

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Police officer dies of cardiac arrest in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Mar 22 (Agencies): An Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of J&K police died due to cardiac arrest in Abiguzar area of Srinagar capital Srinagar.

An official told News agency that an ASI identified as Mushtaq Ahmad, a resident of Karnah Kupwara fell unconscious during duty at Abi-Guzar area of police jurisdiction Kothibagh this afternoon.

The officer was immediately shifted to PCR hospital for treatment, however, he was declared dead at the hospital.

### "Arrest of yet another CM reeks of political vendetta and growing authoritarianism": Mehbooba Mufti

SRINAGAR, Mar 22 (Agencies): Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday condemned the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and labelled it as an act of political vendetta and a sign of increasing authoritarianism.

The PDP chief claimed that this move exposed the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) apprehensions of resorting to desperate measures to manipulate elections even before they are held.

"The arbitrary arrest of yet another CM by ED reeks of political vendetta & growing authoritarianism. This cowardly act has exposed fears of the ruling party now resorting to desperate measures by manipulating elections even before they are held. History has shown that tyranny never prevails in the face of unified resistance. We will not be intimidated," tweets PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti.

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## ED produces Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal physically at Rouse Avenue Court

NEW DELHI, Mar 22 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate on Friday produced Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal before Rouse Avenue court following his arrest in connection with the excise policy case.

The special CBI judge Kaveri Baweja's bench will hear the matter. Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi is representing the Delhi CM.



Kejriwal was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the excise policy case on

Thursday after the Delhi High Court refused interim protection to Kejriwal from coercive action

in connection with the excise policy case.

The Delhi CM was arrested after skipping nine summons issued against him by the Enforcement Directorate and Delhi High Court, which refused to grant him relief from any coercive action by the probe agency.

The case pertains to alleged irregularities and money laundering in framing and

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## Employee rendering services for seven years can't be denied regularisation: HC

SRINAGAR, Mar 22 (Agencies): The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir said that a person engaged temporarily but continuously working for more than seven years cannot be deprived from the benefit of regularization under relevant SRO.

These observations made by Justice Sanjeev Kumar while hearing a petition of an employee of University seeking his regularization retrospectively.

The petitioner-Ghar Singh approached the court projected in his plea that, though, his services were regularized vide order dated 25th March, 2010 with immediate effect, yet in terms of the provisions of SRO 64 of 1994 adopted by the University, he was entitled to be regularized immediately after the completion of seven years of service in the year 2004.

Justice Kumar while

allowing his petition held him entitled to regularization as Security Guard w.e.f. from 1st April, 2005 with all consequential benefits including arrears of salary w.e.f. 1st April, 2005 till his actual regularization made in the year 2010.

Justice Kumar said that a person who is engaged temporarily and is paid wages at the rates sanctioned by the

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## Sixth schedule demand: Ladakh groups consider election boycott

SRINAGAR, Mar 22 (Agencies): The Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) convened a joint meeting on Thursday to explore various strategies to escalate their protest in support of

the demands for Statehood and Sixth Schedule status. They are also considering a potential boycott of the upcoming Parliamentary elections. The meeting, however, is yet to take a final decision. There were reports

that the two bodies might consult stakeholders and meet again before taking the call, Daily Excelsior reported.

Lone Lok Sabha seat in the UT of Ladakh is scheduled to go to

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## Kejriwal's arrest shows ruling party's 'Remarkable Degree Of Nervousness': Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Mar 22 (Agencies): National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Friday said the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was a "blot" on democracy, and shows the ruling party's "remarkable degree of nervousness".

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said his party stands



with Kejriwal and his Aam Aadmi Party. "Aisi Taisi Democracy.

For all the talk of 400+ seats, the ruling dispensation is displaying a remarkable degree of nervousness. Having a sitting opposition CM arrested by a pliable central agency within days of the general elections being announced is a blot on democracy," Abdullah said in a post on X.

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## Lady killed, 2 injured as mini bus turns turtle in Jammu Outskirts

JAMMU, Mar 22 (Agencies): A lady was killed while two people sustained injuries when a minibus they were traveling in turned turtle in the Miran Sahib area here in the city outskirts.

Police said that a minibus, while overtaking another, skidded off and rolled down the road this morning in the Miran Sahib area.

"One lady passenger died in the mishap while two others suffered injuries," said police.

They added that the injured were rushed to the Sub-District Hospital, R. S. Pura.

The police have taken cognizance.

## A Week after Getting Kashmir Tunnel Contract, UP Firm Purchases Rs 10 Cr BNP Electoral Bonds

SRINAGAR, Mar 22 (Agencies): In a recent development, a Lucknow-based infrastructure firm, Apco Infratech Private Limited, has come under scrutiny for its hefty donations to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) amid securing lucrative government contracts, raising questions about potential conflicts of interest.

One such project is the construction of the 6.4 km-long Z-Morh tunnel in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir, awarded to Apco Infratech in December 2019. Valued at Rs 2,716 crore, this tunnel holds strategic significance for both regional connectivity and national security, as it lies on the crucial Srinagar-Leh national highway.

"Less than four weeks after receiving the go-ahead for the project — on 15 January, 2020 — the firm purchased 10 electoral bonds worth Rs 1 crore each," a report in Scroll said. "The Bharatiya Janata Party encashed the bonds six days later."

The controversy stems from revelations that Apco Infratech purchased electoral bonds totaling Rs 30 crore, all of which were directed to the BJP, as disclosed by the Election Commission of India. This revelation has ignited concerns over the intersection of business interests and political contributions, particularly in the context of the firm's involvement in critical infrastructure projects across various

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## ECI allots 'Bucket' symbol to DPAP for Lok Sabha Polls

JAMMU, Mar 22 (Agencies): The Election Commission of India has allotted 'Bucket' as the symbol to Ghulam Nabi Azad led DPAP for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

Party chief spokesperson, Salman Nizami said that the ECI has allocated 'Bucket' as the election symbol to the party. Lok Sabha polls are scheduled to be held next month in 7 phases with the first phase commencing on April 19.

## Kashmir plains lashed by rains, snowfall at Gulmarg

SRINAGAR, Mar 22 (Agencies): Kashmir plains were lashed by rains while the ski resort of Gulmarg received a fresh snowfall during the past 24 hours, officials said.

The Meteorological Department said that Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district received 1.5cm of fresh snowfall much to the delight of the tourists staying there.

Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir valley were lashed by light to moderate rains resulting in drop in the temperature.

The MeT office said Srinagar received 9.7mm of rainfall, Qazigund 3.4mm, Pahalgam 16.0mm, Kupwara 9.2mm, Kokernag 2.9mm and Gulmarg 18.4mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours till 0830hours Friday.

The sky is overcast and there is a forecast of rain or snow today in Kashmir valley and likely improvement in weather

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# MBA MOTORS

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### OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform sad demise of **Smt. Suman Sharma / (Pinkey)** W/o Sh. Ravi Ji Sharma originally resident of Akura(Mattan), presently at R/o H.No. 129 Adarsh Nagar Near J&K Bank Paloura has passed away on 15th March, 2024.



Smt. Suman Sharma (Pinkey)

**10TH DAY** shall take place on 24 March, 2024.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN FAMILIES**  
**Sharma's & Koul's**  
**Mob: 9419118588, 9682365964**

### OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Ratna Koul (Behan Ji)** W/o Late Sh. Soom Nath Koul Originally R/o Amnoo Kulgam who left for her heavenly abode on 14th of March 2024 at Flat No.227 Mahadev Apartments Pocket 1 Dwarika Sec 23, New Delhi.



Ratna Koul (Behan Ji)

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 23.03.2024 11am at G257+W7P, New Palam Vihar, Block, T, Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir Sec 109 Gurgaon Farraza Khasrupur, Haryana 12017.  
**IN GRIEF:**  
**Son in laws & Daughters**  
Ram Krishan Koul and Suman Koul  
Vijay Raina & Neetu Raina -**Daughter**  
Lovely Pandita W/o Late. M.K.Pandita  
**Sons and Daughters in law**  
Sunil Koul & Shashi Koul  
Anil Koul & Vijay Koul

**Mob.Nos: 9911051382, 9811579440, 9350584733**

### TENTH DAY

With sorrow this is to inform you that **Smt. Phoola Ji D/o Pt. Madhu Sudhan Lal of Chitbergul** presently residing at Indra Nagar Srinagar Kashmir, passed away on 16-3-2024 after brief illness. Her cremation was done on, 17-03-2024 at Karan Nagar Sharshan Ghat.



Smt. Phoola Ji

**10th Day Kriya** will be held at Ganpatyaar Ghat (Badyar Ghat) on 25-03-2024.  
**Grief Stricken**  
**Bal Krishan Pandita**  
**Vimal J. Pandita**  
**Satish Pandita**  
**Pinkey Raina**

### TENTH DAY / KRIYA/ UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of **SH OM PARKASH DOGRA ( MASTER. RETD)** S/O Lt. SH NEK RAM R/O W.NO 2. H.NO 255 ( NH1A) Indra Nagar Udhampur who left for heavenly abode on Wednesday 13 March 2024. **The Tenth Day** will be performed on Friday 22/3/24 at 10 am at Devika Ghat Udhampur and **Uthala** will be performed at 2.00 pm on Saturday 23/3/2024 at our residence, W/No 2, H/NO 255 Indra Nagar (NH1A) UDHAMPUR.



SH OM PARKASH DOGRA ( MASTER. RETD)  
DOB: 15-01-1937  
DOD: 13-03-2024

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW**  
Jugal Kishore Bharti & Renu Bharti  
Sanjeev Dogra & Anita Dogra  
**DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW**  
Darshana Bharti & Arun Rajwal  
Sunita Bharti & Jatinder Dogra  
Anju Bharti & Surinder Kumar  
**NEPHEW AND NIECE IN LAW**  
Manohar Dogra & Rekha Dogra  
Kuldeep Dogra & Anu Dogra  
Rahul Dogra & Supriya Dogra

M/S Durga Spares  
M/S Babbu Car Zone  
M/S Mahaveer Tyres  
NH1A UDHAMPUR

### RASAM KRIYA

**||Radha Soami Ji ||**  
**Late Sh Amarnath**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Amarnath Ji**, who left for his heavenly abode on 14-03-2024, Thursday.

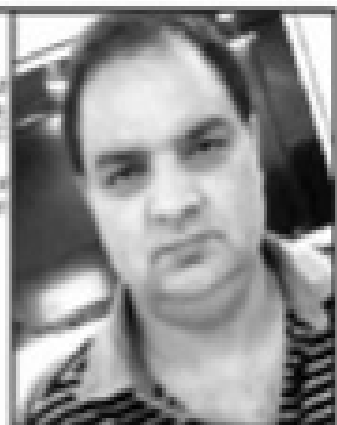


Late Sh. Amarnath

**|| Rasamkriya ||**  
**Rasamkriya** will be held on 23-03-2024, Saturday and Satsang will start at 11.00 am at our residence Ward No. 68, Langar P/o Gangyal, Jammu.  
**|| From Family Members ||**  
**Son and Daughter-in-law**  
Sukhdev and Sonia, Devraj and Renu, Darshan and Bharti, Davinder and Jyoti  
**Daughter and Son-in-law**  
Bachno and Parsholam,  
Neelam and Mansinder Nath  
**9858175385, 7006847147**

### UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Sanjeev Gupta (Rishi)** W/o Late Sh. Ego Ram Gupta (Rishi) who left for his heavenly abode on 18-03-2024.



SH. SANJEEV GUPTA

**TENTH DAY** will be performed at Devika Mandir, Indira Nagar, Jammu (Contact: 9858175385) on Friday 22nd March, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**  
**Son, Sunil Gupta (Rishi)**  
**Son, Sanjay Gupta (Rishi)**  
**(Sons and Daughters-in-law)**  
Ajay Mahajan and Manu Mahajan  
Dr. Lovish Mahajan (Son)  
Anshika Mahajan (Daughter)  
**Son, Rajat and Anu Gupta (Brother and Sister-in-law)**  
**Sons and Brothers-in-law**  
Anand Gupta and Sumit Gupta  
Anil Parth and Rajat Parth  
Suman Gupta and Manoj Gupta  
Santosh International  
Mahajan Import and Export  
9858175385, 9858175385, 9858175385

### 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our mother **Smt Suman Tickoo (Babli Ji)** W/o Mahraj Krishan Tickoo originally resident of Mattan at present Vinayak Vihar, Paloura, Jammu. **The Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Akhnor Ghat & **Assembly** will be held at Muthi Ghat on 25-03-2024 (Monday) at 11 AM.



Smt Suman Tickoo (Babli Ji)

**Grief Stricken**  
**Sh Maharaj Krishan Tickoo -Husband**  
**Sahil Tickoo & Kajal Tickoo -Son & Daughter-in-law**  
**Sapna & Sahil Sapolia -Daughter & Son-in-law**  
**M.No. 8825010828, 8899980528, 9796267034**

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With heavy heart and grief that our beloved mother **Smt Pitty Pandita** W/o Lt. Sh. Prathvi Nath Pandita R/o Chogal, Handwara at present Jagti township, Nagrota, Behind Lane No. 4, Community Hall expired on 15-3-2024. **The 10th Day Kriya** will be held at Sainik School Ghat Nagrota on 24-03-2024 at 9:00 AM. **The Assembly** shall be held at Jagti Community Hall Back side Lane No. 4.



Smt Pitty Pandita

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**  
**Sons and Daughters-in-law**  
T. K. Pandita / Veena Pandita  
A. K. Pandita / Pinky Pandita  
Susheel Pandita / Sheeta Pandita  
**Mob.No.9419261098, 9419853053, 7051208242**  
**Daughters and Son-in-Laws**  
Vinod Ji Pandita / Kiran Pandita  
Inder Ji Walia / Pamposh Wali  
Vinod Ji Pandita / Rinku Pandita  
**GRAND DAUGHTERS & GRAND SONS :**  
**Great Grand Daughters & Sons : SAMAST PANDITA PARIVAR**

### TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh. Madan Lal Gupta** S/o Banarsi Dass R/o 215 Street No 1, Rajpura Shakti Nagar Jammu, who left for his heavenly abode on 11-3-2024 Monday. **Tenth Day** will be held at Hari Ghat near Pawan Ice Cream Opp. CID Office Canal Head from 10 am to 11 am on 20-03-2024 Wednesday. **Kriya** will be performed at our residence H.No. 215, Street No. 1, Rajpura Shakti Nagar Jammu on 12:00 noon on 23-03-2024 Saturday. **Uthala** will be held at Hari Ghat near Pawan Ice Cream Opp. CID Office Canal Head from 04.00 to 05.00 pm on 23-03-2024 Saturday.



Sh. Madan Lal Gupta

**Grief Stricken**  
**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Munish - Neetu  
Shashi Kamal - Neha  
Mohinder - Anita  
**Contact No.: 9419308191, 8803177490, 9419352347**

### 10TH DAY/13TH DAY/ RASAM PAGRI

नैनं छिन्दन्ति शस्त्राणि नैनं दहति पावकः।  
न चैनं क्लेदयन्त्यापो न शोषयति मारुतः ॥

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Rajinder Singh Jamwal** S/o Late Bhag Singh R/o Raipur on 12th March 2024. Following days will be observed at our residence 210 Lane No. 6, Adarsh Vihar, (Dillee) Sec-B, Sainik Colony, Jammu (Near Royal Nest Apartment). **10th Day** at 11am on 21/3/24. **13th Day/Kriya** at 1pm on 24/3/24. **Rasam Pagri** at 12 Noon on 25/3/24.



Shri Rajinder Singh Jamwal  
14th November 1935-12th March 2024

**Grief Stricken**  
**Smt Raj Rani Jamwal- Wife**  
**Col V S Jamwal & Chetna- Son & Daughter in Law**  
**Jitender Singh Jamwal & Kanika- Son & Daughter in Law**  
**Neena & Pardeep Singh Jamwal- Daughter & Son in Law**  
**Grand Children:** Navjot, Sonika, Avinash, Manisha, Puneet, Shubhra, Shubham, Soumya, Kriti, Suryansh, Anvika, Karnveer, Nirvaan.  
**Mob. Nos.: 7006670560, 9810154957**

### BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Parkash Kaur** W/o Sh. Balwant Singh Wazir R/o Vasant Vihar Tikka Nagar Jammu, who passed away on 18-03-2024. **Assembly** will be held at our residence. **Bhog of Sh. Akhlesh Path Sahib** on 23-03-2024 (Thursday) at 11:00 am at our residence. **Shobh Kriya & Antim Ardas** will be performed at Gurdwara Sri Singh Sabha Gauri Nankh Nagar Jammu from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.



Smt. Parkash Kaur

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
**S. Balwant Singh Wazir (Husband)**  
**(Daughter in-law & Sons)**  
Smt. Anurag Kaur and S. Parveen Singh Wazir (Jagji Ali) - General Insurance  
Smt. Sushama Kaur and S. Tejinder Singh Wazir  
**(Daughter & Son-in-law)**  
Smt. Simpreet Kaur & S. Gurdeep Singh (Manager J&K Bank)  
S. Gurcharan Singh Kalia (Retd. Chief Manager J&K Bank) - Brother  
S. Gurnam Singh Kalia (New Park) - Brother  
**Brother-in-law (Daughter)**  
Mehinder Singh Dagar (Rishi Singh)  
**Mob: 9797754312, 7889886447**

### 10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Raj Devi (Rishi)** Bt. Accountant AG Office Jammu) W/o Dr. Shree Lal Dhillon (Retd. Director A.I. Deptt. Jammu) R/o F-104, Lower Shri Nagar, adjoining A. G. Colony, Shakti Nagar, Jammu on 15th March 2024. **TENTH DAY** will be performed at our residence at 11.00 am on 22nd March 2024 (Friday). **Kriya** will be performed at our residence at 10:00 AM followed by **Assembly and Path** at Community Hall AG Colony, Shakti Nagar, Jammu at 1:00 pm on 23rd March 2024 (Saturday).

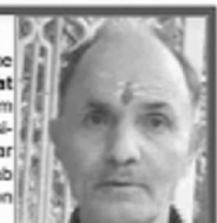


Smt Raj Devi (Rishi) Bt. Accountant, AG Office, Jammu

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Dr. Shree Lal Dhillon- Husband**  
**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Manmohit & Rohini  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Dr. Jyoti & Dr. Manjit  
**Nephew**  
Bherna, Mukul & Nigun  
**Grand Daughter :** Priyanka  
**Contact : 9419802491, 9419120538**

### 10TH DAY KRIYA/MOURNING

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Sri Kant Bhat** H/o Smt Mohini Bhat, originally from Brarangan, Anantnag Kashmir, present residence at JMC-135, Patoli Mangrolan near Shastri Memorial Hr. Sec School (Mast Bab Ashram opposite road), who left for abode on 16-03-2024.



Sh Sri Kant Bhat

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 25-03-2024 at Muthi Ghat at 9:00 am.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Smt Mohini Bhat (Wife)**  
**Smt Aasha Ji & Sh. Shambho Nath Bhat (Shabi & Brother)**  
**Smt Uma Shobh W/o Lt. Sh. Sham Lal Bhat (Sister)**  
**Daughters & Son-in-laws**  
Smt. Sunita & Sh. Kiran Kumar Razdan  
Smt. Sushama & Sh. Manu Jee Raina  
Smt. Anjali & Sh. Sunil Jee Raina  
**Daughters in law**  
Smt. Vijay Bhan W/o Sh. Jonki Nath Bhan  
Smt. Jeeva Pandita W/o Sh. Sohan Lal Pandita  
**Grand Children**  
Disha, Akshay, Mohit, Manish, Suhani

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Kishni Koul** W/o Lt. Jagar Nath Koul erstwhile Palpora (Wasoor), Palwama A/p H.No.538, Durga Nagar, Sector -2 Ext. Near Shiv Shakti Guest House on 18th March 2024. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat, Near Directorate of School Education at 9 AM on 27th March 2024 ( Wednesday).



SMT. KISHNI KOUL

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
**Son & Daughter-in-Law**  
Sh. Mukesh Koul & Smt. Deepali J  
Ph. 7051137617, 9419229210  
**Daughters & Son-in-Law**  
Smt. Pinky J & Sh. Tej Krishan Koul ( 9419110162)  
Smt. Baby J & Sh. Tej Krishan Bhat (9805087660)  
Smt. Anjali J & Sh. Kubbhushan Koul (7110400447)  
**Grand Children:** Nitin, Akshay, Vinny, Komal, Sanshika, Varsh, Mudrika, Daksh,  
**Samast Koul's, Bhat's, Kichloo's**

### OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

Amid sobs and tears, with profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our revered mother **Smt. Pitty Pandita** W/o Lt. Sh. Prithvi Nath Pandita on 15th of March 2024, erstwhile resident of Chogal Handwara, presently at Lane no 2 Block 12 Quarter No 9 Jagti Township Nagrota.



SMT. PITY PANDITA

**MOURNING** is being held at community Hall back side of lane no 4 Jagti Township. **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 24th of March 2024 Sunday at 9 am at Sainik School Ghat Nagrota. **ASSEMBLY** will be held at 10 am at mourning venue.  
**IN GRIEF**  
**DAUGHTER IN LAWS AND SONS**  
Smt. Veena Pandita and Sh. T. Pandita  
Smt. Pinky Pandita and Sh. A. K. Pandita  
Smt. Sheeta Pandita and Sh. Susheel Pandita  
**DAUGHTERS AND SON IN LAWS**  
Smt. Kiran Pandita and Vinod J. Pandita  
Smt. Pamposh Wali and Sh. Inder J. Pandita  
Smt. Rinku Pandita and Vinod J. Pandita

### Bhog and Antim Ardas

With profound grief and Sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Gurcharan Singh** S/O Late S. Kawal Singh (Chowk) who left for heavenly abode on March 10th 2024.



S. Gurcharan Singh ji

**Programme:** Ardas Sri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence La 73, Munshi Chak Comp road Toba Tola on 22nd March 2024 at 10:00 AM.  
**Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib** on 24 March 2024 (Sunday) at our residence at 10:00 AM.  
**Antim Ardas** will be held at Gurdwara Chak Sahibwala on 25th March 2024 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN.**  
**S. Daljit Singh (Jethi)**  
**S. Daljit Singh & Sita Chawwal Kaur ( Son & Daughter in law)**  
**S. Jasvinder Singh & Sita Pardeep Kaur ( Son & Daughter in law)**  
**S. Anwarul Karim & S. Navinder Singh ( Daughter & Son in law)**  
**Late. Gian Heeman Singh (Wife) ( Father in law)**  
**(Grandchildren) S. Sahdev Singh, Manraj Kaur, Diljit Singh, Navpreet Kaur, Sadhwan Singh & Harshdeep Singh.**  
**Mobile No. 9419263277, 9419149339, 9811522315**

### TENTH DAY / UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Kanta Devi** W/o Lt. Sh. Vishnu Dev Singh Dalpatta R/o Tikka Nagar extension. **10th Day** will be performed on **Friday 22nd March, 2024 at 10 AM** at 4 PM at Sh. Munshi (A, next extension Tikka Nagar Jammu.



SMT. KANTA DEVI

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Daughters in law and Sons**  
Neelam Kumari & Sahadev Singh Dalpatta  
Neena & Kapil Dev Singh Dalpatta  
**Daughters and Sons in Law**  
Lt. Smt. Kamchan Bala & Sh. Virender Singh Jamwal.  
Smt. Anja Bala & Sh. Jai Singh Jamwal.  
Smt. Meenu Rajput & Sh. Raghuvir Singh Chib  
**Grand Sons**  
Vishal Dev Singh, Varun Dev Singh, Arun Dev Singh and Saharsh Dev Singh  
**Mb. 9858055555 & 9419189512**

### TENTH DAY

With profound grief and deep sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Krishna (Mallik) Dhar** W/o Sh. Jai Dhar resident of Lergale Chinar, currently residing at Vika Pur, New Delhi updated on 15-03-2024. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 20-03-2024 Thursday at 05:30 pm at Mahadev Nagar.



Smt. Krishna (Mallik) Dhar

**Assembly** will be held at current residence 385, Pustashan Apartment, Block D, Vikas Pur New Delhi from 12:00 noon onwards.  
**Grief Stricken**  
**Sh. Raji Dhar - Husband**  
**Sh. Saugy & Dany Dhar - Son & Daughter-in-law (Mob: 9871743042)**  
**Sh. Ashish & Barbi Dhar - Son & Daughter-in-law**  
**Smt. Arshia & Sunil Koul - Daughter & Son-in-law**  
**Smt. Choukita W/o Late Ramesh Krishna Malik - Bhabhi**  
**Sh. Rajesh Malik & Karvi - Brother & Bhabhi**

### 10TH DAY KRIYA/MOURNING

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the untimely and sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Nana Ji Koul** S/o Late Sh. Shantosh Nath Koul, originally from Lok Shiksha, Anantnag Kashmir, present residence at Sec 03 Vinayak Nagar, 15th Phase Anantnag, on 18-03-2024.



Sh Nana Ji Koul

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 25-03-2024 at Muthi Ghat at 9:00 am.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
**Smt. Chawntosh Koul (Brother)**  
**Smt. Sushil Koul (Sister)**  
**Smt. Anu J & Sh. Pawan Lal Koul (Shabi & Brother)**  
**Smt. Sanyal Koul & Sh. Ranveer Koul (Shabi & Brother)**  
**Smt. Saugy Dhar W/o Late Sh. Sohan Lal Bhat (Sister)**  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Smt. Simran Koul & Sh. Adarsh Sharma  
Sh. Anshay Koul Son  
**Mobile Nos: 982549980, 788979219, 7006012101**

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# AESL announces Educational Scholarships for April 2024 Admissions

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), a national leader in test preparatory services, has announced various scholarships prior to the commencement of its new session scheduled to begin in April 2024 to enable students to realise their dream of becoming doctors and engineers.

The first scholarship is the Instant Admission Cum Scholarship Test (iACST), offering up to 90% scholarship for admission into Medical, Engineering, and Foundation courses.

Additionally, Aakash will provide special discounts to children of martyrs, defense personnel and terrorism-affected individuals.

Anup Agarwal, Chief Business Officer at Aakash Educational Services Limited, stated, "We are dedicated to providing accessible and impactful educational opportunities for students across India. Through initiatives like iACST and our scholarship programmes, we aim to empower deserving students to achieve



their academic and career aspirations. We are proud to continue our tradition of supporting the education of children of our brave Armed Forces personnel and are committed to fostering excellence and inclusivity in education."

The Instant Admission Cum Scholarship Test (iACST) offers students immediate scholarship awards and opportunities for instant admission. Students can take the exam online and receive details of their earned scholarships instantly, enabling them to secure instant admission under the expert guidance of Aakash faculty.

The online iACST, lasting 60 minutes, can be taken between 10 AM and 8 PM on designated

exam days. Catering to students in Class VIII to XII, iACST serves as a platform for them to showcase their potential for careers in Medicine or Engineering. Scholarships awarded through iACST are applicable for admission into Medical, Engineering, and Foundation classroom courses. iACST is conducted via the Aakash Computer-Based Test (CBT) platform, as well as through the Aakash website and dedicated mobile applications for both Android and Apple platforms.

In addition to its scholarship initiatives, AESL is committed to social responsibility by supporting the education of wards of Defence Personnel. Aakash will provide tuition fee waiver

of up to 100% to the children of martyrs. Similarly, an additional discount of 10% will be given to the children of defense personnel and terrorism-affected individuals over and above their iACST scores.

This initiative till date has benefited over 75,000 students since 2014.

Aakash also celebrates its success in the recent JEE Mains 2024, where 41,263 students qualified the examination. Noteworthy achievements include 4,198 students attaining a percentile score of 95 and above, while 939 students secured a percentile score of 99 and above. Rishi Shekhar Shukla from Hyderabad achieved a perfect 100 percentile, with Abhiraj Singh from Karnal, Sri Ram A from Trinulveli, and Viswanath K S from Hyderabad securing an exceptional percentile of 99.99, among others.

Apart from the classroom students, students from Aakash's digital program scored tremendously in JEE Mains 2024 (Session-01), with toppers including Ritam Banerjee attaining a percentile score of 99.96

with a 100 in Mathematics; Arha Sahoo scoring 99.91 with 100 in Chemistry; Dhritishman Dutta at 99.87; Harish Kumar at 99.86; Eshwaranth at 99.86 percentile with a 100 percentile in Chemistry; Ishant Patel at 99.85 percentile; Sayan Mandal at 99.82; Jane Jones at 99.78; Srajan Gupta 99.74; Dilipkumar A 99.70, Rakshit Modi 99.67 among others. An impressive 26 students scored 99+ percentile NTA score. Also, in JEE (Adv) 2023, Aakash Digital Program student Maynak Soni has secured AIR-26 (OBC category Rank 2) proving that the digital mode of learning is indeed a great solution for cracking the India's toughest exams with top ranks.

In the NEET UG Examination 2023, an impressive 1,06,870 students from Aakash qualified, with 17 emerging as State/UT Toppers. Notable performers included Kaustav Bauri securing AIR 03, Dhruv Advani securing AIR 05, Surya Siddharth Nagarajan securing AIR 06, Swayam Shakti Tripathy securing AIR 08, and Parth Khandelwal securing AIR 10.

# ABVP CUJ unit pays tribute to Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Central University of Jammu (CUJ) unit today organises a floral tribute program in DDE Building on the occasion of Trimurti Baidaan Diwas.

On this occasion ABVP paid tribute to the brave sons of Mother India Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev and remembered their sacrifice.

Manoj, unit president of ABVP CU Jammu unit, said that it is the duty of every person to remember the martyrdom of the heroes who sacrificed their lives for the safety

of Mother India. He said that we get inspiration from these brave freedom fighters and we all should work for the nation.

ABVP Unit Secretary Abhishek Chaudhary said that a person does not die until he is remembered. He said that today's young generation should remember that the free country in which they are living today, we have got this freedom because of the efforts and martyrdom of these heroes.

ABVP unit Vice President Ujjwal Kumawat, while remembering the heroic lives of the martyrs in his speech, said that the wave of revolution

was flowing in the blood of these heroes since childhood.

Recalling Bhagat Singh's 112-day fast, he shared his patriotic passion among everyone. He said that Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev not only set an ideal among the revolutionaries with their sacrifice but also inspired the youth for the movement and the immortal sacrifice of these martyrs will remain an inspiration for the country.

On this occasion Meenakshi, Sneha, Rashu, Nandani, Simran, Shagun, Vikas, Mahendra and other karyakartas also remain present.

# KC College of Education observes World Forests Day, World Water Day



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: Environmental Club of K.C. College of Education organized an awareness rally today to mark 'World Forests Day' and 'World Water Day', the days celebrated every year worldwide to highlight the importance of trees and fresh water. A good number of members of Environmental

Club participated in the rally. On their way, they met and interacted with the villagers & slum dwellers and discussed the importance & significance of natural resources like forests and water and also the implications of deforestation and water scarcity.

Convenor of the club, Dr. Puja Sharma suggested the inhabitants

of the area, the ways to save water & motivated them to plant trees and the sustainable management of these natural resources. The activity was done in a constructive manner by making use of placards, slogans, songs & skits.

Principal of the college, Dr. Sanjay Tickoo flagged off the rally and applauded the efforts of the club members.

# DC Udhampur appeals to Voters to exercise their right to vote ahead of LS elections

## Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Mar 22 (Agencies): Udhampur Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai on Friday appealed to voters in Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their right to vote without any fear.

Speaking on the preparations for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections 2024, Rai said, "The elections will be conducted in the first phase in Udhampur constituency. We have assured all the facilities in all our polling stations."

"I appeal to the people to exercise their right to vote... We would like to target more than 90 per cent of voting in Udhampur constituency," she further said.

According to the Lok Sabha elections dates announcement, voting



in Jammu and Kashmir will be held in five phases and the counting of the votes will take place on June 4. The results of the Jammu & Kashmir Lok Sabha elections 2024 will also be announced on June 4.

The Lok Sabha polls in the Union Territory will be held in the first five phases on April 19 (Udhampur), April 26 (Jammu), May 7 (Anantnag-Rajouri), May 13 (Srinagar) and May 20 (Baramulla). The counting of votes will be taken up on June 4.

# GDC Kathua felicitates NCC Cadets for Stellar Performance at RD Camp

## Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 22: In a proud moment for Government Degree College Kathua, nine NCC cadets who represented the institution with distinction at the prestigious Republic Day Camp 2024 were honoured today for their commendable achievements.

Prof. Seema Mir, Principal of the college felicitated the NCC cadets at a ceremony held in college campus.

On this occasion, she said we are immensely proud of our NCC cadets for their exceptional performance and unwavering dedication who have brought laurels not only to the college but also to the entire region. She also stated at Government Degree College Kathua, we believe in nurturing not just academic excellence but also leadership



qualities and a spirit of service.

The achievements of our NCC cadets at the Republic Day Camp are a testament to this ethos.

It is pertinent to mention that the NCC cadets of GDC Kathua participated in various competitions in RDC and gave their excellent performance.

Cadet Anshu Rani of 2 J&K Girls Bn marched on Kartavya. Sgt Mohit Kumar of 4 J&K Bn participated in RDC Cultural programme.

JUO Rajat Singh, of 4 J&K Bn participated in All India Guard of Honour, Cadet Suneel Kumar, Cadet Sumit Kumar,

Cadet Sunil Kumar, Cadet Sourav Singh, Cadet Lalit Sharma of 4 J&K Bn and Sidhanth sharma of 1 J&K Naval Bn, Srinagar marched in PM Rally.

The principal congratulated the NCC Officers Lt (Dr) Daya Ram for his hard work and dedication due to which NCC cadets registered such big achievements at National Level. The senior faculty members, Prof. Sanjay K Karupia, Prof. Rupinder Kour, Dr. Yash Paul Sharma, Dr. Dinesh Jasrotia, Prof. Shivani Kotwal, Dr. Rajesh K. Manhas also graced the occasion with their presence.

# GDC Udhampur coordinates flagship program on SVEEP

## Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Mar 22: As part of its ongoing initiatives during Azadi Ka Amrut Kaal, aimed at fostering an Empowered and Developed India, the Electoral Literacy Club (ELC) of Government Degree College Udhampur in collaboration with the IGNOU 1250 organized a comprehensive Voters Education and Awareness program as part of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign in the conference hall of the college.

The program aimed at enlightening students, staff members and general public about their Voting rights and responsibilities as citizens of the nation.

The program commenced with a formal welcome address presented by Dr Shweta Sharma, Head Department of Political Science. In her address she appraised all about the significance of active participation in the electoral process for the growth and development of the nation.

The event was coordinated by Dr Jagjeet Singh, Convener, SVEEP Cell under the overall supervision of the Prin-



cipal, Prof. (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta.

Sharing his ideas about the event, the chief patron, Prof (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta, congratulated the SVEEP Cell and IGNOU 1250 for organising the much-needed program during the deliberations on Viksit Bharat @2047 as envisaged by the Election Commission of India.

Dr Gupta emphasized the imperative role of student participation in the electoral process and urged the youth to spearhead awareness initiatives aimed at expanding the electorate's understanding of their democratic rights. He also shed light on the significance of voting and its pivotal role in fostering a healthy and vibrant democracy.

During the day long program, the students presented a colourful program including, slogan writing, poster making,

poem recitation, talks on electoral participation, and Kho-Kho. The purpose of organising these activities was to emphasize the value of voting, how to make informed choices, and understanding of electoral process. First speech of the day was delivered by Pershotam Singh, a student of fourth semester, delved into the rich historical roots of democracy in India, drawing parallels with ancient democratic systems such as the Janapada system. He also underscored the evolution of the right to vote, tracing its origins to significant historical milestones like the Magna Carta of 1215 CE.

The 2nd speech of the day was delivered by Mr Kewal Kumar, a student of fourth semester, he urged the students especially the new voters for casting their vote with full zeal and by keeping aside their vested

interests and by ignoring caste, religion, region, etc, factors while casting their votes.

The 3rd Speech was delivered by Ms Kavya Sharma, she echoed the sentiment, emphasizing the importance of an informed electorate in bolstering democracy. Another speech was delivered by Siya, a student of fourth semester, she said that all must follow the Hon'ble Prime Minister to do something every day for the nation, and make possible the mantra of Sankalp se Siddhi. "India is a nation of Young Minds, and I am quite sure we will achieve the Sankalp of Viksit Bharat through all of you" she reiterated. Last speech of the day was delivered by Nalin Sharma, a student of fourth semester highlighted the significance of Voting Rights in shaping a responsible and aware citizenry. He urged his

fellow mates that right to vote should be exercised responsibly and sincerely as Right to Vote is not just a privilege but a responsibility also.

SVEEP Cell further organised Slogan Writing competition under the banner of "Chunav ka Parv, Desh ka Garv" to inculcate constitutional obligations and to encourage students to uphold democratic traditions of the country. Speaking on the occasion Dr Shweta Sharma, Head Department of Political Science said that the slogan writing competition served as a platform for students to voice their thoughts about significance of voting rights in a creative manner. The competition invited young minds to come forward with their innovative ideas and compelling words to inspire a meaningful change.

The program concluded with Prof Rahul Sharma delivering concluding remarks, and Prof Sanjeet Singh tendered the formal vote of thanks. The event's proceedings were ably conducted by Nitish Kalotra, a student of PG-I Semester Department of English, GDC Udhampur. The event finally concluded with National Anthem.

# Chib appeals to LG to enhance monthly honorarium of ReKs of JKUT

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: All Jammu and Kashmir Rehbar-e-Khel teachers in the leadership of Narinder Chib at press club Jammu told to media that in the year 2017 Rehbar-e-Khel policy came into force under cabinet decision No.196/12/2017 dated: 23/10/2017 in which teachers of 22 district (including Ladakh and Kargil) of J&K state were engaged, and after the completion of selection process in the year 2019 all the Rehbar-e-Khel got the appointment orders.

He told that from the very first day all the Rehbars demand for the reduction of probation period from 7 years to 5 years on ReT policy pattern. But instead of considering the demand recently JKUT Administration Council passed an order for the enhancement of monthly honorarium from 4000 to 6000 under Administration Council Decision no 14/02/2024 dated 19.02.2024 and government order no 09-Jk{YSS} of 2024 dated:26.02.2024.

On the other hand UT Administration of Ladakh



enhance the monthly honorarium of ReKs of Ladakh from 4000 to 18000 under e-office file no- M-13/136/2022-YS&S SECTION and order No.129{YSS}JUTL of 2024 dated: 15/03/2024 that was totally a discrimination between the Rehbars of two Union Territories who were engaged under same policy.

In the press conference another member of ReK body Harish Choudhary told to media that it was a welcome step by the UT Administration of Ladakh and he expresses his greetings to LG Administration of Ladakh for enhancing the monthly honorarium of ReKs of Ladakh. He told the main concern of all ReKs of JKUT is that if the policy, cabinet decision, recruitment order no, selection process, appointment process was the same for

all the rehbars then why the monetary benefits is not same. Mr. Choudhary requested the JKUT Administration to implement the same order in JKUT which was passed by UT Administration of Ladakh. {i.e. enhancement of honorarium from 4000 to 18000}

Another member of body Sanjeev Sharma appeal to government that please do not discriminate between the ReKs of UT of Ladakh and JKUT and implement the same order of Ladakh in JKUT.

In the closing statement Chib appeal to LG of JKUT to intervene in the matter and enhance the monthly honorarium of ReKs of JKUT as was enhanced by LG of Ladakh. Others who present Aruna Jamwal, Sushant Mishra, Gijinder Singh, Jatinder Singh.



## EDITORIAL

## Water- a precious resource

"If there is water, there is tomorrow" This is a very accurate and important saying. Water is a precious resource that is essential for all living beings. But today the world is facing water crisis. Water crisis has become a serious problem due to increasing population, industrialization, and excessive use of water in agriculture. In such a situation, to make people aware of all these problems, World Water Day started being celebrated every year on 22 March. This day underlines the importance of water in the lives of all of us.

World Water Day was celebrated for the first time in 1993. This day was declared in 1992 at a conference held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In that conference, a proposal was made to celebrate this day at the global level. This proposal was accepted by the United Nations and this day was celebrated for the first time on 22 March 1993. Since then this day is being celebrated every year.

Today is World Water Day. Water is tomorrow and water is life. The world is facing water crisis. Due to which the life and future of children are in danger. Safe drinking water is very important for health and survival. There are less than three percent fresh water sources in the world and this figure is decreasing. The demand for water is increasing due to rapid population growth, urbanization, increasing need for water in many sectors including agriculture, industry and energy. But climate change, changing rainfall patterns and weather-related events are further increasing water scarcity. In such a situation, the purpose of celebrating World Water Day is to understand the seriousness of these problems and make efforts to solve them.

The theme of Water Day this year is 'Water for Peace'. That is, when we collaborate for water we can create a positive impact, foster harmony, create prosperity and address shared challenges. This World Water Day, we all need to unite for water and use it for peace and lay the foundation for a stable and prosperous future.

The main theme of Water Day for India is 'Save Water'. In India, people have to be stressed on the need for water conservation through individual actions. Key messages of the LiFE campaign encourage people to take responsibility for water conservation and tackle climate change. Some of the key messages of this campaign include JJM, National Water Mission, key messages of World Water Day 2024, Mission Life Action Point.

Water is essential for all living beings. But in today's time, water shortage and pollution has become a serious problem which is affecting people all over the world. In such a situation, World Water Day is an important opportunity to make people aware of these problems and motivate them to work for water conservation.

There are many places across the world including India where water crisis is increasing. According to a United Nations report, water crisis is most likely to occur in India by 2050. In such a situation, to make people aware about this, this day is celebrated every year with a special theme.

The theme of this year 2024 is Leveraging Water for Peace. The importance of water will be emphasized through this theme. Programs will also be organized by different nations on the basis of this theme.

## Global churn ahead: More polls loom after Putin win

By: K.C. Singh

Russian President Vladimir Putin won his country's presidential election with 87 per cent of the vote on March 17. It will be his fifth term since he first assumed power in 2000. The six-year term will take him to 2030, making him the longest serving head of government in Russia, or in the erstwhile Soviet Union, barring Josef Stalin. The BBC pointed out that Russia's independent watchdog, Golos, had been barred from acting as an observer in the election.

In a year full of many critical elections globally, Mr Putin's win is the first move in the geopolitical chess game. India's Lok Sabha elections come next, ending on June 1, followed by the European Union elections on June 6-9 and eventually the American presidential poll on November 5. The results of all these elections can have varying levels of impact on global power equations and international peace and security.

The divided reaction to Mr Putin's victory reflects the existing power alignments in an extremely polarised world. The United States and most of Europe hastily dubbed it as undemocratic and unfair. British foreign secretary David Cameron said it reflected the "depth of repression". The US state department pointed to its compromised nature due to the jailing of rivals. The mysterious death of prominent dissident Alexei Navalny in jail on February 16 underscored the regime's determination to win decisively. President Putin's main Communist rival polled only four per cent of the vote.

The geopolitical fault lines emerge when this criticism by the Western nations is collated with the reaction

of other leaders. Chinese President Xi Jinping, who had with Mr Putin before the Ukraine war in 2022 announced a "no limits partnership", said that Mr Putin's win brings certainty in a turbulent world. Mr Putin, in his Red Square speech on March 18, in turn extended strong support to the one-China principle, proclaiming that "Taiwan is an inherent part of the People's Republic of China". This public "lovefest" reflects a belief shared by these two powers that American hegemony is on the decline.

It is generally surmised that two-thirds of the world are either neutral or leaning towards Russia on the Ukraine war. The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) points out that Brazil, South Africa and India, members of the pre-expansion five-member Brics, also avoid picking sides on the same issue. It was hardly surprising, therefore, that India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first leaders to convey his felicitations to President Putin.

Mr Modi described India's relations with Russia as "time-tested, special and privileged, with a strategic dimension". Heavily discounted Russian oil came as a boon to Indian refiners at a time of global uncertainty, which traditionally spikes oil prices. Russia has also effectively used its stranglehold over the export of grains, after disrupting Ukrainian exports. It promised free grains to many African nations badly hit by the global shortage and price hikes. Amongst these are Somalia, Mali, the Central African Republic, Zimbabwe, etc. This has enabled Russia to contain the initial anti-Russian sentiments at the United Nations, after its February 2022 attack on Ukraine, when a UN resolution condemning the attack garnered the support of 141 nations.

President Putin took to chest-thump-

ing at his Red Square rally. Having stalled Ukraine's 2023 autumn offensive and then reversed the war's momentum, he chose to psychologically attack a divided Europe. He asserted that the Ukraine war would continue and areas of eastern Ukraine shall be reunited with Russia.

He simultaneously sought peaceful and neighbourly relations subject to the proviso that Ukraine shall not rearm. He proposed a "security zone" on Ukrainian territory. Implicit is the desire to disarm Ukraine and render it as a helpless buffer zone existing on guarantees that Russia and the West may accept.

Mr Putin's bluster rests on multiple assumptions. One, that Europe's consensus on assisting Ukraine may fracture further if right-wing radicals capture or sufficiently influence the European Parliament, after the June elections. Two, Mr Putin is gambling on the November US elections producing an upset win by former President Donald Trump, combined with the Democrats losing control over both Houses of the US Congress. This, he calculates, will collapse the US support to Ukraine. Three, that the Gaza war keeps the Middle East unsettled, with US-Israel differences worsening. Meanwhile, a more stringently right-wing majority has captured the Iranian Parliament. Thus, the Iran-China-Russia convergence would like to enmesh the US in the quicksand of Arabia and Israel.

In case Mr Trump wins, the Gaza situation is likely to worsen as he is distinctly more partial towards Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israel than President Joe Biden. There rests a paradox. While Mr Trump is likely to urge Ukraine to settle with Russia, perhaps along the lines enunciated by Mr Putin, by limiting US assistance, in the Middle East

he may will do the reverse by backing Israel.

The Narendra Modi government's policy of remaining neutral in all the conflicts caused by major-power rivalry is in line with traditional Indian foreign policy since Independence. It was this pragmatic "third way" that evolved into the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Though the present government in New Delhi pours scorn on past diplomacy, essentially the change has been of style and nuance rather than substance. Naturally, India's rapid economic growth, the gradual opening of its markets and China's rise presented India with new options. Whereas the pre-1991 Soviet Union was, perforce, a preferred partner, in the 21st century the United States has assumed that role. The change has been gradual, and unlike claims of a foreign policy revolution in the last decade, it is more a fruition of past choices, dictated by geopolitical factors, than a new policy construct.

India is well situated to ride out any turbulence that all these trends may generate. The re-election of Mr Modi is seen as a foregone conclusion. His third term per se is expected to provide some continuity to Indian diplomacy. However, if the BJP manages to win a two-thirds majority, then its domestic politics may veer decisively towards a majoritarian agenda. That can then begin to impinge on India's outreach to the Islamic world, the West and neighbours.

The next eight months are extremely critical for the world, because some forthcoming election results can exacerbate existing schisms. Mr Putin's victory is merely the opening over, to use a cricketing metaphor. The bounce and spin of the pitch remains unknown.

## Scope for jobs and opportunities in Career Options in Designing

By: Vijay GarG

If you want to work in an innovative environment where fresh ideas are always rewarded and encouraged, then you should try in creative industries. At present, designing occupations are in demand and also known for the best creative field. In the past two decades, we have seen astonishing changes in designing career and the magnetic world of art and design provides a variety of career opportunities for creative people. There are numerous careers in designing where creative folk can thrive and turn their passion into a career. Designing careers are typically creative and full of ideas. As design firms, advertisers and publishers continue to demand designers, the number of design jobs is expected to grow by 10 per cent in the next decade. Former times, as a graduate, we may have been limited to just a bunch of roles, but designing qualifications will now set us up for all kind of jobs from graphic designer to interior designer.

Career Options in Designing  
In the upcoming paragraphs, we will identify and provide a brief break down of various types of designing jobs that are perfectly suited for creative people who are interested in design careers. Have a look and see which creative careers interest you most.

Graphic Designer: Graphic Designer is one of the most in-demand design professions. The main role of the graphic designers is to create designs for marketing collateral, product illustrations, brand identities and websites using various computer applications. They plan, analyze, and create visual solutions to communication problems. Also, they find the most effective way to get messages across in print, electronic, and film media using a variety of methods such as colour, type, illustration, photography, animation, and various print and layout techniques. Moreover, graphic designers develop the overall layout and production design of magazines, newspapers, journals, corporate reports, and other publications. Skills needed in graphic design job are: Artistic Sensibility, Technical Skills, Communication Ability, Organization, Problem Solving Ability. To become a graphic designer after completing 12th, you should go for a bachelor's in applied art, painting, animation or visual communication or even sculpture, depending on your interests and abilities. In India, a junior graphic designer can earn up to Rs.6,00,000 per year, while a senior graphics designer can earn up to Rs.8,00,000.

Game Designer: Game Designing is one of the most upcoming careers for the candidates who willing to make the career in designing and animation. The gaming industry is rapidly growing at a pace of 50% per annum. Game designers work to create a console, PC, and mobile games on a number of different platforms. Depending on skill set and experience

level, many different positions are available in the game design career. They have to work with tools created by the game company to design and populate levels of a game. Systems designers write code that governs gameplay. Lead or senior designers manage team members and often maintain design documents that cover everything from the game's plot and art direction, to the code used to create it. So to make a career in gaming industry one has to have these skills; drawing skill set, strong interpersonal and written communication ability, organization teamwork, analytical mind, leadership skills, time-management skills, updated knowledge of the history and trends of the video game. If you want to become a game designer then you have to do four year courses such as the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Computer Science with a computer game design concentration, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design and Technology with a focus on game design, B.S. in Game Design and Development, or B.S. in Computer Science with a concentration in game design. These programs focus on the construction and design of computer games, and the increasing use of games in different aspects of society. The average annual salary of a game designer at entry level is around Rs.5,00,000.

Interior Designer: An interior designer plan, design and coordinate the creation or renovation of the spaces where we live and work in. An expert interior designer can design an interior that is personalized to the client's taste and serves a functional purpose. As an Interior Designer, you'll consider elements such as safety, traffic flow, comfort and style in your designs. The required skills which every interior designer should have are; colour balancing skills, familiarity with codes, knowledge of fabrics, knowledge of styles and trends, sense of creativity, space planning skill, strong computer skills. A career in interior design requires a professional course/diploma/degree in interior designing. In India, for senior interior designers, the salary range, including bonuses and commission starts from approximately Rs.8,00,000.

Animator: Animation is an art of creating the moving images. This field of work is all about making a series of individual frames which make images come to life when they are flicked through in rapid succession. Animators create an extensive series of images that form the animation seen in movies, commercials, television programs or video games. They typically specialize in one of these media and may further concentrate on a very specific area, for example, characters, scenery or background design. Previously, the animation was done manually; with animators drawing multiple frames to depict a single action but now due to advancement in technology they usually use computer software to do their work. Talk about skill set, skills required for this field then the foremost skill requisite for animation career is a genuine interest in art and

design. This will bring out the creative and artistic expression that will allow static images to develop visual graphics and movements. Moreover, Sound IT skills, high attention to details and the ability to concentrate for long periods are other qualities of a proficient animator. Most employers require that animators have at least a bachelor's degree in animation or related field. A well-experienced animator who has a good portfolio of excellent animation work could easily get up to Rs.7,00,000 per annum.

Architect: Architects are the professionals who design the places where we live, work, play, learn, shop, and eat. They meet with clients to determine objectives and requirements for structures and provide them preliminary estimates on cost and construction time. They prepare the scaled drawings, either with computer software or by hand and visit work sites to ensure that construction adheres to architectural plans. They use computer-aided design and drafting (CADD) and building information modelling (BIM) for creating designs and construction drawings. However, hand-drawing skills are still required, especially during the conceptual stages of a project and when an architect is at a construction site. Architects may also help clients get construction bids, select contractors, and negotiate construction contracts. Skills like design and drawing skills, a methodical, logical approach, analytical skills, excellent math's skills, communication and negotiating skills and IT skills will be needed to become an architect. You'll need to complete a 5-year bachelor's degree in architecture and at least 2-years of professional experience for making your career in the architecture field. The annual salary package of a normal architect is around Rs.4,50,000.

Web Designer: The web designers develop and create websites and other associated applications. Web designers work in a variety of industries and often as independent contractors. The main duties of a web designer are to create the look, layout, and features of a website. This job also involves understanding both graphic design and computer programming. Once a website is created, a web designer helps with maintenance and additions to the website. They cooperate with development teams or managers for keeping the site up-to-date and prioritizing needs, among other tasks. Their job duties cover all aspects of creating a website. They meet with clients and assess their needs. The web designers help to create and maintain the product. You will usually need to show that you have got skills in visual design, UX (user experience), SEO (search engine optimization), marketing and social media, using coding software like HTML and CSS, using design software like Photoshop and Illustrator. To become a web designer you have to complete the bachelor's degree in Multimedia and Web Designing after that you can start your career as a web designer. Qualified web designers earn an average salary

of around Rs.4,50,000 per year.

Product Designer: The product designers sometimes also known with commercial or industrial designers. They create the manufactured products that are often sold worldwide. Using their knowledge of art, engineering and business, product designers create innovative, safe, functional, stylish products for consumers. Most specialize in designing a specific type of product, such as appliances, medical equipment, automobiles, toys, and furniture or housewares. Their aim is to improve the way that existing products work and look and/or produce them at a lower cost. They also involved in designing entirely new products. Product designers discuss designs with colleagues and clients as well as with working closely with engineers, model makers, sales and marketing staff and other skilled people. They use drawings, 3-D models and computer designs to express their ideas. A product designer should be a creative person with an eye for shape and colour, understand different materials and production methods. Also, have the technical, practical and scientific knowledge and ability and interested in the way people choose and use products. One should possess a bachelor's degree in product designing. The average pay for a Product Designer is Rs.5,00,000 per year.

Fashion Designer: Fashion designers are those who create original clothing, accessories, and footwear. They sketch designs, select fabrics and patterns, and give instructions on how to make the products they designed. They also select fabrics, embellishments, colours, or style for each garment or accessory as well as present design ideas to the creative director or showcase them in fashion or trade shows. They oversee the final production of their designs. For all these designing purposes, they use computer-aided design programs (CAD) to create designs. Fashion designers should also possess the specific qualities like; artistic ability, good communication skills, excellent computer skills, creativity, better decision-making skills and must be detail oriented. You should possess a bachelor's degree in fashion designing for becoming a successful fashion designer. A fashion designer earns an average salary of Rs.4,50,000 per year.

Apparently, it is crystal clear that there are many different types of designing careers that will allow you to exercise your creativity level day in and day out. With such a wide range of opportunities, you should be able to find the creative career that is ideal for you and suits your innovative mind.

(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
columnist Malout)



# Ajatshatru lauds Indian Govt's decision to abrogate Art 370 in J&K at Geneva Convention

## Seeks UN intervention to ameliorate people living under Pakistani occupation

### Top News Report

GENEVA/JAMMU, Mar 22: Ajatshatru Singh, senior BJP leader and former minister, commended the Government of India's bold decision to abrogate Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

This historic move corrected the longstanding injustice endured by the people of the region over the past seven decades.

Speaking in his address at UN, the senior BJP leader said "Since the constitutional reforms in 2019, there has been a significant decline in terrorist incidents in the region. From 2004 to 2014, Jammu and Kashmir experienced a total of 7,217 terrorist incidents. However, thanks to the reforms, terror incidents have decreased by over 70%. This improvement underscores the effectiveness of the government's actions in restoring peace and stability to the region."



Moreover, on the socio-economic front, the reduction of poverty in Jammu and Kashmir from 40.45% in 2005-2006 to a mere 2.81% in 2022-2023 is a testament to the optimal utilization of development funds. The recent interim budget for 2024

allocated a substantial \$14 billion for Jammu and Kashmir, further demonstrating the government's commitment to the region's prosperity," he added.

Ajatshatru Singh said over the past nine years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a remarkable revolution in infrastructure development, including the establishment of new medi-

cal colleges, tunnels, railway lines, and civic infrastructure. These advancements have been achieved while preserving the rich cultural heritage of the region, he added.

However, it is essential to acknowledge that not all parts of Jammu and Kashmir have benefited equally. Recent protests in regions under Pakistani occupation

highlight the growing awareness of economic disparities compared to those under Indian administration. As the son of Dr. Karan Singh, the titular king of undivided Jammu and Kashmir and Grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh ji, he expressed deep concern for the plight of those living under Pakistani occupation.

The former minister appealed to the United Nations to take concrete steps in accordance with Security Council resolutions to ameliorate the situation faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir under Pakistani occupation. It is imperative that the international community addresses their grievances and ensures their fundamental rights are upheld, he concluded.

# SBI Card and Titan Launch Titan SBI Card

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: SBI Card, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, in partnership with Titan Company Limited, a leading player in the jewellery, watches, eyewear and ethnic wear categories, has launched Titan SBI Card on Friday.

The one-of-its-kind shopping credit card is designed for addressing the consumers' aspirational spending needs. Titan SBI Card offers accelerated benefits on spends across varied lifestyle categories. With features that include cashbacks, Titan gift vouchers and Reward Points, cardholders can avail exclusive benefits of over Rs 2,00,000 worth per annum. One can enroll for the card in a completely digital manner via SBI Card SPRINT by visiting SBI Card website <https://www.sbicard.com/> or Titan stores.

Titan SBI Card, an industry-first co-brand card, offers thoughtfully curated benefits on high value spend categories such as jewellery, watches, and eyewear. The card offers 7.5% cashback on Titan in watches category; Taneira in women ethnic wear category; Titan EyePlus in eyewear category; and other non-jewellery Titan brands. The card which is also a first of its kind in the jewellery sector ensures that jewellery shopping becomes an exciting and an equally rewarding affair for customers. Cardholders are eligible for 5% cashback when they shop using Titan SBI Card from Mia, Caratlane, and Zoya across their offline and online stores. Additionally, upon shopping from Tanishq, they get Titan gift vouchers worth 3% value of the spends.

Speaking on the launch Abhijit Chakravorty, MD & CEO, SBI Card said, "There is a growing propensity of Indian consumers towards aspirational lifestyle and prod-



ucts. We are delighted to introduce Titan SBI Card, a specialised credit card that caters to the lifestyle spending needs of our customers. This launch holds great significance for us since it also marks the start of our partnership with Titan, a giant in the premium retail category. We hope our customers will appreciate this new addition to our already robust premium portfolio and leverage it to derive maximum benefits as they spend through it."

Sharing his views, C K Venkataraman, MD, Titan Company Limited, said, "India is on the trajectory to become the third largest consumer market, with consumer spending growing y-o-y across the retail ecosystem.

In fact, at Titan, we have witnessed a significant surge in demand from our consumers across different segments. Our consistent growth trajectory across categories, is reflective of the confidence that our consumers have in our value proposition. We are delighted to partner with SBI Card to launch this unique co-brand card which will further bolster the aspirations of our consumers. Through this card, we would like to empower our customers by offering them exciting benefits while shopping across their favourite Titan brands. Additionally, spearheading Titan's commitment to the society and its eco-conscious drive, we

are also happy to plant a tree for every approved card."

What's more, it also offers many benefits to customers beyond Titan's ecosystem including travel lifestyle benefits. Titan SBI Card offers 8 complimentary visits to domestic airport lounges (maximum 2 visits per quarter) and 4 complimentary visits to international airport lounges (maximum 2 visits per quarter). Further, cardholders receive 6 Reward Points on every Rs 100 spent on non-Titan brands including dining and other e-commerce websites.

Titan SBI Card is packed with many spend-based milestone benefits as well. Cardholders are eligible for spend-based fee reversal upon reaching annual spends milestone of INR 3 lakh during a card membership year. As the cardholders' cross annual spends milestones of Rs 5 lakh and Rs 10 lakh, they are eligible for gift vouchers worth Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000 respectively of any Titan brand.

The joining and annual renewal fee of the card is Rs 2,999 plus applicable taxes. The contactless card is available on RuPay as well as VISA payment platforms. Further, taking an eco-conscious approach, Titan Company Limited and SBI Card will be planting a tree for every approved card in collaboration with Grow-Trees.com.

# Int'l Forest Day : Army in unison with residents takes step towards greener Ladakh



### Top News Report

DURBUK, Mar 22: In line with the global outcry for saving the environment, the Dah Division undertook a 'Tree Plantation Drive' on 'International Forest Day,' to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of 'Kargil Vijay Diwas'.

The Plantation Drive undertaken at Durbuk & Shyok villages is aimed at preserving and strengthening the ecosystem in Ladakh and was organized by the Dah Division in collaboration with the Forest Department, UT of Ladakh, under the banner 'Plant a Tree, Plant Hope'.

Residents of both the villages were spontaneously forthcoming and welcomed the initiative through active participation in the event. A total of 2,000 saplings of different varieties of trees were planted post adequate forethought and meticulous planning to ensure that the saplings sustain the harsh weather conditions peculiar to the region.

The plantation drive would not only improve the green cover in the region but also help in stabilising the soil and enhancing the oxygen levels substantially.

The tree plantation drive in addition to

remembering the valour and supreme sacrifice of our brave soldiers in Kargil War, demonstrated, the resolve of the populace in supporting the Indian Army in all spheres.

Such actions would go a long way in further cementing the bond between Indian Army and the resident population. The drive will also give a major boost towards improving the regional ecology. The initiative conveys the message, 'Each One, Plant One', harping upon the responsibility of all citizens towards their contribution for improvement of the environment.

# World Water Day observed at GDC Doda

### Top News Report

DODA, Mar 22: In order to observe World Water Day, an awareness campaign and cleanliness drive was organised by the Department of Environmental Sciences GDC Doda. The awareness rally started from



the college campus via Nagri and back to the institute.

Awareness slogans were chanted by students during the rally to create awareness among the pedestrians and commuters.

A Cleanliness Drive

was also organised by the same students at some local water streams of Doda city.

The whole programme was organised under the guidance of Dr Attar Singh, Principal GDC Doda. The rally was flagged off by HOD Botany Prof. Devinder,

HOD Zoology Prof. Mansa Ram and NSS coordinator Dr Jamsheed Ahmad from the college premises.

The event was executed by Purnima, Prof Rahul Assistant Professor Environmental Sciences GDC Doda.

# GDC Kishtwar Eco-Club celebrates World Water Day 2024

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 22: The Eco-Club at Government Degree College Kishtwar commemorated World Water Day 2024 with fervor and enthusiasm. Under the esteemed guidance of Principal Prof. Basharat Iqbal, the Eco-Club organized a painting competition centered around the theme "Water for Peace."

The event witnessed vibrant participation from 35 students who showcased their artistic talent and environmental consciousness. Prof. Ajeet



Thakur inaugurated the program with insightful remarks, highlighting the critical importance of water as a resource and the pressing challenges

faced by global water supplies.

Dr. Sehrish Gazal, Convener of the Eco-Club, provided a comprehensive analysis of water as

a finite resource, emphasizing practical strategies for conservation and preservation. Her discourse aimed to instill a sense of environmental stewardship among the student community.

A distinguished panel of judges, consisting of Dr. Tabassum, Prof. Ajeet, and Dr. Waheed Hurra, evaluated the student artwork. The competition fostered a spirit of creative expression, with paintings reflecting a profound understanding of the theme and the pivotal role of water in promoting

peace.

In a symbolic gesture of commitment to water conservation, all participants took a solemn pledge to actively safeguard water resources.

Prof. Basharat Iqbal, Principal of GDC Kishtwar, expressed sincere appreciation for the Eco-Club's initiative and the efforts of the organizing committee. He applauded their dedication to hosting events that inspire environmental action and raise awareness among the student body.

# CEO Kishtwar asks HOIs to ensure AMF at designated Polling station



### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 22: In a continuous endeavour to look into the functionalities in Govt institutions, the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Kishtwar, R K Vesheshta on Friday undertook an inspection visit at UPS Noos of Zone Nagseini, HSS Padder, GHS Atholi Padder and ZEO Office Padder.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the functional and punctuality aspects of the educational staff besides taking stock of the Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs) at polling station established in these schools.

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 stressed for the regular PTM meetings and strengthening of SMCs in the schools.

# 11th J&K UT Rope Skipping Championship held



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: Rope Skipping Association of Jammu and Kashmir organised 11th J&K UT Rope Skipping Championship 2022-23 under the slogan of 'My Youth, My Pride'

at Baby Caters Hall, Rehari, Jammu.

Around 180 skippers from various districts were participated in the championship. The closing ceremony was chaired by Vikas Gupta - Sr. Vice President Judo Association

Jammu & Kashmir as well as Joint Secretary J&K Olympic Association, Sandeepan Dutta - Vice President Ju-Jitsu Association of Jammu & Kashmir as Guest of Honours. Anil Dutta & Manish Chatwal also attended the event as

special invitees. The whole championship was technically supervised by Danish Sharma Technical Director, Rope Skipping Association of J&K along with officials Rudrakshit Gupta, Nitish Singh, Jaspreet Kaur, Rishika

Sharma, Palak Sharma, Harshita Singh, Daksh Chib & Aapurti Saini. Best Skippers Awards for the session 2023-24 were awarded to Krish Mehra, Ridhika Mehra, Akshara Sharma, Aarna Bhat, Radhika Sharma and Kartik Saini.



## The artist fraternity is jubilant as the apex court rules out criminalising abusive language in OTT content

In a major relief to OTT content creators, Supreme Court has overturned a Delhi High Court verdict that upheld a criminal case of obscenity against web series College Romance for its use of profanity and swear words. The apex court emphasises labelling abusive language as a criminal offence would be an infringement of free speech rights. "Such an approach unduly curtails the freedom of expression that can be exercised and compels the maker of the content to meet the requirements of judicial propriety, formality, and official language," said the bench of Justices AS Bopanna and PS Narasimha.

With shows like Mirzapur, Paatal Lok, Chamak, Rana Naidu, She, Saas Bahu Aur Flamingo and Delhi Crime that continue to grab eyeballs for such language, the SC order is definitely a welcome move for artistes, who think it would have been a regressive approach otherwise.

Hailing the judgment, Paramvir Singh Cheema, who has played a dark and aggressive character Kaala in Chamak, says, "If in real life we can use cuss words to express anger, what's wrong with using that language in a web show or movie?"



The biggest reason OTT platforms are striving is because it is very close to reality. The intention of every artist or writer is to be as true to their characters and situations as possible. Then there are warnings with each show and movie, so it's at the discretion of the viewers what they choose to watch."

Calling freedom to think and speak as the foundation of every artist, Paramvir continues, "Without freedom, no artist can work. It's the demand of story that decides the language, appearance and location. And quite honestly, it's very hypocritical of people to use profanity in their lives but stand against it in web content."

Writer-actor Zeishan Quadri, whose Gangs of Wasseypur is famous for its dialogues, which are swamped with foul language, believes, "Even if we are using the language, it has to be authentic. We can't lose balance. Sometimes makers and actors overdo abusive words, and that's misuse. At the same time, it's such a relief to know that someone out there understands stopping someone to express themselves is a matter of violation of free speech rights."

Focusing on the real picture, he says, "In today's world, every kid has a smart phone. Can you stop them from using it? Why defame an industry? There

are movies by Anurag Basu and also by Karan Johar, choose what suits your sensibility."

Abhishek Banerjee, who has played Hathoda Tyagi in Paatal Lok, stands by the latest ruling. "I feel using abusive language is common in most parts of India, sometimes it's meant as a friendly banter, for some it's a way to let go of their anger. As long as it's relevant to the world, a filmmaker will keep showing it in cinema. There shouldn't be a problem with using profanity or expletives. We can't control art in the name of few public opinions," he affirms.

Recently seen in Netflix series Murder Mubarak, Amaara Sangam

empathises with those sensitive towards language, but profanity isn't obscenity to her. She says, "Look at the international creators; right from Euphoria to Fleabag, if their storytellers had such restrictions, such exceptionally beautiful shows would have never been made. We have to understand that storytelling is a business of emotions. Taking the legal route to stop others based on personal morality and curbing expression of art is not advisable in a democracy that holds freedom of speech so highly."

Writer-director Anuraadha Tewari says, "I have the highest regard for the law and order machinery of our country and great faith in the SC's endeavour to protect our freedom of speech and creative expression."

"What's obscene and what's not, this has always been a dilemma for literature, films and all kind of art forms since centuries. Saadat Hassan Manto and Ismat Chughtai were charged with allegations of obscenity, for writing words like 'chest' or even 'aashiq'. My film Lihaaf is based on the popular book that has a similar theme. It shows how a writer faced charges of obscenity. This judgement brings a sense of relief," says filmmaker Rahhat Kazmi.

## Nicole Kidman reveals why she burst out laughing on seeing her father's body in a coffin



Actress Nicole Kidman has talked about how

her body and mind went into a state of shock

when she saw her father lying in his casket.

The actress said that the grim sight led to her bursting into a fit of laughter.

Nicole's psychologist father Antony Kidman died aged 75 in 2014 after suffering a fall when visiting the actress' sister Antonia in Singapore.

"I literally started laughing because I was so grief-stricken and so devastated. My body and my psyche just couldn't handle it."

The actress also said her grim habit of laughing at inappropriate times has followed her ever since, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Nicole added: "Even at other times in my life, I've laughed at inappropriate times because I have this weird short-circuiting. It's like you need this moment to keep you alive, in a way, otherwise you'll die. It's too much pain."

The actress used her experience at her father's funeral to create a scene in 'Expats' where her character Margaret starts laughing uncontrollably when she and her husband Clarke visit a morgue to view a body that matches the description of their missing son.

## Kareena Kapoor lauds Kunal Khemu's directorial debut film Madgaon Express

Kareena Kapoor Khan shared her thoughts on brother-in-law Kunal Khemu's directorial debut, Madgaon Express. The Jab We Met actress posted the film's poster on her Instagram story and praised Kunal's directing skills. "So, so funny and brilliantly directed. So, so proud of you, Kunal Khemu. Outstanding performances. Bravo, guys," she wrote.

The film marks Kunal's directorial debut. It features Divyenndu, Pratik Gandhi and Nora Fatehi.



## Why Indian American actress Avantika Vandnapu wants to work with Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika Padukone, Alia Bhatt

Indian-American actress Avantika Vandnapu, who is known for her role in 'Mean Girls', said she would love to be part of Indian cinema as she has grown up watching films such as Shah Rukh Khan-starrers 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge' (DDLJ) and 'Veer Zaara'.

Avantika, who will be seen in the Hindi series 'Big Girls Don't Cry', shared, "It's truly surreal to come full circle and return to India, from my roots as a child actor to now leading a Hindi series like 'Big Girls Don't Cry'. This



homecoming feels like a dream come true."

"Since my childhood I have been watching

Yash Chopra films like 'Chandni', 'Veer Zaara', 'DDLJ', 'Darr', among many others... and fell in love with Indian cinema and developed that desire to work in Bollywood films. I love the colour, emotions and cheerful Indian movies, and cannot wait to be a part of them."

Avantika, who was born to an Indian, Telugu-speaking family, made her mark in several Hollywood projects, including 'Mean Girls', 'Spin', and 'Senior Years'.

She said that she would love to work with Shah Rukh Khan and

Deepika Padukone. The actress said, "I have grown up admiring SRK, Deepika, Alia and so many actors and would love to work with them someday. There are such incredible directors I want to work with and I can't wait to explore the many possibilities."

Joining Avantika in 'Big Girls Don't Cry' are Pooja Bhatt, Mukul Chadda, Zoya Hussain and Raima Sen.

Her journey in Hollywood continues with her next project, 'Tarot', a supernatural horror film slated for release later this year.

## 'Amar Singh Chamkila' an opportunity to make a cinematic film for OTT, says Imtiaz Ali

*Ali said he started listening to Chamkila's songs before making the film to understand the psyche of the musician, who courted controversies with the lyrics of his songs.*

"Amar Singh Chamkila" was an interesting opportunity to make a cinematic film in the OTT space, says filmmaker Imtiaz Ali on the upcoming biopic that took him to different corners of Punjab.

The film, starring musician-actor Diljit Dosanjh and Parineeti Chopra, revolves around the life and time of Amar Singh Chamkila, a popular Punjabi singer in the 80s who was shot dead with his singer-wife Amarjot in 1988.

"The movies that I really enjoy on OTT platforms are extremely cinematic and those are the movies I enjoy in theatres as well. I believe people want to watch cinematic movies,

irrespective of the platform.

"For me, it's an opportunity to make a very cinematic film on OTT because it'll have a different kind of reach. Also, I wanted to prove to myself, not to anybody else, that a cinematic film works on both OTT and in theatres," the filmmaker told agency in an interview.

Known for modern relationship dramas such as "Jab We Met", "Love Aaj Kal", "Rockstar" and "Tamasha", Ali said when he got the script for Chamkila's biopic, he was initially not sure whether he wanted to direct the movie.

But the story kept getting interesting and the

filmmaker realised he had something to say through Chamkila's story.

"It's not a word or a sentence. It's more like a feeling or a state of mind. I've tried to be as authentic as possible but within that, I feel that there is my voice in it," he said.

Punjab has served as a backdrop in many of his stories, most notably in "Jab We Met" and "When Harry Met Sejal", but "Amar Singh Chamkila" helped him connect with people from the interiors of the state.

"We travelled to small villages and met people who make most of this state and this country, which are rural people. They don't claim to be



intellectuals and are connected by music or cinema. To connect with those people and the

rawness of the land, has been interesting, unlike my other experiences."

The filmmaker said

he was fascinated by Chamkila's approach to music, which he treated as a "friend, an escape route from reality and as something that empowered him".

"For me, this film is like a relationship between Chamkila and music. The other thing is how non-intellectual his approach was as far as his own life was concerned. He gave no argument or justification for his music. Also, he paid the price with his life." Ali said he started listening to Chamkila's songs before making the film to understand the psyche of the musician, who courted controversies with the lyrics of his songs.

"There is an art in

expressing something which is slightly bold without saying a bad word, but the so-called objectionable part of his lyrics were always suggestive. That's like how it has been in old Punjabi folk as well, especially the songs that women sing in Punjab have that boldness or that suggestiveness, and that's a part of our culture."

Some of Chamkila's popular songs include 'Takue Te Takua', 'Pehle Lalkare Naal', 'Jatt Di Dushmani', and devotional tracks like 'Baba Tera Nankana' and 'Talwar Main Kalgidhar Di'.

Most of the film's music, which is composed by AR Rahman, was recorded on set

with the actors singing live. Ali said it was important to have actors who could sing and Diljit and Parineeti were perfect.

"It was inevitable that the actors had to be the singers. So, if Diljit wasn't in the film, then I don't know whether the film could be made. He's an authentic singer from Punjab who understands life, the cultural context and the linguistics of Chamkila better than anybody. It has been an interesting journey with him on this film."

"Amar Singh Chamkila" is the first biopic that Ali has directed. He said making a film that is backed by facts was an interesting process.



## “Totally Disappointed With Kejriwal”: Ex-Supreme Court Judge And Former Colleague

Justice (retd) Hegde, a former Solicitor General of India, was among the key personalities, including Mr Kejriwal, behind the then ‘India Against Corruption’ movement, spearheaded by Anna Hazare, more than a decade ago.

BENGALURU, Mar 22 (Agencies): Former Supreme Court Judge N Santosh Hegde said today he was “totally disappointed” with Aam Aadmi Party leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who was arrested in connection with an excise policy linked money-laundering case.

Justice (retd) Hegde, a former Solicitor General of India, was among the key personalities, including Mr Kejriwal, behind the then ‘India Against Corruption’ movement, spearheaded by Anna Hazare, more than a decade ago, which had at the time brought the issue of corruption into sharp focus.

“It clearly shows that when in power, greed overtakes you,” he said on the case against Arvind Kejriwal.

“I am totally disappointed. I thought AAP (after it came to power) will uphold administrative fairness which is not there. And it is an indication of the fact that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely,” he told agency.

After a part of the movement



became a political party (AAP), Justice (retd) Hegde, the former Karnataka Lokayukta, came out of it.

“Special reason for coming out was that politics today is a den of corruption. No political party is free from it. The India Against Corruption movement was fighting against corruption in administration.

It was our principle that we will stay out of politics and try to clean politics. But then a group of people decided that we should enter into politics (and then went on to form AAP) and clean it which I never believed

can be done successfully. And I think what's happening today in AAP is an example of what I thought was correct,” Mr Hegde said.

He said Arvind Kejriwal had come home to invite him to join the party but he did not agree.

Mr Hegde also shared his views on oft-repeated allegations levelled by opposition parties against the BJP-led NDA government of misusing Central agencies like ED and CBI in corruption cases and targeting them.

“Allegation of parties in opposition that the ruling party is doing

it only for destroying opposition, I don't believe it. Yes, they are selectively doing this. But that is no offence at all. Because in criminal jurisprudence, there is no Article 14 (of the Constitution)...does not apply equality.

“And one day when they will come to power, they will go against the BJP. So, ultimately there will be complete justice, is it? If they don't do it against the opposition, then when they come to power they won't do it against these people also. At least 50 per cent justice is being done now,” he said.

In the coming Lok Sabha elections, Hegde said he wants every eligible person to vote.

“Vote not based on any caste, or any affiliation whatsoever, vote based on the quality of the candidate. If you don't find a suitable candidate who would serve your constituency, then there is NOTA (None of the Above). Vote for NOTA. That will send a message to political parties that every ‘Tom, Dick and Harry’ is not a suitable politician,” he said.

## 1 killed, 9 injured as under-construction bridge collapses in Bihar's Supaul

The bridge has 171 piers, and the span between piers 153 and 154 collapsed



SUPAUL, Mar 22 (Agencies): One person was killed and nine people injured as a portion of an under-construction bridge collapsed in Bihar's Supaul district in the early hours of Friday, officials said.

The 10.2-km bridge was being constructed by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) over the Koshi river between Bheja in Madhubani and Bakaur in Supaul district, they said.

NHAI Regional Officer

YB Singh told agency that 10 labourers were trapped under the debris after the accident.

“Unfortunately, one person died on the way to the hospital, and the other nine were rescued with minor injuries. They are out of danger now,” he said.

“Adequate compensation for the deceased as well as injured victims is being arranged. Experts have been briefed and asked to assess the reason for the accident and suggest necessary remedial measures.

Senior NHAI officers have rushed to the site to take immediate action on the matter,” he added.

The bridge has 171 piers, and the span between piers 153 and 154 collapsed, he said.

Deputy CM Vijay Kumar Sinha, who holds the Road Construction portfolio, said that an inquiry has been ordered and action will be taken against those responsible for the incident.

It is a very tragic incident and the government will ensure that the families of the victims get adequate compensation, he said.

Sinha said he was in constant touch with the NHAI as well as the district administration.

District Magistrate Kaushal Kumar along with said senior officers of the administration were at the spot.

## Case Against BJP MP Tejasvi Surya For Alleged Hate Post On Social Media

BENGALURU, Mar 22 (Agencies): An FIR has been registered against BJP MP Tejasvi Surya over an alleged hate post on social media, Election Commission officials said today.

The move comes after a complaint filed by officials of the poll body and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) that the Bengaluru South MP, who is also the President of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, had in a post allegedly targeted a minority and spread enmity between two communities.

He also made a similar post on March 19 on ‘X’ and YouTube which got one million views, 587 comments, 5400 retweets and 13 likes.



He has 1.3 million followers on X, thereby influencing the voters and disturbing the communal harmony between the communities, it further alleged.

Based on the complaint, an FIR was registered at Halasuru Gate police station on March 20 under sections 153 A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds

of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), 295 A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) of the Indian Penal Code and the Representation of the People Act, the officials said.

## Firm gave BJP Rs 25 crore in electoral bonds after director's arrest in excise policy case: AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj

NEW DELHI, Mar 22 (Agencies): Senior AAP leader and Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Friday claimed that a pharmacy firm paid Rs 25 crore to the BJP through electoral bonds after its director was arrested in the excise policy case.

Addressing a press conference here, Bharadwaj also said that there was a threat to the life of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the excise policy-linked money laundering case on Thursday night.

“It is being repeatedly said that there is threat to the life of Kejriwal who has been arrested without any evidence,” Bharadwaj said.

A Hyderabad-based Pharma company whose director was arrested by ED in the excise policy case paid Rs 25 crore in electoral bonds to the BJP in November 2022, he alleged.

“So the money trail and proceeds of crime in this excise case are heading to the BJP,” he said.

The minister said there was no evidence of any money trail or proceeds of crimes against AAP and Kejriwal as was being charged. Bharadwaj said the manner in which Kejriwal was arrested is “inhuman”. He added that the chief minister's family members, including elderly parents, were not being allowed to meet their relatives or AAP leaders since Thursday evening.

## Himachal Pradesh: Three Independent MLAs who voted for BJP in RS polls submit resignation

SHIMLA, Mar 22 (Agencies): Three independent MLAs in Hiamchal Pradesh, who had voted in favour of the BJP candidate in the recent Rajya Sabha elections, submitted their resignation to the Assembly secretary on Friday.

One of them told reporters that they would join the BJP and contest elections on its ticket. The three MLAs -- Ashish Sharma (Hamirpur constituency), Hoshiyar Singh (Dehra) and K L Thakur (Nalagarh) -- reached Shimla Friday, met leader of the opposition Jai

Ram Thakur and thereafter submitted their resignation. “We have submitted our resignation. We will join the BJP and contest elections on its ticket,” Hoshiyar Singh told reporters.

The Independent MLAs said Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has stooped to such a level that he is targeting the MLAs and their families and registering false cases against them.

The three Independent MLAs, along with six Congress rebels, voted in favour of the BJP candidate in the Rajya Sabha elections last month.

## Kejriwal's continuation as CM insult to people, corrupt will go to jail: BJP

NEW DELHI, Mar 22 (Agencies): The BJP on Friday lashed out at the Aam Aadmi Party for its assertion that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will run the government from jail, saying it is an insult to people, law and democracy.

Union minister Anurag Thakur asked if Kejriwal considers himself above law while BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra accused AAP leaders of peddling lies on the issue and asserted that those involved in corruption will go to jail.

The BJP derided the support extended to the chief minister by opposition leaders as a show of brotherhood among thieves.

Several BJP leaders recalled Kejriwal's claim of probity and past allegations of corruption against politicians, including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Sharad Pawar among others, while seeking their arrest, as they claimed that he has been exposed now.

Thakur said he ignored nine summons from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and refused to join the probe.



“Does he think he is above law,” the Union minister asked. His decision to continue as chief minister is an insult to the people of Delhi, law and democracy, Thakur added.

BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said Kejriwal's decision to continue as chief minister despite being arrested makes him the first such chief minister. He has gone past Lalu Prasad Yadav, Trivedi said.

The RJD supremo had resigned and installed his wife Rabri Devi as chief minister before the CBI arrested him in the fodder scam cases.

The BJP leader said Kejriwal's continuation raises serious question for democracy and exposes his true identity after he claimed of ushering in a new politics under the garb of hon-

esty.

Patra said politicians used to scratch each other's back to help each other while indulging in scams but this has changed in the last 10 years under the government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

“Should he (Kejriwal) be let off because he is a chief minister and not a common man,” he asked, alleging that the Delhi chief minister is a kingpin in the corruption case being probed by the ED.

With opposition parties, including the Congress, rallying to Kejriwal's defence and describing his arrest as part of the Union government's crackdown on their leaders, the BJP spokesperson said it is a case of thieves displaying brotherhood.

He is the leader of the corrupt, Patra charged

and added that AAP leaders have been peddling a bundle of lies on the matter.

Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are also on bail in a corruption case, he said, adding mockingly that it is “bail bond” among them. They are also coming together as their ships are sinking, he said.

Dismissing AAP leaders' allegation of political vendetta, Patra asked if people will believe courts or them and said every thief claims innocence when caught.

With the AAP insisting that Kejriwal will remain chief minister, the BJP leader said it shows his greed for power and post while he and his colleagues rose in politics by claiming to disdain the very thing.

As Delhi government minister Atishi questioned the arrest of a chief minister and expressed concern about his safety as he has ‘Z plus’ security, he hit back, saying it shows their sense of entitlement.

She is saying how a CM can be arrested as he is not a common man, Patra said, noting that Kejriwal once

named the likes of Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Lalu Prasad Yadav as corrupt and would ask when people will start going to the jail.

The AAP leader then claimed he has entered politics to cleanse it but began living in a palace and moving around in a security cover, he said.

“It is high time that people who are embroiled in corruption are arrested,” Patra asserted.

Patra also played a statement of Congress leader Ajay Maken in which he had lashed out at Kejriwal for the alleged excise scam and accused him of using Rs 100 crore collected from it to harm the Congress in the Goa assembly polls in 2022.

Even the Supreme Court has spoken about a money trail of over Rs 338 crore while denying bail to AAP leader Manish Sisodia in the same case, he said.

Following Kejriwal's arrest Thursday evening, the AAP had given a nationwide call for protest against the BJP. BJP leaders have called the protest a drama and “celebration of corruption”.

## Mamata Banerjee Hits Out At BJP After Arvind Kejriwal Arrested

KOLKATA, Mar 22 (Agencies): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today hit out at the BJP over Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate, calling it “a blatant assault on democracy.”

“It's outrageous that while elected opposition chief ministers are being deliberately targeted and arrested while individuals accused under CBI/ED investigations are allowed to continue their malpractices with impunity, especially after aligning with the BJP. This is a blatant assault on democracy,” Ms Banerjee, who is also the chief of the Trinamool Congress, posted on X - earlier known as Twitter.

Mr Kejriwal was arrested last evening in connection with a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the scrapped Delhi excise policy.

Minutes after his arrest, posts from key Opposition leaders flooded social media, criticising the Centre and the BJP.

“Targeting Delhi Chief Minister Shri Arvind Kejriwal in this manner due to elections is completely wrong and unconstitutional. Lowering the level of politics in this manner suits neither the Prime Minister nor his government,” Priyanka Gandhi wrote on X

“Strongly condemn the vindictive misuse of central agencies to target the opposition, especially as general elections



loom. This arrest showcases the depth to which BJP will stoop for power. ‘INDIA’ stands united against this unconstitutional action against Arvind Kejriwal,” veteran leader Sharad Pawar said.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi said that the INDIA alliance will give a “befitting reply” to the BJP over the alleged misuse of central agencies. “While captur-

ing all the institutions, including the media, breaking up parties, extorting money from companies, freezing the accounts of the main opposition party were not enough for the ‘devilish power’, now the arrest of elected chief ministers has also become a common thing,” Mr Gandhi said.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK chief MK Stalin called it a “witch-hunt” - a “relentless persecution of opposition leaders by BJP government” and warned the party to be ready to face the people's wrath.

Mr Kejriwal was arrested after he skipped summons for questioning for a ninth time and the Delhi High Court refused to grant him protection from arrest.



## Russia hits Ukraine with deadly barrage, Zelensky appeals for aid

*One of the strikes Friday severed one of two power lines supplying Europe's largest nuclear power plant in southeast Ukraine.*

KYIV, Mar 22 (Agencies): Russia launched a massive wave of deadly overnight attacks on Ukraine using over 90 missiles and 60 Iranian-made drones, President Volodymyr Zelensky said Friday, in one of the largest offensives recently.

"There were more than 60 'Shaheds' and almost 90 missiles of various types overnight," he said.

"The world sees the targets of Russian terrorists as clearly as possible: power plants and energy supply lines, a hydroelectric dam, ordinary residential buildings, even a trolleybus."

Ukraine's internal affairs ministry said the strikes killed at least two people and injured 14 while three were missing.

"All of our services are now involved in eliminating the consequences of the attack. We use robotic equipment in dangerous areas to minimise injuries to rescuers," it said.

Zelensky once again appealed for more Western arms.

"Russian missiles do not have delays, as do aid packages to our country. The 'Shahed' have no indecision, like some politicians. It is important to understand the cost of delays and postponed decisions," he said.

"We need air defence to protect people, infrastructure,



homes and dams. Our partners know exactly what is needed. They can definitely support us... Life must be protected from these non-humans from Moscow".

One of the strikes Friday severed one of two power lines supplying Europe's largest nuclear power plant in southeast Ukraine.

"The enemy is now carrying out the largest attack on the Ukrainian energy industry in recent times," Energy Minister German Galushchenko said on Facebook, adding that shelling had knocked out "one of the power transmission lines feeding" the Zaporizhzhia power plant.

The facility, Europe's largest nuclear energy site, was seized by Russian troops in the first days of the war but is powered by Ukrainian lines.

- 'Extremely dangerous situ-

ation' - "This situation is extremely dangerous and risks sparking an emergency situation", said Ukraine's atomic energy operator Energoatom.

In the event that the final power line is cut, it said the plant will be "on the verge of another blackout, which is a serious violation of the conditions of safe operation of the plant".

Since the beginning of the war, the Zaporizhzhia power plant has suffered multiple blackouts, falling back on emergency diesel generators and safety systems.

"In case of their failure, a threat of a nuclear and radiation accident will emerge," said Energoatom.

According to Zaporizhzhia's governor, 12 Russian missiles hit the region early Friday, destroying several houses and

injuring an unknown number of people.

"According to initial reports, seven houses were destroyed, 35 were damaged," Ivan Fedorov wrote on Telegram, adding that people had been injured.

Petro Andryushchenko, an adviser to the Ukrainian mayor of the city of Mariupol, under Russian control since 2022, said on Telegram that a Russian missile had hit a trolleybus at the Dnipro hydroelectric station, also in Zaporizhzhia, killing civilians travelling on it.

Oleksandr Symchyshyn, mayor of the western city of Khmelnytskyi, described "a horrible morning" with damage to infrastructure and residential buildings.

"There are victims and casualties among civilians," he wrote on Telegram.

The interior ministry said two were killed and eight injured in the region.

Energy facilities were targeted by Russian missile, drone, and artillery strikes in multiple cities across Ukraine on Friday, including Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Vinnytsia, Khmelnytskyi, and Kryvyi Rig.

"The goal is not just to damage, but to try again, like last year, to cause a large-scale failure of the country's energy system," said energy minister Galushchenko.

## UK, Australia call for 'immediate cessation of fighting' in Gaza

*Such a UN resolution would create pressure on Israel to temper its intense five-month-old offensive in Gaza, which has claimed almost 32,000 lives.*



ADELAIDE, Mar 22 (Agencies): Britain and Australia declared the need for an "immediate cessation of fighting" in Gaza, as diplomatic pressure built on Israel Friday to ditch a planned ground assault on the southern city of Rafah.

After a meeting of Australian and UK foreign and defence ministers in Adelaide, the allies issued a statement that stressed the "urgency of an immediate cessation of fighting in Gaza to allow aid to flow and hostages to be released".

The call came just hours before the United States was expected to put a resolution to the UN Security Council stressing the need for

"an immediate ceasefire".

Washington has for months vetoed calls for an immediate ceasefire, hoping to shield its closest Middle Eastern ally, Israel, as it tries to avenge the attacks of October 7.

Such a UN resolution would create pressure on Israel to temper its intense five-month-old offensive in Gaza, which has claimed almost 32,000 lives, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

Israel has vowed to intensify its offensive by moving into Rafah, hoping to rout the last remnants of Hamas forces responsible for bloody October 7 raids into Israel that killed

about 1,160 people, mostly civilians.

London's call for an "immediate cessation of fighting" is a sign that Britain is also growing anxious about the toll of what Israel calls Operation Swords of Iron.

Britain and Australia said cessation was needed to "allow aid to flow and hostages to be released as a crucial step toward a permanent, sustainable ceasefire".

Britain is also a veto-wielding member of the UN Security Council, along with the United States, Russia, China and France.

The Australian and UK foreign and defence ministers also condemned Russia's "full-scale, illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine" and demanded that Russia withdraw its forces.

"Ministers called on all those with close relationships with Russia, particularly China, to refrain from helping Russia to continue its war in any way and convince Russia to end its illegal war," the statement said.

## China says supports UN Security Council taking 'meaningful' action on Gaza war

BEIJING, Mar 22 (Agencies): China said Friday it supported steps by the UN Security Council to end fighting in Gaza, while not saying whether Beijing, a permanent council member with veto power, would support a US draft resolution on the need for an immediate ceasefire.

"China supports the Security Council in taking further responsible and meaningful actions as soon as possible to make unremitting efforts to end the fighting in Gaza at an early date," Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian said.

The United States, which has repeatedly blocked calls for a truce in Gaza, will submit for a vote on Friday a draft to the Security Council on the need for "an immediate ceasefire".

Since the start of the

Israel-Hamas war on October 7, the United States has repeatedly used its UN Security Council veto to block the world body from calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Palestinian territory.

Following their last veto at the end of February, US officials have been negotiating an alternative text focusing on support for diplomatic efforts on the ground for a six-week truce in exchange for the release of hostages.

The latest version, seen by AFP, notes the necessity for "an immediate and sustained ceasefire to protect civilians on all sides, allow for the delivery of essential humanitarian assistance, and alleviate humanitarian suffering".

It thereby supports "diplomatic efforts to secure such a ceasefire

in connection with the release of all remaining hostages."

However, the text does not explicitly use the word "call," instead stating that a ceasefire is imperative, which Russia says is too weak.

Asked Friday whether it supported the resolution, Beijing demurred.

"The international community expects the Security Council to earnestly fulfil its responsibilities," Lin said.

"On the Palestinian-Israeli issue, we must respect history and facts, listen to and respect the position and voice of the majority of Arab countries, realise a ceasefire and end of fighting as soon as possible," he added.

"This is the yardstick by which we measure the Security Council's actions and decisions," he said.

## 36 Chinese military aircraft detected around Taiwan

TAIPEI, Mar 22 (Agencies): Taiwan's defence ministry said Friday that 36 Chinese military aircraft were detected around the self-ruled island in a 24-hour window -- the highest number this year.

Beijing claims democratic Taiwan as part of its territory and has never renounced the use of force to bring it under China's control.

Since the 2016 election of President Tsai Ing-wen -- who does not recognise China's claim on Taiwan -- Beijing has stepped up military pressures, sending in warplanes and naval vessels near-daily around the island.

In the 24 hours leading up to 6:00 am Friday (2200 GMT Thursday), the Ministry of National Defence said it also detected six naval ships operating around Taiwan.

The ministry added that among the 36 mili-

tary aircraft detected, 13 "crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait", the sensitive waterway separating China from Taiwan.

Friday's announcement comes on the heels of nighttime activity by the Chinese military, with Taiwan's defence ministry announcing around 10:30 pm Thursday that 20 fighter jets, aerial unmanned vehicles and transport planes had been detected from 7:30 pm.

It is also the day after an uptick in activity during the 24-hour period ending at 6:00 am Thursday when the ministry said Beijing had sent in 32 aircraft.

Relations between both sides of the Taiwan Strait have been frosty since Tsai's election in 2016, with China cutting off high-level communications due to her stance that the island

was "already independent" -- a redline for Beijing.

Her deputy Lai Ching-te, who China regards as a "dangerous separatist", was elected in January after warnings from Beijing that he would bring "war and decline" to the island.

Lai and vice president-elect Hsiao Bi-khim of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) will take office on May 20.

Hsiao -- who was formerly Taiwan's de facto ambassador to the United States -- has been travelling in recent days, including to the Czech Republic and the European Parliament in Strasbourg, according to photos posted on social media platform X by European politicians.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office on Tuesday slammed Hsiao over her visit to the Czech Republic, saying it

served "the purpose of Taiwan independence... and is unhelpful for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait".

Beijing often reacts to any diplomatic acknowledgement of high-ranking Taiwanese officials, criticising other countries for the merest semblance of acknowledgement of the island's sovereignty.

Chinese boat row Adding to tensions, a row between Taipei and Beijing over a fatal fishing boat incident has dragged on since last month.

A Chinese speedboat carrying four people capsized on February 14 near Taiwan's Kinmen islands while being pursued by the Taiwanese coast guard, killing two people while the other two survived.

Beijing has accused Taiwanese authorities of "seeking to evade their responsibilities and hide

the truth" about the incident, while a Taiwanese coast guard official has said the boat involved was zigzagging and "lost its balance" before capsizing.

China has said it will step up patrols around Kinmen following a series of deadly incidents, including the sinking of another boat in the area this month that resulted in the deaths of two crew members.

The highest number of warplanes around Taiwan occurred last September when 103 Chinese aircraft were detected in a 24-hour period, according to daily data released by the defence ministry.

Taiwan has criticised China for the increased use of "grey-zone" harassment, tactics that experts say stop short of open warfare but are enough to exhaust Taipei's military.

## Kate Middleton 'working from home', says Kensington Palace amid rumours: Report

LONDON, Mar 22 (Agencies): Princess of Wales, Kate Middleton, has been working from home post her abdominal surgery, as she eases back to normal life, Kensington Palace confirmed to The Telegraph. She has been busy with the Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood's (RFCEC) 'Shaping Us' project aimed at improving the lives of babies.

The palace said that the Princess of Wales had been kept up to date with her campaign, which has led to "overwhelming results" of the study she inspired. She launched the project in January, with the objective of highlighting the importance of early years' development in children.

This development came after the staff of a hospital in central London where Kate Middleton had surgery reportedly tried to illegally access her private medical records.



The UK's information watchdog launched an investigation into the alleged incident.

The incident reportedly happened at The London Clinic, a private medical facility, where the 42-year-old Princess of Wales underwent surgery in January. Three workers have reportedly been placed under investigation by the London Clinic.

Kate Middleton's long absence from public life has been marred by speculation and conspiracy theories. It was fuelled after the palace

posted a picture of the princess with her three children, which was later pulled by several media agencies as it was digitally altered. The Princess of Wales later apologised for the confusion over the doctored photo, citing her love for "experimenting" as the reason behind the alteration.

Recently, footage surfaced showing Kate Middleton shopping with her husband, Prince William, at a local farm shop near Windsor. Though many claimed it was the princess's lookalike, Heidi Agan, she dismissed speculation, telling The Mirror in an interview that she was working as a teacher at a dance and musical theatre group elsewhere.

Kensington Palace has assured the public that the Princess of Wales is recovering from the abdominal surgery, and won't be resuming royal duties until after the Easter school break.

## Sri Lankan prime minister to visit next week, says China

BEIJING, Mar 22 (Agencies): Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena will visit China, his country's biggest bilateral lender, next week, Beijing's foreign ministry said Friday.

"At the invitation of Premier Li Qiang of the State Council, Prime Minister... of Sri Lanka Dinesh Gunawardena will pay an official visit to China from March 25 to 30," Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian said in a statement.

Beijing accounts for around 10 percent of the island's total foreign debt.

Sri Lanka defaulted on its \$46 billion external debt in April 2022 after the country ran out of foreign exchange to finance even essential imports such as food, fuel and medicine.

It secured a \$2.9 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout last year, with the programme con-



ditional on a debt deal that satisfies foreign creditors.

The IMF said this week that it had reached a staff-level agreement with Colombo to clear the way for the release of \$337 million, the third instalment of the four-year bailout.

But it said the "critical" next steps were to finalise agreements with creditors.

Beijing said Friday Gunawardena would meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping during his visit for "an in-depth exchange of views on continuing China-Sri Lanka traditional friendship".

"China attaches great importance to the development of China-Sri Lanka relations," Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin said.

It would also seek to "jointly build the Belt and Road with high quality, expand exchanges and cooperation in various fields", he added, a reference to a vast infrastructure project that is a central pillar of President Xi's bid to expand China's clout overseas.

China also announced on Friday that the foreign minister of Nepal, another South Asian nation with close ties to Beijing, would visit.

"Narayan Kaji Shrestha will pay an official visit to China from March 25 to April 1," Lin said.



## Interaction Meet of non-camp Kashmiri Migrants held at Udheywala



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: The first interaction meet of Kashmiri Migrants living in non-camps was convened at Udheywala Jammu by Vishal Jotshi coordinator Vitasta Helping Hand Trust which was attended by a large number of prominent persons of the displaced community putting up in non camps in different parts of Jammu.

Dr. Arvind Karwani new Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner J&K attended the meeting as Chief Guest. Senior community social activists and leaders M.K. Yogi and Vinod Pandita were the guests of honor.

The meeting discussed various genuine problems faced by the community residing in forced exile for over three decades in the Jammu region and other parts of the country particularly addressing the many genuine issues which the community is confronting in their exodus and seeking their resolution forthwith.

Yogi in his address highlighted the plight of PM package employees and said that more than fifteen hundred PM package employees mainly women folk are putting up on a rent basis in the valley which has caused them big miseries that need

immediate attention with the allotment of accommodation near their workplaces to deserving employees on priority basis. He also called for the enhancement of meager monthly cash assistance from Rs. 13000/ to 25000/, the creation of a new employment package for the unemployed educated youth of the community.

Yogi raised the issue of removal M form system ahead of the coming Lok Sabha polls for making voting system form displaced community simple and transparent in order to remove this long discrimination.

Addressing the meeting Vinod Pandita emphasized the urgent need for a concrete and time-bound rehabilitation Policy for the return of the displaced community in the Valley with honor and dignity.

Pandita also called for the implementation of the immovable migrant property act 1997 in letter and spirit and urged the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner to coordinate in this respect as a nodal agency of migrants. Pandita further highlighted the plight of migrants of Purkhoo Phase II living in deplorable conditions and appealed to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner to arrange suitable accommodation for these families as their condition

in temporary sheds is deplorable.

Vaibhav Mattoo social activist & spl invitee of session highlighted the issues of provisions for regular supply of pure drinking water in all camps, internal repairs, and maintenance of migrant quarters and sought immediate steps in this direction.

The representatives of all PM package Coordination Committee Rubon Saproo, Ranjan Jotshi, Vinod Tickoo and Amit Koul while speaking in the meeting highlighted the genuine problems of PM package employees working Valley like promotion issue, accommodation issue, transfer issue etc in detail and submitted a detailed Memorandum of demands to the Relief Commissioner and urged for early consideration of their demands.

Relief and rehabilitation Commissioner Dr. Arvind Karwani while addressing a huge gathering complimented the Vitasta Helping Hand Trust for organizing this first non camp interaction meet and assured the displaced community that he would leave no stone unturned in mitigating the important and long pending genuine issues of the community.

He also assured the mammoth gathering that he would take all problems highlighted here in the session at the highest level in administration for their early solution. Many representations comprising of different problems were presented before him by many migrants to which he assured timely action shortly on the merits of the problems.

The others who voiced concerns and highlighted the community issues were Mohan Lal Bhat, M L. Pandita, Shiban Ji, Virender Bindroo, Vinod Bhat, Pintoo Ji, Maharaj Krishan Koul etc.

In the end vote of thanks was presented by Vishal Jotshi coordinator of the Vitasta Helping Hand Trust and organizer of the programme.

## GDC Udhampur gives impeccable performance in Goonj-2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: Students of GDC Udhampur participated in a two days Multi-Genre Mega Youth Festival "Goonj" a vibrant and spirited showcase of talent, creativity and cultural diversity organised by University of Jammu w.e.f 19-20 March, 2024.

Its aim was to provide a common platform to the colleges and universities to exhibit and share their innovative R&D and best practices so that synergistic growth of institution is facilitated.

It provided a common platform for students to unveil their creative potential and sports acumen and was open to all teaching departments, offsite campuses of the university of Jammu and various other universities of Jammu Division.

sion.

A strong contingent of 32 students of GDC Udhampur participated in multiple Cultural & Literary events like Group Song Indian, Light Vocal Singing, Western Singing Solo, Elocution, Photography, Skit etc and Kabaddi (men) in Sports.

In the Event the kabaddi team (men) of the college brought laurels by winning the bronze medal.

Shivansh Bhogal, a student of sem VI fetched third prize in photography. The teacher incharge accompanying the participants were Dr Revika Arora (Convener Cultural Committee) and Shashi Kumar Sharma (PTI). In addition a contingent of 25 NSS volunteers of the college also participated in parade during the inaugural session of Goonj-2024.



The volunteers were guided by Dr Gurpreet Kour and Prof Sanjeet Singh (NSS POs).

Prof (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal GDC Udhampur while felicitating the winning students of the college expressed his delight by congratulating the winners and participants.

He emphasized the importance of such events in nurturing creativity, talent and cultural exchange among the youth. He also expressed his admiration for the Cultural Committee and Sports Committee for

putting in rigorous efforts with the students who have been rehearsing for a long time.

He further added that the college always encourages students to participate in such events as it brings forward the hidden talent of students and provides a great platform to young budding artists who come from varied catchments of the district.

During the felicitation function the faculty members present were, Prof. B.L.Thakur, Prof. Suresh Dogra, and Prof. Kaku Ram.

## Aryans Celebrates Bihar Diwas

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: A seminar on higher education in India for students from Bihar: Opportunities & Challenges was organized on the occasion.

The speaker for the seminar was Mr. Awais Amber, Educationist & Social Worker from Bihar & interacted with Aryans students.

Highlights of the day were Bihar food festival & everyone enjoyed the vibrant cultural performances by Aryans students of Engineering, Law, Pharmacy, Nursing, Paramedical, Physiotherapy etc.

Awais Amber appreciated the efforts of Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group in the field of education & congratulated all Aryans Bihar students. He added that for a student it is more important to choose a course of study than a particular institute. Some colleges charge



a hefty amount of money as fee but high fee does not guarantee quality education but Aryans Group is providing quality education for all needy and deserving students on affordable fee structure.

Every year on March 22, Bihar Day celebrates the state of Bihar's formation. The first Bihar Diwas event was organized in 2010 to commemorate the 111th anniversary of the state.

### NOTICE

I, Pooja Rampal D/o Hari Parshad Rampal W/o Varun Saraf R/o H.No.11, Chatha Farm, Jammu have changed my name to Vani Saraf for all future purposes vide Affidavit No. IN-JK8226182 4439023W. Anybody have any objection may please contact concerned authority within seven days after publication of this notice.

## FROM PAGE 1

### ED produces Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal physically at Rouse Avenue Court

implementing the Delhi excise policy case 2022, which was later scrapped.

Arvind Kejriwal's arrest came days after the ED arrested K Kavitha, Bharat Rashta Samithi (BRS) leader and daughter of former Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, in connection with its investigation into money laundering charges linked to the now-scrapped excise policy.

Earlier Manish Sisodia, who was the then Delhi Deputy Chief Minister, was arrested by the CBI on February 26 following several rounds of questioning. On October 5, ED arrested Sanjay Singh, who is a Rajya Sabha member.

Kejriwal's arrest also comes ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, which will be held from April 19 to June 1, as per the schedule announced by the Election Commission earlier in the month.

Two senior AAP leaders, Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh, are in judicial custody in the excise policy case. Sisodia, who was the then Delhi Deputy Chief Minister, was arrested by the CBI on February 26 following several rounds of questioning. On October 5, ED arrested Sanjay Singh, who is a Rajya Sabha member.

### Sixth schedule demand: Ladakh groups consider election boycott

polls in fifth phase on May 20. The seat was won by the BJP in 2014 and 2019 elections when Ladakh was part of undivided State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The LAB and KDA leadership discussed series of measures to intensify agitation for grant of Statehood and Sixth Schedule status to Ladakh during two hours long meeting here.

A decision is expected to be announced shortly, the newspaper reported. However, no official statement was released after the meeting.

### Employee rendering services for seven years can't be denied regularisation: HC

Government from time to time and continued to perform his duties for a continuous period of more than seven years cannot, by any stretch of reasoning, be termed as 'casual labour' to deny him the benefit of regularization under SRO 64 of 1994.

"...suffice it to say that the petitioner, who had been rendering services as Security

Guard since 7th July, 1997 continuously and without any break, cannot be termed 'casual labour'. Casual Labour refers to labour whose employment is intermittent, sporadic or extends over a short period or continued from one work to another, whereas a daily rated worker or daily wagger is a person, who is engaged for rendering continuous nature of service and is paid wages on daily basis", read the judgment.

The Court said that it is not the case of the respondent-University that the petitioner-Singh came to the Court to challenge the denial of regularization from retrospective effect after his retirement. It is true that it took some time for him to gather courage and lodge his claim for retrospective regularization and there was considerable delay in doing so.

"Ordinarily, a writ petition seeking service benefits after so many years of the accrual of cause of action is not entertained by the Writ Court. However, having regard to the peculiar facts and circumstances of this case, I am of the considered opinion that the delay and laches would not come in the way of this Court to grant the relief prayed for by the petitioner in this petition", Justice Kumar said.

The retrospective regularization court added, given to the petitioner, at this stage when he has retired from service, would not adversely affect the service rights of any of the employees of the University. "It is not a case where, upon petitioner's retrospective regularization, seniority is to be re-fixed. In such a situation, it would have been justified for this Court not to entertain the plea as that would have been tantamount to unsettling the rights of other employees", read the judgment.

The court observed that a petty employee like daily wagger or Security Guard shall be left with no option but to accept the terms and conditions of employment dictated by his employer. "Where the employer is in a dominating position and pitted against it is a petty employee like the petitioner, it is very difficult for such employee to muster courage and challenge the terms and conditions of the employment offered to him at the time of appointment".

"In a case where a petty daily labourer, who after rendering long services has been regularized as a Security Guard, is pitted against a university, a mighty statutory body, it is the University with all bargaining power that will be in a dominating position", Court held.

### A Week after Getting Kashmir Tunnel Contract, UP Firm Purchases Rs 10 Cr BJP Electoral Bonds

states, including Jammu and Kashmir. Besides, Apco Infratech's involvement in other major projects, such as the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, has raised

eyebrows. The firm secured contracts for two sections of this expressway in Jammu division, amounting to Rs 1547.91 crore, shortly after donating Rs 10 crore worth of electoral bonds to the BJP in January 2022. "In January 2022, the firm donated electoral bonds worth Rs 10 crore to the Bharatiya Janata Party. Seven months later, the firm won a contract from the National Highways Authority of India to construct a 28.92 km stretch of the 650-km Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway," the report said. "Being constructed at a cost of Rs 1547.91 crore, the firm has won the contract to build two stretches – a 13.3 km section between Kunjwani and Sidhra and a 15.62 km section between Domel and Katra – in the Jammu division of Jammu and Kashmir."

This investigation, conducted jointly by Newslandry, Scroll, The News Minute, and independent journalists, underscores the importance of accountability and ethical conduct in the realm of infrastructure development and political financing.

### Sabha elections Kashmir plains lashed by rains, snowfall at Gulmarg

thereafter till March 26. From March 27, there is a possibility of intermittent light rain and snow for the next four days.

Meanwhile, the night temperatures in most weather stations across Kashmir dropped but settled above the freezing point. The day temperature also dropped by several degrees and Srinagar recorded at 16.2C against the 22.8C the previous day.

The summer capital Srinagar recorded 7.2C against the 9.9C on the previous night. It was 2.2C above normal on Friday. Qazigund had a low of 7.0C against the 6.0C recorded on the previous night while at picnic spot of Kokernag in south Kashmir it was recorded at 5.6C against the 8.2C recorded a day ago.

The night temperature at Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district slipped to -0.5C against the 3.2C the previous night and it was still 1.1C above normal for the famous ski resort.

Pahalgam recorded 3.7C against 3.0C the previous night and it was 3.3C above normal for the tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Kupwara settled at 6.6C against the 7.3C recorded the previous night. It was 3.4C above normal for the frontier Kashmir's of north Kashmir on Friday, the MeT office said.

### Kejriwal's arrest shows ruling party's 'Remarkable Degree Of Nervous-

### ness': Omar Abdullah

Kejriwal, who is also the national convenor and chief of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), was arrested on Thursday night by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the scrapped Delhi excise policy 2021-22.

### "Arrest of yet another CM reeks of political vendetta and growing authoritarianism": Mehbooba Mufti

A team from the Enforcement Directorate arrived at Kejriwal's residence to interrogate him regarding the liquor policy case. During a search operation conducted at his home, Kejriwal was arrested amidst dramatic circumstances, as the AAP convenor failed to obtain interim protection from arrest in the liquor policy case from the Delhi High Court. The Enforcement Directorate took him to the agency's headquarters later. A medical team also arrived at the ED office.

AAP workers and leaders rallied behind Kejriwal following his arrest while leaders of the INDIA bloc also extended their support for the AAP leader. BJP leaders endorsed the ED's actions against the Delhi Chief Minister, emphasizing "truth had to prevail".

AAP leader and Delhi Minister Atishi said they had moved the Supreme Court to quash Kejriwal's arrest and have sought an urgent hearing.

"We have moved the Supreme Court for quashing the arrest of Delhi CM @ ArvindKejriwal by ED. We have asked for an urgent hearing by the Supreme Court tonight itself," Atishi said in a post on X.

She had earlier said that Kejriwal will run the government from jail.

However, Kejriwal did not get any special hearing on the late night.

According to sources, there was no special bench set up on Thursday night to hear Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's plea against arrest by the Enforcement Directorate.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that the action by ED shows that cowardice of those who fear the democratic process said, "Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's arrest is highly objectionable. This action is part of the effort to shut down the opposition voices at the stage of the election process. This shows the cowardice of those who fear the democratic process."

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi came down heavily on Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the arrest of Kejriwal and

accused him of resorting to "dictatorial tactics" to destroy democracy in the country.

The Congress leader also accused the BJP-led NDA government of "capturing institutions", including the media.

"A scared dictator wants to create a dead democracy. While capturing all the institutions, including the media, breaking up the parties, extorting money from companies, and freezing the accounts of the main opposition party was not enough for the 'devilish power', now the arrest of the elected chief ministers has also become a common thing," he posted on X.

He said that the opposition INDIA bloc will give a "befitting reply to this".

Termining Kejriwal's arrest as "unconstitutional", Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said "such shameful scenes are being witnessed for the first time in independent India".

She said the 'new low' in politics and political discourse neither favours Prime Minister Narendra Modi nor his government at the Centre."

"Targeting Delhi Chief Minister Shri Arvind Kejriwal in this manner due to elections is completely wrong and unconstitutional. Lowering the level of politics in this manner neither suits the Prime Minister nor his government. Fight your critics in the electoral battle, confront them boldly, and of course, attack their policies and working style—all those are par for the course in a democracy. But using all the institutions of the country to fulfill one's political objective and weakening them by exerting pressure is against every grain of democracy," Priyanka Gandhi posted on X.

"The bank accounts of the country's largest Opposition party, the Congress, have been frozen. All Opposition parties and their leaders are under pressure, night and day, from the ED, CBI and IT. One chief minister (Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren) was put in jail and now another (Kejriwal) is behind bars as well. Such shameful scenes are being seen for the first time in the history of independent India," she added.

CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury strongly condemned the arrest of Delhi CM.

"It's the second sitting CM of the INDIA bloc to be arrested. Clearly, Modi and the BJP are in panic over people's rejection in the ongoing elections. All opposition leaders who defected and joined the BJP are protected and patronised. They are the 'Satya Harishchandras'! These arrests will only cement people's desire to defeat BJP, defend democracy and Indian Constitution," he said in a post on X.

Two senior AAP leaders, Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh, are in judicial custody in the excise policy case. Sisodia, who was the then Delhi Deputy Chief Minister, was arrested by the CBI on February 26 following several rounds of questioning. On October 5, ED arrested Sanjay Singh, who is a Rajya Sabha member.



## BJP Jammu District South organises Social Sampark Abhiyan at St. Mary's Garrison Church

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: Under "Social Sampark" Programme, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organisational general secretary J&K Ashok Koul interacted with the Christian community at St. Mary's Garrison Church, Gandhi Nagar along with former Dy CM Kavinder Gupta, BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan, Seh Prabhari Jammu North Vinay Gupta, Rikki Gupta Programme Convener, Rahul Kumar, Ritika Mahajan Co convener, Satbir Singh, Vishal Gupta and others were present on the occasion.

BJP leaders were warmly received by the church authorities and the congregation, who appreciated the gesture of solidarity and fraternity.

A gathering of prominent Christian leaders headed by FR. Sebastian, FR. Zafat at St. Mary's



Garrison church in Jammu South has expressed support and commitment towards India's development initiatives under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They also expressed commitment towards the vision of 'Developed India by 2047'.

While interacting with the Christian community, Ashok Koul said Jesus Christ has been a source of inspiration for humanity. He also urged the people to follow the teachings and preaching

of Jesus Christ for peace, harmony and progress of the society.

Ashok Koul has underlined the minority community's growing connection with the BJP by citing the party's ideology and the last ten years of good governance. During the social spark abhiyan, Ashok Koul highlights that PM Modi has underscored his government's commitment to the mottoes of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' and development for all without any discrimination.

Kavinder Gupta recalled the sacrifices of Jesus Christ and stated "may the thoughts of the Lord Christ keep inspiring people." He emphasized the BJP's commitment to the principles of inclusivity and respect for all religions. He asserted that today, we are here to celebrate the social sampark these universal values with our Christian brothers and sisters," he said, adding "India's strength lies in its diversity, and it's essential that we respect and celebrate the rich tapestry of faiths that make up our nation."

Rekha Mahajan said social solidarity with the public from all segments of society are a testament to our dedication to strengthening the bonds of brotherhood and understanding among all communities in Jammu and Kashmir. Rekha emphasized that the outreach to the St. Mary's Garrison church in Jammu South is part of

a broader initiative by the BJP to strengthen inter-community dialogues and foster a spirit of harmony and understanding across different religious and cultural groups in the region. Rekha Mahajan recounted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has maintained a special bond with the Christian community which is evident by his historic visit to the Vatican City --the first by an Indian Prime Minister in over two decades. The socio-economic upliftment of all the minorities including the Christian community has been ensured by imparting quality education and subsequently providing them with job opportunities.

Rikki Gupta conducted the proceedings of the programme and noted that PM Modi's governance ensures the comprehensive development of every community in India. Rahul Kumar presented a vote of thanks.

## ABVP Jammu University Unit organises Blood Donation Camp

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: ABVP has been conducting blood donation camps across the UT in general and JU Campus in particular from the past 40 years.

Following the same ABVP Jammu University organised a Blood Donation and Free Medical Camp on Trimurti Balidan Divas.

The program started with illumination of the sacred lamp by the Honourable Chief guest Ajay Sharma, SP Jammu (South) and Akshi Billowria, JK ABVP State Secretary.

The program proceeded with the welcome address by Sahil Choudhary, ABVP President, Jammu University. Choudhary, while making his remarks said that "We are honoured to organise this blood donation and free medical camp on Trimurti Balidan Divas".

He further added that, "This initiative embodies the spirit of service and social responsibility that young people hold



dear. Donating blood is a simple but pious act that can save lives, and we encourage students and the community to participate actively in such events."

While speaking on the occasion the Chief Guest S.P. Ajay Sharma praised the initiative of ABVP on the occasion of Trimurti Balidan.

He emphasised on the capability of youth and motivated the youth to engage themselves in such activities. He also highlighted the issue of drug abuse among the youth.

He further quoted that, "instead of dying for the nation, we should start living for the nation".

Further, ABVP State Secretary, Akshi Billowria in her remarks said

that this event of blood donation has been organised by ABVP, JU Unit who have been doing so for the past 40 years.

She added that, "the motive of this blood donation camp is to pay tribute to the martyrs as well the freedom fighters who have given their lives for the nation".

Ananya Rathore, Secretary ABVP JU concluded the programme with a vote of thanks. It is pertinent to mention here that around 200 students registered themselves as the volunteers for the blood donation camp.

Around 400 immunity booster kits were distributed among the students and teaching staff as well as non teaching employees.

## Manjit Singh demands 27 % reservation to OBCs in J&K

Announces OBC District President Samba, its six block presidents



### Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Mar 22: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh on Friday demanded enhancement of reservation quota to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) people in Jammu and Kashmir up to 27 %.

As per a press release, a meeting was chaired by the Former Minister at Vijaypur in which the OBC members of the Party were present.

During the meeting, the leaders discussed the present political situation and the granting of 8% of reservation to the OBCs in Jammu and Kashmir, while terming it injustice with the community which suffered for the last seven decades.

While addressing the

meeting, the Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh highlighted the contribution of the OBCs including the Jatts to the country and in defending its borders.

He however expressed his dissatisfaction over the reservation quota i.e., 8 % and demanded that the quota must be enhanced up to 27% in Jammu and Kashmir at par with the other states of the country.

He said that the granting of 8% reservation is not sufficient to uplift the living standard of the OBC people, including Jatts because they have a huge population, and the reservation must be granted as per the population ratio.

On the other hand, he said that the income slab that has been fixed

to get the OBC reservation certificate should be scrapped for the benefit of the OBC category people.

To strengthen the OBC Wing, the Party's Provincial President Jammu Manjit Singh announced the OBC committee.

Accordingly, Ex-Capt Sat Pal was announced as District President OBC of Samba District, whereas Zorawar Singh was announced as Block President of Rajpura, Ram Paul as Block President of Samba 'B', Pawan Kumar as Block President of Vijaypur, Balbir Kumar as Block President of Bari Brahmana, Kala Ram as Block President of Parmandal, and Pawan Kumar alias Punnu as Block President of Ramgarh.

## Veteran journalist Zafar Agha passes away

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 22 (Agencies): Veteran journalist and Group Editor of National Herald, Zafar Agha, passed away on Friday. He was 70.

"The Press Club of India expresses profound grief and sorrow at the passing away of veteran journalist and Group Editor of National Herald, Zafar Agha," Press Club of India wrote on X.

He had worked with several publications, including the Patriot, and India Today. "We stand in

solidarity with the family & friends," said the Press Club of India further.

Mr Agha was also associated with Greater Kashmir before 1990.

Mr Agha, who began his career as a journalist with Link Magazine in 1979, is survived by his son Moonish. He died at Fortis Hospital in Vasant Kunj, reported Indian Express.

He also served as member and then officiating chairperson of The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions till 2017.

## DFSS) hold protest against disconnecting electricity connection

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) under the leadership of President. Ashok Gupta held a massive protest against disconnecting the electricity connection of the houses during the ongoing exams.

The party workers raised slogans demanding restoration of electricity. The party president stated that JPDCCL has launched a campaign to disconnect the erring consumers whose power dues are pending.

Board exams are going on of 10 & 12 class board, he said adding that when the power of the houses

are disconnected students cannot study.

Gupta said that future of the students is at stake and the electricity bills can be collected later as well.

He further stated that there are big business man, politicians and bureaucrats whose massive amount of bills are pending and no action is taken against them.

At last he said that bill can be collected later but the future of the students is at stake.

The party people present at the protest were Ashish, Abhishek, Bantu, Vikky, Prem, Rampal, Raju, Ganesh, Ashish Verma and various others were present.

## Management Conclave organised at School of Business, SMVDU



### Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 22: The Management Conclave 2024 entitled, "Sam-bandh" themed "Growth with Sustainability" organised by the School of Business, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.

The Chief Guest of the inaugural function Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU highlighted the importance of linking the academic programs with corporate in today's world. He emphasised on imbuing entrepreneurial traits within students for economic growth and corporate development.

Prof. Ashutosh Vashista, Dean, Faculty of Management highlighted the relevance of Indian ethos in working environment and corporates.

Prof. Supran Kumar Sharma, Coordinator of the program described the different management principles to be followed to enhance teamwork.

Prof. Jyoti Sharma, Head, School of Business laid down emphasis on how such programs help in transition of students from classroom learning to experiential learning. The six plenary ses-

sions were conducted in which experts delivered talks on different aspects of the requisite theme.

The different experts include Ashutosh Bajaj, State Head at Reliance Jio, who talked about sustainable growth in the field of corporate sector and further discussed the involvement of technology and AI in the current business scenario that contributes to societal upliftment. The next expert, Vidya Bhushan, Co-founder and COO, Dalchini Technologies, Delhi, pointed towards critical thinking that may lead to design innovations and reiterated that questioning anything and everything will help to survive in the market for long.

Kanika Nag, Digital Marketer, IBM, Bangalore, highlighted the requirement to maintain individual life philosophy with a suggestion to be kind towards the environment and the people around.

Vinod Prakash Baxla, GM, HR, PowerGrid Jammu, highlighted the contribution of the power sector in the economic development with an emphasis on India becoming a carbon neu-

tral power generator by 2050.

Naren Karunakaran, Consultant, SBBB, IIM Jammu enlightened students on circular economy, mitigation and adaptation. The sixth expert, Ankush Gupta, HR, Business Partner, Ernst and Young, pointed towards the role of analytics in problem solving and shared his experience with respect to growth, sustainability and contribution of management graduates in economic development. Dr Syeda Shazia Bukhari, Co-organising Secretary, SMVDU, delivered the vote of thanks.

A panel discussion was also held on "Industry 4.0: Challenges and Preparedness in India". The experts gave their statements and discussed the challenges being faced in the implementation of Industry 4.0 in India. A number of challenges and opportunities were discussed for its successful implementation. Apart from the six experts, students pursuing MBA program were also the panellists in the panel discussion. Dr Deepak Jain, Organising Secretary presented concluding remarks of the panel

## NISD Beauty & Designing Institute organizes empowering session with students



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: NISD Beauty & Designing Institute Canal Road, Jammu branch recently organized an empowering sessions where students from various disciplines such as Fashion Designing, Makeup, Hair Styling, and Hair Dressing interact with media professionals.

This initiative aimed to bolster their confidence and inner abilities, crucial for thriving in the modern era dominated by social media.

The interactive session

provided students with practical insights into leveraging social media Platforms effectively to showcase their talents and skills.

Through discussions, workshops, and hands-on activities, students learned the nuances of creating compelling content, building a personal brand, and engaging with online audiences automatically.

By embracing media interaction, students gained valuable exposure and confidence in presenting themselves to the public eye. They

emerged equipped with the necessary tools to navigate the competitive landscape of the beauty and fashion industry in the digital age, ensuring their preparedness for success in the ever-evolving world of social media.

On this media interaction NISD Beauty & Designing Institute Director Manju Bala said our institute not just provides training to students but we also care about their future planning after completion of this course. We strongly believe that if you are not on social media in today's social media based era, it means you are not exist. It is very important to know that how to face camera, how to give interview and how to present yourself on different social media Platforms like Instagram, Facebook, Youtube and lots of others.

## Democracy being frozen by BJP - Congress

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: Congress on Friday hit out at the BJP Govt. for freezing 11 accounts of the congress party on flimsy grounds in the midst of elections and appealed to the people to reject BJP this time to save democracy.

Addressing a press conference at PCC HQ here today JKPCC president Vikar Rasool Wani along with Working President Raman Bhalla, Sr. Vice President & Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, General Secretary (Org) Narinder Gupta, DCC President Jammu Urban Th. Manmohan Singh, said that BJP has been freezing democracy, not only bank accounts of Congress party.

He said that for a delay in filing of details of 14.49 lac only congress party's eleven accounts of 210 Cr. have been seized while 115Cr. have been already transferred from our accounts to the Govt. accounts by IT department.

On one hand BJP Govt. has let loose all agencies against opposition top leaders, on other hand they have seized our money while ruling party has collected thousands of crores through unconstitutional and illegal electoral bond scheme.

Giving details, Vikar Rasool Wani said when all political parties are exempted from paying income tax, why such huge

penalty or drastic action for a small mistake of delay of filing returns of our donations from MP's/MLAs tune of Rs 14.49 lakh only. He asked people to wake up and throw BJP out of power, otherwise common man of the country is going to loose freedom and democracy. All these tactics of BJP to win the elections by hook & crook are dangerous for democracy and if people don't wake up now, our future generations will repent and curse us, he added.

Ravinder Sharma while giving further detail said that only this, the IT department has given a notice for the FY 1993-94 when Shri Sita Ram Kesri ji was our treasurer. After 31 years IT department has woken up.

He said electoral bond scheme was launched to collect & loot money and more skeletons are coming up from the cupboard.

He said 35 pharms/Co. have donated 1000 Cr. through bonds while 17 of such Cos. were facing investigation for spurious drugs like syrup, BP & Ramdev-vevisar but have donated huge amounts for what, he questioned.

The congress leaders appealed to the media to take these details & issues to the common people to decide the future of our country and future generations.

## SMVDU sports teams shine at Goonj 2024

### Top News Report

KATRA Mar 22: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) secured an overall third position among more than 10 participating institutions in Sports events held at the "Goonj 2024" hosted by the University of Jammu on 19th -20th March, 2024.

SMVDU women football team stood first in the sports event whereas the volleyball men team won the third position.

The event saw university teams participating in football, volleyball, basketball, kho-kho and kabaddi. The other sports teams of universi-

ty also displayed appreciable performance in the tournament.

The teams were accompanied by the Sports coaches of the university Sumit Sharma and Balbir Singh. Deputy registrar, student welfare was also a member of the participating contingent. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU congratulated the winning teams for bringing laurels to the university.

Vice chancellor appreciated the efforts of the Sports Wing headed by Dr. Parvez Singh Slathia and encouraged to participate in such events for showcasing the talent of university students.



## IPL 2024: Kolkata Knight Riders to take on Sunrisers Hyderabad

Shreyas' comeback in spotlight in Starc vs Cummins showdown

KOLKATA, Mar 22 (Agencies): Shreyas Iyer's comeback from a long injury layoff will be in focus as IPL's two biggest signings, Australian pacers Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins, go head to head in Kolkata Knight Riders' opening match against Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Saturday.

The Indian batter, after missing the entire season last year due to a back injury, returns to lead KKR, who have made some tactical additions while keeping the nucleus of the side intact.

Shreyas sparked with the bat with a 95 in Mumbai's Ranji Trophy triumph recently but it remains to be seen whether he'll be available for all the matches, given his fitness concerns.

KKR's most successful leader Gautam Gambhir is back in his second innings as a mentor. His partnership with head coach Chandrakant Pandit, a shrewd tactician in domestic circuit, will be the key to their revival.

"This is your franchise, make it or break it," team principal owner Shah Rukh Khan has told Gambhir. Under the former India cricketer's captaincy, KKR had a golden run from 2011-2017 -- two IPL titles, five playoffs and a runners-up finish in the now defunct Champions League T20 tournament.

The biggest signing of this IPL is with KKR, and by acquiring Starc at a record sum of Rs 24.75-crore, the left-arm quick



will be under huge pressure to perform.

His spell in power-play and the death overs will be the key. Starc and Andre Russell are the only two experienced pacers in KKR's ranks, and with no like-for-like replacements for them, their workload management will be crucial.

KKR boast of a star-studded top-order batting lineup in Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Phil Salt, Venkatesh Iyer and Shreyas to go with the Russell-Rinku Singh firepower at the death.

But the Gambhir-mentored side will rely heavily on the home conditions to offer some spin so as to give the likes of Sunil Narine, Varun Chakravathy and Suyash Sharma some assistance.

Starc will have his skipper Cummins leading SRH in the adjacent dug-out as the Aus-

tralian captain will also have his task cut out.

Cummins (Rs 20.50-crore) is the third-most expensive buy in this IPL and all eyes will be on him to revive the fortunes of the side that has had two wooden- spoon finishes in the last two seasons.

On paper, KKR with a star-studded batting and spin-heavy attack to complement Starc's pace, will be overwhelming favourites.

But SRH, under the shrewd captaincy of Cummins, will definitely fancy their chances. Travis Head and Heinrich Klaasen's batting firepower in the power-play and death overs will be vital.

Their bowling also looks balanced with the experienced Cummins and India's veteran death-overs specialist Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the lineup,

while the likes of Washington Sundar and Wanindu Hasaranga will be crucial in the spin department.

It remains to be seen whether Hasaranga, the ace Sri Lankan all-rounder who has been banned by the ICC for the Tests against Bangladesh, will be available for SRH's opener.

Squads:

Kolkata Knight Riders: Shreyas Iyer ©, Nitish Rana (vc), Manish Pandey, Raman-deep Singh, Rinku Singh, Sakib Hussain, Anukul Roy, Raman-ullah Gurbaz, Vaibhav Arora, Chetan Sakariya, Dushmantha Chameera, Varun Chakravathy, Mitchell Starc, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Harshit Rana and Suyash Sharma.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Pat Cummins ©, Abdul Samad, Abhishek Sharma, Aiden Markram, Travis Head, Wanindu Hasaranga, Marco Jansen, Rahul Tripathi, Washington Sundar, Glenn Phillips, Sanvir Singh, Heinrich Klaasen, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mayank Agarwal, T. Natarajan, Anmolpreet Singh, Mayank Markande, Upendra Singh Yadav, Umran Malik, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Shahbaz Ahmed, Jaydev Unadkat, Akash Singh, Jhathavedh Subramanian.

## IPL 17: New Beginnings

CSK, Mumbai get new captains as Pant returns after over a year



NEW DELHI, Mar 22 (Agencies): The never-ending speculation surrounding Mahendra Singh Dhoni's retirement, Virat Kohli's 16-year drought, the second chance that life has offered Rishabh Pant and Rohit Sharma's World Cup agony will make for intriguing sub-plots in the Indian Premier League (IPL) beginning today.

Known to do the unexpected, Dhoni stepped down as Chennai Super Kings' captain on the eve of the IPL opener against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, handing over the reins to Ruturaj Gaikwad, a man he mentored for the leadership role.

"We have been working hard to prepare leaders. We have been slow on life after MS Dhoni. But trusting the youngsters has paid off well for us. I have already had a word with the youngsters like Rutu about leadership and captaincy. It is a great opportunity for him to lead the team," CSK coach Stephen Fleming said.

Delhi Capitals' Pant, back from the brink after a life-threatening accident, will be desperate to show the world that he can still hit those one-handed sixes with elan.

Rohit will be the last person to show his scars hidden behind his typical Mumbaier nonchalance as he gets down to enjoying his evening dates at the Wankhede albeit without the captain's title. The partisan crowd would, nonetheless, look forward to his trademark pull shots.

For other captains, they need to win the on-field games but

Hardik Pandya needs to win the dressing room too. There will be seniors with bruised egos, knowing that a shot at leadership has bypassed them. They could well be difficult to handle.

As for Kohli, he would be in pursuit of that elusive jewel in his crown. By his own admission, he has been longing for a big title and his own passionate approach to the game would be a key factor in deciding whether the RCB men manage to emulate the women this year.

A bigger prize is also at stake for at least 10 to 12 other players, who will be vying for eight slots on the New York-bound flight that will take off at the end of May for the T20 World Cup in the USA and the Caribbean.

There will be unbelievable comebacks by some; a few new stars will emerge; there will also be those usual rags-to-riches stories and all of it could unfold in a matter of four minutes, the time it takes to deliver one over.

For foreign stars like Pat Cummins of Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) and Mitchell Starc of Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), who raked in big money during the auction, will shoulder a massive burden of expectations through the season.

For every six that they concede at the death or each yorker that turns into a full toss, the two will be reminded of salaries which are north of Rs 20 crore. "I think we've got a great mix. We've got a couple more experienced guys like Bhuvni (Bhuvnesh-

war Kumar). Obviously, Aiden Markram was captain last year. But we've got some exciting young talent. I'm super excited to see guys like Abhishek (Sharma), Umran Malik. So, I think fans should be pretty pumped for the season ahead," said Cummins.

The high-stakes match between cross-city rivals Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru here today will not only usher in the IPL 2024 but also a new dawn for the defending champions with iconic MS Dhoni handing over the captaincy to Ruturaj Gaikwad.

Dhoni is expected to retire at the end of this season and it seems the unanticipated move, just a day before the start of new season, has been taken for a smooth transition.

But beyond the emotional whirlpool, CSK and RCB will have to find some early answers to some big questions as they attempt to enter a rarefied territory.

CSK are five-time champions, and a sixth title will put them in a space where no team has entered so far.

On the other hand, RCB, who recently grabbed their maiden title through Women's Premier League, will be eager to add a first IPL title to their cabinet.

CSK have been the torchbearers of success in the IPL under Dhoni, whose IPL career has reached its final chapter. While his cricketing brain is still immune to advancing years, time has sure caught up with his reflexes as a batsman.

## Swiss Open: PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen bow out; Kidambi Srikanth and Rajawat enter quarterfinals

BASEL (SWITZERLAND), Mar 22 (Agencies): Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu's run at the Swiss Open was cut short by a Japanese teenager, while top Indian male shuttler Lakshya Sen lost to Lee Chia-Hao of Chinese-Taipai in the pre-quarterfinals of the Super 300 tournament here.

Ace Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth, Priyansh Rajawat and Kiran George won their respective men's singles round-of-16 matches to advance to the quarterfinals late on Thursday night.

Sindhu, after bowing out in the second round of the recently-concluded All England Championships, lost to Japan's 17-year-old junior world champion Tomoka Miyazaki 21-16 19-21 16-21, while Sen was eliminated by Lee Chia-hao 17-21 15-21 in just 38 minutes in the round-of-16 contest.

Srikanth, though, secured a place in the quarterfinals by defeating top seed Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia 21-61 21-15, while Rajawat got the better of Lei La Xi of China 21-14 21-13 to clinch a last-eight berth.

George struggled against French shuttler Alex Lanier before prevailing 18-21 22-20 21-18 in gruelling 71-minute contest to book a quarterfinal berth.

Srikanth will take on Lee Chia-Hao, while Rajawat will clash against Chinese-Taipai's Chou Tien-Chen in the last-eight round. George will look to get past Rasmus Gemke of Denmark to secure a place in the semifinals.

Sindhu, who seems to be returning to form after a long injury layoff, fought her teen-aged rival tooth and nail before bowing out in round of 16 with

the Japanese shuttler drawing on her youthful energy to make a statement against the two-time Olympic medalist.

Miyazaki, who had claimed the gold medal at the 2022 world junior championships, and has come into the tournament after winning her maiden Super 300 crown at Orleans Masters in France last week, lost the first game 16-21 but staged a fine recovery to take the tie into the decider before winning in 80 minutes.

Miyazaki kept hitting those high tosses to keep Sindhu at the back. The Indian had to play a lot of over-the-head returns and ended up making errors as the rallies extended.

In the end, the Japanese had six match points. Sindhu saved two before spraying into the net.

Earlier on Thursday, the Indian women's doubles pair of Treesa

Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand progressed to the quarterfinals with a straight-game win over compatriots Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra.

The eighth seeded Commonwealth Games bronze medalists hardly broke a sweat as they brushed aside fellow Indians Priya and Shruti, ranked 75th in the world, 21-10 21-12 in 36 minutes.

World no. 26 Treesa and Gayatri, who are sharing the 14th place in the Olympic Games qualification ranking, will face Australia's Setyana Mapasa and Angela Yu in the next round.

World No. 20 Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa, who are 6,296 points ahead of Treesa and Gayatri in the Paris qualification race at 12th spot, lost 17-21 16-21 to Japan's world No. 30 Rui Hirokami and Yuna Kato.

## Comeback-man Pant the highlight as Delhi Capitals take on Punjab Kings in IPL opener

PBKS look to shed past baggage

CHANDIGARH, Mar 22 (Agencies): Rishabh Pant's resilient return to the cricket field in multiple roles will be the focus when Delhi Capitals take on Punjab Kings in their IPL opener here on Saturday, both teams hoping to erase the disappointment of below-par performances in the last season.

Pant's miraculous escape from a life-threatening car crash in December 2022 has now become a tale of perseverance after the big-hitting wicketkeeper-batter made a faster than expected recovery to be back in action.

He has been cleared to play as a keeper-batter and has the additional responsibility of captaining the side, taking back the position from David Warner, who led DC to a ninth-place finish in the 10-team tournament last year.

"He (Pant) has probably batted more in the last week

than he has ever batted leading into most of the IPLs. I think from his point of view, he wants to get a bit of trust back in his body again," said DC coach Ricky Ponting on Thursday ahead of the match to be played at the newly constructed Maharaja Yadavindra Singh cricket stadium in Mullanpur here.

It has taken 15 months of hard work, courage and determination for Pant to be ready to lead DC again. He is a massive shot in the arm for the team whose best-ever performance in the IPL till date is a runners-up finish in 2020.

It is not yet clear whether Pant will start his keeping duties immediately. In case case he doesn't, DC will fall back on either West Indian Shai Hope or South Africa's Tristan Stubbs.

DC have a potent fast bowling arsenal, backed up by an explosive batting lineup.



Warner, who recently retired from the Test cricket, will be hoping to make a mark and secure a spot in the T20 World Cup-bound Australian side.

In Prithvi Shaw, Mitchell Marsh, Pant and Stubbs, DC have explosive batting line-

up, while their bowling attack will be led by Anrich Nortje in the company of Indian veteran Ishant Sharma, Mukesh Kumar, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel.

PBKS look to shed past baggage

The Punjab trophy cabi-

net is empty too. They have made it to the final only once, in 2014, losing to Kolkata Knight Riders on that occasion.

After finishing sixth for four consecutive seasons between 2019 and 2022, PBKS dropped to eighth in

2023, and will look to turn things around this time.

In Shikhar Dhawan, PBKS have a skipper who would be desperate to prove a point after being side-lined from the national set-up.

PBKS have a new vice-captain in Jitesh Sharma but Jonny Bairstow's form would be a concern.

The side have some feisty all-rounders in Sikandar Raza, Sam Curran, Liam Livingstone and Rishi Dhawan while the bowling attack will be led by Kagiso Rabada in the company of Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel and Nathan Ellis.

But they have rarely come together as a unit to go the distance, making Delhi the favourites for the day game.

Teams (from): Delhi Capitals: Rishabh Pant ©, David Warner, Prithvi Shaw, Swastik Chikara, Yash Dhull, Anrich Nortje,

Ishant Sharma, Jhye Richardson, Khaleel Ahmed, Kuldeep Yadav, Mukesh Kumar, Pravin Dube, Rasikh Dar, Vicky Ostwal, Axar Patel, Jake Fraser-cGurk, Lalit Yadav, Mitchell Marsh, Sumit Kumar, Abhishek Porel, Kumar Kushagra, Rickey Stubbs, Shai Hope, Tristan Stubbs.

Punjab Kings: Shikhar Dhawan, Jitesh Sharma, Jonny Bairstow, Prabhsimran Singh, Liam Livingstone, Harpreet Bhatia, Rilee Rossouw, Shashank Singh, Chris Woakes, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Ashutosh Sharma, Tanay Thyagarajan, Atharva Taide, Rishi Dhawan, Sam Curran, Sikandar Raza, Shivam Singh, Prince Choudhary, Harpreet Brar, Arshdeep Singh, Kagiso Rabada, Nathan Ellis, Rahul Chahar, Vidwath Kaverappa, Harshal Patel.



## Dogra Sadar Sabha highlights trilogy of Dogra Culture

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, President, Dogra Sadar Sabha and former Cabinet Minister, Jammu and Kashmir, has highlighted the trilogy of Dogra Culture, the Dogri language along with its various dialects and the ethos of the 'lamb and lion, both drinking water from the same pond', propounded by Raja Jambulochan, founder of the capital city of Jammu, as the reflection of rich and glorious tradition, ethics and aspirations of the Dogras.

Charak was addressing a press conference here today during which he emphatically reiterated the necessity of a serious initiative from the government side for revival and rejuvenation of the Annual Jammu Festival / Duggar Festival in all the districts of Jammu region on a large scale, to mark the forthcoming Baisakhi celebrations this year.

Charak also stressed upon the urgent need for immediate launching of the long-promised Duggar Satellite Channel by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for viewers within the country and across the borders.

At the same time, he was candid enough to laud the concerned authorities of Jammu Smart City Project, who have started the renovation and restoration work of Raja Jambulochan Memorial at the Ranbireswar Temple Chowk, Jammu, to its pristine glory.

In this connection, Charak reminded that it was the Dogra Sadar Sabha, J&K, which had struggled to get the Raja Jambulochan Memorial established through the then government in 1994 at Ranbireswar Temple Chowk, near Civil Secretariat, Jammu, to remind



and educate the local people and the visitors, about the rich cultural legacy and human values of brotherhood and communal harmony, on which Raja Jambulochan had established this capital city of Jammu, around 3400 years ago.

Charak appreciated the assurance given to him recently by Rahul Yadav, IAS, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation and CEO Jammu Smart City Ltd., that the site will be developed under Jammu Smart City Project in the most befitting manner, by taking into account the history and culture of Jammu. He hoped that the sentiments and historical facts will be taken into due account during the on-going development and designing of the Memorial so that the place becomes a centre of attraction, not only for the locals, but also for the tourists and visitors from outside J&K.

Charak said that he was reminding the administration and the government, well in advance of the Baisakhi festival, that after years of casual approach in organisation of the Annual Duggar Festival/Jammu Festival, it must be restarted and rejuvenated on a grand scale all across Jammu region in all the districts. He stressed that all concerned government machinery, tourism and

culture departments, local artists, singers, dancers, musicians, painters, religious organisations, NGOs, social, cultural, business organisations, traders, etc. must be sensitised, involved and geared up in such a way that the festival doesn't remain a mere formality, but people actively participate in the mega-event. For the DSS, the Festival of Baisakhi carries immense historical, cultural and religious importance for the people of Jammu and the Government shouldn't allow its sheen to get worn out, he said. Shri Charak regretted that the event had become a mere eye-wash during the past few years, while it was high time that this religious cultural event of the Dogras is given due importance by the UT government.

Shri Charak was critical of the Politicians from Jammu itself, who had sabotaged the efforts of Dogra Sadar Sabha more than a decade ago to convince the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting about the urgency to launch Duggar Satellite Channel from Jammu.

Charak expressed happiness that DD Srinagar, DD Kashmir, etc. were doing very well in Kashmir, but lamented that DD Jammu continued to be neglected, so much so that the DD Jammu was lagging far behind to the point of near-extinction.

The local artists were suffering as their most important window of communication through this medium was almost getting closed. He disclosed that on 14 February, 2014, it was decided in a meeting of the Prasar Bharati Board that the Doordarshan Kendras of Utrakhhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Jammu will be upgraded to Satellite Channel, but unfortunately, all others except Jammu got it.

Charak referred to letter number 9/23/2023-PI dated 01-01-2015 of the Director General of Doordarshan Prasar Bharati in this regard which mentioned about the proposal to convert Jammu Doordarshan into a 24x7 Satellite Channel. He appealed to the government to consider this highly legitimate demand in right perspective and upgrade Doordarshan Kendra Jammu to the full-fledged Duggar Satellite Channel immediately without any further delay. He reiterated that in addition to its culture and language based requirement, the intervention was necessary to counter false propaganda being telecast by Pakistan TV against India from across the Border/LoC.

Shri Charak endorsed the long pending demand of Doordarshan Approved Drama Artists Association before the Union

Government to upgrade the Doordarshan Kendra Jammu to the status of Duggar Satellite Channel so that this medium effectively serves to educate, entertain, and awaken the masses on heritage, culture, modern science and technology, welfare schemes, etc. by making the best use of Dogri language, culture and invaluable legacy.

Charak appealed to the Government of India and the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, J&K, to give a serious consideration to the demand for launching of Duggar Channel and rejuvenation of DD Jammu at the earliest so that long pending demand of Jammu region is fulfilled and the much-needed voice of the Dogra artists attracts viewership from far and wide. He emphasised that launching of Duggar Channel and rejuvenation of DD Jammu were highly essential now than any time earlier.

The demand for throwing open the General NC Vij Road, that has been barricaded along the front gates of Civil Secretariat Jammu for common people, was raised once again by Gulchain Singh Charak. He stressed that the barricades had badly divided the old Jammu City into two halves putting the people into unwanted and immense troubles that have been enumerated a number of times. He proposed that the security concerns could be duly addressed by making suitable arrangements within the sprawling Civil Secretariat campus.

Other participants of the press conference were Col. Karan Singh, Prem Sagar Gupta, Col. Dr. Virendra K.Sahi Vrc, Ghambir Dev Singh, Amanat Ali Shah, C.M Sharma, Jagdeep Singh, Narinder Singh Jamwal, Ravi Singh and others.

## 1000 SHE 7th International online art exhibition by Jyotikriti

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: Jyotikriti Art Organisation announced the premiere of SHE 7th online art exhibition celebrating the power and essence of Womanhood through the lens of artistry.

Curated by Jyoti Saini Siddiqui, the Founder Director of Jyotikriti Art Organisation, this exhibition promises to be a captivating journey into the diverse interpretations of femininity and strength in art.

Scheduled to premiere on the Jyotikriti Official YouTube Channel on March 22nd at 7:00 PM Indian Standard Time, this virtual exhibition brings together a talented roster of artists from around the globe, representing countries such as the USA, Italy, Peru, Kosovo, Iran, Mauritius, France, Georgia, New Zealand and India.

From seasoned professionals to emerging talents, each participant offers a unique perspective on the multifaceted nature of women's roles, experiences, and identities.

The exhibition features the following esteemed artists: Aksh Chakroborty, Avneet Chopra, Bhattathiripad, Carmen Moya, Dr. Ganesh Sharma, Dr. Vandana Midha, Dr. Anupam Kumari, Gopikala, Harsh Gupta, Irina Batchelor, Jyoti Saini Siddiqui, Kirti Awasthi, Keta Merkviladze, Lia Shalvashvili, Mehrajiz Talaiezadeh, Meher, Pallavi Gohain, Padmini Mehta, Rudy L Henderson, Reemesha Oodit, Rena Hottinger, Ravindra Kushwaha, Dr. Rita



Kashyap, Rouvillla Pergun Dawon, Rebeca Dorich, Rosemary Christopher, Suhani Vithika, Tahera Rahnama, Trina Bachelor, Vjollca Ajeti Kollcaku.

Eminent senior contemporary Sculptor Ganesh Kumar Sharma represents Jammu and Kashmir UT and his two art works are selected and displayed in this prestigious International virtual art exhibition.

Through a diverse array of mediums including paintings, sculptures, digital art, and mixed media, these artists delve into the essence of womanhood, portraying themes of empowerment, resilience, beauty, and cultural diversity.

Jyoti Saini Siddiqui, the curator of the exhibition,

expressed her excitement, stating, "Women have always been a powerful source of inspiration in the world of art."

This exhibition serves as a tribute to their strength, creativity, and influence. Each artwork tells a story, celebrates identity, and sparks meaningful conversations about the role of women in society."

The online exhibition will provide viewers with an immersive experience, allowing them to engage with the artwork and the artists' perspectives from the comfort of their homes. Attendees can join the premiere on March 22nd at 7:00 PM IST by visiting the Jyotikriti Official YouTube Channel.

## Large number of men, women joins AAP



Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Mar 22: A meeting was organized by Romesh Lal Bhagat, Vice President, District Jammu Rural, at Akhnoor Town, Jammu on 21st March, 2024.

The Chief Guest of the meeting was Adv. Arvind Bandral, President Legal Cell, Jammu Province. Large number of Men & women joins AAP in the meeting at Akhnoor Town, in presence of Sr. AAP leaders Adv. Arvind Bandral, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat, Suresh Bhagat & Ashni Matoo.

Welcoming new entrants into Party fold, the Sr. leaders said that the AAP has taken its birth to the service of common man, the workers, laborers, youths & exploited class of the society.

They congratulated Delhi & Punjab people for their wisdom & foresightedness who voted Kejriwal to people, who has, because his visionary pro- people politics & programs, revolutionized & galvanized the

Delhi UT & given a new concept of governance in politics-i.e; "governance to serve & not to rule". They said that AAP is the only solution of all evils in the country in general & J&K in particular.

The meeting further lays stress for awareness among the masses about the policies & programmes of AAP being implemented in Delhi & Punjab and that the BJP once called Delhi Model as bunch of REWARIES, is now itself talking of various policies of freebies like "KISSAN NIDHI, LADLI BEHNA, Rs.450 per LPG cylinder, free Ration @ 5kg per family to 80 crores etc are the open instances as to how the poor people are being befooled and exploited timely for political gains at the time of elections. They further laid stress to aware the masses about the false promises made to the people in 2014 which never saw the light of the day and that the debt over the nation has swelled to three times high during last nine years.

## AIIMS Vijaypur to launch nationwide Tele-Consultation Services for doctors

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: In a significant stride towards enhancing healthcare accessibility and collaboration, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Vijaypur, Jammu is set to commence its Tele-Consultation services from 27th March 2024.

This groundbreaking initiative aims to facilitate doctor-to-doctor tele consultations, empowering doctors not only from Jammu and Kashmir but also from other states.

It will enable them to seek expert opinions from consultants of numerous departments (Speciality & Super-speciality) of AIIMS Jammu.

The Doctors will be using the e-Sanjeevani platform to get expert opinion from renowned medical Professionals of AIIMS Jammu, receiving vital insights and guidance on challenging medical issues.

This collaborative approach will foster knowledge exchange and will ensure that patients receive the highest quality of care, regardless of their geographical location.

Announcing the commencement, Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO of AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu, emphasized the

Institution's commitment to serve the mankind as a referral hospital and extending its expertise beyond its premises.

He stated, "AIIMS Jammu, a referral hospital, aspires to fulfil its duty to provide services to regional doctors. With the introduction of Tele-Consultation services through the e-Sanjeevani portal, the Institute aims to bridge the gap between healthcare providers and ensure timely access to specialized care.

It will add value to patients' lives by saving them time and money by eliminating the need to travel to hospitals and instead of travelling they could easily consult at their regional health clinics."

The Tele-Consultation schedule, featuring specialty-wise consultations, will be available on the AIIMS Jammu website - <https://www.aiims-jammu.edu.in>. Regional doctors are encouraged to visit the e-Sanjeevani portal for detailed information and to schedule tele consultation appointments.

This initiative marks a significant step forward in promoting collaborative healthcare practices and leveraging technology to overcome geographical barriers in medical care delivery.

## JKMS organizes convocation for elementary wing

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: JKMS, celebrated Kindergarten Graduation with a lot of zeal and enthusiasm. The students celebrated the new beginning of their school journey by their first step towards a tomorrow filled with hopes and possibilities.

The event commenced with the arrival of the Special Guests the esteemed members of the School Management. Sanjeev Gupta Chairperson JKMS, Rajni Gupta Director JKMS, Apurv Gupta Dean Academics JKMS who graced the event with their presence to bless and encourage the students on their Graduation Ceremony.

The programme began with the solemn tradition of lighting the lamp to evoke the blessings of the Goddess Saraswati followed by the mesmerizing welcome song



presented by the students. Mrs. Aarti Gupta Principal JKMS in her welcome note extended a warm welcome to the galaxy of guests gathered to grace the occasion highlighting the vision of the school and role of parents and teachers in the student's learning process.

The performance of the students enthralled the audience during the ongoing programme.

The coordination and confidence of the students clad in vibrant attires left everyone in awe.

The most important part of the day was the felicitation of young graduates wherein the delighted tiny tots dressed in Graduation Robes and Caps walked the stage. They were felicitated with certificate of Graduation by the esteemed Members of the School Management.

Rajni Gupta Director JKMS said on the occasion that it is an exciting milestone for our children as it is their first step towards the future full of hopes. May God Bless these tiny graduates as they continue their education in the main stream of the school.

It was indeed a joyous and memorable day for not only the little ones but also a proud moment for the parents and the mentors.

The School Management complimented the graduates on their achievement and also congratulated the teachers for their dedication and hard work in shaping the students through education and other co-curricular activities.

The programme ended with the Vote of Thanks given by Sonia Kapoor Coordinator JKMS followed by the singing of the National Anthem.

## World Forestry Day at Reasi, Poonch

Top News Report

REASI, Mar 22: 21 March is observed as International day of Forests.

To increase awareness about the importance of forest and trees in our lives and considering the manifold benefits of trees, an awareness lecture and tree plantation drive was organized by Indian Army on 'World Forestry Day' at Chassana & Sangiot.

The tree plantation drive encouraged the residents to plant trees and prevent deforestation and understand the importance of trees in our lives.

