

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**Mrunal Thakur to speak at UN panel on human cost of conflict-related sexual violence**



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**Europe must be ready for war if it wants peace: France's Macron**



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RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-74 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

### Driver killed, helper injured in Ramban road accident

JAMMU, Mar 15 (Agencies): A heavy motor vehicle driver was killed while a helper was injured in a road mishap in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday morning.

Reports said that an accident occurred at T5 Panthyal Magarkote when two heavy motor vehicles collided with each other, resulting in death of one driver.

They said a helper was injured in the mishap.

### South Kashmir resident dies after consuming poison

SRINAGAR, Mar 15 (Agencies): A 28-year-old man from South Kashmir's Pulwama district died today after consuming some poisonous substances.

Reports said that a 28-year-old man (name withheld), a resident of Murran, consumed some poisonous substances at his home and was immediately shifted to the district hospital Pulwama, where he was referred to SMHS Srinagar, where doctors declared him dead.

A police officer said that the dead body has been kept in a mortuary at Pulwama Hospital, and after medical and legal formalities, the body will be handed over to the family for last rites.

### Police arrests drug peddler in Kulgam

SRINAGAR, Mar 15 (Agencies): Continuing its unwavering efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police on Friday have arrested another drug peddler in Kulgam and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

A Spokesperson said that a police party of Police Station Qazigund during patrolling at Kurigam crossing Qazigund intercepted one suspicious person

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## LG chairs J&K Bank's Sewa Se Swabhiman Program

SRINAGAR, Mar 15 (Agencies): Primary job of any government is to work for the deprived people and give them honourable and respectful place in the society. That is why we are determined to bring every one of you irrespective of social or economic position into the fold of economic prosperity. If you have will, then nothing is impossible.

Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha made these remarks today at the special



program, organised by J&K Bank, titled 'Sewa se Swabhimaan - Self Employment Initiatives for Kashmiri Migrants

- WPR - POJK Refugees', in presence of Commissioner Secretary (Industries & Commerce) Vikramjit Singh,

Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash, General Managers, senior government functionaries, entrepreneurs and beneficiaries belonging to Kashmiri Migrant community besides refugees from West Pakistan and POJK.

LG Manoj Sinha, who was also Chief Guest on the occasion, said, "This initiative is very significant for me personally as we have come together to bring a positive change in the lives of the people who

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## SC issues notice to SBI, says bond numbers not disclosed



NEW DELHI, Mar 15:

The Supreme Court said on Friday that the State Bank of India (SBI) should have disclosed the unique alphanumeric numbers of the electoral bonds received by political parties and sought the bank's response.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, which was hearing an application filed by the Election Commission (EC) seeking a modification of the operative portion of its March 11 order in the electoral bonds case,

directed its registrar (judicial) to ensure that the data filed earlier by the poll panel before it in a sealed cover be scanned and digitised.

It said this be preferably carried out by 5 pm on Saturday and once the exercise is completed, the original documents be returned to the EC.

During the hearing, the bench, also comprising justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavi, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, took note of the submissions made by senior advocate Kapil Sibal and lawyer Prashant

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## Newly appointed ECs Gyanesh Kumar, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu assume charge



NEW DELHI, Mar 15 (Agencies): Newly appointed election commissioners Gyanesh

Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu assumed charge on Friday. The former bureau-

crats were appointed as election commissioners on Thursday.

They are the first ones to have been appointed as members of the poll panel after the new law on appointment of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and ECs came into force recently.

Welcoming them, CEC Rajiv Kumar spoke about the significance of

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## Amnesty scheme extended for JK electricity consumers

SRINAGAR, Mar 15 (Agencies): The Administrative Council which met here under the Chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, approved the extension of Amnesty Scheme-2022 up to 31-3-2025 in favour of Domestic Consumers of electricity, a DIPR statement said.

The scheme provides for waiving off 100 percent interest, surcharge on outstanding principal amount. In UT of JK, the domestic consumer category comprises over 86 percent of JK PDD consumers and around 50 percent of total energy consumption in the UT is from the said category of the consumers.

However, almost 30 percent of these Domestic consumers (approximately 5.50 lakh) in the said sector are either making

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## Lok Sabha poll schedule to be announced on Saturday

NEW DELHI, Mar 15 (Agencies): The Election Commission will announce the schedule for the Lok Sabha polls on Saturday.

In a post on X, the poll panel said a press conference to announce the schedule for Lok Sabha elections and some state assemblies will be held at 3 pm on

Saturday.

The term of the present Lok Sabha ends on June 16 and a new House has to be constituted before that.

Last time the Lok Sabha polls were announced on March 10 and held in seven phases beginning April 11. Votes were counted on May 23.

## Ex-CM Yediyurappa booked under POC SO Act



BENGALURU, Mar 15 (Agencies): Senior BJP leader and former Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has been booked under the

POC SO Act based on a complaint by the mother of a 17-year-old survivor, police said here on Friday.

The survivor's mother alleged that 81-year-old Yediyurappa sexually assaulted her daughter during a meeting on February 2.

According to police, the BJP stalwart has been booked under section 8 of the Protection of

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## Night temp drops at most places in J&K, Gulmarg records minus 5.2°C

SRINAGAR, Mar 15 (Agencies): Amid forecast for generally dry weather till March 20, most places witnessed a drop in night temperature with Gulmarg recording minus 5.2°C on Friday.

A meteorological department official here told GNS that Srinagar recorded a minimum of 1.7°C against 4.4°C on the previous night which was below normal by 2.0°C for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 2.2°C against 1.8°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 3.1°C against minus

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## 800 fire incidents in Kashmir, 180 in Srinagar alone: Officials

SRINAGAR, Mar 15 (Agencies): Officials have reported over 800 fire incidents in the Kashmir Valley this year, with 180 of them happening solely in Srinagar. A senior official from the Fire and Emergency Services Department stressed the importance of cau-

tion, advising people to thoroughly inspect their wiring to avert potential short-circuits that might trigger fire outbreaks.

Residential House up in flames at city colony Dangerpora area of Malabagh on Friday, February 11, 2022. KL Image

and Emergency Services (F&ES), highlighted that Srinagar district has witnessed approximately 180 fire incidents this year, contributing significantly to the overall tally of 800 incidents reported across the valley.

Hussain noted that two deaths and two injuries

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## J&K ACB arrest PDD employee in bribery case in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Mar 15 (Agencies): The Anti Corruption Bureau arrested Power Development Department employee for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 6500 for providing electricity connection in Soura area of Srinagar.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) a spokesperson said that Javid Ahmad Raina, son of Mohammad Yousuf Raina of Gund Pora, Rampora Bandipora was arrested redhanded while demanding and

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## EC must restore democracy in J&K, Announce dates for LS, Assembly Polls: Omar

SRINAGAR, Mar 15 (Agencies): The Election Commission of India (ECI) should play its role in restoring democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and announce dates for both Parliament as well as assembly polls in the Union Territory, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said here on Friday.

"We have no expectations from the Election Commission. The EC should play its role as part of its mission of maintaining democracy. It has been 10 years that J-K has not seen an assembly election," Abdullah told reporters



here.

Referring to the submission of a report by former President Ram Nath Kovind-led committee on 'one nation one election' if you do not start from J-K. Is it to fool the people? "There have to be elections in J-K and it is a golden opportunity. Let them restore democracy fully here and announce the dates of both Parliament as well as assembly elections," he added.

Asked whether the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) would be meeting in the coming days to sort out its differences,

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Ports	4Ports - 64 Ports
Trunks	4 - 10 Trunk's
FND	Tri-Color
Scheduler	Small, ABS Body
KTS	Pluggable Add on
Paging	Yes
Hotel Fn	Yes
MMOH	Pluggable Add on

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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503



**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With heavy heart and profound grief we inform about the sad demise of our beloved mother, **Smt. Shanta Aima (Shyama Jee)** W/o Late Prof. Roshan Lal Aima, of Fateh Kadal Srinagar - Kashmir, presently residing at D-302, Satisar Apartments, Sector 7, Dwarka, New Delhi, on 11th March 2024, in New Delhi.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 20th March 24 at Gauri Shankar Mandir, Palam, at 8 AM followed by an **ASSEMBLY** at our residence D-302 Satisar Apartments, Dwarka at 11 AM.

We pray to the almighty, may her divine soul attain the state of eternal bliss - 'Moksha'. Om Shanli.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Mr. Manish Aima - **Son**  
Mrs. Rashmi Aima & Mr. Ashish Aima - **Daughter in Law & Son**  
Mrs. Nancy Kaul - **Sister in Law**  
Mrs. Kusum & Mr. Ramesh Kumar Raina - **Sister in Law & Brother in Law**  
Mrs. Anu Aima & Mr. Anil K Aima  
Mrs. Sushma & Mr. Virendra Salman  
Mrs. Saroj Aima

**SMT. SHANTA AIMA (SHYAMA JEE)**

**Grand Daughters:**  
Isha, Saanvi, Saiyette and Sharika  
**Samast Wali, Aima and Raina Parivar**  
**Contact Number - 9810660346**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With heavy hearts and profound sorrow, we announce the unfortunate passing of our beloved patriarch, **Sh. Shadi Lal Koul, (Retd. SDE - BSNL)** S/o Late Sh. Amar Nath Koul, Original R/O 2nd Bridge, Sheelteng, Habba Kadal, Presently at F-8, SBI Officers Rats, Upper Rajender Nagar, Near B.S.N.L. Exchange, Bantala, Jammu, attained nirvana on the 8th of March 2024.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE HELD AT AKHNOOR GHAT ON 18-03-24 AT 6:30 AM & ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT SHARDA MATA TEMPLE, LOWER RAJENDER NAGAR, BANTALAB, JAMMU AT 11:00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Smt. Sarla Koul - **Wife**  
Smt. Sushma Koul - **Daughter-in-Law**  
Mr. Kuldip Koul (SBI Emp.) and Mrs. Anita Koul (9419235944, 9419256813)  
Mr. Ajay Koul and Mrs. Meenakshi Koul  
**Daughter and Son-in-Law:**  
Mrs. Urvesh Gargroo and Mr. Rahul Gargroo (9800444949/960162576)  
Mrs. Archana Zupuri and Mr. Navin Zupuri  
**Brother-in-Law and Sister-in-Law:**  
Mrs. Churi Devi Kohra (982506221)  
Mrs. Durga Rani and Mr. D. N. Kohra (9012673499)  
**Brother and Sister-in-Law:**  
Mr. B.L. Koul (Retd. SBI Emp.) and Mrs. Sushma Koul (9616311366)  
**Sister and Brother-in-Law:**  
Mrs. Nancy and Mr. R. K. Dhar (Retd. SBI Emp.) (9419119019)  
Mrs. Sanjiv and Mr. G. L. Raina (Retd. SBI Emp.) (9372186137)  
Mrs. Usha and Mr. B.L. Raina (9616737003)

**SH. SHADI LAL KOUL, (RETD. SDE-BSNL)**

Mrs. Koki and Mr. Ramesh Raina (9466962460)  
**Grandchildren:** Aanya Koul, Jeevansh Gargroo, Yugansh Gargroo, Ayush Koul, Mahi Koul, Pranav Zupuri, Siddhant Zupuri  
**SAMAST PARIVARS OF KOUL, RAJMA, DHAR, KOTHA, BHAN, GARGROO, ZALPURI**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mr. Rahul Bhat (Shibi)** S/o Late Sh. Ramesh Kumar Bhat (Mahnoori) from Village Mahnoora District Budgam Tehsil Chadoora Kashmir A/P Lane No.18, Block No. 96, Flat No.5, Jagti Migrant Camp Nagrota, Jammu.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Sainik School Nagrota on 18-03-2024 Monday at 7 AM while **Assembly** at behind Lane No.20, Near Ration Depot Jagti Nagrota, Jammu at 10.30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Guddi Bhat - Mother**  
**Brother & Bhabhi**  
Abhinandan Bhat & Khushi Raina/Bhat  
Arjun Bhat - **Tayl**  
Ankur Bhat & Arli Bhat - **Brother & Bhabhi**  
**Children:** Arav Bhat, Harika Bhat, Rihaan Bhat  
**Mob: 8082670564, 9541758860**

**MR. RAHUL BHAT (SHIBI)****SHADMOS AND MASWAR**

Those who live in our hearts their memories don't fade away with time. Your presence is felt everywhere and every moment. We pray to God to bestow Moksh to your soul.

**Shadmos and Maswar** of our beloved father **Lt Sh Shyam Lal Raina S/o Lt Sh Bal Ji Raina** erstwhile Malik Bagh, Zaindar Mohalla Srinagar will be performed on 15th and 16th March 2024 respectively at our residence 2/52-A, Pamposh Colony, Janipur Jammu. **Deeply missed & remembered by RAINA, PUNJABI, PESHIN, RAZDAN, KOUL**

**Shyam Lal Raina (Bob Ji)****TENTH DAY/ KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we hereby inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt Sansaro Devi** W/o Late Sh Sewa Ram R/o Channi Himmat Jammu on 6th March 2024.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 15th March 2024 Friday in Panch Mandir Channi Himmat and **SATSANG** will start at 12 noon, followed by Preeti bhojan.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 16th March Saturday at our residence 25/7 Channi Himmat Housing colony from 10 am onwards.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW**  
Sh Guldev Raj Bhagat IAS Retd and Smt Pushpa Bhagat  
Sh Bodh Raj and Smt Kanchan Kumari  
Sh Ashok Kumar and Smt. Renu Kumari  
Sh Vijay Kumar and Smt Sharda Kumari  
Sh Devinder Kumar and Smt Leela Devi  
Smt. Meelo Devi - **DEVIRANI**  
**Grand Children**  
Dr Lalit Kumar and Dr Monica Bhagat, Rahul and Sheetal, Vishal, Varun, Akhil, Nikhil and Priya, Ajay, Manayata, Naman, Miganka  
**Great Grand Children**  
Rishaanvi, Rihaansh, Shiraj, Grisha, Dakshita

**SMT SANSARO DEVI****UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt Kanta Devi** W/o Late Sh. Bodh Raj Gupta R/o H.No. 1073, Sec-8, Lane-10, Opposite Blooming Dale Public School, Nanak Nagar, Jammu who left for her heavenly abode on 29th of Feb 2024.

The **Uthala** will be performed on Saturday the 16th of March 2024 from 4.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. at Mahajan Hall, Shalimar Road Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh Vijay Gupta & Smt. Neelam Gupta (**Son & Daughter in law**)  
Sh Ram Rattan Gupta & Smt. Rajni Gupta (**Son & Daughter in law**)  
Sh Rakesh Gupta (**Son**)  
Sh Subash Gupta & Smt. Neelvi Gupta (**Son & Daughter in law**)  
Sh Sanjay Gupta & Smt. Raman Bala (**Son & Daughter in law**)  
Sh Anant pal Gupta & Smt. Goldy Gupta (**Son & Daughter in law**)  
Sh Om Prakash & Smt. Rama Gupta (**Daughter & Son in law**)  
Sh Jagdish Raj & Smt. Raj Rani (**Daughter & Son in law**)  
Sh Ashok Kumar & Smt. Tripti Gupta (**Daughter & Son in law**)  
Sh Sandeep Gupta & Smt. Asha Gupta (**Daughter & Son in law**)  
**MIS Bodh Raj Vijay Kumar, Boota Ram, Market.**  
**MIS Ram Rattan Rakesh Kumar, 37-C Ware House Jammu.**  
**MIS Jandyal Provision Store, Ustad Mohalla.**  
**MIS Ram Provision Store, Kachi Chawni Jammu.**  
**Mobile : 9419260108, 9858679030, 9419147551**

**Smt Kanta Devi****TENTH DAY / KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Krishni Sharma** W/o Late Pt. Mast Ram Sharma (Rattanpur Wale) at present D - 341 Sainik colony Jammu on 06th March 2024.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 15th March 2024 (Friday) at Ram Mandir, Sainik Colony, at 1000Hrs.

**Kriya** will be performed on 16th March 2024 (Saturday) at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Late Smt Vimla Sharma W/o HFO Priyawarat Sharma  
**Smt Krishni Sharma (Son & Daughter-in-Law)**  
Smt Santosh Sharma W/o Sh. Sat Paul Sharma (**Daughter & Son-in-Law**)  
Smt Sneh Lata W/o Late Shiv Kumar Sharma (**Daughter & Son-in-Law**)  
Smt. Anjali Sharma & Sushil Kumar (**Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-Law**)  
Smt Shivani Khajuria & Sh. Navdeep Khajuria (**Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-Law**)  
Samarth, Sharika, Sankalp & Shivansh (**Great Grand Children**)  
**Mob: 9796816479, 9419616480, 7006051205**

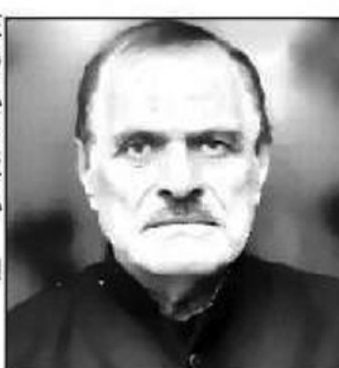
**Smt Krishni Sharma****MOURNING AND 10TH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM UNTIMELY DEATH OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **SH BALKRISHEN PANDIT S/O LT DINA NATH PANDIT** ORIGINALLY FROM UMANAGRI BRARIANAGAN UTTERSOO KASHMIR PRESENTLY RESIDING AT SRB 24 C SHIPRA RIVERA INDIRAPURAM GHAZIABAD.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE HELD ON 19TH MARCH 2024 AT MURAD NAGAR.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**RAJ DULARI PANDIT - WIFE**  
**OMPRAKASH PANDIT - BROTHER**  
**KISHNA DHAR - SISTER**  
**SAMAST PARIVAR: HANDOO ANNATNAG, BAMBROO AKURAAND KATH BILASPUR (SISTERS)**  
**KUSUM & MANORANJAN PANDIT - DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND SON**  
**RAHI & SUMAN PANDIT - DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND SON**  
**RINKI JI & KIRAN PANDIT - DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND SON**  
**ARTI & ARUN KOL - DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW**  
**JYOTI & SANJAY PANDIT - DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND SON**  
**KALPANA & KANAYA BHAT - DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW**  
**GRAND CHILDREN:**  
KAVISH, AYUSH, SAYURI, KARAN KOUL, VAIBHAV BHAT, YUTIKA, TANISH, SHALUJA BHAT, NITIN  
**# 9910882227 # 7428452227 #**

**SH BALKRISHEN PANDIT****10TH DAY & 11TH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Krishan Dev Sharma S/o Late Lakshmi Chand R/o 351/P, Sect 2, Durga Nagar Jammu** on 7th March, 2024.

**TENTH AND 11TH DAY** will be performed at our residence on 15th and 16th March, 2024 respectively.

**Grief Stricken**

**Smt Vijay Sharma (Wife) (9055293723)**  
**Mr Sourav Sharma (Son) (7889872660)**  
**Mr Sachin & Smt Radhika (Nephew & Daughter-in-law)**  
**Daughters & Son-in-laws**  
**Smt Sheetal & Sh Kewal Krishan Sharma (9484141668)**  
**Smt Shilpa & Sh Manoj Sharma (9797691948)**  
**Smt Pratiba & Sh Tinu Sharma (7889793412)**  
**Smt Divya Sharma**

**Sh Krishan Dev Sharma****BARKHI**

With a grieving heart, we inform that the **Barkhi** of our beloved **Sh Prem Parkash Sharma (Baru)** S/o Late Sh Sri Niwas Baru will be performed at our residence H No. 45-P, Sector No. 04, near AAP Shambu Mandir, Upper Roop Nagar, Jammu on 16th of March, 2024 (Saturday) at 12:00 noon.

**Deeply Missed & Remembered by :**

**Smt Sushma Sharma - Wife**  
**Daughters-in-law & Sons**  
Smt Archana & Er. Amit Sharma  
Smt Poonam & Er. Puneet Sharma  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Smt Nidhi & Sh Sandeep Magotra  
**Grand Sons & Grand Daughters**  
Aadhyan, Prisha, Sahej & Abhaya

**Sh Prem Parkash Sharma (Baru) Retd. S.O. (JEED)****BARU FAMILY****All Nears & Dears**

**Mob : 9419119872, 9419306322, 6005122967**

**FIFTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Jia Lal Gupta (Retd. Executive Engineer PHE)** Husband of Smt. Sushma Gupta R/o H.No. 322, Sarwal, New Plot, Jammu.

The **Fifth Day** will be performed on Saturday 16th March 2024 at Shiv Mandir Housing Colony, Udhampur from 11.00 am to 12.00 Noon.

**GRIEF STRICKEN****Sister-in-law**

Smt. Sneha Lata W/o Late Sh. Vijay Kumar Gupta  
Smt. Anita Gupta W/o Late Sh. Sudesh Gupta  
**Contact No.: 9419270030**

**Sh. Jia Lal Gupta (Retd. Executive Engineer PHE)****TENTH DAY & KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Mohan Singh Jamwal** S/o Late Kishan Singh Jamwal R/o Susheel Nagar Camp Road Talab Tillo Jammu. (Surinsar wale) who left for heavenly abode on 6/3/2024.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 15/3/2024 (Friday) at our residence at 9.30 am and **KRIYA** will be held on 16/3/2024 (Saturday) at 11am at our residence as well.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

**Suraj Kanta (WIFE)**  
**DAUGHTER IN LAWS AND SONS**  
Smt. Vijay Jamwal & Madan Singh Jamwal  
Smt. Rewa Rani & Manohar Singh Jamwal  
Smt. Archana Kumari & Manmohan Singh Jamwal

**SH. MOHAN SINGH JAMWAL****TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Lt Smt Sheela Pandita (Pyari)** W/o Lt Sh Dwarika Nath Pandita of Turigam Dev Bug, Kulgam, at present Sector 4, Ward No 14, Near Lala Ji's Ashram Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 16.03.2024 (Saturday) at Akhnoor Ghat

followed by assembly for prayer meeting at Muthi Ghat near (Directorate of School Education) at 12 Noon

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

**Pandita family, Bhan family & Koul family**  
**7006323154, 9086021139, 6006012511**

**LT SH SHEELA PANDITA (PYARI)****Obituary/Tenth Day Kriya**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the demise of our beloved **Smt. Tita Koul** W/o Late Ashok Kumar Koul originally resident of Ratripora, Pulwama on March 12, 2024.

**Mourning** is being held at H. No - 109 (1st floor) Endave - 1A, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu, (HDFC Bank Lane)

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on March 21, 2024 (Thursday) at Akhnoor Ghat and the assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 10.30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Smt. Manu and Puneet Koul - **Daughter-in-law and Son**  
Smt. Rohit Koul - **Son**

**Smt. Tita Koul**

Smt. Lovely and Ajit Koul  
Smt. Dolly and Ramesh Koul  
Smt. Seema and Rajinder Koul  
Smt. Neetu and Anil Koul  
Smt. Ganga and Pradeep Bhat  
Smt. Rajni and Rakesh Bhat  
Smt. Anjali and Anil Koul  
Adarsh, Urvasi, Anupam, Nikhil, Hardik  
Koush and Bhats  
**Phones : 965-443-4887, 7006441245, 8715048000, 7006044183**

**5TH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that the untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Narendra Kumar Bhardwaj (Retd. Chief Manager, BCB)** S/o Lt. Sh. Prithvi Dass Bhardwaj, R/o Silver City Extension, ZIRAKPUR, Chandigarh who left us for his heavenly abode on 12.03.2024.

The **FIFTH DAY** will be performed on 16.03.2024 at 11A.M. at our residence 340-A, Behind Pahalwan Sweet Shop, Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

Smt. Sheela Devi (**Mother in Law**)  
**Sisters in Law & Brothers in Law**  
Smt. Neelam & Sh. Bharat Kishan Sharma  
Smt. Krishna & Sh. Onkar Sharma  
Smt. Neelam & Sh. Subash Chander Sharma  
Smt. Manisha & Sh. Ravish Sharma  
Smt. Sheetal & Sh. Bhanu Sharma  
Smt. Shrut & Sh. Sanjeev Sharma  
**Sisters in law & Co-Brothers**  
Smt. Manu & Sh. Ramesh Chander Sharma  
Smt. Anita & Sh. Rajesh Mehra  
**Mobile No : 941918857, 9419139188**

**Sh. Narendra Kumar Bhardwaj (Retd. Chief Manager, BCB)****CHOUBARS**

Four years have passed since you left us, but your sweet memories of love & affection, your smiling face, caring attitude always remains in our hearts throughout life. We miss you in every moment.

**Choubars** of our beloved **Late Kamla Kotwal** W/o Late Prof. D. R. Kotwal will be performed on 16-03-2024 (Sat) at 11 am at our residence 2822 Channi Himmat, Jammu.

**Grief Stricken**

**Daughters-in-law & Sons**  
Shilpa & Dr. Sandeep Kotwal  
Arjana & Jaideep Kotwal  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Dr. Anita & Sumet Puri (C.E)  
**Bhabhi & Brothers**  
Tripta & R.P. Kotwal (Major General Rtd.)  
Bala & Prof. S.C. Kotwal  
Sushma & R.C. Kotwal (CE Retd)  
Arju & Dr. B.C. Kotwal (U.S.A)  
Suman & Shyam Kotwal (U.S.A)  
Sadhana & Dr. Arjun Kotwal (U.S.A)  
Anu & Satish Kotwal (U.S.A)  
Manjula & Arvind Kotwal (U.S.A)  
**Sisters**  
Vijay Kanwar & Hemlata Kotwal (U.S.A)  
Shakuntla & Mukl Raj Kotwal (SE Retd.) - **Devrani & Devar**

**Late Kamla Kotwal**

**Grand Children:**  
Shivang, Shanabnu, Pradyut, Prathav & Shoubhit  
**Ph: 9419239069, 9419617126**

**TENTH DAY, KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you that our beloved mother **Smt. Jai Kishori Kaul Punjabi**, W/o Late Dwarika Nath Kaul Punjabi, original resident of Sathu Barbar Shah/Indira Nagar, Srinagar, currently residing at H.No. 51/3, Peerbaba Road, behind Jammu Airport Old Satwari, Jammu Cantonment, departed for her heavenly abode on March 7, 2024.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** shall be performed at Mata Bhaderkali Mandir Ghat, Thalwal, Jammu, on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., followed by Assembly at our above-mentioned residence at 10:30 a.m.

**Grief Stricken:**

**Punjabis, 9837345112, 9419182842, 9419128930, Langars, Bazas, Khashus, Salis, Malls, Nakaibs, Munshis, Rainas. All near and dear**

**Smt. Jai Kishori Kaul Punjabi****TENTH DAY, KRIYA**

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**Smt. Jai Kishori Kaul Punjabi****TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI (UTHALA)**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF **SMT ARUNA SHARMA** W/O SHRI RAJ KUMAR SHARMA (KOOTAH WALE) R/O H NO. 116/C, LANE NO. 12, SHIV NAGAR JAMMU WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 7TH MARCH 2024 (THURSDAY).

**TENTH DAY** SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 16TH MARCH 2024 (SATURDAY) AT 11.00 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE.

**RASAM PAGRI (UTHALA)** SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 18TH MARCH 2024 (MONDAY) AT 2.00 PM TO 3.00 PM AT A.G.S OFFICE COMMUNITY HALL, A.G.S OFFICE COLONY JAMMU.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**RAJ KUMAR SHARMA (HUSBAND)**  
**SONS & DAUGHTERS IN LAW**  
POOJA AND ALOK SHARMA  
POOJA DUBEY AND PARMOD SHARMA  
LEENA SHARMA & DEEPAK SHARMA (**DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW**)  
**DEEPLY MISSED BY**  
PARI, KRISHNA, AMOD, PEEHU, PARTH  
**CONTACT NOS : 9858050680, 9906116114, 9419113041**

**SMT ARUNA SHARMA****DISCLAIMER**

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper.



## CS reviews key developmental projects of Housing Deptt

**Urges the department to make cities more amenable as per the modern standards of urban development**

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15: In a significant step towards addressing the burgeoning issues of Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD) in the UT, a high-level meeting was today chaired by Chief Secretary, Atul Dooloo and attended by the Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, Tourism besides other HoDs of the Housing and Rural Development Departments here.

While speaking in this meeting the Chief Secretary remarked that the city infrastructure is the hallmark of development process anywhere. He emphasized on the importance of timely completion of all the utility and developmental projects for making the mobility and city dwelling more safer, easier and faster as per the modern standards of urban development world over.

The Chief Secretary directed that all the urban development projects, currently in the pipeline be expedited, placing public welfare as the foremost



priority. This directive underlines the government's commitment to not only enhancing the urban infrastructure, but also ensuring that, these developments translate into tangible benefits for the residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

During this meeting the Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur briefed the chair on a spectrum of pivotal developments and upcoming initiatives aimed at transforming the urban landscape of J&K.

Among the crucial topics discussed were – strategies to leverage land as

a resource to fuel further urban development, ensuring sustainable and efficient use of urban land. The meeting also discussed introduction of a streamlined and transparent system for obtaining building permissions, aimed at reducing delays and promoting ease of doing business.

The status of water transport service in river Jhelum, in Srinagar, enhancing connectivity and providing eco-friendly transportation alternatives to the people there. It was also made out that this would be an added attraction for tourists vis-

iting this place in greater numbers.

The progress updates and future plans concerning the Jammu Metropolitan Region Development Authority (JMRDA) and the Srinagar Metropolitan Region Development Authority (SMRDA), focusing on comprehensive urban development and planning were deliberated upon. It was given out that these projects would bring in futuristic mobility services to our cities bringing lot of ease to the commuters here.

The meeting also took note of the status of the newly built state-of-the-

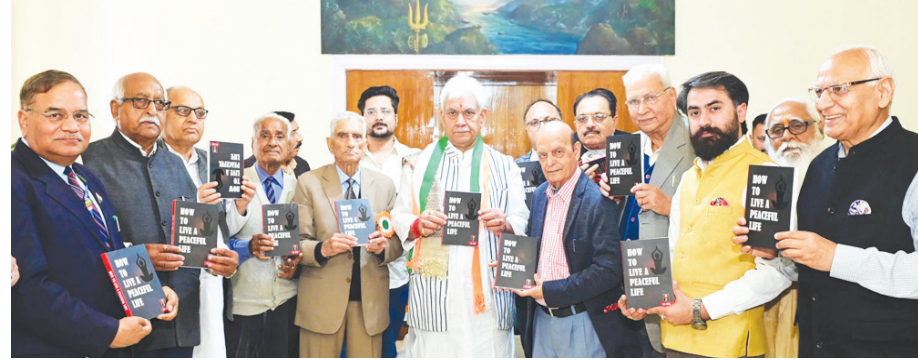
art, multi-tier parking at Bus Stand in Jammu. It emphasised upon its optimum utilization for bringing ease and employment to public besides realizing revenue for government also.

While addressing the need for modern transportation facilities and managing the growing demand for public transportation efficiently the meeting discussed the utilization of e-buses introduced recently in both the cities here. With respect to the need of such facilities to cater to the growing population here the meeting resolved to make the appropriate facilities to cater to this challenge also.

The meeting took review of the progress in the implementation of crucial sewerage projects across the UT highlighting efforts to improve sanitation and wastewater management.

The meeting underscored the government's commitment to foster sustainable urban growth and development, ensuring that the initiatives align with the needs and aspirations of its citizens in the UT.

## Lt Governor releases book “How to Live A Peaceful Life” by ID Soni



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today

released a book titled “How to Live A Peaceful Life” authored by Sh I.D Soni, President Home

for the Aged and Infirm, Jammu.

The Lt Governor congratulated the author for his excellent work.

## Commissioner Secretary GAD pays obeisance at Tirupati Temple



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15: Commissioner Secretary GAD Sanjeev Verma ( IAS ) And Dr Vijayata Verma

, RC Subramanyam the Superintendent of temple and Sai Krishna and Amit Shukla paid obeisance at Tirupati Balaji temple Jammu and participated in the special abhishek of Tirupati. prayed for the welfare of the country. Every Friday the ceremony of abhishek of Lord Venkateswar is performed.

Sanjeev Verma expressed happiness

over the temple said that it is a feeling of pleasure and proud that the Tirupati Balaji temple is established here for the people of Jammu. With this temple we are able to witness the culture of south India and this feeling is heavenly. He appealed people to visit the temple and pay obeisance here.

He said that is ready for any kind of help to the temple and devotees. He said the temple is beautifully made in the Majeen area.

He said the dedication of Lord Venkateswara

temple would give a boost to spiritual tourism and a major fillip to the economic development and employment opportunities in the Union Territory.

On this occasion Subramanyam the Superintendent of temple also appealed transport commissioner to start the bus service for the temple so that devotees can come easily to the temple. He also emphasize to start the Bharat darshan bus service here so that tourists also came to know about the temple.

## Raghunath Ji Mandir Sewa Samiti appreciates Court’s order to J&K Dharmarth Trust

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15: Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir Sewa Samiti appreciated the order passed by Court of Principal District Judge, Jammu whereby the Chairman Trustee and other Trustee of the J&K Dharmarth Trust and also the President of the Trust have been restrained from leasing out the immoveable properties of J&K Dharmarth Trust attached to different Temples of the Trust including lands and grounds of which annual rental is above Rs 1500 exceeding period of 3 years or to create third party interest by any mode and further directed the Chairman Trustee J&K Dharmarth Trust to furnish the details of all immoveable properties held by J&K Dharmarth Trust including those over which third party's interest in excess of three years has been created by Dharmarth Trust.

They have further been directed to submit accounts of the Trust with effect from November 26, 2011 till pending disposal of the suit. The court also allowed the application of petitioners for arraying Martand Singh and Ranvijay Singh (Both grand sons of Chairman Trustee) as party in the suit.

It is admitted by the Court that Dharmarth Trust is a Hindu Public Charitable Trust and is required to be managed in accordance with Ain-I-Dharmarth which was laid by Maharaja Gulab Singh and followed by Maharaja Ranbir Singh and Partap Singh from time to time, which enjoined that the Dharmarth Trust Council shall transact all business with care, honesty and diligence and should act in accordance with their 'Dharma' and in no circumstance should they go against the mandate of Ain-I-Dharmarth or allow any loss to be incurred. These direction have been passed by Sh. Sanjay Parihar Hon'ble Principle District & Session Judge, Jammu in Civil Suit titled “Rajinder Kumar & others V/s Dharmarth Trust and Others” in which various factual facts have been pleaded against Trustees and Trust Management for mismanagement and misappropriation of Dharmarth funds by the



person having control over Trust for the last 60 year as they have sold out /disposed of thousands of kanals of Dharmarth Temple's land for 40 years to 99 years which include 569 kanals 8 marlas land near Nandhni Tunnel, 159 kanals 10 marlas land of Raghunath Ji Temple at Barzulla, Tehsil South and District Srinagar, Taingpora by pass road, 1 kanal 8 marlas Temples land situated at Rainawari, Tehsil and Distt. Srinagar, 1 kanal land of Raghunath Ji Temple at Srinagar, Ranbir Bhawan (old office of Dharmarth) Mausima Barbarahad road containing 22 kanals 17 marlas land attached to Shri Raghunath Ji Temple, 46 kanals 07 marlas land falling under khasra no. 411 at Pantha Chowk, Srinagar leased out for 99 years on yearly rent of Rs 1200/ only, now which is called NAAZ Colony. All these land leased out to Non-Hindu Community, 450 kanals land at Village Sungal Samah, Akhnour, Jammu also leased out to nears and dears of the Trustees, 38 kanals 8 marlas land in khasra no. 966, 970, 971 situated at Janipur, Jammu sold through attorney holder Raghubir Singh then Patwari with connivance of Dharmarth officials ,6,kanals 12 marlas land of Raghunath Ji Temples khasra no 267 Talab Kaleeth, Jammu sold, 11 kanals 2 marlas land called 'Rani ki samadhies sold in 1993, in the years 1982 Mahant Kavinder Giri donated land 13200 sft. to Dharmarth Trust falling khasra no 21 and 22 situated at Saharanpur (UP) for construction of Dharamshala but after the death of Mahant, Trustee has sold said land for Rs 38 lakh. Kashmir Haveli of Dharmarth at Varanasi also sold for very less

amount against actual value of Rs 150 crores by the Trustees Shri, Raghunath Ji treasury about 25 crores which was lying at famous temple Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir, Jammu has been lifted by the Trustee in the year 1992, Neelam made Shiv Lingam value of 20 crore also lifted by the sole Trustee from Shiv Nabh Ji Mandir, Mubarkh Mandi, Jammu in year 1992, two yatri Bhawan namely Ranbir yatri Bhawan and Hari Bhawan also leased out to their near and dears of Trust official on nominal rent, 4269 kanals land at Ferozpur tehsil and district Hoshiarpur Punjab donated by Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Punjab in the name of Dharmarth Trust also sold/ disposed off by the trustees. Sadabrat Langer at shri Raghunath Ji Temple Jammu and Sanskrit Pathshala of the mandir has been closed by the Trustees which was main aim and object of Dharmarth. All these misdeeds done by the Trustee by taking under hands deals and the petitioners in the suit are seeking CBI prove and removal of present trustees and constitution of public board on the pettrion of Shri Mata Vaishno devi Ji, Shrine Board or merger of the same with Shri Mata vaishno Devi, Shrine Board which was the part of Dharmarth prior to 1986. It is also pleaded in the suit that Dharmarth Council function through its President and Secretary and Chairman Trustee appointing his blue eyed as top functionaries of the management and bent upon to loot and plunder Trust properties at their whims or caprices and Court should take action to save guard the interest of Hindus and protect the Dharmarth


Temples properties in and outside the State .

The members of Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir Sewa Samitti strongly criticised the all previous Governments as well as present UT Government for not framing by laws to protect and manage the affairs of Dharmarth Temples-properties strictly and instead of making any laws in this regards state Government machinery specially Revenue department is working under high influence of Dharmarth Trust functionaries for the last 60 yearly as it simply is not understandable that under which manner Fard of 450 kanals lands and 569 kanals issued by the concern Patwari and Tehsildar. These matter should also investigated. In this regards petitioners also forwarded the Court order to Divisional Commissioner, Jammu and Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir and requested to issue instruction to all

the concerned Deputy Commissioners not to issue Fard in favour of any Dharmarth properties above 3 years for lease Deed till the disposal of pending suit in the court.

The Samiti raised Hundred Million Dollar query that how Additional Secretary, Jammu, Varinder Singh have been authorised by the Trustees to act by special resolutions to execute documents for creating third party interest in Trust Properties situated in Kashmir and why Temple premises of Ram Ji at Barbar Shah Kashmir is occupied by Mushtaq Gashru, Additional Secretary Land and Record is not made free. Is it not like making Masjid over Ram Ji Temple in Kashmir which is fact and is contrary to the action of Modi Government having constructed Ram Ji Temple where so called Babri Masjid in Ayodhya was existing.

All the Petitioners and President Rajiv Mahajan, General Secretary Th. Kamail Chand, Pitam Sharma Vice-President, Prof. S.S. Bhalwal, Sh. Kamal Sharma, Garu Ram Malhotra, Parbhat Kapahi, Prof. R P Sharma, Nirmal Kishore, Harbans Choudhary, Krishan Lal, Parbhat Kapahi and Romesh Singh Bhau all samiti members present in the press conference.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**E-Tender Notice**

Mr.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

**Tender No. : 251-Elect-T-72/2023-24**

**Name of work :** Provision of electrical work in C/w Lowering and lifting of submersible pumps and rewinding/repairing of defective submersible pumps motors of Amritsar, Firozpur, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Pathankot Zones and provision of GSM based automation for protection of pumps control system of Firozpur division for two years.

**App. Cost (in Rs.) :** Rs. 65,98,435.24

**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :** Rs. 1,32,000.00

**Completion Period :** 24 Months

**Opening of tender :** 04.04.2024 after 15:00 hrs.

**Website Particulars :** www.ireps.gov.in

**Tender No. : 251-Elect-T-74/2023-24**

**Name of work :** Electrical work in C/w Lowering and lifting of submersible pumps and rewinding/repairing of defective submersible pumps motors for Jammu and Udhampur Zone of Firozpur Division for 2 years.

**App. Cost (in Rs.) :** Rs. 32,65,038.78

**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :** Rs. 65,300.00

**Completion Period :** 24 Months

**Opening of tender :** 05.04.2024 after 15:00 hrs.

**Website Particulars :** www.ireps.gov.in

**Tender No. : 251-Elect-T-73/2023-24**

**Name of work :** Electrical work in C/w Modernization of bridge workshop at Jalandhar Cantt under Dy.CE/WS/JRC

**App. Cost (in Rs.) :** Rs. 1,91,07,167.02

**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :** Rs. 2,45,500.00

**Completion Period :** 6 Months

**Opening of tender :** 04.04.2024 after 15:00 hrs.

**Website Particulars :** www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 251-Elect/T/Notice No. 56-Elect/2023-24 Dated: 13.03.2024 823/2024

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI MECH. G.W.D. DIVISION JAMMU**  
**SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**  
**E -NIT NO GWD/254 OF 2023-24 DATED 12.03.2024**

On behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu invites tenders by e-tendering mode from reputed and registered firms with PHE/I&FC Deptt. J&K Govt. who have sufficient experience in the field of drilling and are well equipped with drilling Rigs suitable for ODEX method of drilling.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee (In Rs)	Qty.	Estimated cost (value of work) (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Validity of Rates
Deep Drilling of 125 mm dia Bore Hole by using ODEX method and Providing/ installation, testing, commissioning of submersible pump set for Convenience of Shri Pingla Mata Yatries at Mohalla Patode on road side W. No. 01, Village/Panchayat Pinger, Block Parildhar in District Udhampur under MPLADS	Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu	500.00 (Non-Refundable) Deposited in Govt. treasury through e-challan under the receipt head 0215 in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. GWD Div, Jammu payable at Jammu mentioning name of work	01 No.	Rs. 6.38 lacs	@ 2% of the quoted rates in shape of Fresh CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PHE (M) GWD Division	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024

1. The complete bidding process shall be online.

2. Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 12.03.2024 to 18.03.2024.

3. The pre bid meeting if desired by the participating firms shall be held in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 13.03.2024 (1300 hrs).

4. The bids shall be submitted/uploaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 13.03.2024 (1400 hrs) to 18.03.2024 (1800 hrs).

5. The complete bidding process shall be online and scanned copies of the following documents will have to be uploaded before due date:-

i) Copy of treasury e-Challan/receipt for Rs. 500.00 against the cost of tender document under the receipt Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (M) Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu indicating name of work to be executed. **It may be noted that** the receipt of the e-challan should be of the date after the issuance of publication of the e-tender.

ii) The tenders shall be accompanied with an earnest money of 2 % of quoted rates in the shape of CDR/FDR, from a scheduled Bank payable in JAMMU. The CDR/FDR shall be pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu, valid for a period of 12 months from the last date of submission of bids. The earnest money deposit shall be refunded in favour of unsuccessful tenderer immediately after finalization of the tender, whereas it shall be retained in case of successful tenderer till signing of agreement and furnishing of performance security

iii) Copies of tender documents, terms and conditions duly signed and stamped (each page) by bidder.

iv) Scanned copy of Experience certificate of having completed one similar work during last five financial years. The experience certificate shall have been issued by an officer of the rank not below an Executive Engineer of any Government Department/Semi Government/PSUs.

v) Scanned copy of Valid Registration of Water Well Drillers issued by Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu for the year 2023-24. In case the bidder is not able to furnish the Registration with the cover 1st of this bid document, he can produce the same before the opening of cover 2nd of this bid document.

vi) Scanned copy of the latest Income tax return certificate.

vii) Scanned copy GST return in FORMGST-3B of the latest quarter.

viii) Scanned copy of documentary proof of ownership or on hire basis of requisite machinery like Air compressor, direct/reverse Rotary Drilling Rig. In case of a firm having these machine/s arranged on hire basis the firm shall produce a copy of an agreement with the actual owner (Registered Drilling Firm) of the machine for lease of the machinery and expertise, duly attested by a Magistrate First class valid for a time period of not less than 06 months from the last date of submission of bids.

ix) Average Annual financial turnover during any three financial years out of the last 05 years, ending 31st March of previous financial year, issued by a registered Chartered Accountant under his seal and signature shall be Rs 25.00 lacs.

6. The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 12.03.2024 (1400 hrs). If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids shall be opened on the next working day during the office hours.

7. The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids shall be opened on the next working or as to be decided by tender opening committee.

8. Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.

9. Account Head: MPLAD

10. AAA order No. DDCU/Est./MPLADS/2022-23/4946-48 Dated 06.10.2023

11. Status of Funds: Available

12. Technical Sanction No. 692 of 03/2024 Dated 12.03.2024

GWD/8380-82  
DATED: 12.03.2024

DIP/J-16044/23

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Mech. G.W.D. Division  
Jammu



## EDITORIAL

## CONSUMER RIGHTS

Consumers are those who buy or avail goods or services. In the process of purchasing goods and services until they use those goods and services; As a customer they have certain rights and responsibilities that they are not always aware of. This may be due to lack of knowledge and ignorance. This content is specifically meant to spread and update awareness among students and readers about their rights as consumers. In our discussion we are going to present the definition of 'Consumer Awareness', rights and duties of consumers and importance of consumer rights. As a person living in any country and consuming goods and services, it is necessary that we all know what rights we have in this position, and also what responsibilities we have to perform. We need to understand the meaning of consumer awareness, meaning of consumer rights and know something about the rights and duties of consumers. This is also important because without knowing these things you might not realize what is wrong and what is right. As a customer, you should be aware of consumer rights to avoid any unfair advantage. Let's take a look at the meaning of consumer awareness. It is the state of a consumer who is aware of his rights, understands when these rights have been violated and also knows what to do about it to get appropriate redress for the violation. Consumer awareness also means knowing what your duties are as a consumer and knowing what to do with this responsibility. Every person is a consumer in some way or the other because we all buy goods or avail some kind of services to maintain our lives. That is why it is important to know the meaning of consumer awareness so that you can remain a responsible consumer. To ensure maximum security to the citizens of a country, each country sets its own set of consumer rights for its people. Consumer awareness extends to knowing the meaning of consumer rights. There are important consumer rights which are guaranteed by the Government of India.

There are six important consumer rights that have been listed by the Government of India for the people of India; These rights are as follows.

- Right to security- It is the right of the consumer to be protected from the marketing of any goods, goods and services that are in the interest of causing harm to them.
- Right to be informed- Consumers have the right to be informed about the product they are purchasing. It is concerned with the quality, quantity, capacity, purity, standard and price of the good or service at hand.
- Right to choose- Informed between selected goods and services. The consumer has access to appropriate products in the market to choose from. It is the right of consumers to be heard in appropriate forums to express their concerns and represent ideas and viewpoints for consumer welfare.
- Right to seek redressal- The right to seek redress is one of the fundamental rights provided by the Indian Constitution to its people. When it comes to consumer rights, it is the right of consumers to seek redressal in case of any unfair practice or exploitation of consumer in business.
- Right to consumer education- Right to Consumer Education focuses on spreading the meaning of consumer awareness and making every citizen and consumer know what consumer rights are. Information about consumer rights should be given to all consumers, which is ensured by this right.

Duties of consumers:-

Just as the government has given some rights to every consumer, in the same way it is the responsibility of the consumer to follow the many duties given to him. Consumer responsibilities are as important as consumer rights. Following are the important consumer responsibilities or duties of consumers:

Consumers should ensure that the product they are purchasing is of good quality and is carrying quality marks like Agmark, ISI, Hallmark, etc.

Consumers should always ensure that they have seen and understood all the information available about a product and make an informed choice.

Consumers should follow the rules while purchasing goods and should not engage in any illegal behavior.

Consumers should always insist on purchase bills from the seller so that if there is any problem with the purchase, the problem can be resolved immediately.

Responsibility of consumers to oppose exploitative practices and unfairness.

Consumers should form organizations that are non-political to express their needs and requirements.

Everything we have today is the result of us being consumers who buy certain goods. Therefore, we all should be aware of our consumer rights as well as consumer responsibilities. We all have to go to the market at least once and become consumers, and it is important to know the meaning of consumer rights to help us realize if ever we are being exploited by a seller.

Consumers should be aware of their rights and what they are protected against. Following are some of the facts you may know:

- A consumer can choose a product and have full right to negotiate.
- A consumer is reasonably sure of a healthy environment.
- Consumers can file complaints from virtually anywhere.
- Consumers can also demand hearing through video conferencing.
- Also the consumer can also know why his complaint was rejected.

By: Sunanda K Datta Ray

No Chinese leader had ever asked of the Dalai Lama -- as Stalin did of the Pope -- "How many divisions does he command?" Yet this 65th anniversary of the Tibetan uprising of March 1959 must find China worried that the 88-year-old exile with an infectious giggle but without a country to rule or troops to command might be the "wolf in a monk's robe" of its national nightmare. If so, what role will history assign to his enigmatic second eldest brother, Gyalo Thondup?

When Jawaharlal Nehru sent the Dalai Lama to Dharamsala, journalists predicted that he would be forgotten on that shelf above the world. But Mao Zedong, with his acute insight into character and situations, had lamented when he heard that the Dalai Lama had escaped: "In that case, we have lost the battle."

The Great Helmsman knew that an idea conquers the world more effectively than any army can. While Dalai Lamas come and go, an institution embodying the spirit of Tibet lives for ever. Tibet and Tibetans have blossomed into an indestructible virtual nation during these 65 years of the Dalai Lama's exile.

That is also India's unique contribution to the cause. "Presidents and Premiers meet the Dalai Lama only when they want to make a point against China," Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao once told me. "We alone have given him full liberty to do whatever he wants!" When I asked China's consul-general in Kolkata if Beijing was serious about claiming Arunachal Pradesh, he retorted: "But of course! The Sixth Dalai Lama was born there!" The fervent-

ly loyal Han diplomat meant Tsangyang Gyatso, an unconventional 17th century pontiff who disdained monastic austerity, grew his hair long, wore regular Tibetan robes, drank alcohol and accepted female company. Born on March 1, 1683 in Tawang, he was probably kidnapped and murdered by Mongol rebels during a power struggle but his poems and songs remain popular even today among Tibetan-speaking communities in Nepal, India and throughout China.

The present 14th Dalai Lama, whom Tibetans call Gyalwa Rinpoche, was born into a farming family on July 6, 1935, and chosen as the incarnation of Tibetan Buddhism's supreme head at the age of two. He was given a string of high-sounding names and hastily installed in Lhasa's 13-storeyed Potala Palace with its more than 1,000 rooms soaring nearly 400 feet above the Marpo Ri, or Red Hill, when the Chinese invaded.

A detailed account of the enthronement by Sir Basil Gould, British representative in Gangtok with jurisdiction in Bhutan and Tibet, confirmed that despite Manchu claims, the canny Tibetans allowed the Chinese no role in the ceremonies. When Chinese troops crushed the Tibetan uprising, the Dalai Lama escaped from the Potala Palace to start the 13-day trek across the Himalayas to India, from which there was no return. He was just 23.

While the Dalai Lama remains one of Nature's innocents, his life an open Book. Gyalo Thondup's tantalising links with the United States, Communist China, Taiwan, India, and Bhutan and role in the 1959 Tibetan uprising baffles many. As I wrote in my 2002 book, *Waiting for America: India and the US in the New Millennium*: "When British intelligence

reported in 1958 that the Chinese would soon launch their final campaign of pacification in Tibet, Dwight D. Eisenhower asked Nehru to give the Dalai Lama asylum. Being 'a notorious hard bargainer', Nehru demanded help in developing nuclear weapons. 'A security assurance is not enough,' he said. 'India required its own nuclear guarantee against China.'

"In 1953, when Nehru's sister Vijayalakshmi Pandit was the UNGA's president, President Eisenhower had made a seminal speech to the General Assembly announcing his Atoms for Peace programme to share nuclear technology to develop atomic energy for civilian purposes. Nehru welcomed the plan and agreement was reached in 1958 for what eventually became the \$118-million Tarapur nuclear reactor...

"According to the intermediary, William Corson, a Hong Kong-based Marine Corps major who was an intelligence aide to Eisenhower, Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, 'the course of the negotiations left no doubt that the American-trained scientists would be assigned the task of producing nuclear weapons.' In 1974, less than sixteen years later, India exploded Pokharan-I, its first nuclear test... Three years after the request about the Dalai Lama, a state department memo proposed that Washington should help India to develop the bomb in order to deny China the psychological edge of being Asia's first nuclear power."

Gyalo Thondup moved to Lhasa in 1939, and to Nanjing, Republican China's capital, three years later when he was 14, ostensibly to learn Chinese. He became a protégé of Chiang Kai-shek, often dining with him at home and being

educated by tutors selected by Chiang. In 1948, he married Zhu Dan, the daughter of a Kuomintang general. The first officially acknowledged Tibetan to visit Taiwan since 1949, Gyalo Thondup facilitated semi-official contacts between the exiled Dalai Lama's administration and the Chinese in both Beijing and Taiwan. He travelled to the United States in 1951, becoming a seemingly contrary link between America's Central Intelligence Agency (which promised to make Tibet independent by organising guerrilla units to fight against the People's Liberation Army) and Deng Xiaoping, with whom he had negotiated on behalf of the Dalai Lama.

It was a tortuous mix of roles with no one ever sure whether India's RAW or the CIA was the real mastermind. Whispers of KMT funding and the part that an inconspicuous Tibetan restaurant in Calcutta's old Chinatown, which served India's first and most delicious momos, played in recruiting fighters compounded the mystery. Even more curious was Bhutan's allegation in 1974 that Gyalo Thondup had plotted to blow up Thimphu's Tashichodzong, assassinate key members of the royal family and stage a coup.

All that lies in the past. The Dalai Lama has handed over to an elected government and says that sovereign independence is no longer the goal. Change may now have to wait until some other power takes the initiative -- as the US did in 1903 to hive off Panama from Colombia, or India in 1971 splitting Bangladesh from Pakistan -- to create a more benign world order. But whatever happens, the 14th Dalai Lama, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, has ensured that Tibet and Tibetans will always remain distinctly separate from China and the Chinese. That is his unforgettable legacy.

## Science Fiction to Inspire Children's Minds to Learn

By: Vijay Garg

Children are our future and stories are very important for the development of their minds. Stories stimulate their imagination, create a sense of values in them. In this way, they guide the children in creating a happy and dignified world. Science fiction and environmental stories play a major role for children in achieving this vision. This genre of stories not only informs children about the wonderful world, but also introduces them to science, Provides valuable insight into technology and the importance of environmental conservation. Role in the communication of moral values Also read this Science fiction to inspire children's minds to learn Science fiction to inspire children's minds to learn These stories often feature characters who undertake research to protect the natural world, promote compassion for living beings and a sense of planetary responsibility. By providing adequate knowledge about the environment in childhood, children can develop as environmentally conscious people The probability increases. Such persons understand the need for conservation of natural coexistence and biodiversity very seriously and are always eager to play a beneficial role in environmental conserva-

tion activities. Science stories and environmental stories not only create mental development and environmental awareness in children but also play an important role in imparting moral values to them. Many of these narratives explore themes of justice, social equality and the ethical use of technology. of fictional characters Through experiences, children can be guided by moral dilemmas, moral decisions, and the consequences of their actions. Encourages creative thinking Science fiction and environmental stories promote children's mental development, moral awareness and awareness of environmental challenges facing our planet. Science fiction plays a special role in developing a child's imagination and intensifying his desire to learn new things. Through the narrative of adventurers in the futuristic world of advanced technology and cosmic space. Children are introduced to scientific concepts in a very interesting way. Science writers create stories about space exploration, time travel and advanced civilizations. Through these stories, he entertains the child readers and acquaints the children with basic scientific principles. In addition, science fiction often includes problem-solving scenes. Encourages children to think critically and creatively. These stories are

childish by introducing characters who overcome challenges using scientific logic Stimulates minds to be curious, experiment and learn. The result is mental development of the child, which is essential for success in fields such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Increased desire to learn new things Apart from mental development, environmental awareness and moral understanding in children, science fiction and environmental stories act as a source of inspiration for future researchers. The imaginary worlds and future technologies presented in these narratives stimulate the desire to learn new things in children's minds. Increases Encourages them to imagine a world where scientific progress contributes to the betterment of society and the environment. By teaching children about the wonders of science and the importance of environmental conservation, these stories give birth to a new generation of problem-solving thinkers. Such thinkers are motivated by a sense of purpose and a commitment to building a better future. Invaluable tools for the proper development of minds In conclusion, science fiction and environmental stories are invaluable tools for the proper development of children's minds. This Stories not only promote mental devel-

opment, environmental awareness and moral understanding but also inspire child readers to become builders of a brighter and happier future. By providing children with such stories that combine imagination and education, we empower them to be good explorers, empathetic, and to understand and take responsibility for nature and the planet. In this way, we create the basis for a world where new discoveries, achievements and environmental conservation work step by step. They can walk together. A sense of environmental responsibility It is important to inculcate a sense of environmental responsibility in children in a world that is facing a continuous increase in environmental crisis. Environmental stories are capable of creating awareness among children about the importance of conservation of natural resources, the work required to maintain their long-term existence and human dependence on them. Children read about pollution, deforestation and climate change through narratives that reveal the impact of human activities on the environment. of Can understand the results.

(Vijay Garg Retired  
Principal Educational  
Columnist Malout)



# GDC R.S.Pura organises awareness programme regarding newly notified Criminal Laws

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15: Carrier Counselling and Placement cell, NSS and NCC unit of GDC R.S.Pura in collaboration with J&K Police Department organised awareness programme regarding the newly notified three Criminal Laws in the college premises.

The programme was initiated with the welcome address by Prof. Shelly Kalsi, Convenor Carrier Counselling and Placement Cell.

The awareness programme was attended by students and faculty members of the college



who were made aware regarding the newly three Criminal Laws viz Bharatiya Naya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Surksha Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam by the resource person DySP Nikhil Gogna, and SDPO R.S. Pura.

The resource person vividly explained the context for the change of laws and gave a comprehensive lecture of the old laws and new laws.

He talked on the apprehensions and myths about these Act and simplified the provisions of these new Acts.

The highlight of the programme was that the participants were involved in interactive discussions enhancing

the practical knowledge of the law.

Principal of the college Dr. Rajni Bhagat lauded the efforts of the committee for organizing such informative awareness programmes.

The programme ended with a formal vote of thanks provided by Dr Rakesh Choudhary, H.O. D Political Science.

The committee members who were present on the occasion were Dr. Rajinder Kumar Sharma, Dr. Raj Kumari, Prof Sanjeev Uphadaya, Prof Meeshu Pandita, Dr Sunil Kumar and Dr Vijeta Anand.

# Govt should issue orders of reservation for Pahari tribe under ST status: Congress

## Top News Report

RAJOURI, Mar 15: Senior Pahari leaders have taken strong exception to the non-issuance of the reservation orders by the Govt. after the granting S.T. status to Paharis and demanded immediate orders in this regard before the announcement of poll schedule, so that eligible Pahari youth can apply under category and avail the benefits.

In a joint statement former Minister and

DDC Vice Chairman Rajouri Shabir Ahmed Khan, Former Dy Chairman Legislative Council Jahangir Hussain Mir, former President Municipal Council Poonch, Rajinder Singh Kaka, Former Councilor & Senior Leader Rajesh Gupta-President Bepar Mandal Rajouti have expressed concern over the inordinate delay in the issuance of orders of reservation for the Pahari tribe after grant of ST status.

They said the Govt.

has been unnecessarily delaying the issuance of orders earmarking the percentage of reservation to the Paharis under the ST quota, keeping in view the elections.

The Pahari youth are feeling restless on this count and the Govt. should immediately issue orders granting due quota to paharis as per their population to facilitate the eligible pahari youth to apply for various posts under ST quota.

# GDC Kathua hosts Poster Making, Slogan Writing Competition

## Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 15: The Department of Commerce at Govt Degree College Kathua organized a vibrant and engaging Poster Making and Slogan Writing Competition on World Consumer Rights Day on Friday under the patronage of Prof. Seema Mir, Principal GDC Kathua. The event aimed to raise awareness about consumer rights and responsibilities among the youth.

With a total of 30 enthusiastic participants, the competition

show cased the creative talents and advocacy spirit of the students.

Through their thought-provoking posters and compelling slogans, the participants highlighted the importance of consumer protection, fair trade practices, and ethical consumption.

The event not only provided a platform for artistic expression but also fostered deeper understanding of consumer rights issues, consumer empowerment and protection among the college students.

Principal Prof. Seema Mir appreciated the



efforts of the department in organizing such events aimed to spread awareness among the students to be responsible consumers.

Prof. Charandeep Handa, Head, Department of Commerce acquainted the participants with the theme of Consumer Rights Day 2024, 'Fair and Responsible Artificial Intelligence' and its significance in today's digital world.

The esteemed judging panel consisted of Dr. Yaspaul Sharma, HOD Urdu, Dr Neelam Bhagat HOD Home Science and Prof. Manmohan Singh, Dept. of History.

The first position was bagged by Mahi Verma, Anshika Vaid came second and Stuti got third position in the competition.

The event was organized by Dr.Pinkey and Prof. Fathey Singh under the supervision of Prof.Charandeep Handa, HOD Commerce.

# Principal HSS Assar holds Cluster Head Meeting



## Top News Report

DODA, Mar 15: A meeting was convened by Principal HSS Assar (Cluster Head) of all the HOI's of Cluster HSS Assar.

The agenda of the meeting was to discuss and plan the implementation of the School complex system under NEP 2020 with a focus on collaborative efforts to enhance Educational outcomes with in the Cluster, and issues pertaining to the conduct of summative assessment of Classes 1st to 9th as per the guidelines provided by SCERT.

At the every outset, all the HOI's were sensitized above their roles in enhancing the quality of education and nurturing holistic development with in the Cluster level Khursheed Ahmed Wani Lecturer Economics I/C MSE, exhorted the role of HOI's for the smooth conduct of 8th class, summative assessment, there by maintaining the sanctity in ensuring exams and pertaining to the confidential material.

The Cluster head emphasis the need of collaborative effort among the Institutions

within the Cluster so that regular follow up meetings, monitoring and evaluation mechanism, feed back mechanism and above all punctuality of staff should be buildup which ultimately paved a way towards strengthening the goals under school complex system.

The meeting served as a platform for stakeholders to exchange ideas, identify challenges and chart a course of actions in order to enhance the quality of education and nurturing holistic development from gross root level.

# GDC Udhampur organizes awareness lecture on “Importance of Casting Vote”

## Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Mar 15: In continuum of the league of programs under Azadi Ka Amrut Kaal, the SVEEP Cell of Government Degree College Udhampur in collaboration with the Viksit Bharat Coordination Cell and NSS organizes an awareness lecture on the topic, “Importance of Casting Vote” in the conference hall under the Patronship of Principal (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta for “Viksat Bharat @2047”.

The event included an inaugural and a technical session, which was conducted by Prof Rahul Sharma.

The program started with a formal welcome address presented by Dr Shweta Sharma, Head Department of Political Science.

In her address she apprised all about the significance of active participation in the electoral process for the growth and development of the nation.

Dr Sharma introduced the resource person, Professor Tania Akhter who is also the



Head, PG Department of English, GDC Udhampur. Prof Babu Lal Thakur, Head Department of Education and Dr Mohinder Pal, Head Department of Statistics were the special invitees on the occasion.

Dr Shweta Sharma and Prof Sanjeet Singh were the Coordinator and the Organizing Secretary for the event.

Prof Tania Akhter while talking on the topic, laid bare the different facets of casting vote and its importance in the democracy. In her speech, she emphasized all the students and the staff present over there to take active part in voting and build a strong and a progressive nation.

Prof Akhter highlights three main reasons of voting. First,

voting is a right that many generations have fought hard for.

Secondly, voting allows citizens to have their beliefs and issues represented in government. Finally, every vote matters in deciding the outcome of an election. A small voter margin can be the difference between a candidate winning or losing.

Principal Prof (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta in his address said that Voting is a way for citizens to actively participate in the democratic process and have a say in the governance of their country or community. It is a fundamental right that enables people to participate in choosing representatives and formulating laws that will affect

both their personal lives and the welfare of society as a whole.

Voting satisfies civic obligations and demonstrates citizens' commitment to participating actively and responsibly in the democratic system.

Dr Gupta appreciated the efforts of the SVEEP Cell for organising such an informative and educative lecture and also for creating awareness about the electoral process.

At the end Dr Jagjeet Singh, Convener, Electoral Literacy Club (ELC) tendered the formal vote of thanks. The session was attended by a number of faculty members Viz. Prof Suresh Kumar Dogra, Dr Ashok Sharma, Dr Gurpreet Kour, Dr Piyali Arora, Prof Rakesh Singh Dr Meena Gupta, Prof Sanjeev Kumar, Dr Anju Rani, Dr Sumati Anthal, Prof Anil Kumar Thappa, Prof Rajesh Singh Manhas and students.

The proceedings of the program were ably conducted by Mehroz Chandail, a student of PG-I Semester, Department of English.

# NSS Winter Camp of GDC Kathua enters day 3



## Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 15: GDC Kathua has initiated a Seven Days Winter Camp, running from 13th to 19th of March 2024, aimed at fostering community engagement and environmental consequences under the able guidance of

esteemed principal of the college Prof. Seema Mir.

On 3rd day of the camp, NSS Program officers along with NSS volunteers ventured into the adopted village Logate, Kathua and took part in various activities under Voter's Awareness campaign.

Volunteers conducted a rally and door to door campaign and made the general public awareness to wise fully use their vote as it is their democratic right which contributes in nation building. Subsequently, a play (Nukkad Natak) based on the theme “Nothing like Voting, I vote for sure” was also performed by the NSS volunteers at the main chowk of the village in which large number of villagers took part and lauded the efforts of NSS Volunteers.

# NHM Employees Association Kishtwar extends condolences to Family of Late Yassir Butt

## Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 15: The NHM (National Health Mission) Employees Association Kishtwar expressed profound sorrow and extended heartfelt condolences to the family of late Mr. Yassir Hussain Butt, along with his three other family members, who tragically lost their lives in a devastating accident on March 14, 2024.

In a solemn statement issued by Dr. Nazir Hussain, the President of NHM Employees Association Kishtwar, the association conveyed its deepest sympathies to the bereaved family members and friends of the deceased. Yassir Hussain Butt, renowned for his dedicated service as a Driver at DH Kishtwar, leaves behind a legacy of commitment and integrity that has

deeply impacted his colleagues and the community at large.

“The NHM Employees Association Kishtwar mourns the untimely demise of Yassir Hussain Butt and his family members. Their loss is deeply felt by all of us,” stated Dr. Nazir Hussain.

The association further emphasized its support for the grieving family during this difficult period. Members of the NHM Employees Association Kishtwar stand united in solidarity, offering their prayers and assistance to help the family cope with their immeasurable loss.

Yassir Hussain Butt's contributions to the healthcare sector and his compassionate service will be fondly remembered by colleagues and acquaintances alike. His departure has left a void that will be difficult to fill.

# CEO Kishtwar conducts inspection visit to Schools at HSS Dool

## Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 15: Chief Education Officer Kishtwar, R K Vesheshta, undertook an inspection visit today to Higher Secondary School Dool and GMS Malikpora Dool.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the functional and punctuality aspects of the educational staff, as well as to review arrangements for the ongoing 10th Class Regular Exam conducted by JKBOSE.

During the visit, Vesheshta meticulously checked the attendance



register and emphasized the importance of punctuality and the utilization of biometric attendance systems as well as the arrival register.

He provided instructions to teachers on the significance of being punctual and stressed the need for vigilance in

delivering quality education to students.

“Punctuality among both teachers and students is paramount for maintaining a conducive learning environment,” stated Vesheshta.

“By setting an example of punctuality, teachers instill values of responsibility and respect for

schedules in students. Vigilance further allows us to identify challenges and provide necessary support to ensure every student receives adequate attention.”

In addition to inspecting educational functionalities, Vesheshta assessed infrastructure and PM Poshan initiatives in the schools. He urged for efforts to bridge educational gaps and ensure the smooth conduct of primary and middle exams currently underway.

Furthermore, CEO Kishtwar Vesheshta interacted with staff

members, providing insightful directives to Head of Institutions (HOIs) regarding the upcoming educational session. He also reviewed Assured Minimum Facilities for polling centers established within these schools.

Vesheshta emphasized the need for an extracurricular activities calendar for the upcoming educational session, highlighting the importance of holistic student development besides stressed for the regular PTM meetings and strengthening of SMCs in the schools.



## Singer Kavita Seth says the lyrics of a composition decides whether she would sing that particular song or not

Spring and music go hand-in-hand. And to complement the mood, comes Kasauli Music Festival. This two-day festival will roll on March 29. Singer Kavita Seth will be rounding up the event with her hit numbers such as Rangsi Saari, Iktara, Tum Hi Ho Bandhu and other tracks.

On Wednesday, the singer had an interaction with the media. She says, "The people of North India are very warm and welcoming. I have always enjoyed performing in Punjab. It will be my first time in Kasauli. The weather is really good and I hope that it stays the same till April 5 as I want to explore Himachal Pradesh and take back lots of memories."

Although Kavita has been a part of the Hindi film industry, she stays distant from any groups or regular playback-singing circles. "It's because lyrics have always been very important for me to do justice to a song. When I was in Delhi during the initial stage of my career, I was advised to do all kinds of work to stay relevant. And, I had listened to those people but soon I realised that wasn't who I am in reality. I would call meeting Pakistani singer and composer Abida Parveen ji as the turning point of my life. We were part of Muzaffar Ali's Jahan-e-Khusrau music festival and after that I moved towards ghazal and poetry and never looked back."



Kavita got her first big break after Satish Kaushik heard her sing at the festival. He gave her the song Maula for the movie Vaada (2005).

She is selective about her projects. Kavita recalls how she refused Himesh Reshammiya's song Hookah Bar because she didn't like the lyrics. Though the song became a hit later, she still has no regrets because, 'Had I done that, I would be offered the same kind of projects later.' In fact, after Kavita did Tumhi Ho Bandhu for

Cocktail, she was flooded with offers for similar tracks.

Ask her who she likes to listen

to and she has all the ghazal and sufi singer names on her fingertips. From Ghulam Ali to Jagjit Singh, to Farida Khanum to Nayyara Noor. "But I love Jagjit Singh ji. From his ghazals, I have learnt how to keep a simple composition and yet do wonders with it," she adds.

Kavita has also done songs based on compositions of poets such as Amrita Pritam, Bashir Badr and Kabir and others.

On the recent trend of many singers singing all kinds of Ram dhun and bhajans after the pranpratishtha of Ram Mandi in Ayodhya, she has but one sentence to say, "Mujhe behti

Ganga mein hath nahi dhona tha." She explains, "Even though I had one song on Ram ready, I didn't want to take advantage of the situation and promote something with personal interest. I might release it on Ram Navmi." On collaborations, Seth longs to sing with Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh.

Interesting line-up

Apart from Main Kavita Hoon featuring Kavita Seth, the famous Rajasthani folk singer Kutle Khan's Kutle Khan Project will also be a major draw. Fouzia Dastango and renowned vocalist Vidhi Sharma's Musical Dastangoi on Meena Kumari, titled Meena Kumari Ki Dastaan is specially being done to commemorate Meena Kumari's death anniversary, which falls on March 31. The artiste line-up of Kasauli Music Festival also includes Himalayan Routes, a folk-fusion band from Shimla, Hindi rock music band, HP 14-The Band and singers like Akash Verma, Jasleen Aulakh and Vidhi Sharma.

Chandigarh connect

"Chandigarh has always given me so much love. I thoroughly enjoyed performing at Tagore Theatre back in the day. Also, I loved the vibe of Panjab University when I had performed in Youth Festival. Hope to see all those music lovers in Tricity at Kasauli Music Festival as well," says Kavita.

## Mrunal Thakur to speak at UN panel on human cost of conflict-related sexual violence



Mrunal Thakur, who is known for her roles in Sita Ramam, Hi Nanna, Dhamaka and others, is set to participate in a panel discussion titled Human Cost of Conflict Related Sexual Violence.

The panel is set to be

hosted at the UN Headquarters in New York on Thursday, and the actress will attend the event virtually owing to her work commitments.

Mrunal's work in Love Sonia brought her a lot of acclaim, as the film sheds light on the grim

reality of human trafficking. The panel aims to explore the global context and impact of sexual violence in conflict zones, including human trafficking.

Mrunal's presence adds significant weight to the discussion, given her portrayal of the harrowing experiences faced by victims of trafficking in Love Sonia.

Expressing her anticipation for the event, Mrunal said in a statement, "Being a part of this panel discussion is a profound honour for me. Love Sonia was not just a film; it was a journey into the darkest corners of humanity, shedding light on the unimaginable suffering endured by victims of human trafficking. Through my role, I had an opportunity to delve deep into the complexities of this issue, and it has since become a cause that is close to my heart." She added, "Participating in this panel allows me to lend my voice to the collective effort of raising awareness and advocating for change. It's an opportunity to amplify the voices of those who have been silenced and to stand in solidarity with survivors of conflict-related sexual violence."

## Cardi B's tooth comes off after she chews on a hard bagel

Rapper Cardi B showed off her missing tooth after one of her veneers recently fell out. The Grammy-winning rapper shared a hilarious video on TikTok.

In the clip, Cardi struts around a picturesque outdoor pool in a high-fashion look as a teaser of her upcoming single Enough (Miami) plays in the background and text on the screen reads, "Wait till the end for a surprise."

The video then cuts to Cardi filming herself while sitting in a chair, before she smiles to reveal the missing tooth.

She explained the ordeal in a separate post shared to her BG Secret Society broadcast channel on Instagram, writing, "Why one of (my) veneers came



out chewing on a hard a\*\* bagel?" Enough (Miami) is set

to come weeks after Cardi B released Like What (Freestyle).

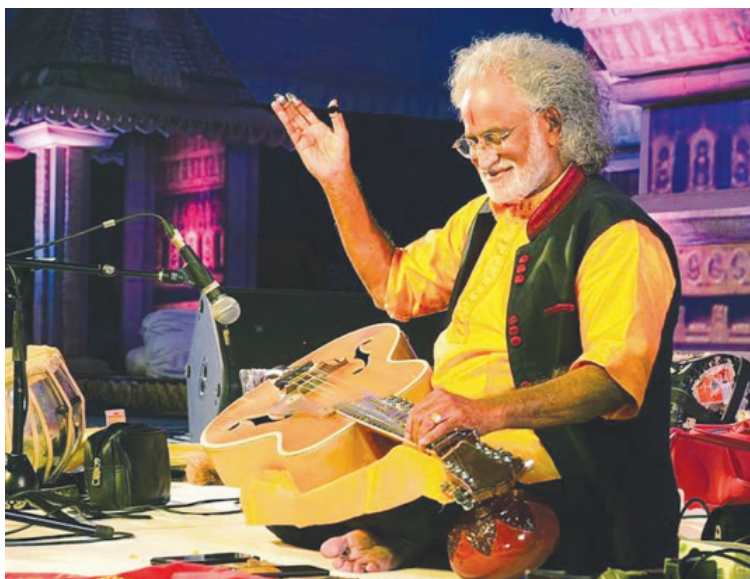
## The 53rd Bhaskar Rao Nritya and Sangeet Sammelan opens today

The Pracheen Kala Kendra is all set to mesmerise classical music and dance enthusiasts with its 53rd All-India Bhaskar Rao Nritya and Sangeet Sammelan. The 10-day festival starting today promises to be a celebration of culture.

In addition to live performances, the Kendra will honour Prof Saubhagya Vardhan, Suchitra Mitra and Pt Vijay Shanker Mishra for their remarkable contributions to performing arts.

The festival will open with violin maestro Deepak Pandit's performance. Following that, Rama Vaidyanathan will present a Bharatnatyam recital. March 16 will present vocalist Amjad Ali Khan. The night will conclude with a performance by Odissi dancer Kiran Sehgal.

Prepare for a double dose of musical magic on March 17! The evening will begin with a vocal recital by the Kashyap Bandhus, showcasing the harmonious blend of their voices.



This will be followed by a jugalbandi featuring sitar maestros Manju Mehta and Amita Dalal. On March 18, get ready for the captivating sounds of santoor by Rajkumar Majumder. It will be followed by Kuchipudi dance by Meenu Thakur.

March 19 will feature the soul-

ful voice of Sujata Gurav Kumar. Rajeeb Chakraborty will then take over with his sarod recital, accompanied by the renowned tabla player Ustad Akram Khan. On March 20, delve into the rich heritage of dhrupad with Samit Mallick's vocal recital. The evening will conclude with a unique

presentation featuring Pt Vishwamohan Bhatt and Salil Bhatt, two of the most celebrated Mohan Veena players. March 21 will see Pt Mohan Darekar's vocal recital. The night will conclude with a jugalbandi featuring Rajendra Banerjee on harmonium and Vinayak Sahai on sarangi.

The highlights of March 22 are KA Chanchal's vocal recital, followed by Pt Kushal Das' sitar performance. On March 23, Shalmalee Joshi's vocal recital will open the evening. It will be followed with a unique instrumental ensemble featuring Pt Ronu Majumder (flute), R Kumaresh (violin), Pt Aditya Kalyanpur (tabla) and Harikumar (mridangam).

The festival will conclude on March 24 with the vocal recital by Ritesh and Rajnish Mishra. The grand finale will present Vidha Lal's Kathak performance at Tagore Theatre.

## Lakme Fashion Week x FDCI: Neha, Konkona join 'Chola' designer Sohyea Mishra for 'tea party' on runway

Neha Dhupia and Konkona Sen Sharma joined designer Sohyea Mishra for a 'tea party' while showcasing her latest collection in collaboration with 'Tea Culture of The World' on the second day of Lakme Fashion Week x FDCI.

Konkana opened the show that featured structured silhouettes such as jumpsuits, anti-fit dresses and pantsuits.

An array of shades, from black and grey to salmon, mauve, pink, olive and olive green, lived the colour palette of the collection made from linen, cotton, denim and ikkat.

Though it was a tea party, keeping in mind the collaboration, the music picked for the models to walk on was carefully curated.



Jazz numbers such as 'Cinnamon Girl', 'Upside Down', 'I Want to Make Love to You' and 'All That Jazz' played as models and the Bollywood personalities sashayed down the runway.

Neha was chosen to close the show for

'Chola'. Before she made her way, though, she was joined by her friends Konkona and the designer for a mock tea party on the runway.

Talking about her collection, the 'Chola' designer said: "The whole thing was about

the culture of tea. When women sit around and talk to each other, it is almost like therapy, where you give the power and opportunity to make each other unapologetic."

Mishra said Neha and Konkona, both of whom

are known in the industry for their strong personalities, "made the show".

Konkana said she feels good wearing the label 'Chola'. She revealed that it is one label that she owns some pieces of. She called it "unconventional".

Neha added that her relationship with the designer goes back by more than 15 years and shared that the first piece Mishra designed for her is with her even today.

"Anything she puts together, there is a lot of clarity and is aesthetic. She's not out there to prove anything to anyone and I feel like her craft talks. She never gets one stitch or one button wrong," Neha said.

## Dua Lipa unveils title of third album titled Radical Optimism



Singer-songwriter Dua Lipa has unveiled the title and cover art of her upcoming album Radical Optimism.

The album, which is her third studio album, consists of 11-tracks, and is set to be released on May 3.

"A couple years ago, a friend introduced me to the term Radical Optimism. It's a concept that resonated with me, and I became more curious as I started to play with it and weave it into my life", Dua Lipa said.

"It struck me, the idea of going through chaos gracefully and feeling like you can weather any storm."

The One Kiss singer then teased various genres she'll explore on the album.

Dua Lipa said, "At the same time, I found myself looking through the music history of psychedelia, trip hop, and Britpop. It has always felt so confidently optimistic to me, and that honesty and attitude is a feeling I took into my recording sessions."



# PM Modi To Launch BJP's Campaign In Karnataka From Congress Chief's Turf

BENGALURU, Mar 15 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi would formally kickstart the BJP's Lok Sabha election campaign in Karnataka on Saturday from Congress President M Mallikarjun Kharge's home turf - Kalaburagi.

He is scheduled to address a mega public meeting at the district headquarters town's NV Ground at 2 pm.

Mr Kharge, who had represented Kalaburagi (Gulbarga Lok Sabha segment) twice in the past, lost to BJP's Umesh Jadhav by a margin of 95,452 votes in the 2019 general elections here -- the octogenarian leader's first electoral loss in his political life spanning several decades.

BJP has once again fielded Mr Jadhav from the segment.

Speculations are rife that the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, who has the role of managing the party nationally and coordinating with the opposition INDIA bloc, may not contest the coming polls and, instead, the Congress is likely to field his son-in-law Radhakrishna Dodamani, a businessman, who



also manages educational institutions.

On March 18, PM Modi will be in Shivamogga, the home district of veteran BJP leader B S Yediyurappa, and is scheduled to address a huge public meeting at 2 pm.

Yediyurappa's son B Y Raghavendra is the sitting MP from Shivamogga and has been re-nominated by the party. Yediyurappa's other son B Y Vijayendra, who represents Shikaripura assembly constituency in the district, is the state BJP President.

BJP has announced candidates for 20 seats in the State,

which has a total of 28 constituencies.

After being ousted from power by the Congress in the 2023 Assembly polls, the BJP now is making a strong bid to regain the lost ground in Karnataka.

The BJP won 25 out of total 28 seats in the previous elections, and had ensured the win of a party supported independent candidate in Mandya. The then ruling Congress-JD(S) alliance had come a cropper winning just one seat each.

It is a role reversal of sorts for JD(S), which joined the NDA last September and has forged an electoral alliance with the BJP.

The regional party is expected to contest in three seats -- Mandya, Hassan and Kolar.

Sharing details of PM Modi's visit, state BJP General Secretary Sunil Kumar on Wednesday said BJP National President J P Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath along with other leaders will visit different Lok Sabha constituencies for campaigning in the coming days.

Speaking about the party's poll preparations, he said: "We have divided 28 Lok Sabha constituencies into eight clusters for Lok Sabha elections. Keeping in view the local political and geographical background, programmes and strategies are being worked out in those eight clusters."

Several senior leaders including Shah and Nadda have already visited one of these clusters, Kumar said, adding, "workers' convention, well-wishers' contacts have been made and election preparations are on in all these eight clusters. In the second phase, large public meetings will be held."

# Former Navy chief Admiral Ramdas passes away in Hyderabad



HYDERABAD, Mar 15 (Agencies): Former Indian Navy chief Admiral L Ramdas (retd)

passed away in a military hospital here on Friday, defence sources said.

Ramdas, 90, served as navy chief between December 1990 and September 1993.

He passed away due to age-related issues, they said.

Ramdas is survived by wife Lalita Ramdas and three daughters.

# Criminal of Bangladeshi origin, associate nabbed following shootout in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Mar 15 (Agencies): A dreaded criminal of Bangladeshi origin and one of his associates were arrested following a shootout in southwest Delhi's Dwarka, police said on Friday.

Miraj alias Mehraj received a bullet injury in his leg while Shahid

was overpowered by a team of the Delhi Police's Crime Branch from a spot near Dhulirayas village in the early hours of Friday, they said.

A police officer said Miraj, a native of Bangladesh, was involved in a dacoity in a house in Ashok Vihar area.

He had decamped with cash and jewellery worth Rs 2 crore by holding the family at gunpoint in May 2023, the officer added.

"Miraj was previously involved in five cases of dacoity and the Arms Act," the officer said, adding that he had been admitted to a hospital.

# 20-year-old woman nursing student found dead in UP's Etawah

ETAWAH, Mar 15 (Agencies): The body of a 20-year-old woman nursing student of Saifai Medical College was found from a spot near the Etawah-Saifai road, police said on Friday.

According to Etawah Superintendent of Police Santosh Kumar Verma, it appears that the woman was killed and the body dumped at the spot on Thursday evening. The deceased had an injury mark on her neck, the officer said, adding that the body had been sent for post-mortem.

The deceased was a third-year student of the nursing course. One of her friends alerted the warden when she did



not turn up for her class on Thursday afternoon, police said.

Students of the college staged a protest on the campus, demanding swift action.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav slammed the BJP-led government in the state over the incident.

"The death of a Saifai University student under suspicious circumstances

is a very serious matter.

This is another very sad example of the declared zero-tolerance policy against crime becoming a zero during the BJP's time in Uttar Pradesh," he said in a post in Hindi on X.

Yadav also shared a video on X of the protesting students and demanded a judicial inquiry.

# 'These Pakistanis': Arvind Kejriwal as refugees protest over his CAA comments

NEW DELHI, Mar 15 (Agencies): As Hindu and Sikh refugees staged a protest near Arvind Kejriwal's residence, demanding an apology from him over his statements against the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), the Delhi Chief Minister slammed the protesters calling them "Pakistanis" and questioned their "audacity".

"The audacity of these Pakistanis! First, they illegally infiltrated our country, breaking our laws. They should have been in jail. They have the audacity to protest in our country, causing unrest? After the implementation of CAA,



Pakistanis and Bangladeshis will spread all over the country and harass people. BJP is causing trouble to the entire country for its own selfish interest of making them their vote bank," Kejriwal posted on X (formerly Twitter) on Friday.

The Hindu and Sikh refugees living in Rohini, Adarsh Nagar, near Signature Bridge and Majnu ka Tilla took part in the

protest. The protesters said Kejriwal should withdraw his statements against the CAA and refugees and tender an apology.

"The Narendra Modi government is giving us citizenship while Kejriwal is asking who will give us jobs and houses. He does not understand our pain," Panjuraam, one of the protesters, told agency.

On Wednesday, Kejri-

wal alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wants to settle poor people hailing from minority communities in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh in the country through the CAA and create a vote bank for itself. He had also alleged that those coming from Pakistan and Bangladesh and settling here will be given jobs and houses and that, in turn, will affect the locals.

The Centre implemented the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, on Monday, paving the way for the grant of citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and

Afghanistan who came to India before December 31, 2014.

Kejriwal in another post on X on Thursday said, "Today some Pakistanis demonstrated and created a ruckus in front of my house. The Delhi Police gave them full support." "They have so much audacity that having entered our country they are asking for a chief minister elected with a huge mandate of the people of Delhi to apologize, and the BJP is supporting them. The BJP for its hatred against me is standing with Pakistanis and betraying the country," Kejriwal said.

# Senior Punjab Congress leader Raj Kumar Chabbewal quits party, likely to join AAP

CHANDIGARH, Mar 15 (Agencies): In a setback to the Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, senior party MLA Raj Kumar Chabbewal on Friday quit the party and is likely to join the ruling Aam Aadmi Party.

The 54-year-old Chabbewal, who is a legislator from Chabbewal assembly constituency in Hoshiarpur district, posted on X, "Resigned today from INC and Legislative Assembly Punjab."

"I tender my resignation

from the primary membership of the Indian National Congress with immediate effect," wrote Chabbewal in his letter to the Congress president, which he also posted on X.

However, he did not mention any reason for quitting the party.

In another letter to the Punjab Assembly Speaker, which he also posted on X, Chabbewal, the Deputy Leader of Opposition in Punjab Assembly, wrote, "I



hereby submit my resignation from membership of legislative assembly, Punjab, with immediate effect".

Sources said he is likely to join the AAP, which may field him from the Hoshiarpur Lok Sabha seat.

Chabbewal was re-elected from Chabbewal in the 2022 State Assembly elections.

The prominent Dalit leader, who comes from Punjab's Doaba region, had also contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections from Hoshiarpur on a Congress ticket but had lost to the BJP's Som Prakash.

Gurpreet Singh GP, a former Congress MLA from Bassi Pathana, had recently joined the AAP.

# Senior BJD leader Prasanna Acharya injured as his car collides with truck in Odisha



BHUBANESWAR, Mar 15 (Agencies): Senior BJD vice-president and former MP Prasanna Acharya sustained serious injuries when his car collided head-on with a truck in Odisha's Sambalpur district in the early hours of Friday, police said.

The accident took place at around 1

am near Baladih in Rairakhol when the former MP was on his way to Sambalpur from Bhubaneswar. His car collided with an oxygen-laden tanker.

Acharya and his PSO were admitted to hospital while his driver sustained minor injuries, police said.

Sambalpur Superintendent of Police Mukesh Bhamu said both Acharya and his PSO were out of danger. They will be airlifted to Bhubaneswar for better treatment.

Acharya has sustained injuries on his head, nose, chin and other parts of the body, doctors said.

Meanwhile, police have detained the driver of the truck for questioning.

# Class 12 girl dies after falling off 18th-floor flat in Noida Extension, she was watering plants in the balcony

NOIDA, Mar 15 (Agencies): A Class 12 student died on Thursday allegedly after she fell off the balcony of her 18th-floor apartment in a group housing society in Noida Extension in a suspected case of accidental death, police said today.

The 18-year-old girl was watering plants in the balcony in the evening when the incident took place, officials said.

"The girl died on the spot after falling from the balcony in the Himalaya Pride Society in the Bisarkh police station area," a police spokesperson said.

Police rushed to the spot and legal

proceedings were initiated, the spokesperson said.

A senior officer told agency that the girl, whose parents are teachers, had recently got the results of her last examination in the school and had cleared it successfully.

"It appears that while watering the plants she slipped and fell off the balcony," the officer said.

The incident comes a day after a Class 7 student died allegedly after he jumped off the 22nd floor of his building in a nearby society in a suspected case of suicide due to exam pressure.

# Mamata Banerjee's health condition stable; doctors keeping close watch

KOLKATA, Mar 15 (Agencies): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's health condition is "stable", a senior official of the state administration said on Friday.

The 69-year-old Banerjee, who suffered a major injury on her forehead and nose during a fall inside her Kalighat residence in South Kolkata on Thursday evening, also "slept well", he said.

"The CM's health condition is stable. She had a good sleep in the night as senior doctors kept a close watch on her throughout the period. This morning there will be another assessment of her condition," the official told agency on Friday morning.

The Bengal CM underwent three stitches on her forehead and one on her nose and was discharged following necessary medical tests at the hospital.

"She had a cerebral concussion and had a sharp cut on her forehead and nose which was bleeding profusely. Initially, she was assessed by senior doctors of the neurosurgery, medicine, and cardiology departments of our institute and her vitals were stabilised. Three stitches were applied on her forehead, and one on her nose and the required dressing was done. Investigations like ECG, echocardiogram, CT-Scan, and Doppler were done," SSKM hospital director Manimoy Bandyopadhyay said.

Meanwhile, police are yet to lodge a complaint in connection with the fall of the chief minister though they have upped the security arrangements in and around Banerjee's residence in the Kalighat area, an officer said.

Referring to SSKM Hospital's bulletin that the CM had a fall "due to some push", the

police officer, however, declined to comment on whether they were planning to record the CM's statement or lodge any suo moto complaint in this regard.

"As of now, there has been no complaint lodged in connection with the fall of the CM. We have increased the security around the CM's residence," he told PTI, adding that they were looking whether there was any security lapse or not. Banerjee gets a "Z+ category" cover and has a special team of officers looking after her security and even at her residence.

The TMC on Thursday evening posted pictures of Banerjee bleeding from her forehead. Party national general secretary and Banerjee's nephew Abhishek took her to the hospital in his vehicle and got her admitted to the hospital.



# Russians are voting in an election that holds little suspense after Vladimir Putin crushed dissent

*Voters can also vote online*

MOSCOW, Mar 15 (Agencies): Voters headed to the polls in Russia on Friday for a three-day presidential election that is all but certain to extend President Vladimir Putin's rule by six more years after he stifled dissent.

The election takes place against the backdrop of a ruthless crackdown that has crippled independent media and prominent rights groups and given Putin full control of the political system.

It also comes as Moscow's war in Ukraine enters its third year. Russia has the advantage on the battlefield, where it is making small, if slow, gains. Ukraine, meanwhile, has made Moscow look vulnerable behind the front line: Long-range drone attacks have struck deep inside Russia, while high-tech drones have put its Black Sea fleet on the defensive.

Voters are casting their ballots at polling stations across the vast country's 11 time zones, as well as in illegally annexed regions of Ukraine. Russians can also vote online. This option has been used for the first time in a presidential contest; more than 2,00,000 people in Moscow voted online soon after the polls opened, authorities said.

The election holds little suspense since Putin, 71, is running for his fifth term virtually unchallenged. His political opponents are either in jail or in exile abroad, and the fiercest of them, Alexei Navalny, died in a remote Arctic penal colony last month. The three other candidates on the ballot are low-profile politicians from token opposition parties that toe the Kremlin's line.

Observers have little to no expectation that the election will



be free and fair. Beyond the fact that voters have been presented with little choice, the possibilities for independent monitoring are very limited.

Only registered candidates or state-backed advisory bodies can assign observers to polling stations, decreasing the likelihood of independent watchdogs. With balloting over three days in nearly 1,00,000 polling stations in the country, any true monitoring is difficult anyway.

"The elections in Russia as a whole are a sham. The Kremlin controls who's on the ballot. The Kremlin controls how they can campaign. To say nothing of being able to control every aspect of the voting and the vote-counting process," said Sam Greene, director for Democratic Resilience at the Center for European Policy Analysis in Washington.

Ukraine and the West have also condemned Russia for holding the vote in Ukrainian regions that Moscow's forces have seized and occupied.

In many ways, Ukraine is at the heart of this election, politi-

cal analysts and opposition figures say. They say Putin wants to use his all-but-assured electoral victory as evidence that the war and his handling of it enjoys widespread support. The opposition, meanwhile, hopes to use the vote to demonstrate their discontent with both the war and the Kremlin.

The Kremlin banned two politicians from the ballot who sought to run on an antiwar agenda and attracted genuine — albeit not overwhelming — support, thus depriving the voters of any choice on the "main issue of Russia's political agenda," said political analyst Abbas Gallyamov, who used to work as Putin's speechwriter.

Russia's scattered opposition has urged those unhappy with Putin or the war to show up at the polls at noon on Sunday, the final day of voting, in protest. The strategy was endorsed by Navalny not long before his death.

"We need to use election day to show that we exist and there are many of us, we are actual, living, real people and we are

against Putin. ... What to do next is up to you. You can vote for any candidate except Putin. You could ruin your ballot," his widow, Yulia Navalnaya, said.

How well this strategy will work remains unclear.

Golos, Russia's renowned independent election observer group, said in a report this week that authorities were "doing everything so that the people don't notice the very fact of the election happening."

The watchdog described the campaign ahead of the vote as "practically unnoticeable" and "the most vapid" since 2000, when Golos was founded and started monitoring elections in Russia.

Putin's campaigning was cloaked in presidential activities, and other candidates were "demonstrably passive," the report said.

State media dedicated less airtime to the election than in 2018, when Putin was last elected, according to Golos. Instead of promoting the vote to ensure a desired turnout, authorities appear to be betting on pressuring voters they can control — for instance, Russians who work in state-run companies or institutions — to show up at the polls, the group said.

The watchdog itself has also been swept up in the crackdown: Its co-chair, Grigory Melkonyants, is in jail awaiting trial on charges widely seen as an attempt to pressure the group ahead of the election.

"The current elections will not be able to reflect the real mood of the people," Golos said in the report. "The distance between citizens and decision-making about the fate of the country has become greater than ever."

# Europe must be ready for war if it wants peace: France's Macron



PARIS, Mar 15 (Agencies): French President Emmanuel Macron called President Vladimir Putin's Russia an adversary that would not stop in Ukraine if it defeated Kyiv's troops in the two-year-old conflict, urging Europeans to not be "weak" and to get ready to respond.

Macron caused controversy last month after he said he could not rule out the deployment of ground troops in Ukraine in the future, with many leaders distancing themselves from that, while others, especially in Eastern Europe, expressed support.

"If Russia wins this war, Europe's credibility will be reduced to zero," Macron said in a television interview mostly directed at a domestic audience, after French opposition leaders criticised his comments as bellicose.

Macron said he "deeply" disagrees with the opposition leaders. "Today, deciding to abstain or vote against support to Ukraine, it's

not choosing peace, it's choosing defeat. It's different," he said.

Macron's main opposition party, the far-right of Marine Le Pen, abstained in parliament on a vote earlier this week about a security pact France signed with Ukraine, while the hard-left France Unbowed party voted against it.

"If war spread in Europe, Russia would be to blame," Macron added. "But if we decided to be weak; if we decided today that we would not respond, it would be choosing defeat already. And I don't want that."

He said it was important for Europe not to draw red lines, which would signal weakness to the Kremlin and encourage it to push on with its invasion of Ukraine. He refused to give details on what a deployment to Ukraine might look like.

"I don't want to do so. I want Russia to stop this war and retreat from its positions and allow peace," he said. "I'm not going to give visibility

to someone who is not giving me any. This is a question for President Putin."

"I have reasons not to be precise," he said.

Macron said France would never initiate an offensive against Russia, and that Paris was not at war with Moscow, despite the fact that Russia had launched aggressive attacks against French interests in and outside France.

"The Kremlin regime is an adversary," he said, declining to call Russia an enemy. He also said Putin making threats about nuclear strikes was "not appropriate".

Macron said Ukraine was in a "difficult" situation on the ground and that stronger support from allies was necessary.

"Peace does not mean the capitulation of Ukraine," he said. "Wanting peace does not mean defeat. Wanting peace does not mean dropping Ukraine," he said.

He also said he hoped that the time would come one day to negotiate peace with a Russian president "whoever it might be", for the first time envisaging the possibility of Putin no longer being in charge in Russia.

Macron also said he had not cancelled a planned visit to Ukraine for security reasons. "That's what Russia said. You shouldn't believe them," he said.

# Suspected attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels strikes a ship in the Red Sea, though crew reportedly safe

DUBAI, Mar 15 (Agencies): A suspected attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels struck a ship in the Red Sea early Friday, causing damage to the vessel, authorities said.

The attack off the port city of Hodeida comes as part of the rebels' campaign against shipping over Israel's ongoing war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said the ship reported being "struck by a missile."

"The vessel has sustained some damage," the UKMTO added. It described the crew as being "safe" and said the ship was continuing on its way, suggesting the damage wasn't severe.

The Houthis did not immediately claim the attack, though it typically takes the rebels hours to acknowledge their assaults.

The Houthis have attacked ships since November, saying they want to force Israel to end its offensive in Gaza.

The ships targeted by the Houthis, however, have increasingly had little or no connection to Israel, the U.S. or other nations involved in the war. The rebels have also fired missiles toward Israel, though they have largely fallen short or been intercepted.

The assaults on shipping have raised the profile of the Houthis. A report Thursday claimed the Houthis now had a hypersonic missile,

potentially increasing that cachet and putting more pressure on Israel after a cease-fire deal failed to take hold in Gaza before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Hypersonic missiles also would pose a more serious threat to American and allied warships in the region.

Earlier in March, a Houthi missile struck a commercial ship in the Gulf of Aden, killing three of its crew members and forcing survivors to abandon the vessel. It marked the first fatal attack by the Houthis on shipping.

Other recent Houthi actions include an attack last month on a cargo ship carrying fertilizer, the Rubymar, which later sank after drifting for several days.

# Palestinian leader appoints longtime adviser as prime minister in the face of calls for reforms

RAMALLAH, Mar 15 (Agencies): Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has appointed his longtime economic adviser to be the next prime minister in the face of U.S. pressure to reform the Palestinian Authority as part of Washington's postwar vision for Gaza.

Mohammad Mustafa, a U.S.-educated economist and political independent, will head a technocratic government in the Israeli-occupied West Bank that could potentially administer Gaza ahead of eventual statehood. But those plans face major obstacles, including strong opposition from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and the Israel-Hamas war that is still grinding on with no end in sight.

It's unclear whether the appointment of a new Cabinet led by a close Abbas ally would be sufficient to meet U.S. demands for reform, as the 88-year-old president would remain in overall control.

"The change that the United States of America and the countries of the region want is not necessarily the change that the Palestinian citizen wants," said Hani al-Masri, a Palestinian political analyst. "People want a real change in politics, not a change in names ... They want elections."

He said Mustafa is "a respected and educated man" but will struggle to meet public demands to improve conditions in the occupied West Bank, where Israeli restrictions imposed



since the start of the war have caused an economic crisis.

In a statement announcing the appointment, Abbas asked Mustafa to put together plans to re-unify administration in the West Bank and Gaza, lead reforms in the government, security services and economy and fight corruption.

Washington welcomed his appointment but urged that Mostafa quickly form a Cabinet to implement changes.

"The United States will be looking for this new government to deliver on policies and implementation of credible and far-reaching reforms. A reformed Palestinian Authority is essential to delivering results for the Palestinian people and establishing the conditions for stability in both the West Bank and Gaza," National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said.

Mustafa was born in the West Bank town of Tulkarem in 1954 and earned a doctorate in business administration and economics from George Washington University. He has

held senior positions at the World Bank and previously served as deputy prime minister and economy minister. He is currently the chairman of the Palestine Investment Fund.

The previous prime minister, Mohammad Shtayyeh, resigned along with his government last month, saying different arrangements were needed because of the "new reality in the Gaza Strip."

The Palestinian Authority was established in the 1990s through interim peace agreements and was envisioned as a stepping-stone to eventual statehood.

But the peace talks repeatedly collapsed, most recently with Netanyahu's return to power in 2009. Hamas seized power in Gaza from forces loyal to Abbas in 2007, confining his limited authority to major population centers that account for around 40% of the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Abbas is deeply unpopular among Palestinians, many of whom view the PA as little more than a subcontractor of the

occupation because it cooperates with Israel on security matters. His mandate ended in 2009 but he has refused to hold elections, blaming Israeli restrictions. Hamas won a landslide victory in the last parliamentary elections, in 2006. Although it is considered a terrorist group by Israel and Western countries, Hamas would likely perform well in any free and fair vote.

Abbas, unlike his Hamas rivals, recognizes Israel, has renounced armed struggle and is committed to a negotiated solution that would create an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. That goal is shared by the international community.

Israel has long criticized the PA over payments it makes to the families of Palestinians who have been killed or imprisoned by Israel, including top militants who killed Israelis. The PA defends such payments as a form of social welfare for families harmed by the decades-old conflict.

The dispute has led Israel to suspend some of the taxes and customs duties it collects on behalf of the PA, contributing to years of budget shortfalls. The PA pays the salaries of tens of thousands of teachers, health workers and other civil servants.

The United States has called for a reformed PA to expand its writ to postwar Gaza ahead of the eventual creation of a Palestinian state in both territories. Netanyahu has ruled out any

role for the PA in Gaza, and his government is opposed to Palestinian statehood.

Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want all three territories to form their future state.

Israel annexed east Jerusalem in a move not recognized internationally and considers the entire city — including major holy sites sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims — to be its undivided capital. Israel has built scores of settlements across the West Bank, where over 500,000 Jewish settlers live in close proximity to some 3 million Palestinians.

Israel withdrew soldiers and settlers from Gaza in 2005, but along with Egypt imposed a blockade on the territory when Hamas seized power two years later.

Netanyahu has vowed to dismantle Hamas and maintain open-ended security control over Gaza in the wake of Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, in which militants stormed into southern Israel, killing some 1,200 people and taking another 250 hostage. Israel's subsequent invasion of Gaza has killed more than 31,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials.

The Palestinian Authority has said it will not return to Gaza on the back of an Israeli tank, and that it would only assume control of the territory as part of a comprehensive solution to the conflict that includes statehood.



# Apni Party takes out protest march in Ramgarh

Manjit Singh demands holding of assembly elections, restoration of statehood to J&K

## Top News Report

RAMGARH, Mar 15: Apni Party on Friday staged a peaceful protest, demanding holding of Legislative Assembly Elections and restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir to mitigate the issues of the masses.

The protest march was led by Provincial President of the Party, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh at Ramgarh. The demonstration was organized by District President Legal Cell, Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti.

To highlight the issues being confronted by the people, the Party leaders under the leadership of S. Manjit Singh took out a protest march while shouting slogans in support of their demands.

The protesters demanded that the public issues have multiplied with the non-serious approach of the authorities, especially because there is no elected Govt.

"The Election Commission of India should announce holding of Legislative Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir which have been delayed for the last several years," said Manjit Singh, addressing the



Party's protesting leaders, and other workers in Ramgarh who were holding placards in support of their demands.

While seeking restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, he said that "The bureaucracy is not working in public interest, and the people have lost their voice in the Govt that has given rise to the feeling of alienation and widened the gap between public-administration."

As the sloganeering continues, he pointed out about the plight of the refugees/Displaced Persons whose issues remain unaddressed regarding the release of pending package amount and granting of ownership rights on the land allotted to them by the Govt.

He said that the Govt of India should release the pending package amount Rs 25 lakhs in favour of each refugee/DP

family in Jammu and Kashmir, out of total, Rs 5.5. that has already been released for these families.

"We fail to understand why the sanctioned amount for the financial support of the refugees/DPs has not been released," he said, while demanding its immediate release.

He also demanded that the refugees/ DPs should be granted proprietary rights over the allotted Custodian and Govt land in Jammu and Kashmir.

"These refugees/DPs were settled in these lands by the respective Govts following their displacement from their own properties in 1947, 1965 and 1971," he said.

He also demanded on the spot a special recruitment drive for the unemployed youth in border villages in police, paramilitary and Indian Army.

# BJP Morchas to intensify party activities at ground level: Yudhvir

Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas is mantra of BJP: Rekha

## Top News Report



JAMMU, Mar 15: Intending to bring up all the achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi -led central government, under "Vidhan Sabha Parvas Yojna" Vice President BJP J&K Yudhvir Sethi chaired the series of meetings in Bahu Constituency, drops under District Jammu South.

The meeting was organised and coordinated by District President Rekha Mahajan to intensify the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls 2024, to accelerate the party activities at ground level.

Yudhvir Sethi along with senior BJP leaders, interacted with Booth Karyakartas under Shakti Kendra/ Booth Sammelan, also interacted with the election management team of Bahu Constituency and threw light on review meetings regarding various programmes Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyan, Gaon Chalo Abhiyan, Shakti Vandan, NavMatdata Sammelan and ongoing programme of Labharthi Sampark Abhiyan. The Meetings with all Morchas of Bahu Assembly Constituency here at Party headquarters, Jammu in the presence of District Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, District President Rekha Mahajan, General Secretary Pushpinder Charak, Vidhansabha Sanjojak Vivek Patyal, Mandal President Neeraj Puri and Bharat Bhushan, Morcha Prabhari, District Presidents of

all the seven morchas including General Secretaries besides Morcha Mandal Presidents.

Yudhvir Sethi, while addressing the Karyekartas units, took the review of the BJP cadres and pressurized for the prompt activation of the same to intensify the party work at the ground level.

He asked the ground-level party activists to leave no stone unturned to convert the support for the Modi Government into votes in the upcoming Parliamentary elections in 2024. He urged the party of all Morcha units to frame a strategy to reach out to people across all corners to build a strong team for upcoming elections.

Ayodhya Gupta urges that every worker of the party has been given an important assignment for election management and each one has to prove his or her ability, and capability to face the challenging task bravely. He said that every management Department of the party has its role and united efforts will lead to achieving the desired results in the upcoming polls of the Lok Sabha.

In her presidential address, Rekha Mahajan said, "Booth Jeeta toh Chunav Jeeta in which the threadbare discussions on the ongoing and upcoming organizational programmes in context with Lok Sabha polls 2024.

She asserted that the role of Shakti Kendra Pramukhs, booth president and all workers is very important to win the elections and BJP has won victory in every election only due to the efforts on the calculation of these workers. She educated that the BJP is the only party which is moving ahead with the goal "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" while working organizationally.

# BLSKS presents 408th musical play "Jago Grahak Jago"

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15: To observe the World Consumer Rights Day & to promote the traditional folk cultural of J&K, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) mount one week special awareness campaign in close coordination with Sangam Tru Art Production presented 408th its regular Friday Series Musical Play "Jago Grahak Jago" as parts of its regular feature at open air theatre Durga Bhawan Janipur Jammu .

The theme of this year for the World Consumers day 2024 is 'Fair and Responsible AI for Consumers' Consumers International, the global voice for consumers,



has chosen the theme. The programme commenced with welcome song Jag Jag Mada Grahak Mere jag- Ghode Bachi Sutta Ki Hai Chor Pede Baggi presented by the artists of BLSKS and lighting of traditional lamp by the Chief Guest / Guest

of honors.

The programme was inaugurated by the Chief Guest VK Magotra, Former Regional Director, Directorate of Field Publicity, Government of India, Dr Anju Dogra, Health Department, J&K Government, Dr Anupriya Sharma, President Medical Cell J&K were the Guest of Honor. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest said that it becomes essential that the people are aware of their rights, which broadly include.

The right to be protected from all kind of hazardous goods and services, right to be fully informed about the performance and quality of all goods and services, right to free choice of goods and services, right to be

heard in all decision-making processes related to consumer interests, right to seek redressal, whenever consumer rights have been infringed & right to complete consumer education. Magotra also lauding the role of Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan-(NGO) and underlined the importance of staging such plays in all parts of the state to generate awareness among the masses about various social evils through theatre/drama which are still very powerful medium of communication.

The music was composed by Renowned

Music Director of J&K, Mahesh Chander Kotwal .

The singers ,musician ,actors and students of Music and Computer institute who performed in the musical play were, KK Joshi, MC Kotwal, Rajni Gupta, Kuldeep Raj, Zulekha Bano, Bindia Okheda, Vandana Gupta, Sudesh Kumari, Sudesh Manhas, Kamla Devi, Renu Bala, Naiya Meenia presented the enthralled performance. Deepak Kumar presented vote of thanks for successful conduction of the program.

# FROM PAGE 1

## LG chairs J&K Bank's Sewa Se Swabhiman Program

have suffered injustice and discrimination all these years. Today I am happy to see that you have embarked on a new entrepreneurship journey with the help of J&K Bank and set foot on a path of economic prosperity for which I am pleased with J&K Bank."

Recalling the recent Srinagar speech of Prime Minister, wherein he spoke at length about the J&K Bank's transformational journey in the last few years LG, amidst applause from the gathering, said, "It was really a proud moment for all of us and J&K Bank has truly become a people's Bank now."

"Viksit Bharat and Viksit J&K will become a reality through youth and women empowerment. Let's not be job seekers but become job providers. I urge all of you - youth and women in particular- to come forward and defeat the psychological barriers and set on a journey with new desires and make honourable PM's dream and vision of 'economic prosperity for all' a reality", he added.

On the occasion, LG urged the youth to avail benefits of the employment generation schemes of Union and UT Governments while assuring that J&K Bank will provide all the requisite assistance without any limitations to bring a positive change in people's lives.

While acknowledging that the programs like Mission Youth, 'Back to Village' and 'My Town My Pride' have borne fruits with the disbursement of Rs 1373 Cr among 92000 entrepreneurs last year, LG further said, "All the stake holders, be it J&K Govt. or J&K Bank, will work as a team to bring positive changes in the lives of people. J&K Bank is very much active in reaching out to the masses and I can assure you this is just a beginning and we will continue to work for all sections of the society especially the marginalised."

Speaking at the event, Commissioner/ Secretary Vikramjit Singh said, "I am happy to see that 350 beneficiaries have been provided employment through loans. J&K Bank has always responded positively to the Government's call. Such self-employment initiatives for Kashmiri Migrants and refugees from West Pakistan and POJK will definitely help these people in terms of achieving self-sufficiency."

Wishing all the entrepreneurs present on

the occasion a great success, he hoped that they will act as brand ambassadors for their community. "Here I would also urge J&K Bank to bring in fold women entrepreneurs through self-employment generation schemes." LG handed over Loan Sanction letters to some beneficiaries on the occasion in presence of other dignitaries besides felicitating some of the entrepreneurs who have successfully started their own employment ventures by availing the finance under various schemes tailored by the Bank besides those sponsored by the Government. Relief Commissioner Dr. Arvind Karwani and District Officer KVIB Mohammad Sadiq were also felicitated for their support to the Bank during the ongoing drive.

A short film highlighting the Bank's special drive for Kashmiri Migrants and Refugees from WP & POJK was also screened at the event.

Earlier, in his welcome address MD & CEO said, "As a premier financial institution of J&K, we firmly believe that the key to sustainable development lies in harnessing the potential of our youth by equipping them with the resources to flourish in the fast-evolving competitive world around us. Today's event is of utmost significance as Kashmiri migrants and refugees from West Pakistan and POJK form a vital component of our society and deserve better and greater support from J&K Bank."

"During the special drive the Bank has received 1709 applications; out of which 350 cases have been sanctioned. The rest of the cases are being processed and will be disposed off on priority", he added.

Further, he assured the audience that J&K Bank will support and handhold these entrepreneurs so that their business ventures expand successfully and contribute not only to the development of J&K UT but the national economy as well.

The function concluded with the vote of thanks presented by the Bank's General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Sunit Kumar, wherein he expressed his hearty gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha besides other dignitaries and guests for sparing their valuable time and insights with the participants and making the program a huge success.

## SC issues notice to SBI, says bond numbers not disclosed

Bhushan, who appeared in the matter on behalf of the petitioner, that the alpha-

numeric numbers of the electoral bonds have not been disclosed by the SBI.

It issued a notice to the bank and posted the matter for hearing on March 18.

In its application filed in the apex court, the poll panel said the March 11 order had noted that the copies of the documents submitted by it to the court in a sealed cover during the course of the hearing be maintained at the office of the EC.

The EC said it did not keep any copy of the documents and added that those may be returned so that it can comply with the court's directions.

## Newly appointed ECs Gyanesh Kumar, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu assume charge

their joining at a historic point when the Election Commission is all set to conduct Lok Sabha elections, a spokesperson said. The vacancies had come up in the Election Commission after the retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey on February 14 and the sudden resignation of Arun Goel on March 8.

Gyanesh Kumar and Sandhu, both 1988-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers, belonged to the Kerala and Uttarakhand cadres, respectively.

## Ex-CM Yediyurappa booked under POCSO Act

Children from Sexual Offence (POCSO) Act and Section 354 A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

There was no reaction from Yediyurappa or anyone in his family on the complaint lodged against him at the Sadashivanagar police station.

## Night temp drops at most places in J&K, Gulmarg records minus 5.2°C

1.3°C on the previous night and it was 1.9°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 2.3°C against 1.3°C on the previous night and it was 0.2°C below normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a low of 0.6°C against 1.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C below normal there, the official

said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 5.2°C against minus 4.8°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.9°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 10.5°C and it was below normal by 3.5°C for the winter capital of J&K.

Banihal recorded a low of 3.2°C, Batote 5.6°C and Bhaderwah 2.7°C, he said. While largely dry weather has been forecast till March 20, the weatherman said that a fresh spell of rain and snow was expected in J&K from thereafter till March 24.

## 800 fire incidents in Kashmir, 180 in Srinagar alone: Officials

were reported in these incidents, emphasising the importance of caution, especially during the winter when heating devices are extensively used. He advised adhering to safety guidelines to mitigate risks.

The officer emphasised that many fire incidents result from short circuits and wiring damage, stressing the necessity of regular electrical inspections and the installation of protective measures such as MCBs (Miniature Circuit Breakers) to mitigate potential fire hazards.

Hussain also encouraged individuals to maintain contact details for their nearest fire stations and familiarise themselves with emergency procedures. For those without such contacts, he recommended using the helpline number 101.

## Amnesty scheme extended for JK electricity consumers

staggered payments or have not made any payment towards their electricity bills primarily due to a huge accumulation of outstanding power dues including late payment surcharges/interest which is leading to high commercial losses to JKPD/ Discoms.

The Amnesty Scheme has resulted in the recovery of Rs 235.58 crore from domestic consumers. Domestic consumers shall benefit by waiving off the surcharge amount and payments of the principal amount in affordable installments (EMIs).

"The Government/DISCOMS shall be able to recover the outstanding principal amount which shall result in decreasing

the ARR/ACS gap and shall have a positive effect on lowering AT&C losses too," it reads,

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, JK; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

## EC must restore democracy in J&K, Announce dates for LS, Assembly Polls: Omar

Abdullah said the question should be put to the office bearers of the alliance.

"If there is (a meeting), you ask (alliance president) Farooq Abdullah. I am not an office bearer in the PAGD, I belong to NC. Ask those who hold an office in the PAGD," he said.

Asked when the party would announce its candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, the NC leader said "whenever we wish to."

## J&K ACB arrest PDD employee in bribery case in Srinagar

accepting bribe of Rs 6500.

The statement reads that a complaint was received from the complainant, alleging demand of bribe by PDD employee, for providing electricity connection.

"Accordingly, a Case FIR No. 06/2024 U/S 7 of PC Act 1988 was registered with PS ACB Srinagar and investigation taken up," it reads. It added that during the course of investigation, a trap was laid and the accused official was caught redhanded while demanding and accepting bribe. The statement added that further investigation into the case is going on

## Police arrests drug peddler in Kulgam

identified as Riyaz Ahmad Dar son of Ghulam Ahmad Dar a resident of Churhat Qazigund carrying a nylon bag. During search, officers were able to recover 4.2 Kgs of Poppy Straw like contraband substance filled in the said bag from his possession. He was arrested on spot.

"Subsequently, case vide FIR number 68/2024 under section 8/15 of NDPS Act 2015 registered in Police Station Qazigund and investigation has been initiated",



## Seminar-cum-awareness programme on PM Vishwakarma organized in Pulwama

### Top News Report

PULWAMA, Mar 15: Field office of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, in collaboration with the District Administration Pulwama, organized a seminar cum awareness programme on PM Vishwakarma at GDC Boys Pulwama.

The event aimed to highlight the significance of PM Vishwakarma and promote awareness about the processes, benefits, training under the scheme.

The seminar saw a huge participation of more than 350 members of the local community, Vishwakarma's from various trades and officials from DIC, ITI, RDD and ULB's. The event provided a platform to discuss the contributions of PM Vishwakarma in fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and skill development in the MSME sector.



Showkat Ahmad, Additional District Development Commissioner Pulwama graced the occasion as the chief guest, delivering an insightful address on the importance of PM Vishwakarma's ideals and the government's efforts to support the eligible beneficiaries under the 18 trades covered under the scheme.

G. Velladurai, IEDS Joint Director, MSME DFO Jammu gave a detailed presentation

about the scheme and praised the collaborative efforts put by the office of General Manager, DIC, Pulwama acting as Member secretary of District Implementation Committee of PM Vishwakarma in successful conduct of the mega awareness programme and informed the house that the benefits of the scheme to reach the last man in the line. Details about the benefits of the scheme was also detailed by the speak-

ers including the recognition of the artisan with ID Card, training for improving the skill of the artisans in employing modern tools used in the market, Stipend of Rs.500 per day of the training, Rs.15000 worth E voucher, Collateral free Loan of 3 Lakhs in two tranches, Digital transactions benefits, Marketing support to be extended for the artisans.

During the Q&A sessions the participants

expressed the satisfaction about the reply given by the speakers and the district administration. The event was attended by artisan's key stakeholders from line departments including Dr. Peerzada Farhat, ACD, Pulwama, ACP Pulwama, Principal/ Superintendent, ITIs, Functional Managers, IPOs of DIC.

On the occasion, scheme pamphlets were released by the office of General Manager, DIC Pulwama in which key highlights of the scheme have been incorporated for awareness among the general masses.

The programme also witnessed distribution of Vishwakarma Certificates among the beneficiaries who completed the training course under the scheme from ITIs and private training centers of the district.

The programme ended with the vote of thanks by the Syed Shabir Ahmad, General Manager DIC, Pulwama.

## Keshav Chopra Organises Free Heart Check Up Camp at FCS & CA Office



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15: Chairman Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra organizes 82nd Free Heart check up camp at Directorate of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Office Jammu. The camp was inaugurated by Director FCS and CA Jammu Rifat Kohli JKAS and was attended by Joint Director Ashok Kumar, Chief Accounts Officer Akhtar Hussain, Deputy Director Supplies Jammu Yudhvir Padha besides other officers.

A medical team of experts including Cardiologist from Medanta Hospital Gurgaon exam-

ined the Employees and the Locals Visiting the office of FCS & CA Jammu for their Routine Work, PFT (Pulmonary Function Test), ECG, Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure and other tests were also done.

The motive of the camp was to provide the best health care services to the Employees who are always busy in performing their duties Samvedna Organises this Health camp at their doorstep. More than 87 People were examined by Cardiologists.

Speaking on the Occasion Rifat Kohli JKAS said "Health is Wealth" and only with good mental and physical

health we can deliver the best and serve the nation in the best way. She also highlighted the importance of routine health check-ups and praised the Samvedna society's initiative to provide quality healthcare services to the employees at their doorstep.

Speaking on the Occasion Keshav Chopra said that the Objective for Organizing Such Free Health Camps are to serve the Society and mankind, Keshav Chopra assured that he along with his team will continue conduct free medical camps in the future also so that maximum people can take advantage of it.

Dr Shantanu Singla (Cardiologist), Sandeep Singh Jamwal (Assistant Manager Marketing), Manshu Skolia, Deepshi Mahotra, Aanchal jamwal, Muneet Kour, Riya Thapa, Pearl, Vikas Kumar Sushil Gupta, Manoj Tandon, Fiza Mandi, Sourav and Others were also Present.

## Exhibition cum Workshop on promotion of Beekeeping begins at Samba

### District Development Commissioner welcomes ground-breaking initiative

### Top News Report

SAMBA, Mar 15: District Development Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma today led the inauguration of a one-day Exhibition, Conference, and Workshop aimed at promoting beekeeping organised under the HADP. The event, graced by the presence of District Development Council Chairman Keshav Dutt, Chief Agriculture Officer Samba Madan Gopal Singh, and other esteemed senior officers of the Department, marked a significant milestone in the agricultural landscape of the region.

District Development Commissioner Abhishek Sharma commended the Department of Agriculture Samba for its proactive initiative in organizing such a pivotal event. He under-



scored the importance of such gatherings in empowering farmers and beekeepers, highlighting their role in fostering innovation and growth in the farming sector. Sharma's active engagement with the exhibition stalls showcased his commitment to gaining

firsthand knowledge of the latest advancements in agriculture.

In his address, Sharma urged officers from various departments to follow suit in organizing similar events, emphasizing their potential to deliver tangible benefits to the farm-

ing community. His call for collaborative efforts resonated with the audience, reflecting a shared commitment to agricultural development.

District Development Council Chairman, Keshav Dutt lauded the efforts of the Department of Agricul-

ture Samba in orchestrating the event. He underscored the importance of showcasing cutting-edge technology to farmers, emphasizing its transformative potential in enhancing productivity and sustainability in agriculture.

The event also featured a technical session, providing attendees with an enriching platform to delve into the intricacies of beekeeping under the ambit of HADP. Participants gleaned invaluable insights from experts, fostering knowledge exchange and capacity building in the sector.

As the day concluded, the palpable enthusiasm and camaraderie among participants underscored the success of the event in fostering collaboration and driving innovation in the agriculture sector.

## EB scheme biggest scam of India: Congress

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15 : Congress has termed electoral bond scheme as the biggest scam in the history of Independent India, as Hon'ble Supreme Court has exposed this scam.

JKPCC Senior Vice President & Media Incharge Ravinder Sharma said that EB scam has exposed the

Modi Govt. and BJP and it will prove to be turning point in the political history of the country.

The common man had the right to know the details of the political funding & who are beneficiaries in return of giving undue benefits.

The party released the other details relating to the EB data to describe it a biggest scam through legal mechanism

which has been already declared unconstitutional.

Here's a quick analysis of the Electoral Bonds data disclosure that the SBI put out last night, after weeks of attempting to postpone it until after the election:

Over 1,300 companies and individuals have donated electoral bonds, including over 6,000 crores to the BJP since 2019.

## Interactive visual tools help farmers to learn sustainable farming practices at Kisan Mela

### Top News Report

JAMMU / LUDHIANA, Mar 15: During the two day Kisan Mela at Punjab Agricultural University Ludhiana, hundreds of farmers learned about sustainable farming practices through promoting regenerative & no-burn agriculture (PRANA).

PRANA seeks to help farmers adopt better ways to manage crop residue, preferably using no-till and regenerative agriculture practices in addition to promoting no-burn, improving soil structure and increasing soil carbon.

The PRANA project is being supported by Nature Conservancy India Solutions Pvt Ltd (NCIS) and has Reviving Green Revolution Cell (RGR Cell) and Manav Vikas Sansthan (MVS) as implementation partners, and Vertiver as a behaviour change and communications partner.

Fateh Veer Singh Guram from NCIS said that a host of methods such as drama, innovative games such as educational playing cards, snakes and ladders and dartboard games were used to generate knowledge among farmers.

Earlier, theatre artists were trained to enact an evocative play on regenerative agriculture in which the adverse effects of excessive use of pesticides, fertilisers and water and monocropping is depicted in



a play.

Chhaya Bhanti, Vertiver's CEO said "Shifting to regenerative agriculture is a key to building the climate resilience of farmers and we are translating this information into interactive tools so farmers can understand and embrace practices that do not harm the soil, the environment and the crop.

According to Dr. Gurwinder field manager Vertiver the players who aimed at the 'green' practices were awarded with a pack of playing cards, or callenders which contain information on sustainable agriculture. It was a fun event in which farmers learned about regenerative agriculture in an entertaining way.

Interestingly at the district-level melas, farmers have had a chance to interact with gamified learning tools such as 'succhaji khethi' cards and 'good and bad practices' dartboard game which have been designed with scientific knowledge to teach farmers about farming practices that can improve the soil, water and environmental

health of Punjab.

The Succhaji Khethi playing cards showcase 52 different regenerative agriculture messages supported with unique hand-drawn illustrations that can be seen and read by farmers when playing with these cards.

This is a very creative way to take important agri-messages to farmers, pointed out Kasbir Singh, Kanjli village sarpanch in Kapurthala district.

Meanwhile before launching these farmer 'games', PRANA's agriscientists, agronomists, communication professionals and researchers interacted with over 400 farmers in 18 districts of Punjab to assess knowledge gaps on regenerative agricultural practices.

The snakes and ladders game was also launched in schools where children, mostly from farmers' families, learned about the sustainable and green practices. After playing the game, the children volunteered to speak to their parents about the importance of soil health and no-burn agriculture.

## DDC reviews performance of departments under District Capex Budget in Reasi

### Top News Report

REASI, Mar 15: District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan today reviewed the physical and financial progress under various schemes of the district capex budget here at a meeting of stakeholder departments. The meet-

ing, held in the DDC office, assessed the progress of the RDD, Jal Shakti, JPDC, PWD, and PMGSY departments.

The DDC emphasized the need to complete the pending works in the next 10 days. He directed the concerned departments to iden-

tify bottlenecks and take necessary measures to ensure timely completion of projects.

Detailed discussions were held on the status of ongoing projects, allocation of funds and measures to ensure achievement of the targets. He urged officials to maintain transpar-

ency and accountability in the implementation of schemes and projects.

DDC directed the officers for regular field visits to ensure works are executed on time and under set quality parameters. He urged all stakeholders to redouble their efforts and work

with dedication towards realizing the vision of a prosperous and vibrant district.

SE Romesh Kumar, Joint Director Planning Narinder Kumar, ACD Pardeep Kumar, Xen PWD and PMGSY, CEO, BDO's and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

## IIT Jammu initiates Abhyuthanam: Academic Leadership Engagement for Directors/VCs from CFTIs, CUs



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15: In adherence to the principles outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Abhyuthanam, a five-day Academic Leadership Engagement, commenced with an opening address by Prof Manoj S Gaur.

The event featured a screening of the IIT Jammu Film, a warm welcome from the hosts, agenda setting, and participant introductions, each lasting 2-3 minutes.

Under this initiative, IIT Jammu is hosting 22 Directors from NITs, IIITs, IISERs, SPAs, NITTRs, and Vice Chancellors from central universities, who are expected to attend and actively participate.

The first session, led by Professor U B Desai, focused on pioneering inno-

vation in institutional leadership. Prof Desai highlighted the importance of challenging conventional norms and fostering innovation in institution-building. He advocated for a mindset that embraces ambiguity, encouraging individuals to navigate the complexities of uncertain situations and remain open to diverse perspectives and ideas.

Following this session, an engaging panel discussion was moderated by Prof Ashok Ganguli, featuring Prof Usha Natesan, Prof Somyajulu, and Prof HM Suryavanshi as panellists. The discussion centred on the "Changing Context of Higher Education."

During this insightful session, the panel examined the challenges and opportunities presented by NEP 2020, underscored the importance of traditional classroom learning in today's technology-driven era, and engaged in critical discussions regarding skill gaps and employability, among other key topics.

This five-day engagement is designed to include participatory sessions, case studies, panel discussions, and workshops aimed at developing a strategic plan for each institute, along with an implementation roadmap.

## CUJ Organizes Rally to Celebrate "Chunav Ka Parv"



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15: Office of the Dean Students' Welfare, Central University of Jammu organized large rally to create awareness about the "Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye" under the theme "Chunav Ka Parv".

The event aimed to active participation in the electoral process among students and the wider community.

To celebrate "Chunav Ka Parv" a rally was flagged off by Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice-Chancellor, Central university of Jammu who encouraged the students to spread the message in the campus and nearby vicinity. The awareness rally started from the campus followed by the visits to nearby localities and showed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and staff members, who marched in unity to emphasize the significance of democratic principles and the importance of voting rights. Prof. Sanjeev Jain, in his address, urged everyone to exercise their franchise responsibly. He said the purpose of these activities was to ensure universal enlightened participation of youth in elections. The rally showcased colorful banners, placards, and spirited chants, resonating with the theme of electoral participation and civic responsibility.



# Virat Kohli a must for T20 World Cup 2024: Kris Srikkanth blasts ‘rumour-mongers’

NEW DELHI, Mar 15 (Agencies): Former India captain and ex-selection committee chairman Kris Srikkanth has lashed out at rumours over Virat Kohli's place in India's T20 World Cup 2024 squad, saying that the star batter is a must for the team if they are to go on and win the trophy. The T20 World Cup will be played in the USA and the West Indies from June 1, weeks after the completion of IPL 2024.

Virat Kohli returned to the T20 set-up in the 3-match series against Afghanistan in January. it was the first time Kohli played the shortest format of the game at the highest level after the T20 World Cup semi-final in 2022. Kohli and Rohit Sharma were brought back into the T20 set-up by the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee, signalling their intentions to have them back in the T20 World Cup set-up.

Kohli made his intentions clear in the T20I series, hitting a 16-ball 29 in the 2nd T20I and then throwing his wicket away in the 3rd T20I by trying to be



aggressive. Kohli missed the 5-Test series against England in February-March to be with his wife Anushka Sharma during the birth of their second child and the former captain is expected to return to competitive action in IPL 2024.

Ahead of his competitive return, a media report claimed that the senior selection committee was mulling not considering Virat Kohli for the T20 World Cup in the USA and the West Indies.

"No chance. It's not possible to be without Virat Kohli at the T20 World Cup. He is the one who took us to the semi-finals in T20

World Cup 2022. He was the Man of the Tournament. Who is saying all this? These rumour-mongers, don't they have any other job? What is the basis for all this chatter? If India have to win the T20 World Cup, Virat Kohli is a must in the squad," Srikkanth said in his YouTube show.

'INDIA SHOULD WIN THE CUP FOR VIRAT'

While there were concerns about Virat Kohli's strike rate in the past in T20I cricket, the former India captain has always managed to do what the team needs. At the T20 World Cup in 2022, Virat Kohli top-scored with

296 runs in just 6 matches and played one of the finest knocks in T20I history against Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

While stressing India need an anchor in the batting order in the West Indies, Kris Srikkanth said that the Indian team should win the World Cup as a tribute to Virat Kohli, recalling Sachin Tendulkar's World Cup 2011 triumph.

"You need a guy who can just stay there. India need that sheet anchor, be it T20 World Cup or ODI World Cup," he added.

"Without Virat Kohli, the Indian team cannot go. We need Virat Kohli, 100 percent. I still believe Virat Kohli should be honoured like how Sachin Tendulkar was in 2011. The Indian team should win the World Cup for Virat. It will be a great thing for Virat Kohli," he added.

Virat Kohli is expected to join the Royal Challengers Bangalore camp over the weekend in Bengaluru. RCB will open their campaign in Chennai against defending champions Super Kings on March 22.

# MS Dhoni in IPL 2025? Won't be surprised if he continues, says Anil Kumble



NEW DELHI, Mar 15 (Agencies): Anil Kumble certainly feels that MS Dhoni could continue to play for the Chennai Super Kings in the IPL well beyond the upcoming season.

Dhoni is gearing up for what many feel could be his final campaign in the famous yellow jersey as CSK chase their record-breaking 6th IPL title. While there has been a lot of discussion around the wicket-keeper's career, Kumble feels that Dhoni may not be ready to take a break just yet.

Speaking to JioCinema, the former India coach remembered an incident where Dhoni turned up for an optional session in Ranchi, his hometown. Kumble said that when he asked Dhoni, the wicketkeeper said he just wanted to be around things.

Kumble would draw parallels between Dhoni and Sachin Tendulkar and said that both men always wanted to be around things. The former India coach said that the IPL maybe like an optional session for Dhoni and he wouldn't want to miss out on it.

"I never played with MS in the IPL. When I played with him in the Indian team, he was the first one to lift me up. I guess he was the strongest of the lot to lift a heavyweight. It was a fantastic moment for me."

"I remember, when I was coach and he was the captain, we were in Ranchi for a one-day game, for an optional practice session, he didn't need to come as Ranchi is his hometown. But he was there for the session. I said, 'What are you doing? We still

have a couple of days before the next game.' He said, 'No, I just want to be around.' That's him."

"Sachin was the same. When I was with Mumbai Indians, Sachin had played around 25 or 26 years of cricket. But on optional days, he'd be the first one to be on the bus."

"These two guys, I don't think can take a break."

"I won't be surprised if MS continues to play for CSK, because that's his optional session. He's so passionate, he wants to be there," said Dhoni.

What did Dhoni say about his IPL career?

After winning the IPL title last year, Dhoni said that he would come back and play atleast one more season of IPL.

"Looking for an answer? This is the best time to announce my retirement. But the amount of love I have received all over. The easy thing would be to walk away from here, but the harder thing would be working hard for 9 months and try to play another IPL. It would be a gift from me, won't be easy on the body," said Dhoni.

CSK will be playing in the opening match of the IPL this season on March 22 as they face Royal Challengers Bangalore.

# IPL 2024: Delhi Capitals rope in Jake Fraser-McGurk as injury replacement

NEW DELHI, Mar 15 (Agencies): Delhi Capitals on March 15 announced the decision to rope in Jake Fraser-McGurk as an injury replacement for pacer Lungi Ngidi.

Ngidi, who had played recently in the SA20, will not be taking part in the upcoming season and this prompted Capitals to go for Fraser-McGurk.

The youngster had already represented the Dubai Capitals, DC's sister franchise, in the ILT20 this year and made a big impact during his time with the side. In the ILT20, he played three matches for the Capitals and

scored 109 runs with a top score of 51 and a staggering strike-rate of 213.72.

"Delhi Capitals (DC) named all-rounder Jake Fraser-McGurk as replacement for Lungisani Ngidi for the upcoming edition of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024."

"Ngidi, who has played 14 IPL matches and has 25 wickets against his name, was ruled out of the TATA IPL 2024 due to injury."

"Jake Fraser-McGurk has played 2 ODIs for Australia. He joins DC for his reserve price of INR 50 Lakh," read the statement from IPL.

Fraser-McGurk had

played two ODI matches for Australia recently and made head turns in both matches against West Indies with the attacking intent he showed early on.

Delhi Capitals will also be missing the services of England batter Harry Brook, who they had bought in the IPL 2024 auction for 4 crores. Brook decided to withdraw from the tournament to mourn his grandmother's death and be with his family.

DC are yet to name a replacement for Brook. The Capitals will be welcoming back Rishabh Pant into their fold as the Indian wicket-keeper was declared to



play in IPL 2024 after an intense 14-month rehab and recovery process.

DC will begin their campaign on March 23 against Punjab Kings in Mohali.

Delhi Capitals Full Squad for IPL 2024

Rishabh Pant, Pravin Dubey, David Warner, Vicky Ostwal, Prithvi Shaw, Anrich Nortje,

Abishek Porel, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Lalit Yadav, Khaleel Ahmed, Mitchell Marsh, Ishant Sharma, Yash Dhull, Mukesh Kumar, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Tristan Stubbs, Ricky Bhui, Kumar Kushagra, Rasikh Dar, Jhye Richardson, Sumit Kumar, Shai Hope, Swastik Chhikara.

# Our chances are good to defend the trophy: Dwayne Bravo

CHENNAI, Mar 15 (Agencies): Chennai Super Kings' bowling coach Dwayne Bravo is confident of a good show by his team in the coming IPL.

"Chances are very good, just like every other team, there's a new season and most times CSK start as favourites," the former West Indies all-rounder said on the sidelines of a promotional event in the city. "At the same time, we can't go into the tournaments thinking that we are the favourite this time and we're going to win."

"We have to prepare well as a team, which we always do. We have some really good players and then the experience and

youth. That is the combination that always works for us. The very good management staff and obviously Captain Cool, MS Dhoni, is there. So we have a very good chance to defend on a trophy," said Bravo.

Bravo insisted that one of the reasons for CSK to be a formidable side in the league was MS Dhoni's leadership. "Yes, his (Dhoni) leadership speaks for himself. You know, players enjoy every moment playing under his leadership and I think the fans also appreciate his leadership and enjoy that. In fact I'm very happy that I was able to play most of my IPL career representing Chennai



Super Kings under the leadership of MS Dhoni," he said.

The forty-year old Trinidad born player who had made the smooth transition from player to bowling coach at CSK is proud and confident of his attack. "As a bowling coach, I find the CSK attack very good... Matheesha Pathirana, Shardul Thakur, Mus-

tafizur Rahman, Deepak Chahar and Tushar Deshpande... so the attack looks good, we have a lot of depth and again they are all young fast bowlers so I'm excited to work with them along with Eric Simons our bowling consultant," insisted Bravo.

Chahar who is back this season after an injury, looks good and also new recruit Rachin Ravindra could play a big role for CSK in the season. "Deepak Chahar is a quality bowler, so yeah, looking forward to another great season with him. Rachin Ravindra definitely is a good prospect. So the future of CSK is in very good hands," opined Bravo.

# Watson undecided on Pakistan head coach role despite PCB accepting fees demands

KARACHI, Mar 15 (Agencies): Former Australian all-rounder, Shane Watson, who is in line to take over as Pakistan cricket team's head coach, is yet to make up his mind despite the PCB accepting his remuneration demands.

According to sources in the board, Watson has demanded \$2 million annually, which is approximately around 46 million rupees per month, the highest fee ever paid to a foreign coach.

Former foreign coaches of Pakistan such as Richard Pybus, Bob Woolmer, Geoff Lawson, Dav Whatmore, Grant Bradburn and Mickey Arthur were paid much less than what Watson has demanded.

"He has a young family in Australia and also has commitments in the USA Major League. So, he is weighing his options as the board wants him to spend maximum time in Pakistan helping them also discover and groom talent at domestic level," the source said.

He conceded Watson was taking time to ink the contract because of the frequent changes within the PCB and the coaching staff.

Watson, at present, is coaching the Quetta Gladiators in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) and has no prior



experience of coaching an international team although he has dabbled in coaching roles in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi had made it clear that he would want a foreign coaching set-up to run the team with the full backing of the board.

Naqvi, despite being appointed as minister of interior, has also indicated he has no intention of leaving his post in the board and will do both the jobs simultaneously.

However, it will not be the first time an official heading the PCB has also held a position in the government, and the source said the International Cricket Council (ICC) had no objection to Naqvi donning the dual role.

Naqvi has already got six bureaucrats of the Punjab government to work on deputation in the board and also announced that he would be taking no salary as minister of interior.

# Osaka to play Billie Jean King Cup for first time since 2020

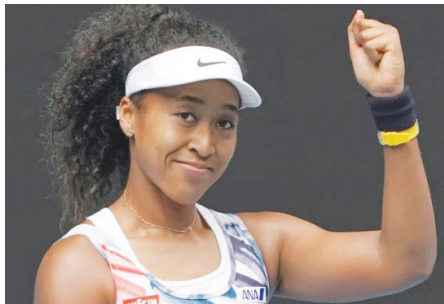
TOKYO, Mar 15 (Agencies): Naomi Osaka will play the Billie Jean King Cup for the first time in four years when Japan face Kazakhstan in a qualifier in Tokyo next month, the team said Friday.

The four-time Grand Slam winner and former world number one is making her return to tennis this season after giving birth, and last played at the tournament in 2020.

The 26-year-old has played at five tournaments since making her comeback, and lost to Belgium's Elise Mertens in the last 32 at the Indian Wells Masters earlier this week.

She is currently ranked 287 in the world after taking a 15-month break from the tour for maternity leave.

It will be Osaka's first appearance in Tokyo since she withdrew from the Pan Pacific Open in September 2022 before her second-round match.



Japan will face Kazakhstan on April 12 and 13 at Tokyo's Ariake Coliseum, where Osaka reached the third round of the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

The winners will advance to November's finals in Spain.

"She said that she wants to play, so I'm really happy," local media quoted Japan captain Ai Sugiyama as saying.

Osaka has previously said that she wants to play at this summer's Paris Olympics.

# Jofra Archer, substitute pacer for Karnataka, breaks stumps in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, Mar 15 (Agencies): England fast bowler Jofra Archer bowled for a Karnataka team against Sussex during a two-day practice match at the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) ground in Alur, near Bengaluru on Friday, March 15. Archer played as a substitute for a Karnataka team, which had a mix of U19, U23 and senior-side players.

Jofra Archer arrived in India as part of a 10-day training camp for County Championship side Sussex in Bengaluru. Another English club side, Lancashire, is also in Bengaluru for a training camp ahead of the upcoming County season. Both Sussex and Lancashire are expected to play a couple of practice games in Bengaluru before returning home.

Jofra Archer, who plays for Sussex, did not bowl on the opening day of the tour game against the Karnataka team after the tourists opted to bowl. However, he joined the



Karnataka team as a substitute on Friday.

Jofra Archer picked up two wickets in the morning session and one of them was a stump-breaker. The England fast bowler was looking in good rhythm as he ran into bowl to his Sussex teammates.

Jofra Archer has not played competitive

cricket since IPL 2023 in which he turned up for Mumbai Indians. The express fast bowler has been recovering from a stress fracture in his right elbow for which he underwent surgery.

Jofra Archer will not be part of IPL 2024 as the England pacer, who has had recurrence of elbow injury, did not put his name for the auction. The England and Wales Cricket Board has been cautiously managing his workload and he is expected to be in contention for place in their T20 World Cup squad.

England's T20I captain Jos Buttler expressed confidence that Jofra Archer can regain full fitness and play the T20 World Cup in June in the USA and the West Indies. "A couple of times (I've spoken to him). It's really exciting for him that hopefully he's going to get back to performing because as a captain, he's someone you want to throw the ball to," Buttler said while speaking at an event to promote Major League Cricket.



## Lt Governor releases Dr KC Verma's book on Modern Educational System



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha released

a book titled "Essentials of Learning in Modern Educational System" written by eminent cardiologist Dr KC Verma,

today at Raj Bhawan.

The Lt Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to the author.

## IHRSC skaters receive cash rewards from LG Sinha for stellar performances at National arena



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15: Indian Hawks Roller Skating Club (IHRSC) skaters have yet again made a mark by getting cash rewards for attaining distinction in roller skating at the national level.

Five skaters of IHRSC namely Kartikeya Puri, Samarjot Singh, Tamanna Saini, Udhay Narayan and Prageet Kour touched new heights of success after getting the honour of receiving the whopping cash rewards from none other than the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, after being handpicked by the Sports Council of J&K for their astral performances at the national skating

arena in individual categories.

In a prestigious ceremony marked by grandeur and reverence, the distinguished LG Manoj Sinha bestowed commendations upon these five exceptional skaters hailing from the illustrious Indian Hawks Club. These talented individuals were lauded for their extraordinary achievements at the national level, where they showcased unparalleled prowess and dedication, bringing honour and glory to their club and the Union Territory of J&K. LG Sinha in recognition of their stellar performances, awarded each skater with a generous cash prize, symbolizing not only the appreciation of their remarkable feats

but also the encouragement to aspire for greater heights in their sporting endeavours. The five achiever skaters, humbled and grateful for this distinguished honour, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to LG Sinha and reiterated their commitment to continue striving for excellence in their skating pursuits.

This felicitation served as a beacon of inspiration not only to the skaters themselves but also to the entire community, underscoring the importance of hard work, perseverance, and passion in achieving one's dreams. It is a testament to the unwavering support and encouragement provided by the Union Territory towards nurturing sporting talent and promoting a culture of excellence in sports.

It is pertinent to mention that J&K Government under the dynamic leadership of LG Manoj Sinha has come up with several initiatives to provide incentives to the sports fraternity of the region including world class state-of-art infrastructure to help players to excel and set examples for players belonging to other states and UTs.

## Where is Modi ji's guarantee to refugees: Congress

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15: Congress has questioned where is PM Modi's guarantee of 2014 to the POJK refugees, who feel betrayed and cheated after 10 years of BJP regime.

The BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made several commitments to POJK refugees 2014 elections but nothing was fulfilled after 10 years except sanction of a meagre amount of Rs 5.5 lakh out of Rs 30 lakh recommended by Congress coalition Govt in J&K, besides several other recommendations for the youths.

JKPCC said that BJP had promised Rs 30 Lakh to each family, reservations to refugee youth in central forces and professional & technical course all over India besides paying cash or making up deficiency of land to them.

He had also promised reservation of eight assembly seats for POJK refugees out of 24 seats reserved for residents of POJK.

Ten years of BJP rule, only meagre amount was sanctioned, through a cumbersome procedure for release, as a result several families are still left out but

the scheme has been closed. Nothing beyond this has been fulfilled and the promises proved false & election Jumlars, the Congress said.

Only one seat in assembly has been reserved for them in nomination category against promise of 8 seats under elected category while there is total refusal with regard to the left out financial package of Rs 24.5 lac, which needs to be revised after 10 years.

They urged the refugee people to give a befitting reply to the BJP, as it betrayed the community and ignored the struggle of the community.

They extended full support to the refugees organizations for their non-political struggle for the just cause of the suffering community.

The signatories included Ravinder Sharma-former MLC, Senior Vice President and Chief Spokesperson JKPCC, Vice Presidents Yogesh Sawhney, Vinod Sharma, General Secretaries Pt. Pawan Raina & Amrit Bali, S. Amolak Singh, H.S. Mehta, Sahil Sharma, Badri Nath Sharma, Rajinder Singh Nathu and Gajan Singh.

## Swachhta Ki Pathshala initiative launched to foster garbage free environment



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15: In a concerted effort to promote cleanliness awareness and propel Jammu towards becoming a garbage-free city, a pioneering initiative titled "Swachhta Ki Pathshala" was inaugurated on Friday.

Spearheaded by Big FM's RJ Juhi, in collaboration with the Jammu Municipal Corporation's (JMC) IEC Team, the event witnessed the participation of Swachhta Brand Ambassador, Arnavi Sharma, alongside the dedicated health officers and staff of JMC.

The launch event took place at Gandhi Nagar's bustling Gol Market, where citizens, shopkeepers, and hoteliers congregated to lend their support to this noble cause. The occasion was marked by an

interactive session facilitated by RJ Juhi and the IEC team, encouraging active engagement from all stakeholders.

One of the highlights of the event was the involvement of the citizens themselves, who shared their thoughts and commitments on a whiteboard prominently displayed at the Pathshala. Through this gesture, they pledged to conscientiously spread awareness and uphold cleanliness standards, thereby contributing to the transformation of Jammu into a pristine and garbage-free city.

Reflecting on the significance of the initiative, RJ Juhi remarked, "Swachhta Ki Pathshala is not merely an event; it's a movement fuelled by collective responsibility and civic pride. Together, we can effectuate lasting change

and ensure a healthier, more sustainable future for Jammu." Echoing this sentiment, Arnavi Sharma, Swachhta Brand Ambassador, affirmed, "Every individual's contribution, no matter how small, is instrumental in achieving our shared vision of a cleaner Jammu. Let's join hands and inspire others to embrace the Swachh Bharat Mission wholeheartedly."

In alignment with the nationwide Swachh Bharat Mission, "Swachhta Ki Pathshala" embodies the spirit of community collaboration and proactive citizenship. As Jammu strides forward on its journey towards cleanliness excellence, such initiatives serve as catalysts for social transformation, underscoring the power of unity and collective action.

## Satish qualifies Ph.D



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15: Satish Khajuria S/o Bishan Dass and Rani Devi R/o Ward 3, Bari

Brahmana of District Samba has been declared qualified for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Public Administration from Jiwaji University, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

He worked on the topic "Election Commission of India and National Political Parties: A Political-Administrative Analysis (2004-2019)" under the supervision of Dr. Alka Bhargava.

## Defense Accounts Retired Employees Welfare Association Jammu holds election



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15: The election of Defense Accounts Retired Employees Welfare Association Jammu for the year 2024-25 was held on Friday at the Community Hall of Defense Accounts

Department, Jammu Cantt. This election was conducted under the supervision of P.P. Sharma. Ashwin Trishal was declared elected to the post of President. Along with this, Ashwin Trishal announced his new team which included Darshan Grover as

Vice President, Rachpal Dingra as General Secretary, Yashpal Sharma as Joint Secretary, Krishna Gopal as Secretary, Raj Singh as Financial Secretary, Santosh Sharma as Office Secretary. Hans Raj Wahadur was nominated to act as executive member.

# National Seminar on Bhakti Literature concluded at CSK



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15: A national seminar was organized by the Hindi Department of Central Sanskrit University (CSK), Shri Ranbir Campus, Jammu on Bhakti literature in the context of Sanskrit, Hindi and Dogri language on 13 to 15 March. The chief guest of its inauguration was Prof. Ram Kumar Sharma of Central Sanskrit University, Jaipur Campus. He said that there is an inexhaustible store of devotional literature in Sanskrit. Along with this, Prof.

Manoj Kumar Singh of the Hindi Department of Banaras Hindu University, in his address as a special guest, said that the rise of the Bhakti period was a transformative event in Hindi literature.

The litterateurs indirectly worked to unite the society through devotional literature. Padmashree Jitendra Udhampur, as Saraswat guest, read Dogri poetry related to devotional literature.

The program was presided over by Campus Director Prof.

Shreedhar Mishra. A total of four sessions were organized in the national seminar in which about 150 research papers were read. The reading of research papers was done on hybrid mode in which eminent professors and research students from different universities and colleges of the country participated.

The chief guest of the concluding session of the national seminar was Prof. Manoj Kumar Mishra of Central Sanskrit University, Ganganath Jha campus.

He made a minute review

of various points of Bhakti literature in Sanskrit. He stated that there has been a distinct tradition of devotional literature in Hindi, Sanskrit and Dogri languages. Special guests of the program, Vice Chancellor of Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Divyang University, Chitrakoot, Prof. Shishir Kumar Pandey, Guest of Honor, Prof. Prabhakar Singh of Kashi Hindu University, Saraswat Guest, Guests of Dogri Department of Jammu University, Dr. Padmadev Singh, Sanjay Bansal, Prof. Satish Kumar Kapoor, Dr. Ramdas Sharma were present.

A detailed report of the seminar was presented by Kamal Kishore, Professor of Dogri subject.

The program was presided over by Campus Director Prof. Shreedhar Mishra. Dr. Pawan Kumar Singh was the coordinator of the program. Technical support was provided by Tirupati Bala and Manoj Abrol.

The vote of thanks was given by Dr. Rekha Mishra of the Hindi Department. The program was successfully conducted by Dr. Sarvesh Tripathi.

## Country will be benefitted from Rahul Gandhi's guarantee and not by Modi's Jhumla's: Dilip Kumar

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 15: BDC Chairman Miran Sahib and senior Congress leader Dalip Kumar have said that the common people of the country will not benefit from Modi's jhumla's but from Rahul Gandhi's guarantee of justice.

Before the 2014 elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made tempting promises in his speeches including bringing back black money from abroad, creating 2 crore jobs every year, sending the corrupt behind bars, however, after coming to power, BJP did a U-turn on all the promises. today Bharatiya Janata Party has become



the biggest corrupt party in country. In the 10 years of Modi government, neither black money came back from abroad, nor did inflation reduce, employment opportunities decreased instead of increasing, corruption spread rapidly in the country and hatred among all religions reached its peak.

He said that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has given guarantee of fixing

MSP for farmers and fulfilling other demands, increasing employment opportunities for youth, social justice, starting many schemes for women and this guarantee is not just a mere statement but by coming to power, Congress Will complete these things first.

He said that the Modi government fooled the people of the country by saying new slogans and today the country has reached such a state that every citizen is troubled.

All the problems of the people will end only when the Congress government comes. People must have thought whether they want the slogans of Modi government or the justice guarantee of Rahul Gandhi.