

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, MARCH 03, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

CBI Arrests NHA General Manager in Rs 20-Lakh bribery case

NEW DELHI, Mar 3 (Agencies): The CBI has arrested a general manager of the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) in an alleged bribery case of Rs 20 lakh in Maharashtra's Nagpur, officials said on Sunday. Arvind Kale, who is also a project director, allegedly received the bribe from a private company, they said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) recovered Rs 45 lakh cash, including the bribe of Rs 20 lakh, during a search operation following Kale's arrest, the officials said.

A case has been registered against Kale and 11 others, including the private company, they said.

Shehbaz Sharif becomes Pakistan's Prime Minister for 2nd time

ISLAMABAD (Pakistan), Mar 3 (Agencies): Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday became the prime minister of Pakistan for a second time to lead a coalition government after he comfortably won a majority in the newly-elected Parliament amidst sloganeering by the Opposition.

Shehbaz, 72, who was the consensus candidate of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), received 201 votes, 32 more than what was required to become leader of the House in the 336-member Parliament.

Shehbaz's challenger Omar Ayub Khan of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) secured 92 votes.

National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq announced the results appointing Shehbaz as the 24th prime minister of Pakistan. Shehbaz will be administered the oath of office on Monday at the Presidential mansion, Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The session of the new parliament convened amid ruckus and sloganeering by PTI-backed lawmakers. ■ Turn to page 9

Lt Governor hands over appointment letters to NoKs of civilians killed in Poonch



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today handed over the appointment orders under SRO-43 to the next of kin of the civilians killed in Poonch.

The appointment orders were handed over to Mst. Zareena Begum, wife of Sh Safer Ahmed; Sh Mohd Kabir, brother of Sh Shabir Ahmad; Sh Mohd Razaq, brother of Sh Showkat Ali, all residents of village Buziaz, Surankote, District Poonch.

Allotment orders of land measuring one Kanal each were also handed over to the families for the residential purpose.

The Lt Governor assured the family members of all possible support from the J&K Administration in the future. Ch. Mohd. Yasin, Deputy Commissioner Poonch was also present.

Woman, her three children die after house collapses in Reasi

REASI, Mar 3 (Agencies): Four persons, including three minor children died when a landslide hit their Kacha house in Chassana belt of Reasi district in Jammu division, an official said on Sunday.

An official told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that family of four was buried alive as a massive landslide hit their Kacha house in Kunderdhan Chassana due to incessant rainfall. He said victims were asleep when a landslide occurred during the Sunday night.



"Mother and her three children died of the landslide, two others suffered injuries," official said.

"Phalla Akther, wife of Mohd Farid, aged about 30 years, Nasima Akther, daughter of

Mohd Farid, aged 5 years, Safeen Kousar, daughter of Mohd Farid, aged 3 years, and Samreen Kousar, daughter of Mohd Farid, aged 2 months, died on the spot. Two persons, ■ Turn to page 9

Security beefed up ahead of PM Modi's visit to Kashmir on March 7



SRINAGAR, Mar 3 (Agencies): Extraordinary security arrangements were put in place throughout Kashmir on Sunday as the Valley gears up to receive Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 7.

This would be PM Modi's first visit to the Valley after article 370 was abrogated on August 5, 2019. Last time, he visited the Valley in February 2019.

PM Modi is scheduled to inaugurate/lay foundation

stone of various developmental projects in the Valley on March 7.

He will interact with some local beneficiaries of the national flagship programmes during his nearly two-hour long programme at the Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar city. He will also address a large public gathering at the Bakshi Stadium.

After his arrival at the Srinagar international airport, PM Modi will fly in a helicopter to the

Badami Bagh cantonment headquarters of Army's 15 Corps.

He will offer floral tributes at the martyrs memorial inside the Corps headquarters.

The Prime Minister will then travel from Badami Bagh cantonment in a cavalcade to the Bakshi Stadium, the venue of his main programme in the Valley.

A 3-tier security arrangement has been put in place to ensure that the VVIP visit

passes off peacefully and the people do not suffer any inconvenience while reaching the venue.

All highrise buildings around the Bakshi Stadium have been taken over by the security forces while drones will provide aerial surveillance in areas around the stadium.

Makeshift check posts have come up at a number of places in Srinagar city and all entry and exit points into the city are being guarded to ensure that anti-national elements are prevented from disturbing peace inside the city.

The entry of officials and the general public into the stadium will be highly regulated to ensure the safety of the Prime Minister and the public inside the stadium.

BJP leaders are expecting a large number of people from different parts of the

■ Turn to page 9

Jammu-Srinagar highway blocked for 2nd consecutive day



SRINAGAR, Mar 3 (Agencies): The strategic Srinagar-Jammu national highway remained closed on Sunday for the second consecutive day due to landslides.

Traffic department officials said that multiple landslides were triggered by incessant rain in the Ramban district.

"Efforts to restore the highway for traffic are going on. Intending travellers are advised not to undertake the journey without contacting our control rooms at Srinagar and Jammu," the officials said.

An official told Greater Kashmir that the road

is closed at about one dozen places in Nashri and Banihal sector due to landslides and shooting stones.

He said the road has been damaged completely at Pantialy (Outside tunnel no 5) and that the restoration work has been started.

It must be mentioned that all essential supplies are brought into the landlocked Valley through this highway.

Meanwhile, Srinagar-Leh, Mughal Road, Sinthan-Kishtwar road, Bandipora-Gurez and Kupwara-Tangdhar road continued to remain snowbound and closed for traffic. ■ Turn to page 9

Illegal Mining: 51 Arrested, 51 Vehicles Seized in North Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Mar 3 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police, in their ongoing drive against illegal mining in Baramulla, have registered 30 cases and arrested 51 persons for their involvement in the illegal extraction and transportation of minerals during the first two months of 2024.

Additionally, 51 vehicles, including 19 tipper, 31 tractors, and an excavator, used in the illegal transport of minerals, have been seized from various areas of the district.

"Baramulla Police, in collaboration with the Mineral Department, has collected fines amounting to lakhs of rupees for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals in the district. The police are committed to

Sun shines over J&K after incessant rains, snowfall; night temp drops as Gulmarg records minus 10.6°C

SRINAGAR, Mar 3 (Agencies): The sun shine bright on Sunday over Jammu and Kashmir after days of rain and snowfall. However, night temperature recorded a drop at most places with Gulmarg recording minus 10.6°C.

A meteorological department official here told GNS that in 24 hours till 0830 hours today, Srinagar received 38.9mm of rain, Qazigund 81mm, Pahalgam 39.5mm, Kupwara 44.5mm (9 cms snowfall), Kokernag 38.1mm, Jammu 58.3mm, 90.2mm, Batote 69.4mm, Katra 74.0mm and Baderwah 55.4mm while Gulmarg received 35 cms (1.2-ft) of snowfall.



He said Srinagar recorded a minimum of minus 0.6°C against previous night's 2.0°C. It was below normal by 2.8°C for the summer capital of J&K for this time of the year, the MeT official said.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 2.0°C against 1.8°C the previous night and it

was 1.1°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 2.4°C against 0.5°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a ■ Turn to page 9

Kashmiri Deaf Athletes to Shine on International Skiing stage

SRINAGAR, Mar 3 (Agencies): Two deaf athletes from Kashmir are set to participate in a Ski championship in Turkey, media reports said.

Majid Nazir and Mohammed Saleem Wani will represent India in the upcoming 20th Winter Deaflympics in Turkey from March 2 to 12.

On the invitation of All India Sports Council of the Deaf, New Delhi, the athletes are nominated by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Association of the Deaf.

Majid Nazir is a skier from Lolab Kupwara, and Saleem Wani is an ■ Turn to page 9

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EDITORIAL

GENETIC
DIVERSITY

There is no single definition of genetic diversity usable for all purposes. The knowledge of nature is contained in the DNA of living cells. Variations observed in the living world are due to variations in the sequences of the four base pairs of DNA and their interactions with the environment.

The pool of genetic diversity of a species exists at three levels, genetic diversity within individuals, often referred to as heterozygosity; Genetic variation among individuals within a population and genetic variation between populations.

Genetic diversity is the genetic variation within and between populations. New genetic variations arise through gene or chromosomal mutations in individuals of a species. Recombination also contributes to genetic diversity in sexually reproducing organisms.

Genetic diversity in a population enables natural evolutionary changes to occur. The rate of such changes is proportional to the amount of genetic variation available. Conservation of species diversity is dependent on the degree of genetic diversity within each species.

Because genes can result in competitive advantage, genetic diversity at the individual and population levels ultimately determines a species' ability to survive and adapt to environmental conditions.

This measure of fitness is fundamental to the process of natural selection and ultimately to evolution. In theory, higher genetic diversity provides more opportunities for survival and vice versa.

Under natural conditions, a degree of genetic diversity is maintained as populations of a species interact over time and space. This is called gene flow. When viable populations are isolated for long periods, adaptation to local conditions may eventually result in speciation.

This process, known as adaptive radiation, contributes to an overall increase in species diversity. Nevertheless, when only small populations are involved, isolation can reduce genetic diversity and ultimately even species diversity. In such cases, reduced gene flow and an increased likelihood of inbreeding may lead to a decrease in the overall fitness of the population, and an eventual risk of extinction.

These reveal the principle of island biogeography and the mechanisms behind the potential inheritance of habitat fragmentation. Genetic diversity is essentially a source of the species' own survival and future development.

Genes controlling fundamental processes such as photosynthesis and respiration are highly conserved across different taxa and generally exhibit little variation.

The genetic diversity of microorganisms is higher than that of macroorganisms as the former originated earlier and have been present on the earth for a longer period of time. Of the 95 phyla of living organisms, 52 belong to microorganisms, excluding viruses. A total of 159 mutant lines in *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* and over 3000 mutants in *Neurospora crassa* exemplify the genetic diversity of microbes.

Mutations are rare, occurring once in 105 to 106 genes per individual in a generation. Without mutation, evolution would stop, although mutation does not occur in anticipation of environmental demands. It just happens, brings about structural and functional changes of organisms. Environmental conditions determine whether such changes are beneficial or harmful or neutral for the present as well as the future.

Keep calm and carry on crying

By: Shreya Sen-Handley

Crying over spilt milk is futile. Crocodile tears are fake and manipulative. Crying wolf too is false, and dangerous. Indulging in any of the above would be a 'crying shame'; the most reprehensible behaviour. And those blubbing Everly Brothers? Leave 'em to their cryin' in the rain! There's no place in polite society for exposure that private.

Nothing good's ever said about shedding a tear; our intrinsically human emissions of joy, sadness, and frustration. Because nothing good can come of it, or so we've been convinced.

The patriarchy comes down hard on weeping. 'Big boys don't cry' they command, insisting lads' man up' and plough on amidst upheavals, without examination or even acknowledgement of their emotions. Our dammed-up waterworks then trickle into every niche and crevice, not just of our bodies but the body-politic, poisoning it like slow-acting arsenic. Didn't large-scale, pent-up resentments result in two World Wars, don't they even now trigger mass turmoil?

When 'celebs', especially male, break down in public, such as Cristiano Ronaldo or Novak Djokovic, derision is generally rained down upon them, as if Charles Dickens hadn't reprimanded, "Heaven knows we need never be ashamed of our tears, for they are rain upon the blinding dust of earth..." or Justin Timber-

lake wailed, "Cry me a river", unequivocally encouraging his brethren.

Yet, strong women too are exhorted to never give in to such 'womanly' infirmity, or be forever stereotyped as 'the weaker sex'. Growing up in a house full of stern women, I was taught not to snivel (even the sound of words that denote crying repel!). Learning to walk in infancy, I already knew I should hold back the tears when I fell and scraped my knee. My formidable foremothers intended to build character, but I wonder now if they would have stood me in better stead by allowing me to express anguish.

Cultures around the world stubbornly uphold the stiff upper lip, particularly those with a puritanical streak. WASPs (White-Anglo-Saxon-Protestants) are famously emotionally repressed, and having previously colonised large parts of the planet, their frigidity is still considered the benchmark for propriety.

Have you noticed, on Anglo-American channels, the unmistakable scorn that creeps into their coverage of other people's tragedies? When the bereaved from other cultures beat their breasts or rail at the heavens, somewhere in the voice of the western reporter is an undertone of contempt. The English language itself is loaded with ugly words for lamentation, a few of which I've had little choice but to use here!

But not all western nations eschew expressions of grief. The Irish 'keen' at their funerals, a sustained high-pitched

lament dredging the depths of their heartache. Mediterranean societies also approach loss with less restraint and more savoir-faire. Bright yellow is believed to have been the colour of mourning in Spain, in celebration of lives well-lived.

If I have to dwell on my death at all, a vibrant memorial is just what I'd want. I think those close to me now know I'd want a quirky, colourful send-off, as it's these very people who have taught me to loosen up and express emotions at long last.

When my beloved great-grandfather died in Kolkata, I was growing up in Manila, and able to tell myself for months afterward that he hadn't gone at all. When my grandfather passed away in my early twenties, I found it difficult to cry despite my grief — yet another instance of the emotional avoidance integral to my buttoned-up Ingo-Bongo upbringing. I was also the only one dry-eyed at my wedding and not because I wasn't deliriously happy!

It wasn't till my children were born that I learned to unburden my heart. I cried when I held them for the first time. Oh, ok, my tears sprang from the pain of delivery and the 33-hour labour preceding it initially, but then, they flowed freely down my cheeks from the joy of beholding my beautiful babies.

Over the years, I've misted up at their tentative first steps, determined first words, and comic turns in school plays — my three-year-old son cast as a penguin in the school nativity when penguins had never

inhabited Bethlehem, and my little girl the year after as Mother Mary, whispering the words the toddler Joseph had forgotten, because she'd learnt not only her lines but everyone else's!

With the floodgates finally open, I now shed a tear over nearly everything, from the fate of polar bears in the Arctic to films sans a single tear-jerking moment! And that's good for me.

Good for us all, because science has demonstrated that it's hugely beneficial to our health to vent our feelings, especially when long-suppressed or intense, and spring-clean our inner space. Releasing oxytocin and endorphins, a satisfying sob floods our systems with feel-good chemicals and flushes out stress hormones and other toxins, washing away both physical and emotional pain.

Plus, a ready rush of tears is undoubtedly better than the alternative — an inevitable lashing-out. If men could openly cry over their troubles and not be humiliated for it, mental health would improve and so would public safety, studies prove. Besides, showing vulnerability helps us relate to diverse groups, re-establishing the common ground so worryingly eroded in recent years.

So, in this Vale of Tears, I say, let us give vent to them frequently and freely, embracing the emotionally secure, expressive, empathetic and mature 'cry baby' in us all!

Bonds, not black money, gone: All eyes now on EC

By: Pavan Varma

The nation has witnessed the complete breakdown of all ethics in the recent Rajya Sabha elections in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka. What happened in these elections is not an exception, but more and more the norm, and we are, even though the world's largest democracy, fast reaching the sordid bottom of political unethicity. It is crystal clear that our democratic credentials are seriously threatened if comprehensive electoral reforms are not implemented urgently, and the nexus between unaccounted money and politics severed.

Recently, after a long wait, the Supreme Court (SC) struck down the legality of electoral bonds. That was the right decision, considering that the bonds did nothing to eliminate the deliberate opacity in the role of anonymous money in politics, except to make the donations through a bank transfer. Everything else remained the same, or even worse: The donor was unknown, the party receiving the funds unknown, the cap on amount of funding removed, and donations from foreign sources — not allowed earlier — made unlimited.

The whole scheme, as the SC averred, was a fraud played on the voter in the name of reform. But while the SC judgment is welcome, it is still not a solution to eliminating the role of black money in politics, which is the beef of all corruption in India. Merely scrapping the electoral bond scheme will take us back to the old system where cash was paid under the table, forcing corporates to resort to unethical practices

which generate black money.

The Election Commission (EC) has for long recommended several reforms. Currently, candidates are required to disclose their assets and liabilities, but not political parties. As far back as 2004, the EC had proposed that "political parties should be required to publish their accounts annually for information and scrutiny of the general public and all concerned, for which purpose the maintenance of such accounts and their auditing (by a firm of auditors approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General) to ensure their accuracy is a prerequisite". This has never been done.

The EC had also recommended that all payments made to political parties must be made digitally or by crossed account payee cheque, where the donor and the receiving party are known. This too has not been implemented. Given the digital revolution, why can't we have a law that all donations to parties, of even the smallest amount, must compulsorily be made digitally, and available on a public website? Then, when parties brazenly splurge money on electioneering or horse trading, people can ask from where this unaccounted money has come from. This "crowd funding", through transparent digital donations, is entirely implementable, and has been tested by Bernie Sanders with great success in the US presidential elections in 2016 and 2020.

Further, the intent behind the anti-defection law has become a joke. It has become almost routine for elected representatives, individually or collectively, to randomly switch parties. Governments have been toppled by horse trading, and par-

ties with a minority have miraculously become majorities. The entire lubricant for this shameful state of affairs is black money, running into hundreds of crores, where elected representatives allow themselves to be sold to the highest bidder. There is, in them, no pretence of fidelity to ideology, or idealism, or political loyalty, or qualms from turning overnight into an abject acolyte of the very leader or party of which they were the most emphatic critic. This deplorable state of affairs has created a sense of revulsion in the common person, where emotions swing from anger to resignation. A corrective is urgently needed to revive people's belief in the integrity of the democratic process. There are obvious solutions, but who will take the initiative? For instance, why can't we have a law by which any elected representative who, after winning on a particular party symbol, changes sides will have to resign and fight elections afresh?

The EC, has a vital role in impartially, fearlessly and rigorously supervising the electoral process, but it appears to be greatly enfeebled. The SC, in a judgment of March 2023, had proposed that election commissioners are selected by a committee consisting of the PM, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Chief Justice of India (CJI). The government, however, passed a law omitting the CJI, and made the third member a Union minister nominated by the PM. The government, therefore, will always have the majority in appointing the three election commissioners. Why should any ruling party have the right to dictate the composition of the EC, especially when, under the Constitution, it is

an independent body?

An impartial and ethically inflexible ombudsman is needed for any democracy to abide by the rules of the game. The EC has this constitutional role, but if it chooses to be a largely non-interventionist body, who will ensure that the model code of conduct for elections is strictly implemented? The very first article of this code says: "No party shall include in any activity which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different caste and communities, religious or linguistic." The second article stresses: "Criticism of other parties or their workers on the basis of unverified allegations or distortion should be avoided." The third is categorical: "There should be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes. Mosques, temples, churches or other places of worship should not be used as forums for election propaganda." And the fourth states that: "All parties and candidates shall avoid scrupulously all activities which are 'corrupt practices' and offences under the election law such as bribing of voters, intimidation of voters..." If the EC is found wanting in ensuring the above, can the SC crack the whip, because it is its mandate to protect the 'basic structure' of the Constitution, of which democracy — and free and fair elections — is a central pillar?

All our political parties, as part of an unstated conspiracy, have been resisting electoral reform because they have a vested interest in perpetuating the old corrupt system. Ultimately, citizens, who are the victims of this shameful state of affairs, must say: Enough is enough!

Nursing Association & PUCA welcome Nursing Council President in Punjab

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Indian Nursing Council (INC), President, Dr. T. Dileep Kumar was welcomed by a joint delegation of Nursing Training Institute Association (NTIA) led by Mr. Gurdayal Singh Buttar & Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA) led by Dr. Anshu Kataria in Chandigarh. On the occasion Mrs. Sarvajit Kaur Secretary INC & Mrs. KS Bharti Joint Secretary, INC were also welcomed by the delegation.



Dr. Anshu Kataria, President, PUCA & Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura Near Chandigarh While welcoming INC President mentioned that in Punjab, we have enough

infrastructure in the private colleges & the state is becoming destination not only for nursing but also technical students across nation as well. Gurdayal Singh Buttar, President NTIA elaborated that the maximum strength of nursing trainees of our Punjab province from various courses like GNM, B.Sc. Nursing, M.Sc. Nursing go to foreign countries and our colleges face difficulties for adequate staff. Therefore in our nursing colleges in Punjab which are according to the guidelines of INC, the faculty student ratio should be 1:20 instead of 1:10. Also according to the instructions of the Indian Nursing Council, the experience of the principal should be

reduced from 15 years to 10 years. Buttar mentioned that all the nursing colleges of Punjab are committed to provide quality education as well as practical exposure to the students. Not only this, the associations are working hard to strengthen the state more to provide Healthcare education and facilities. The president, INC gave a patient hearing on this & assured to do the best possible in the interest of nursing students & colleges of Country.

Petitioners not to suffer monetary! JWF urges CAT to procure arrears from respondents salary of delayed period

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Jammu Warrior Front (JWF) has justified the decision of Central Administrative Tribunal for stopping the salary of the Secretary, Service Selection Board (SSRB), Jammu & Kashmir for not obeying the orders of court.

The chairman Jammu Warriors Front Rajesh Gupta on Sunday said in a statement that for last couple of weeks the JWF was getting information that SSRB is not filing reply to all those cases pertaining to it and causing delay in the justice delivery system resulting in mental trauma to petitioners who are hoping justice from the court since last more than 7 years.

He appreciated the order in this regard which has been passed by Judicial Member Rajinder



Singh Dogra, who mentioned that the officer who is not obeying the orders of the court and not filing reply since a decade doesn't deserve salary.

JWF leader requested the CAT to prioritize the pending cases in three categories first priority to those case which are pending more than 7 years, second priority those cases pending more than 5 years and third to those pending more than 3 years. He

hoped that in 2024 year the cases pending more than 7 years would be delivered justice. He requested that a time frame of 6 months should be fixed so that the case may be proceeded further automatically with or without reply from the respondent.

Rajesh Gupta urged the court to procure all sort of arrears of the delayed period caused by respondents due to not filing reply/objections from the salaries of the respondent, so that petitioners may not suffer monetary losses. Such type of precedent will make the respondent and accountable.

He further added that due to numerous leakage of papers for examination for recruitment in different kinds of posts of different departments had exposed the credibility of the Board and it needs strict action to make it reliable.

Bhagat urges Govt to provide compensation

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 3: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Senior Leader, Spokesperson Ajeet Bhagat expressed deep concern over the mass damage caused to the residential houses in Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban Districts due to Windstorm and heavy rainfall in the Chenab Valley Zone. The National Conference leaders said that the areas of Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban Districts remained the worst affected areas wherein the damage caused to the residential houses are dozens in number. Bhagat said that the severely impacted by the destructive forces of the wind storm and heavy rainfall. Ajeet Bhagat said that the fruit growers have been bearing the brunt of untimely snowfall and wind-

storm for the past several years and that the recent heavy downpour and windstorm have only dashed the hopes of the profitable harvest for the orchardists. "Our hearts go out to these families, and we urgently call upon the authorities to take immediate and appropriate measures to provide them with the necessary relief and support during this challenging time, he added. Bhagat appealed to the Lt. Governor, Chief Secretary and Divisional Commissioner Jammu to direct the Districts Administration to take immediate measures for the mitigation of the losses suffered by the people so that the damages caused by the windstorm to residential houses and orchards could be assessed and financial assistance to the affected people could be provided at an earliest.

Sadhguru Shri Madhuparamhans delivers lecture to Sangat

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Sadhguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj of Sahib Bandagi, while delighting the Sangat with the nectar of his sermons in Rakhbandhu, Jammu today, said that Kabir Sahib is also called Zinda Baba.

Dharamdas ji was a Vaishnav. They were cooking their own food. A wooden cast. Many ants came out of it. Many were dead. Dharamdas ji felt sad. Said that I will not eat this anymore. When I looked here and there, I found Kabir Sahib, alive Baba in the form of a fakir, under a tree. Dharamdas ji gave him that khichdi. Kabir Sahib said that you are coming after killing many creatures and you are giving that prasad to me. Dharamdas ji was surprised and asked how did you know that the creature had been killed.

These things happen. Out of all the ashrams, only one person offered me money. I saw that money trembling. I asked, tell me the truth from



where you have brought this money. I asked the man to tell the truth as to where he had brought this money from. He said that he had left the goat for the deity. Now there is no need to offer. I have brought this money by selling the goat. I said that I cannot take this money, pick up the.

So Zinda Baba told Dharamdas ji that many ants have been burnt in the stove. Then Sahib did such a thing that all the rice became ants. Dharamdas ji was surprised and said that it is true that the ants are jealous of me. But you were not there. Then how did you know? Then how did these rice become ants? I

am surprised. You tell me who you are.

Before Kabir Sahib there was no word Sadhguru. He was a Guru, a Rishi and a Muni.

Sahib said that he died because of Sadhguru's name Pratap. Dharamdas said tell me what is this name, introduce yourself. Sahib said that my name is Zinda. I am always with Sadhguru. I am his servant. I have no other place. That Sadguru always remains in the world of truth. Only his devotion can bring welfare to the soul.

Sahib said that the Vedas are speaking in the formless form, but it is the same time, no one knows this difference.

Pulse Polio program starts at SDH Bishnah

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Block Medical Officer, SDH Bishnah Dr Shamim Ahmed Choudhary along with Shri Surjeet Kumar, Sr. Pharmacist and Staff Members Started Pulse Polio Program at Bishnah. DDC Member Bishnah Sh Dharminder Kumar was Invited as Chief Guest on the occasion and Corporator Sahil Gupta was Invited as Special Guest on the occasion.

BMO Dr Shamim Ahmed Choudhary told that under five years of age will receive oral polio vaccine during a three-day Pulse Polio Immunization drive



starting today. He also urged people to take their children falling in the age group to the nearby health centers on the day, noting the country's leading role in immunization.

Worth mentioning, today, there will be booth day where the children

will be brought to the vaccination booth, and on the next two days, door-to-door campaigns will be held in which the left-outs will be covered.

He further thanked DDC Member Dharminder Kumar and Corporator Sahil Gupta for their presence in the Programs.

Tehsildar Qaziabad Inaugurates Polio Immunization Program at CHC Kralgund

Top News Report

HANDWARA, Mar 3: Tehsildar Qaziabad, Mr. G R Bhat today inaugurated Intensive Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI) Program 2024 at Community Health Centre in Kralgund. The Tehsildar started the campaign by administering oral anti polio vaccine drops to

the newly born infant in presence of ZMO Kralgund Dr. Showkat, SHO Kralgund Peerzada Waseem and BHW Kralgund Mohammad Iqbal, Waseem Reshi and other staff members.

The Tehsildar Qaziabad directed the officials of the health department to ensure percent coverage of the immunization

program and also asked for door to door survey to leave no child uncovered under the pulse polio program 2024.

It is pertinent mention that this is the first phase of anti-polio Vaccination Program for the year 2024 & the aim of the program is to ensure the children up to 5 yrs of age are protected from the crippling Polio Myelitis disease.

On the occasion, ZMO Kralgund, Dr. Showkat informed the Executive Magistrate about the working of the hospital.

He also raised some issues and demands about the functioning of the hospital. G R Bhat assured the health officials that all genuine demands will be projected before the higher authorities in a time bound manner.

Hearing camp organised at Udhampur

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: On the occasion of world Hearing Day, a Hearing assessment camp for Hearing Impaired children with special needs (CWSN) of age group 6-18 years is being organized at JK Electronic Ear Prime Speech & Hearing clinic near Pine Villa guest house Udhampur.

The Camp has been organized under the chairmanship of the Chief Education Officer Smt. Geetu Bangothra, in collaboration with Dr. Navneet Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of ENT, ASCOMS, Consultant Audiologist Jammu. In the Camp the CWSN of schools going children of various zones of Udhampur district i.e. Jib, Tikri and Udhampur have been covered. Almost more than 50 children were assessed and screened in the camp.

Refreshment as well as 'To and Fro' charges have also been paid to CWSN.

JKBS elects Rashpal Bhardwaj as Chief Election Comm, nominates Seema Devi as Mahila Wing Prez

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha held a meeting at Shahzadpur Kotli here today which was attended by a large number of Batwal community members hailing from different corners. The meeting unanimous-

ly elected Rashpal Bhardwaj as JKBS' Chief Election Commissioner and nominated Seema Devi, Panch Pinki Devi and Poli Devi as JKBS' Mahila Wing President, Vice President and General Secretary, respectively.

Besides, the meeting expanded its executive body by including into it

Ujjagar Singh Bassa as Vice President and Darshan Kumar Lakhotra & Guchhan Bhardwaj as Organising Secretaries.

Prominent among those who were present in the meeting were Messrs Dilay Ram, Rachhpal Kaith, R L Kaith, Birender Kaith, Chuni Lal and Sanjeev Kumar.

Raj Sharma visits Khanpur area in Nagrota, meets people

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Apni Party's Provincial President of Apni Trade Union, Raj Sharma today visited Khanpur area of Nagrota in Jammu East constituency.

During his visit to the Khanpur area, he met the people of different segments of society, and listened to their problems regarding development etc.

The people informed that more than 11 families in Khanpur have been facing problems due to irregular and shortage of clean drinking water issues.



The people also informed him about various other issues.

On hearing them patiently, Raj Sharma assured them that he would highlight their issues before the concerned authorities for the early redressal of the issues. Sharma was accompanied by the Party's District President, Anirudh Vasist.

DoMF to organise a two-day brain-storming on Aatm Nirbhar Bharat & Make in India initiative

Top News Report

Taking the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat and 'Make in India' initiative forward, the Department of Military Affairs (DoMF) under the Ministry of Defence, is conducting an intensive Brainstorming over the next two days on March 4-5, 2024 between the Service Headquarters and important stakeholders from Department of Defence

Production, Defence Industry representatives and other relevant partners. The implementable way forward derived from consultative and participative process-

es through high-level deliberations to provide impetus to indigenisation and also devise ways and means to enhance participation of private industry in defence R&D and manufacturing ecosystem will be the key takeaways.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan will chair the sessions, while Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane will deliver the keynote address. The event covers a wide canvas ranging from identification of challenges and evolving a way ahead to provide impetus to indigenisation efforts of Armed forces, address

sustenance-related issues, invigorate private sector participation in defence R&D and manufacturing ecosystem and most importantly create and enhance Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul facilities for the Armed Forces.

The HQ IDS and SIDM are coordinating the event and it will see the participation of key representatives from MoD, Services, and Industry under one roof to further strengthen the indigenisation efforts. This will pave the way to formulate a time-bound action plan to give impetus to indigenisation in defence sector.

Ankita Lokhande reveals how she was asked to 'sleep with a producer' at 19 years old: 'I felt so low about myself'

Actor Ankita Lokhande has opened up on her casting couch experience after auditioning for a film and how she decided not to enter that industry. In an interview with Hauterrfly, Ankita shared that she was told she would have to "sleep with the producer" when she went to get her signing amount for the film.

Ankita talks about facing casting couch

Ankita said, "It happened to me in Bombay for a south film. I got a call saying, 'You have been selected'. I had given an audition. I said, 'Ok, I'm coming'. I had to go and sign. I told my mom, 'I'm going to sign the film. I'll get the signing amount. However, I was in two minds, how did this happen so easily, I don't have that good a destiny. When I went there, I was called alone inside the room while my co-ordinator was asked to wait outside. They said, 'You have to compromise.' I was just 19 at that time. Tabhi mera heroine banna hai walla phase chah raha tha (I was going through



the phase where I wanted to become a heroine.)"

Ankita recalls walking out of meeting

Ankita shared that she "played smart" and asked, "What kind of a compromise? Do you want me to go to a party with your producers, financiers? I played it very smart so that I don't get to hear what they were supposed to say. He then said, 'You have to sleep with the producer'. I just got up. I said, 'I don't think your producer needs a talent, they just need a girl to sleep with, and I am not

that one.' And I just walked off. He said, 'I promise to take you in the film, I'll try my best. I said, 'You promise, you do whatever you want to do I don't want to do your film now. I'm done'...I felt so low about myself that, 'Koi mujhe aese kaese pooch sakta hai (How can someone ask me this)? That day I decided that I'm not going to do films, I don't want to do films. It's dirty.'"

Ankita's films so far

Ankita made her film debut with Kangana Ranaut's Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi

(2019). She has since starred in Baaghi 3 (2020). She will also be seen with Randeep Hooda in the upcoming film Swatantrya Veer Savarkar. The film is directed and co-written by Randeep with Utkarsh Naithani.

Ankita's shows

Ankita made her debut in television with Ekta Kapoor's Pavitra Rishta (2009-2014). She portrayed the role of Archana Deshmukh opposite Sushant Singh Rajput. She participated in Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 4 and Comedy Circus ka Naya Daur. She did two episodes for Ek Thi Naayka, opposite Sachin Shroff.

The actor reprised her role as Archana Deshmukh in the web series Pavitra Rishta: It's Never Too Late along with Shaheer Sheikh from 2021 to 2022. In February 2022, she participated and won Smart Jodi with her husband, Vicky Jain. In 2023, she participated in the reality show Bigg Boss 17, where she finished as the third runner-up.

This is what Miss World Karolina Bielawska did during her Nagpur visit



Ahead of the upcoming 71st Miss World pageant, set to unfold in India after a 28-year hiatus, reigning Miss World Karolina Bielawska and other Miss World participants are busing exploring the country.

Taking to Instagram, the Miss World handle shared pictures from the Nagpur visit and captioned the post, "Julia Morley, Miss World @karolina-bielawska, @vanessaponcedeleon, and six Miss World participants, visited Dr. Hedgewar Smriti Sthal, in Nagpur, to pay respect and learn about the RSS humanitarian activities in thousands of

social projects across India and in other countries. It was an inspiring experience and nice exchange of ideas."

The pictures featured Karolina Bielawska, former Vanessa Ponce De Leon, Julia Morley, the Chairman & CEO of the Miss World organisation and others.

Karolina Bielawska always shared her love for India.

Recently, while mentioning what makes India a special country, she told agency, "I couldn't be more excited to have the 71st Miss World festival here in India because I know how much impact it can have for all the contestants. India is leading in so many areas — education, health and technology. We can learn so much from you. So, I believe that by bringing so many young leaders here to your country, we can take inspiration and create a change that we like to see in the world."

The 71st Miss World pageant will be held between February 18 and March 9 unfolding across various venues, including the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. 120 contestants from countries across the world will participate in various competitions and charitable initiatives.

The 71st Miss World will culminate with a dazzling grand finale at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai.

Actress Meenakshi Sheshadri says about her second innings

Meenakshi Sheshadri made an indelible impression on fans' hearts with her performances in films such as Damini, Hero and others. Now, she is set for a comeback after a long sabbatical.

"I am back in India after hearing my inner voice. My family also supported me and realised that I wouldn't be getting many opportunities in the US, so I am here," she said.

Meenakshi added that she never wanted to be typecast and even now, after making a comeback, she wanted to be 'undefinable'. "Even though this is my second innings, I have come again and I want to be absolutely undefinable," added the Ghatak actress.

Recalling her childhood passion for dance, Meenakshi shared, "My mom used to run singing and dancing classes. From the age



of one, I started learning how to dance. I later won awards and after passing 12th class, I was chosen as Miss India that year. So the winners of beauty pageants used to get offers for modelling and acting, I too got that and I think classical dance has a big role in getting me into acting..."

She made her debut

with the film Painter Babu, which was released in 1983 and produced by Manoj Kumar. She is known for her performances in movies such as Hero, Aandhi-Toofan, Meri Jung, Swati, Dilwaala, Parivaar, Shahensha, Mahaadev, Awaargi, Jurm, Ghayal, Ghar Ho To Aisa, Damini, Ghatak, among others.

Yami Gautam reacts to Article 370's ban in Gulf countries: 'I don't see anybody getting offended by the film'

Yami Gautam is basking in the success of her latest release, Article 370. A few days ago, there were reports that stated the film was banned in Gulf countries. Now, in a new interview with Variety, the actor shared that she doesn't see anything 'offensive' in the film, adding that it is merely a matter of a certain perspective.

What Yami Gautam said

Speaking to Variety about the film being denied access to the Gulf markets, Yami said, "We really didn't anticipate this because we feel there is nothing in the film, which is offensive. The way it's performing here in India, I don't see anybody being offended with the film. In fact, people are putting



out the word that this is not a propaganda film. [Nevertheless] there will be some people who, without watching, will pass a judgement and we are used to it. And they are saying to themselves, you come out of the film feeling proud and patriotic. And this is something which led to very important peace and development in a state like Kashmir."

'What might be jingoism for somebody, is patriotism for me'

She further added about her experience of watching the film in a packed theatre. "It's a matter of perspective — what might be jingoism for somebody, is patriotism for me. [Watching the film in a theatre was one of the] best experiences in recent times. We were all clapping

and hooting and they're all strangers sitting next to each other, but if you can infuse that feeling of oneness, that you feel good about something, I think that's an achievement. I like to see the bigger story, the positive story, and go home with that," she said.

Article 370 is backed by Jio Studios and Aditya Dhar's banner B62 Studios. Yami plays the role of an intelligence officer Zooni Haksar. Set entirely in the scenic backdrop of Jammu and Kashmir, the film is based on the landmark revocation of Article 370, which guaranteed special constitutional privileges to the erstwhile state. Apart from Yami, the film also stars Priyamani, Arun Govil and Kiran Karmarkar in lead roles.

Actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh says he had doubts about Hindi version of 'Amar Singh Chamkila'

Actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh said that he was initially sceptical to be part of Imtiaz Ali's Hindi film "Amar Singh Chamkila" as he felt the director wouldn't be able to do justice with the life story of the late revolutionary Punjabi singer.

The upcoming drama will narrate the untold true story of Amar Singh Chamkila, who is referred to as the 'Elvis Presley of Punjab'. Regarded as one of the best live-stage performers to have come from Punjab, Chamkila and his wife, singing partner Amarjot were killed in 1988.

In the Netflix film, Dosanjh plays the title role with Parineeti Chopra starring as Amarjot.

The actor said the movie unfortunately couldn't see the light of

the day due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"When I got to know that in Bollywood (Hindi), there's a film being made on Chamkila, I wondered what (kind) of film they would make.

"When I got a call from Imtiaz sir, I thought he would sue us as he has the rights (to Chamkila's story) and we didn't have it. But he said, 'I want to cast you for the film'. I said, 'We already have the story. If you still think that you want to make a film with me, we will see.'" Dosanjh said at the 'Next on Netflix' event here.

However, Dosanjh's perception changed after he heard the script of Ali's movie and was amazed by the director's attention to detail.

"I thought I knew a lot about Chamkila before meeting him (Ali). When I heard his perspective, it was completely different. It was a big thing for us that his story was being said in such a big manner. When sir offered me the film, I sur-



rendered to his vision," he said.

Ali, best known for films such as "Jab We Met", "Love Aaj Kal", and "Rockstar", said he was keen to explore the story of Chamkila, whom he referred to as a "superstar singer".

"What I liked about Chamkila is that he is a grassroots superstar, and his songs are still being sung. He is very popular and he was a grassroots-level artist. We felt we should make a film on him," the director said.

Composer AR Rahman and lyricist Irshad Kamil

have contributed to the soundtrack of "Amar Singh Chamkila". Dosanjh and Chopra have sung the songs in the movie.

Rahman said it was his "dream" to compose music for a film that had a connection to Punjabi music.

"It was a long dream of mine to do a Punjabi music film. When they approached me, they already had songs of Chamkila in the film, and I was like, 'The songs are already done, so what will I do?'"

"Both Parineeti and Diljit have sung songs.

We had our take for the movie, and made it like a musical. Some parts are like Broadway musicals where we have characters talking about Chamkila," the music director added.

Rahman, who has worked with Ali on "Highway", "Rockstar", and "Tamasha", believes the director has reinvented himself with the upcoming movie.

Dosanjh said he is happy with the way the film's music has turned out. "I was wondering how they will do the music of the film, but when you have AR Rahman, Mohit Chauhan and Irshad Kamil ji then (it's a great thing). The songs of Chamkila are in Punjabi but there are other songs being played in the background in Hindi. We have original songs of Chamkila," he said.

Dosanjh also praised co-star Chopra for nailing her character of Amarjot. "Then I was thinking who will play the role of Amarjot, because she would sing

tougher than Chamkila. But when they said, Parineeti ji... I've heard her songs... But to sing like Amarjot is a different thing, and she did very well," he said.

Chopra said she learnt a lot from Dosanjh while working on the film. "When I signed this film, it was truly a dream role. Before shooting this film, I used to think I speak Punjabi well and I could sing songs well. Then I met Diljit ji. I got a reality check in both departments. I was a student in front of Diljit.

"I used to check my diction with Diljit. (That) I am pronouncing the word correctly or not, or how should I do it? The biggest challenge for us was that we should not sing like us. We had to try to sing like Amarjot and Chamkila," she added.

"Amar Singh Chamkila" is set to premiere on April 12 on Netflix. It is produced by Mohit Choudhary, Select Media Holdings LLP, Saregama, and Window Seat Films.

Here's the anti-hero!



Disney+Hotstar and Dharmatic Entertainment have unveiled the trailer of their much-awaited series, Showtime. The money, the business, the glamour, the relationships, the lifestyle, the inside scoop on all of Bollywood's best-kept secrets, Showtime is releasing exclusively on March 8 on Disney+Hotstar. Showtime is helmed by Emraan Hashmi and Mahima Makwana with Mouni Roy, Rajeev Khandelwal, Shriya Saran, Vishal Vashishtha, Neeraj Madhav, Vijay Raaz and Naseeruddin Shah in pivotal roles.

Emraan Hashmi has always aced his anti-hero roles. He effortlessly slips into the role of Raghu Khanna in Showtime and reveals what drives him to play such characters, "I don't think I can play a completely clean, righteous person on screen. Part and parcel of it is a little bit because of the way I look. People feel that there is always something devious going on! These roles were in the beginning of a career, so you can't really be picky and choosy. They were thrust upon me and I made the best out of them. The audience kind of accepted me in characters that have these grey shades."

Every big chip player to rework investment plan for India; their consideration not if and when but how soon, says IT Minister Vaishnaw

The comments assume significance as semiconductors are emerging as new frontier in geopolitical battleground amid US-China tensions

NEW DELHI, Mar 3 (Agencies): India has set its sights on becoming a formidable force in global semiconductor equation, rivalling known destinations like Taiwan and South Korea in next 5 years, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said asserting that if and when mindset of global players has changed to an eagerness to invest in the country.

In an interview to agency, the minister for IT and electronics said he is of the firm belief that practically every big player would now like to reconsider their investment plans and come to India, given the carefully-crafted policies here.

India will build on its design capabilities, where the country already has inherent and proven mettle and, notably, nearly one-third of the global talent.

That piece alongside the proposed fab (chip fabrication plant) and the 3 ATMP (assembly and test) units in India now brings together the key elements of semiconductor value chain, effectively, according to him.

"...people who were earlier thinking when should we go to India or should we go to India... now they are asking how soon do we go to India...that is the change which is happening. This means, practically every big player would now like to reconsider their investment plans and come to India," he said.

Asked about the timelines when India would aim to be a formidable player rivalling known semiconductor destinations, the minister said, "in the coming 5 years, definitely".

The comments assume significance as semiconductors are emerging as a new frontier in the geopolitical battleground



amid US-China tensions, and India has moved quickly to line up incentives that would position it as an attractive destination for global companies looking at alternatives to expand operations, and for domestic champions to take the plunge into this high-tech arena.

In fact, India's bold moves to line up enabling policies and sweeteners for semiconductor manufacturing has yielded the first commercial fab proposal.

This week, the government approved proposals to set up three semiconductor plants, including a mega fab by Tata Group, at a cumulative investment of Rs 1.26 lakh crore, as India moved to position itself as an international powerhouse in chip manufacturing.

"...it is very important for any developing country, an economy of our size, to have a semiconductor supply chain within the country. We have very strong design capabilities, as a corollary of design capabilities we must have the manufacturing capability also because that is where value gets added further," Vaishnaw explained.

The semiconductor plans will make India self-reliant, trigger a multiplier effect on economy and various industries, create

job and spur livelihoods, according to the minister.

"The semiconductor industry is a big multiplier for many more industries -- automobiles, electric vehicle, electronics, power electronics, defence -- every manufacturing sector requires semiconductors. So having that as a semiconductor value chain within the ecosystem will be pull for all of these," Vaishnaw said.

As per the announcements, Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd will set up a semiconductor fab in partnership with Taiwan's Powertech Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp at Dholera's special industrial region in Gujarat. The plant will have the capacity to produce 50,000 wafers per month and involve an investment of Rs 91,000 crore.

These chips driven by advanced technology will cater to multiple sectors -- power management chips for electric vehicles (EV), telecom, defence, automotive, consumer electronics, display, and power electronics.

The government has also approved a proposal by Tatas to build a greenfield semiconductor assembly and test facility in Jagiroad, Assam. The facility will be built with an investment outlay of Rs 27,000 crore and

is expected to generate over 27,000 direct and indirect jobs in the region.

Notably, this will be India's first semiconductor unit in the northeast.

Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test (TSAT) will develop indigenous advanced semiconductor packaging technologies, including flip chip and ISIP (integrated system in package) technologies, with a capacity of 48 million chips per day.

The target segments for these would be automotive, electric vehicles, consumer electronics, telecom, and mobile phones, among others.

The third proposal that have received the Cabinet nod is by CG Power, which in partnership with Renesas Electronics Corp and Stars Microelectronics of Thailand, will set up a unit in Sanand in Gujarat at an investment of Rs 7,600 crore.

India is looking to woo global and domestic chip makers to establish production base in India with its multi-billion dollar (USD 10 billion) incentive scheme.

Sophisticated chips are part of everyday life, used in mobile phones to refrigerators and cars to high-tech industries, and so fostering local industry with carefully-crafted schemes and incentives will link India to an ever-growing, thriving global chip market.

As it is, the global semiconductor shortage in the past has emphasised the importance of this critical component in modern day electronics.

Earlier, computer storage chip maker Micron has announced it will set up its semiconductor assembly and test plant in Gujarat, entailing a total investment of USD 2.75 billion (around Rs 22,540 crore).

Bengaluru cafe blast: Police probing different angles including business rivalry, says Karnataka Home Minister Parameshwara



BENGALURU, Mar 3 (Agencies): Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Sunday said business rivalry, impending elections and terrorising investors coming to Bengaluru in view of a stable government in the state are some of the angles which the police are working on to crack relating to the blast at a city eatery.

The explosion took place at Rameshwaram Cafe in Brookefield in East Bengaluru on Friday. A man wearing a cap, mask and glasses is the prime suspect in the case and is still untraceable. According to him, eight teams are working to crack the case and they are accompanied by the National Investigation Agency, National Security Group (NSG) and Intelligence Bureau (IB) are assisting the teams.

Parameshwara said one of the angles being probed was to see if it was to terrorise Bengaluru in view of the impending elections. "Elections are approaching. If any organisation is behind it, or if there are some other motives behind it to terrorise people to make Benga-

luru look unsafe..." the Minister added.

"As many investors are coming here in view of a stable government, this might have been done either to stop investors from coming to Bengaluru or due to some other unknown reasons," Parameshwara said.

The Minister said business rivals might have done it out of jealousy. That is one of the angles, which is also being discussed.

He said The Rameshwaram Cafe has 11 units and the owners were planning to set up their 12th unit, for which advance deposit was also paid.

"We will crack it (the case). We will not leave it. However difficult this case may be, our department will bust it," he asserted.

The Minister appealed to people to rely only on the statements issued by him, police and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and not on speculative ones.

To a question related to a pressure cooker blast in Mangaluru on November 19, 2022, Parameshwara said there was similar assemblage of explosives and other equipment as was

in the incident in Mangaluru but that comparison doesn't mean the same gang was behind the blast at Rameshwaram Cafe.

"The way the battery and timer have been used seems similar. We have to take it (investigation) forward. We don't know whether the same organisation did it or the same people did it," the Minister said.

He also said it was a low intensity bomb as the explosives used were of low intensity and even the quantity might be less.

If the quantity was more then the intensity would have been higher, he observed.

According to him, there could have been casualties if the bomb had gone off horizontally and not vertically. "I too visited...and saw bolts and nails there. They all went up. If they had gone off horizontally then many people would have got hurt. It could have caused deaths too. Luckily all of them went up..." Parameshwara explained.

Speaking about the suspect, the Minister said police have procured about 40 to 50 CCTV footages.

"There is information that he came by a bus...26 buses passed there around that time. We went through all the 26 buses. We have found the bus in which he travelled. He was wearing a cap, mask and glasses. We are not getting clarity there as well," he said.

Cop, Naxalite killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh's Kanker

KANKER, Mar 3 (Agencies): A police constable and a Naxalite were killed in an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district on Sunday, a senior police official said.

The gunfight occurred in a forest near Hidur village under Chhotebethiya police station limits, where a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraaj P said.

The operation was launched based on a specific input about the presence of Naxalites in the Hidur forest, he said.

Personnel from the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Bastar Fighters, both units of the state police, along with the Border Security Force (BSF) and district force, were involved in the operation, the official said.

The patrolling team was cordoning off the forest when Naxalites fired on them indiscriminately, leading to the gun battle, he said.



"Constable Ramesh Kurethi of the Bastar Fighters was killed in the gunfight. The body of a Naxalite and an AK-47 rifle were recovered from the spot", the IG said.

A search operation was underway in the area, he said.

Kurethi hailed from Sangam village in the Pakhanjur area of Kanker district, the official said.

Manipur violence: CBI files charge sheet against seven in Bishnupur armoury loot case

NEW DELHI, Mar 3 (Agencies): The CBI has filed a charge sheet against seven accused in connection with the looting of arms and ammunition from the Bishnupur police armoury during the Manipur ethnic violence last year, officials said on Sunday.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) recently filed its charge sheet before the court of chief judicial magistrate in Kamrup (Metro) in Assam's Guwahati.

The accused named in the charge sheet are Laishram Prem Singh, Khumukcham Dhiren alias Thapka, Moirangthem Anand Singh, Athokpam Kajit alias Kishorjit, Loukrakpam Michael Mangangcha alias Michael, Konthoujam Romojit Meitei alias Romojit,



and Keisham Johnson alias Johnson.

On August 3 last year, a mob looted more than 300 weapons and 19,800 rounds of ammunition from two rooms of the 2nd Indian Reserve Battalion headquarters at Naranseina in Bishnupur.

Around 9,000 bullets of different calibres, an AK series assault rifle, three 'Ghaatak' rifles, 195 self-loading rifles, five MP-5 guns, 16.9 mm pistols, 25 bulletproof jackets, 21 carbines, and 124 hand grenades, among other things, were looted by the mob, according to officials.

A crowd had gathered there to march towards Churachandpur where tribals were planning to carry out a mass burial of their people killed in the ethnic clashes that broke out in Manipur on May 3 last year.

As many as 219 people have lost their lives and several hundred have been injured since the ethnic violence broke out after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals—Nagas and Kukis—constitute a little over 40 per cent and reside in the hill districts.

Army Jawan Shoots Himself Dead At Defence Facility In Odisha: Police

BHUBANESWAR, Mar 3 (Agencies): A 35-year-old army jawan allegedly shot himself dead with his service rifle at DRDO's Radar Observatory Air Surveillance unit in Odisha's Kendrapara district, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place when the army jawan, identified as Sepoy Raj Sekharan, a native of Tamil Nadu, was on duty at the facility of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at Kiyarbanka village in Mahakalpada police station area around 2 am on Sunday.

He was found lying in a pool of blood and was rushed to a nearby government-run hospital, where he was declared brought dead, a police officer said.

As per preliminary investigation, it seems to be a suicide case but further probe is underway, Inspector Bimal Kumar Mallik of Mahakalpada police station said, adding the rifle was seized and sent for examination.

Man Kills Wife, Keeps Body For 4 Days, Then Asks Neighbours To Call Cops

GHAZIABAD, Mar 3 (Agencies): A 55-year-old man has been arrested after he allegedly murdered his wife and kept her body at home for four days. When an unbearable stench started coming from their Ghaziabad home, Bharat Singh sat in front of his house, started screaming that he had killed his wife and asked neighbours to call the cops.

The incident has been reported at a rented flat in a housing colony in Ghaziabad. Senior police officer Naresh Kumar said the body of Sunita (51) was recov-



ered from the flat yesterday. "We were informed by the neighbours that Bharat had choked his wife Sunita to death. On reaching there, we found the body at their home. The murder appears to have happened at least three days back. We have arrested the

accused. He has told us during questioning that he killed his wife during an altercation over a family issue. We have informed the woman's family members and sent the body for autopsy," he said, adding that the investigation is on. A neighbour said they

were clueless about the crime till Singh told them that he had killed his wife and wanted to surrender to the cops. "Her body was at home for 4-5 days before police arrived and recovered the body," he said.

Another neighbour described how Singh sat outside his home and told every passer-by that he had killed his wife. "We don't know what happened. He sat here and screamed, 'I have killed my wife, get me arrested.' So we called the cops and they found the body. We do not need anything else," he said.

Delhi Police Sub-Inspector Shoots Self In Apartment

NEW DELHI, Mar 3 (Agencies): A sub-inspector of Delhi Police died by allegedly shooting himself with a pistol at his flat in east Delhi, in a suspected case of suicide, officials said on Sunday.

According to police, he has been identified as K Ganesh, a resident of Telangana who was currently posted at the Madhur Vihar police station here. "In the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday at around 2 am, the police got a call from the family members of the SI, saying the officer was not responding to their calls," a senior police officer said.

This raised suspicion and the local police rushed to the Ganesh's flat in Madhur Vihar, the officer said. As the apartment was found locked from inside, the police team climbed up to the balcony of the flat, situated on the building's first floor.

On peeping through the glass pane, they spotted SI Ganesh lying dead inside with a pistol on his lap, the officer added. "Crime and forensic teams were called to the spot. Prima facie, it seems the SI died by suicide using a firearm," the officer said. No suicide note has yet been recovered from the spot, the officer said, adding that further probe is underway in the matter.

“Jay Shah, Roger Binny, Selector Need To...”: Sourav Ganguly’s Direct Message On Ishan Kishan’s Contract Termination

Both Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer, for various reasons, missed their respective state’s Ranji Trophy matches and later found themselves out of the contract list

NEW DELHI, Mar 3 (Agencies): The dropping of Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan by the BCCI from its central contract is being seen as the national governing body sending out a clear message on the importance of domestic cricket. Both the cricketers for various reasons missed their respective state’s Ranji Trophy matches and later found themselves out of the contract list. Former Indian cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly, who was also a former BCCI president, had a message for current secretary Jay Shah and president Roger Binny on the subject.

Sourav Ganguly was asked by agency, “Do you think the younger crop of players needed to be guided better?”

“For someone like Ishan Kishan, BCCI secretary Jay Shah, president Roger Binny and the selectors need to speak to him. All this while he has played Ranji and then played white-ball cricket. Has it made



him a poorer player? It hasn’t,” Ganguly replied.

“All the players picked in Delhi Capitals have played Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, Vijay Hazare Trophy and Ranji Trophy. Even Ishant Sharma has played Ranji. Khaleel Ahmed has played the full season after a long time. We worked with him in the off season and got him fit to play Ranji. There are only one or two exceptions who need to

be spoken to.”

He was also asked that with the dropping of Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer from central contracts, whether the focus has shifted to the relevance of first-class cricket.

“I think this is the first time that someone has not played or ignored red-ball domestic cricket. Otherwise, all of them have played Ranji Trophy when they were free. I am sure the

BCCI will take proper action,” Ganguly replied.

Jay Shah has earlier mentioned Ishan Kishan during an interaction but quickly added that the announcement was not targeted towards him and this rule will apply for all cricketers who are not part of the national team.

“All contracted players have been told on phone and I’ll be writing to them too. If chairman of selectors, coach & captain want you to play red-ball cricket then you gotta play. ‘Nakhre Nahi Challenge’ (no tantrums). And as far as Ishan Kishan is concerned, he is young, I am not saying this specifically about him as it will be applicable for all the players uniformly,” Jay Shah told reporters.

“Everyone will have to play, otherwise, the chairman of the selection committee has given me his suggestions and I am going to give him a free hand to let him take his own calls freely,” he added.

Hardik Pandya recalls 2015 IPL, terms it ‘best year’ of his life



NEW DELHI, Mar 3 (Agencies): All-rounder Hardik Pandya is all set to captain Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League 2024 season. This will be the first time that Mumbai will be led by someone full time apart from Rohit Sharma in the last 11 years. Speaking to Star Sports ahead of his return to top-tier cricket, Hardik Pandya has credited Mumbai Indians for his success in the international stage. Pandya has said without Mumbai Indians, he would not have been sitting at his current stature in world cricket.

In a fan event hosted by Star Sports, Hardik delved into his debut season in the Indian

Premier League. Pandya first burst onto the scene in 2015 and contributed to Mumbai’s historic title run under the captaincy of Rohit Sharma.

In that IPL season, Mumbai had started with four back to back losses and then went on to win 9 out of their 10 final games and clinched the title by beating Chennai Super Kings at the Eden Gardens. Pandya had produced two player of the match performances in that season when Mumbai had their backs to the wall.

“It was special; it’s because of the moment that I might be sitting here. If that hadn’t happened, I might not have been here. The whole

season, for us (Mumbai Indians), I was fortunate enough that I was able to contribute on a much larger scale. My best memories were my two Man of the Match awards in do-or-die situations,” Pandya told Star Sports.

“It is my life’s best year; this is where the journey started. The boy from Gujarat with big dreams was able to execute it because of this moment,” he added.

Mumbai Indians brought back Pandya in an all-cash deal with Gujarat Titans, where the all-rounder had been captaining for the last two seasons after leaving Mumbai Indians. Pandya won the IPL title in his first try as a captain and then reached the final in the next season. To accommodate Pandya in the team, Mumbai were forced to sell Cameron Green to Royal Challengers Bangalore.

MI would hope for a smooth transition this season. It is expected that this will be Rohit Sharma’s final season with the franchise.

India climb to top spot in World Test Championship standings, replace New Zealand

Australia can climb to the top spot if England beat India in the Dharamsala Test

DUBAI, Mar 3 (Agencies): Two-time finalists India jumped to the top of the World Test Championship standings, replacing New Zealand in the latest rankings issued on Sunday.

India, who defeated England by five wickets in the fourth Test in Ranchi to take an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series, replaced the Kiwis with a stronger points percentage of 64.58.

With five wins, two losses and one draw, India have 62 points in 8 matches, while the Black Caps have 36 from five matches (three wins, two losses) and have a point-percentage of 60.00.

Before the start of the Wellington Test, New Zealand were sitting at the top of the table with 36 points in four games



and a points percentage of 75.

But following their massive 172-run defeat, the 2021 WTC champions lost the top spot, slipping to the No 2 position with a points percentage of 60.

Third-placed Australia have closed on the gap after the Wellington Test, gaining 12 crucial points as they now have 78 points from 11 matches (seven wins, three losses and one draw). Their points percentage

has also increased from 55 to 59.09.

The 2023 champions have the opportunity to surpass New Zealand and move up to the second spot if they win the second and final Test at Christchurch from March 8.

India, meanwhile, take on England in the final match of the five-Test series in Dharamsala from March 7. Australia can climb to the top spot if England beat India in the Dharamsala Test.

World cricket stopping West Indies from becoming strong again: CWI CEO slams ICC

BRIDGETOWN, Mar 3 (Agencies): Cricket West Indies CEO Jonny Grave has hit out against the International Cricket Council and top cricketing nations. In a passionate rant, Graves has alleged that world cricket is doing everything in its power to make sure that West Indies are never strong again.

Grave’s comments come right after West Indies’ tour of Australia in January-February 2024. In the Test series, the underdog West Indies put up a sensational performance, winning their first Test match in 27 years on Australian soil. Windies drew the Test series 1-1, courtesy of pacer Shamar Joseph, who was on his maiden tour.

“I think everyone is a bit sick of the phrase - world cricket needs a strong West Indies - when we definitely feel that world cricket is doing everything they can at almost every level to make sure that West Indies Cricket are never strong again,” West Indies CEO Jonny



Grave told Daniel Gallan in a podcast.

ICC Model Broken: CWI CEO

Grave added that ICC’s revenue share model was wrong, and they had added to West Indies’ earnings only on paper. Grave alleged that their revenue percentage had dropped from 7% to 5% under the current model.

“I think that’s the borne of the frustration of that as Ian Bishop says in his own words that this is a patronising tone. If you really want a strong West Indies Cricket, it would actually not be that hard to do a bit more. ICC are giving us more money in headlines but our percentage of revenue has gone down from 7% to

5%, which we struggle to understand,” Grave added.

“If we all just are looking after ourselves then are we really acting as a community? Are we putting the best product on the field?” concluded the CWI CEO.

AUS vs WI: Test Series It was an emotional Test series for West Indies having been counted as underdogs. In fact former cricketer Rodney Hogg had called the side pathetic and hopeless coming into the series. Windies captain Kraig Brathwaite hit out against the former player after winning the final Test match at Gabba.

“I must say we had two words that inspired us in this Test match. Mr.

Rodney Hogg said that we were ‘pathetic and hopeless’. That was our inspiration. We wanted to show the world we’re not pathetic. And I must ask him ask him, are these muscles big enough for him [Shows his biceps],” said Braithwaite.

“We won a Test match in Australia. It does a lot for West Indies cricket. It means a lot. It’s been a number of years since we’ve won a Test match here. But my message to the group is that this is the beginning. It’s amazing, we enjoy this, but this has to continue. I’m extremely proud,” Braithwaite added.

CWI Made No Money: CEO

Jonny Grave had hit out against the ICC earlier as well. Grave had claimed that West Indies made no money out of the men’s and women’s tour of Australia series as the better chunk of the revenue had gone to the Australian counterpart.

“The revenue-share

model is completely broken,” Grave had said in January. “If we really want to operate as a cricketing community we are only as strong as the weakest team, and we’ve got to change the mindset of bilateral cricket.”

“CWI has spent over 2 million dollars sending teams to Australia in the last four months and whilst CA have received all the economic benefits from those series, we’ve seen zero dollars back. Is that really fair, reasonable and sustainable?”

“We’ve got a Test team there, an ODI team and a T20I team, which will cost us another million-plus dollars in terms of match fees and airfares. We spend more on airfares than anyone else in the world,” Grave said. “In percentage terms we will spend more than anyone on red-ball cricket so I would argue against any narrative that the West Indies aren’t interested in Test cricket.”

Nathan Lyon masterclass leads Australia to 172-run win against New Zealand in 1st test

New Zealand was bowled out for 179 in its first innings after being 29-5

WELLINGTON, Mar 3 (Agencies): Nathan Lyon took ten wickets for the match and brought New Zealand’s attempted fight back in the first test to a shuddering halt as Australia completed a 172-run win on Sunday and took a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

New Zealand resumed at 111-3 on the fourth day in its second innings and collapsed in the face of superb spin bowling from Lyon (6-64) to be all out for 196 a few minutes after the scheduled lunch break.

Lyon completed match figures of 10-108, his fifth 10 wicket bag, which went along with his 41 as nightwatchman in Australia’s second innings.

The Black Caps were unable to sustain the stubborn fight back they had begun to produce on day three when Australia was bowled out for 164 in its second innings for an overall lead of 368.

Glenn Phillips took 5-43 to limit Australia as it tried to build on its

first innings lead of 204. Rachin Ravindra’s unbeaten 56 before stumps on day three fanned New Zealand’s faint hope that it might be able to head off defeat.

But Ravindra was out for 59 in only the seventh over of the morning and with his departure New Zealand’s resistance appeared to falter, then break.

Ravindra was Lyon’s first victim on the final day, tempted into the cut shot at a ball turning away from off stump. With the extra bounce he was unable to keep the shot down and was caught by Cameron Green.

Tom Blundell lasted three balls and was caught by Travis Head at short leg off Lyon, undone by the bounce as the ball hit the bat and thigh pad before looping to the fielder.

Phillips fell lbw to Lyon for 1 and the last sparks of resistance were blown out when Scott Kuggeleijn (26), Matt Henry (14) and Tim Southee (7) all fell before lunch.



Daryl Mitchell was the last man out for 38.

“It was a really good game overall I think,” Australia captain Pat Cummins said. “We never felt we were too far ahead on that wicket.”

“The pitch was really bouncy and had a bit of pace in it but more bounce than I’ve seen in any wicket for a long time. Fortunately

it spun which with Nathan Lyon in our side is a good thing.”

Lyon completed his 24th five wicket bag in tests with Phillips’ wicket, providing an odd symmetry as the Australian off-spinner dismissed his New Zealand counterpart who also had taken five wickets in the match.

With the pitch at the Basin

Reserve still providing bounce for the spinner and with a steady breeze assisting his drift, Lyon was almost unplayable at times in the morning Sunday.

He became most effective when he switched from the northern to the southern end and began to find the bounce which made him so difficult to handle.

His contribution to the match was enormous both with bat and ball and he played a major part in turning the match in Australia’s favour. Australia now commands the series which continues with the second test in Christchurch from Friday.

Australia’s win in Wellington was set up by its first innings of 383 after it had been sent in on a greenish pitch. But it was Cameron Green’s unbeaten 174 and his 116-run last wicket partnership with Josh Hazlewood that really turned the game towards the tourists.

Australia had been 279-9 at the end of the first day but Green and

Hazlewood added a further 104 runs, batting through all of the first session on day two. Those runs became more important in the context of the match as contest became closer later on.

“I think it was a brilliant bowling innings from us and I think (Lyon) bowled beautifully on the last day,” Green said. “He’s always under pressure in the fourth innings and he always seems to be able to stand up and perform.”

New Zealand was bowled out for 179 in its first innings after being 29-5. Phillips’ defiant 71 helped New Zealand to a more respectable total.

Then Phillips claimed his first five wicket bag in tests as Australia was bowled out for 164. New Zealand couldn’t continue its rally Sunday and was bowled out in 64.4 overs.

“Like every game we’ll reflect and look at ways we can be better in the next one,” New Zealand captain Tim Southee said.

Natrang stages popular Dogri play 'GATT' at Amar Mahal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Balwant Thakur's popular Dogri play 'GATT' was staged here today at Amar Mahal under Natrang's weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'. The play was presented in connection with the ongoing Tawi Festival organised by Hari Tara Charitable Trust at Amar Mahal Museum. Based on Krishna Chander's famous Urdu classic short story 'Khadda' the play is a hard hitting satire on the decay of human values. Balwant Thakur has adapted it in such a contemporary manner that the audience instantly identifies itself with the play. It was a surprising theatrical treat for the people present at Amar Mahal who thoroughly enjoyed the performance and responded with repeated applause at the satirical punches of the play.

The play "Gatt" shows that one and all tend to



shirk their own responsibilities and work and pass it on to others. Instead they indulge in high sloganism, claiming to be the redeemers of the suffering masses. This is symbolized by a person falling into a ditch whose pleas to help him come out unanswered by one and all. Different people pass by him like surveyors, young men, religious leaders, cops, Political leaders in power and a foreigner. The person in distress is given different excuses and pleas for

their inability in extending help to him. The unemployed youth are unable to find time out of their fixed schedule of hunting for girls. The 'Sadhu' showers blessings and prays for his peace in as and where condition. The police cop lodges an FIR and asks him to report to the police station knowing that he will never be able to come out of the ditch on his own. The foreigner lady enquired about his choice between India and Pakistan, which side he

would like to take? The situation becomes more dramatic when a minister, after a complaint from the public about the worsening of the road condition, makes a round of the area. The workers of the public works department instead of taking out the man from the ditch put wooden planks over the ditch and create a stage for the minister's public speech. Here the minister lists his development revolution and lashes at his opponents for cursing their government for political gains. The public meeting is over, the wooden planks are removed but no one pays any heed to the fallen man in the ditch. The slogans of the up-liftment of the poor fades away with the flowing dusty wind. Finally a man from the audience appears and appeals to everyone to render a helping hand to this common man who is still in the ditch despite having celebrated six-

ty-four years of India's Independence. The play reflects the plight of the poor masses who continue to suffer for want of help from those at the helm of affairs.

Prominent amongst those who graced the occasion included Maj Gen Goverdhan Singh Jamwal, AVSM(Rtd), Dr. Jyotsna Singh, Himani Khajuria, Suman Gupta, Martand Singh, Arvind Kotwal and Sohan Baloria. Natrang actors who acted in the play included Neeraj Kant as Neta, Shivam Singh as Aadmi, Mohd. Yaseen as Karamchari 1, Brijesh Avtaar Sharma as Karamchari 2, Sankeet Bhagat as Aashiq-1, Kushal Bhat as Aashiq-2, Kananpreet Kaur as Foreigner, Meenakshi Bhagat as Reporter, Aadesh Dhar as Cameraman, Vishal Sharma as Police Cop and Sheryaar Salaria, Chaitanya Shekhar & Vansh Pandotra as Chela. The show ably presented by Chander Shekhar.

Kashmir's glory has been imperilled over the years: Ashok Bhan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Speaking at a Kashmiri function in NCR Ashok Bhan a prominent Kashmiri Leader and top legal eagle said the Kashmir's glory of a cradle of civilisation has been imperilled over the years.

The people are victims of the 1947 conflict and the lingering aftermath of the armed insurgency that led to (a) the displacement of the entire indigenous religious minority and (b) the killing of innocent civilians by non-state actors, brutalised anti-people groups and other actors.

Recognizing the urgency of addressing this plight, the Kashmir peace lovers has actively established a great connect with Kashmiri youth across far flung areas of the Kashmiris by organising almost 60 cricket league matches and through other intra cultural activities. These activities promote dialogue and societal healing, that contributes in emphasizing the impera-



tive of fostering peace, justice, and inclusivity in the JK region.

The Kashmir peace lovers KPL group has been conducting cultural programmes, youth conferences and interactions highlighting the urgent need to end the sordid and brutal phase of societal devastation, death and destruction that has engulfed the entire South Asian region in general and Jammu and Kashmir in particular to promote peace, harmony, justice, dignity and honour of the people and build an inclusive and empowered

society. KPL has formulated a comprehensive reach out programme and shall be organising big events in Kashmir to forge a union of minds towards the ending of trust deficit between various sections. There is a dire need to revive glorious past.

For Kashmiri Pandits, acknowledging the past but seeking meaning in the present and actions for future can be a powerful way to navigate their collective experiences. This day can help the community to choose how they respond to their past positively and shape their collective attitude towards the future optimistically, where they grow as a community and continue to give their best irrespective of which place, region, country, profession, they serve. Yet they stay rooted together as a diaspora and continue expressing, and asserting a shared hope for return to their homeland. The narrative must be created that instills a sense of unity, a collective vision for future and is also slo-

ganized as, "In Unity We Thrive, In Return We Strive".

"NEXT TIME SEE YOU IN KASHMIR"

Kashmir is the holy land of Science and innovation with Devine grace of spirituality through ages. Its rightly described as the cradle of civilisation

Amir Khusro has aptly said : If there is heaven on earth it's here it's here' Agar Firdaus bar roy-e zamin ast, hamin ast-o hamin ast-o hamin ast"

It is no surprise that despite mass exile and genocide of Kashmiri Pandits the natives have channeled their anger, passion and energy into positive pursuits the initiatives of Kashmir Peace Lovers is one such initiative towards the direction of removing the trust deficit between various sections and work towards helping in revival of the glory of Kashmir to bring it to the pedestals of the cradle of civilisation.

It is admirable that KPL platform is engaged in transforming the youth towards the power of sports and culture and

creation of a harmonious tapestry of shared values, inclusivity and societal well being. Bhan said.

He further said harnessing the potential of sports as a catalyst for positive change, the KPL aims to empower youth by providing access to sports programmes and foster physical well-being, teamwork, leadership and personality development

Bhan said : Celebrating the rich tapestry of Indian-Kashmiri culture the KPL strives to nurturing and harnessing mutual community talent in culture. Kashmir deserves Kashmiri Pandits physically back in the soil to create a humongous and conducive ecosystem of nurturing newer talent in all walks of life and help in formulating a new inclusive, violence free, coexistence and tolerant Naya Kashmir.

Ashok Bhan, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Distinguished fellow USI And; Chairman-Kashmir (Policy & Strategy) Group

Jugal Kishore attends the closing ceremony of Mega Exhibition Gatisheel J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Today marked the culmination of the 3-day mega exhibition, Gatisheel Jammu and Kashmir, with the presence of Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma Ji at the closing ceremony. Joining him on the panel were esteemed dignitaries including Shri Pradeep Singh Chandel Ji, Senior Scientist at DRDO TBRL Lab; Shri P.S. Misra, Deputy Director General of Geological Survey of India (GSI); Mayak Kumar Tayagi, Director of Inland Waterways Authority of India; and Director of Prayags Events and Exhibitions, Meetu Paul. The exhibition's primary objective was to enhance public awareness about various government schemes and policies.

The prestigious Best Stall Trophies were awarded to notable organizations including the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Amul, Inland Waterways Authority of India, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education - Himalayan Forest Research Institute (ICFRE-HFRI), Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Newspace India Limited (NSIL), Soil and Land Use Survey of India, National Dairy Development Board under the Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Reserve Bank of India, and Geological Survey of India under the Ministry of Mines. Additionally, Jammu and Kashmir Milk Producers Cooperative Limited (JKMPCL) and AMUL were also recognized for their outstanding stalls.

In the exhibition many different government department participated and showcased as Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO), New Space India Limited (NSIL), Indian council of agricultural research (ICAR), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Geological Survey of India (GSI), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MOES), AMUL, Bharat Petroleum Corporation limited (BPCL), Department of agricultural research and education (DARE), Soil and land use survey of India (SLUSI), Protection of plant varieties and farmers right authority (PPVFRA), Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Agriculture Infra-



structure Fund (AIF), Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), India tourism, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), Inland Waterways authority of India, Cochinchin shipyard corporation limited, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Maharashtra Bamboo Development Board, Sakoli Bamboo Cluster (MBDB), National Atlas and thematic mapping organization (NATMO), National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Himalayan Forest research Institute (HFRI), Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Indian Railway Construction International Limited (IRCON), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MAPEDA), Department of Agriculture Research and Education (DARE), Aakash Institute and Development Commissioner for Handicrafts.

The exhibition aims to establish an engaging platform for the residents of Jammu to interact with a diverse range of government departments and institutions. Its objective is to provide valuable insights into welfare schemes and policies, benefiting attendees of all ages, including students. Moreover, visitors will have the chance to explore potential career paths and educational opportunities across various fields, thereby enriching their knowledge and prospects for the future.

The exhibition witnessed significant success with a large turnout of the general public, including school and college students, who gained valuable information about various government departments. This outcome perfectly aligned with the exhibition's primary objective.

GDC Udhampur organises Sintilating Mega Cultural Festival in collaboration with JKAACL

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Mar 3: GDC Udhampur, under the aegis of IQAC and in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, organised a One Day Cultural Festival at the college ground in which 15 teams across the Jammu division presented various cultural, folk dance and music performances.

The programme was organised under the patronage of Secretary JKAACL, Shri Bharat Singh Manhas. The event, under the able guidance of Principal GDC Udhampur, Prof. (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta, was hosted by GDC Udhampur. The programme started with the floral welcome of the chief guest, Padamshree Prof Shiv Nirmohi, a renowned dogri writer and the other dignitaries, including the guest of honour, Prof Anjali Mahajan, Principal GDC Nagrota and a prolific Dogri poet and writer Sh Prakash Premi, by the worthy Principal of the college Prof (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta, followed by lighting of the ceremonial lamp.

While speaking on the occasion, Sh Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary JK AACL welcomed the chief guest and dignitaries present on the occasion and also lauded the artists who have come to showcase their talent through singing and dancing. In regard to the increasing popularity of Dogri culture, art and music, he said that the love and dedication of Dogri students towards their culture has proven their mettle not only at the national but also at the



international level, which deserves accolades from every corner of the world. After watching the beautiful performances, the secretary also announced Rs 1350/- for every participant of GDC Udhampur.

The Principal of the college Prof. (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta appreciated the cultural committee, the music department, NCC cadets and NCC ANOs, NSS volunteers and NSS POs, and other teaching and non-teaching staff of the college, who played a pivotal role in organising the event and making it a great success. He further said that such cultural events should be organised in institutions to bring forward the hidden talent of students and such programmes provide a great platform to young budding artists.

The folk parties that presented various shades and colours of of Dogra culture in the form of singing and dancing included four parties from GDC Udhampur, Subash Brahmnu and party, Neeta Adarsh and party, Des Raj and party, Rakesh and party, Ashok Hans and party, Dhani Ram and party, VD Shrushta and party, Zuleikha Farid and party, Mohan Lal and party, Sunil Kumar and party,

Mohan Lal and party aswellas Ashok Kumar and party. Chief guest on the occasion, Prof. Shiv Nirmohi, appreciated GDC Udhampur, JKAACL, the exhilarating performances of the singers and dancers and everyone involved in the successful culmination of the cultural festival. While sharing his experiences as a student, professor, writer and Padmshree awardee, he said that he never missed an opportunity to gain knowledge and wisdom no matter where and whom it came from, and also to motivate the budding talent, which has been a crux of his success story. He further advised the audience, especially the students, to be optimistic, determined, confident and, last but not least, honest in their efforts to achieve success in life because success without honesty, morality and ethics is fruitless.

The college is planning to organise a Youth cultural Festival in collaboration with JKAACL in near future. The stage was aptly handled by the two eloquent speakers, Dr Revika Arora (Convenor Cultural Committee) and Dr Pankaj Sharma. A formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof Suresh Dogra (HOD Physics).

Dimple joins three days polio drops campaign



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Dimple, Dr. Indu, and others in the mission to eradicate polio. The three-day polio drops campaign in Jammu Kashmir, led by Sunil Dimple, seems to be well-organized and involves various stakeholders, including health professionals, anganwadi workers, and volunteers.

The joint efforts of the medical staff, including doctors, CMO, dispensary workers, and asha

workers, in providing polio drops at the doorstep reflect a comprehensive approach to polio eradication. Dr. Indu's announcement of no recent polio cases is a testament to the success of these collective efforts.

It's commendable that the campaign is not just limited to polio booths but extends to door-to-door distribution and coverage of various areas, including lanes, houses, slum basties, and laborers basties.

Sunil Dimple's appeal to parents to ensure their children receive polio drops is crucial for building a strong and healthy nation. The involvement of community leaders like Dimple in the vaccination process helps in creating awareness and fostering trust among the residents.

The participation of various individuals, including Ekta, Alam Khan, Rakesh Kumar, Mrs. Veena Sharma, Vaishno Sharma, Anita Devi, and many others, showcases a united front in the fight against polio. Their active involvement in giving polio drops to children sets a positive example for the community.

Overall, this three-day polio drops utsav in Jammu Kashmir seems to be a well-planned and executed initiative with a focus on community engagement and eradication efforts.

KSJ organises free medical camp



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: With a motive to provide better healthcare facilities to the people of Kishtwar, Kishtwari Sangathan Jammu (KSJ) today organised a free medical camp in Jammu.

The medical camp was inaugurated by IPS Sandeep Wazir in presence of doctors and Sangathan members.

On the request of KSJ, a team of seven doctors included Dr. K B Sharma, Dr. Raksha Sharma, Dr. Ajay Pandita, Dr. Ghanshyam Singh, Dr. Arun Sharma, Dr. Ranjeet Rathore and Dr. Chan-

der Aaryan examined the patients.

The camp was held at Pristine International school Bantalab Jammu from 10 AM to 2 PM.

About 300 people including male, female and children participated in the camp and availed medical facilities free of cost.

The camp also provided free tests, included Fibroscan, BMD, sugar and Hepatitis B and C.

"This camp was a great opportunity to reach out to our people residing in Jammu and provide them with essential medical checkups and considerations", KSJ Chairman A K Sen said.