

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 06, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**Randeep Hooda says his film will counter decades of propaganda against Vinayak Damodar Savarkar**

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**Michelle Obama 'will not be running' for US President, says office**



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## BRIEFLY

### 7 arrested in UP Police recruitment exam paper leak case

MEERUT, Mar 6 (Agencies): The Uttar Pradesh Police's Special Task Force (STF) has arrested seven people from Meerut and Delhi for their alleged involvement in the recent police recruitment exam paper leak case, officials said today. The accused are alleged to be members of a gang involved in the question paper leak of the Uttar Pradesh Recruitment and Promotion Board examination on February 17 and 18, the STF said in a statement. The state government had cancelled the exam following allegations of a mass scale paper leak. Some people were arrested earlier this month.

### HC sets aside suspension of 7 BJP MLAs from Delhi Assembly

NEW DELHI, Mar 6 (Agencies): The Delhi High Court on Wednesday set aside the suspension of seven BJP MLAs from the Legislative Assembly for interrupting Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena's address at the start of the Budget session. The seven Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs -- Mohan Singh Bisht, Ajay Mahawar, O P Sharma, Abhay Verma, Anil Bajpai, Jitender Mahajan and Vijender Gupta -- moved the court last month, challenging their suspension from the Assembly till the conclusion of the proceedings before the privileges committee. "The writ petitions are allowed," Justice Subramonium Prasad said while pronouncing the order.

### KU Postpones exams scheduled for tomorrow

SRINAGAR, Mar 6: University of Kashmir on Wednesday announced postponement of exams scheduled for tomorrow -- March 7, 2024. "It is notified for the information of all concerned candidates that all the examinations of University of Kashmir, which were scheduled to be held on 07/03/2024 stand postponed," reads a notification. "Fresh dates shall be issued soon," reads the notification further. The varsity officials however didn't specify any reason for postponement of the exams.

## PM Modi warns Mamata of 'storm of Sandeshkhali', says women power will decimate TMC

NEW DELHI, Mar 6 (Agencies) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday hit out at the TMC government in West Bengal, stating that the 'storm of Sandeshkhali' will reach every part of West Bengal. Modi was addressing a women's rally at Barasat in North 24 Parganas district when he targeted the TMC for the Sandeshkhali atrocities.

Adding that 'Nari Shakti' (woman power) will play a pivotal role in decimating the ruling TMC in the state, the Prime Minister said whatever happened with women in Sandeshkhali is a matter of shame. "TMC leaders are committing atrocities against sisters and daughters of poor, Dalit and tribal families at various places. The women of Bengal and the country are angry. This storm of Sandeshkhali will reach every part of West Bengal, and decimate the TMC across the



state," Modi added. The riverine island of Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district has been on the boil over allegations of sexual atrocities on women and land grabbing by suspended TMC leader Shajahan Sheikh and his cohorts. He also accused the TMC of protecting the accused, stating that the ruling party had full faith

in their leader but not in the women. "The state gov't has got a shock from the High Court as well as the Supreme Court. TMC leaders have done atrocities on the women of the state," said the Prime Minister in his second visit to the state this year. He further attacked the TMC, saying that it did not let the Women Helpline function in the

state. "For easy registration of women's complaints, we had arranged for a 'Women Helpline', but the TMC gov't is not letting it operate in West Bengal. This TMC gov't can never work for the welfare of women," said the Prime Minister. He also addressed the 'Parivaar' remarks made against him.

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## Rahul Gandhi greeted with 'Modi-Modi' chants, potatoes by BJP workers in MP; he responds with flying kiss

SHAJAPUR, Mar 6 (Agencies): Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra witnessed a surprise encounter at Shajapur city of Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday when BJP supporters cheered "Modi-Modi" as his convoy passed through the area.

The Congress leader halted the procession to engage with the chanting Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers, who also offered potatoes to him while he blew a kiss in response.

Later in the evening, Gandhi mentioned about the incident during his address to a gathering, saying that it was easy to face such incidents by opening "mohabbat ki dukan" (shop of love) in "nafrat ka bazaar" (market of hatred).

The yatra, which entered BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, encountered a



group of BJP supporters led by corporator Mukesh Dubey, praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi along the way.

Gandhi, upon spotting the group, paused the convoy to interact with them, exchanging greetings and handshakes as the BJP workers cheered "Jai Shri Ram".

Speaking to PTI later, BJP corporator Dubey mentioned Gandhi's gesture in response to their slogans, stating he welcomed the Congress leader and even presented potatoes to him. "I told

Gandhi that you are welcome," he said.

The yatra proceeded to Ujjain later in the day. Addressing a gathering from his vehicle in Ujjain, Gandhi said, "Open a shop of love in the market of hatred. This is quite easy. It is not that difficult."

"Sometimes it happens during the yatra, like it happened today. Three-four people from BJP were standing with flags. They were shouting. I got down from the vehicle and shook hands

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## Rameshwaram cafe blast: NIA announces Rs 10 lakh for tip on bomber

NEW DELHI, Mar 6 (Agencies) BRameshwaram cafe blast accused as seen in NIA's wanted poster wears glasses and a cap. NIA said the informer's identity will be kept secret.

The National Investigation Agency on Wednesday announced a Rs 10 lakh cash reward for any information on the man who planted the low-intensity IED in the Rameshwaram cafe leading to a blast on March 1 injuring at least 10 people who were there in the cafe. The NIA released a sketch of the accused in the 'wanted' poster and said the identity of the informer will be kept secret.

No arrest has been made yet in the blast case so far while the manhunt

is on both by the Central Crime Branch and the NIA. The NIA began its probe on Tuesday after the Union home ministry directed it to take up the investigation as the Karnataka government did not hand over the probe to the central agency. Karnataka home minister G Parameashwara on Wednesday said the city police found vital clues and inching closer to cracking the case.

Following the blast which sent shockwaves to the city, the cafe was closed and will only reopen on March 8.

On March 1, when there was the lunch hour rush in the popular cafe, an explosion took place injuring 10 though the injuries were not serious. Piecing together CCTV

footage, the sleuths found out that a man who came an hour before to the cafe and stayed inside the cafe only for a few minutes left behind the bag that had the IED with a timer. The man ordered a plate of rava idli but did not have it.

Based on this footage, a grainy photo of the suspected accused went viral. The NIA 'wanted' notice on Wednesday confirmed that the man from the viral photo is being zeroed in on as the suspect. The suspect is a tall man of a slim build and his age can be between 30 to 40 years. In the earlier photos obtained from CCTV inside the cafe, he was seen with a mask but in the photo released by the NIA today, his face is more revealed.

## Two killed as landslides, avalanches hit parts of HP

HIMACHAL PRADESH, Mar 6 (Agencies): Two people died and 472 roads were blocked as landslides and avalanches hit different parts of Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday, officials said.

Lahaul and Spiti district was the worst hit with 287 roads blocked and no electricity for the past 60 hours, they said.

The meteorological department has issued a 'yellow' warning for thunderstorms at isolated places in the hill state on Wednesday.

Two labourers died when a landslide struck while they were sleeping in a makeshift house in Solan district, police said.

The incident occurred in Gahar village in the Dharampur area of the district on Monday mid-



night. They said the bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination.

Four avalanches occurred between the north portal of Atal Tunnel, Rohtang and Tandi in Lahaul and Spiti. There were no casualties, the officials said.

The avalanches occurred near the north portal of Atal Tunnel,

Pagal nullah, Gompathang and Tandi petrol pump. Efforts to clear the roads are underway, they said.

As many as 472 roads, including five national highways, were closed in the evening due to multiple avalanches and landslides caused by rain and snowfall over the past few days, they said.

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## J&K Court Awards Life Sentence to man in 2022 acid attack case

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 6: A court here has given life imprisonment to a man in a 2022 acid attack case and also imposed a fine of Rs 40 lakh that would be recovered from his property.

The victim girl was attacked on February 1, 2022 by two people, one of whom was a juvenile, who wanted to "teach her a lesson and take revenge" on her for spurning a marriage proposal.

"The court awards life imprisonment to the convict while terming the case a brutal and inhuman act. The accused, Sajid Rather, has been convicted under 326 A and section 34 of IPC.

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## Bakshi Stadium draped in National Tricolour for PM Modi's visit

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 6: The Bakshi Stadium here has been draped in national tricolour for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on Thursday even as stringent security arrangements have been put in place to ensure the high profile event passes off peacefully.

Prime Minister Modi will participate in the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu Kashmir' programme at the Bakshi stadium on Thursday.

The officials said that tight security arrangements have been made for the visit of the prime minister, which will be his first to the valley since abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

The security forces have been deployed in numbers all along the

routes to be taken by Prime Minister Modi during his stay in Srinagar while barricades have been established at many places to prevent movement of the people during the VVIP visit, the officials said.

Drones and CCTV cameras are being used for surveillance while foot patrolling by the security forces has been intensified in a two kilometre radius around the venue. Marine commandos have been deployed in river Jhelum and Dal Lake to prevent the use of these water bodies for any subversive activities, they said.

Several schools falling along the route to be taken by the prime minister have been closed for Wednesday and Thursday while board exami-

nations scheduled to be held on Thursday have been postponed till next month.

Prime Minister Modi, during the visit, will dedicate to the nation Rs 5,000 crore programme -- the 'Holistic Agriculture Development Programme' -- for boosting agri-economy in Jammu and Kashmir, an official handout said here on Wednesday.

Modi will also dedicate to the nation and launch multiple projects worth over Rs 1,400 crore under Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive) scheme, including the project for 'Integrated Development of Hazratbal Shrine', Srinagar.

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## Ladakh Bandh today amid deadlock over Sixth Schedule, Statehood demand

LADAKH, Mar 6 (Agencies): Despite the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) accepting Ladakh leaders' demands for the establishment of a Public Services Commission (PSC) and the partial implementation of the Sixth Schedule through elected Ladakh Hill Development Councils (LADHC) in Leh and Kargil, the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) have called for a Ladakh Bandh on Wednesday.

They have insisted on the full implementation of the Sixth Schedule alongside Statehood. This decision follows Tuesday's Sub-Committee meeting and talks with Home Minister Amit Shah.

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9419143503



**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Dwarika Nath Bhat** S/o Lt Meashwar Nath Bhat originally from Parnewa Budgam at present H No. 5, Sector-3 Sharika Vihar Roop Nagar Jammu on 27/02/2024.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 07/03/2024 (Thursday) at Akhnoor followed by assembly at Muthi Ghat near Director Education office Jammu at 10:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

Asha Ji Bhat Wife  
Smt Rupa Ji and Lt Sh P N Bhat - (Brother and Bhabhi)  
Smt Basanti Ji and Sh Janki Nath Bhat (Brother and Bhabhi)  
Smt Sumi Ji and Lt Sh D N Bhat (Brother and Bhabhi)  
Smt Indu and Sh Raju Kumar Bhat (Son and Daughter in law)  
Smt Aarti and Sh Ashu Kumar Bhat (Son and Daughter in law)  
Smt Kitty and Sh Vicky Bhat (Son and Daughter in law)  
Smt Vijayta and Sh Ashok Kumar Bhat (Son and Daughter in law)  
Sh Rohit Bhat - Son  
Sh Ratul Bhat - Son

Smt Dolly Ji and Sh Nileep Kumar Bhat (Daughter and Son in law)  
Smt Uma Ji and Lt Sh N N Koul (Sister and Brother in law)

Remembered by : Manas/Chitresh/Sagrika/Sehjal/Lovya/Lakshika

**GRIEF STRICKEN : KOU'L'S, RAINA'S, BHAT'S, MAHALDAR'S, PANDITA'S, WARIKOO'S, AIMA'S, NAQAB'S**

9906311583 / 7006651393/9103070859/7889322795



**SH. DWARIKA NATH BHAT**

**10TH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you about sad demise of **Sh. Rattan Lal Garib** originally from Sopore J&K, residing at Gangyal Jammu and Currently based at Chatrapati Sambhajnagar (Aurangabad) Maharashtra.

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be held at Kaigaon Rameshwar Ghat on 10th March 2024 Sunday. Assembly followed by Prasad will be held at our residence at 1230 hrs at A 601, Kasliwal Marvel East Beed Bypass Road Sambhajnagar (Aurangabad)

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Nancy Garib & Family.

All Nears & Dears

9149597208



**SH. RATTAN LAL GARIB**

**TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Late **Smt. Sarla Sharma** W/o Late Sh. Bal Krishan Sharma R/o H.No. 169, Mast Garh, Jammu. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 06-03-2024, Wednesday at Tootiyan, Rani Talab Jammu at 11.00 am.

**Kriya** will be performed on 07-03-2024, Thursday at our residence at 12.00 noon.

**Uthala** will be performed at Brahman Sabha on 08-03-2024, Friday from 03.00 to 04.00 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

(Son & Daughter-in-law)

Sh. Rajesh Sharma & Smt. Pooja Sharma

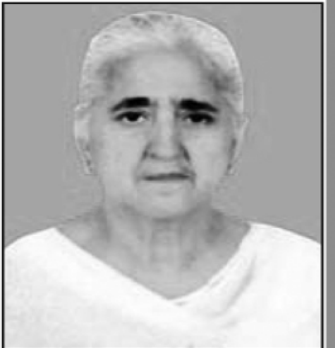
(Daughters & Son-in-laws)

Smt. Bindu Sharma & Sh. Bimal Sharma

Smt. Ritu Sharma & Sh. Sandeep Sharma

Grand Children: Bhavya, Kritigaya, Subhag, Bhavika, Samiyaa and Shivakshi.

Mob: 9419144696



Late Smt. Sarla Sharma

**10TH DAY/KRIYA/PAGRI**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Kunta Devi** W/o Sh. Prem Raj Kotwal originally resident of Chinta Kerhi (Bhadernah) presently at H.No. 51/D Lane No. 2, Sector-1, Durga Nagar, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 28.02.2024.

**10th Day Kriya/Pagri** will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 08.03.2024 followed by Assembly & Bhog at our residence at 11:00 am

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Sh. Prem Raj Kotwal (Husband)

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Sh. Krishan Kumar Kotwal & Satya Devi

Sh. Sanjay Kotwal & Savita Devi

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt. Sheela Devi & Rajinder Katal

Smt. Sushma Devi & Satish Charak

Smt. Nisha Devi & Rakesh Verma

Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-law

Sh. Ravi Kant Kotwal & Rashika Kotwal

Sh. Munish Kotwal & Pallavi Rajput

Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law

Smt. Sheetal Kotwal & Swarn Singh

Grand Children: Rahul, Sonika, Manoj, Sangeeta, Dimple, Sandeep, Dharminder, Meenakshi, Rashi, Anmol, Komal

Great Grand Children: Riddhira, Rudra, Aira, Jiyanshi



**SMT. KUNTA DEVI**

**REMEMBRANCE 7TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

I dream of a beautiful place, Where pain and suffering end, Where age and time does cease, And everyone is your friend, A place that has all the answers, To all the questions that you have, Where everyone's souls fly free, Where nobody is sad, This place waits for all of us, When the time is right, Just travel through the darkness, Until you reach the light, Where lost loves are reunited, And families are put back together, Where death has no place, For everybody lives forever.

REMEMBERED BY

Sabreen Mir & Ruchi



**Tufail Mir**

**BARKHI**

PEOPLE SAY'S TIME HEAL ALL THE WOUNDS BUT SOME WOUNDS ON HEART CAN NEVER HEAL NO MATTER HOW LONG IT COULD BE.

**BARKHI** of our Beloved Mother **NEELAM GUPTA** w/o Late Mr Vinay Gupta resident of Q. no 84 Sarwal Colony near Shiva ji Park, Jammu. **BARKHI AND HAWAN** will be performed on 07.03.2024 falling on thursday at our aforementioned residential address from 9.30 AM onwards.

Deeply Remembered By:

Daughter in law & Son

Mrs Palvi Gupta w/o Mr Ankush Gupta

Daughter & Son in law

Mrs Samriti Gupta & Sameer

Baby Ankvi & Sana (Grand Daughters)

Contact Nos : 9419272912/9419416413/ 9906998900



**NEELAM GUPTA**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **SH MAHARAJ KRISHAN TICKOO** S/O LATE HAR-DAY NATH TICKOO ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF RUGHNATH MANDIR, HABBA KADAL SRINAGAR PRESENTLY AT H.NO 255 SECTOR 2 GANGALY GARDEN JAMMU NEAR ST PAUL CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL WHO LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE ON 03RD MARCH 2024.

**10th DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT BHADRAKALI MANDIR THALWAL, PHALIAN MANDAL JAMMU ON 12TH MARCH (TUESDAY) FOLLOWED BY ASSEMBLY AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION MUTHI JAMMU AT 10.30AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

SMT BIMLA TICKOO (WIFE)

ROZY TICKOO & RAKESH TICKOO (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)

MEENAKSHI BHAT & RAKESH BHAT (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW)

PRIYA BHAT & SUSHEEL BHAT (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW)

BABLI PANDITA & CHAND JI PANDITA (SISTER & BROTHER IN LAW)

BROTHER & SISTER IN LAWS

RENU TICKOO

KAILASH TICKOO

PROMILA TICKOO & SHIBAN JI TICKOO

DR USHA KHER TICKOO & SUNEEL K TICKOO

SAMAST TICKOO PARIWAR, BHATS, PANDITAS, KOULS, DHARS

CONTACT NUMBER: 9419132953, 9419259010



**SH MAHARAJ KRISHAN TICKOO**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief, we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Uma Shori (Pyaraji)** W/o Sh. Bansil Lal Raina originally from Hanjiwara Pattan presently at Meerat left for her heavenly abode on 29th Feb., 2024.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be held at Chota Haridwar Murad Nagar on 9th March 2024.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Bansil Lal Bhat (Husband)

Bharat Bhushan Bhat (Son & Daughter-in-law)

Shyama & Mani Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Pamposh & Sunil Sopori (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Urmila & Ravi K. Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)

All Friends and Relatives

Mobile No.: 9622220958, 9927233549



**Smt. Uma Shori (Pyaraji)**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Bushan Lal Koul (Panchy)** S/o Lt. Kailash Nath Koul R/o Katrasoo Kulgam presently at H.No 246/A Sec-1 Durga Nagar Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 27th Feb 2024.

**10th Day** will be performed on the 7th of March 2024 (Thursday) at Akhnoor Ghat and Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of Education office Muthi Jammu at 10:30 A.M

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Vijay Koul Wife

Smt. Rozy Bhat & Anil Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Smt. Ruby Raina & Sanjay Raina (Daughter & Son in-law)

Grand Children:- Rishab, Robby, Suraj, Samay and Sachin

Contact Nos. 9622369195, 9469190099, 9419319492



**Sh Bushan Lal Koul (Panchy)**

**TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Late **Smt. Sarla Sharma** W/o Late Sh. Bal Krishan Sharma R/o H.No. 169, Mast Garh, Jammu.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 06-03-2024, Wednesday at Tootiyan, Rani Talab Jammu at 11.00 am.

**Kriya** will be performed on 07-03-2024, Thursday at our residence at 12.00 noon.

**Uthala** will be performed at Brahman Sabha on 08-03-2024, Friday from 03.00 to 04.00 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

(Son & Daughter-in-law)

Sh. Rajesh Sharma & Smt. Pooja Sharma

(Daughters & Son-in-laws)

Smt. Bindu Sharma & Sh. Bimal Sharma

Smt. Ritu Sharma & Sh. Sandeep Sharma

Grand Children: Bhavya, Kritigaya, Subhag, Bhavika, Samiyaa and Shivakshi.

Mob: 9419144696



Late Smt. Sarla Sharma

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/ UTHALA**

With profound grief, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Brother **Parveen Sharma** S/o Late Shri Jagdish Chander Sharma R/o 112, Sector-3 Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 7th March 2024 at 11:00 a.m at our residence.

**Kriya** will be performed on 8 March, 2024 at 12 Noon at our residence.

**Uthala** will be performed on 8th March 2024 from 4.00 p.m to 5.00 p.m at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Mohini Sharma (Chachi)

(Brothers & Bhabhis)

Sh. Virinder Sharma (Retd. SE) & Dr Neena Sharma

Sh. Naveen Sharma (LIC) & Smt. Arpana Sharma

(Sister & Brother-in-Law)

Smt. Poonam Sharma & Sh. Kishore Sharma

All Friends & Relatives

Contact No. 9419125838, 7006528117



**Parveen Sharma**

**CHOUBARSI**

'Death ends a life not relationship'

Four years has passed since you left us but you are missed daily and everyday. You are that special person which meant to us more than everything else in the world.

**Choubarisi** of our beloved **Sh Ajay Gupta** will be performed on 7th of March 2024 (Thursday) at our residence opposite Bhargava Degree College Samba at 12 Noon.

Deeply Remembered By:

Father & Mother

Sh Ved Parkash Gupta & Smt Swaran Kanta

Anu Gupta -Wife

Raghav & Madhav -Sons

Raman Gupta & Reva Gupta -Bhaiya & Bhabhi

Vinay Gupta & Rajani Gupta -Bhaiya & Bhabhi

Anju Gupta & Naveen Gupta -Sister & Brother-in-law

M/s Shiva Cold Storage & Rice Mills, Samba (9419152526)

M/s Ved Parkash Gupta & Sons, Samba (7006338163)

M/s Kasturi Lal & Co.

O.H Road, Jammu (9419223811)

M/s Kunj Lal & Sons (9419152817)

Ice Factory & Cold Storage, Samba

M/s Kaka Shah Kunj Lal (9419196489)

Kanak Mandi, Jammu



**Sh Ajay Gupta (Raju)**

**10th DAY/ KRIYA/ PAGRI**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform that our beloved Smt. Santosh Kumari Sharma W/o Late Sh. Pushpa Raj Sharma (Retd. Accounts officer) of Basohi Road west no. 4, Harina Colony, Kathua left for her heavenly abode on 26/02/2024.

The **10TH DAY** shall be performed at our residence Ward no. 4, Krishna Colony, Kathua on 06/03/2024 at 11 AM.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 07/03/2024 and **RASAM PAGRI** shall be performed at our residence Ward No.4, Krishna Colony, Kathua on 08/03/2024 at 11 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Er. Vivek Sharma & Er. Parul Gupta - SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

(DAUGHTERS & SON-IN-LAWS)

Ms. Nishi Sumar (Advocate) & S. Daljeet Singh (Dy SP J&K)

Ms. Reetu Sharma (Master) & Sh. Pardeep Sharma (Dy SP J&K)

Ms. Deeksha Sharma (Manager JK Bank) & Sh. Ravi Kant Sharma (Manager JK Bank)

Dr. Sheela Sharma & Sh. Satya Bhushan Sharma (USA)

Smt. Shashi Sharma W/o Late Sh. Narinder Kumar Sharma (Retd. Excise Inspector)

Sh. Mohinder Pal Sharma (Assistant Filing Officer, Nagri Pore) and Smt. Sushma Sharma

SISTERS AND BROTHERS-IN-LAW

Smt. Veena Sharma and Er. Rajinder Parshat Sharma (Retd.)

Sh. Rajender Sharma (Retd. Lecturer)

Sh. Ravinder Sharma (Advocate, JK High Court) & Smt. Rama Sharma

Smt. Shantika Sharma & Sh. Ashwani Kumar (Retd. Post Master)

Smt. Kamal Kanta (Retd. Sr. Lecturer) & Sh. Harbans Lal Sharma (Retd. Asst. Director KVIB)

Sh. Dharampal Sharma (ret. CDO)

Smt. Urmah Sharma & Sh. Ram Pal Sharma (Industrialist)

GRAND CHILDREN - Jagdeep Sharma, Singh Sharma, Rupa, Anu, Gugu, Shivani, Nikit, Vidhi

Shivani, Nikit, Vidhi

Contact : 7006676804, 7006909650, 7889439335, 7006332603



**Smt. Santosh Kumari Sharma**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved father **Karanyog Sh. Bansil Lal Raina (Bantoth)** S/o Late Sh. Darwoodhara Raina originally resident of Hkumoo (Kokernag), Anantnag presently at H.No. 4-C, Sector-2, Sharda Colony, Patoli Brahmana, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 3rd March 2024.

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Akhnoor on 12th March 2024 followed by **ASSEMBLY** at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu, at 11 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. & Sh. Raju Raina - Son & Daughter-in-law

Brother & Sister-in-law

Smt. & Sh. Aular Krishan Raina

Smt. & Sh. Ashok Kumar Raina - Brother & Sister-in-law

Smt. & Sh. Ravi Raina - Son & Daughter-in-law

Smt. & Sh. Surinder Raina - Son & Daughter-in-law

Smt. & Sh. Armit Raina - Son & Daughter-in-law

Smt. & Sh. Sunee Pandita - Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt. & Sh. Rohit Bhat - Daughter & Son-in-law

Grand Children : Sahil, Sivaan, Gurnu, Anu, Gugu, Shivani, Nikit, Vidhi



# LEAD to organise "Suyog: LJK Opportunity Summit" Series to Empower Youth

## Top News Report

JAMMU, March 6: LEAD (LJK Economic Growth and Development Dialogue) convened a key meeting to discuss its upcoming initiatives. Deliberations were held on conducting "Suyog", LJK Opportunity Summit, aimed at catalyzing youth empowerment and fostering economic growth across Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.

"Suyog" is first of its kind series with the objective to illuminate youth about the opportunities



available across diverse sectors like Tourism, Agriculture, Manufacturing, IT etc. empowering them to carve promising career pathways within their local communities. The inaugural event, focusing on the Tourism

sector, is set to take place on March 21, promising to be a beacon of inspiration and empowerment for aspiring entrepreneurs and professionals. LEAD envisions active participation from all districts of Ladakh and

Jammu & Kashmir, ensuring comprehensive coverage and recognition of the myriad opportunities strewn across the region. By fostering cross-district collaboration, "Suyog" aims to ignite a collective spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation, driving sustainable development at the grassroots level.

As LEAD continues its unwavering commitment to nurturing local talent and fostering economic resilience, the "Suyog: LJK Opportunity Summit" series stands as a testa-

ment to its vision of a prosperous and empowered future for Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir. LEAD is a first of its kind platform, is a Citizens initiative of like-minded individuals & professionals working on promotion of business investments towards sustainable development of the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir. LEAD is also providing a forum for a constructive dialogue on various issues related to the growth and development of the region.

# Two Day Int'l Conference on Health, Fitness, Yoga and Sports Science culminated at GDC Kathua



## Top News Report

KATHUA, March 06: The two day 1st International Conference on Health, Fitness, Yoga and Sports Science organized by IQAC & Department of Physical Education & Sports in Collaboration with the Foundation for Global Community Health, USA through hybrid mode was successfully concluded today at Govt. Degree College, Kathua. More than 250 Indian and foreign delegates and eminent speakers around the globe attended the conference offline as well as on a virtual platform. This international conference, the first of this kind in J&K highlighted the role and essence of sports science, yoga and nutrition in fitness and overall health of the community in the new post-covid era.

The second day of the International Conference commenced with an interactive session with faculty members by eminent Global personality and keynote speaker Dr. Ming Kai Chin, President and Founder of the Foundation for Global Community Health, USA. He emphasized physical activity sports and social-emotional health as important components of health and wellness. Dr. Ming urged the faculties and students to work for the community to curb global health issues through awareness.

The interactive session was followed by an invited lecture session in which Dr. Olena Yarmoliuk, HOD, Physical Education and Pedagogy, KYIV University Ukraine focused on the importance of Artificial intelligence in physical education and the role of physical activity and sports science on overall well-being. Later, Dr. Zornitza Mladenova, Senior Future Leader, GCH, USA highlighted a holistic approach to physical activity, emotional stability and nutrition for the attainment of overall well-being.

Afterwards, two parallel technical sessions of Paper Presentation and Poster Presentation were conducted in which 13 delegates presented their research and deliberated on various aspects of Health, Fitness, Yoga & Sports Science, whereas, 24 delegates displayed their research findings through posters. The sessions were chaired by Dr. Pragna Khanna, GLDC, Hiranagar, and Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, GDC, Mahanagar, whereas. Co-chaired by Prof. Raj Kiran, HOD Physics, GDC, Billawar.

Delivery an invited lecture, Dr. Pinar Yaprak, Assistant Professor, Gazi University Turkey presented her research work on sports fields, social issues and development: Neglected cultural heritage and reconstructing

future. She emphasized improving understanding of social problems and solutions in the sports field.

Dr. Gourav Vaid, Senior Physiotherapist and founder of Swasthya Shastra, Jammu focused on the role of physiotherapy in our day-to-day lives, health and fitness. Later, a valedictory session was organised to formally conclude the International Conference in which Shiv DS Jamwal, SSP, Kathua was the Chief Guest. In his address, he focused on sports science and nutrition as needs of the hour for overall health. He appreciated the tireless efforts made by the organizing team, Dr. JS Soodan, HOD, department of Physical Sciences & Sports and Faculty of GDC, Kathua for successfully holding this conference of international repute. He also congratulated Prof. Seema Mir, Principal, GDC, Kathua for the success of the first international conference of such kind with relevance to all the sectors of the community. The conference report was presented by the convenor sports Board, Prof. Shivani Kotwal, Associate professor and Head of Department, English, whereas, the formal Vote of thanks was presented by Prof. R. K. Pandita, Head of Department, Zoology.

# SSP Reasi reviews security of Shiv Khori shrine

## Top News Report

RANSOO, Mar 6: Mohita Sharma, IPS SSP Reasi accompanied by Neeraj Padyar, JKPS Deputy SP Headquarters Reasi AC ITBP Kamlesh Kumar, Tehsildar Pouni, SHO Ransoo and CC CRPF Shiv Khori held a security review at Ransoo regarding their preparation for better crowd management and security arrangements during the Shivratri Festival which attracts huge rush of pilgrims to Shiv Khori Shrine. During the meeting Dy. SP Headquarters Reasi gave detailed briefing on the existing manpower deployed in Ransoo and Shiv Khori Shrine and manpower deployed for Shivratri festival. SSP Reasi took the stock of the security arrangements on ground in Ransoo town including Track where security has been beefed up in view of the forthcoming Shivratri Festival. She also issued necessary directions to the District Police officers, Civil administration and CRPF to keep vigil on the anti-national and anti-social elements. The Officer reviewed



each and every security drill of the Shiv Khori Shrine, yatra route, safety and security of pilgrims visiting to pay obeisance to the shrine on daily basis.

SSP Reasi further stressed upon verification and census of migrants and workers in and around Ransoo town, pony porters and others in the towns to check the entry of any suspicious element in the area. She further directed to conduct checking of the hotels and other residential accommodations randomly basis for verification of character antecedents of the person visiting there. The officer also reviewed the attempts to revive the militancy

in parts of district Reasi, directed all concerned officers to revisit the list of OGW's of the Police Stations, monitoring of social media including Facebook, Whatsapp to curb the new pattern of radicalization.

Officer especially stressed upon the safety and security of huge numbers of pilgrims going to visit the shrine on 07 March to 09 March, 2024 in view of Shivratri Mela and directed the officers and officials to work with cooperation and coordination to avoid any untoward incidents. Meeting ended with the note on coordination and cooperation between all the security forces deployed for the security of the Shrine.

# Dev Sthan Sharm celebrates at Raja Mandlik's foundation day



## Top News Report

Jammu: The revered Goga Ji, worshipped as the Kuldevta Raja Mandlik in Jammu and Kashmir, holds a special place. There are several ancient temples of Raja Mandlik in the Jammu region. Grand feasts are organized here on Gugga Navami, and every year, fairs are held upon the arrival of the new harvest in honor of the Kuldevta. On Wednesday, the foundation day celebration of Raja Mandlik Ji was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the Dev Sthan Dharmal in Jammu. On this occasion, the head sevadar of the temple, Surjit Kumar,

mentioned that every year the establishment day of Raja Mandlik Devasthan is celebrated, with morning prayers and rituals followed by a feast. A large number of devotees gathered here, bowed in reverence at the court, and participated in the feast served at the temple.

On this occasion, SP Rural Jammu, Brijesh Sharma, and other respected citizens paid their respects, and in turn, Brijesh Sharma was honored for his outstanding work.

Other respected citizens such as Ajay Sharma, Surinder Khajuria, Bhanu Khajuria, Surinder baru etc. were also present.

# City Ration Dealers' Association urges Govt to redress demands

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: President Jammu City Ration Dealers' Association, Surinder Singh, President, Jammu City Ration Dealers' Association raised the grievances of ration dealers and sought redressal for the same at the earliest.

He demanded release of pending commission of NFSA and PMGKAY for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, clearance of outstanding balance lying in epos machines, clearance of files for issuing fair price shop licenses in one-time concession under death cases lying in office, and release of

Rs.30000 as a monthly wage to ration dealers.

He further highlighted the inequality among ration dealers as some dealers were earning a decent sum while others were struggling to make ends meet. The ration dealers hoped that the issues would be resolved at the earliest.

# CBC organises 2- day Multi Media Exhibition on Viksit Bharat

## Top News Report

RAJOURI, Mar 6: Dr. Mohammad Tanwir, ADC, Kalakote inaugurated 2- day Multi Media Exhibition on the theme of "Viksit Bharat" "Mission Life" "Agnipath Scheme" "EBSB" "Swachhta" and other allied themes of Govt of India an Integrated Outreach and Communication Programme being organized by Central Bureau of Communication, Rajouri (J&K), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India at Government Degree College, Kalakote as a Chief Guest. Dr. Seema Arora, Principal, Government Degree College, Kalakote presided over the function along with faculty GDC, Kalakote, Staff of CBC J&K and representatives.

Dr. Mohammad Tanwir, ADC, also addressed the gathering and enlightened the audience about various schemes he appreciated focused awareness regarding Viksit Bharat "Mission Life" "Agnipath Scheme" "EBSB" "Swachhta" and various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and initiatives of district administration about which resource persons of various departments are giving information.

Sunil Kumar, Central Bureau of Communica-

tion, Rajouri in his welcome address said that Governments of India has various schemes for an individual can avail right. He expressed gratitude towards district Administration and Authorities of Government Degree College, Kalakote for their cooperation and support. He urged the audience to spread the message of the event among common masses to visit the venue as the Exhibition will remain open from 10 am to 5:00 pm daily (Free of Cost).

Daleep Singh, Senior Veterinary Pharmacist, Animal Husbandry Department, also addressed the gathering and enlightened the audience about various schemes related to their Department.

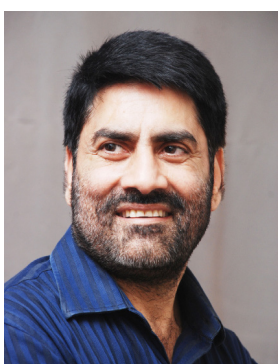
Himanshu, Assistant Professor from Government Degree College, Kalakote spoke about the schemes related to their respective departments. All the guests and speakers, winning students of Government Higher Secondary School, Kalakote Rajouri (Drawing Competition) and students of Government Degree College (Seminar) were honoured by CBC Rajouri.

A mesmerizing theme based cultural programme by artists of CBC enthralled the audience.

# Balwant Thakur invited to world's largest Literature Festival as playwright

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: National Academy of Letters (Sahitya Akademi) Ministry of Culture, Government of India has invited eminent playwright and theatre director Balwant Thakur to participate in the world's largest literature festival being held in New Delhi from 11th to 16th of March, 2024 as playwright. Amongst many literary events being held in the festival of letters, Balwant Thakur will be the key speaker in the event entitled "Playwriting in India". Known for bringing Dogri Theatre in the global limelight, Balwant Thakur has 27 original plays to his credit. His prominent plays include 'Ghumayee', 'Suno Eh Kahani', 'Iss Gran Gi Swarg Banai Lo', 'Gulab Gatha', 'Mere Hisse Ki Dhooj Kahan Hai'. 'Rang



Badalti Duniyan', 'Aap Hamaare Hain Kaun', 'Hum Hain Naa', 'Udaan', 'Gatte Echh Maanu', 'Choonna hai Aasmaan', 'Kahani Hamaari Tumhaari', 'Aag', 'Parvaaz', 'Rangroot', 'Loktantra Ka Mantra', and 'Mere Bhi Ehen Kish Khaab'. His play 'Aap Hamaare Hain Kaun' has been translated in English, Creole and French. Apart from Balwant Thakur the discourse 'Playwriting in India' organised by Sahitya Akademi is

being addressed by D.P Sinha, Devindera Raj Ankur, Soumitra Mitra, Dilip Borkar, Mahendra Malangiya, Y. Sadanand Singh, Abhiram Bhadkamar and Bigoy Kumar Satapathy.

Coveted with highest Indian honour in performing arts i.e., Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for direction in theatre and Padmashree, Balwant Thakur held very prestigious positions including Secretary J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages, Regional Director Indian Council for Cultural Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, Cultural Diplomat of India to the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Mauritius. He holds a unique credit of having held his artistic presentations in over a record 100 international cities globally.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Sr. DEE/TRSL/DH acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-Tenders against tender No 2023-24-0118 Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids upto closing date 01/04/2024 at 15:00 Hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall not be considered. Bidders are allowed to make payments against this tender towards cost of tender document and earnest money through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDRs etc are not allowed.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (Rs.)	Cost of Tender (Rs.)	Date & time for submission of tender	Earliest Money/Bid security (Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
2023-24-0118	Painting of electric locomotives during major schedules at Electric Loco Shed, Ludhiana for a period of three (03) years.	5818160/-	0/-	Upto 01.04.2024 15:00 Hrs	1164000/-	36 Months	01.04.2024 at or after 15:30 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Notice No. 230-Elect/TRSL/DH/WC/ PU Painting /OT/2023-24/0118B Dated:- 05.03.2024

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**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Short e-NIT No.71of 2023-2024/Jammu East Dated 02-03-2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertisement Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for complete on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Elementary Major Repair at GPS Thathrian Jammu.	PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East	3.37	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Month	(1300 Hrs) on or after 11-03-2024	A,B,C & D

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-03-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 02-03-2024 to 09-03-2024 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	XXXXXXXXX at XXXX Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
4	Bid submission Start Date	02-03-2024
5	Bid Submission End Date	09-03-2024 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	11-03-2024 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring **Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East** and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to **Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East**. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the **Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East** at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

No :- 6767-77  
Dated :- 02-03-2024  
DIP/J-15750  
Dated :- 6/3/2024

Sd/-  
(Er. Satish Bhagat)  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Jammu East



## EDITORIAL

Oral Health  
Care

Every society provides a unique soil for a health-care programmer to build upon. Indian society is similarly unique in factors such as social mindset, prevalent beliefs and customs. These factors should not be given a passive glance and should be explored carefully giving an adequate weight to each factor's background and its progress to the present status in contemporary dental practice. Only a careful scientific analysis of society is therefore the need of the hour for oral health-care programmers. The society has collective consciousness. The beliefs, practices and attitudes can be studied in a same way as can be an individual mind with appropriate methods. Absence of scientifically supported background knowledge of a society can severely hinder any attempt of change, whether good or bad in a society. This makes a complete understanding of social factors and fears an absolute necessity before any change can be brought about by active intervention.

Our society in its attitude toward dental health has been giving it less importance as compared to general health. There has been a lack of public identification of oral health deterioration and wide acceptance of morbid mouths along with widespread prevalence of oral diseases and lack of reasonable oral health-care services in the past. Dental public health programmers have not been able to achieve the depth and penetration into society required to bring about the change in societal attitude. In this article, observations based on experience and interactions with the society have been enumerated. Need for a scientific study of such observations has been stressed as only with a good understanding of society mind, a change in its individual unit can be brought about. People's attitude is shaped by their beliefs and the common belief has been that dental treatment is unbearably painful, this has led to people ignoring their oral health to an extent that when they eventually come to the dental clinic some of their teeth are invariably advised for extraction, which again as painful event reinforced this belief and add to the general household reputation of dental treatment as painful which usually reason much for those who shy away from oral health both in rural and urban areas. This perception needs modification before any intervention. Inclusion of video-aids or demonstration on a subject would indeed help modify this attitude although a very successful accomplishment on a large scale can eliminate this perception over a time period. Another factor is nearly traditional addiction of tobacco in Indian masses. Tobacco consumption, although harmful for systemic health, has many other ramifications in oral health. Firstly, tobacco and tobacco products directly harm the oral tissue; secondly, oral cavity is reduced secondarily to the pleasure of consumption and largely ignored. This unhealthy attitude gradually builds up to extent when the consumer totally ignores his oral health. Thirdly, it becomes a habit, a habit both powerful and prevalent. This has been passing from generation to generation. This variable of tobacco consumption is seen at every level, from planning to execution of any intervention. Awareness and education are the only tools for masses at present. Although an in-depth understanding of tobacco use and related behavioral factors would help in modification of the health-care program in advance. Another factor is forgotten general awareness about the oral health and its contribution to overall health and longevity. This has largely been made possible by continual non-availability of oral health services in their proximity and lack of elementary education in such matters. Contribution of oral health to systemic health is undeniable. This has to be reinforced into common mind by physicians and dentists.

## Modi's 'guarantees' on India's growth can be a mind-bender

By: Shikha Mukerjee

A jumble of concepts and words flood into consciousness when tasked to examine India's growth trajectory in the 10 years since 2014, like retro punk, up the down staircase, the country prettified with silver bells and cockle shells or just plain confusing. There is no confusion when seen through the lens of US secretary of state Anthony Blinken's effusive praise in Davos, Switzerland, at the World Economic Conference, when he reckoned that the decade under Narendra Modi had been one of "remarkable achievements" and "materially benefitted so many Indian lives. When seen through the Prime Minister's eyes, there is even less doubt.

India is now enveloped by "guarantees" made by the enormously popular Mr Modi that he will lead the country into the "Viksit" era. There is a subtle difference between a guarantee of Vikas, that is development as an ongoing process, and Viksit, which means advanced and developed, in other words India's moment of arrival at its foretold destination, namely, third place in the world ranking of economies.

At the rate at which "guarantee" is being used in everyday conversations across India, the word may end up as the most used word in the world in the next 12 months in the usual listing of Word of the Year. Should that happen, it would be the result of the sheer size of the Indian population, which is now an estimated, not accurate, 1.44 billion. (No one knows how many Indians there are in the country because the last head count was 13 years ago, in 2011 when the Census happened.)

In other words, size matters. The

size of India's economy therefore is a function of the size of its population; the more the people, the larger the economy. Growing to five trillion dollars as an economy or getting third place in the world rankings is an easily achievable target. In fact, it is a low-hanging fruit.

So, what is this guarantee of arriving at Viksit Bharat after the Bharatiya Janata Party led by its charismatic leader does a hat-trick third term win? In mid-2023, the assessments of various India watchers concluded that some nine states out of the total of 28 states and eight Union territories would reach "upper middle-income country" levels of Vikas. Two-thirds of the country would be wallowing somewhere between low and middle-income levels in 2030. One-third of Indians would be earning less than Rs 3 lakhs a year, while two-thirds would be earning around Rs 1.60 lakhs per capita annually. The states that will be better off, according to the statistics and programme implementation ministry by 2030 are Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Other estimates include Gujarat, Maharashtra and Haryana. There is no quibble that Uttar Pradesh, despite chief minister Yogi Adityanath's pledge backed by Mr Modi's guarantee of a trillion-dollar economy by 2028, and Bihar, now once again ruled by a "double-engine" sarkar, will continue to be among the poorest.

To cover the distance between Rs 1.60 lakhs to less than Rs 3 lakhs a year per capita, it is obvious that the Modi government has a bursting folder of plans to raise incomes and redeem his campaign pledge backed by a guarantee that India will arrive at the Viksit stage in a short time. So, what are in these

plans?

Like all product or service guarantees, Mr Modi's guarantees come with small print that must be painstakingly read to work out where the loopholes lie. There are promises of eradicating poverty.

There are no promises about gearing up the economy to reach full employment. With unemployment high and verifiable by the sheer desperation of lakhs of educated to take government recruitment examinations, the guarantee of growth comes with joblessness.

How then are the 800 million people, who are now covered under the distress alleviation programme of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, going to be guaranteed bare survival without free foodgrain handouts? For that to happen, the Indian economy will not only have to grow but keep growing at a phenomenal rate. That growth will have to be equitably distributed. That is not how it is now; one estimate suggests that "in India, the wealth of 16 people is equal to the wealth of 600 million people".

From Mr Modi's perspective, the Indian economy's problems are rooted in its past. The Congress is, in his opinion, responsible for holding back India's potential and the principal agent of the country's failure to tackle all the evils associated with poverty is Jawaharlal Nehru and the dynastic politics of the party that skimmed the cream and left the masses in dire straits. He has been scathing about Indira Gandhi's Garibi Hatao slogan that did nothing to eradicate poverty.

As a narrative crafted for political purposes this has worked wonders in convincing the masses that in the ten years since 2014, the country has

raced ahead. Mr Modi has talked up a storm on his total sanitation programme of Swachh Bharat; he has hammered on about building housing for the poor; he gets emotional about distributing free gas cylinders to a targeted 10.35 crore poor women out of an approximate 27 crore households in India.

Two farmers' protests in three years is a fact that contradicts the guarantee of Viksit Bharat. In an election year, the BJP's willingness to allow farmers to sit out in protest looks like supreme confidence in the popularity of Mr Modi and his extraordinary knack of winning elections. The farm sector, which currently provides more employment than the industrial and services sector, is keeping the economy buoyant. The guarantee for Viksit Bharat that fails to negotiate a settlement with the farmers is unconvincing.

Like the minimum support price and other farm sector issues, the Modi government in its third term has to assure a rise in minimum wages to make the trust he promises with India's destiny as an affluent economy.

Building infrastructure that does not pay for itself, consecrating a temple, promising citizenship to some and stripping citizenship from others, does nothing for the quality of life of the poor trapped in low expectations and poverty. Elections are when voters are fully awake on how the years have treated them. If they feel that there is no escape from misery, then they will vote to maintain the status quo, because that is less risky. The obfuscation in the rhetoric of guarantees is perhaps the BJP's mantra, because it offers a less adventurous choice.

## New Pak PM faces economic, political challenges

By: Vivek Katju

(Former Secretary, Ministry of  
External Affairs)

Shehbaz Sharif was selected by the Pakistan National Assembly (NA) to the office of the Prime Minister on March 3. The next day, he was administered the oath of office by President Arif Alvi. The ceremony at the Aiwan-e-Sadr (presidential palace) in Islamabad was attended by the leaders of the ruling coalition — the Pakistan Muslim League (N), Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan — and the military establishment. The chief ministers (CMs) of Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan were also present. However, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) 'leaders' who contested and won their NA seats as independents, and have now 'joined' the Sunni Ittehad Council for technical reasons, boycotted the oath-taking. And so did the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province CM; he effectively belongs to the PTI too.

Thus, the oath-taking ceremony itself clearly showed the continuing deep political divisions within the country that the February 8 national elections have only exacerbated. Over the past few days, the coalition leaders have called for the healing of political wounds. Indeed, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has sought the formation of a judicial commission to look into the events of May 9 last year. On that day, former

PM Imran Khan was taken into custody in a corruption case, and his supporters went on the rampage, targeting military installations in many cities. That caused a rift between army chief Gen Syed Asim Munir and other Generals. Munir purged the army of officers suspected of harbouring pro-Imran sentiments. Imran has been behind bars since then, and it will take a while before Munir lets him come out of prison.

Munir knows that the election results have shown that Imran enjoys massive popular support in KP and, more significantly, a large measure of public sympathy in Punjab. Neither Munir nor the Sharifs can afford to let Imran move around freely among the people. It is also doubtful if the army will really cooperate with a judicial commission, even if one is formed to investigate the May 9 developments. Hence, protests in the NA and the Punjab assembly are likely to continue, but the army will not allow major or long-lasting street agitations. It will be willing to go as far as is required to control demonstrations, especially if they turn violent.

Two tasks are left to be done under the coalition pact. The first is the election of Asif Ali Zardari as Pakistan's President. The election is to take place on March 9. While the Opposition has fielded Mahmood Khan Achakzai as its candidate, Zardari should have no difficulty in emerging victorious. The second task is the allocation of portfolios. It is likely that this has already been worked out between the PML-N and the PPP. The finance minister

will have to engage credibly with international donors, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Nawaz Sharif may want Ishaq Dar to hold the portfolio once again, but his appointment will be controversial at a time when the economy is in a shambles. In his address to the NA, Shehbaz plainly and, at some length, put the very difficult economic situation before the Pakistani people.

Shehbaz said Pakistan's debt payments were more than its government revenues; hence, it was borrowing to pay off debts, leading to the accumulation of greater debt. In such a situation, it was becoming difficult to meet even the requirements of maintaining the government machinery. He told the NA members that their salaries and allowances were also paid through loans. He said taxes had to be hiked and their evasion plugged. Another issue he stressed upon was electricity theft; it could not be allowed to go on, the PM said. He also expressed confidence that Pakistan had the natural and human resources to enter a high growth trajectory and aim to become a member of the G20 by 2030.

The G20 membership ambition can only be achieved if Pakistan is willing to undertake revolutionary steps, beginning with curtailing its defence expenditure. That would require normalising ties with India. It would also need the adoption of effective steps against the semi-feudal leaders and corrupt businessmen who support major parties. Neither the army nor the political class has displayed any desire for such basic changes. Pakistan will once again have to opt for an IMF

programme and go cap in hand to donors. While no nation wants destabilisation in a nuclear-armed country, donor patience with the Pakistani leadership is running out for not putting its economic house in order.

Significantly, but not surprisingly, Shehbaz raised the Kashmir issue in familiar terms, accusing India of human rights abuses. He spoke of Kashmir in the same breath as Gaza. This was deliberate, for he wanted the Islamic ummah to see the two situations in the same light. The ummah will not do so for the simple reason that it is preposterous to compare Kashmir with Gaza. While Shehbaz is a sober and realistic administrator with experience in global affairs, the fact is that the Sharifs have always been hardliners on Kashmir. In this, they share the views of the army, though unlike the force, they have wanted the normalisation of economic and commercial relations with India in the past.

Throughout this year, Shehbaz will have his hands full in extricating Pakistan out of its economic mess and managing the coalition. He will not take on the army by intervening in what it considers its domain: the handling of the country's security policy. At this time, the army's main focus is on Pakistan's western front, where it is facing problems with the Afghan Taliban, especially because of its continuing support for the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The TTP is not willing to make peace with the army. In these conditions, Gen Munir is unlikely to disturb the ceasefire along the LoC, which has been continuing since February 2021.



## Aali Kadal is still abode of great revolution of love of Bulbushah, Renchanshah, Reshi Queen Kota Rani of 1320 A.D: Renzushah

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 6: While presiding over grand function organized by "Care foundation" & "Gayur foundation", Khwaja Farooq Renzushah chairman Kashmir society international and Jamaat Aitqaad Hanafiya International, Khankah intellectual Forum said Aali Kadal is historical epitome of Great revolution of love of Bulbushah, Renchanshah and Reshi Queen Kota Rani symbol of 1320 A.D.

Khwaja Renzushah in his key note address on occasion of 5th death anniversary of Aalikadli recalled contribution of Ghulam Nabi Aali Kadli who retained his ideology connect with these Spiritual abodes where from he belonged.

Renzushah said that Ali Kadli during his life time remained steadfast to revive the historical importance of these abode while remaining associated with my Kashmir society as it's strong intellectual Ideologue of Aitqaad and Khankah



system as.

He complimented Mahajabeen Aali Kadli wife of Aali Kadali Sahib for devoting herself for revival of 700 years Sufi Aitqaad in Kashmir.

He also appreciated Showkat Gayour whose father was Martyred for his crime of being true Aishiqaan e Rasool, Author and writer who resisted radical forces in Kashmir.

Renzushah said that people have not yet understood Kashmir and some irresponsible persons in present sensitive periods talk on Kashmir having either communal or shallow knowledge of its high civilization value. In this context he said the statement given by one Arya posted on her Social media portals along pho-

tographs of Holy shrine of Shah Hamdan claiming that Holy Temple of Goddess Kaleshwari was existing at same spot which was demolished by Sultan Sikander Iconoclastic cruel king to build Shah Hamdan Khankah are most irresponsible statements.

Renzushah said that these posts by such intellectual personality like name of Arya are totally Absurd, false, and hurting. He said such heart piercing claim is stabbing dragger in joint composit culture of our Kashmir which cannot be accepted. He said her derogatory claim has not only been rejected by Sufi streams of Hanafi & Jaffari Aitqaad Fiqa majority of Kashmir but also by history knowing Hindu's,

Deen was king of Kashmir and not Sultan Sikan- der.

Hazrat Shah Hamdan arrival in 1383 A.D to Kashmir was period shaped by Bulbulshah as golden period of communal amity represented by Combination of Bulbulshah, Renchanshah and Kota Rani.

The traditions were joint and composit. Hazrat Shah Hamdan in record to advise people to continue to follow doctrines and Fiqa taught to them based on mutual communal love and faith. How it was possible that Shah Hamdan would have advised Sultan Sikander to Demolish holy Kaleshwari Temple and built at that place Khankah for him.

He said new generation of Kashmir need to know the real history of Kashmir without any communal bias. He Challenged any person who supported her statement to come on public stage for any debate on any point highlighted to emphasize that Kashmir was abode of unity and peace since Kashab Reshi till now

## NYKS holds Neighbourhood Youth Parliament at SKC GDC Poonch

### Top News Report

POONCH, Mar 6: NYK Poonch under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India organised a Nega Parliament at SKC GDC Poonch.

The Program was presided over by Madam Tazeem Akhter, Chairperson DDC Poonch. Dr Shamim Ahmed Banday, Convenor Cultural Committee SKC GDC Poonch and Mohd Shafiq coordinated the entire program.

A large number of youth participated in the program. The highlight of the program was a Mock Parliament which enthralled the audience.

This was aimed at inculcating the values of Meaningful Debate and Discussion among the youth and promoting among them the concept of exchange of ideas. Parliament comprising of Ruling Side and Opposition was created.

A Parliament like debate was held amongst the students to aware them about the functioning of Parliament and the Parliamentary Procedures.

The entire staff of SKC GDC Poonch remained present during the pro-



gram. Prominent among those present were Prof Dr Aurangzeb Anjum Officiating Principal, SKC GDC Poonch, Prof Dr Ghulam Abbass, Shafeeq Malik District Treasury Officer Poonch, Mohd Rafiq Deputy Director Employment and Adv Bhanu Partap Deputy Chief, Legal Aid Counsel Poonch.

The Faculty of the college appreciated the theme and concept of the program and asked NYKS to conducted more such programs for the youth.

Chief Guest while presenting her presidential remarks appreciated the concept of the Youth Parliament and said that Continuous Exchange of ideas are key to vibrant democracy. She further

stated that youth should be made aware about these concepts.

On the occasion, enlightening and highly motivating Keynote address were deliberated by Prof Dr Shamim Ahmed Banday, Convenor Cultural Committee and Head Dept of Zoology and Dr Yougish Kumar Sharma NCC Officer and Head Dept of Philosophy. Dr Shamim said that youth should aspire to achieve greater heights in their lives without heeding to the obstructions.

Dr Aurangzeb Anjum also presented an address to the young participants and appreciated the concept of Mock Parliament. The entire program was organised under the supervision of Nitin Hangloo.

## Bapu Asharam's condition serious, demand for treatment as per wish



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: The health condition of 86 year old Saint Asharamji Bapu, who is kept in Jodhpur jail under false charges, is very critical. Before going to jail, at the age of 74, Bapuji was only suffering from trigeminal neuralgia and back pain, despite a very busy lifestyle, but due to the stressful environment of continuous custody for more than 11.5 years, now at the age of 86, he is suffering from heart disease, prostate cancer.

Prostate New diseases like arthritis and anemia have also taken hold. Due to lack of proper treatment etc. in a stress-free environment, their health is deteriorating due to non-remission of these life-threatening diseases.

Bapu Asharamji will be in the Cardiac ICU at AIIMS Hospital, Jodhpur from 13 January to 6 February 2024. Are admitted in.

According to AIIMS report, he has 3 severe

blockages in his heart (99%, 90% and 75%). Bapuji is continuously bleeding, due to which he Hemoglobin level is continuously falling. In view of his serious physical condition, an application for parole was recently filed, which was canceled ignoring the severity of his disease.

Bapu Asharamji devoted his entire life for the welfare of the society, vet today in such a serious condition of his health, he has not received any relief for proper treatment

In 2022, the Supreme Court had said that 'leniency should be exercised in granting interim bail to a prisoner on the basis of ill health. It is most important that a person's health is good. The state government should take care of his health related problems, the judiciary should also look at it with caution and sensitivity. This is a sensitive fundamental right of every citizen which must be protected. But the fundamental rights of Bapu Asharamji are

being openly violated. Former minister Gayatri Prajapati, booked under the section of POCSO Act and gang rape, was granted bail first on health grounds and later for the marriage of her daughter

Former Chief Minister of Bihar Lalu Prasad Yadav, former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Chandrababu Naidu, wrestler Sushil Kumar, former Health Minister of Delhi Satyendra Kumar Jain, Supertech Group Chairman R.K. Arora, former Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik etc. were given relief for weeks and weeks, months and months. Former Chief Minister of Haryana Om Prakash Chautala had a heart problem and he got bail specifically for that reason. Apart from these, there are many such examples. When relief is given to the accused and culprits of scam, murder, money laundering etc. then why is innocent Saint Asharamji Bapu being deprived of getting proper treatment as per his wish? This is a violation of their human rights and constitutional rights. There is a demand by Shri Yoga Vedanta Seva Samitis, all the seekers, women organizations and many Hindu organizations that the government should provide relief to respected Bapuji at the desired place and for treatment through suitable medical methods as soon as possible.

## Satsang held in memory of Koushalya Devi



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: A Satsang was held at Ghou-Manhasan Wednesday in memory of a lion-hearted woman Koushalya Devi. Her near and dear ones said that she was very brave, courageous and compassionate, and would always respect everyone.

I had always seen her as independent in every walk of life. Whether it's taking decisions for her health or finances or any life issues, she stood tall and strong. She used to take care of everything in the family, her son in law R.L. Kaith said.

While her son Ramesh Chanjotra said, It didn't matter what the problem was, she had the solution ready for us along with a life example she had gone through. With her real experiences, life looked much more manageable.

## AJBRCEAK welcome to PM Modi on Kashmir Visit, pins hope for new initiatives

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 6: All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association Kashmir (AJBRCEAK) has extended a warm welcome to Prime Minister Narinder Modi on Kashmir Visit.

In a Press statement AJBRCEAK Chairman Vipen Kumar has expressed that people of Jammu and Kashmir are expecting much more from Prime Minister's visit to J&K.

"We always believe Prime Minister has Special affection for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and his back to back Visit t in jammu Kashmir reflects his commitment for ensuring peace, progress and prosperity for UT," Vipen Kumar stated.

We are very much confident that this time around PM's Visit to Kashmir definitely give new impetus to the pace of holistic development and will be a turning point in the journey of "Neya Jammu Kashmir " Chairman added.

"Jammu and Kashmir under the dynamic leadership of PM Sh Narendra Modi Ji is definitely touching new heights of development and prosperity, Indeed j&K in viksit Bharat yatra has its crucial role to play and with consistent steps of LG Administration regarding the welfare of masses, results of progress are reaching out to every corner of the UT and every section of society is benefited, Chairman AJBRCEAK Vipen Kumar pointed

out. While extending warm welcome to Prime Minister AJBRCEAK Anil Radhey expressed strong hope that this Visit will bring a new energy in the masses of Jammu and Kashmir. We Sincerely believe that people of Kashmir are eagerly waiting for the arrival of paddy is Prime Minister, and hopefully his message of progress as always well received in valley," he said.

In a brief note entire AJBRCEAK TEAM has expressed strong hopes from Prime Minister this time on his Kashmir visit regarding new initiatives for welfare of youth, and common man who has already extended unwavering support to Hon'ble Prime Minister to shape New Jammu Kashmir.

## Ajeet challenges Govt claims on employment and Welfare of SC/ ST and OBC of Weaker Section

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 6: Jammu and Kashmir National Confrance Senior Leader, Spokesperson Ajeet Bhagat refutes Government on Employment and Welfare of S/C, S/T and OBC here by refutes the tall claims of present Government in Jammu and Kashmir regarding Employment and Welfare of weaker Section i.e S/C, S/T and OBC Minorities.

The National Confrance Senior Leader said we have been continuously raising the various issues to ensure Constitutional rights to all sections of soci-

ety in Jammu and Kashmir but Government is making hollow claims. Nothing has happened on ground.

Ajeet Bhagat demanded From 8 percent Reservation to 15 percent Reservation for S/C Community in employment as par other states and the Reservation in promotion to Reserved categories not reserved even after Hon'ble Supreme Court's direction, Mandal Commission not implemented in Jammu and Kashmir since 1993 for which there has been continuous agitation by Minorities Community People.

Bhagat said it was contested in the parliament in 2019 that formation of Union Territory shall grant Justice to Weaker Section people but even after five years Union Territory, issues is pending as such, Enhancement of Reservation of OBC from 4 percent to 27 percent is pending since 1993 and till date, Government has changed nomenclature only.

Bhagat said how Government can claims Good Governance, Reservation to OBC in Local Bodies and Panchayat Raj announced but quantum not mentioned. This is only a political game equivalent to playing OBC

card to win the elections.

He said there is yet no amendment in Municipal Act, and tall claims are being flashed everyday, Deferment of Panchayati and Urban Local Bodies Elections on the pretext of OBCs Reservation is nothing, He said there is no OBC member in State Socially and Educationally Backward Class Commission,

Bhagat said what could be the motive behind such and unbalanced Commission, Population of OBCs is 30 percent and there is no representation of such a big chunk of population in the Commission made for there welfare.

## Ch. Zulfkar urges people of Pir-Panjal to unite against injustice with rural areas

### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Mar 6: on Asserting that the remote villages have been facing injustice from the administration regarding development in Rajouri and Poonch Districts, the Apni Party Vice President, and Former Cabinet Minister, Choudhary Zulfkar Ali has appealed to the people of Pir Panjal to get united to fight for their rights.

He said that the gap between the administration and the civilian population has widened in the absence of basic amenities in rural areas.

He also pointed out poor ratio students - teachers in Govt schools that has

impacted the education system. Whereas, the Govt schools and rural health sector has been affected badly, he added.

While addressing a largely attended worker's meeting at Udhan in Khawas area of Budhal Constituency in Rajouri District, the Former Minister stressed on the Govt to mitigate the problems, and suffering of the people living in the remote areas of Pir Panjal as well as other regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the basic amenities are not available to these remote areas.

"The people are living in a very miserable con-



dition in the absence of basic amenities viz poor road connectivity, poor educational sector, health care etc facilities are not available to remote areas. Therefore, the Govt must focus on the development of these areas," he said.

He further said that: "Due to the lack of elected Govt, there is a huge gap between the

Govt machinery, and the people whereas the administration is not reaching out to the far-flung areas."

He stated that the areas like Gaibas, Kochalwas, Narla, Nangathub and others have high potential of tourism, and these areas need to be brought on the tourism map. He stated that the Prime

Minister's slogan of Beti Bachao - Beti Padoao is not being implemented in these areas because there are no degree colleges within 50 kms. In these circumstances, the education of girls is affected and the administration should immediately take steps to provide education at the doorstep in their respective areas especially to the Girls.

"On the other hand, the pregnant women die while giving birth because of labour pain in the absence of proper or no basic medical care," he said, while asking the Govt to deploy needed paramedical, and specialized doctors to the PHCs

and other hospitals to overcome the shortage of staff.

As the authorities have failed to keep the pace of development as well as provide basic amenities to the people at the village level, he asked the people to get united to fight for their basic amenities, and development of the areas.

He also stressed upon the Govt to open a degree college at Khawas, and Gaibas, besides, a crime police post at Gaibas and a PHC at Udhan, and repair work of the road that connects Mathani to Udhan.

He also demanded opening of the JK Bank

branch at Udhan, and establishment of PHC at Udhan.

He asked the administration to provide adequate staff in the Govt schools located in the rural/remote areas because the teacher - students ratio is not maintained in these areas.

Meanwhile, the workers celebrated the fourth foundation day at Budhal constituency. In this function, they took a pledge that the Apni Party will strive for the implementation of the equitable development agenda and basic declaration of the Party, viz the restoration of statehood, protection of land, jobs rights of the

people, and restoration of dignity of the people.

Among other who spoke on the occasion District President, Rural, Rajouri, Budhan Uppal, Block President, Thakur Baldev Singh, Block President, Thakur Wazir Singh, Ex-Sarpanch, Chain Singh, Ex-Sarpanch Abdul Rehman, Ex-Sarpanch, Chamil Singh, Ex-Sarpanch, Kaiser Din, Choudhary Alam Din, Master Bajji Nazir, and others.

Meanwhile, at the culmination of the function, a spiritual and religious scholar, Bajji Abdul Rahim also prayed for the peace, and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir.



## Diljit Dosanjh uploads hilarious video of inside moments from Anant Ambani-Radhika Merchant's pre-wedding bash

Singer Diljit Dosanjh who was among the performers at the recently concluded pre-wedding bash of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant in Gujarat has now shared captivating glimpses from the star-studded extravaganza.

Celebrities from world over congregated in Jamnagar for the festivities and the Punjabi singer who performed on Day 2 of the three-day event captured the limelight with superstar Shah Rukh Khan, diva Kareena Kapoor Khan and actor Vicky Kaushal among others seen grooving to his tracks.

On Tuesday night, Diljit shared a video of his live performance at the glitzy party to celebrate the upcoming wedding of Anant Ambani, the youngest son of India's renowned business tycoon Mukesh Ambani with Radhika Merchant.

In the video he shared on his social media, the singer gave a voiceover in Punjabi to all the



best moments from the show. He made funny observations about everyone who features in the clip, including Kareena, SRK, Vicky Kaushal, Arjun Kapoor, Kiara Advani, Karisma Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan, Rhea Kapoor, Ananya Panday and Ibrahim Ali Khan.

"Kareena Kapoor ne lambi baah kadd ke chakti boli, aur phir Karisma Kapoor kehdi Dosanjhwaaleya hauli hauli (Kareena Kapoor put her long arms in the air to the music and Karisma Kapoor asked me to go easy)," Diljit said. Diljit's reel has garnered loads

of likes and comments.

"Diljit vibes>>>>>any other vibes," a fan commented.

"Tussi chaa gaye paaji (You rocked it)," another user commented.

Kareena enjoyed Diljit's performance to the fullest. Kareena and Saif joined Diljit on stage as well.

The singer gave a shoutout to Kareena saying, "Hogi Rihanna, hoga Beyonce, sadi ta ae he hai, Kareena (They have their Rihannas and Beyonces, Kareena is everything to us)" He then launched into the chart-buster "Proper Patola." Kareena wowed the audience with her dance moves.

Diljit has worked with Kareena in several films such as 'Uda Punjab' and 'Good Newwz'. He will soon be seen in a cameo in her film 'Crew', which also stars Tabu and Kriti Sanon. The film will hit the big screen on March 29. Rajesh Krishnan has directed the project.

## Randeep Hooda says his film will counter decades of propaganda against Vinayak Damodar Savarkar



Randeep Hooda, who is gearing up for his upcoming directorial

debut Swatantrya Veer Savarkar, has said that his film is not a propa-

ganda. The actor shared that it's actually the antidote to the propaganda against freedom fighter and politician Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. The actor, who stars in the film in the titular role, spoke with the media on Monday at the film's trailer launch in Mumbai.

Randeep opined as he told the media that the public perception of Savarkar has been heavily skewed owing to propaganda against him.

The actor said, "This is an anti-propaganda film. It will counter all the propaganda against Savarkar that has been going on since decades. He was not a 'maafiveer' (apologist). Not only him, many other people too wrote mercy petitions at the time. I have addressed this very extensively in the film."

## Ahead of Women's Day, Shruti Haasan talks about 'birth control for men'

Ahead of Women's Day, which is celebrated on March 8, actress-singer Shruti Haasan has spoken about the importance of birth control, how men should be taking up a lot more parenting responsibility and use of contraceptive measures.

Shruti, who does not shy away from speaking her mind, said, "We need birth control for men, especially in a society like ours, where conversations around consent don't really happen."

"For women, planning a future, willingness to procreate and raise a family, whether they can physically and emotionally afford to have



a fourth or fifth baby — these are important discussions, and if men are not willing to under-

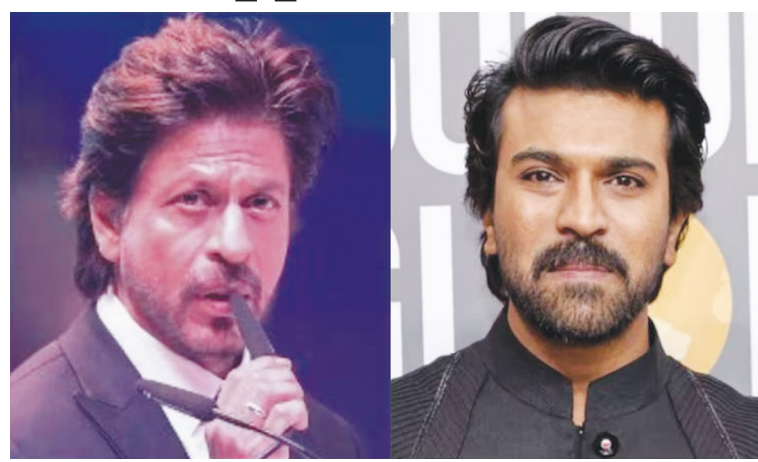
stand (this) or talk about protection, the onus (of childbirth) is on the woman," she said.

## Ram Charan's makeup artist alleges Shah Rukh Khan disrespected 'RRR' actor, King Khan's fans come out in support

South actor Ram Charan's makeup artist Zeba Hassan alleged that superstar Shah Rukh Khan disrespected the 'RRR' actor with his "Idly vada" remark at the pre-wedding festivities of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant in Jamnagar.

Hassan also claimed that she "walked out" of the event after that happened. Taking to Instagram, Hassan posted a video on her stories where Shah Rukh invited Ram Charan on stage which she captioned, "Bhend idly vada Ram Charan kahan hai tu?? I walked out after this. So disrespectful for a star like @alwaysramcharan." On Day 2 of the gala event, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman, and Aamir performed the hook step of the Ram Charan and NTR Jr starrer 'RRR' song 'Naatu Naatu' on the stage.

After that, SRK asked Ram



Charan, who also joined the festivities, to come on stage and shake a leg with them.

He jokingly said some gibberish words, seemingly in Tamil or Telugu language which have hurt the sentiments of RRR actor's makeup artist.

Soon after she made the claims, several social media

users expressed their disappointment over SRK's 'idly' remarks and called them "insensitive."

A user wrote, "As a South Indian I feel very anguished on SRK for calling Ram Charan Sir by racist way."

Another user wrote, "Calling a South Indian 'idly vada' can

never be funny."

However, several SRK fans landed in support of the 'Don' actor saying that the 'Chak De India' actor's remarks on stage were similar to his dialogues from one of his films 'One 2 Ka 4'.

Taking to X, users shared the clip of SRK's dialogue from the film.

While some pointed out how SRK bowed to Ram Charan as he arrived on the stage, even though he is a senior actor.

The three-day pre-wedding festivities of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant were held in Jamnagar from March 1 to March 3.

Guests from all around the world attended the pre-wedding festivities of Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani's youngest son, Anant in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

## Sahil Salathia to attend pre-Oscars party



Sahil Salathia, who is best known for featuring in Ashutosh Gowariker's film Panipat, will attend pre-Oscars party in Los Angeles. He will mark his presence at the coveted event, representing India.

Excited about it, Sahil said, "I have always believed in doing quality work in my career and I think it has been paying off. I am very excited to be invited to celebrate South-Asian excellence at the Oscars this year. I am very excited to meet the 2024 Oscar nominees and the shortlisted filmmakers." The event will also witness the presence of Kal Penn, Lilly Singh, Utkarsh Ambudkar, Tan France, Hannah Simone, Rupri Kaur, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Anita Chatterjee, Shruti Ganguly and Archana Misra.

The 2024 Oscars will be held on March 10 at the Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood in Los Angeles. Jimmy Kimmel will return as the host.

## Naila Grrewal's acting career that started with a Tamasha, takes positive turn after her stint as the lead actor in Netflix series Maamla Legal Hai

She was performing in a play at her college, unaware that the casting team of Imtiaz Ali's upcoming film was in the audience, quietly scouting for talent. That's when Naila Grrewal got the offer for her debut film Tamasha in which she played fan girl and clown while Ranbir played the robot during a performance in the movie. Cut to now, the young actress has made it as the lead of Netflix series Maamla Legal Hai.

Naila says Maamla Legal Hai is a tale that beckoned her amidst the hustle of another commitment. "The story's irresistible charm drew me in," she confesses. From the whirlwind audition process to stepping into the delightful madness of Ananya Shroff's world, Naila shares the excitement and experimentation that fuelled her journey into this new venture. "I was knee-deep in another project when the script for Maamla Legal Hai came to me. One look at it and I knew I had to seize the opportunity. Both Rahul sir, the director, and Saubrah sir, the writer, had a



clear vision for Ananya Shroff's character. The clarity and dedication to their vision instilled confidence in me."

Her character in the series, Naila says, is a paradox personified. "She's sharp and enigmatic, yet feels out of place in the unfamiliar setting of the Patparganj District Court. Despite being a swanky third-generation lawyer with

an LLM from Harvard, she's returned to India with a desire to provide legal aid to the underprivileged. Ananya's lifestyle, like her choice of alkaline water and almond milk for lunch, contrasts with her surroundings, making her feel like a fish out of water. What truly sets her apart is her seamless transition between intellect, instinct, and

boundless curiosity. She's genuine in her intentions, never looking down on those less fortunate, while navigating her place in the chaos of the Patparganj District Court. And yes, she also rocks a killer wardrobe, because who says lawyers can't slay in stilettos?"

There were many take-homes that this project offered. From working with seasoned actor Ravi Kishan, which she calls an invaluable learning experience, to a crew that paid attention to detail in every dialogue, turn and reaction, enhancing the overall experience. "His unwavering dedication, his infectious enthusiasm and of course, his quirky one-liners that had everyone in splits, every moment with Ravi sir on the sets of Maamla Legal Hai was a masterclass in itself. Then, the cast's ability to effortlessly turn even the smallest gesture into comedic gold was truly remarkable. Each day on the set was a perfect blend of laughter and genuine connections, making it an incredibly enjoyable experience.

It's truly fulfilling to collaborate with a team so deeply invested in their craft."

As we shift gears, Naila is too happy to talk about her upcoming film, Ishq Vishk Rebound, where she plays the parallel lead. "It's bound to bring a wave of nostalgia and excitement for the audiences," she shares. Revisiting the characters and storylines, Naila emphasises the promise of new twists and turns. And collaborating with co-actors Rohit Saraf, Pashmina Roshan, and Jibraan Khan, she says, "Proved to be a roller-coaster ride of nostalgia and newfound adventures. Each co-actor brought their own unique flair to the table, infusing the set with energy and camaraderie that was simply infectious."

Reflecting on her journey, Naila explains she was always gravitated towards dance and theatre since her school days, but the decision to pursue acting as a full-fledged career is thanks to Tamasha. "My experience in Tamasha really served as the catalyst, igniting a passion for performing in front of

the camera like never before. The magic of being on set, surrounded by the hustle-bustle, the electric energy of fellow creatives, and the intoxicating thrill of embodying a character in front of a magnificent moving camera became an irresistible pull for me. From that moment on, there was no looking back."

Navigating the uncertainties of the film industry, Naila says being an actor is like walking a tightrope. "It's a journey filled with challenges, where rejection and self-doubt often lurk in the shadows. As an outsider, the path can be especially daunting, requiring perseverance, resilience and an unwavering belief in oneself. Yet, amidst all the uncertainties, there's complete thrill in the pursuit of artistic expression, a joy in bringing characters to life, and a sense of fulfillment in touching the hearts and minds of audiences. While the road may be tough, the rewards of performing and the pursuit of one's passion make every obstacle worthwhile."



## PM Modi unveils multiple Metro projects, including India's first underwater corridor in Kolkata

After the inauguration, Modi takes Metro ride from Esplanade to Howrah Maidan along with schoolchildren

KOLKATA, Mar 6 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday unveiled multiple Metro projects across the country, including India's first underwater Metro line in Kolkata.

The Rs 4,965-crore Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section of Kolkata Metro's East-West Corridor, which has the first transportation tunnel "under any mighty river in India", was inaugurated by the PM. The stretch also has the deepest metro station in the country—the Howrah Metro station.

After the inauguration programme, Modi took a metro ride from Esplanade to Howrah Maidan along with schoolchildren.

The under-river section of the tunnel is 520 metres long, and a train will take around 45 seconds to cross it, officials said.



From the function at the Esplanade Metro station, the PM also inaugurated the Kavi Subhash-Hemanta Mukhopadhyay section of the New Garia-Airport line and the Taratala-Majerhat section of the Joka-Esplanade

line of the Kolkata Metro, the country's oldest Metro network.

The Majerhat Metro station is a unique elevated installation across railway lines, platforms and a canal, an official statement said.

Modi also inaugurated the

Duhai-Modinagar (North) section of the Delhi-Meerut RRTS Corridor, Pune Metro's Ruby Hall Clinic-Ramwadi stretch, Kochi Metro's SN Junction to Tripunithura section and Agra Metro's Taj East Gate-Mankameshwar section.

The PM also laid the foundation stone for the extension of the Pune Metro between Pimpri Chinchwad and Nigdi.

These sections will help decongest road traffic and provide seamless, easy and comfortable connectivity, the statement said.

The section of the Agra Metro that was inaugurated will enhance connectivity to historical tourist places, it said.

The 17-km section of the RRTS will boost economic activity in the NCR, it added.

## Mamata Banerjee announces hike in salaries of Anganwadi workers in West Bengal



KOLKATA, Mar 6 (Agencies): In a major decision announcement ahead of upcoming Lok Sabha, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday hiked the salaries of Anganwadi workers and their assistants beginning this April.

The monthly remuneration of Anganwadi workers has been increased from Rs 8,250 to Rs 9,000, while those of assistants of the Anganwadi workers have been hiked by Rs 750 and will come into force starting next month.

The chief minister also announced a hike of Rs 500 per month for Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) workers.

The hike in salaries of the Anganwadi work-

ers in Bengal comes on the day Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in the state to inaugurate several developmental projects.

"Asha workers are our pride as they work very hard. They support us in all the bad times. I am happy to announce that their salaries have been increased by Rs 750 from the month of April. The Anganwadi workers get Rs 8,250. Their salaries have been increased by Rs 750 (from April). The ICDS helpers get about Rs 6000. Their salaries have been increased by Rs 500 from April 1," the Chief Minister said.

She further said that the state government always "stands with the people."

"I wish they (anganwadi workers) do well

in life. Maa Maati Maa-nush government shall always be with the people," she added.

Anganwadi Services is a centrally sponsored scheme and the implementation of the scheme falls under the ambit of state government and UT administration. Filling up vacant posts at various levels is taken up with the state governments and UT Administrations through sustained engagements and video conferences.

Recently, the Odisha government increased remuneration for anganwadi and mini-anganwadi workers.

The monthly remuneration of Anganwadi workers was increased from Rs 7,500 to Rs 10,000, while that of Mini-Anganwadi workers has been hiked to Rs 7,250 from Rs 5,375 in Odisha.

The Kerala Government had this January announced a wage hike for over 60,000 Anganwadi workers and helpers in the State with an increment of up to Rs 1,000.

## 'Modi ka Parivar': Posters with picture of PM Modi with fugitives come up in central Delhi; FIR filed

NEW DELHI, Mar 6 (Agencies): The Delhi Police has registered an FIR in connection with posters carrying a picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with fugitive businessmen Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya that came up in several parts of central Delhi, an officer said on Wednesday.

The posters carried the caption "Modi ka asli pariwar" (real family of Modi) with 'Bhartiya Yuva Congress' written at the bottom.

A senior police officer said a case under Delhi Prevention of Defacement of Property Act has been registered against unknown persons at Tughlak Road Police Station and the posters have been removed.

The case was registered at the complaint of an official from the New Delhi Municipal Council on Tuesday, he said.

Police said the posters did not carry the name of the publisher or the person who put them up.



PM Modi on Monday said 140 crore Indians are his "family," as he mounted a counter-offensive over RJD's Lalu Prasad's "no family" jibe at him.

The BJP rallied behind its leader by launching a "Modi ka Parivar" campaign on social media.

As several BJP leaders added "Modi ka Parivar" in their social media bio, the Congress on Tuesday asked the party whether fugitive businessmen Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya were also in this family.

## Hands, legs tied, missing girl's body found in Puducherry drain

PUDUCHERRY, Mar 6 (Agencies): The body of a nine-year-old girl who had been missing for two days was recovered from a drain in Puducherry. Her hands and legs were found tied with ropes.

The girl had gone missing on Saturday while playing, after which her parents, Narayanan and Mythili, searched for her but failed. Subsequently, they filed a missing complaint with the police and teams were formed to track the girl.

However, two days later, the girl's decom-

posed body was found dead in a drain near her residence with her hands and legs tied.

Soon after the body was retrieved, protests broke out as locals blocked roads demanding immediate arrest of the accused, assuring safety for women and children.

Paramilitary forces were called in to the scene to maintain law and order.

Meanwhile, police, after scanning CCTV footage, detained five people for questioning.

Further investigation is underway.

## 5 Of Family Killed In Twin Cylinder Blasts In Lucknow

LUCKNOW, Mar 6 (Agencies): Five people of a family were killed and four others injured when two LPG cylinders exploded in a house in the Hata Hazrat Sahab area here, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place Tuesday around 10.30 pm in the area under Kakori Police Station jurisdiction.

The blast was preceded by a fire, which was said to be caused by a short circuit.

It took three teams of fire brigade and the help of locals to douse the fire.

Nine members of the family were rushed to the Trauma Centre of King George Medical University, where five of them died, police said.

The victims were identified as Mushir, 50, his wife Husn Bano, 45, Raiya, 7, Uma, 4, and Hina, 2, they said.

Isha, 17, Lakab, 21, Amjad, 34, and Anam, 18, were hospitalised with wounds, police added.

## Khelo India medal winners now eligible for government jobs



NEW DELHI, Mar 6 (Agencies): Medal winners in all Khelo India competitions will now be eligible for government jobs as per a revised criteria, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said on Wednesday.

Thakur said the move is in keeping with Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi's "vision of a robust sports ecosystem, nurturing talent at grassroots level and turning sports into a lucrative and viable career option."

He said the department of personnel and training, in consultation with the sports ministry, has made "progressive

revisions to the eligibility criteria for sports persons seeking government jobs."

"This groundbreaking step now extends eligibility to medal winners from the Khelo India Games—Youth, University, Para and Winter Games—to be eligible for government jobs. Additionally, games and events have been clearly defined to ensure inclusivity across various sports," Thakur said in his post on X.

"These revised rules mark a significant stride in supporting our athletes in making Bharat a sporting superpower," he added.

Khelo India Games were first organised in 2018 as part of the Modi Government's initiative to revitalise sports culture at the grassroots level.

## Illegal construction in Corbett tiger reserve: SC raps former Uttarakhand forest minister Rawat, ex-forest officer

NEW DELHI, Mar 6 (Agencies): Observing that the "public trust doctrine" has been thrown into the waste bin, the Supreme Court pulled up former Uttarakhand minister Harak Singh Rawat and a former divisional forest officer on Wednesday for allowing illegal construction and felling of trees in the Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR).

An apex court bench headed by Justice B R Gavai said it was amazed at the audacity of Rawat, who was the forest minister in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in 2021 and is now with the Congress, and former divisional forest officer Kishan Chand in giving statutory provisions a total go by.

"Since the matter is pending investigation by the CBI, we do not propose to comment any further on the matter.

We have also observed that this cannot be done by two persons only.

Many other persons must have been involved," the bench, also comprising Justices P K Mishra

and Sandeep Mehta, said.

The apex court directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is already probing the case, to file its status report in the matter within three months.

"This is a case where bureaucrats and politicians have thrown public trust doctrine in the waste bin," it added.

The court's judgment came on a petition filed by environment activist and lawyer Gaurav Bansal alleging destruction of the tiger habitat and a decline in the tiger density in the Lansdowne Forest Division owing to illegal construction in the Pakhro Tiger Safari as well as illicit felling of thousands of trees.

"They (Rawat and Chand) have, in blatant disregard of the law and for commercial purposes, indulged in mass felling of trees to construct buildings on the pretext of promotion of tourism," the bench said, adding that the state cannot run away from the responsibility of restor-

ing the status of the forest.

The court said it was amazed at the audacity of Rawat and Chand in giving statutory provisions a total go by.

It also formed a committee to look at whether tiger safaris can be allowed in the buffer or fringe areas of national parks.

The Central Empowered Committee of the Supreme Court had earlier held Rawat and Chand responsible for various illegal activities, including constructions in connection with a tiger safari in 2021, in the Pakhro and Morghatti forest areas of the Kalagarh Forest Division of the CTR.

In its report submitted to the apex court, the committee held Rawat and Chand guilty of construction activities in connection with the tiger safari and other illegal projects in the Pakhro and Morghatti forest areas.

It had also given its green signal to the Uttarakhand vigilance department to continue with the legal proceedings

against the forest officials involved in the irregularities.

The committee had said even when the media was reporting all kinds of disturbances in Pakhro and Morghatti, the then chief wildlife warden and the state government did not take action against the culprits.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had earlier raided the residences of Rawat and Chand in connection with illegal construction in the tiger reserve.

The CTR, famous for the Royal Bengal Tiger, remains closed for tourists during monsoon and opens in October-November.

Spread over an area of 1,288.31 square kilometres, it is known for its biodiversity and the density of tigers here is the highest in the world.

Rawat was the forest minister in the BJP government in Uttarakhand in 2021.

He was expelled by the saffron party ahead of the 2022 state Assembly polls, following which he joined the Congress.

## 5 killed as car rams truck in Andhra Pradesh

NALLAGATLA, Mar 6 (Agencies): At least five people were killed in a road accident in Andhra Pradesh's Nallagatla village on Wednesday. The accident occurred at nearly 5 am when a family was on its way from Hyderabad to Tirupati Devasthanam.

The car reportedly rammed a truck on the national highway, thus killing all members of the family on the spot.

Allagadda Rural CI Hanumantha Naik arrived at the spot soon after receiving information about the accident.



However, the five people succumbed to their injuries.

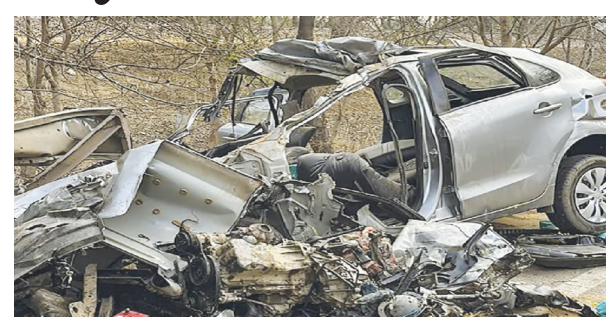
Their bodies were sent for post-mortem.

## Tragic head-on collision claims five lives in Haryana

REWARI, Mar 6 (Agencies): Five people were killed here in a head-on collision between a Haryana Roadways bus and a car, police said on Wednesday.

All five deceased were car occupants, said police.

The accident took place near Siha village on Mahendragarh road. Police said the vic-



tims were returning to Charkhi Dadri after attending a wedding.

Locals helped the victims get out of the car and rushed them to a

trauma centre, where the doctor declared all five dead.

"We have kept the bodies of the deceased in the mortuary. Also, the families of those who died have been informed. Post mortem will be conducted after the arrival of the family members. An FIR is being registered," said a senior police officer.



## Hamas Says "Showing Flexibility", Will Continue Ceasefire Negotiations

*We are showing the required flexibility in order to reach a comprehensive cessation of aggression against our people*

DUBAI, Mar 6 (Agencies): The Palestinian group Hamas said on Wednesday it would continue working towards achieving a ceasefire in Gaza with Israel despite the absence of Israeli negotiators from the latest round of talks in Cairo.

"We are showing the required flexibility in order to reach a comprehensive cessation of aggression against our people, but the occupation is still evading the entitlements of this agreement," Hamas said in a statement.

Negotiators from Hamas, Qatar and Egypt - but not Israel - are in Cairo trying to secure a 40-day ceasefire in the war between Israel and the Islamist group in time for the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, which begins early next week.

U.S. President Joe Biden said on Tuesday that it was in the hands of Hamas whether to accept a deal on the table for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip in exchange for the release of Israeli hostages, as delegations held a third day of talks with no sign of a breakthrough.

The deal presented to Hamas would free some hostages captured by Palestinian militants in the Oct. 7 on Israel which sparked the war, while aid to Gaza would be increased to try to avert famine as hospitals treat acutely malnourished children, and Hamas would provide a list of all the hostages held in Gaza.

The United States on Tuesday revised language in a draft U.N. Security Council resolution to back "an immediate ceasefire of roughly six-weeks in Gaza



together with the release of all hostages," according to the text seen by Reuters.

The third revision of the text - first proposed by the United States two weeks ago - now reflects blunt remarks by Vice President Kamala Harris calling on Israel to do more to ease the "humanitarian catastrophe" in Gaza.

The release of sick, wounded, elderly and women hostages would result in an immediate ceasefire in Gaza of at least six weeks, U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani stressed at a meeting on Tuesday, the White House said. "This first phase of a ceasefire would also enable a surge of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza, and provide time and space to secure more enduring arrangements and sustained calm," the White House statement said.

Earlier in Beirut, Hamas official Osama Hamdan repeated his group's main demands: an end to the Israeli military offensive, withdrawal of Israeli forces, and

the return of all Gazans to the homes they had been forced to flee.

He said any exchange of prisoners cannot take place except after a ceasefire. Israel for its part wants merely a pause in fighting to get hostages out of Gaza and more aid in, insisting that it will not end the conflict before Hamas is "eliminated".

Washington, Israel's main political and military backer and a sponsor of the talks, also put the onus squarely on Gaza's rulers.

"It's in the hands of Hamas right now. Israelis have been cooperating. There's been a rational offer," Biden told reporters. "If we get to the circumstance that it [fighting] continues to Ramadan ... it's gonna be very dangerous."

Palestinian-Israeli violence in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories often spikes during Ramadan, as does hostility towards Israel in the Arab and Muslim world, creating a strong incentive for leaders to clinch a deal before then.

HAMAS SAYS IT HAS PRESENTED OWN DRAFT

Hamas says Washington's stance is designed to deflect blame from Israel if the talks collapse.

Senior Hamas official Bassem Naim said Hamas had presented its own draft deal, and was awaiting a response from Israel, adding: "(Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu doesn't want to reach an agreement and the ball now is in the Americans' court."

A source had told Reuters earlier that Israel was staying away because Hamas had refused to furnish a list of hostages who are still alive. Naim said this was impossible without a ceasefire as hostages were scattered across the war zone.

The U.S. has also urged Israel to do more to alleviate the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, where more than 30,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israel's assault, launched after Hamas attacks that killed 1,200 people in October.

"We must get more aid into Gaza," Biden said.

Famine looms over the Gaza Strip as aid supplies, already sharply curtailed during the war, have dwindled to barely a trickle. Swaths of the territory are completely cut off from food. Gaza's few functioning hospitals, already overwhelmed by the wounded, are now filling with children starving to death.

The U.S. military, in coordination with Jordan, airdropped 36,000 meals into northern Gaza on Tuesday, a programme Washington began last week. Aid agencies say this is paltry compared to the scale of the hunger.

## Sri Lanka seeks debt moratorium until 2028 amid economic recovery efforts

*A collapse in foreign exchange reserves saw months of food and fuel shortages along with street protests that forced the ouster of President Ranil Wickremesinghe's predecessor in 2022.*



COLOMBO, Mar 6 (Agencies): Sri Lanka's president said on Wednesday that he was seeking a moratorium on foreign debt repayments until 2028, following a government default during the island nation's unprecedented economic crisis two years ago.

A collapse in foreign exchange reserves saw months of food and fuel shortages along with street protests that forced the ouster of President Ranil Wickremesinghe's predecessor in 2022.

Sri Lanka has since signed up to an International Monetary Fund rescue package and is working to repair public finances since the government defaulted in April of that year.

Wickremesinghe said talks were still ongo-

ing with both bilateral and private creditors to restructure its billions of dollars in loans and bonds.

"We intend to secure temporary relief of not having to service our debts till the end of December 2027," Wickremesinghe told lawmakers in parliament.

Sri Lanka's foreign debt stood at USD 52.65 billion at the end of September 2023, according to central bank figures.

To maintain the IMF bailout programme, Sri Lanka must clinch a firm deal with foreign creditors, both bilateral and private bondholders, before the IMF's next review of the economy by June this year.

The IMF released a USD 337-million second tranche of its bailout loan in December after Colombo secured an "in

principle" debt agreement with Beijing.

China is Sri Lanka's biggest single bilateral lender, accounting for around 10 per cent of the island's total foreign debt.

Neither Colombo nor Beijing have disclosed details of the offer, but the IMF said it was sufficient to ensure the island's debt sustainability. But the IMF said it wanted the "in principle" agreement between the two countries firmed up before the next review.

Official sources in Sri Lanka have said the Chinese deal included a mix of extending the tenure and reducing interest on bilateral debt, instead of taking a haircut on its loans.

Sri Lanka's economy has stabilised since the worst of the 2022 crisis, which saw months of civil unrest culminating in the ouster of then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa when thousands of protesters stormed his home.

Wickremesinghe has drastically raised taxes and cut generous consumer subsidies to boost government revenue, in line with IMF recommendations.

## Australia's Beach Named World's Best Despite Deadly Animals, Wild Weather

SYDNEY, Mar 6 (Agencies): It may have deadly animals and wild weather, but Palm Cove in Australia's northeast has been named the world's best beach, beating rivals in Hawaii, Greece and Fiji.

The two-kilometre stretch of pristine white sands backed by rows of palm trees was ranked number one beach in the world by the magazine Conde Nast Traveller.

Palm Cove sits well within Australia's "Croc

Country" and its bustling restaurants and high-end hotels were battered by Tropical Cyclone Jasper late last year.

But Mayor Terry James believes its natural assets including "magnificent melaleucas" -- a plant -- mean it is deserving of a best-in-the-world ranking.

"Recognition of Palm Cove as the world's number one beach by an award-winning travel magazine and website

only validates what locals already know about Palm Cove," said James.

Many other Aussie beaches made the list, including Wategos Beach near Byron Bay, Mona Vale Beach in Sydney's northern suburbs and Noosa in Queensland.

Other top contenders were Honouliuli Beach on Hawaii's island of Kauai, Ora Beach in Indonesia and Dune du Pilat in France.

## Michelle Obama 'will not be running' for US President, says office

WASHINGTON, Mar 6 (Agencies): Former First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama, has no intentions to run for President in the upcoming 2024 elections, her office has revealed, as per a report in NBC News.

"As former First Lady Michelle Obama has expressed several times over the years, she will not be running for president," said Crystal Carson, director of communications for her office.

"Mrs Obama supports



President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris' re-election campaign."

Meanwhile, Obama's aid cited her conversation with Oprah Winfrey from last year as

evidence of her way of thinking and the reason she would probably never run for office.

"Politics is hard. And the people who get into it ... you've got to want it. It's got to be in your soul,

because it is so important. It is not in my soul," in a Netflix special, she said.

In a 2022 BBC interview, she also said she "detests" questions about running for president.

Last month, Michelle Obama said she was "terrified" about the potential results of the 2024 presidential election, USAToday reported.

The development comes after a poll revealed that Michelle Obama was the lead-

ing choice to replace President Joe Biden as the Democratic party's candidate for the presidential elections.

Notably, about 48 per cent of Democratic voters had expressed their choice of the party "finding another candidate to replace Joe Biden before the election in November", compared to 38 per cent who disapprove.

The 2024 presidential election will all but see a possible rematch of Joe Biden and Donald Trump.

## ASEAN Nations, Australia Call For Lasting Gaza Ceasefire

MELBOURNE, Mar 6 (Agencies): Southeast Asian and Australian leaders on Wednesday called for a quick and lasting ceasefire in Gaza, describing the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territory as "dire".

"We urge for an immediate and durable humanitarian ceasefire," said the leaders of 11 nations -- including Muslim-majority Indonesia and Malaysia -- after days of diplomatic wrangling over the text.

The deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip was a topic of fierce debate as leaders from the 10-nation ASEAN bloc convened in Melbourne for a three-day summit with their Australian counterparts.

With the Muslim holy month of Ramadan around the corner, the United States and a growing list of nations have been stepping up efforts to secure some kind of pause in fighting.

"We condemn attacks against all civilians and civilian infrastructure, leading to further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza including restricted access to food, water, and other basic needs,"



ASEAN and Australia said.

"We call for rapid, safe, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access to all those in need, including through increased capacity at border crossings, including by sea."

The group also backed the UN's Palestinian refugee agency, despite Australia pausing the group's funding over allegations some of its staff were members of armed Islamist groups.

Singapore had balked at a suggestion the statement condemn "the use of starvation" in the Gaza

Strip, language that would have infuriated Israel.

Diplomats also argued over whether the statement should call for a total ceasefire -- or a more temporary "humanitarian" pause.

Southeast Asia is home to about 40 per cent of the world's Muslim population, and ASEAN heavyweights Indonesia and Malaysia are staunch supporters of the Palestinian cause.

But other influential ASEAN nations such as Singapore have closer ties with Israel -- and are less eager to stoke controversy.

## Russian spy chief scolds French President Macron for 'extremely dangerous' remark on Ukraine

MOSCOW, Mar 6 (Agencies): Russian President Vladimir Putin's foreign intelligence chief has said French President Emmanuel Macron's refusal to rule out sending European troops to fight Russian soldiers in Ukraine was extremely dangerous and irresponsible.

Macron said last month that there was no consensus on sending European troops to fight in Ukraine but that nothing should be excluded, though the United States and other European members of the alliance have said there were no plans to do so.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has triggered the deepest crisis in Moscow's relations with the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, and President Vladimir



Putin has warned that the West risks provoking a nuclear war if it sends troops to fight in Ukraine.

Asked about Macron's remarks, Sergei Naryshkin, the head of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR), the main successor to the KGB's First Directorate foreign spying section, said they were deeply irresponsible.

"This shows the high degree of political irresponsibility of Europe's

leaders, in this case, the president of France," Naryshkin told state television in remarks.

"These statements are extremely dangerous." "It is sad to see this, sad to observe and sad to understand that the ability of current elites in Europe and the North Atlantic to negotiate is at a very low level," he said.

"They more and more rarely demonstrate any common sense at all." Russia and the

United States have the world's largest arsenals of nuclear weapons. President Joe Biden has cautioned that a conflict between Russia and NATO could trigger World War Three.

After the Russian invasion in 2022, Western leaders said they would help Ukraine defeat Russian troops on the battlefield and drive out Russian troops. Ukraine recaptured large swathes of territory in 2022.

But Kyiv's counteroffensive in 2023 failed to pierce heavily dug in Russian lines, and Russian forces have been pushing into Ukrainian territory just as U.S. support for Ukraine is tangled in domestic political debates.

Russia controls just under one fifth of territory internationally recognised as Ukraine.



## DHEW organises Awareness Programme on International Women's Day at GDC Mattan

### Top News Report

ANANTNAG, March 06 :- In connection with International Women's Day, District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) Anantnag in collaboration with GDC Mattan under the direction of District Social Welfare Officer Anantnag, An awareness program was organized on theme of "Mission Shakti" at Government Degree College, Mattan.

Principle Govt. Degree College Syed Javid Husain was the Chief Guest on this occasion. District Career Counselling Officer Anantnag Shaziya



Qureshi, Assistant legal defence council Idrees Ahmad, Coordinator Child helpline Anantnag Misbah Altaf, professor Abdul Salam, professor Shabir Ahmad, Prof. Suhail Ahmad and Sr. Lecturer Gazala Akhter were also present there while women participants from ICDS, Education, Health

and College students were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, principle GDC Mattan highlighted different aspects of women empowerment and the rights. He said that women should be given equal status and respect in all fields. During the awareness

programme various speakers while highlighting the significant role played by women in social, economic, political, educational and judicial fronts said that mass awareness about the rights of women and to acknowledge their achievements is the need of hour.

Speaking on the occasion, Career Counselling Officer said that the main objective of organizing this event is to make women in general aware of their rights under law and other entitlements under various enactments being provided to them. She expressed concern

over the growing violence against women in the society and stressed on creating legal knowledge among women folk regarding their rights.

Shazia Qureshi said that everyone must ensure education and all other facilities to girl children for the progressive and developed society and said that every citizen must contribute for the gender equality and empowerment of the women by respecting women rights.

At the conclusion momentoes were distributed among speakers, College faculty members and students.

## Indian Army organizes Quami Ekta Meet at Reasi



### Top News Report

REASI, March 06: With a singular aim to promote peace and harmony in the area, the Indian Army organised 'Quami Ekta Meet' at Gulabgarh in District Reasi. During the event local panchayat members, religious leaders and eminent per-

sonalities from the area were invited. The event saw positive exchange of opinions and ideas amongst the participants towards security aspects and inculcating spirit of religious harmony. A total of 18 civilians from various walks of life from areas of Gulabgarh and nearby villages participated in

the said event. The event also provided them with a platform to interact and put forth ideas for development in the area and instil sense of security and confidence. The initiative would boost bonhomie amongst the population from various religion and also strengthen connect between Army and Awam.

## Army organises Elocution Competition at Kishtwar



### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 6: Carrying forward the Student Development Programme, a "Panel Discussion on National Defence & Security" was organised by Army on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas Rajat Jayanti Mahotsav at Chingam, Kishtwar. A total of 20 youth participated in the event. The event was aimed at panel discussion with experts to

educate the youth on the significance of national defence and security, and the roles they can play in safeguarding the country.

This initiative brought together military experts, local leaders and youth in a collaborative forum, designed to provide insight into the complexities of national security while addressing the community's concerns and questions. Through interactive sessions,

demonstrations and engaging dialogues, the panel effectively illuminated the various facets of national defence, underlining the critical role every citizen plays in the broader security framework of the country.

This initiative not only empowered the villagers/ youth with knowledge but also reinforced the concept of shared responsibility in Nation's sovereignty.

## Illegal extraction & transportation of minerals Police arrests 5 persons, seizes 4 vehicles in Kulgam

### Top News Report

KULGAM, Mar 6: Acting tough against the persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, police have arrested five persons and seized 4 vehicles in Kulgam.

A police party of Police Station Devsar seized three



vehicles (Tractors) and arrested three persons at Devsar, similarly two more persons were arrested by the police party of Police Station DH pora and a vehicle (Truck) has been seized for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals from Nallah Vaishow.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation initiated.

## Multi-Media Exhibition by CBC enters day 2 at Mendhar



### Top News Report

MENDHAR, Mar 6: On Day-2 of Multi-Media Exhibition being organized by Central Bureau of Communication, Poonch, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India (J&K, Ladakh) on Viksit Bharat Mission, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, Mission LiFE, Aganipath Scheme, Swachh Bharat Mission etc. at Shri Chhote Shah Memorial Govt Degree College Mendhar. Javaid Iqbal Forest Range Officer, Poonch, Prof. Dr. Mohd Rafi, HOD Political Science, GDC Mendhar, Dr. Ruhii, Medical Officer, Mendhar, Subedar Raju Sharam, 37 RR Mendhar, Faculty of GDC Mendhar, ITI Mendhar and officials of CBC attended the programme.

The day witnessed a huge foot fall of locals, Students & teachers of various schools, Officers & officials of various

departments. Exhibition focuses achievements of Govt. of India in various fields.

Displays are especially designed by ministry of Information and Broadcasting, for enlightenment of visitors about various schemes of Govt. of India. Expert Lectures of Resource Persons from departments of Health, Forest and Army on CSS, Open quiz, cultural programmes and video clips were the main attractions for visitors especially the youth.

Javaid Iqbal Forest range officer, Poonch said that Govt. of India is committed towards making India and the world pro-planet people. He discussed various initiatives under Mission LiFE. He enlightened the gathering about various objectives through which one can adopt a Life Style for Environment.

Vijay Mattoo I/c CBC Poonch in his address

gave a detailed overview of the Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) being organized for three Days. He also related the Govt. policies and Schemes beneficial right from pre-natal stage to old age and sickness of a person. He urged the audience to spread the word regarding ICOP.

Resource Persons from Department of Health, Dr. Ruhii, from Army Subedar Raju Sharma, 37 RR Mendhar & Sh. Imtiyaz Ahmed, Block Forest Range delivered expert Lectures on the Schemes related to their respective departments.

Students from GDC Mandhar and ITI Mendhar visited the Exhibition and participated in IEC activities held at the venue. Theme based and folk Cultural items by M/s Saraswati sangeet Vidyalay were also meshed up with information on various schemes.

## Army distributes Solar Lamps at Poonch

### Top News Report

POONCH, March 06: Households in remote Lasana village in Poonch, lacking access to electric grids, are deprived of adequate electricity. Solar street lamps are the ultimate solution for these remote areas. Due to simplicity, these solar lamps can be installed even in harsh climatic conditions. Indian Army with the aim of improving the living con-



ditions of the remote village of Lasana, distributed solar lamps under the Operation Sadbhavana project. This act also generated a spirit of goodwill for Army amongst the residents. The residents wholeheartedly expressed their gratitude and acknowledged the role of Army in establishing peace in the region besides lauding the efforts made by Army in fulfilling the aspirations of these under developed villages

## FROM PAGE 1

### PM Modi warns Mamata of 'storm of Sandeshkhali', says women power will decimate TMC

"Opposition leaders asking about my family, I want to tell them that the people of India are my family," he added.

Modi said he had reasons other than the opposition's jibe to call people of the country his family. "Some people must be thinking that a politician abused me and that is why I am calling everyone as my family. But, I want you to know that I left my house at an early age. I used to wander like an ascetic. I did not have any money, yet there was not a day when I slept with an empty stomach. The poor have cared for me during those times. I feel a familial relationship with every citizen of this country," said the Prime Minister.

He added that the mothers, sisters and daughters of the country shield him from problems.

### Rahul Gandhi greeted with 'Modi-Modi' chants, potatoes by BJP workers in MP; he responds with flying kiss

and asked how are you brother? And they stopped shouting and started smiling and then when I was leaving, they were doing like this (making gesture of blowing kisses)."

Earlier, Gandhi offered prayers at Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain along with former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath and state Congress president Jitu Patwari.

### Bakshi Stadium draped in National Tricolour for PM Modi's visit

He will also launch the 'Dekho Apna Desh People's Choice Tourist Destination Poll' and 'Chalo India Global Diaspora Campaign'. The prime minister will also announce tourist destinations selected under Challenge Based

Destination Development (CBDD) Scheme. Besides, Prime Minister Modi will distribute appointment orders to about 1,000 new government recruits of Jammu and Kashmir and will also interact with beneficiaries of various government schemes, including women achievers, lakhpati didis, farmers and entrepreneurs etc.

The 'Holistic Agriculture Development Programme' (HADP) programme is expected to equip about 2.5 lakh farmers with skill development via dedicated Daksh Kisan portal.

Under the programme, about 2,000 Kisan Khidmat Ghars will be established and robust value chains will be put in place for the welfare of the farming community, the official handout said.

The multiple initiatives under the Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD schemes to be dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Modi include development of 'Integrated Development of Hazratbal Shrine' in Srinagar, J&K tourism facilities developed in Northeast circuit in Meghalaya; Spiritual Circuit in Bihar and Rajasthan; Rural and Tirthankar Circuit in Bihar; development of Jogulamba Devi Temple, Jogulamba Gadwal District, Telangana; and development of Amarkantak Temple, Annapur District, Madhya Pradesh.

Prime Minister Modi will also launch about 43 projects that will develop a wide range of pilgrimage and tourist sites across the country. These include important religious sites like the Annavaram Temple in Kakinada district of Andhra Pradesh; Navagraha Temples in Thanjavur and Mayiladuthurai District of Tamilnadu and Karaikal district of Puducherry; Sri Chamundeshwari Devi Temple, Mysore District, Karnataka; Karni Mata Mandir, Bikaner District Rajasthan; Maa Chintpurni Temple, Una District, Himachal Pradesh; Basilica of Bom Jesus Church, Goa, among others. The projects also include development of various other sites and experience centres like Mechuka Adventure Park in Arunachal Pradesh; Rural Tourism Cluster Experience at Gunji, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand; Ecotourism zone at Ananthagiri forest, Ananthagiri, Telanga-

na; Meghalayan Age Cave Experience and Waterfall Trails Experience at Sohra, Meghalaya; Reimagining Cinnamara Tea Estate, Jorhat, Assam; Ecotourism experience at Kanjli Wetland, Kapurthala, Punjab; Julley Leh Biodiversity Park, Leh, among others.

During the programme, Prime Minister Modi will announce 42 tourist destinations selected under Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) Scheme. The innovative scheme, announced during Union Budget 2023-24, aims to provide end-to-end tourist experiences by catalysing development of tourist destinations while also promoting sustainability and ushering competitiveness in the tourism sector.

The 42 destinations have been identified in four categories (16 in Culture & Heritage Destination; 11 in spiritual destinations; 10 in Ecotourism and Amrit Dharohar; and 5 in Vibrant Village).

Prime Minister Modi will launch the first ever nation-wide initiative to identify the pulse of the nation on tourism, in the form of 'Dekho Apna Desh People's Choice 2024'.

The aim of the nation-wide poll is to engage with citizens to identify most preferred tourist attractions and understand tourist perceptions across five tourism categories - Spiritual, Cultural & Heritage, Nature & Wildlife, Adventure, and other categories. Besides the four main categories, the 'other' category is where one can vote for their personal favourites and help uncover hidden tourism gems in the form of unexplored tourism attractions and destinations like Vibrant Border Villages, Wellness Tourism, Wedding Tourism etc.

The prime minister will launch the 'Chalo India Global Diaspora Campaign' with an aim to inspire the Indian diaspora to become Incredible India ambassadors and promote tourism to India.

The campaign is being launched based on the clarion call of the prime minister, wherein he requested the Indian diaspora members to encourage at least five non-Indian friends to travel to India.

With more than three crore overseas Indians, the diaspora can serve as a powerful

catalyst for Indian tourism, acting as cultural ambassadors, the handout reads.

### J&K Court Awards Life Sentence to man in 2022 acid attack case

The court has also imposed a fine of Rs 40 lakh. The fine can be recovered from his property. The fine has been imposed under section 421 (1) (b)," victim's counsel Mir Naveed Gul said.

### Two killed as landslides, avalanches hit parts of HP

In Lahaul and Spiti, 287 roads are blocked and there has been no electricity for the past 60 hours. Mobile networks are being restored in the Spiti Valley, the officials said.

According to the state emergency operation centre, 849 transformers are out of order and 47 water supply schemes are disrupted in the state.

As many as 50 roads are closed for traffic in Kinnaur, 45 in Chamba, 43 in Shimla, 40 in Kullu, three each in Mandi and Sirmour, and one in Kangra.

The meteorological department has issued a 'yellow' warning for thunderstorms accompanied by lightning at isolated places on Wednesday and a wet spell on March 6, 7, 10 and 11.

Meanwhile, cold wave conditions persisted in most parts of the state with Keylong recording the lowest temperature on Wednesday night at minus 10.8 degrees Celsius, according to the weather office.

Kalpa recorded a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius, Narkanda minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, Manali 0.1 degrees Celsius, Kufri 0.5 degrees Celsius, Sarahan 1 degree Celsius, Dalhousie at 2 degrees Celsius, and Shimla and Solan 2.2 degrees Celsius.

### Ladakh Bandh today amid deadlock over Sixth Schedule, Statehood demand

LAB co-chairman Chering Dorje said they

are not happy with the progress on talks with the Centre on key issues. "We want full implementation of the Sixth Schedule and Statehood for the Ladakh," he said. "Talks have not progressed on that front with the Union Home Ministry."

He said a bandh would be observed in both the districts of Leh and Kargil on Wednesday.

The deadlock arose as the MHA proposed indirect implementation of some aspects of the Sixth Schedule while Ladakh representatives advocated for its direct implementation, particularly in the context of the demands for statehood.

Despite this impasse, the Home Ministry emphasised the need for continuous dialogue to provide necessary Constitutional safeguards to the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Sources said the LAB and KDA are trying to put pressure on the Centre to get their demands fulfilled given the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. The BJP had won the lone Lok Sabha seat from Ladakh and the party wants to retain the seat.

Educationist and social reformer Sonam Wangchuk, who has been lobbying hard to get the demands of Ladakh accepted by the Centre, will be observing a fast on Wednesday in protest against the failed negotiations, and a rally is scheduled in Leh.

LAB and KDA leaders, currently in New Delhi, are expected to return to Ladakh shortly. They have declared their intention to engage with the local population to discuss the future course of action after talks failed to make any headway.

Over the past two years, LAB and KDA leaders have participated in a series of meetings with the Union Home Ministry, focusing on a four-point agenda that includes Statehood, the Sixth Schedule, the establishment of a Public Services Commission, and the allocation of two Parliamentary seats for Ladakh.

Ladakh became a UT on August 5, 2019, after Article 370 was abrogated and Jammu and Kashmir was divided into two UTs of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.



## GDC Darhal organises awareness programme on 'Chunav ka Parv: Desh ka Garv'

### Top News Report

DARHAL, Mar 6: GDC Darhal, in collaboration with GHSS Darhal Boys and GHSS Darhal Girls, recently organized a special program called "Chunav ka Parv: Desh ka Garv."

The event was jointly coordinated by the NSS wing and IQAC of the college as part of the Viksit Bharat @2047 here today, under the guidance and patronage of Principal Prof Zameer Ahmed Mirza.

In alignment with the guidelines set by the Ministry of Education, the program aimed to create awareness about the importance of voting and encourage the youth to exercise their democratic right responsibly.

Dr. Mohd Akhlaq, the NSS coordinator, led a dedicated team of NSS volunteers who worked



tirelessly to ensure the success of the program.

The highlight of the event was a session conducted by Dr. Mohd Saleem Wani, the Coordinator of IQAC, who shed light on the significance of such events in achieving the goal of an enlightened and emancipated democracy.

His insightful speech stressed the importance of active participation in the electoral process for the progress and development of the nation.

Principal Prof Zamir

Ahmed Mirza while addressing the gathering said that he is delighted to see such enthusiasm and participation from our students in this program. It is essential for the youth to understand the power they hold in shaping the future of our nation through their votes.

Events like these not only educate students about the importance of voting but also instill a sense of responsibility and duty towards our country. He congratulated the organizing com-

mittee for their efforts in making this program a success.

Dr Ghulam Abbas HoD Persian said that Language should never be a barrier for anyone to exercise their right to vote. It is our duty to break down those barriers, encourage dialogue, and empower every individual to make an informed choice during elections.

Dr Tahseen Ahmed HoD Geography said that through our geographical knowledge, we can understand the impact of our votes on

various issues like climate change, economic development, and social justice.

He encouraged all the students to approach every election with a global perspective.

Dr Anzar Ahmed HoD Arabic said that he is proud to see the youth of our college engaging in activities that foster a sense of responsibility towards our nation. Let us remember that our votes have the power to shape the future we want to see.

The program also featured various engaging activities such as poster competitions, slogan writing competitions, and a street play on the theme "Vote for Sure: Mera Pehla Vot"

A large number of students and staff members participated in the program. Prominent among others were Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Dr. Taseem Ahmed, Dr. Mohd Akhlaq,

## J&K MSMEs get boost, Laghu Udyog Bharati plans wide reach under guidance of RSS Pranth Pracharak Rupesh Kumar

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: In a proactive move to bolster the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, Laghu Udyog Bharati's Jammu and Kashmir unit convened a crucial meeting of office bearers and core executive members, chaired by the esteemed Chief Guest Rupesh Kumar, RSS Prant Pracharak J&K.

The meeting, organized under the leadership of Laghu Udyog Bharati J&K President Parveen Pargal, aimed to fortify the organization's presence across the region.

During the session, Rupesh Kumar outlined strategies to expand the LUB unit throughout J&K which includes mass communication contact with the industrial organisations across J&K, setting up of all District Units

The meeting was orga-



and much more, emphasizing the crucial role of Laghu Udyog Bharati as the primary platform for MSMEs to voice their concerns and seek solutions.

Parveen Pargal, expressing gratitude for the guidance provided by RSS Prant Pracharak J&K, pledged to enhance the efficacy of Laghu Udyog Bharati's operations across J&K. He said Laghu Udyog Bharati is committed to empower MSMEs and fostering economic growth in the region.

The meeting was orga-

nized by the esteemed member of Laghu Udyog Bharati J&K besides National Executive Member Rajinder Gupta, Vice President J&K Adv. Ishant Gupta, Vice President Mukul Gupta, General Secretary Aagam Jain, Treasurer CA Pranav Gupta, and Executive Members including Ajay Gupta (Pargal), Rajesh Jain, Anirudh Mahajan, Anil Gupta, Arun Gupta (Raju), Mohit Abrol, Sayam Sethi and others were the prominent who

## HDFC Bank signs MoU with SAIL for corporate salary relationship

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for Corporate Salary Relationship.

Under the MoU, over 60,000 on-roll and 65,000 contractual employees of SAIL now have the opportunity to move to HDFC Bank's Corporate Salary Account (CSA).

The move will vastly benefit the employees of SAIL from the host of facilities offered as a part of the account. SAIL is one of the largest steel-making companies in India and one of the Maharatnas of the country's central public sector enterprises.

This relationship also offers extended benefits exclusively for the

employees of SAIL which include family banking facility, personal and air accident cover, medical top-up and exclusive range of credit cards and access to attractive offers on personal loans, home loans, auto loans and two-wheeler loans.

The MoU with SAIL marks HDFC Bank's 5th association with a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) for corporate salary relationship. HDFC Bank already hosts salary accounts of some of the other PSU across various industries including petroleum, infrastructure, food security and warehousing.

Manoj Mehta Sr. Vice President & Zonal Head EBFS, HDFC Bank said, "Through this partnership we look forward to catering to the banking needs of the 1,20,000 strong employee-base. They

will have the benefit of an enhanced and differentiated experience as the benefits associated with a salary account are tailored to meet the needs of different industries."

The MoU was signed by Praveen Nigam - ED F&A, SAIL and Manoj Mehta Sr. Vice President & Zonal Head EBFS, HDFC Bank in the presence of other senior officials including Manas Ranjan Rath-CGM HR, SAIL, Madhvi Vashist - GM Finance, Ashutosh Kumar Sr. Vice President & Regional Head PSU, HDFC Bank.

Mayank Srivastava National Account Manager - PSU, HDFC Bank, Yatin Sehgal Cluster Head, HDFC Bank Ashutosh Sinha - Area Acquisition Head, HDFC Bank and Radhika Sinha - RM PSU (Corporate Banking Group), HDFC Bank.

## PM's farsighted leadership motivating youngsters to join BJP: Vinay

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: Motivated by PM Modi's vision several youths joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), here at Jawahar Nagar in Gandhi Nagar Mandal, of Bahu Constituency, District Jammu South.

The mass joining was led by BJP senior leader, Seh Prabhari Jammu North Vinay Gupta. The Programme was organized by Gandhi Nagar Mandal President and cantonment board vice chairman Bharat Bhushan in the presence of Akash Chopra, Pushpinder Charak, Narinder Gupta Koki, Rachit Khosla, Jasmeet Kour Pandey, Narmata Raina, Ritika Dhiman, Sushila Sharma, Lovisha Gupta, Priyanka Sharma, Shivali Khanghar and Shilpa Devi. All who join



the BJP namely Renu Devi, Sunita Devi, Rohini, Tannu, Kanchan, Parmila, Veena, Archana, Neha, Saroj, Bimla, Paramjit Kaur, and Meena Kumari expressed, they are all driven and inspired by the works under the dynamic, vibrant, vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi and also impressed by the service rendered by the union territory of J&K. BJP's erstwhile state leadership which compelled them to join the "nationalist party."

Vinay Gupta, while welcoming the new entrants

into the party fold added that youth power shall boost the morale of the BJP cadre and help us to take the policies of government to the Gross root level. He said that every worker of the party works with the principle of the nation first in mind and the prime minister has himself established the highest benchmark of serving the society and the nation selflessly. Vinay also welcomed the youths belonging to the different segments of society and lauded them for their decision to

join the Bharatiya Janata Party. On the occasion, Vinay added the phrase "Modi Ka Parivar" to social media platforms, expressing his support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Vinay counted while repeating the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the entire country is my family and everyone in the country is saying they are part of Modi's family. Even for those who do not have anyone, Modi is there with them, and Modi is theirs. Vinay stated his entire life was devoted to the poor and the needy.

Vinay Gupta, in his impassioned address to the new entrants, with the citation that "Service, Struggle, and Sacrifice are the Hallmark of BJP. He guided the young guns to gear up for the upcoming 2024 elections, highlighting the crucial role they would have to play in showcasing the achievements of Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi and contributing to the party's success in a futuristic vision.

The new entrants thanked the entire senior BJP leadership and stated that they were driven by the great decision by the Modi Government to revoke the special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 which forced them to join the nationalist party. They have got a big relief in the form of the decision which will promise their area a better future.

## Godrej Agrovet hosts first edition of its 'Women in Agriculture' summit

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: Godrej Agrovet Limited (GAVL) successfully hosted the first edition of its 'Women in Agriculture' summit. A unique initiative to celebrate women in the sector, the summit aims to bring together diverse perspectives within the agricultural landscape and engage in thought-provoking conversations to address and acknowledge the pivotal role of women in India's agricultural sector.

Despite the widespread misconception that agriculture is a male-dominated field, our country's data reveals a different reality. In India, 86.1 million women, accounting for 60 percent of all female workers in the country, are employed in agriculture. The percentage of women who depend on agriculture for their livelihood is as high as 84 percent in rural India. On the other hand, in the agri-businesses too, women continue to be outnumbered by men across positions. Hence the summit aimed to shed light on the crucial yet often overlooked role of women in Indian agriculture.

The panel discussion on enhancing employability for women in the agri-food sector deep dived into different aspects of skill gaps that women in the sector face and how educational and industry collaboration could aid in addressing the situation. The other panel discussion focused on developing and advancing women in leadership roles and facilitated the exchange of thoughts and ideas while highlighting the need to empower women in the industry.

Commenting on the summit and initiative taken by the company, Balram Singh Yadav, Managing

Director, GAVL, said, "Our women farmers, despite their larger presence and immense contribution to the sector, lack essential resources. Hence in a country wherein we have to feed billion plus people, we need to create an eco-system which thrives to promote the women not only on the farm fields but also the ones in agri-businesses. Imparting them with the necessary knowledge, infrastructure and support will definitely help us enhance the overall agricultural output of the country."

He further added, "As India strives towards a future of sustainable development, empowering the women across the value chain and recognizing their significant contributions becomes non-negotiable. Hence, by partnering with the Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI), the Future Agriculture Leaders of India (FALI) and Godrej Good & Green, we aim to nurture 1 Lac women in the sector for better employment opportunities and economic upliftment."

Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) works towards capacity building by bridging gaps and upgrading skills of farmers, wage workers, self-employed & extension workers engaged in organized / unorganized segments of Agriculture & Allied Sectors.

The Future of Agriculture Leaders in India (FALI), an initiative supported by leading agribusiness entities, work with tens of thousands of rural students, getting them the technical, business and leadership skills they need to succeed in modern, sustainable agriculture and agro enterprise.

Mallika Mutreja, Head, Human Resources, GAVL, emphasized the importance of women's empowerment, stating, "At GAVL, the empow-

erment of women is at the heart of every action we undertake. We firmly believe that feminization in agriculture will aid us adapt best practises and address the structural inequalities which is key for our industry in order to realise the potential of women farmers. While this inaugural summit in partnership with the Agriculture Skill Council of India, signifies a crucial moment, as an entity which is focused on helping feed our nation, we look forward to more such collaborations in the coming years."

The summit witnessed participation from leading industry leaders and academic experts like Nadir Godrej, Chairman and Managing Director of Godrej Industries Limited (GIL) and Chairman of GAVL and Astec Life Sciences Limited; Nisaba Godrej, Executive Chairperson, Godrej Consumer Products Limited; Burjis Godrej, Executive Director & COO - Crop Protection Business, GAVL; Ahana Gautam, CEO, Open Secret; Angshuman Bhattacharya, Partner, EY; Geetika Mehta, Managing Director of Nivea; Ireena Vittal, Advisor & Expert (Indian Agriculture & Urban Change) & Independent Director; Shilpa Divekar Nirula, Venture Partner, Omnivore; Prof. Vidya Vemiredy, Chair of the Gender Centre at IIM Ahmedabad and Dr. Satendra Arya, CEO of the Agriculture Skill Council of India.

The 'Women in Agriculture' summit serves as a testament to GAVL's commitment to recognize and empower women in the agricultural sector. By fostering a platform for dialogue and collaboration, the summit paves the way for a future where women are recognized as equal partners in driving sustainable agricultural growth in India.

## Pashu Dhan Mela to organize on March 9, 10 at Veterinary College RS Pura



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: Jammu and Kashmir Dairy Farmers Association in association with Animal Husbandry Department of Jammu intends to organize Pashu Dhan Mela purely relates to the activity which is of utmost importance particularly for the Dairy Farming sector in JK (UT).

Visitors of the Mela will be apprised of with the latest genetic breeds of

milk yielding animals, preservation and processing of milk and its products, scientific approach for management of Dairy Farms, Cattles, feed and fodder etc.

This Mela will provide an opportunity to promote the latest schemes of the Government of India and JK (UT) for promotion of Dairy Farming Sector in this Area.

Pashu Dhan Mela which will have

the events for the promotion of Dairy Farming sector in JK UT like Display of Good Quality of Milk Yielding Animals, Milking Competition to ensure optimum output, Breed Competition, Maintenance of health of animals, Talks regarding policies of the Government for promotion of Dairy Farming Sector in JK UT by experts, Display of Feed Fodder, Mediciene, Animal Accessories & Dairy Equipments, Silage etc through installation of stalls and Animals Waste management.

This Pashu Dhan Mela will provide an insight regarding the high genetic Breed Animals, Maximum yield of the milk and marketing of milk and its products, best quality of feed and fodder and medicines etc which will in turn, will be a great help to the dairy farmers and will boost the milk production in the area to a record level.

## Kotwal meets BMO Bhadarwah, highlights issues of Specially Aabled Persons

### Top News Report

BHADARWAH, Mar 6: A delegation of Specially Aabled Persons, (Divyangjan), led by Ajit Singh Kotwal, Vice President J&K Saksham (A National Organization For Specially Aabled Persons) called on Dr. Mohd Ashraf, Block Medical Officer(BMO) Sub District Hospital(SDH) Bhadarwah today and submitted a memorandum outlining the Saksham vision for a healthier community highlighting the issues of Specially aabled persons.

According to a press statement, Jammu and Kashmir Saksham vice president Ajit Singh Kotwal while



giving introduction of the NGO and its goals, specifically focusing on the aim of promoting health and well being of specially aabled persons, discussed main purpose of the organisation for which the platform is utilised to inculcate the health and well being of the public.

The statement further said that it is very important for the society to take note of some serious issues like rising drug menace and its serious impact particularly on budding youth.

The statement further noted that the purpose of the meeting was to highlight the challenges faced by Haemophilic Divyangjan, particularly the issue of obtaining their medicines from the Medical College Jammu, despite the presence of a medical College hospital in Doda.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ashraf assured the delegates that he will forward the matter to higher authorities to expedite a resolution to these pressing issues as early as possible.



## Cricket: Weather casts shadow over India-England Test in Dharamsala

DHARAMSALA, Mar 6 (Agencies): The India-England Test scheduled to be played at cricket stadium here from March 7 has given boost to tourism in Dharamsala. Sources here said hotels in lower Dharamsala area, especially those near the international cricket stadium, have reported about 60 to 65 per cent occupancy. The hoteliers are expecting that tourist footfall is likely to increase with walk-in tourists coming to watch match at the weekend.

Ashwani Bamba, president of hotel and restaurant association of Kangra, said hundreds of officials of the BCCI and the ICC have come to Dharamsala for the match. They have booked hotels in the vicinity of international cricket stadium in lower Dharamsala. "We are expecting that on the weekend many spectators would come for match and hotel occupancy would increase in upper areas of Dharamsala



also," he said.

Sanjeev Gandhi, general secretary of the Smart City Dharamsala Hotel and Restaurant Association, said that till date not many spectators had shown interest in the match. In upper Dharamsala areas which includes McLeodganj, Dharamkot, Naddi and Bhagsunag areas not many bookings have been received for the Test match.

"However, we are hoping that many youngsters would come for the match and hotel occupancy would increase at the weekend," he said.

Neeraj Sharma, another hotelier, said that international cricket stadium has given boost to tourism in Dharamsala region. An international cricket match attracts tourists. Besides, the area itself is promoted at the international level.

"However, to take full benefit of international cricket matches hosted here, the government should improve connectivity to the area for which expansion of Gaggal airport was badly needed.

Unpredictable rains of Dharamsala region have, however, cast a shadow over the match scheduled to continue till March 11.

Meanwhile, England team today practised at Dharamsala international cricket stadium. Indian captain Rohit Sharma arrived here in a private helicopter and landed at SAI ground right along the Dharamsala international cricket stadium. The fans who had gathered there cheered the Indian captain.

The Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) has priced tickets for local youth at Rs 100 per day to lure them for the Test.

## Mt 100: Another milestone

Expect a riot of emotions as Ashwin, Bairstow reach 100-Test mark come Thursday



DHARAMSALA, Mar 6 (Agencies): On the cusp of completing 100 Tests, India's premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin said he would not have become the bowler that he is now without the learnings from an underwhelming home series against England in 2012, at the end of which he was a "bit nervy".

That series loss remains India's last defeat at home and Ashwin's performance in the four-match rubber left a lot to be desired as the likes of Alastair Cook and Kevin Pietersen played him with ease.

Twelve years later, Ashwin looked back at the turning point of his remarkable career, which now features 507 Test wickets.

"It is a pretty big occasion. More than the destination, the journey has been very special. It is a journey of ups and downs and a lot of learnings," said Ashwin, who will become only the 14th Indian to reach the 100-Test milestone when the final Test begins here on Thursday.

Casting a spell

A majority of Ashwin's 507 wickets (354 to be precise) have come in favourable conditions and perhaps that is why he cherishes his effort in Birmingham on the 2018 tour of England. Ashwin picked up seven wickets in that Test, including the important ones of England run-machine Cook and Joe Root.

"It is Test wins that

always stand tall. After having given it a thought, one of the finest spells that I have bowled has to be Birmingham, 2018. I bowled in both the innings, I bowled on the morning of Day 3 and got three wickets," he said. "Then it was a Test match in Bangalore, where I bowled a spell on the Day 2 morning for not many rewards. Day 1 at Centurion in 2018-19, got a four-for and could have been six-for. These are the spells that stand out."

"One of the turning points of my life was the England series when Cook came here and made all those runs. It has been talked about a lot but to me that and what led to the next home series against Australia (changed a lot for me)," he added. "There was lot of noise about me being left out of the team, one of the selectors had a chat with me. At that time I was a bit nervy though I don't know where it came from as I had done well previously," he recalled. Bairstow's show

Set to complete a century of Test matches, England wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow said reaching the landmark "means hell of a lot" to him given that he has had to wade through testing times.

The 34-year-old will become the 17th Englishman to get a 100th Test cap on Thursday and it will be an emotional week for Bairstow.

"It means a hell of a lot. Every young kid that sets out on a jour-

ney playing professional cricket wants to try and play 100 Test matches. You look back to 2012 when I made my debut at Lord's, if 12 years later you'd said I'd be playing 100 Test matches, you'd snap your hand off for one but also pinching yourself as well," he said.

Speaking about the pitch, he lauded the groundsmen for doing a "brilliant job" not long after the venue's outfield was criticised during the ODI World Cup. "Considering the state it was in during the ODI World Cup, it looks like a good pitch and if you are alluding to the fast bowlers getting help from the surface, it will be favourable to both teams," he said.

Cricket's rare gems Test cricket will see two players featuring in their 100th game together for only the fourth time when India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and England batter Jonny Bairstow take the field.

The first was when former England captain Michael Atherton and Alec Stewart reached the landmark against West Indies at Old Trafford back in 2000.

The second involved three players as Jacques Kallis, Shaun Pollock and Stephen Fleming played their 100th Test in the South Africa-New Zealand game in Centurion in 2006.

The third was Alastair Cook and Michael Clarke in the England-Australia Ashes contest in Perth in 2013.

Just a day after the India-England game begins, New Zealand captain Tim Southee and his predecessor Kane Williamson will play their 100th Test together during the second match against Australia.

## Ranji Trophy: Vidarbha Defeat Madhya Pradesh By 62 Runs, Set Up Date With Mumbai In Final

This is Vidarbha's third entry into the Ranji final, and on both the occasions they have won the title, defeating Delhi (2017-18) and Saurashtra (2018-19) respectively.

NAGPUR, Mar 6 (Agencies): The pace bowling pair of Aditya Thakare and Yash Thakur battered the Madhya Pradesh tail as Vidarbha defeated their rivals by 62 runs to set up a Ranji Trophy title clash with Mumbai, here on Wednesday. Madhya Pradesh, who were in a precarious position at stumps on day four at 228/6 requiring 93 more runs to win, withered in the face of hostile bowling from the duo who shared the spoils in the first session of the final day to earn Vidarbha a memorable semifinal win.

Madhya Pradesh were finally bundled out for 258 in 81.3 overs as their hopes of entering the final for the third time in the premier domestic tournament were dashed.

This is Vidarbha's third entry into the Ranji final, and on both the occasions they have won the title, defeating Delhi (2017-18) and Saurashtra (2018-19)

respectively.

Chasing a target of 321 for victory, Madhya Pradesh, the 2021-22 Ranji champion, were still in the match despite losing six wickets, but Thakare and Thakur were on song on the final day, with the early morning freshness of the wicket helping them extract a fair bit of bounce and movement.

Overnight batter Kumar Kartikeya, who had just taken guard when the stumps were called on Tuesday, fell for a duck, cleaned up by Thakare after facing just four balls.

Anubhav Agarwal was the next to depart, clean bowled for a duck by Thakare, leaving MP tottering at 234 for 8 and virtually extinguishing their chances of making it to the Ranji final for the third time.

Saransh Jain tried to keep the innings alive but could add just nine runs to his overnight score



of 16 before Yash Thakur sent his stumps flying to bring more joy to the Vidarbha camp.

Kulwant Khejroliya too went cheaply to signal celebrations in the Akshay Wadkar-led side.

Vidarbha will take on 41-time champions Mumbai in the final from March 10.

Brief scores: Vidarbha 170

& 402 in 101.3 overs (Aman Mokhadde 59, Yash Rathod 141, Akshay Wadkar 77; Anubhav Agarwal 5/92) beat Madhya Pradesh 252 and 258 in 81.3 overs (Yash Dubey 94, Harsh Gawali 67; Aditya Sarwate 2/56, Aditya Thakare 2/45, Yash Thakur 3/60, Akshay Wakhare 3/342) 62 runs.

## IPL 2024: Suryakumar Yadav returns to batting for first time after surgery



NEW DELHI, Mar 6 (Agencies): India and Mumbai Indians batter Suryakumar Yadav returned to batting for the first time since his surgery in January 2024. Suryakumar posted a video story on his Instagram where he was seen knocking the ball in the nets ahead of the Indian Premier League 2024 season.

Suryakumar Yadav has not played competitive cricket since India's T20I series against South Africa. Yadav injured his ankle while fielding in Johannesburg on December 14, 2023. The injury led to the discovery of a sports hernia, further complicating his fitness concerns. As a result, Suryakumar was ruled out of action until February 2024, missing crucial preparatory time for the World Cup.

Yadav returning to the nets is an incredibly encouraging sign for the Mumbai Indians and Indian cricket team fans. MI would hope for some stability in their upcoming season given their change in leadership. Suryakumar Yadav's inclusion in the team will help them navigate the tough middle overs in the tournament. Suryakumar Yadav will hope to get some minutes under his belt in the IPL 2024 ahead of the T20 World Cup. Yadav was in scintillating form in the T20 format just before his century. Yadav had scored a fifty and a hundred in his last two T20I matches against South Africa.

Suryakumar has enviable numbers in the T20I circuit. Since making his debut in 2021, Yadav has played 60 T20I matches and has scored 2141 runs at a ridiculous average of 45.55 and strike rate of 171.55. Yadav has 4 hundreds and 17 fifties from just 60 matches.

## Williamson Breaks Silence On Ross Taylor's 'Neil Wagner Forced Retirement' Accusation

CHRISTCHURCH, Mar 6 (Agencies): Former New Zealand batter Ross Taylor has said that the retirement of pacer Neil Wagner was a "forced" one. Ahead of the first Test between Australia and New Zealand, Kiwi fast bowler Wagner had announced his retirement from international cricket. The 37-year-old pacer took the emotional choice after a difficult chat with coach Gary Stead during which it was made clear that he was not in New Zealand's top XI for the forthcoming series against Australia.

The left-armer finished his Test career fifth overall on the list of New Zealand Test wicket-takers, with 260 scalps in 64 Tests.

"I think it all makes sense a little bit now. There is no sugarcoating it: I think it is a forced retirement. If you listen to Wagner's press conference, he was retiring, but it was after this last Test match [against Australia]. So he did make himself available," Taylor said on Tuesday as quoted by ESPNcricinfo.

He was responding to a question on ESPN's

'Around the Wicket' podcast about Wagner's finger-on-the-mouth celebration during the second Test against South Africa held earlier in February, which was his last Test appearance and a visual of him making explicit gestures as the team got into a huddle to celebrate a dismissal.

During the first Test, Wagner did make an appearance as a substitute fielder and carried drinks for his teammates. Wagner was set to be released from the team after the first Test, but William O'Rourke's injury presented an opportunity of a potential recall during the second Test at Christchurch. Kiwis chose to go with uncapped pacer Ben Sears over Wagner.

Taylor further said that though the team has to look out and plan for its future, but a Test against Trans-Tasman rivals Australia, that too a must-win match, called for Wagner's inclusion.

"And to see that he is not selected... I think you do need to plan for the future, but a one-off Test against Australia in a must-win situation, I would not be looking much further than Neil



Wagner. And I am sure the Australian batters are sleeping easy that he is not in the side," Taylor said.

Former Australian captain Aaron Finch also agreed that Wagner could have stopped the final wicket-century partnership between Cameron Green and Josh Hazlewood had he been playing the first Test.

"I could not believe Neil Wagner was not in the XI. I just genuinely thought that he must have been out through a niggle. The success he's had against Australia, particularly [against] Steven Smith over a period of time, you can guarantee that the last wicket partnership would not have happened if Wagner was there," said Finch.

"Because he would

an on-field performance would have helped but it was so much more than that. He has just done such incredible things for this team. And we have seen the skill that he has and the numbers that everybody sees but the heart and soul and effort that he has brought to the side and largely led through that for so long has been incredible. It was quite a special week for that reason and I think he had a really amazing time sharing that with the side," he said.

Williamson also provided context to Wagner's celebration, suggesting that it was borne out of some on-field banter between him and skipper Southee on his fielding.

"Those guys are great mates and have been and will continue to be. That was banter in the dressing room with Waggy and his fielding so he ended up putting him down at fine leg. So to get a catch was quite amusing. So Waggy took his opportunity. I think he thinks that obviously out of context [and] it does not look great, but it was a little bit humorous at the

time and all the players understood the context," he added.

He also cleared all the air on the team's environment, saying that despite all the external noise, everything was fine within the team.

"Yeah, quite good (the team's environment). Something that we are always trying to improve and evolve as a team. And it is something we have tried to do for years. You always have different transitions and players come and go, support staff come and go."

"[Taylor] might know more than me, I am not sure. But I see guys that are giving everything, trying to get better as a team, trying to move the team forward and that is really a focus for us," he concluded.

New Zealand is 1-0 down in the series.

New Zealand squad for the second Test: Tim Southee (c), Tom Blundell (wk), Matt Henry, Scott Kuggeleijn, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ben Sears, Kane Williamson, Will Young.



# Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Management Trust to celebrate Mahashivratri on March 8

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, former Minister & President Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Management Trust, Gandhi Nagar Jammu addressing the press conference said that the trust is thrilled to announce the celebrations of Mahashivratri on March 8 with continuing traditions observing annually at the temples being managed by the Trust.

Mahashivratri, a significant Hindu festival to worship Lord Shiva will be celebrated with fervor, reverence at Shri Lakshmi Narayan mandir Complex, Gandhi Nagar. The temple complex, steeped in tradition & history, will host devotees & visitors alike to partake in the



auspicious festivities.

As per traditions, the celebrations will include special prayers, bhajans & rituals dedicated to Lord Shiva, offering devotees an opportunity for spiritual reflection & devotion. The ambiance of the complex, adorned with vibrant decorations & illuminated with divine fervor is bound to enhance the spiritual experience for all devotees.

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"We are delighted to continue the traditions of celebrations of Mahashivratri as per the past practice at Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Complex, stated Gulchain Singh Charak (Former Minister) and President of Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Management Trust. "The sacred day is celebrated not only to offer prayers to Lord

Shiva but it also fosters a sense of community & devotion amongst the devotees".

Shri Charak on behalf of the Management of the Temple extended a warm invitation to all devotees & members of the community to join the Mahashivratri celebrations. He urged public at large to seek blessings of Lord Shiva for peace, prosperity, & harmony.

Besides making requisite arrangements for the large number of devotees expected on the auspicious day of Mahashivratri, the special programmes being organized in the Mandir complex will be four poojas from 8.30 P.M. TO 4 A.M in the night.

About Shri lakshmi Narayan Mandir Complex:

The Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Complex is a renowned historical site dedicated to the worshiping of Lord Vishnu & Goddess Lakshmi situated in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The complex serves as a hub for spiritual activities, cultural events, & community gatherings.

Prominent members of the trust among others who joined the press conference were S.C Rekhi (General Secretary), C.M Seth Prithviraj Vaid, V.K Abrol, Deepak Gupta, Ved Verma, P.C.Gupta Krishan P. Gupta, Kapil Slathia, Prashant Sharma, Prem Sharma, Jagjit Singh Jamwal, Sh. Ramesh Thakur, Brij Raj Singh Bhadwal, Indu Bhushan Sharma, Pritam Singh Kulbir Singh Chib.

# DLL inaugurates three days workshop on digital literacy at GDC Purmandal



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: Employment Information cum Advisory Bureau (EIAB), Department of Lifelong Learning (DLL) University of Jammu inaugurated three days workshop on Digital Literacy for the students of the Govt. Degree College, Purmandal. The main objective of this workshop is to enable the students to learn basic computer skills so that they can become proficient in handling computer based activities.

Prof. (Dr.) Raj Shree Dhar, Principal of the

college in her welcome address expressed the dire need of digital based activities for the students of the college as it builds a strong foundation for them. She advised the students to take part in the workshop with full enthusiasm as it will help them with their future career plans. She also appreciated the efforts of Department of Lifelong Learning to organize such workshops.

The workshop is being organized under the guidance of Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, Director DLL. It is coordinated by Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counselor,

EIAB, DLL. The resource person was Sanjay Manhas, Assistant Programmer, Department of Computer Science and IT, University of

Jammu. He will take sessions on the importance of learning computer skills, significance and types of computer-based information system, tools and future of digital technology.

Around 42 students have registered for the workshop.

Shahina Akhter, coordinator Career Counseling Cell, GDC Purmandal provides all support for the workshop.

# Mahila Congress holds Nari Nyay programme at Jammu North



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: On the directions of National President Mahila Congress Alka Lamba, Jammu and Kashmir Mahila Congress led by Shameema Raina launched Nari Nyay programme at Jammu North Constituency.

The programme was organized by Rajni Bala, Ex Corporator and Vice President Mahila Congress.

On the occasion, JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla, Sr. Vice President Mula Ram, Vice president Hari Singh Chib, Uday Bhanu Chib AICC Member and National General Secretary AIYC Bhanu Mahajan Sr. Vice President, Sushma Choudhary Vice President, Parveen Akhtar General Secretary besides others were present.

Addressing the gathering, Raman Bhalla said all women issues will be taken care of, if the Congress Government comes to power. He asked Mahila Congress to continue to project these demands/issues before the concerned authorities and present Government/UT administration. He said

the campaign will bring improvement in women's economic condition, social standing, education, healthcare, political representation and to address crimes and violence against women. Stating that the condition of women has deteriorated under the BJP rule, he maintained that women suffer increased subjugation and financial dependence. In addition, price hikes affect women substantially and they do not have access to nutritional food while expectant mothers face various hurdles in getting proper medical care.

Maintaining that women have greater barriers to education and healthcare, Bhalla claimed that incidents of attacks on women's modesty have seen an uptick during the BJP Government's rule. He asserted that the Nari Nyay campaign was launched to identify and resolve the issues faced by women. Further, he urged women to take part in the campaign and share their grievances without any hesitation. He alleged that 140 crore Indians were living in "Anyay Kaal" imposed by the BJP and they would ensure that justice is done to the people of

the country through the five pillars of "Nyay" proposed by the party.

Mulla Ram, in his address, said that in the past five years, under the Modi government, the growth rate of real rural wages has become negative for both agriculture (-0.6 per cent) and non-agriculture (-1.4 per cent), which means there is widespread rural distress, he added. Escalating his attack on the ruling dispensation, the Congress leader said the "Modi government may drumbeat about poverty numbers" but the "stark reality is different".

Speaking on the occasion, Shameema Raina said that Rahul Gandhi is presently on Bharat Jodo Nyaye Yatra where he is meeting scores of people from all backgrounds. All India Mahila Congress activists are constantly reaching out to the women to hear their issues and views. In J&K also the process is continued. Various suggestions have been received from the women for their empowerment and welfare. She said the major demands projected by the women included- economic and political empowerment of the women, equal pay for

equal work, setting up of healthcare/ primary delivery centers for women, free education with major thrust on technical education, sanitation/ toilet facilities at public places, protection against violence and speedy justice and maintaining dignity of women and if needed laws be enacted for the same.

Uday Bhanu Chib, AICC Member and National General Secretary of AIYC, emphasized the importance of addressing women's issues comprehensively. He highlighted the deteriorating condition of women under the BJP rule, citing increased subjugation, financial dependence, and hurdles in accessing essential services like healthcare and education.

Rajni Bala, an Ex Corporator and Vice President of Mahila Congress, facilitated discussions on various issues affecting women, including economic empowerment, healthcare access, education, and protection against violence. She sought to mobilize women's participation in the campaign, encouraging them to voice their demands and actively engage with policymakers to drive positive change.

Hari Singh Chib and Uday Bhanu Chib appealed to Mahila Shakti to approach to women in their respective areas to strengthen the hands of Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and highlight Rahul Gandhi ji Guarantee for the poor peoples of the country.

# Aryans Group & Govt College of Education Srinagar organizes Lalla Ded Excellence Awards

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh & White Globe in association with Govt. College of Education, Srinagar organized Lalla Ded Excellence Awards to honour Women Super Achievers in different categories at Govt. College of Education & Institute of advanced studies in Education, Srinagar. Around 50 women were honoured with the excellence awards.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group was the chief guest while Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz Principal, GCOE, IASE, Srinagar; Adv. Syed Junaid Sadaat Chairman, White Globe; Adv. Sheikh Saba Trustee, White Globe were guests of honour.

Dr. Anshu Kataria while congratulating all awardees said that this Women's Excellence Awards ceremony was organised to confer awards to high achievers from various fields of life in order to recognize their contribution to society. He mentioned that Aryans Group, Chandigarh is always a step ahead to



honour & support every woman. Woman have a key role in the development of the nation, Kataria lauded

Dr. Seema Naz mentioned that our women are second to none in terms of talent and ability. Many women have excelled in various fields of life and we feel proud over them. Today we are also celebrating International Womens Day, which is celebrated globally on 8th March. We were absolutely overwhelmed to honour all woman from different categories.

Adv. Syed Junaid Sadaat & Adv. Sheikh Saba mentioned that Lal Ded, also known as Lalleswari Devi or Lalla Arifa is considered the founding mother of Kashmiri literature. She has played a very potent role

in saving and maintaining the cultural heritage of the valley so the award ceremony has been held to commemorate her contribution to Kashmiri literature.

The Excellence Awards were conferred upon to Ms. Bilquees Ara (Blood Women of Kashmir); Rifat wani (Poet); Irfana Zargar (Pad Women of Kashmir); Lone Summayah (National Cricket Coach J&K); Bisma Ayoub (Author); Saima Noor (Physically Challenged); Sadia Tariq (Sports Athlete); Peer Mehak (Social Activist); Munazah Lateef (Social Activist Budgam); Shazia Andleeb (Child Activist); Fajar Mir (Entrepreneur); Syed Zehra Kashani (Author); Dr. Gulnar Gaza Mufti (Entrepreneur); Saiga Rashid (International Calligrapher); Mansha Bashir (Sports Athlete); Rafia Rahim (Radio Jockey); Dr. Shaheena Khan (Wheel Chair Cricketer); Sehar Nazir (Acid Attack survivor); Nuzhat ul Saba (Specially abled student therapist); Sanah Afrogh (Educationist); Shafia Wani (Faculty Impard); Narjees Nawab (Add. Secretary Legal Tourism); Mehmet Syed (Singer); Yasmeen Khan (Journalist); Mrs. Deeba Khalid (Deputy Director Tourism); Nabila Khan (Youngest Swimmer); Dr. Muntakhab Ul Nafais Nafae (Surgeon); Dr. Shermeen Khan (Off Road Driver); Dr. Suhila Rashid (Chief Medical Officer); Farah Fatima (Educationist); Mehwish Shaban (Volunteer); Nargis Khatoun (Singer); Areen Hyder (Sports Athlete).

# Social Activist Chandan Datta meets Piyush Singla

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: Social Activist Chandan Datta met Piyush singla and seeks his kind attention to improve the access and quality of education to students in Gvt Schools particularly in far flung areas. Datta said students of far flung areas should be benefitted with all Gvt schemes.

Datta has praised the role and vision of Ad Secretary Sh Piyush Singla as seen various steps taken under his leadership in SED since 9th Jan onwards he has assumed the charge of this department. Kotli Welfare Trust extended the warmest greetings, looking forward to a rewarding and enriching exchange of ideas and data also sought his kind attention in upcoming 2024-25 Session to put a check on rise in fee structure of Private Schools which breaks and shattered the middle Class. family dream to impart best education and teaching to their children due to over burden rise in fee charges in Pvt Schools which various parents may approach us to highlight their grievance.

Although they are not objecting the genuine fee structure of school but every year unnecessarily charges may be their pain area to address upon. In response,



Singla expressed understanding of the matter raised by KCWT and ensure that the potential hike in fees would be justified and proportionate to the improvements and enhancements that would directly benefit the students and the overall educational experience. Dr Piyush Singla is known for his focused and dedicated approach.

Since he assumed charge his main focus is on discipline of Teachers and rationalize the PTR so that a conducive environment would be created for reasearch and innovation.

Datta praised Singlas previously tenure on which he served as DM Udhampur, DM Ganderbal and DM

Anantnag as his work speaks at large and people witnessed development reforms taken on ground. Now we have witnessed SED (School Education department) is achieving new heights under his able command and vision.

Dr Singla appraise the effective implementation of new initiatives such as PM SHRI, Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK), Samiksha app, and JK attendance app. At last Singla praised the work of Kotli Welfare Trust Chairman Chandan datta about their past work for the upliftment of down trodden and to stand for the needy persons in emergency and his vision to serve humanity and mankind.

# LG Sinha has no control on daily accidents should resign owing responsibility: Rajesh

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: General secretary of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and media head in Jammu and Kashmir, Rajesh Gupta has expressed deep concern regarding the rising number of road accidents in the region.

While interacting with media today, Gupta who was apparently looking very anguished said our people are not insects, daily a number of people are dying with the negligence of traffic department. Gupta said LG Manoj Sinha has no control on daily accidents should resign owing his moral responsibility.



Rajesh Gupta specifically referred to the continuously Ramban accidents, in which 6 killed and several sustained serious injuries mere in two days. He held the LG Manoj Sinha's Administration responsible for rising road accident deaths in the region.

The BSP leader said despite repeated road accidents happening every other day the Administration is least bothered about these accidents.

Expressing shock and anguish, Gupta urged the authorities to implement a preventive strategy to curb accidents rather than relying solely on post-accident measures.