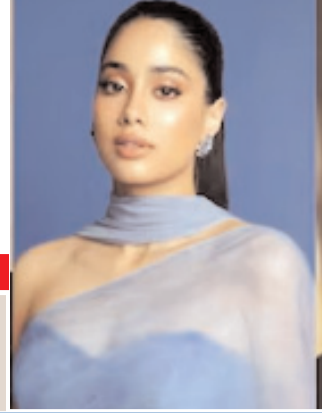




# The Himalayan Mail

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**Modi Govt Intoxicated On Power: Cong On Reduction In Number Of Subsidised Ujjwala Refills** P-7

**Tiger Shroff, Janhvi Kapoor And Lakshya's Lag Ja Gale To Release On This Date In 2027** P-10

## Zojila tunnel game changer for Ladakh: Saxena



Ladakh LG Vinai Kumar Saxena today described the historic breakthrough of the Zojila tunnel as a "game changer" for the Union Territory, saying it will revolutionise connectivity and drive the region's de-

## HC extends manual acceptance of ACB challans

The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has extended the arrangement for the manual acceptance of challans filed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Jammu and Kashmir, till July 31, 2026.

According to an order issued by the Office of the Registrar General, the extension has been granted in continuation of the earlier High Court Order No

## Govt rescinds amendments to Engineering Recruitment Rules

The government has rescinded the amendments made to the Jammu and Kashmir Engineering (Gazetted Service) Recruitment Rules, 1978 through SRO-14 of 2016.

According to a notification issued by the Jal Shakti Department, the LG has ordered that the amendments introduced vide the notification dated January 15, 2016, by the then PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, shall stand withdrawn ab initio.

## Rlys to run special Katra-Haridwar service

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JUNE 09

To facilitate the travel of pilgrims during the upcoming Somvati Amavasya, the Northern Railway's Jammu division will operate a special train service between Katra and Haridwar next week.

The special train (No 04606) will depart from Katra in Jammu and Kashmir at 6.15 pm on June 14 and arrive in Uttarakhand's Haridwar at 6.30 am the following day. On the return journey, Train No. 04605

## New tunnel on Chenani-Nashri stretch approved: Jitendra



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JUNE 09

Union minister Jitendra Singh today announced that a proposal to construct a new two-lane tube tunnel parallel to the existing Dr Syama

## Another engineering marvel in Himalayas Landmark achievement in Zojila tunnel; blast breaks through last 2.5 mt

Himalayan Mail News MINIMARG (LADAKH), JUN 09

**The Zojila tunnel connecting Ladakh to Kashmir today took a crucial step towards completion with a ceremonial final blast breaking through the last 2.5 mt rock barrier of the high-altitude infrastructure project that cuts through the Himalayas.**

With this, the two ends of the world's longest single-tube bi-directional bypass, which will cut travel time from 1.5 hours to 15 minutes, have now been connected. It marks a historic convergence of excavation teams from the Ladakh & Kashmir ends. This milestone cements the structure as the world's longest, highest-altitude single-tube bi-directional road tunnel, assuring 365-day strategic connectivity.



The tunnel, which saw the light of the day after the breakthrough was achieved, is one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects in the country.

"Breakthrough in the 2.5 metre distance in the tunnel has been successfully achieved," an official said.

The breakthrough has brought the decades-old dream of all-weather connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh closer to reality. Union Minister for Road Transport and

Highways Nitin Gadkari pressed the remote button, blasting the breakthrough site near the East Portal of the tunnel at Minimarg in Ladakh Union Territory, they said.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah were also present.

Officials of the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) said the breakthrough is six months

ahead of schedule.

As of now, about 85 per cent of the total work has been completed, Authority Engineer for the project, Yousef Es'haghpour Rahimabadi, said here.

The tunnel is likely to be thrown open to the public in February 2028, the officials said, adding that after the breakthrough, the civil works will take another 7-8 months and then the electrical works will begin. The tunnel - 9.5 metre wide, 7.57

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## Z-Tunnel will usher in new era of development in J&K, Ladakh

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JUNE 09

LG Manoj Sinha today joined Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari at the breakthrough ceremony of historic Zojila Tunnel, saying that the project would usher in new era of connectivity & development of J&K Ladakh.

He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Gadkari for making this vision a reality and said that the landmark project would usher in a new era of connectivity and development for the UTs of



J&K and Ladakh.

Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel is scripting a new future of year-round connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh. This engineering marvel will significantly reduce travel time, ensure

safer travel and provide substantial fuel savings.

"Today is undoubtedly a historic day. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people of Union Territories of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh. Under the

Cont. on P9 >

## Over 30 killed, 200 injured in police firing in PoJK

### India asks int'l community to hold Pak accountable for violence

NEW DELHI, JUN 09: As over 30 people lost their lives and 200 others sustained injuries in police firing in PoJK, India today urged the international community to hold Pakistan responsible for the deadly violence.

As per reports, over 30 people were killed and around 200 injured during clashes between protesters and security forces in Pakistan-occupied J&K



(PoJK) after authorities banned the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) -

a prominent civil society alliance that has spear

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## Omar welcomes Zojila breakthrough, demands direct air service to Kargil

Himalayan Mail News MINIMARG (LADAKH), JUN 09

Welcoming Zojila breakthrough, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday appealed to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari to use his influence to launch direct air connectivity to Kargil.

Speaking at the breakthrough ceremony of the Zojila tunnel here, he congratulated the people of Ladakh for getting closer to the realisation of the dream of all-weather connectivity. "I congratulate the people



of Ladakh and thank Gadkari and his officers in the ministry for this breakthrough, which will bring us closer to the dream of all-weather connectivity," Abdullah said.

The chief minister, however, said that while one dream of the people of Ladakh is close to getting

fulfilled, another - that of direct and regular air connectivity to Kargil - is yet to take shape.

"Another dream needs to be realised, i.e., regular and direct air service to Kargil. I had tried but without any success. This is another long-standing demand of the people of Kargil," he said.

In an appeal to Gadkari, the union minister of road transport and highways, Abdullah said, "You are a dynamic person, and a doer. So, I request you to please use your influence to help

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## India slams Pak, condemns its 'trade & transit' terrorism

UNITED NATIONS, June 09: India has launched a scathing attack on Pakistan at the UN, condemning its "trade and transit terrorism" and military airstrikes against Afghanistan, while slamming Islamabad's "Fitna al-Hindustan" directive as "officially sponsored misinformation" dressed in religious terminology.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, delivered a sharp attack against Pakistan in the UN Security Council

during its meeting on the 'Situation in Afghanistan' on Monday.

"Pakistan's campaign of military airstrikes against Afghanistan is causing huge civilian casualties and suffering to the Afghan people... Such unconscionable acts of violence are a blatant assault on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a threat to the region's peace and stability," Parvathaneni said.

Strongly condemning the airstrikes on Afghan territory, India said these are flagrant violations of inter-

national law, the UN Charter and the principle of state sovereignty.

Parvathaneni cited United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) information to note that 372 civilians have been killed and 397 injured just in the first three months of this year; a large majority of them during the holy month of Ramadan, which is a time of peace, mercy and reflection, making the act all the more reprehensible.

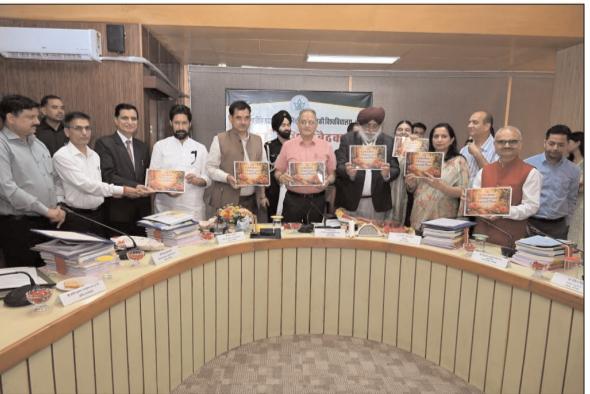
"No faith, no law and no

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## Kavinder emphasises need to align academic progs with NEP

SOLAN, JUN 09: Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta, who, as chancellor of Dr Y S Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Nauni, today chaired the university's 17th senate meeting, emphasised the need for aligning academic programmes with National Education Policy (NEP).

Reviewing the university's academic, research and extension activities, he commended its achievements in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) and lauded its growing reputation in hor-



ticulture, forestry and mountain agriculture research.

Gupta emphasised the need to align academic programmes with NEP

2020 and integrate emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, data analytics and information technology, into the cur

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