabi pride. Directed by Vijay Kumar Arora, the film is everything a commercial Bollywood film promises to be, and more. Rooted in family values,

packed with clean humour, rich visuals, and a rock-solid storyline, this one's tailor-made for the entire family to enjoy together.

Ajay Devgn returns as Jaswinder “Jassi” Singh Randhawa, and he's swaggier than ever. This time, Jassi travels to London with high hopes of reuniting with his wife Dimple (Neeru Bajwa). But his dream quickly shatters when Dimple reveals she's in love with someone else and wants a divorce. Homeless and heartbroken in a foreign land, Jassi's life takes a wild turn when he crosses paths with Rabia (Mrunal Thakur), a spirited Pakistani businesswoman who runs a wedding dance company. What begins as a simple act of kindness soon snowballs into a hilarious adventure.

Rabia's colleague Danish (Chunky Panday) is dealing with his own family drama—his daughter Saba (Roshni Walia) has fallen for Goggi (Sahil Mehta), the son of traditional and intimidating Raja Sandhu (Ravi Kishan), who insists on an Indian bride with strong cultural roots. With Rabia and her crew all being Pakistani, there's

only one solution in sight: Jassi must pretend to be Saba's Indian father – an ex-army man with sanskari values – to win over the conservative Sandhu family. And from there, the madness begins.

Ajay Devgn's impeccable comic timing once again steals the show. Whether he's juggling lies, keeping a straight face through chaos, or throwing in some classic desi swag, he owns every frame. His performance holds the film together, and he brings warmth, wit, and energy that's impossible to resist. Mrunal Thakur, in her first major commercial outing, shines with charm and grace. She's confident, natural, and has great chemistry with Devgn.

The biggest surprise comes in the form of Deepak Dobriyal, who plays Gul, a transgender character. He brings both heart and humour to the role, delivering a layered performance that's sensitive and funny without being caricatured. Ravi Kishan, with his unmistakable Bihari charm and now a touch of Sardar swagger, is absolutely epic. His dialogue delivery, expressions, and comedic timing make him a scene-stealer

every time he's on screen.

The supporting cast is pitch-perfect. From the ever-reliable Sanjay Mishra to the radiant Neeru Bajwa, the energetic Chunky Panday, the bold Kubbra Sait, the lovable Vindu Dara Singh, the sharp Ashwini Kalsekar, the promising Roshni Walia, and the late Mukul Dev – everyone adds polish and power to the film. Director Vijay Kumar Arora deserves special praise for giving every character their moment and crafting a story that is both coherent and chaotic in the best way possible.

Visually, the film gets a grand upgrade. Set across stunning landscapes of Scotland and London, the cinematography is rich and vibrant. The film also beautifully captures the essence of Punjab – its colours, spirit, and culture come alive in every frame. The music is a major win. Songs like Pehla Tu Duja Tu, Nazar Battu, and Nachdi are not only catchy but also move the story forward. They're beautifully picturised and loaded with emotion, making them stick long after the credits roll.

Khushi Kapoor does hip thrust with whopping 290 kilos of weight



Actress Khushi Kapoor has upped her own fitness game as she did a hip thrust workout with a whopping 290 kilos of weight.

Khushi took to Instagram stories, where she shared a video of herself in the gym and doing two repetitions of hip thrust with the heavy weight under the supervision of her trainer.

For the caption, she wrote: “290kgs for 2 reps I don't look it but I'm happy @antigravity_club.”

Khushi made her student acting debut in

the student short film Speak Up, playing Naina in NYFA. In 2023, she made her Hindi film debut with The Archies, portraying Betty Cooper.

In 2025, Kapoor had her first theatrical release opposite Junaid Khan in the romantic comedy Loveyapa, a remake of the Tamil film Love Today. It emerged as a box-office bomb. She next starred in Dharmatic Entertainment's romantic comedy Nadaaniyan opposite debutant Ibrahim Ali Khan, for Netflix.

In other news, her father Boney Kapoor has been grabbing eyeballs after shedding 26 kilos of weight and called his transformation journey ‘worth it’.

Boney captioned the post, “Feels great to get into some old clothes. lost 26kgs, just a few more to go. Sharing this for those who need motivation. Do it. It's worth it! If I can, anybody can!”

Talking about her sister Janhvi Kapoor, her next titled “Param Sundari”, a cross cultural romantic film, will hit the screens on August 29. The film was earlier scheduled to release in July 25, 2025.

The film centers on a love story between a North Indian played by Sidharth and a South Indian girl, filmed in Kerala.

The film “promises a heartfelt tale of love, where two worlds collide, and sparks are bound to fly. Set against the breathtaking backwaters of Kerala, this love story is a rollercoaster of laughter, chaos, and unexpected twists you won't see coming,” per a description provided by Maddock, reports variety.com.

Sonali Bendre: Marriage requires daily effort, should never be taken for granted

Actress Sonali Bendre has shared her mantra to a successful marriage. She said that both partners need to work on their relationship as it requires daily effort and should never be taken for granted.

Asked Sonali, who has been happily married for over two decades to filmmaker Goldie Behl, about the advice she would like to give young couples, Sonali told IANS: “I don't think anyone can really advise youngsters, and those who try usually fail. They believe they know everything. They have Google, ChatGPT—every answer is at their fingertips.”

Decoding the key to a perfect marriage, she said: “Marriage, according to me, is something that requires daily effort. It should never be taken for granted. Both partners need to work on it. Mutual respect is essential.”

For Sonali, marriage is a partnership of equality.

“Not that we have to be equal in everything, but our strengths should complement each other. I have my

strong points, and my husband has his. We divide responsibilities accordingly. Marriage is about supporting each other and, ultimately, about growing old together. Over the years, you realize that sometimes you sacrifice more, sometimes your partner does.”

She added: “Life has ups and downs. Equality is not in the day-to-day tasks but in the long run, with respect and care at the core.”

The internet has played a major role in the world and relationships, and Sonali agrees strongly.

“The change is huge! In our time, a generation would change every 20–25 years. Now it feels like it changes every three years. Everything has turned upside down. The internet has transformed how people live and connect.”

Sonali will be seen as a host on the show “Pati, Patni Aur Panga”, which is all set to air on Colors. She will be joined by comedian Munawar Faruqui as a co-host.



Postpartum depression in India: A growing concern among Indian mothers



By Puja Awasthi

In the time it takes you to read this sentence, another new mother in India has slipped into a darkness she doesn't understand. For every five newborns who announce their entry into the world with a shrieking cry, one new mother faces this reality. This darkness has a name: postpartum depression (PPD).

Pregnancy and childbirth are emotionally and physically demanding. They bring a hormonal swell of euphoria and exhaustion. But when that natural swirl turns into a tsunami of emotional and physical ebbs and flows that don't seem to stop, postpartum depression is closing in.

Not every emotional struggle after childbirth is depression. Almost 60-80 per cent of women experience temporary emotional disturbance called 'baby blues' after childbirth. These consist of brief spells of low mood, tearfulness and irritability lasting minutes to hours. These usually subside within a week or two. But when those weeks extend to a persistent period of pervasive and intense sadness, it becomes cause for concern. One comprehensive systematic review and meta-analysis published in the WHO Bulletin found that postpartum depression affects 22 per cent of Indian mothers—nearly double the global average of 10-15 per cent.

PPD involves lack of interest in activities, anxiety and feelings of hopelessness or helplessness that continue for weeks or months. It affects mothers across five critical dimensions: physical health, psychological wellbeing, quality of life, relationships and overall mortality risk. The symptoms include excessive fatigue, feelings of worthlessness, difficulty bonding with the baby, trouble concentrating, and disrupted appetite or sleep patterns. More severe manifestations involve overwhelming fear of inadequacy as a mother, persistent hopelessness, crushing shame and guilt and, in the most serious cases, thoughts of self-harm or harming the baby.

Psychiatrist Dr Kanishka Meel observes that symptoms can also manifest as constant vigilance. Mothers may check their babies' breathing repeatedly through the night or experience intrusive thoughts about potential harm. Families frequently dismiss these behaviours as 'new mother worries'. Medically though, this could be a generalised anxiety disorder

that might co-exist with PPD. Meel adds that while intrusive thoughts about harm are "usually unwanted and distressing, and don't reflect a desire to act on them, they signal serious emotional suffering requiring immediate medical attention".

Let's contextualise this through a haunting example shared by Dr Madhusudan Singh Solanki, head of mental health and behavioural sciences at Max Smart Super Specialty Hospital Saket. It comes from his days as a resident doctor.

"I remember a case that painfully reminds me how ignoring postpartum depression can have devastating consequences," he recalls. "A young mother was brought to our emergency department at midnight after killing her one-month-old son—a child born after 10 years of marriage—by drowning him in a bathtub." When assessed, it became clear that symptoms had been visible but no one paid attention or sought help. "The condition gradually worsened, and she started hearing voices commanding her to kill her son, telling her he was an omen of death and destruction," recounts Solanki.

What Solanki describes is the broader mental health landscape beyond PPD. Postpartum psychosis affects one or two women per 1,000. It is a psychiatric emergency characterised by sudden onset of delusions, hallucinations, extreme mood shifts and disorganised thinking. It typically emerges within two weeks of delivery.

Dr Smriti Agrawal, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Queen Mary's Hospital, the OBGYN wing of King George's Medical University, Lucknow, encountered a particularly alarming case of a new mother from a well-educated family. "The attendants came running to us one day saying, 'She's trying to strangle the baby.' We immediately rushed and realised the woman was very distraught... [and] was in postpartum psychosis."

The dramatic hormonal changes following childbirth create the ideal conditions for mental health challenges. After delivery, oestrogen and progesterone levels plummet suddenly, impacting brain chemistry and potentially triggering mood disorders. The brain's natural mood-regulating systems become disrupted during this transition. Oestrogen impacts serotonin and dopamine—chemical messengers that carry signals

between nerve cells. Serotonin brings about happiness, calm and focus. Dopamine is linked to pleasure, motivation and reward. Progesterone influences mood processing and stabilisation.

Dr Shehla Sheikh, consultant endocrinologist at Saifee Hospital, Mumbai, adds one more hormone to the mix: prolactin. This one plays a crucial role in lactation, but also influences overall hormonal balance.

"The initial breastfeeding also triggers an oxytocin surge that stimulates the milk ejection reflex," says Sheikh. Also known as the 'love hormone', oxytocin plays a significant role in bonding, stress regulation and overall mental health.

There are further complex alterations in brain chemical systems. These include dysfunction in GABA (gamma-aminobutyric acid, which helps calm brain activity), and disrupted neurosteroid production (brain chemicals derived from hormones that affect mood and anxiety).

Simply put, the brain chemicals that help with mood and relaxation don't work as well in women with PPD. There are other hormones, too, produced by the placenta. Post childbirth, all of these fall in one mighty swoop.

"This dramatic hormonal shift affects metabolism, mood and overall wellbeing," says Dr Chitra Selvan, consultant endocrinologist at Ramaiah Memorial Hospital, Bengaluru.

So sudden is the drop that hair, skin, bowel movement—nothing is off limit.

New disorders can be born from these hormonal changes. Thyroid-related conditions (postpartum thyroiditis) are the most common. Symptoms include weight loss, tiredness, palpitations, tremors and sleep difficulties. Later, postpartum hypothyroidism may develop, causing weight gain, fatigue, hair fall, dry skin and constipation.

"During pregnancy, all autoimmune conditions kind of pause and then right after delivery there can be a small surge in incidence of autoimmune conditions," notes Selvan. An autoimmune condition is one where the body's own immune cells begin to attack healthy cells. Think type 1 diabetes, wherein the immune cells attack the insulin-producing cells.

The stress response system also undergoes dramatic changes. During pregnancy, the body's stress management system becomes overridden by pregnancy hormones. After delivery, this leaves new mothers particularly vulnerable to stress and mood disruptions as their systems struggle to recalibrate.

r Manish Chhabria, senior consultant in neurology at Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital, Mumbai, points out that symptoms can also manifest as postpartum headaches. These can be both a physical consequence of childbirth and a symptom of depression itself.

"Headaches, especially migraines, can be a risk fac-

tor for postpartum depression, particularly in women with a history of depression," he says. Rapid hormonal changes and the stress of new parenthood can all contribute to these headaches. This makes careful evaluation crucial to rule out serious secondary causes.

Some risk factors affect women globally: a history of major depressive disorder/s, family history of depression, ambivalence regarding pregnancy, exposure to domestic violence or marital discord, financial stressors, hormonal imbalances, thyroid issues, gestational diabetes, nutritional deficiencies and substance use during pregnancy.

There is a genetic and environmental web around PPD. Genetics accounts for 40-50 per cent of risk factors. Women with family histories of depression or bipolar disorder face substantially higher risks. About 30 per cent of women experiencing PPD will have recurrences with subsequent pregnancies.

While these universal triggers affect Indian women, our country presents unique challenges that compound these risks. The starkest among these is the birth of a female child or birth of a second female child.

Agrawal was part of a study on the reasons why women with two healthy children went in for a third pregnancy. The most cited reason was that the two elder children were girls. The second was that there was a male and a female child. The subtext: the third pregnancy was in the hope of begetting one more male child. "There are high levels of anxiety in mothers with two female children," she says.

The societal pressure manifests in whispered disappointments, pointed suggestions about 'trying again soon', decreased family visits and partner distance. This isolation during what should be a celebration contributes to depression lasting months.

Agrawal often tells her patients to look around and notice that they are surrounded by women—as doctors and nurses—doing well for themselves. Yet that nudge cannot budge societal burdens.

Studies have identified lack of social and spousal support as significant contributors to PPD along with the shift of attention from mother to baby after delivery. This is particularly pronounced in urban settings where traditional support systems may be absent.

Dr Manisha Tomar, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at Motherhood Hospitals, Noida, highlights modern lifestyle factors: "Women with high-stress careers, those in nuclear family setups, or older mothers may be more prone.... However, currently, even those who are homemakers are struggling."

There is a cruel bind here. Even in urban settings, we remain tethered to customs—not as they were originally imagined but twisted to our conveniences. One such custom is a period of

seclusion for the new mother, originally meant as a period of rest and recuperation.

Radha Sharma (name changed), a management professional married to a techie, was banished by her mother-in-law to a mattress-less wooden cot for 40 days post the delivery of her first child—a daughter. That isolation would have been manageable but for the fact that her mother-in-law insisted that she touch the feet of every elder who came by to bless the baby. Sharma had a C-section and the constant bending caused her surgical stitches to rupture. Her husband watched on in silence. "I started to resent my baby," she remembers. But her woes were nipped as her determined mother stepped in and took Sharma away for proper rest.

Experts point out that the joint family living may result in lack of privacy or strained relationships with in-laws, while women who migrate from rural to urban areas face isolation and unfamiliar support systems. Spousal support might also be lacking due to the conception that these are 'women's matters'.

Delivery complications add another layer of risk. Emergency caesarean sections, prolonged labour, excessive blood loss or neonatal ICU admissions can significantly increase a mother's stress and trauma levels.

Dr Tripti Raheja, lead consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology at CK Birla Hospital, Delhi, adds, "Caesarean deliveries, particularly when unplanned, may create a sense of loss of control or failure, and the longer physical recovery period can compound emotional strain."

There is also a complex relationship between breastfeeding and mental health. While successful breastfeeding can provide bonding experiences aided by oxytocin release, difficulties create their own psychological burden.

Several states have begun implementing innovative approaches to maternal mental health. Community health worker programmes in Karnataka have shown promise in early identification and referral. Kerala's integration of mental health services into primary health care has improved access and outcomes.

The message is clear: postpartum depression is real, common and treatable. As one mother who recovered from severe postpartum depression reflected: "I thought I was broken, that I would never feel love for my baby. But with help, I discovered I wasn't broken; I was sick, and sickness can be healed."

And for that new mother who slipped into darkness as you began reading this—she doesn't have to stay there. In the time it took you to read this article, somewhere in India, another mother has taken her first step towards healing. The darkness has a name, but more important, it has an end.

(Courtesy: The Week)

RBI's interest rate decision, Q1 results, tariff-related news to drive markets this week: Analysts



NEW DELHI

Equity markets this week will turn their focus on the RBI's interest rate decision, Q1 earnings from several blue-chip firms and tariff-related news for further cues, analysts said.

Moreover, trading activity of foreign investors and trends in global equity markets will also drive investors' sentiment.

"At the domestic level, all eyes will be on the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy meeting, where the central bank's commentary on inflation, liquidity, and growth outlook will be keenly watched. On the earnings front, results from marquee companies, including Bharti Airtel, DLF, Bajaj Auto, Hero MotoCorp, Tata Motors, State Bank of India and Life Insurance Corporation of India, will shape sectoral momentum," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Other important triggers include the release of HSBC services and composite PMI, crude oil price movement, and further commentary from the US on trade negotiations — all of which are likely to influence near-term volatility, Mishra added. Trade-related concerns and persistent selling by foreign investors added to the gloom in the markets last week.

Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst at Swastika Investmart Ltd, said, "Looking ahead, the RBI policy meeting scheduled for August 6 will be a key event, especially amid heightened volatility from both global and domestic triggers."

"Meanwhile, several major Nifty companies, including Adani Ports, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Auto, Hero MotoCorp, Trent, Titan, State Bank of India and Tata Motors, are set to report their earnings this week, which could drive stock-specific

action".

Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex tanked 863.18 points or 1.05 per cent, and the NSE Nifty dropped 271.65 points or 1.09 per cent.

US President Donald Trump's decision to impose a 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods and an unspecified penalty for trade in energy and defence goods with Russia was unexpected, and therefore, it has impacted market sentiments in the short term, VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Indian equities are expected to remain in consolidation mode amid the imposition of US tariffs, a mixed Q1 FY26 earnings season so far, and intensifying FII outflows, Siddhartha Khemka - Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

"On the macro front, important data to watch include the RBI and Bank of England's interest rate decisions, along with the services PMI for both the US and India," he added.

On Friday, the Sensex tumbled 585.67 points or 0.72 per cent to settle at 80,599.91, and the Nifty declined 203 points or 0.82 per cent to 24,565.35.

Market perception is that after the initial chaos, there will be a deal between India and the US after the next round of negotiations. A steady trend of FPI flows will emerge after the dust settles, Vijayakumar said. (PTI)

PC Jeweller cuts debt by Rs 335cr in Apr-Jul, on track to be debt-free by Mar next

NEW DELHI

PC Jeweller Ltd has reduced its net debt by 19 per cent in the last four months to Rs 1,445 crore on higher sales and will become debt-free by the end of this fiscal, the company's MD Balram Garg said.

Delhi-based PC Jeweller has 52 showrooms, of which 49 are company-owned, across major cities of the country.

"We have repaid bank loans worth Rs 335 crore during April-July period of this fiscal," Garg told PTI.

The net debt has come down to Rs 1445 crore at the end of July month from Rs 1,780 crore at the beginning of 2025-26 fiscal year. PC Jeweller is reducing its debt from internal accruals and funds raised from promoters and investors.

"We will become debt free by end of this fiscal," Garg said.

In its investor presentation, PC Jeweller said the company had already reduced its outstanding debt towards banks by more than 50 per cent in the 2024-25, as per the settlement agreement with its financial institutions.

"It has further reduced its outstanding debt payable to its banks that stood at the end of previous fiscal..., by another 8.7 per cent during the quarter

ended 30th June 2025 and another 10.1 per cent in July 2025," the company said.

For further reduction of bank loans, the company's board last month approved a proposal to raise Rs 500 crore equity from promoters and Capital Ventures Pvt Ltd.

Besides this proposed Rs 500 crore, PC Jeweller will receive Rs 1,300 crore from promoters and investors on conversion of warrants into equity shares. These Rs 1800 crore funds will help company in clearing all its outstanding debt.

Last week, PC Jeweller reported a sharp jump in its total income to Rs 807.88 crore during the April-June period of 2025-26 fiscal from Rs 439.78 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

The company reported a 4 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit to Rs 161.93 crore for the quarter ended June from Rs 156.06 crore in the year-ago period because of the high base effect.

But, the profit before tax nearly doubled to Rs 163.58 crore from Rs 84.64 crore during the period under review.

The company got tax refunds to the tune of Rs 71.39 crore in the April-June quarter of the last fiscal, resulting in higher net profit.

India, a key strategic market, remains optimistic on its growth trajectory: Samsung

NEW DELHI

Consumer electronics major Samsung sees India as a "key strategic market" with "immense potential" and stays optimistic about its growth trajectory, a top company official said.

The comment comes against the backdrop of global trade and tariff turmoil, and the latest US salvo of 25 per cent tariff imposition on India.

India is not just a strategic market for Samsung but a key pillar in its global future, said JB Park, President and CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia, adding the South Korean Chaebol will "continue to invest in innovation, manufacturing, and local value addition, aligning with India's vision of a self-reliant economy."

Samsung's long-term commitment to India remains unwavering, as it sees the country as a cornerstone of its global strategy, he said.

Samsung views India as a key strategic market with immense potential. The company remains optimistic about India's growth trajectory, driven by government initiatives like Make in India, Digital India, and a robust digital ecosystem. Samsung continues to invest in innovation, manufacturing, and local value addition, aligning with India's vision of a self-reliant economy," said Park.

The company, which report-



ed revenue of over Rs 1 lakh crore in FY24 from the Indian market, and operates here with two manufacturing plants, three R&D centres, and one design centre, India plays a crucial role, catering to both local demand and global markets.

Samsung, which recently introduced the seventh edition of its flagship foldable smartphone Galaxy Z series, plans to locally manufacture in India at its Noida plant.

According to Park, "These new phones will be manufactured at our Noida factory".

Acknowledging the role of India in its development, Park, at a media roundtable last month in New York ahead of the launch, had said engineers from Samsung India's Bengaluru R&D facility have contributed significantly to the development of the new devices.

Samsung, which had priced its Galaxy Z Fold7 starting from Rs 1.75 lakh to Rs 2.11 lakh, had last week said it is witnessing an "unprecedented demand" for the flagship foldable phone as it has "stocked out in select markets".

The company has received over 2.1 lakh pre-orders for Galaxy Z Fold7, Galaxy ZFlip7 and Galaxy Z Flip7 FE and is taking necessary steps at its manufacturing factory in Noida to meet the demand.

Over the reparability factors of the Fold and the Flip series, Park said the company has found a solution on the cost side.

"Of course, mechanics is something that we are always striving to innovate... repair or the cost of repair is a way that we look into... how to reduce the consumer burden.

Gold may trade with positive bias this week amid tariff worries, interest rate cut hopes

NEW DELHI

Gold is likely to trade with a positive bias in the coming week, supported by rising expectations of interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve, fresh volatility due to the US administration's aggressive trade stance, and continued safe-haven demand amid a softening dollar, analysts said.

Investors will monitor PMI data from the EU and the UK this week, along with speeches by US Fed officials. The US jobless claims data will also be tracked for cues on the Fed's interest rate path.

However, the focus is likely to shift toward the economic fallout of US administration's trade restrictions on 70 countries which may lead to supply chain realignments, inflationary pressure and fresh interest in safe-haven assets like gold, they added.

"In the week ahead, gold prices may continue to trade steady but

with a positive bias as focus now will turn on the impact of the US trade tariffs in the American economy and likely trade disruption in the global market as most countries would be looking to either negotiate the trade terms or look for an alternative market to sell their products or services.

"Also, very few data are lined up in the week, which means that volatility may increase in the coming trading sessions," Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG, Commodity & Currency Research at JM Financial Services, said.

Further, Mer stated that gold prices rallied sharply on Friday and closed the week in positive, following a weaker US payrolls report that boosted expectation of an interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve and a drop in the dollar index. Also, recent tariff's announced by President Donald Trump raised safe-haven demand.

LG Sinha says India's knowledge systems should be part of education, 'distorted' history needs fixing



**SYSTEM OBSERVER
SRINAGAR**

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday said India's ancient knowledge systems should be a part of mainstream education, and called on writers to "rewrite history", which was "distorted" in the past.

Asserting that India was witnessing economic, cultural and scientific renaissance under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sinha said future generations should be told that ancient India was the engine of world civilisation and culture.

He said this while addressing the inaugural function of the nine-day 'Chinar Book Festival' organised by National Book Trust (NBT) of India at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC)

here, which was also attended by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

"The new generation must be made aware that our civilisation was economically prosperous and it was also the global centre of literature, science and spirituality," he said.

"We gave the gift of science, mathematics, medicines to the world and we should be proud of our cultural, literary, scientific and spiritual heritage," he added.

Sinha said the roots of "our knowledge and science" have always been immense.

"We need to liberate ourselves from the colonial mindset and the new generation must be told that our heritage has been leading in the world and the gift of science that we have given to the entire humanity is incomparable," he said.

The LG called on writers to think about rewriting history to "correct facts", which were "distorted" in the past.

He said in order to strengthen the nation's spiritual, social, and emotional unity, the unique contributions of writers and thinkers are essential.

Sinha said India's ancient knowledge systems should be revived and be made a part of "mainstream education".

Sinha called upon the NBT to publish and translate the Nilamat Purana, Rajatarangini, and Kathasaritsagara into various Indian languages.

These editions in regional language should also be prominently featured at international book festivals to introduce the world to J-K's unique literary heritage, he added.

The LG also asked the NBT to actively promote famous literature from Kashmiri, Pahari, Gojri, Dogri, Urdu, and Punjabi at book festivals and ensure their translation into various languages to reach a wider audience.

The event also witnessed the inauguration of 'Saradaksarani', the first national-level exhibition of Sharada alphabets, and the Kashmiri translation of the book, "Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh-through the ages".

Sinha added that the Chinar Book Festival will connect the new generation to the country's "precious literary heritage and inspire them to preserve and promote our traditional wisdom left behind by our ancestors", he said. (Agencies)

Bihar Polls: INDIA Bloc Leaders To Meet In Delhi Next Week, Says Farooq Abdullah

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Saturday said the Congress has convened a meeting of the opposition leaders in New Delhi on August 7 to deliberate on the Bihar Assembly elections likely to be held in October-November.

The National Conference president also expressed confidence over the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have faith in the one who is the master of all. We will get our rights," he said.

Responding to a question on Rahul Gandhi claiming that his party has an "atom bomb" of an evidence to prove "vote chori" by the Election Commission for the the BJP, Abdullah stated the Congress leader "has said that they have made such an arrangement that they will win the Bihar elections".

"I am going to meet him. All the leaders (of INDIA bloc) have been called for a meeting on August 7 and I will find out (the truth)," he told reporters here.

Gandhi claimed on Friday that his party has an "atom bomb" of an evidence to prove "vote chori" by the Election Commission for the BJP and

said that when it explodes the poll panel will have no place to hide anywhere in the country.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir reached here this afternoon to express condolences to party's provincial president Rattan Lal Gupta on the death of his wife and the family of an acquaintance, who died last month.

When asked why his party is not supporting the Congress, which has announced chain hunger strike from August 9 to 21 for restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah said the National Conference is already fighting for public cause.

"We are fighting for it (restoration of statehood). When did we stop talking? Whenever (chief minister) Omar Abdullah met the prime minister (Narendra Modi), he raised this issue with him," said Abdullah.

"We have faith in the one who is the master of all. We will get our rights," he added.

Asked about his demand from Prime Minister Modi since Parliament is in session, the National Conference president said that people, who could not fill four seats of the Rajya Sabha and two vacant assembly seats — Nagrota in Jammu and

Budgam in Kashmir — since the formation of the Jammu and Kashmir government than what is expected of them.

On the BJP's claim about massive development post abrogation of Article 370, Abdullah said, "I will not say anything. Whatever the BJP says, it keeps on saying." (US President Donald) Trump also keeps on shouting that I got peace done. Today they have imposed 25 per cent tariff on us and have also imposed a penalty. The material for our destruction is being prepared. All our industrialists are running away. They will work from Dubai. Our people are already jobless and we will have more unemployment," he added.

Highlighting that some countries supported Trump for a Nobel Prize, the National Conference president said, "We do not know the name of some of these (nations). What would have happened if we had also supported him? He is the master of the world." "Believe it or not, it is destruction for us, while the countries like Bangladesh and Cambodia are going to be benefitted. They will be happy because India is the major supplier and it will have to sit outside," he added.

CB booked SBI bank manager & former cop among 11 for big frauds involving huge amount of Rs. 3.12 crore

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

Crime Branch has booked SBI Bank Manager and a police official (now voluntarily retd.) among eleven individuals in five separate FIRs for big frauds like MBBS seat scam, visa fraud, Govt jobs & land scams, involving huge amount of Rs 3.12 crore.

CB registered an FIR against SBI Bank Manager Javaid Ashraf Bhatti S/o Ashraf Bhatti R/o Bahu Apartment Gandhi NagarJammu and others on two separate written complaints wherein it is alleged that Javed Ashraf Bhatti duped the complainants of huge amount of Rs.1.78 crore on the pretext of selling petrol pump at Kalakote Rajouri under the name and style of Kala Kote Filling Station, of which he was not the owner.

Crime Branch has also registered an FIR against SgCt Paramjeet Singh (now voluntarily retd.) S/o Sham Singh R/o Preet Nagar Digiana Jammu on three written complaints wherein it is alleged that Paramjeet Singh, who was a police official, duped the complainants of Rs. 72.93 lakh on the pretext of selling off land at Birpur & Jammu and a residential house at Gangyal Jammu, of which he was not the owner.

CB registered another case against notorious fraudster Fayaj Ahmad Rather @ Raja Fayaj (Prop. of Fayaj International Education Consultancy located in Gandhinagar Jammu) S/o Ghulam Hassan Rather R/o 111 Aglar Chirat Zainapora, Shopian for duping Rs 40.00 lakh from the complainant Anil Gupta on the false promise of arranging admission of his son in MBBS course in ASCOMS Sidhra, Jammu.

Crime Branch has registered yet another FIR against five accused namely Mohd Issaq & Mukhtiar Ahmad of Zanheri Thathri Doda, Tariq Hussein & Mudassir Hussein of Hatmulla Distt Kupwara and Sher Mohd. of Haloor Gandoh Doda for duping Rs 12.70 lakh from four complaints on the pretext of providing government jobs.

CB has also registered a case against Sahil Bhagat S/o Vijay Kumar R/o 222 Shaheed Bharat Sigh Nagar Sujanpur Pathankote and others for duping Rs 36.89 lakh from seven complainants of Bishnah Jammu and Swankha Samba on the pretext of sending them abroad on work visa. The fraudsters also provided fake visas, purportedly for Itali & Australia, to the complainants.

Senior Superintendent of Police Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh confirmed that five cases viz. FIRs No. 39,40,41,42 & 43 of 2025 have been registered at P/S EOW Crime Branch Jammu and investigations are underway.

Neelam Mohile interacts with budding artists in 'Meet the Artist' programme

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

Kala Kendra here today organized the programme 'Meet the Artist' with eminent visual artist Neelam Mohile.

The event witnessed the presence of artists, writers and intellectuals from the region.

Welcoming the guests, Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary Kala Kendra, stated that primary objective of the programme was to provide young visual art students and budding artists an opportunity to interact with a distinguished artist of national and international repute.

He highlighted that Neelam Mohile is an alumnus of Sir J.J. School of Applied Art, Mumbai and has also received professional training in Photography and Computer Graphics from USA.

During interaction, Neelam Mohile shared her vast experiences in the field of art and photography.

She acknowledged the growing influence of Artificial Intelligence in visual arts but emphasized that the core of creativity still belongs to imaginative and innovative minds.

She encouraged artists to travel, explore nature and document heritage through their creative arts.

Those who spoke on the occasion were Rakesh Sharma, Head of Fine Arts Department, Institute of Music and Fine Arts, University of Jammu and faculty members Jaswant Singh, Rohit Verma, Ankush Kesar, Dr. Rachita Datta and Dr. Palak Gandotra.

Sadguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj Emphasizes Spiritual Unity and Ancient Indian Wisdom in Discourse at Rakhbandhu



**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

Today, Sadguru of Sahib Bandagi Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj, while explaining the secrets of spirituality to the congregation in his discourses in Rakhbandu, said that all the religions in the world have the same opinion about the soul. There is no discrimination. I often say one thing that India is the world guru. The

oldest book of the world is Rigveda. One thing is very clear in that Rigveda that God is formless. This thing has been taken from all the religions of the world. That is why Muslims also say that God is formless.

Newton was not the first scientist who said that the earth is rotating. He was Copernicus. He was given the death sentence. His formula was

adopted by Newton later on. Today the name is of Newton, not of Copernicus. Similarly, the oldest book is Rigveda. Rigveda is saying that God is formless. If you look at all the other religions, there is not much difference. That is why it is also called ancient, Sanatan Dharma. Because humans first settled in India. All the gods and incarnations also came to India. Humans did not live anywhere else. No one lived in Russia. No one lived in Africa. No one lived in the desert. No one lived in America. America was discovered by Columbus only 400 years ago. Earlier there were no systems. Everyone was afraid of going into the sea.

India is called Vishwaguru because India has talked about soul and religion. 2600

years ago there were no Christians. 1500 years ago there were no Turks. 3000 years ago there were almost no Buddhists. But Hindu culture came first. Everyone transformed it.

Rigveda was the first to say that God is formless. The Veda says formless and then goes on to say that it does not end here. There is something ahead as well. Saints have come and spoken about Sahib further. But to remove them, they were called the son of a virgin Brahmini etc. so that people do not go there. This thing was put in everyone's mind. Kabir Sahib was the one who was not born from the womb of his mother. Neither was his body found while leaving. He had come to take the swans from the immortal world.

Once Dadu Dayal was conducting a religious discourse. Dadu Dayal asked whoever had seen Kabir Sahib, raise their hands. There was an old man of 120 years. He raised his hand. Dadu Dayal asked how he saw him. He said that his grandfather was a Subedar in Veer Singh Baghel's army. One day when Dadu was going to Kabir Sahib, I said that I also want to come. The old man said that when I went there, I saw that everything behind Kabir Sahib's chest was visible through and through. When I went towards his back, everything was visible on the other side as well. Dadu Dayal asked his disciple to bring water. And then Dadu Dayal washed his eyes and drank it. People said that Maharaj, he is a householder. Dadu

Dayal said that blessed are those eyes which saw Kabir Sahib.

If you probe Mahatma Gandhi, Kabir Sahib will emerge from within. Because his mother was a disciple of Kabir Sahib. Look at the big sects, they take the words of Kabir Sahib, but change them and put their own stamp on them.

Sainthood was established by Kabir Sahib. And the message of the fourth world was also given by Sahib.

Many rumours were spread about me too. Someone in the army said that he was martyred in the Kargil war of 1971. Someone said that he got married there. That is why he did not return. I was lost in my own world. People of the world are gossipers.

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"ACHE WITHIN "

We stare into the void for hours,
Lost in the silence of time
Where faded voices echo like distant sighs
Not knowing why wounds of the soul refuse to heal

We numb the ache with fleeting escapes
Brick by brick we build a wall against our soul's call

A temporary solace, but the pain
Revisits like a haunting refrain
We ignore the scars our soul endure,
Because we don't know how to acknowledge the feelings of pain

Silencing the anguished cries that echo within
External turmoil fuels the internal strife
Our souls, weary of neglect,
Seek solace in the world's reflection
And in that reflection, we glimpse the echoes of our own pain.

And this too, intensifies
And again these feelings we try to deny
Now where to escape
This is the last trick our soul plays,
To draw us back to our inner space
Urging us to integrate the fragmented pieces of soul

Only then it accepts to heal the wounds,
And then we began to understand the language of our soul

A language spoken not in words
But in feelings, in intuitions, in the quiet stirrings of the heart's guiding light

