

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**Adah Sharma spent nights in dance bar for Sunflower 2 role**



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**BRS Leader K Kavitha Sent To Jail For 14 Days In Delhi Liquor Policy Case**

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**Japan approves plan to sell fighter jets to other nations in latest break from pacifist principles**



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## BRIEFLY

### Auto-rickshaw driver dies after being hit by vehicle in Sonwar

SRINAGAR, Mar 26 (Agencies): An auto rickshaw driver was killed after being hit by a vehicle in Sonwar area of Srinagar on Monday night, reports said.

Reports said that an auto rickshaw driver was hit by an unknown vehicle near Sonwar Bagh late Monday night.

He was rushed to SMHS hospital for treatment, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

The deceased has been identified as Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh, a resident of Pampore in southern Kashmir.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and investigations are underway.

### Bandipora man dies in Kargil road accident

SRINAGAR, Mar 26 (Agencies): A man from Bandipora died in a road accident in Kargil on Tuesday.

An official told news agency Kashmir Scroll that Muhammad Qasim Walu, son of Ali Muhammad Walu, a young man of Naugam Sonawari met with a fatal road accident while driving a vehicle on Kargil Road.

He said Qasim who got married recently died on the spot.

He said that his body is being brought home while further proceedings have been taken up.

### Class 8 Exam Dates Shuffle Leaves 1.75 Lakh Students fuming

SRINAGAR, Mar 26 (Agencies): The repeated changes in the examination schedule for class 8 students have stirred frustration among 1.75 lakh students, disrupting their preparations and casting uncertainty over their academic endeavors.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) initially slated to commence on March 5, the exam's

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## Chief Justice Administers Oath of Office to Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani

NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (Agencies): Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice N.Kotishwar Singh administered the Oath of office to Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani as Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, in the Chief Justice's Court Room here today.

The Oath taking ceremony was physically attended at Srinagar by Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice



Sanjay Dhar, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal and virtually from Jammu by Justice Atul Sreedharan, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice

Sindhu Sharma, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Mohd Akram Chowdhary and Justice Rajesh Sekhri.

The proceedings of the oath taking ceremony were conducted by Registrar General of the

High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Shahzad Azeem, who read the contents of the notification received from Government of India, Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Justice (Appointments Division) and the Warrant of Appointment issued by the President of India and the Letter of Authorization issued by the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, authorising the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, to

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## AAP to gherao PM's residence today over Arvind Kejriwal's arrest; Delhi police say no permission granted



NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (Agencies): The Aam Aadmi Party has called for a 'gherao' at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence to register its protest against

the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the liquor policy case on Tuesday.

According to the Delhi Police, the security at PM Modi's residence

has been strengthened and they have not granted permission to the AAP to hold any protests.

Earlier on March 22, Turn to page 9

## Congress's Lal Singh says Azad's Party to Divide Opposition Vote

SRINAGAR, Mar 26 (Agencies): Choudhary Lal Singh, who returned to Congress last week, has unleashed scathing criticism against the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), alleging that their decision to field former minister GM Saroori instead of party founder Ghulam Nabi Azad from the Udhampur constituency reflects a strategic move aimed at slicing opposition votes rather than winning the election outright.

The controversial politician, who recently rejoined the Congress, finds himself in a heated electoral battle against Union Minister Jitendra Singh, who seeks re-election from the



Udhampur Lok Sabha seat for the third consecutive term.

Scheduled for the first phase of polling on April 19, the Udhampur parliamentary constituency has witnessed a flurry of candidate nominations, with five contenders, including Union Minister Saroori, throwing their hats into the political ring.

In response, Congress

nominees Raman Bhalla and Choudhary Lal Singh have launched an aggressive campaign, rallying support through public meetings across their respective constituencies. Both candidates aim to overturn their previous defeats in the 2019 parliamentary elections against BJP opponents.

Bhalla faced defeat against BJP's Jugal Kishore Sharma in Jammu, while Lal Singh lost to Jitendra Singh in Udhampur. Both BJP incumbents, Sharma and Jitendra Singh, are contesting again from their respective constituencies.

Lal Singh's return to the Congress fold adds depth to the party's

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## BJP will contest LS polls on its own in Punjab: State BJP chief Sunil Jakhar

CHANDIGARH, Mar 26 (Agencies): The BJP will contest the Lok Sabha polls on its own in Punjab, the party's state unit chief Sunil Jakhar said on Tuesday.

The announcement came amid a buzz over talks between the Shiromani Akali Dal and the BJP for re-stitching their alliance for the parliamentary polls.

Polling for the 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab

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## Delhi CM Kejriwal issues order on functioning of Mohalla Clinics from ED's custody

NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (Agencies): Amid the ongoing controversy surrounding the Delhi Chief Minister's first order issued from the custody of the ED on Sunday, another directive has been issued to the health department by CM Arvind Kejriwal on smooth functioning of the AAP's flagship Mohalla Clinics.

AAP sources confirmed that the directive pertained to the health department and it was conveyed by the Chief Minister through a memorandum to Delhi Minister, Saurabh Bharadwaj, who oversees the health portfolio.

Addressing a press conference on the



directive of the CM, Health Minister Bharadwaj stated that the CM is concerned about the lack of availability of medicines and free tests in many hospitals and Mohalla Clinics.

Bharadwaj said that CM Kejriwal has emphasised that no one should suffer, even if he is in ED custody.

"He directed me to take prompt and neces-

sary actions to ensure that medicines and tests are both free and available at hospitals and Mohalla Clinics," said Bharadwaj.

Earlier on Sunday, CM Kejriwal had issued the first order while in the ED's custody, directing Water Minister Atishi to resolve water and sewage issues in the national Capital.

Meanwhile, as the issue of authenticity looms on the directions issued by CM Kejriwal from ED's custody, legal experts said that there is no permission to the CM by the court to issue orders.

"The Aam Aadmi Party is issuing these orders in Turn to page 9

# MBA MOTORS

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## MeT predicts wet spell from March 27 as night temp rises at most places in J&K

SRINAGAR, Mar 26 (Agencies): Weatherman on Tuesday forecast "widespread" light to moderate rain/snow/thunderstorm in Jammu and Kashmir from March 27 and 28.

In a statement, Meteorological Department Office here forecast mainly dry weather with possibility of very light rain and thunderstorms at one or two places during the next 24 hours.

On March 29, the MeT said, partly cloudy weather with light rain/snow is expected at isolated places.


From March 30-31, the office said, partly to generally cloudy weather with intermittent light rain/snow is expected at a few places.

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**TENTH DAY/13TH DAY(KRIYA)**  
With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Ranjeet Singh** (Teacher at GMS Munshi Chak) S/o Late Sh. Harbans Lal R/o Camp Gole Gural, Talab Tilko Jammu.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 24-03-2024 (Sunday) at our residence.  
**13th Day (Kriya)** will be performed on 27-03-2024 (Wednesday) at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**  
Smt. Parsino Devi - **Mother**  
Smt. Kiran Bala - **Wife** (Govt. Teacher)  
Master Randeep Singh - **Son**  
**Brothers and Sister-in-Law**  
Mrs. Kamlesh and Dharam Chand  
Mrs. Rekha and Rakesh Kumar  
Late Sh. Deepak Kumar  
**Brothers-in-Law and Sisters-in-Law**  
Mrs. Manu and Naresh Kumar  
Mrs. Vandana and Joginder Kumar (PO SBI)  
Mrs. Sandu and Sandeep Kumar (Revenue Deptt.)  
**Nephew:** Tarundeep, Nitesh, Shivesh  
**Niece:** Sapna, Ranju, Neha, Smakshi, Ananya  
Mob. No: 9419783454, 9249815256, 94699072052, 9797682816



**RANJEET SINGH**  
(Teacher at GMS Munshi Chak)

**TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that sad demise of **Smt. Swaran Kanta Anand** W/o Sh. Gopal Krishan Anand R/o 1A, Sector 3, Upper Roop Nagar, Jammu who left us for heavenly abode on 15-03-2024 Friday.

**Tenth Day** will be held at our residence 1A, Sector 3, Upper Roop Nagar at 11 am on 24-03-2024 Sunday. Kriya will be performed at our residence R/o 1A Sector 3, Upper Roop Nagar, Jammu on 27-03-2024 at 1:00 pm.

**Rasam Uthala** will be held at Aap Shambu Mandir Roop Nagar on 27-03-2024 from 4 pm to 5 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sh. Gopal Krishan Anand - **Husband**  
Sh. Sham Lal Anand & Smt. Radha Anand - (**Jethu & Jethani Ji**)  
Sh. Jagdish Raj Anand (**Devar Ji**)  
Sh. Amit Anand (**Son**)  
Sh. Anuj Anand & Smt. Jyoti Anand - **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Sh. Anish Anand & Smt. Divya Anand - **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
M/s Anand Builders Roop Nagar  
Contact: 9419112566, 9419142567, 9797593704



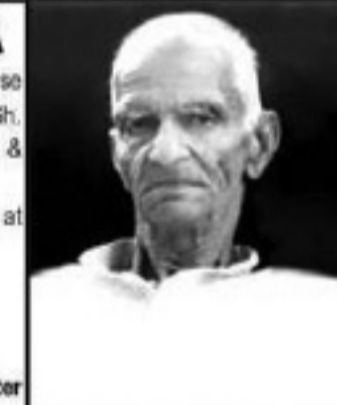
**SMT. SWARAN KANTA ANAND**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Master Surjit Singh Chib** S/o Late Sh. Onkar Singh Chib R/o Ward No.6, Jourian (Near Food & Supplies Store Jourian) expired on 16-03-2024.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 25-03-2024 at Jourian at 12 Noon.

**Kriya** on 28-03-2024.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Swaraj Rani - **Wife**  
Sarisha Kumari W/o Late Sh. Shamsheer Singh - **Daughter**  
Smt. Anjana Kumari W/o Dharamvir Singh Chib - **Son**  
Smt. Neeta Rani W/o Pardeep Singh Chib - **Son**  
Smt. Sunita Rajput & Naninder Singh Chib - **Son**  
**Grand Son:** Nitin Chib, Yashvir Singh, Yashav Chib, Yashvardhan Chib, Vivek Chib  
Contact No: 9469170738, 9596803560

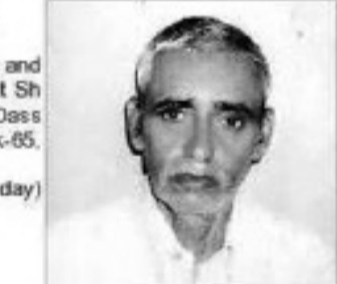


**LATE SH. MASTER SURJIT SINGH CHIB**  
DOB: 16-05-1941 - DOD: 16-3-2024

**10TH DAY KRIYA**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the untimely and sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Moti Lal Kapoor** S/o Lt Sh. Ram Nath Kapoor originally from Vill. Chak, Narayan Dass Teh Kunzer Distt. Baramulla, at present L. No. 13, Block-65, Flat-07 Jagti, Nagrota, Jammu.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 28-03-2024 (Friday) at Muthi Ghat at 08:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Suneel Kumar Kapoor (**Son**)  
Ritu Kumar Kapoor (**Daughter-in-law**)  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Pinkay Reshi & Sh. Sunil Kumar Reshi  
**Bhabhis & Brothers**  
Smt. Santosh Kumari & Sh. Piary Lal  
Smt. Neetu Devi & Sh. Ashok Kumar  
**Sisters & Brothers-in-law**  
Smt. Pushpa Devi & Sh. Giridhari Lal Tandon  
Lt. Smt. Kiran Devi & Sh. Giridhari Lal Badwan  
Mobile No. 609546999, 9419225533



**Sh. Moti Lal Kapoor**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**  
With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Bharat Bhushan Gupta** (Retd. DySP JKP) S/o Late Sh. Sansar Chand Gupta (Seth) R/o Lambi Gali Udhampur who left for heavenly abode on 16th of March, 2024.

**Tenth Day** will be performed at Mahajan hall Udhampur on Monday 25th of March 2024 at 12:00 Noon.

**Kriya** will be performed at Devika Ghat on Wednesday 27th of March 2024.

**Uthala and Rasam Pagri** will be performed at Mahajan Hall Udhampur on Wednesday 27th of March 2024 at 4:00 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Tripta Devi - **Wife**  
Smt. Rajni Devi & Late Sh. Kulbhushan Gupta - **Bhabhi & Brother**  
Smt. Sangeeta Devi & Late Sh. Tilak Raj Gupta - **Sister & Brother-in-law**  
Mr. Nikhil & Mrs. Ridhima Mahajan - **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Mr. Hitesh Paba & Mrs. Shilpa Paba - **Son-in-law & Daughter**  
Mr. Aakash Deep & Mrs. Shivangi - **Son-in-law & Daughter**  
**Grand Children:** Anachi, Aksh, Arachya  
M/S NIKHIL PROVISION STORE  
M/S SETH AND SONS  
# 8492027222

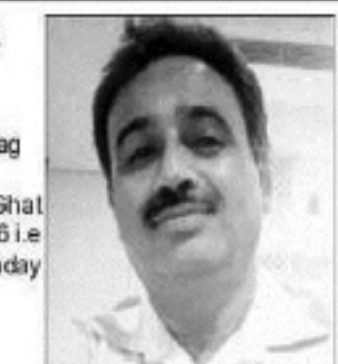


**Sh. Bharat Bhushan Gupta**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**  
With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father i.e. Bal Krishan S/o Shambo Nath R/o Pohar Teh Matlan Distt. Anantnag A/P Qrt No. 26 Block B Nagrota Camp Jammu.

The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat and assembly will be at our residence i.e. Block B/26 i.e. Community Hall Nagrota on 1st April 2024 Day Monday at 8 A.M.

**Grief Stricken**  
Smt. Pandit. **Wife**  
Vipal Pandit **Son**  
Priyanka Pandit **Daughter**  
Smt. Daizy and Daya Krishen (**Brother and Bhabhi**)  
Sanjay Kumar and Lalita Pandit (**do**)  
Smt. Shashi Jee and Shuban Lal (**Sister and Brother in law**)  
Smt. Lalita Jee and P. L. Amberdar -do- 9419215460  
Smt. Basanti and Jai Krishen Pandit -do- 9796742464




**Bal Krishan**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**  
Our Hero and Our Inspiration  
A man whose food the tallest with his head held high.  
His values inspire us to take the good work forward.  
"You will live in our hearts and thoughts forever".

Our Dearest Late **Sh. Lekh Raj Manhas** left for his heavenly abode on March 18, 2024

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on Wednesday 27, 2024 at our residence, **Sharote, Teh. Thathri, Distt. Doda**

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Smt. Shounika Devi Manhas (**Wife**)  
Sh. Bhumesh & Smt. Kavita Manhas (**Son & Daughter in law**)  
**Daughters and Sons in law**  
Smt. Priya & Sh. Jaswant Singh  
Smt. Vinkle & Sh. Paramjit Singh  
Smt. Rajni and Sh. Mukh Raj Rukwal  
Smt. Meenakshi and Sh. Sandeep Manhas  
**Sister and Brother-in-law**  
Smt. Binla & Sh. Bahadur Singh Manhas  
Smt. Bipa Devi W/o Late Sh. Hushiyar Singh (**Sister**)  
Smt. Nirmala & Sh. Bachan Singh (**Sister and Brother-in-law**)



**Late Sh. Lekh Raj Manhas**

**BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS**  
With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad & peaceful demise of our beloved Late **Sh. Sdm Bhajan Kour Ji** W/o Late S. Harbans Singh Ji R/o Jabki Pakhian, Mishriwala Jammu.

**Programme Schedule:**  
**Aramb Sri Akhand Path Sahib** at our residence Jabki Pakhian, Mishriwala on 25th March 2024 Monday at 9:00 am.

**Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib** on 27 March 2024 Wednesday at our residence at 9:00 am.

**Antim Ardas** will be held at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Pandorian, Mishriwala from 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Sdr. S. Jatinder Singh  
Sdr. & Late S. Dalbir Singh  
Sdr. & S. Inderpreet Singh  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Sdr. Tavinder Kour & S. Gurdinder Singh

**Brothers-in-law & Sisters-in-law**  
Late Sdr. & Late S. Makhan Singh  
Sdr. & S. Mani Singh  
Late Sdr. & S. Harjeet Singh



**Late Sdm Bhajan Kour Ji**


**TENTH/KRIYA/UTHALA**  
WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **MR. RANJEEV SINGH** S/O LATE PUNJAB SINGH.

**10TH DAY** WILL BE PERFORMED ON MONDAY, 25TH MARCH AT BATHINDI MGRH AT 12:00 NOON.

**KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON THURSDAY, 28TH MARCH.

**UTHALA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON FRIDAY, 29 MARCH.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
SMT. RAJ KUMARI (**MOTHER**)  
SMT. SWARN (**WIFE**)  
ADITYA JASROTTIA - **SON**  
PRACHI JASROTTIA - **DAUGHTER**  
**BROTHER IN LAW AND SISTER**  
SHRI JOGINDER SINGH AND SMT. ANJANA RANI  
**BROTHER & SISTER IN LAW**  
SHRI SANJEEV SINGH JASROTTIA AND SMT. SEEMA JASROTTIA




**MR. RANJEEV SINGH**

**TENTH DAY & KRIYA**  
WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. SHIV LAL GUPTA** S/O LT. SH. BADRI NATH R/O VILLAGE GHORDI TEH. RAMNAGAR.

**TENTH DAY** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 26-03-2024 (TUESDAY) AT 12:00 NOON.

**KRIYA** TO BE PERFORMED ON 29-03-2024 (FRIDAY) FROM 10:00 AM ONWARDS AT OUR RESIDENCE AT GHORDI.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
SMT. SHAKUNTILA DEVI (**WIFE**)  
**SISTERS-IN-LAW & BROTHERS:**  
SMT. INDIRA DEVI W/O LT. MUNSHI RAM GUPTA (RETD. Z.E.C.)  
SMT. USHA GUPTA & SH. JAI KRISHAN GUPTA (RETD. H.D.PHE.)  
**SISTERS & BROTHERS-IN-LAW:**  
SMT. KAILASH DEVI W/O LT. KL. KUDYAR  
SMT. GAYATRI DEVI & SH. HR GUPTA (RETD. A.O.)  
SMT. DWARKA DEVI & SH. BANSI LAL MARIYA (RETD. PRINCIPAL.)  
**DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW & SONS:**  
SMT. ANU GUPTA & SH. D.K. GUPTA (RETD. XEN MECH.)  
SMT. NEELAM GUPTA & SH. RAVINDER KUMAR  
**DAUGHTERS & SONS-IN-LAW:**  
SMT. RAJ KUMARI & SH. SURAJ GUPTA (RETD. K.A.S.)  
SMT. NEELAM GUPTA & SH. H.K. KUDYAR (RETD. LECTURER)  
**GRAND CHILDREN:** PIYUSH, VASUNDRA, ADITI, VANSH, SOHAM




**Sh. Shiv Lal Gupta (Retd. Master)**

**CHOUBARSI**  
Four years have passed since you left for heavenly abode leaving all of us in tears. We miss you every day with broken heart.

**CHOUBARSI** of our beloved **Sh. Raj Kumar Khajuria (Retd. ZEPO)** will be performed on 27th March 2024 (Wednesday) at 11 am at our residence Jamdore (Barwal) Teh & Distt. Kathua.

**Deeply Remembered by**  
Smt. Nirmala Devi (**Wife**)  
**Son and Daughter-in-law**  
Sh. Parvatan Vishal and Rohini Sharma  
**Daughters and Sons-in-law**  
Kanchan Kumari & Sh. Pawan Kumar  
Ranjana Sharma & Sh. Ashok Kumar  
Khema Shree & Sh. Bharat Sharma  
Minakshi Sharma & Sh. Anil Sharma  
**Grand Children:** Dau & Nhusboo




**Sh. Raj Kumar Khajuria (Retd. ZEPO)**  
Ph No. 6005174076, 9419230688

**UTHALA**  
With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Pushpa Devi Ji** W/o Late Sh. Bansil Lal Sharma R/o Gali Wazir Chabha Ram Panjirthi Jammu.

**Uthala** will be performed at Bilu Mandir/Panjirthi on 27-3-2024 from (4:00 PM - 5:00 PM).

**Grief Stricken**  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Sh. Ramesh Chander Sharma & Smt. Neelam Sharma  
Late Sh. Subash Chander & Smt. Sunita Sharma  
Sh. Sushil Kumar Sharma & Smt. Jyoti Sharma  
Sh. Sham Lal Sharma & Smt. Sneha Sharma  
**Daughters & Sons-in-law**  
Late Sh. Vinod Sharma & Smt. Kiran Sharma  
Smt. Purshotam Sharma & Smt. Pinky Sharma  
Mob. 6005078829, 9419139247




**Smt. Pushpa Devi Ji**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**  
With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Kishni Koul** W/o Lt. Jaggar Nath Koul erstwhile Palpora (Waspora), Pulwama 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).

**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 (9855508766)  
Smt. Anjali J. & Sh. Kulbushan Koul (7719406447)  
**Grand Children:** Nitin, Akshay, Vinny, Komal, Janshika, Varsh, Mudrika, Daksh.  
**Samast Koul's, Bhat's, Kichloo's**



**SMT. KISHNI KOUL**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Shukar Singh Chib** S/o Late Sh. Rattan Singh Chib & Husband of Late Smt. Ranjana Rajput R/o Nagbani Macchilian, Ward No. 65.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 24-3-2024 (Sunday) at 10:00 am at our residence.  
**KRIYA** will be performed on 27-3-2024 (Wednesday) at 11:00 am at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Kaushalya Devi - **Mother**  
**Daughters**  
Anamika Chib, Manika Chib, Ambika Rajput  
9596803678, 9419175856, 9419136397




**Sh. Shukar Singh Chib**

**SHADMOS AND MASWAR**  
"Unable are the loved ones to die, for love is immortal."  
It has been six months since our beloved father, **Late Mr. Bansil Lal Wali** left us to join the heavenly abode. Although we dearly miss him, we take solace in the fact that his love and memories will always be with us.

As a tribute to our beloved father, we are performing the **Shadmos and Maswar** puja that will be held at his residence. It's a time for us to come together and honor his life & legacy and seek blessings for his eternal journey.

**Date:** Shadmos 27th March 2024 Maswar 28th March 2024  
**Time:** 9:00 am onwards  
**Venue:** Flat No. 5032, Prestige Lakeside  
**Habitat:** Gunjur, Vanthur, Bangalore-560087  
Please keep our family in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Mrs. Desha Wali (**Wife**) Mob No. 99060617  
Mrs. Parool Sadhu & Mr. Ashish Sadhu (**Daughter & Son-in-law**)  
Mob No. 7760999780 / 9741366119  
**Grand Children -** Bhavini and Purva




**LATE MR. BANSI LAL WALI**

**CHOUBARSI**  
Four years have passed since our beloved father **Late Sh. Suresh Chander Gupta** S/o Late Shri Prabh Dayal Gupta J. Ho Late Smt. Chanchala Gupta Ji left us but your memories will remain ever bright in our hearts.

Though you are gone but your love continues to guide us. There is not a single moment when we have not missed you. Your life lessons are an inspiration for all of us. We cherish your selfless love and affection every day.

**Remembrance Ceremony** will be performed at our residence Hanuman Mandir Chowk, Gal. No. 2 Daskal, Akhnoor, Jammu on 27-03-24.

**Deeply Remembered by:**  
**Sons and Daughters in law**  
Mr. Adarsh Bhushan Gupta and Mrs. Sunita Gupta  
Mr. Bharat Bhushan Gupta and Mrs. Rakha Gupta  
Mr. Vyas Gupta and Mrs. Jyoti Gupta  
Mr. Rakesh Kumar Gupta and Mrs. Ashu Gupta  
**Daughter and Son-in-law**  
Mrs. Sarjeev Lata and Mr. Vidya Sagar and Grand Children  
**M/S Kameshwar Adarsh Electronics** (9419010193)  
**M/S Vikas Traders** (9419110951)  
**M/S Gupta Hardware Store,** near Chenab Bridge Akhnoor (9419123765, 9419161813)



**Sh. Suresh Chander Gupta Ji**

**BARKHI**  
One year has passed since you left us for heavenly abode but your loving memories will always remain with us. Physically you are not with us but we feel your presence in every moment of our life.

**Barkhi** of our beloved mother **Late Smt. Sudesh Kohli** W/o Late Sh. Chaman Lal Kohli will be performed at our residence Plot No. 130 A, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu on Monday 25th March, 2024.

**Havan** will be performed between 10 AM to 12 Noon followed by **Parshad**.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-**  
**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Vikas & Winni Kohli  
Lalit & Anu Kohli  
Vikram & Sheetal Kohli  
Mohan & Neena Kohli (**Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law**)  
**Grand Children:** Chaavi, Anmol, Muskan & Varsh  
M/s Unique Industries, Gangyal  
9622267229, 9469207355, 9885044644, 9858644881



**LATE SMT. SUDESH KOHLI**

**MASWAR/VAHARVAR**  
A year has passed since you left to eternal world. Your memories, care and courage make us feel your presence around us showering your blessings.

**MASWAR AND VAHARVAR** of our beloved mother **Smt. Kaushilya Devi Bindroo** W/o Lt. Shri Zanardhan Bindroo of Sopore will be performed at our residence H.No. 19, Sector-1A, South Extension, Trikuta Nagar Jammu on 26th March (Tuesday) & 27th March 2024 (Wednesday)

**Deeply Missed and Remembered by:**  
**Bindroos with all family members.**  
9419646403, 9682533966



**SMT. KAUSHILYA DEVI BINDROO**

**MOURNING FROM MALUIN SIDE**  
With immense grief and profound sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Kanta Moza (Behna)** D/o Lt. Raj Kak Dullool & Lt. Tarawat Dullool W/o Sh. Jai Krishen Moza originally resident of Bana Mohalla, Near Durga Pathshala Temple Sinagar at present H.No. G-625 Shanti Nagar, Toph. Sherkhania, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 21st March 2024.

**Mourning** is being observed at same address mentioned above i.e. H.No. G/625 Shanti Nagar, Toph. Sherkhania, Jammu

**DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY**  
Dullool's, Raina's, Koul's, Takoo's, Dhar's, Bakshi's, Sher's




**Smt. Kanta Moza (Behna)**

**OBITUARY**  
With profound grief, it is informed that our beloved mother **Smt. Shanta Wali (Bengashi)** W/o late Sh. Makhan Lal Wali, of Chanapora Housing Colony Kashmir and presently at Udheywala Bohri left for her heavenly abode on 24.03.2024.

**MOURNING** is being held at our present address, H.NO 18, Lane 1A Near KK Resorts Udheywala Bohri Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Nira J. W/o Late Sh. Raees Kumar (**Daughter in law**)  
Sanjay Wali & Savita (**Son & Daughter in law**) (862504520)  
Smt. Neena & Sh. Ak. Koul (**Daughter & Son in law**)  
**(Brothers & Sisters in law)**  
M/K. Bakshi & Sunita Bakshi  
K/K. Bakshi & Sarthi  
K/K. Bakshi & Ara

Smt. Santosh Bhat/W/o Late Sh. Anur. Krishan Bhat (**Sister**)  
Grand Children: Kishan Koul/Ho. Raju,  
Dr. Romica W/o Anupam Bhat, Sakshi W/o Suag Bhat,  
Dora, Nikka, Charvi, Nida & Kishina



**Smt. Shanta Wali (Bengashi)**

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# Humming Buds celebrates Graduation Day

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Humming Buds - The Pre-school of Model Academy joyously celebrated Graduation Day on 23rd March to mark the culmination of the three years of hard work, and to recognize the first educational milestone in the pre-schoolers' lives.

The event was graced by esteemed guests, including Chief Guest Dr. Ranjeet Kour, Principal of KIDZEE and Mount Litera ZEE School, Vijaypur, and Guest of Honour Dr. Renu Gupta, Chairperson of MIER. Dr. Adit Gupta, Director, Rupa Gupta, Jt. Director, Pramod Kumar Srivastava, Principal, J.K Dhiman, Vice-Principal, and Academic Managers from various wings of school were also present to witness the program.

The celebration commenced with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony by all dignitaries, followed by the invocation of Goddess Saraswati through the Saraswati Vandana. Principal Pramod Srivastava gave an eloquent welcome address and appreciated parent's early involvement with their child's education. He congratulated the graduating students on completing three enriching years in



the Pre-Primary wing of Humming Buds.

A video presentation was played that featured highlights and fond memories throughout the graduates' time at the preschool. Parents, students, and teachers all joined to reminisce on these precious moments that were shared at the school. The cultural programme that followed showcased the student's wonderful development in the fields of music, dance, drama and language skills. The highlight of the event was a heart-touching performance by the tiny tots, presenting a short play on the adverse effects of excessive use of social media. The play conveyed a poignant message urging parents to

spend quality time with their children instead of being consumed by social media.

Following this, was sharing of experiences where the young children shared their memorable experiences and moments from their three-year journey at Humming Buds in fluent English, impressing everyone with their mastery over the language. A captivating play titled "Growth of a Seedling" was also presented, emphasizing the importance of nurturing and harmony in human relationships.

The cultural diversity of Jammu and Kashmir was beautifully showcased through folk dances such as Dogri, Kashmiri, and Punjabi, enthralling

everyone present.

Next, the highlight of the event unfolded as the young graduates confidently walked the stage, adorned in their graduation robes, to receive their well-deserved certificates. Top of Form Bottom of Form Each student was felicitated with personalized epithets highlighting their unique strengths and qualities. For the teachers, witnessing their students' proud moment was a source of immense pride and fulfilment, marking a significant milestone in the pre-schoolers' educational journey.

The Chief Guest Dr. Ranjeet Kour bestowed her blessings upon the graduates and lauded them with inspiring

words. She expressed her delight at witnessing the talents of the tiny tots and appreciated the efforts of both parents and the school for providing enriching experiences to the children. She commended the teachers for their unwavering dedication and hard work in shaping the students' holistic development through education and various co-curricular activities.

The event culminated with a 'Thank You' song being sung as an expression of the students' gratitude towards their teachers. Poonam Gupta, Academic Manager, Humming Buds, presented the vote of thanks while Isha Gupta and Adfer efficiently compared the entire event.

# Rollback Agniveer Scheme: SSP urges Union Govt

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Sainik Samaj Party (SSP), JK UT President Col SS Pathania urged union government to roll back Agniveer scheme immediately.

Considering the global geo political situation and on going wars between Russia -Ukraine and Israel-Hamas, it is imperative that, in light of combined threat of China and Pakistan, no way security and sovereignty of our country is comprised, he said adding that no recruitment during COVID period has already diluted considerably the strength of our standing army and fur-

ther dilution will be detrimental in our war waging capabilities against our adversaries.

Cutting down training period of recruits and exit of 75 percent of soldiers after 4 years, will put a serious dent in our combat edge, he said. Rehabilitation of Agniveers after 4 years is a serious problem and lateral placement, may not work out as planned by the government, he said adding that there are multiple agencies which are using trained soldiers as mercenaries, who are fighting their wars in different countries and also suffering fatal casualties.

Previous Chief Gen Narvane in his book

'Four Stars of Destiny' had expressed his serious apprehensions on concept and efficacy of Agniveer scheme.

He went on length of stating that Naval and Sir Chiefs perceived this scheme as a bolt out of the blue.

There is a great possibility of Agniveers being lured by anti national group or people and use them against our own country, Pathania said adding that reduction in pension bill was the criteria, based on which government had launched Agniveers scheme and must be rolled back or modified where in 50 to 75 percent Agniveers are retained in the service.

# Army distributes Solar Lamps at Poonch

## Top News Report

POONCH, Mar 26: Isolated houses in remote villages in south of Pir Panjal that bustles with life during the day adopts silence as soon as the sun sets as with night comes with absolute darkness due to lack of access to electric grid.

Solar street lamps are the ultimate solution for these remote areas. Due to simplicity, these solar lamps can be installed even in harsh climatic conditions.

Army with an aim of improving the living conditions of remote village of Kulali, Jyotiwal & Marhot installed solar lamps under Operation Sabbhavana project. This act also generated a spirit of goodwill for Indian Army amongst the residents.

The residents whole heartedly expressed



their gratitude and acknowledged the role of Indian Army in establishing lasting peace in the region besides laud-

ing the efforts made by Indian Army in fulfilling the aspirations of these under developed villages.

# NAUP announces Shikha Bandral as LS candidate for Jammu Constituency



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: National Awami United Party (NAUP) declared Shikha Bandral as its candidate for the upcoming Lok Sabha (LS) elections in the Jammu Reasi constituency.

The announcement was made today by the Party President, Sandeep Singh Manhas, who emphasized the significance of empowering women in political leadership roles.

In his statement, Manhas underscored the cultural importance of women, likening them to the embodiment of prosperity in Indian culture.

He reiterated NAUP's

commitment to uplifting deserving individuals, especially women, and pledged to prioritize the concerns of the marginalized.

Addressing the media, Shikha Bandral shed light on the pressing issues faced by the Jammu province, particularly the grievances of the Dogra community. She criticized previous administrations for allegedly prioritizing Kashmir over Jammu and failing to address the needs of the Dogra people.

Bandral expressed disappointment with the current BJP government, accusing it of perpetuating the trend of favoring Kashmir at

the expense of Jammu. She highlighted the lack of infrastructure development and questioned the neglect of potential tourist destinations like Baderwah, Patni Top, Rajouri, Poonch, Basohli, and Bani.

Citing the revocation of Dogra certificates and the absence of concrete measures for their reinstatement, Bandral asserted NAUP's commitment to advocating for the rights of the Dogra community. She vowed to be a vocal advocate for the aspirations of Jammu residents and promised to champion their cause in the national arena.

NALUP's decision to field Shikha Bandral as its Lok Sabha candidate reflects its dedication to inclusive representation and its unwavering support for the marginalized communities of Jammu. With Bandral at the helm, NAUP aims to challenge the status quo and usher in a new era of progress and prosperity for the region

# Army conducts Medical Camp at Mal



## Top News Report

RAJOURI, Mar 26: ARMY organized a medical camp at Mal. It strives to providing basic medical assistance for a healthy life style to the residents of remote villages in south of Pir Panjal. The medical camp was organized to meet the quick health care needs of the Awaam of remote Mal village.

A team of medical doctors and professionals including female medical officers were available to address various health concerns and provided expert guidance

like medical check-ups, specialized care, health awareness sessions as well as provided essential medicines to them.

The Army's Medical Camp aimed to not only provide immediate healthcare support but also to raise awareness about the importance of regular health check-ups and a healthy lifestyle. Appreciating the steps taken by the Army to provide basic health facilities in far flung areas, the Awaam of Mal village demanded that more such medical camps should be organized.

# 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas: Lecture by Gallantry Awardees held at Kalal

## Top News Report

RAJOURI, Mar 26: Army has unparalleled history of bravery and raw courage unto death.

During Kargil War India Army displayed its might to the entire world in the highest traditions of Indian Army. To inspire the young generation, motivational lectures were organised by Indian Army in Govt High School, Dabbar Potha as part of Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations wherein, they shared first-hand experiences of valour that Indian Army



exhibited during Kargil War, which motivated the students explicitly.

This event served as a tribute to the heroes who defended our country and as a source of motivation for those aspiring to join the Armed Forces. A sense of patriotism, was felt in

the environment while the lecture was being delivered by the Veterans. Such lectures by the War Heroes, levies a positive impact on younger generation and motivates them to join Indian Army and become responsible citizens of our country.

# Jaswinder wins silver medal in Second Masters Hockey league



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Bringing laurels and keeping legacy in sports, hockey player Jaswinder Singh Kuku once again acquired crown in Masters Hockey League held in Punjab Samrala in which eight teams participated.

Jaswinder Singh Kuku associated with Master Samrala Club in which Jammu's two players participated other one

Angat Singh also brought in same series.

The players were received and felicitated by religious personality and Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Religious Tourism Culture and Heritage Trust, Rajesh Bittu Mahant.

While speaking on the occasion Mahant Rajesh Bittu said 'Its matter of pride for sports of Jammu and Kashmir as well as youth who wish to see their future in Sports'.

Bollywood Director and Actor Raja Sarfaraz Presided over the function and said "This is Incredible and I wish them best of luck for all future endeavours". Amit Gupta from Ward 19 Jammu was chief guest who extended his greetings to both players.

Rajesh Mahant said that a Hockey Cup will be organized by his Trust on occasion of upcoming Besakhi Festival at KK Hakku stadium Jammu.

# CSC Center, shop providing digital services seized in Larnoo over forgery of documents

## Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Mar 26: Revenue Department officials on Tuesday seized a Common Service Center (CSC) and another shop, providing digital services, allegedly for forgery of documents. An official told that, a team of revenue officials

using fake PRCs while applying for domicile certificates," the official said.

"The devices used for this purpose were taken into custody for further inquiry and to find out if there is any further violation done by these two centers," the official said, adding, "till inquiry



headed by Tehsildar Larnoo Syed Muiz Qadri inspected one CSC center located at Khreti and one shop providing digital services located at Larnoo on Tuesday.

"Upon inspection, it was found that these two centers indulged in forgery of documents which included putting scanned signatures on domicile certificates and

is completed, the operation of these two centers shall remain closed."

"Also, other CSC centers and shops dealing with online services are put under strict instruction not to indulge in any malicious act or to forge any document. Any such behaviour shall invite necessary action under law," the official said further.

# BVP Nanak Nagar Branch elects new office bearers



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) Nanak Nagar Branch today conducted annual general meeting in which new office bearers were unanimously elected.

The function started with lightning of traditional lamp followed by Vande Mataram.

On this occasion Sunita Gupta (Finance Secretary Prant), Vijay K.Sharma (Vice president Sampark) were the observers for smooth conducting of election program.

Ravi Gupta was re-elected as President, Er. Pawan Sharma (Secretary) Pramod Jain (Treasurer) for the year 2024-2025.

Ravi Gupta welcome the esteemed members, Er.Pawan Sharma presented the annual report and Parmod Jain presented Financial report.

Others present were Arun Sharma (Regional Joint General Secretary), Ashok Gupta (Vice president Sanskar Pramukh), Aarti Sharma (Mahila Sahbhagita Pramukh Prant), Bhopal Datta (Org. Secretary

branch), Jagdish Dogra (Patron), YasPal Battery Pramukh), Subash Bakshi (Pramukh), P.N Bali (Pramukh), Sanjay Dogra (Vice president), Netin Sharma, Raman Sharma (Raman Medicos), Subash Sharma, Deepak Gupta, A K Chibber, Roopali, Kanta Sharma, Shalu Dogra, Neelam Kalia, Manju Gupta. Moreover 50 Prominent members of the branch also graced the occasion.

The program was concluded with National Anthem and a vote of thanks.

## EDITORIAL

WELCOMING  
SUMMER

Summer is the hottest season among the four seasons of the year. It begins during the summer solstice, although it ends on the autumnal equinox. The Southern and Northern Hemispheres are located on opposite sides of each other; So when it is summer in the Southern Hemisphere, it is winter in the Northern Hemisphere. Following are some important facts about summer season:

- Summer occurs when the Earth tilts towards the Sun during its rotation (that is, it is summer when the hemisphere tilts towards the Sun and winter when the hemisphere moves away from the Sun).

Children become happy in summer because they get several days off from school.

In the Southern Hemisphere, December, January and February are also summer seasons, however, in the Northern Hemisphere, the months of June, July and August are summer seasons.

This is the season in which most people live away from their homes in hilly or cold areas. This is one of the longest and hottest days of the year. During this time we get many favorite fruits and crops. It is the extremely high temperatures and dry weather, including violent monsoons, which are the main causes of increased mortality. The weather in this season becomes hotter due to high temperatures, which causes drought in some areas due to reduced water supply. Both hot winds and increase in temperature make this season very hot, which creates a lot of trouble for both humans and wild animals. Many deaths (of both humans and animals) during the summer season occur due to lack of water in the body. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that extreme heat waves cause extremes of heat during the summer. Therefore, it is best to stay well hydrated during this season. According to the National Food Academy of Sciences and Nutrition Board, women should normally drink 2.7 liters of water and men should drink 3.7 liters of water on a daily basis in summer. However, people who exercise or do heavy work. They should drink more water than usual. According to data recorded by NOAA's National Climate Center, the year 2014 was the hottest year ever recorded. According to NASA, the effect of global warming is increasing year after year during the summer season. So that this increasing temperature will very soon turn all the places in this world into hot spots. In summer, people have to face many problems like being drenched in sweat, heat stroke, lack of water in the body etc. In the summer season, people go out very rarely because as the day increases, the temperature also increases. Due to the scorching heat in this season, people shy away from working. Those people who do not take bath even once during winter, this heat forces them to take bath four-five times a day. Now you must have understood what this heat does to us. Some scientists say that due to pollution caused by humans, the heat level is increasing day by day. As we all know that man is the most intelligent creature created by God. Therefore, we should always keep positive thinking during the summer season. We should enjoy this season with all the comforts of summer, although we should use them sparingly. We should always save water and electricity. We should not waste electricity and water, because clean water is available in abundance on our earth and excessive electricity consumption increases global warming. So, it is the responsibility of all of us to protect our resources and try to make this summer season more enjoyable for ourselves.

## Left, right, left: Contradictions expose ideological confusion

By: Sriram Karri

Let us start with a joke in a classic format — a Carnatic musician, a mobile app food delivery boy and a social media-savvy godman walk into a bar... And hell erupts.

The Carnatic musician in the middle of a stormy controversy, almost his permanent address, is T. M. Krishna: a Brahmin by birth, winner of the Magsaysay award, perpetual rebel, both an icon and an iconoclast, he combines a peerless artistic genius as a Carnatic vocalist, and is an incessantly mutinous voice, at war with the elitist, Brahmanical, Madras Carnatic music establishment.

The Music Academy chose to bestow on him the title of 'Sangita Kalanidhi', which brought out the prospect of him finally performing at the famous annual conference, which he has boycotted for years. Immediately, several musicians, led by Ranjani and Gayatri, and the Trichur Brothers, who acknowledge his art but scoff his politics, and disagree with his stances against the establishment of Carnatic devotional music, its rigid commitment to puritan discipline, wrote to the Academy expressing their inability to perform at this conference anymore.

This is where the public debate went all wrong. Some of the underlying themes are centuries old — should you love the art and ignore the artist? Should the moral conduct of an artist colour our critique of the art? What do you do with an artist whose art you love but disagree with the politics of?

The answer, and an extraordinary insight, was nakedly staring the nation in its face but we ignored it — it missed us in the midst of

an anxiety with alacrity to publicly declare our own stance, to side with one and attack another.

It was the stance taken by the Academy — whose politics Krishna derided and fought, which decided to honour him. The Academy is surely unlikely to be in agreement with Krishna's views on Periyar Ramaswamy, or M.S. Subbalakshmi has chosen to honour his art. This is the biggest insight for us all — honour thy critic.

These days, no one, honours their critic. It is against the spirit of our age, an anathema to our zeitgeist. The badges of honour for critics in our time are trolling, abuse, cancellation, attacks, arrests, cases, and organised hatred. We as a nation missed the extraordinary gesture of the Academy of not only engaging but offering to honour a critic, a bitter, strong critic of the institution.

The debate, paradoxically, had the Left liberal supporters of Krishna flaying the cancellation — notwithstanding the glorious history of the Leftists as the fountainhead of the cancellation culture. The right wingers, who sensed a larger BJP-DMK political faceoff in these ideological sparring, turned 'award wapati' gang and the cancellation supporters. No one was bothered by the contradiction in methods. Oh, how quickly the tables turn.

Around the same time, in the mobile app-based food delivery world, Zomato was cooking up a storm — 'pure' vegetarian food delivery as a service. It raised a far bigger furore, what with apparently more people tending to eat food than listening to Carnatic music factoid and all. Champions of pronouns launched a war on the adjective. Staunch advocates

of He/Him and She/Her could not stand pure being attached to vegetarianism.

Like musician Krishna, the war against Zomato's idea was to attack Brahmanism. Again, paradoxically, those who would normally rush to defend the 'food freedom' of people, choose to pan the right of people to eat anything they want — including 'pure' vegetarian food from restaurants of their choice. After all, anyone could opt for the service — universally.

The public debate again quickly became bitter, political, and almost instantly, mindless too. One way in which we can all analyse our honesty in public discourse, to eliminate contradictions and hypocrisy, is to initiate an 'alternate fact check'. Would you condemn an incident, a trend, even if the identity of the players gets changed?

Do you condemn a lynching? A violent crime? A public shooting? A rape? Or do you take a stance after verifying the identity of the victim and perpetrator? Do you launch a tirade or go silent based on the identity of a criminal? Does it sound like a lesser crime to you if the perpetrator shares your identity, or political world view?

For example, would you object to someone seeking to order kosher or halal meat-based food orders?, and not wishing to order to eat from any other kind of restaurant?

Truth is neither the intrinsic value of any creation getting reduced, nor the gruesomeness of crime augment based on either identity or political worldview of its creator, or perpetrator. But your contradictions reduce you to a hypocritical, opportunist, mean, weak scumbag of a citizen when you change your judgment based on if the author votes like you, or

a criminal worships just like you, or not.

In the last fortnight, we witnessed a third incident, which too shared its undercurrents, with the above two — a similar mesh of overlapping tensions was unleashed — discussions unleashed were marked by similar outbursts of collective schadenfreude, or collective rationalising.

Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev went to hospital for surgery for an emergency treatment, provoking people to call him out for hypocrisy, arguing that since he had advocated ayurveda or naturopathy for people, he should not have gone for an 'allopathic' surgery. Interestingly, those who supported the godman on social media argued that there were no contradictions here, that it was never either-or; there was always a case for allopathic medicine plus alternate medicine where applicable, whereas his critics, almost invariably those who disagree with his ideology, argued that he had "lost his right" to go for treatment.

All three incidents put together beget larger questions for us as a nation. Do we believe in rights for all at all, or just rights for those who support our point of view? Like a licence. Do we believe in any absolute right or wrong, or do we merely conveniently shift all views based on dramatic personae involved in the case?

If the answer is that most of us can justify the wrong done by our party, our leader, our brethren in caste or religion, by someone who we like or agree with, then we have lost all judgment. Because in any public debate, it is seldom about the issue; and almost always about you... and you, and I, are as Indians today, hypocrites.

## Beyond JEE Main



By: Vijay GarG

In India, engineering remains to be one of the highly preferred career options. Where aspirants harbour the desire to get admission into the top IIT colleges in the country, they dedicatedly prepare for the JEE Main & Advanced exams. However, various national and state-level engineering entrance exams give admission to some of the leading engineering colleges in the country.

Here, some of the colleges even hold a better ranking than the lower NITs in the country.

With several engineering exams being conducted every year, let's enlist some of the prominent engineering exams enabling admission to BTech courses.

Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist, has provided alternative pathways for students who may

not wish to repeat the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) or who may not have succeeded in their attempts.

## 1. BITSAT

The BITSAT is conducted annually by the Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani. The exam is conducted in an online computer-based mode for 3 hours. The entire paper, consisting of 390 marks, tests candidates on their knowledge of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, English Proficiency, and Logical Reasoning. Registration for session 2 of BITSAT will begin on May 22 and extend until June 10, and the exam is scheduled to take place from June 22 to 26, 2024.

Qualifying for the exam, candidates can get admission to any of the three BITS campuses in Pilani, Goa, and Hyderabad. To be eligible to answer the exam, candidates need to pass the 10+2 or equivalent exam in Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics with a minimum aggregate of 75 percent marks in the three subjects while scoring a minimum of 60 percent in each subject.

## 2. COMEDK UGET

COMEDK UGET is among the top 10 engineering entrance exams other than JEE. It is a highly competitive exam that provides admission to undergraduate courses in affiliated private colleges in

Karnataka. The exam is conducted annually by the Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges in the CBT (Computer-based test) mode.

The paper consists of MCQs (Multiple Choice Questions) which are divided into 3 sections: Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics. The entire exam spans over 3 hours and a total of 180 questions are asked. Registration for the exam is open till April 5, 2024, and the exam is slotted to take place on May 12, 2024.

## 3. VITEEE

The VITEEE is considered one of the most prestigious engineering entrance exams other than JEE. The exam conducted by Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) tests the candidates in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, English and Aptitude. VITEEE is an online mode exam where 125 objective questions are asked for 2 hours and 30 minutes.

The syllabus is based on the Class 11 and 12 NCERT curriculum. Candidates aspiring to appear for the exam should score a minimum aggregate of 60 percent in Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics in the 10+2 or equivalent exam. The last day to apply for the exam is March 31, 2024, and the exam will take place between April 19 to 30, 2024.

## 4. SRMJEE

The exam conducted by SRM Institute of Science and Technology offers admission to BTech programmes on the campuses of Kattankulathur, Ramapuram, Vadapalani, and Delhi-NCR. Conducted in online mode, in addition to Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics, questions are also asked on English and Aptitude. A total of 125 questions are asked, and each question carries 1 mark. Registrations for SRMJEE will end on June 15, 2024, and the exam will be conducted from June 21 and 23.

## 5. BSc Courses

In addition to applying for BTech courses, students can also opt for a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. The courses are designed to develop a foundational understanding of scientific principles, theories and methodologies among the students. Interested students can appear for CUET UG which is a gateway for admission to prestigious colleges at Delhi University, Banaras Hindu University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Jamia Milia Islamia.

*(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
columnist Malout)*

## Chenab Times Foundation distributes Badminton Kits to children in Tanta Kahara

### Top News Report

DODA, Mar 26: The Chenab Times Foundation (CTF) today distributed badminton kits among children in the remote Tanta Kahara area of Doda district, located in the picturesque Chenab Valley.

The heartwarming distribution event was led by CTF President Anzer Ayooob, accompanied by The Chenab Times Marketing Editor Raja Shakeel, Range Officer Shafer Iqbal, and Ajaz Hussain.

This initiative comes after a video captured by Range Officer Shafer Iqbal during an official visit went viral on social media.

The video showcased two children playfully using dustpans, igniting a spark of concern



and compassion among viewers. With over 200,000 views across Facebook and Instagram, the video prompted numerous individuals to reach out to CTF, expressing their desire to

donate badminton kits to the children.

"We are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming response to the video," stated CTF President Anzer Ayooob. "The generosity of Royal

Photostat Thathri and ShopinKashmir.com, a Kashmir-based dry fruits website, enabled us to fulfill this heartfelt request and provide these children with a healthy and engaging

way to spend their time." The badminton kits were received with immense joy by the children and their families. The event not only brought smiles to their faces but also highlighted the power of social media in raising awareness and facilitating positive change within communities.

The Chenab Times Foundation continues its dedication to supporting the underprivileged and fostering development in the Chenab Valley region. The success of this event is a shining example of what can be achieved when a local organization, like the Chenab Times Foundation, joins forces with caring viewers and generous donors. It highlights the power of community spirit in action.

## Prominent businessman Yatin Join JD(U) in presence of Vivek Bali

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 26: Another feather to the Janata Dal (United), as leading Businessman Yatin Pandita & Suhan Rafiq joins JD(U) party at Parepora, Srinagar Constituency in the presence of the Party General Secretary Vivek Bali who welcomes Pandita's & Suhan's entry.

The event witnessed the presence of District President Baramulla Ayaz Darwi and other Sr leaders, further highlighting the growing support for the JD(U) in the Srinagar Constituency.

Vivek Bali said we welcome young and enthusiastic people to join for fair and honest politics to serve the public. Pandita & Suhan's entry into the party fold is a healthy trend. Common people especially youth want a



corruption free dispensation.

Ayaz Darwi appealed to Youth to come forward and strengthen the hands of JD(U) as this is the only party who does politics of truthfulness, transparency and honesty.

Bali also apprised the gathering about the important works done by the party since its inception for the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He further stressed upon strengthening the party and representing the true aspirations of the people. Senior Party leaders along with party workers were also present on this occasion.

He further appealed to the people to come forward and join this party for the sake of development, peace, progress and prosperity which has become the need of the hour.

## Shiv Sena announces support to Congress Revenge is being taken for raising voice for rights of local people: Sahni



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit announces support to Congress candidates on both Lok Sabha seats of Jammu division.

In a press conference held today at the party's central office, state president Manish Sahni said that under a well-planned strategy, our leaders are being kept away from the party's expansion and promotion by not providing security.

Sahni said that he has always raised his voice for the rights of the local people. He constantly reminded the BJP gov-

ernment at the Center of its promises to return the state status, safe return of Kashmiri Pandits, and restoration of peace.

Along with this, Jammu and Kashmir was demanding protection of its cultural identity under Section 371 and reservation in employment and education for the local people. Sahni said that he considers free electricity and water to be the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and has been continuously talking to the streets against government orders like installation of smart electricity meters, increase in electricity bills, property tax, toll

plaza, water bills and in favor of the demands of temporary employees. Perhaps the result of that is that our leaders are being treated step-motherly by not providing security.

Sahni said that keeping in mind the safety of the party leaders, the party high command has given instructions not to field candidates on both the seats of Jammu division.

Sahni said that Congress's declared candidates for Jammu and Kathua-Udhampur, Raman Bhalla and Chaudhary Lal Singh have always raised its voice for the rights of the local people. He declared full support to these leaders.

All the district units, workers and supporters of the state have been instructed to vote and campaign in their favour.

On this occasion president women wing Meenakshi Chhibber, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, secretary Rajesh Handa were present.

## Illegal shops being constructed in Quazigund, admin unmoved



### Top News Report

QUAZIGUND, Mar 26: Illegal constructions are going unabated in Quazigund area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district, while the authorities are acting as mute spectators with taking no action on them.

Illegal shops are being constructed by some miscreants in Quazigund area of Anantnag District.

Locals told Voice of India that illegal shops are being constructed with out proper permission of concerned authorities on about half Km's away from the main town Quazigund.

"The revenue officials have failed to stop these illegal constructions. It seems that they are hand in glove with the encroachers," allege locals.

They said that these illegal construction are being done by the influential people which has kept the concerned authorities silent.

A local revenue official said that these shops are being constructed illegally. I have taken this matter with higher officials and I am waiting for their orders.

When contacted Tehsildar Quazigund Khurshid Ahmad said that he will look into the matter. "If these shops are constructed illegally, then they will be demolished," he said.

## BJP, Cong in race to project themselves as new well-wishers of OBC community: Rajesh

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) J&K UT General Secretary and Media head Rajesh Gupta on Tuesday described the concept as the key to retrieving back the glorious ethos of inclusive Jammu and Kashmir to its pristine glory again by adopting the policies of BSP and to strengthening it.

He said BSP is spreading its roots in Jammu and Kashmir.

BSP leader said in view of the Lok Sabha elections, casteist and anti-reservation parties/elements, especially the BJP and the Congress are in a race these days to project themselves as the new well-wishers of the OBC community for votes of the bahujan.

"But the struggle for welfare of Dalits and tribals as well as OBCs and religious minorities, who are a special part of the 'bahujan' community, and their constitutional rights, was more than anyone else after Baba Saheb



Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar," he said.

Rajesh Gupta said that the BSP is a way forward to respect the urges and aspirations of all the regions and sub-regions of Jammu and Kashmir with none being discriminated against or dominated politically, socially, and economically. Each one, irrespective of region, religion or caste, must have equal rights regarding resources and governance.

Fair play and justice should not only be the bedrock of the political system but even the perception of one being appeased at the cost of the other due to politico-strategic expediencies should become an imperative of the past, he said,

adding that the Jammu region has hugely suffered on all these counts over the decades.

BSP leader said that BSP alone could fulfill the aspirations of the public at large and steer the erstwhile State out of the morass of poverty, underdevelopment, corruption, and communalism.

He said that having experimented with various traditional parties, both national and regional, the people of J&K were a disappointed lot desperately seeking a change in the political structure of the erstwhile State. Gupta said that the BSP has taken its birth to the service of the common man, the workers, laborers, and exploited class of society.

BSP leader in an interview with local channel lambasted BJP saying that tall promises of development, employment, progress and prosperity of the region were made with the people who were mesmerized with several other seductive slogans.

## Kindergarten Block Seniors celebrate Convocation Ceremony

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 26: The Delhi Public School Kathua radiated with excitement and pride as UKG students gathered for their Convocation Ceremony under the theme "Time to Shine." The atmosphere was

menced with the symbolic lighting of the lamp by the Principal and all coordinators, marking the beginning of a journey illuminated by knowledge and achievement. This was followed by captivating performances, including the Ganesh Vandana, Inaugural Dance, and a

Principal expressed gratitude towards Rishu Sharma, Pre-Primary Coordinator, along with the pre-primary staff and students, acknowledging their invaluable contributions. A special thank you was extended to the parents for their unwavering cooperation and support



electric with anticipation as attendees eagerly awaited the lineup of events for the day.

Set against a backdrop of vibrant decorations and melodious music, the Convocation Ceremony promised to be a memorable occasion from the moment guests entered Block II Hall. Parents, educators, and students alike were filled with anticipation, ready to celebrate this significant milestone.

The ceremony com-

Chair Dance presented by the talented students of class UKG.

A poignant moment arose as students shared their personal journeys from Nursery to UKG, evoking emotions and reflections among the audience. Mr. Vivek Arora, Principal of DPS Kathua, took the stage to commend the students for their dedication and extend heartfelt best wishes for their future endeavors.

The management and

throughout the academic journey.

The ceremony concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Rishu Sharma, encapsulating the spirit of unity and gratitude that characterized the event. As the Kindergarten block seniors embark on the next chapter of their educational journey, they do so with cherished memories and a strong foundation to shine brightly in all their future endeavors.

## Paras Health celebrates Holi



### Top News Report

PANCHKULA, Mar 26: Paras Health Panchkula organized the Holi celebrations at MetroTown Peer Muchalla Sector 20 Panchkula on Monday.

It was celebrated with traditional fervour and gaiety as residents smeared 'gulal', threw balloons filled with colour on each other and exchanged sweets

## Surya Vihar Bohri residents' plea to Irrigation Deptt, JMC authorities

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: The residents of Surya Vihar Bohri who met here today, stated that a rivulet flowing through Patta Chungi, Surya Vihar and Anand Nagar Bohri, is showing a dismal picture as it is full of silt and leaving foul smell which is very harmful to their

physique.

The residents therefore, urged the Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Jammu Municipal authorities to kindly have the said rivulet desilted, and the huge heaps of dirt lying along the road side lifted at an earliest convenience please, in order that they may have a sigh of relief.

## Sat inaugurates Thyrocare Collection Centre at Shiv Nagar



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Former State President BJP and Ex Minister Sat Sharma inaugurated Thyrocare Blood Collection Centre and Accuprobe at Shiv Nagar area of Jammu West Assembly segment.

Terming it as a major step towards providing services to people at their doorsteps, Sharma said that it is also an initiative of the owner towards making a self-reliant India (Aatm Nirbhar Bharat). Sharma was also accompanied by a large number of people including Proprietor Arun, Senior BJP Leader Bawa

Sharma, Mandal President BJP Atul Bakshi and several others.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that it is indeed a good step taken by the owner who also promises to provide 24 hours service. He said the centre conducts maximum tests and would now be able to serve the people of not only Shiv Nagar but adjoining areas as well catering to the needs of thousands of people. He said the owner is inspired from the Aatm Nirbhar Bharat vision of the PM Narendra Modi and said that he has also given employment to 3 persons which will in turn

benefit the same number of families. Sharma also appealed the youth of J&K to become self-reliant and contribute in building the economy of our country.

Arun thanked the dignitaries present and said that all type of tests are done here. He said 24 hours service is available with the service of collecting samples from home. He said he is committed to provide best possible services to the masses at reasonable prices.

Kushant Daffara, Vikas Bali, Manu Bali, Inderjit, Kaka and many others were also present on the occasion.

## Indians have passion for arts and music: American singer-songwriter Allen Ling

*The artist, primarily a physical therapist who began his music career a year ago, has swiftly climbed to the top of the music charts thanks to his critically acclaimed 'Heartbreak' trilogy*

Music connects people, says American singer-songwriter Allen Ling, who was recently in India along with Flipsyde guitarist Dave Lopez to promote their latest single 'Closer' in the country.

The artist, primarily a physical therapist who began his music career a year ago, has swiftly climbed to the top of the music charts thanks to his critically acclaimed 'Heartbreak' trilogy.

For his musical endeavours, Ling has teamed up with Lopez of the well-known American Rap Rock group, Flipsyde.

The duo was in Mumbai and Delhi last week as part of their Asia tour in support of 'Closer', produced by actor Aramis Knight of 'Ms Marvel' fame.

"Music connects people. If you go to the concerts everybody gravitates to that person, that's how people connect, the music has that connection with the audience. They (Indians) all say, 'I don't sing very well' and when they start singing, I feel



they sing really well.

"It is the humility, raw talent and passion for arts and music that people have (here). It seems like everyone is good at some kind of creative or artistic endeavour," Ling, who was on his maiden visit to the country, told PTI in an interview here.

Indians love music, said Dave, who performed with his band Flipsyde for the first time in the country in 2005.

"We played it in public, and it was an incredible experience.

We had received a lot of love. I learned a lot about India, and how much you all love music, there's so much passion here. It's nothing like this. We have toured in the US, but India was different," he recalled.

Describing Mumbai as a "vibrant city", Ling said he was impressed by its juxtaposition of skyscrapers and small buildings.

"We see the amazing 20- to 30-storey-tall buildings, and next to it there are tiny build-

ings. It's like wow, everything is just pushed together. It impresses me. "Everyone is nice and civilised to each other. You don't always get to see that. I've learned that everyone here says 'Namaste!', it is such a polite greeting. I do that as much as I can but if I have my phone in my hand, I'm (still) doing it," he quipped.

During their stay in Mumbai, Dave and Ling visited the popular tourist spot Gateway of India, which is located across from the Taj Mahal Palace hotel.

Ling said he felt "safe" while strolling around the streets here, unlike the US.

"When we went out, I felt very safe. It was not like we were nervous. San Francisco is a great city but there's a lot of crime that happens there.

"I don't dare to drive my car even eight miles (approximately 13 km) because when I park my car and come back, my window will be broken. The crime rate is so high," he added.

## Adah Sharma spent nights in dance bar for Sunflower 2 role



Actress Adah Sharma revealed that she spent nights in a dance bar for her role in Sunflower 2. "I wanted to look convincing," she said.

The Kerala Story star said that she stayed till 5 am in the morning sometimes to observe. Adah added, "They were kind enough to allow me to stay in the bar and observe. I tried to embody the confidence they have while talking to customers. I used to go by 9-10 pm and stay till 4-5 am in the morning sometimes."

Web series Sunflower also stars Sunil Grover and Mukul Chaddha in the lead roles.

## Janhvi Kapoor can't wait to go back to the sets of Jr NTR's Devara: Part 1 and be Thangam again

The shooting for Koratala Siva's Jr NTR, Janhvi Kapoor-starrer Devara: Part 1 is currently in progress in Goa. Recently, a video of Jr NTR shooting by the beach also surfaced online. Janhvi took to Instagram to share a sneak-peek, revealing that she has wrapped up her schedule.

Janhvi shared a picture of a sunset taken in Goa, sharing with fans that she can't wait to return to the sets of Devara. She wrote, "Can't wait to come back and be #Thangam again. #Devara." In the film, Janhvi plays the role of a village belle called Thangam, with her looks from the film seeing her in traditional langa vonis. The actor was brought on-board the project last year and she has been shooting for the film ever since.

If the glimpse and posters of Devara are anything to go by, the film takes place at sea and features Jr NTR in a new avatar. The film is scheduled to release on October 10 and also stars Saif Ali Khan, Shine Tom Chacko, Prakash Raj, Meera Jasmine, Srikanth, Abhimanyu Singh and others. The film was



initially scheduled to release on April 5 but release was postponed to Dasara.

The film is Jr NTR's next film after RRR and Koratala's after Acharya.

Janhvi will debut in Telugu cinema with Devara. She has also said yes to starring in Buchi Babu Sana's next with Ram Charan. The latter film was recently launched in Hyderabad in the presence of the lead actors and Boney

Kapoor. Shiva Rajkumar will also play a key role in the film, which is touted to be a hard-hitting sports drama.

Apart from her work in Telugu, Janhvi is working on a couple of Hindi films also. She will soon star in Mr & Mrs Mahi with Rajkumar Rao, with Sharan Sharma directing it. The film is expected to be released this year. She will also star in Ujjah with Roshan Mathew and Gulshan Devaiah.

## When Kangana Ranaut called Urmila Matondkar 'soft porn star': If she can get a ticket, why won't I

Kangana Ranaut, who is contesting the upcoming Lok Sabha elections on a BJP ticket from Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, sparked controversy in 2020, when she called Urmila Matondkar 'a soft porn star'. During an old interview to agency, Kangana, who on Monday slammed a derogatory post against her by a Congress leader, had made a controversial statement against Urmila.

What Kangana Ranaut said in 2020

"I saw one very derogatory interview given by Urmila Matondkar. The way she was talking about me, pulling faces, making a mockery about my struggles, attacking me on the fact that I am trying to appease BJP for a ticket. One doesn't have to be a genius to figure that for me it is not very difficult to get a ticket. Urmila is a soft porn star. She is not known for her acting for sure, what is she known for? For doing soft porn right. If she could get a ticket, why wouldn't I get a ticket?" Kangana Ranaut had said in September, 2020.

What Urmila said about Kangana in interview

Urmila had made her political

debut as a Congress candidate in the 2019 Lok Sabha election from the Mumbai North constituency. She had resigned from Congress after a short association, and joined Shiv Sena in 2020.

Urmila had slammed Kangana for disrespecting veteran actor Jaya Bachchan, who had objected to the entire film industry being 'tarnished' in a 2020 speech in Parliament.

"When Kangana was not even born, Jaya ji was in the film industry. We're talking about a lady here (Jaya Bachchan) who has herself been an icon. Which part of Indian culture tells you to lash out at people like this?" Urmila had told agency in 2020. Reactions to Kangana's soft porn jibe

After Kangana's comment against Urmila, Bollywood celebrities came out in support of Urmila.

Actor Swara Bhasker had tweeted words of appreciation for Urmila in 2020. "Dear @UrmilaMatondkar ji, remembering your outstanding performances in Masoom, Chamatkar, Rangeela, Jadaai, Daud, Satya, Bhoot, Kaun, Jungle, Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya, Tehzeeb,



Pinjar, Ek Hasina Thi.. among others and have marvelled at your acting chops & brilliant dancing! Love you," she wrote.

Filmmaker Anubhav Sinha also tweeted, "Just felt like saying this to one of the most beautiful, elegant, evocative, expressive actresses ever. Sending you love @UrmilaMa-



tondkar."

Jewellery designer and Hrithik Roshan's ex-wife Sussanne Khan's sister, Farah Khan Ali, wrote, "Class does not rave and rant. It shines through... Urmila Matondkar, Jaya Bachchan, Swara Bhasker, Taapsee Pannu, Sonu Sood, Hema Malini. You guys shine bright."

## Rani Mukerji: 'Tried for my second baby for seven years, finally got pregnant and lost it, it was...'

Rani Mukerji and Aditya Chopra tied the knot in 2014 at a private ceremony and the couple is blessed with daughter Adira. In an interview with agency, the actress spoke about the tough time she went through when she lost her second baby and how she coped up with it.

She said, "I tried for my second baby for seven years. My daughter is 8 years old now. Immediately after her, I tried for my second baby. I kept trying. I finally got pregnant, and then I lost the baby. Obviously, it was a testing time for me."

Mukerji added, "It's not an age where I can have another baby. And it is traumatic for me that I can't give a sibling to my daughter. That really pains me. But then I think that we really have to be always grateful for what we have and what we don't. For me, Adira is my miracle child. And I'm really happy that I have her because I look at parents who are struggling to have even that one baby. So I feel I have to be grateful for what I have. It's a saying, but to actually work on it and believe that you've to be grateful for what you have, it takes a lot of courage. To just be content with what you have. So I'm working on it. I'm telling myself that yes, Adira is enough."

Mukerji was among the B-Town A-listers, who attended the pre-wedding celebrations of Anant Ambani and Radhika merchant in Jamnagar, Gujarat. The actress was seen making a rare appearance with her daughter Adira at



the festivities, turning a lot of heads on social media.

Married to Aditya Chopra, a prominent film producer and the head of Yash Raj Films, the couple welcomed their daughter Adira in December 2015. Fast forward to now, the little girl is all grown-up now with her parents successfully managing to keep her away from all the media limelight.

However, finally, the media caught a glimpse of Adira, who attended the celebrations with her mother Rani Mukerji. In a video going viral on social media, Rani can be seen introducing her daughter to Rajinikanth and his wife Latha.

## Raveena Tandon: 'Easy for influential people to get away with things'

Raveena Tandon, in an exclusive interview with agency, said that it's 'easy for influential people to get away with things'. The actor plays a lawyer in her upcoming project, 'Patna Shukla'. The film is a courtroom drama about two women's fight against injustice, influence, misuse of power and infamous education scams.

Raveena Tandon, who will be next seen in 'Patna Shukla', spoke to IndiaToday.in about what made her say yes to such a sensitive topic. She told us, "It is about the plight of a common man. It gets a little worse because they end up being women as well (smiles). So there is a little more discrimination, but that is the fight for them, for justice and how easy it is to play with lives."

"It is so easy for influential people to get



away with things which have been going on for a long time but never been exposed. This is throwing light on a lot of events that actually, truly happened. If you search on the Internet, you will see a lot of such scams have already happened, and they have played with students' lives. This is something we all thought was very important to bring to focus," she added.

She also mentioned that even PM Modi had touched upon the topic and said, "As we know, Modi ji [PM Narendra Modi] in 'Mann Ki Baat', had mentioned and spoken about students going through stress during their exams and student suicides happening for various reasons. This is something we have to tackle at the grassroot level, considering that this is our future generation."

Raveena Tandon as Tanvi Shukla in 'Patna Shukla' embarks on an unusual voyage as a lawyer, compelled to take action upon discovering a student trapped in a roll number scandal. The film delves into the pervasive education scam involving roll numbers, which detrimentally impacts the futures of countless sincere students across India.

The film weaves a touching narrative around two women who courageously champion the cause of justice, offering both entertainment and inspiration. The film also stars Anushka Kaushik, Manav Vij, Chandan Roy Sanyal, Jatin Goswami, and the late Satish Kaushik, and others. It has been produced by Arbaaz Khan.

'Patna Shukla' releases on March 29 on Disney+ Hotstar.

## Nirmala Sitharaman Counters Jairam Ramesh's Criticism Of Pension Scheme

The Congress today attacked the Modi government over the Atal Pension Yojana, alleging it is a "very poorly-designed scheme" and a "paper tiger"

NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (Agencies): Reacting to Jairam Ramesh's remark that Atal Pension Yojana is a "poorly designed scheme", Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today slammed the Congress general secretary and said that the Congress prefers that the poor should not have pensions so that they are forced to rely on government handouts, which keeps them dependent on "dynasty politicians".

The Congress today attacked the Modi government over the Atal Pension Yojana, alleging it is a "very poorly-designed scheme" and a "paper tiger" that needs officials to hoodwink and coerce people into participating in it.

Lashing out at Congress' criticism of the Atal Pension Yojana, Ms Sitharaman said, "On the Atal Pension Yojana, Jairam Ramesh known for using verbal sophistry to hide facts, is being malicious or is ignorant of the basic tenets of designing a good pension scheme."

She further said that the Atal Pension Yojana is designed based on best practice choice architecture to automatically continue the premium payment unless the subscriber opts out.

"This is a deliberate and beneficial feature which is in the best interest of the subscribers. Instead of requiring people to decide each year to continue, they have to take a decision to discontinue. This makes many of them take the right decision and save for their retirement," she posted on X.

"Richard Thaler (Nobel prize winner in Economics 2017) and Cass Sunstein (a Professor who



worked in the Obama administration) are known for their book 'Nudge' which explains the need for proper 'choice architecture' in designing public schemes," she said.

"@Jairam\_Ramesh calls it a fixed income pension. He has not bothered to check facts. The minimum return under the APY is guaranteed by the Govt to be at least 8 per cent, regardless of prevailing interest rates and returns. This is an attractive guaranteed minimum return. Govt pays a subsidy to PFRDA to make up for any shortfall in actual returns. If higher investment returns are received on the contributions of subscribers of APY, higher pension would be paid to the subscribers: In fact, currently the returns are more than 8 per cent," she added.

"@Jairam\_Ramesh says that people are being 'hoodwinked and coerced' into participating! Hoodwinking is what @INCIndia does always -- in the name of vote bank politics or minority appeasement. Coercion is what was used to make former Chairman of @TheOfficialSBI Shri RK Talwar resign because he refused to give loans to favourites of the dynasty," she said.

The Finance Minister said that

as regards the majority of pension accounts being in the lower slabs, for a subsidised scheme intended for the poor and lower middle class, this is obvious.

"In fact, it shows the proper targeting of the scheme. If the offtake was at the higher end, that would be surprising! The elitist mindset of the dynasty and its minions who are constantly thinking of people in the higher echelons of society, perhaps, blinds them to this obvious truth. The @INCIndia prefers that poor should not have pensions so that they are forced to rely on government hand-outs which keeps them dependant on dynasty politicians," she added.

Earlier, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the scheme is a "fitting representation of the Modi Government's policy making: headline management, with few benefits actually reaching the people".

In a post on X, Ramesh said, "The Finance Minister (Nirmala Sitharaman) was in Bengaluru on the 24th of March, where she was proclaiming the benefits of the Atal Pension Yojana initiated by the Modi Government as its 'flagship social security programme'.

"Just a day later, here's what

emerged: Up to a third of the subscribers to this scheme were enrolled into the scheme without 'explicit permission' by officers seeking to meet their quotas," he said sharing the media report on X.

Nearly 83 per cent of the subscribers are in the lowest slab of 1,000 pension, because the monthly contribution for it is low and it goes "unnoticed" by the beneficiaries, he said.

"The 'flagship' Atal Pension Yojana is a very poorly-designed scheme, a paper tiger that needs officials to hoodwink and coerce people into participating in it. It's a fitting representation of the Modi Government's policy making: headline management, with few benefits actually reaching the people!" he said.

On Sunday, the Union Finance Minister hailed the Centre's Atal Pension Yojana and said that a total of 5.26 lakh people have benefited from the scheme only in Bengaluru.

Speaking at an informal interaction organised by the Thinkers Forum here, Sitharaman said, "The Atal Pension Yojana has benefited 5.26 lakh poor people aged 60 and above in Bengaluru, alone. As many as 1.95 lakh houses have been sanctioned for urban and rural pockets within Bengaluru, and a total of 1.95 lakh houses have been sanctioned under the PM Awas Yojana. Under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, 11 crore or more wholesale toilets have been constructed all over India and 28,075 household toilets have been constructed in Bengaluru."

The Atal Pension Yojana is the government's flagship social security programme launched eight years ago.

## BRS Leader K Kavitha Sent To Jail For 14 Days In Delhi Liquor Policy Case



NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (Agencies): A Delhi court on Tuesday sent Bharat Rashtra Samithi leader K Kavitha to jail till April 9.

Ms Kavitha - arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on March 15 in the alleged liquor policy scam that has roiled the city's ruling Aam Aadmi Party - was earlier in the agency's custody; that was extended once last week so she could be confronted with data extracted from her mobile phone.

However, in a surprise move today, the ED sought only 15-day judicial custody, meaning Ms Kavitha will now likely be transferred to Delhi's Tihar Jail rather than be held at the agency's lock-up.

The fiery BRS leader hit out at her critics as she was taken from Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court.

She said the case against her "is not money laundering but political laundering", and pointed out her accusers had either joined the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party or donated money to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party (Rs 50 crore via the controversial and now-scrapped electoral bonds).

"It is a fabricated and false case. One accused has joined BJP, second is getting a BJP ticket, and third accused gave 50 crore in electoral bonds. This is political laundering... we will come out clean."

In the remand request submitted to the court today, the agency said "it is evident Ms K Kavitha is involved in the acts of payment of kickbacks to government functionaries to gain illegal benefits in the excise policy formulation and implementation..." and that the BRS leader is "actually involved in the transfer of proceeds of crime of 100 crore... which was paid to AAP leaders".

The agency also referred to Ms Kavitha's skipping of summons and claimed she "has not given true and complete disclosure and has not cooperated with the investigation".

Ms Kavitha, meanwhile, sought interim bail on grounds of her minor son's school exams. The bail plea - to be heard by a lower court, per the Supreme Court's direction - will be on April 1.

The request was countered by the agency, which wanted to be heard before such an order is passed, pointing to stringent provisions governing bail for those charged under the money laundering act.

The ED has accused Ms Kavitha - the daughter of ex-Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhu Naidu - of being a key member of the 'South Group' that allegedly paid the AAP a bribe of 100 crore in exchange for liquor licenses under the Delhi government's now-scrapped policy.

The ED also believes the AAP used this money to fund its Goa and Punjab election campaigns.

Following her arrest from Hyderabad - in dramatic circumstances that involved a verbal spat between her brother, and former Telangana minister, KT Rama Rao and a team of ED officials - Ms Kavitha had also approached the Supreme Court. However, her appeal was swiftly shot down.

A special bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna, MM Sundresh, and Bela Trivedi said they could not allow individuals to bypass the lower courts simply because they were persons of influence.

The court did, however, issue a notice to the centre on her petition challenging the validity of the PMLA, or Prevention of Money Laundering Act, under which she was arrested.

The centre was given six weeks to respond.

Incidentally, the same bench was to hear an identical plea by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who was arrested last week in connection with the same case. He withdrew the plea shortly after Ms Kavitha's was rejected, fearing the same outcome. Mr Kejriwal is now in ED custody till Thursday.

## Another student hangs self in 'coaching hub' Kota, 7th suicide this year

KOTA, Mar 26 (Agencies): Continuing with the unfortunate spate of student suicides in India's 'coaching hub' Kota, another National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) aspirant has reportedly killed himself.

Twenty-year-old Uruz Khan, who was preparing for NEET, was found hanging from the ceiling fan of his rented room in the city.

To everyone's dismay, this is the 7th student suicide incident in 2024 alone.

Notably, the unfortunate tally stood at 29 during the last calendar year.

The deceased Uruz Khan, a resident of Kannauj in Uttar

Pradesh, was staying at a rented flat in Vigyan Nagar locality where he hanged himself Monday night.

The police were informed after the guard of the building where Uruz was staying found him hanging from the ceiling fan.

The police reached the spot, took the body into their custody before sending it to the mortuary of the nearby MBS Hospital.

Uruz Khan had shifted to the room just 20 days back but had been staying in Kota for a long time, police said.

As per reports, the reason behind the NEET aspirant taking the extreme step is not

known as of now.

The police have informed the family of the deceased student, upon the arrival of whom the autopsy will be conducted, police added.

Earlier in March, a JEE aspirant died by suicide in Kota. The student was identified as Abhishek Kumar, a native of Bihar's Bhagalpur district.

Abhishek, a JEE aspirant, consumed a poisonous substance in his rented room in the Vigyan Nagar area of the city.

Commenting on the incident, police said that a bottle of the poisonous substance and a suicide letter were recovered from Kumar's room.

## Every woman deserves dignity, says Kangana Ranaut on row over Congress leaders derogatory comments

CHANDIGARH, Mar 26 (Agencies): Every woman, irrespective of her background and profession, deserves dignity, actor Kangana Ranaut said on Tuesday, adding that she was particularly pained by Congress leaders' comments on Mandi from where she is contesting the Lok Sabha elections on a BJP ticket.

Mandi is often referred to as "chota Kashi" the world over, Ranaut told reporters outside the Chandigarh airport.

Congress leaders Supriya Shrinete and H S Ahir have kicked up a huge political row with derogatory comments on Ranaut and Mandi posted on their social media handles.

"Whatever be the profession of a woman, be it a teacher, actress, journalist, politician or a sex worker, all of them deserve dignity. I'm pained especially because of the deplorable com-



ments made about Mandi... All of us who come from Mandi have been hurt by the comments," Ranaut said.

Asked whether she plans to take any action against the two Congress leaders, she said she had been called to Delhi by BJP president J P Nadda and would respond only after meeting him.

"I have to maintain the dignity of the party. I can't walk before it. I have to walk with them and

follow their instructions."

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has written to the Election Commission demanding strict action against Shrinete and Ahir for their comments against Ranaut.

"National Commission for Women is appalled by the disgraceful conduct of Ms. Supriya Shrinete and Mr H S Ahir, who made lewd and derogatory remarks about @KanganaTeam on social media. Such behavior is intolerable and goes against the dignity of women. @sharmarekha has sent a letter to the Election commissioner of India demanding an immediate and strict action against them. Let's uphold respect and dignity for all women. #RespectWomen," the NCW said in a post on Monday.

Ranaut, 37, had earlier hit out at Shrinete, saying that she has played various roles and every woman deserves dignity.

"Dear Supriya ji, in the last 20 years of my career as an artist I have played all kinds of women. From a naive girl in 'Queen' to a seductive spy in 'Dhaakad', from a goddess in 'Manikarnika' to a demon in 'Chandramukhi', from a prostitute in 'Rajjo' to a revolutionary leader in 'Thalaviv'," Ranaut tweeted.

Shrinete clarified that many people have access to her Facebook and Instagram accounts, and someone from them made the inappropriate post.

"As soon as I came to know, I deleted that post. Everyone who knows me, also knows very well that I can never make personal and indecent comments towards any woman. I wanted to know how this happened," she said.

Ahir, state joint co-ordinator of Kisan Congress, also made derogatory remarks against Ranaut.

## Speeding Scorpio Rams Vehicles, Kills 1 In Rajasthan, Driver Assaulted

CHITTORGARH, Mar 26 (Agencies): A speeding Scorpio car hurtled out of control, crushing two individuals under its wheels, killing one and severely injuring the other in Rajasthan's Chittorgarh Monday evening.

According to the police, the Scorpio, driven by three young men allegedly drunk, went recklessly through Chittorgarh's Bassi town. Eyewitnesses described the vehicle veering off its path, demolishing street stalls and colliding with parked motorcycles before striking the unsuspecting victims.

As soon as the Scorpio came to a halt, locals in the area intervened and assaulted the three men before handing them over to the police.



Video footage of the aftermath of the accident shows several two-wheelers hit and lying on the ground, vegetable carts and other stalls crushed and the three men who were in the Scorpio carrying wounds on

their bodies from the assault by the locals.

The injured were promptly rushed to Bassi Hospital for treatment, however, 70-year-old Mitthu Lal Mewada died during transit to a hospital in Udaipur.

The other injured individual, identified as 75-year-old Kajodimal, was treated at a local hospital before being discharged.

The occupants of the Scorpio were identified as 21-year-old Hardik, 21-year-old Karni Singh, and Tushar Kumar, whose age is being ascertained.

According to the police, the three men, after celebrating the dhulandi festival, a traditional Holi tradition in parts of Rajasthan, had been traversing the streets of Chittorgarh while drunk before calamity hit.

Mitthu Lal Mewada's body was kept in the mortuary of Chittorgarh District Hospital and an autopsy was conducted before it was handed over to his family, police said today.

## 50 rescued after fire erupts at corporate park in Mumbai; no injuries: Officials



MUMBAI, Mar 26 (Agencies): Nearly 50 people were rescued after a fire erupted in a six-storey corporate park at suburban Mulund in Mumbai on Tuesday morning, officials said.

Those rescued had been stranded on various floors of the smoke-filled building, where the fire started around 9.25 am, a civic official said.

They were moved to safety through

staircase and with the help of turn-table ladders. There are no reports of any injury to anyone so far, the official said.

Another civic official said the fire is confined to the sixth floor of the building 'Avior Corporate Park' on LBS Road.

The fire affected wiring, electrical installations, split AC units, wooden furniture and office records over an area of about 1,000 square feet of the commercial building, he said.

Four fire engines, three jumbo tankers, two turn-table ladders and other vehicles have been pressed into the firefighting operation, he said.

Personnel from the Mumbai police, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and other agencies have been mobilised at the spot, he added.

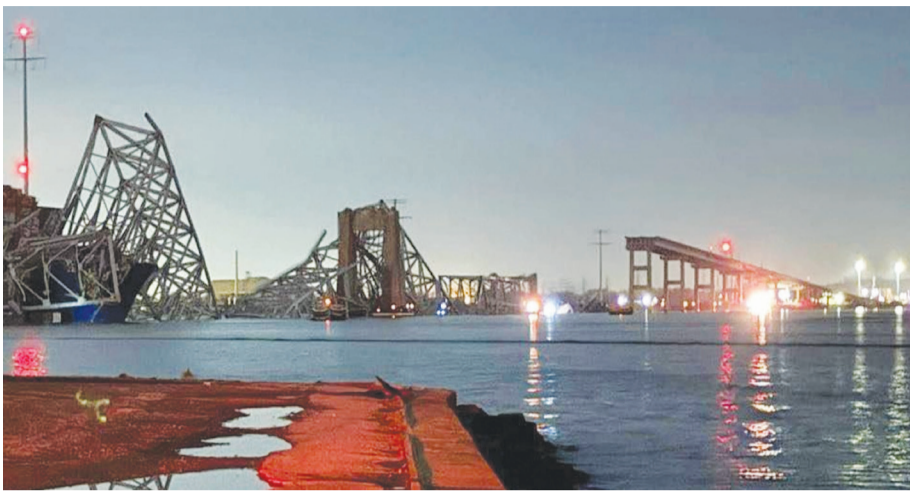
## 3-km long Key Bridge in US' Baltimore collapses after cargo ship collision; search on for 7 in water

*An official called the collapse a 'developing mass casualty event'*

BALTIMORE, Mar 26 (Agencies): A major bridge in Baltimore snapped and collapsed after a container ship rammed into it early Tuesday, and several vehicles fell into the river below. Rescuers were searching for at least seven people in the water.

The vessel appears to have hit one of the supports of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, causing the roadway to break apart in several places and plunge into the water, according to a video posted on X, formerly known as Twitter. The ship caught fire and appeared to sink.

The bridge, which opened in 1977, spans the Patapsco River, a



vital artery that along with the Port of Baltimore is a hub for shipping on the East Coast. It is named for the writer of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

"This is a dire emergency," Kevin Cartwright, director of com-

munications for the Baltimore Fire Department, told The Associated Press.

"Our focus right now is trying to rescue and recover these people." He added that some cargo appeared to be dangling from the

bridge.

Emergency responders were searching for at least seven people believed to be in the water, Cartwright said, though he said it's too early to know how many people were affected. He called the collapse a

"developing mass casualty event."

He said agencies received 911 calls around 1:30 am reporting that a ship leaving Baltimore had struck a column on the bridge. Several vehicles were on the bridge at the time, including one the size of a tractor-trailer truck.

Mayor Brandon M. Scott and Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski Jr posted that emergency personnel were responding and rescue efforts were underway.

"All lanes closed both directions for incident on I-695 Key Bridge. Traffic is being detoured," the Maryland Transportation Authority posted on X.

## Hamas rejects latest cease-fire proposal, says Israel ignoring its key demands

JERUSALEM, Mar 26 (Agencies): Hamas has rejected the latest cease-fire proposal, accusing Israel of ignoring its core demands, which include an end to the war and a full withdrawal from Gaza.

In a statement late Monday, the militant group said it had informed mediators that it was sticking to its original position, conveyed earlier in March. It said Israel had not responded to its core demands of a "comprehensive cease-fire, an (Israeli) withdrawal from the Strip, the return of displaced people and a real prisoner exchange."

The statement came shortly after the United Nations Security Council approved a resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire and the release of all hostages held in Gaza.

The vote provoked a clash between Israel and the United States, which decided not to use its veto power Monday. In response, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cancelled a high-level delegation's planned visit to Washington.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected Hamas' demands, calling them "delusional." He has vowed to resume Israel's offensive after any hostage release and keep fighting until

Hamas is destroyed.

Hamas is still believed to be holding some 100 hostages, as well as the remains of around 30 others. More than 100 hostages were freed during a weeklong cease-fire in November in exchange for the release of 240 Palestinian prisoners.

An independent expert working with the UN's top human rights body said Monday that there are "reasonable grounds" to believe Israel is carrying out genocide in Gaza. International aid officials say the entire population of the Gaza Strip — 2.3 million people — is suffering from food insecurity and that famine is imminent in the hard-hit north.

More than 32,000 people have been killed in the besieged territory and more than 74,000 wounded, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants in its tally. It says women and children make up two-thirds of the dead.

Some 1,200 people were killed on October 7 when militants launched a surprise attack out of Gaza, triggering the war, and abducted another 250 people. Hamas is still believed to be holding some 100 Israeli hostages, as well as the remains of 30 others.

## Taiwan conducts missile drills in face of Chinese military intrusions

YILAN, Mar 26 (Agencies): Taiwan conducted an air defence test on Tuesday deploying US-made Patriot missiles and its anti-aircraft artillery systems, saying it will ramp up training in the face of Chinese military "intrusions" around the self-ruled island.

Beijing claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has said it will not rule out using force to bring the island under its control.

Chinese warplanes and ships maintain a near-daily presence around the island, as Beijing has ramped up military pressure against Taipei using what experts say are "grey zone" actions—tactics that stop short of outright acts of war.

Taiwan's Air Force Command said it conducted an exercise between 5:00 and 7:00 am (2100–2300 GMT Monday) that included the island's domestically made Sky Bow and US-made Patriot surface-to-air missiles, along with army and navy units.

"The aim was to verify the command and control of joint air defence operations among the three branches of the military," it said, adding that the exercise went smoothly.

"In the face of frequent



intrusions by PLA aircraft and vessels into the airspace and waters surrounding Taiwan, the Air Force will continue to enhance training intensity to respond to potential threats."

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen rejects China's claim over the island, causing Beijing to cut all high-level communications since she came into power in 2016.

She has ramped up defence spending during her eight years in office, acquiring military weapons and developing Taiwan-made equipment, like submarines and ships.

On Tuesday, Tsai oversaw the handover of two domestically made warships—both Tuo Chiang-class corvettes—at Suao port in northeast Yilan County.

"Over the past few years, we have steadily implemented defence autonomy, with Taiwan-

made warships being named, launched, and commissioned one after another at an increasingly rapid pace," Tsai said in a speech.

"These achievements repeatedly demonstrate Taiwan's capacity for domestic shipbuilding and proves our determination to safeguard our democracy and freedom."

She also praised the warships—designed for stealthy multi-missions and easily manoeuvred—for being a year ahead of schedule.

Taipei's defence ministry said 13 Chinese aircraft and seven navy vessels were spotted around Taiwan in the 24 hours leading up to 6:00 am Tuesday.

Last week, Taiwan detected 36 Chinese military aircraft around the island in a 24-hour window, the highest single-day number this year so far.

## Japan approves plan to sell fighter jets to other nations in latest break from pacifist principles

TOKYO, Mar 26 (Agencies): Japan's Cabinet on Tuesday approved a plan to sell future next-generation fighter jets that it's developing with Britain and Italy to other countries, in the latest move away from the country's postwar pacifist principles.

The contentious decision to allow international arms sales is expected to help secure Japan's role in the joint fighter jet project and part of a move to build up the Japanese arms industry and bolster its role in global security.

The Cabinet also endorsed a revision to Japan's arms equipment and technology transfer guidelines to allow coproduced lethal weapons to be sold to countries other than the partners.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshiyuki Suga said the changes are necessary given Japan's security environment, but stressed that Japan's pacifist principles remain unchanged.

"In order to achieve a fighter aircraft that meets the necessary performance and to avoid jeopardizing the defense of Japan, it is necessary to transfer finished products from Japan to countries other than partner countries," Hayashi told reporters, adding that Tokyo will follow a strict approval process for jet sales. "We have clearly demonstrated that we will continue to adhere to our basic philosophy as a peaceful nation," he said.

Japan has long restricted arms exports under the country's pacifist constitution, but has rapidly taken steps to deregulate amid rising regional



and global tensions, especially from nearby China.

The decision on jets will allow Japan to export lethal weapons it coproduces to other countries for the first time.

Japan is working with Italy and the U.K. to develop an advanced fighter jet to replace its aging fleet of American-designed F-2 fighters, and the Eurofighter Typhoons used by the U.K. and Italian militaries.

Japan, which was previously working on a homegrown design to be called the F-X, agreed in December 2022 to merge its effort with a British-Italian program called the Tempest. for deployment in 2035. The joint project, known as the Global Combat Air Program or GCAP, is based in the U.K.

Japan hopes the new plane will offer advanced capabilities Japan needs amid growing tensions in the region, giving it a technological edge against regional rivals China and Russia.

Because of its wartime past as aggressor and the devastation that followed its defeat in World

War II, Japan adopted a constitution that limits its military to self-defense. The country long maintained a strict policy to limit transfers of military equipment and technology and ban all exports of lethal weapons.

Opponents have criticized Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government for committing to the fighter jet project without providing an explanation to the public or seeking approval for the major policy change.

To address such concerns, the government is limiting exports of codeveloped lethal weapons to the jet for now, and has promised that no sales will be made for use in active wars.

The government also assured that the revised guideline for the time being only applies to the jet and that it would require Cabinet approval to do so. Potential purchasers will be also limited to the 15 countries that Japan has signed defense partnership and equipment transfer deals with.

Recent polls suggest that public opinion is divided on the

plan. In 2014, Japan began to export some nonlethal military supplies, and in a latest move last December, it approved a change that would allow sales of 80 lethal weapons and components that it manufactures under licenses from other countries back to the licensors. The change cleared the way for Japan to sell U.S.-designed Patriot missiles to the United States, helping replace munitions that Washington is sending to Ukraine.

In its decision, the Cabinet said that the arms export ban on finished products would hinder efforts to develop the new jet, and limit Japan to a supporting role in the project. Italy and the U.K. are eager to make sales of the jet in order to defray development and manufacturing costs.

Kishida sought Cabinet approval before signing the GCAP agreement in February, but it was delayed by resistance from his junior coalition partner, the Buddhist-backed Komeito party.

The change also comes as Kishida is planning an April state visit to Washington, where he is expected to stress Japan's readiness to take on a greater role in military and defense industry partnerships.

Exports would also help boost Japan's defense industry, which historically has catered only to the country's Self Defense Force, as Kishida seeks to build up the military. Despite its effort over the past decade, the industry has still struggled to draw customers.

## Hong Kong scraps early release for national security convicts

HONG KONG, Mar 26 (Agencies): Hong Kong's leader said Tuesday that people convicted on national security charges would no longer be eligible for early release for good behaviour, under a new law enacted by the city's authorities over the weekend.

His comments came after local media reported that democracy activist Ma Chun-man, who was convicted in 2021 for "incitement of secession" and was expected to be released Monday, had been held back.

Hong Kong's massive and at times violent pro-democracy protests in 2019 brought hundreds of thousands to the streets demanding greater autonomy from

Beijing.

In response, authorities cracked down on protesters and Beijing imposed a national security law in 2020, which was supplemented by a new homegrown one enacted over the weekend.

"It's been made very clear that if a prisoner is serving a sentence in respect to his conviction of an offence endangering national security, the prisoner is not entitled to remission," leader John Lee said Tuesday about the new law when asked about Ma's case.

Commonly referred to as "Article 23", the law also applies to those sentenced before it was passed, he said.

"The ordinance has also made it clear that

the new rule applies no matter if the sentence of the prisoner was imposed before or after the commencement of the relevant amendment," Lee said, adding exceptions could be made by the correctional services commissioner.

The new law came into force Saturday -- two days before Ma's scheduled release -- putting into immediate effect tough penalties of up to life imprisonment for certain national security crimes, including treason and insurrection.

The new law also amended Hong Kong's prison rules, removing a possible one-third sentence reduction due to good behaviour for prisoners convicted

of crimes of either the security law or other offences deemed national security threats by authorities.

Ma, 34 -- nicknamed "Captain America 2.0" for carrying a replica of the Marvel superhero's shield at protest rallies in 2019 -- was convicted of "incitement to secession" in 2021.

He had successfully appealed to reduce his sentence by nine months to five years in 2022 as appeal judges deemed his culpability as "relatively low".

Under the new law, Ma would have to remain behind bars for another 20 months.

"This is exactly telling everyone -- do not attempt to carry out any acts or activities

that endanger national security as remission is generally not allowed. Do not challenge the law," Lee said Tuesday.

Lee, who was Hong Kong's security chief during the protests and sanctioned by the United States for his role, added that anyone unsatisfied with the decision "can seek through legal avenues for a court's adjudication".

The Correctional Services Department declined to comment on individual cases.

"The Commissioner... will consider the actual circumstances of the case and all relevant factors, including the prisoner's representation," the department said in a statement.

## New Zealand Says Chinese "State-Sponsored" Group Hacked Parliament In 2021

WELLINGTON, Mar 26 (Agencies): New Zealand on Tuesday blamed "state-sponsored" Chinese hackers for a "malicious" 2021 cyber attack that infiltrated sensitive government computer systems.

The country's counter-espionage agency said a state-backed group known as "APT40" compromised computers linked to its parliamentary network.

The announcement comes on the back of similar claims unearthed in the United Kingdom, which overnight accused Beijing-linked groups of compromising parliamentary accounts. New Zealand secu-

rity services minister Judith Collins said they were able to attribute the attack following a "robust technical assessment".

"These networks contain important information that enables the effective operation of the New Zealand government," she said in a statement.

"It is critical that we protect this information from all malicious cyber threats."

APT40 has previously targeted "governmental organizations, companies, and universities in a wide range of industries", according to the US government's Cybersecurity and

Infrastructure Security Agency.

Attribution of sophisticated cyberattacks is both technically difficult and politically fraught -- and is likely to anger China.

China's ambassador to London will be summoned "to account for China's conduct", UK Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden said, while Foreign Secretary David Cameron said he had raised the issue with his counterpart Wang Yi.

Wang recently wrapped up a rare diplomatic jaunt to New Zealand, where he stressed the need to work alongside "friends".



# NMDC excels at Governance Now 10th PSU Awards

## Top News Report

HYDERABAD, Mar 26: NMDC, India's largest Iron Ore Producer won five awards at the Governance Now 10th PSU Awards held in New Delhi. The chief guest of the event was Padma Shri Dr. Sanjeev Bagai and Nirmal Kaur, IPS, Retd. DGP Jharkhand Police.

On behalf of NMDC, Satyender Rai, ED (P&A & DT) received the awards. These awards recognise organization's efforts and commitment towards making India a truly digital nation.

For the visionary leadership and futuristic outlook, Amitava Mukherjee, CMD (Addl. Charge)



has been honoured with the coveted CMD Leadership Award and Jaya Prakash, GM (Corporate

Communication) has been felicitated with the Communication Leader Award.

The National Miner brought home accolades in the categories - CSR Commitment (Overall),

Innovation in Mining and HR Excellence (Overall) for its transformational social development initiatives and unwavering commitment towards growth of the iron and steel industry.

Speaking on the occasion, Satyender Rai ED (P&A & DT) said, "It's an honor to be receiving these prestigious awards. These awards recognize our contribution in the development of the sector while boosting our confidence to outperform and deliver exceptional results. At NMDC we pay special emphasis to community engagement while delivering record production and fostering responsible mining."

# GDC Doda boy bring laurels, wins first position in Short Film Making in Goonj 2024

## Top News Report

DODA, Mar 26: Tanish Manhas a student of semester 6th from GDC Doda got 1st position in short film making on the theme "Life in my university/college" in Goonj 2024 organised by University of Jammu.

The award was presented by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and Dean Students Welfare University of Jammu.

It is pertinent to mention here that twenty students from the college participated in different cultural, sports and literary events in the said event.

The students were flagged off from the college by Dr Attar Singh Kotwal Principal GDC Doda and they participated in different events under the supervision of the Prof Satish Kumar Convener Cultural committee and other members.



# Bali Bhagat slams NC, Congress for failure to develop J&K at par with developed states



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Bali Bhagat, senior BJP leader and former minister today accused the National Conference (NC) and Congress for their inability to develop Jammu and Kashmir at par with other developed states in the country. He highlighted the shortcomings of successive regimes led by these parties and underscored the need for transformative change in the region.

Speaking at the meeting at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan here today, the senior BJP leader lamented the decades-long neglect experienced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir under the governance of the NC and Congress. He criticized their failure to address the fundamental needs and aspirations of the people, resulting in significant disparities and deprivation across various communities, includ-

ing Gorkhas, Safaikarmacharis, refugees, and others, who were denied their rightful rights for over seven decades.

Bali Bhagat, who was also the East Assembly Constituency Election Incharge, emphasized that the NC and Congress had wasted numerous opportunities to foster inclusive development and ensure the equitable distribution of resources in Jammu and Kashmir just to run their own political shops. He asserted that their governance had perpetuated a cycle of stagnation and disillusionment among the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The senior BJP leader commended Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their decisive action in abrogating Article 370 from the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that this move had ensured equal rights for all citizens of Jammu and Kashmir,

bringing them at par with the rest of the country.

Earlier, Bali Bhagat chaired a Party's Core Committee meeting of Jammu East Constituency in view of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. During the meeting, strategies for the elections were discussed, and responsibilities were allocated among senior leaders of the constituency. Senior BJP leaders who were present in the meeting included State Vice President Yudhvir Sethi, former Deputy Mayor Purnima Sharma, former Minister Priya Sethi, District President Parmod Kapahi, Sanyojak Hariom Sharma, State President Mahila Morcha Sanjita Dogra, District General Secretary Kuldeep Kandhari, Anil Masoom, Anju Dogra, Sunil Prajapati and Vistarak Anil Angral.

Bali Bhagat reiterated the BJP's commitment to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir and pledged to continue working towards the J&K UT's prosperity and development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He urged the people to support the BJP in its mission to deliver progress, prosperity, and peace to the region under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

# Students, faculty of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Gharota visit Rinchin Bzangpo Art Gallery, JU

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Students and faculty members from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Gharota, Jammu, embarked on an engaging cultural expedition to the renowned Rinchin Bzangpo Art Gallery at the General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu. The visit was coordinated by Sh. Rakesh Sharma, Head of the Department of Fine Arts and Coordinator of Rinchin Bzangpo Art Gallery, University of Jammu, accompanied by Deepak Sharma, Gallery Technical Assistant.

Aligned with the principles of NEP 2020, the visit aimed at fostering the holistic development of students, equipping them with knowledge and guidance to become productive and socially responsible citizens. Under the esteemed leadership of Prof. Umesh Rai, Honourable Vice Chancellor, the University of Jammu has been proactive in promoting cultural values by organizing various educational and cultural events throughout the academic year.

During the cultural visit to JU, students delved

into the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, gaining insights into contemporary artworks by esteemed artists. The gallery showcased original works by prominent figures such as Shyam Sharma (Padma Shri awardee), Arpana Caur (New Delhi), Vijay Saraf (Jammu), Pranaam Singh (BHU Varanasi), Achutan Kudal (Chennai), Masood Hussain (Srinagar, Kmr), Shamsad Hussain (Delhi), Viren Tanwar (Delhi) Manav Jena (Orissa), Harshvardhan Sharma (Jammu), ND Jamwal (Padma Shri Awardee), Sahitya Akademi awardee), Sohan S Bloria (Renowned Basohli School artist) Sarabjeet Singh (war journalist, artist, writer, poet)

Rakesh Sharma provided valuable insights into the artists and the historical significance of their works, enriching the students' appreciation for art. Additionally, students were given a tour of the Zorawar Singh auditorium complex, which houses a museum showcasing the cultural diversity of the Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh regions.

# Kashmiri youth's aspiration towards Nation-Building puts divisive leaders in frustration in Valley: Kavinder

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister today launched a scathing attack on certain political leaders in the Kashmir Valley who are unable to accept the changing mindset of the Kashmiri youth, who are increasingly aligning themselves with nation-building rather than divisive ideologies.

Speaking to media persons after attending a meeting at Party Headquarters here today, the senior BJP leader hailed the recent decision of the kin of two prominent separatist leaders in Kashmir, Sama Shabir and Ruwa Shah, to distance themselves from separatist outfits, calling it a significant step towards peace and prosperity. By doing so, they have not merely shown symbolically but also practically validated the aspirations of the youth of Kashmir, who yearn for a conflict-free and stable future, he added.

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kashmir has witnessed a massive transformation, and the youth no longer



want to be a part of divisive politics perpetuated by certain Valley-based parties," he added.

Kavinder highlighted that repealing of Article 370 marked the end of the era of stone pelting and strike culture in Kashmir. Today's youth are eager to actively participate in nation-building, as they envision a prosperous future under the present Central Government. With the removal of barriers and the implementation of progressive policies, the youth of Kashmir are determined to leave behind the tumultuous past and embrace a future filled with opportunities and growth, he added.

He strongly lambasted the reaction of PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti, whose frustration is evident due to her party's absence from power after enjoying it for two generations in Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that

Mehbooba is amongst several leaders who have lost their political ground, not only across the Union Territory of J&K but also within their constituencies.

The senior BJP leader asserted that such leaders see no hope of returning to power and therefore, believe that they can gain support through divisive tactics. However, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are not fooled by their game plans. In the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in the Union Territory, the voters will be the ultimate judge and will serve a fitting response to those running on divisive agendas, he added.

The former deputy Chief Minister emphasized the need for unity, progress, and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir, and urged the youth to aspire towards nation-building and a brighter future for themselves and their fellow citizens.

## FROM PAGE 1

# Chief Justice Administers Oath of Office to Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani

administer the Oath of office to the newly appointed Judge.

The ceremony was also attended by the Former Judges of the High Court, Advocate General, JK, Deputy Solicitor General of India, Srinagar, Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, District Judges posted at Srinagar Headquarters, members of various Bars, officers of Civil and Police Administration and officers and staff of Registry and Member Secretary, Legal Service Authority, Jammu and Kashmir.

With the elevation, the strength of Judges of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has risen to 16 Judges including the Chief Justice.

# AAP to gherao PM's residence today over Arvind Kejriwal's arrest; Delhi police say no permission granted

AAP leader Gopal Rai said that the party would "gherao" the Prime Minister's residence on March 26 to register its protest against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

On Monday, when the entire country was drenched in the colours of the Holi celebration, the leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party continued their protest against the arrest of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in connection with the Delhi Excise Policy case linked to a money laundering case and did not celebrated the festivals of Holi.

Delhi Minister and AAP leader Atishi said that they have resolved not to play with colours and celebrate Holi this year and appealed to the countrymen to join them in the fight against cruelty and evil.

"Holi is not just a festival, but a symbol of the victory of good over evil, a symbol of justice over cruelty. Today, every leader of Aam Aadmi Party is fighting this evil, cruelty and injustice day and night. This year, Aam Aadmi Party has resolved that we will not play with colours, we will not celebrate Holi," the AAP leader posted on X.

A rally will be organised by the INDIA bloc on March 31 against the arrest of Arvind Kejriwal by the Enforcement Directorate.

The ED arrested Kejriwal on March 21 night in connection with the Delhi Excise Policy case linked to a money laundering case.

Arvind Kejriwal was on March 22, remanded to the custody of the Enforcement Directorate for seven days, i.e., till March 28, a day after he was arrested by the probe agency in connection with the Delhi Excise Policy case linked to a money laundering case. The case pertains to alleged irregularities and money laundering in framing and implementing the Delhi excise policy case 2022, which was later scrapped.

Two senior AAP leaders, Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh, are in judicial custody in the excise policy case. Sisodia, who was then Delhi Deputy Chief Minister, was arrested by the CBI on February 26, 2023 following several rounds of questioning. On October 5, last year the ED arrested Sanjay Singh, who is a Rajya Sabha member.

# Congress's Lal Singh says Azad's Party to Divide Opposition Vote

electoral lineup, enhancing its competitive edge in the upcoming polls. His previous

experience and strategic positioning as a Rajput candidate are perceived as crucial assets against the BJP contenders.

The dynamics of the electoral landscape in Jammu and Kashmir are further complicated by the absence of major regional players like the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the National Conference (NC) on both seats in the Jammu division. This absence is seen as a move to consolidate Muslim votes and prevent their division.

However, smaller parties like DPAP and Apni Party are expected to field candidates, potentially altering the electoral calculus and challenging the Congress's prospects in the region.

The demographic composition of the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency, with significant Muslim populations in districts like Doda, Kishtwar, and Reasi, presents a complex socio-political backdrop against the backdrop of a predominantly Hindu electorate.

# BJP will contest LS polls on its own in Punjab: State BJP chief Sunil Jakhar

will be held on June 1, the last phase of the seven-phase elections.

# Delhi CM Kejriwal issues order on functioning of Mohalla Clinics from ED's custody

the name of Arvind Kejriwal because the court has not granted permission to issue any orders to the CM due to his remand by the ED," said Supreme Court lawyer Vineet Jindal.

"These orders are not being issued for any work but are being done for political

gain, which is legally incorrect," he said.

"Arvind Kejriwal is exaggerating his distress so that when action is taken, allegations can be levelled against the BJP," he alleged.

CM Kejriwal, who was arrested on March 21 and subsequently remanded to ED custody until March 28 by a Delhi court, faces allegations of direct involvement in a conspiracy related to the formulation of an excise policy favouring specific individuals.

CM Kejriwal is also accused of soliciting kickbacks from liquor businessmen in exchange of favours, as claimed by the probe agency.

# MeT predicts wet spell from March 27 as night temp rises at most places in J&K

Meanwhile, night temperature recorded an increase at most places barring Srinagar and Kupwara, a MeT official said.

He said that Srinagar recorded a minimum of 5.4°C against 7.0°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 0.4°C for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 4.4°C against 4.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.7°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 0.7°C against 0.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.3°C above normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 6.6°C against 5.8°C on the previous night and it was 3.3°C above normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a low of 3.3°C against 3.9°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°C above normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 2.8°C against 1.2°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 4.4°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 16.6°C and it was above normal by 1.1°C for the winter capital of J&K.

Banihal recorded a low of 9.2°C, Batote 10.6°C and Baderwah 8.0°C, he said.

# Class 8 Exam Dates Shuffle Leaves 1.75 Lakh Students fuming

commencement was rescheduled to March 13, only to encounter further alterations after the completion of two subjects. Responsibility for overseeing the smooth execution of the class 8 examinations rests with the Jammu and Kashmir State Center for Educational Research and Training (JKSCERT). However, inadequate planning has resulted in confusion and dissatisfaction among students. Following examinations conducted on March 13 and 22 in the Soft Zone, papers slated for March 24, 26, and 29 have been deferred. Expressing dismay over the frequent changes, class 8 students highlighted the adverse impact on students' preparation, with shifting exam dates disrupting their study routines. An official from SCERT attributed the scheduling challenges to rushed decision-making processes. With class 10th and 12th board exams scheduled for March, logistical constraints including exam center availability and invigilator arrangements posed significant hurdles. Such constraints even necessitated examinations being held on Sundays. Efforts to clarify the rationale behind the fluctuating exam dates proved futile, as SCERT Director Prof. Parikshit Singh's attempts to reach Manhas for clarification went unanswered despite repeated attempts.

## Ravinder Raina addresses massive roadshow at Bani

Top News Report

BANI, Mar 26: Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, slammed NC, Congress, and PDP for their total failure in the development of far-flung areas, while addressing a massive roadshow at Bani.

Ravinder Raina was accompanied by former MLA Jewan Lal, District President Darshan Singh Thakkar, DDC Chairman Kathua Col. Mahan Singh, DDC Reeta Devi, BDC Neelam Rani, Mandal President Brij Mohan, Mandal President Dhani Ram, Mahila Morcha District President Renu Devi and other senior leaders of the party.

While conducting the mega-road show in Bani town, Raina also interacted with the enthusiastic people, who were raising slogans like "Ek Bar Phir Modi Sarkar" and "Ab ki Bar 400 Par".

"There is a clear wave in Jammu and Kashmir in favour of BJP and this confirms that people of the UT have endorsed the



policies and programmes of Modi Government initiated for the development and the welfare of the poor and needy", Raina said, while addressing the people at Sheetal Nagar.

Ravinder Raina said that during the rule of NC, Congress and PDP, it was difficult to come to

this far-flung pahari area, due to the extremely poor condition of roads but under BJP's rule, the things have changed and many projects of road, highway and rail connectivity in the UT have been initiated and completed. Now the transportation of goods and the movement of people

have become easier in all the villages, in the hilly and in the border areas, which has made the lives of people easier. He said that many schemes for youth, farmers and womenfolk, have been launched and added that schemes like "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao", Jan Dhan Yojana, Ujjwala

Yojana, Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, Ayushman Card Yojana and Ujala Yojana, have played an important role in the development of every section of the society on the lines of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas, Sabka Vishwas".

Raina targeted the previous governments led by NC, Congress, and PDP for their absolute failure in the development of far-flung areas and said the leaders of these parties remained confined to certain areas for their political gains and utterly ignored the other areas and the communities. Now, the Modi Government has opened the floodgates of development in Jammu and Kashmir and undid all the past wrongs with the numerous communities, especially after the abrogation of 370 and 35A.

Others who also took part in the roadshow included senior leaders Thakur Roop Singh, Milkhi Ram, Mansa Ram, Moti Ram, Barkat Ali, Roshan Lal, and Thakur Das.

## Unmatchable infra dev reflects Modi govt's holistic dev agenda for J&K: Zorawar, Balbir

Top News Report

SAMBA, Mar 26: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today said that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed unprecedented and unmatched development since the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA government at the Centre took over the reins in 2014.

"Our party embarked on a mission to usher in unprecedented development in Jammu and Kashmir, aiming to transform the region's socio-economic landscape. The BJP's unwavering commitment to development in J&K post Article-370 abrogation has marked a transformative phase for the region," said BJP leader and Co-Incharge, Jammu - Reasi-Samba Parliamentary Constituency, while slamming the opposition parties for their unfounded statements on infrastructural development in the Union Territory.

Zorawar Singh Jamwal said Jammu and Kashmir is the only Union Terri-

tory of the country where two AIIMS-like institutions have been established, while the opening of IIT, IIM, new medical colleges at district level and other prestigious institutions is the clear reflection of the holistic development agenda of the Modi government to create not only a brighter future for the people of J&K but also ensuring their integration into the mainstream of country's growth story.

He also referred to the record-breaking tourist footfall in Jammu and Kashmir during the year 2023 when an increase of over 350 percent in foreign tourists was recorded while a highest ever of 2.11 crore tourists visited the Union Territory.

Co-Incharge, Balbir Ram Rattan, said the transformative change on the ground post-abrogation of Article 370 could be gauged from the fact that Jammu and Kashmir did not witness a single incident of stone pelting in 2023 while there was a 66 percent decline in terrorist

incidents and an 81 percent drop in civilian killings.

"The statistics are a testimony to the established peace and tranquility in the region which used to witness bloodbath, stone-pelting, and shutdowns on any given day due to mis-rule and mis-governance of the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre and the dynasty politics encouraged by the two families of Kashmir—Abdullah and Mufti families. The credit of this remarkable change on ground should be credited to the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister," he said.

While addressing the meeting of party workers and leaders at district headquarter, Supwal, in Samba district, the leaders called upon party cadre to further speed up door to door campaign so that every citizen must be apprised of developmental works initiated by Modi led government at Centre and ensure hat trick of BJP in ensuing Parliamentary elections.

## Mumbai surpasses Beijing to become Asia's billionaire capital with 92 ultra-rich individuals



NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (Agencies): In a first, Mumbai has surpassed Beijing to become Asia's billionaire capital, according to Hurun Research Institute in Shanghai.

Mumbai has 92 billionaires compared to Beijing's 91 while New York has 119 and London 97, as per Hurun's global rich list. Mumbai added 26 new ultra-rich to the club while Beijing lost 18.

"Mumbai was the fastest-growing billionaire capital in the world, adding 26 in the year and taking it to third in the world and Asia's billionaire capital. New Delhi broke into the Top 10 for the first time."

As you may have guessed, at the top of Indian billionaires list are Mukesh Ambani (\$115 billion) and Gautam Adani (\$86 billion). New names entering the billionaire club in the country are late Cyrus Mistry's wife Rohiqa Cyrus Mistry who heads Sterling Investments and Ina Ashwin Dani of Asian Paints.

Real estate mogul Mangal Prabhat Lodha is Mumbai's biggest wealth gainer with a rise of 116 per cent. The total number of Indian billionaires surged by 94, taking the country's billionaire club members to 271. Pharmaceutical sector boasted of highest number of

Indian billionaires at 39, followed by automobile sector at 27 and chemicals sector at 24.

On the other hand, China saw a slump in the number of ultra-high net worth individuals. "China had a bad year. HK was down 20%, Shenzhen down 19%, and Shanghai down 7%," said the research report.

With a net worth of \$63 billion, China's richest man is Zhong Shansan, founder and chairman of Nongfu Spring, a Hong Kong-listed bottled water company. He is followed by Colin Huang who founded e-commerce platform Pinduoduo and Tencent Holdings CEO Pony Ma.

## Hatim, Kamakshi selected to attend BCCI's U-19 Men's Elite Camp

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Hatim Reyaz, a stylish southpaw and Kamaksh Sharma, wicketkeeper batter of Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) have been selected by the Junior National Selection Committee to attend the National Cricket Academy U-19 Elite Camp from April 25 to May 22, 2024 at Nadiad, Gujarat and Salem, Tamil Nadu respectively, being organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Both are promising players of JKCA and the products of JKCA's Talent Hunt.

Hatim Reyaz has scored 422 runs with 1 century and 2 half centuries, while Kamaksh Sharma apart from showing excellence behind the wickets-sharp reflexes, anticipation and a pair of safe hands in business, has scored 279 runs with 3 half centuries.

"This is an excellent opportunity for both the

players to hone their skills further under the watchful eyes of the best coaches in the business. The Sub-Committee members hope that the players will put in their best and return to the team as a great asset at the end of the camp. With their valuable experience and coaching tips they will also benefit the other members of the team", stated Brig Anil Gupta (Retd.), Member Administration, JKCA while congratulating the players.

Mithun Manhas, Member Cricket Operations & Development, JKCA and Mr Sunil Sethi, Member Legal Affairs JKCA have also complimented the selected players and wished them good luck while exhorting them to put in their best during the camp.

Arun Sharma, Chairman Junior Men Selection Committee and other members of the Selection Committee have expressed their happiness on the inclusion of 2 players from the JKCA in the Elite Camp.

## Sensex tanks 469 points in early trade on foreign fund inflows, weak US markets



MUMBAI, Mar 26 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty tanked in early trade on Tuesday amid sustained foreign fund outflows and a weak trend in the US markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 468.91 points to 72,363.03. The NSE Nifty declined 149.2 points to 21,947.55.

From the Sensex basket, PowerGrid, Maruti, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement and Titan were the major laggards.

Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank and Tata Motors were

among the gainers. In Asian markets, Tokyo and Shanghai were quoting lower, while Seoul and Hong Kong traded in the positive territory.

Wall Street ended lower on Monday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,309.76 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

"Market is likely to consolidate this week in the absence of any known triggers for sharp up or down moves. Since the week is a truncated week of three trading days, vol-

umes have dipped markedly indicating absence of significant directional move," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

Equity markets were closed on Monday for Holi.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.01 per cent to USD 86.74 a barrel.

On Friday, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 190.75 points or 0.26 per cent to settle at 72,831.94. The NSE Nifty had advanced 84.80 points or 0.39 per cent to 22,096.75.

## J&K Pahari Cultural & Welfare Forum to extend support to BJP in LS polls

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Former legislator and senior Pahari leader Murtaza Khan and DDC Chairperson from Baramulla, Safina Baig of J&K Pahari Cultural & Welfare Forum, decided to extend their support to the BJP candidates in the upcoming Parliamentary elections.

Addressing a press conference today,

Flanked by a number of Pahari leaders, they reiterated their thankfulness and gratitude towards the Government of India for the historical act of granting ST status to the community.

Terming it as a huge step to create harmony amongst the various communities notified as ST, they also expressed satisfaction over the LG administration's decision to create a separate block for the newly inducted and the existing ST communities on the reservation.

The leaders also reiterated their commitment



to extend wholehearted support to the BJP candidates in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

However, expressing concern over the rumours of the BJP not fielding its candidates in the south and north constituencies of Kashmir but instead supporting some groups, they appealed to the BJP leadership to take the Pahari leadership on board before taking any such decision.

They said that some leaders who have a history of creating and widening a divide between Gujjars and Paharis in Jammu and Kashmir are seen claiming the backing of the BJP, and they

implored that such skydivers don't deserve any encouragement.

The Pahari leaders appealed to the central leadership to discard the people with sinister designs, dubious agendas, and divisive motives.

They expressed their sincere hope that the B.J.P leadership would take the necessary steps to foster a congenial atmosphere that would encourage the Paharis to support the BJP in large numbers; however, they reiterated their caution that they would not accept as a choice those who opposed their genuine demands and made them suffer for decades.

They expressed earnest hope that a situation would not arise where it became difficult for them to persuade their community members to stand with unacceptable people.

They expressed hope that they would be dealt with as a significant stakeholder in the entire political discourse. They also stated that soon they will take the entire Pahari leadership on board, cutting across the party affiliations and reaching out to other communities in Pir Panjal and north Kashmir to forge unity amongst the marginalised sections and play a vital role in the national interest.

## Ankit chairs meeting of Social Media Deptt teams to galvanize BJP cadres for upcoming Lok Sabha Polls

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Ankit Gupta, Incharge, Social Media Department of BJP, Jammu & Kashmir, along with Nitish Mahajan, Co-incharge, today convened a meeting of social media department at Party Headquarters. The meeting focused on strategizing and mobilizing party cadres from the Jammu North, Jammu District, and KDD units in preparation for the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls.

Addressing the meeting, Ankit Gupta urged the party cadres to intensify their efforts and prepare diligently for the upcoming elections. He emphasized the importance of setting the right narrative towards the BJP, particularly highlighting the significant achievements of the Modi government over the past decade.

Ankit Gupta underscored the establishment of medical and educational institutes in



Jammu & Kashmir, the restoration of peace and prosperity post the abrogation of Article 370, and the cessation of stone-pelting and strike culture in Kashmir as key talking points to be communicated effectively to the electorate.

The senior BJP leader asserted that the BJP had played a constructive role in bringing peace and normalcy to Jammu & Kashmir, a feat that the National Conference and Congress had failed to achieve over the past seventy years. He pointed out the persistent

instability and unrest that characterized the region under the leadership of these parties, contrasting it with the positive transformation witnessed under BJP governance.

In his address, Nitish Mahajan emphasized the pivotal role of social media in shaping the narrative for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. He urged party cadres to leverage social media platforms effectively to engage with young voters and disseminate the party's message across various demographics.

Mahajan stressed the

significance of every vote in the 2024 elections, emphasizing that it would contribute to the vision of a developed India under the leadership of the BJP.

The meeting concluded with a renewed sense of determination among party members to work tirelessly towards securing a resounding victory in the upcoming polls.

Among those who were present include Satya Bhushan Dubey, Satish Zutshi, Anil Dhar, Sanjay Bhat, Sanjeev Bakshi, Rakesh Sandhu, Sanjeev Bakshi and Anil Sharma.

## My name these days is attached to just promoting T20 cricket but I've still got it: Virat Kohli

*The former India captain has nothing left to prove but he realises the need for constant evolution in T20 format*

BENGALURU, Mar 26 (Agencies): Not just a marketable name to promote T20 cricket, he's still got the game. This was the subtle message Virat Kohli sent out amid unfounded chatter surrounding his place in the side ahead of the World Cup's debut appearance in the United States.

Kohli, who is back after a two-month paternity break, scored a match-winning 77 off 49 balls for Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Monday night against Punjab Kings and deservedly walked away with the player of the match honours.

"I know my name is nowadays quite attached to just promoting the game in many parts of the world when it comes to T20 cricket. But, I've still got it, I guess," said the 35-year-old father of two in the post-match presentation.

His comments came in the backdrop of never-ending media speculation surrounding the team's composition for the big event to be jointly hosted by the USA and the West Indies starting June 1.

Former players like Kevin Pietersen have asked whether Kohli would make the Indian squad purely on merit or for being a megastar who will pull in fans. Kohli averages over 50 in the format and has a strike rate of 138.15.

On Monday night, hallmark of Kohli's classy knock was the way he stepped out to dispatch the fast bowlers over the extra cover boundary.

The former India captain has



nothing left to prove but he realises the need for constant evolution in T20 format.

"Well I mean you have to (make additions to your game)," he said when asked about going aerial against the pacers on the off-side.

"People know I play the cover drive pretty well so they're not going to allow me to hit gaps and with guys like KG (Kagiso Rabada) and Arshdeep (Singh) as well, he's tall. So, I mean, if they're hitting length, you have to create some momentum in the ball.

"And once you're closer to the ball, you kind of negate the bounce that's going to happen. You meet it earlier. So, I mean, you have to come up with a game plan here and there and try to keep improving your game," he explained at the post-match presentation.

It was surreal not to be recognised for two months

Kohli had missed the five-match Test series against England as he was overseas for the

birth of his second child. The long break allowed him to spend much needed quality time with his family and not being recognised on the streets was something that he enjoyed the most.

"We were not in the country. We were at a place where people were not recognising us. Just time together as a family, just to feel normal for two months. For me, for us as a family, it was a surreal experience.

"Of course, having two kids, things become totally different from a family perspective. So just the ability to be together, the connections that you make with your older child, it's amazing.

"I mean, I couldn't have been more grateful to God for the opportunity that I got to spend time with my family."

For Kohli, not being mobbed is a luxury and he loved every bit of his time away from the limelight.

"And yeah, just the place that we were in, I was telling the guys (RCB teammates) that

when we came back, the voices back home felt that much louder.

"I couldn't look up because I was just not used to being called my name for two months. And then immediately you hear these loud noises and then you're back in it all again.

"But it was beautiful. It's an amazing experience to just be another person on the road and not be recognised and just carry on about life that normally people would on a daily basis," he said.

Kohli is also forever grateful to the loyal and passionate RCB fans who keep backing the team that is yet to win the IPL.

"It's been going on for years and you know, people talk about a lot of other things when you play sport. The achievements, the stats, the numbers. Look at the end of the day when you look back you're not going to think of the numbers and the stats.

"It's the memories that you create. Famously, Rahul bhai (India head coach) in the change room nowadays says exactly the same to us. When you play, you play your heart out because you're going to miss these times when you're with your friends in the change room playing in front of fans.

"So the relationship that's happened organically over so many years it's something that I can never ever forget. Just the love and the appreciation and the backing I've received for so many years that's been amazing," Kohli added.

## IPL 2024: MS Dhoni reunites with 2011 World Cup mates before CSK vs GT clash

*Prior to the match between CSK and GT on Tuesday at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai, MS Dhoni, Ashish Nehra and Gary Kirsten met up.*



CHENNAI, Mar 26 (Agencies): MS Dhoni met Gary Kirsten and Ashish Nehra at a reunion of India's 2011 World Cup-winning team. The trio caught up before the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 match between Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Gujarat Titans (GT) on Tuesday, March 26 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

Nehra is the head of the Titans while Kirsten works as their mentor and batting coach. Dhoni, on the other hand, recently stepped down as the CSK skipper and passed the baton to Rituraj Gaikwad, who made his debut as their captain in the match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru

on March 22 at the Chempauk.

Both GT and CSK started their campaign in the IPL in an emphatic manner. The Super Kings beat RCB by 6 wickets while the Titans handed Mumbai Indians (MI) a 6-run defeat on March 24 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Dhoni, Kirsten's key roles in 2011 World Cup

In the World Cup, a partnership that would etch itself into the annals of cricket history was that of Dhoni and Kirsten. Their collaboration was pivotal in leading India to its second World Cup victory after a long wait of 28 years.

Dhoni, known for his calm demeanour and astute leadership,

played a crucial role not just as a leader but also with his unforgettable unbeaten knock of 91 runs in the final against Sri Lanka, sealing the victory with a majestic six. His performance throughout the tournament was significant, amassing 780 runs in 29 World Cup matches, showcasing his prowess as a batsman.

Kirsten, on the other hand, brought his expertise and coaching skills to the forefront, creating an environment that allowed players to excel. His tenure as head coach from December 2007 to April 2011 saw India not only winning the World Cup but also achieving the number one ranking in Test cricket.

## IPL 2024: Test of wits between new captains Shubman Gill and Ruturaj Gaikwad as Chennai Super Kings host Gujarat Titans

CHENNAI, Mar 26 (Agencies): It will be a test of wits between two new captains—Shubman Gill and Ruturaj Gaikwad—when defending champions Chennai Super Kings clash with Gujarat Titans in an Indian Premier League match here on Tuesday.

Both openers known for their smooth and elegant shot-making will be engaged in a battle of tactical supremacy as CSK and GT will be looking to sustain their momentum after wins in their previous matches.

While Gaikwad was elevated to the captaincy role after the legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni stepped down as skipper on the eve of CSK's opener against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Gill had a bit more time to prepare for his new role as he was tasked to lead the Titans after Hardik Pandya left in November last year.

At 24, Gill is the youngest captain in the IPL but he showcased his mettle against MI in the leadership role. However, Gill's task is made tad easier as he has head coach Ashish Nehra, who owns a tactically brilliant mind, the experienced David Miller and New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson by his side.

Gaikwad, on the other hand, impressed on his captaincy debut under the tutelage of the talismanic Dhoni as CSK breezed to a six-wicket win against RCB.

But the bowling unit will eye an improved effort especially pacer Tushar Deshpande. After Mustafizur Rahman sizzled with a four-wicket haul, the CSK bowlers let Anuj Rawat and Dinesh Karthik put up a 95-run stand to let RCB put a decent total on the board.

Deshpande was guilty of leaking runs and he would be wary of another mediocre performance with veteran Shardul Thakur, who is also a handy customer with the bat, and the uncapped Mukesh Choudhary lurking around for a chance in the playing XI.

Sri Lankan pacer Matheesha Pathirana has also been declared fit to play, having recovered from his hamstring injury.

Furthermore, there's a chance that Rachin Ravindra can be used as a spin option, who has been bowling well in the nets of late.

CSK are unlikely to fiddle with their batting line-up.

In-form Ravindra impressed with a 15-ball 37 in his IPL debut against RCB and the Kiwi batter will look to continue in the same vein.

Young Sameer Rizvi, who also debuted in the previous game, did not get to bat and will be eager to show what he is capable of. Dhoni did not bat against Bengaluru and his legion fans will be desperate to see some fireworks from him.

On the other hand, the Titans will hope for a better outing with the bat, following a mediocre display against MI at home.

The GT batters failed to convert their starts and the former champions would need Gill and veteran wicketkeeper batter Wriddhiman Saha to give them an explosive start.

The middle-order batters comprising the likes of Azmatullah Omarzai, David Miller and Rahul Tewatia will have to pull up their socks as well.

Meanwhile, GT's Chennai-born cricketer Sai Sudarshan, who has been in good form with the bat of late, will draw some attention from the crowd.

In the absence of veteran pacer Mohammad Shami, the Titans bowlers put up a consolidated effort to eke out a six-run win over Mumbai.

At the slow Chempauk track spinners Rashid Khan and Sai Kishore will play a pivotal role for them.

Squads:

Chennai Super Kings: Ruturaj Gaikwad ©, MS Dhoni (wk), Moeen Ali, Deepak Chahar, Tushar Deshpande, Shivam Dube, Rajvardhan Hangarkar, Ravindra Jadeja, Ajay Mandal, Mukesh Chaudhary, Ajinkya Rahane, Shaik Rasheed, Mitchell Santner, Simarjeet Singh, Nishant Sindhu, Prashant Solanki, Maheesh Theekshana, Rachin Ravindra, Shardul Thakur, Daryl Mitchell, Sameer Rizvi, Mustafizur Rahman, and Aravelly Avanish Rao (wk).

Gujarat Titans: Shubman Gill ©, David Miller, Matthew Wade, Wriddhiman Saha, Kane Williamson, Abhinav Manohar, Sai Sudarshan, Darshan Nalkande, Vijay Shankar, Jayant Yadav, Rahul Tewatia, Noor Ahmed, Sai Kishore, Rashid Khan, Joshua Little, Mohit Sharma, Azmatullah Omarzai, Umesh Yadav, Shahrulkhan Khan, Sushant Mishra, Kartik Tyagi, Manav Suthar, Spencer Johnson, Sandeep Warrier, BR Sharath.

## India tour of Australia: Day-night Test returns, Perth to host series opener

NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (Agencies): India will play the first of their much-anticipated 5-Test series in Australia in Perth from November 22 and the series will also feature a day-night Test between the two teams at the Adelaide Oval from December 6. Cricket Australia on Tuesday, March 26 announced the schedule for their home summer in 2024-25 which features the high-octane Border-Gavaskar Trophy series.

India will have their task cut out to make it a hat-trick of Test series wins in Australia as they begin the series in their least favourite venue in Perth. The pink-ball Test also returns for the first time since India's tour in 2020-21 and it will be played in Adelaide, the venue where the team collapsed for 36-all out before making a sensational comeback and winning the series.

India will play a day-night Test for the first time since March 2022 when they defeated Sri Lanka in Bengaluru. The hosts did not play day-night Tests in



England, New Zealand and South Africa and avoided one in the recently-concluded 5-Test series against a Ben Stokes-led touring England side.

BORDER-GAVASKAR TROPHY = ASHES!

This will be the first time since 1991-92 that the Border-Gavaskar Trophy will be contested over 5 Tests. India defeated Australia 2-1 in 2018-19 and 2-1 in 2020-21 in 4-Test series Down Under. Notably, Australia have not managed to beat India

in a Test series since 2014-15 season. However, Pat Cummins's men defeated India in the World Test Championship final in London in 2023.

"Fittingly, the Border-Gavaskar Trophy has been put on the same footing as the (men's) Ashes with a five-Test Series for the first time since 1991-92 and we're confident the schedule will maximise viewership and attendances and there will be a tremendous atmosphere in stadiums across the coun-

try," Cricket Australia CEO Nick Hockley said in a statement.

India's tour of Australia 2024-25 Schedule

First Test at Perth Stadium in Perth - November 22 to 26

Second Test at Adelaide Oval in Adelaide - December 6 to 10 (Day-Night)

Third Test at The Gabba in Brisbane - December 14 to 18

Fourth Test at the MCG in Melbourne - December 26 to December 30

Fifth Test at the SCG in Sydney - January 3 to January 7, 2025.

Meanwhile, India women will also tour Australia for a 3-match ODI series in December before Australia and England meet in the women's Ashes.

INDIA WOMEN TOUR OF AUSTRALIA

First ODI at Allan Border Field in Brisbane (D/N) - December 5

Second ODI at Allan Border Field in Brisbane (D) - December 8

Third ODI at WACA Ground, Perth (D/N) - December - 11.

## Dinesh Karthik becomes second highest run-getter in death overs of IPL since 2022



BENGALURU, Mar 26 (Agencies): Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batter Dinesh Karthik became the player with the highest strike rate and the second-highest run-getter in the death overs (17-20 overs) following his outstanding cameo against the Punjab Kings (PBKS).

Virat Kohli's batting masterclass combined with Karthik and Mahipal Lomror's finishing touches sealed a four-wicket win for the RCB against PBKS at the M. Chinnaswamy Sta-

dium in Bengaluru at the IPL 2024.

The right-hand batter played an unbeaten knock of 28 runs from just 10 balls which was laced with three fours and two sixes in his innings. In this innings the 38-year-old cricketer scored runs at a strike rate of 280.

With this knock, the Chennai-born player became the second-highest run-getter in the death overs (17-20 overs). He has scored 372 runs at a strike rate of 203.27 and is just behind Rajasthan Royals (RR) batter Shimron Hetmyer who has scored 383 runs at a strike rate of 197.42.

The other three batters in the top five list are Rinku Singh of Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) with 351 runs at a strike rate of 195, Tim David from Mumbai Indians (MI) who has scored 290 runs at a strike rate of 207.14 and at the fifth number comes left-hand batter David Miller from Gujarat Titans (GT) who has scored 285 runs at a strike rate of 161.01.

Coming to the match, Punjab Kings (PBKS) saw their batters getting starts but none of them could convert them into something

big. Skipper Shikhar Dhawan (45 in 37 balls with five fours and a six), Jitesh Sharma (27 in 20 balls with a four and two sixes) and Sam Curran (23 in 17 balls) played decent knocks, but on a batting-friendly Chinnaswamy pitch, PBKS could muster only 176/6 in 20 overs.

Mohammed Siraj (2/26) and Glenn Maxwell (2/29) took two scalps each. Yash Dayal and Alzarri Joseph took a wicket each.

In the chase of 177, RCB lost wickets at regular intervals, but Virat (77 in 49 balls, with 11 fours and two sixes) held the ship steady at the other end. After his dismissal, things got tricky for RCB, but strong finish from Dinesh Karthik (28\* in 10 balls, with three fours and two sixes) and Mahipal Lomror (17\* in eight balls, with two fours and a six) guided the team to a four-wicket win with four balls left.

Harpreet Brar (2/13) and Kagiso Rabada (2/23) were the pick of the bowlers for PBKS. Kohli was awarded Player of the Match for his marvellous innings.

## R.K. Uppal's book "E-Banking in India- Technology and Emerging Innovations" released by Prof S.K. Singh of Rajasthan Technical University

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: R.K. Uppal's book "E-Banking in India- Technology and Emerging Innovations" has been released by Professor S.K. Singh, Vice - Chancellor, Rajasthan Technical University, Kota.

The book discusses the e-banking scenario in India and emerging technologies and innovation. Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, a prolific writer, a Man of Letters, a distinguished Professor Emeritus, an acclaimed academician,



a research stalwart, and a most ingenious guide has won accolades both

within the academic and research fields. Currently, he serves as

Professor-cum-Principal at Baba Farid College of Management and Tech-

nology (Punjab), and is the global chair professor of banking and finance for MTC.

In addition to his outstanding educational and research achievements, Dr. Uppal is also a Research Professor at the Indian Institute of Finance, New Delhi. His outstanding educational and research achievements simply cannot be summarized in a short citation. He has achieved an academic, intellectual, social, and spiritual echelon that is even beyond the dreams of most achievers today.

## J&K Black Auto Union holds protest



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: J&K Black Auto Union (JKBAU) members here today staged a protest against the wrong policies of the J&K Govt's due to which 50 years black auto industry is at the verge of starvation

The protest was held under the leadership of Sunil Dimple, chairman

JKBAU who demanded that e-rickshaw should operate in their allotted zones for which RTO and the SSP Traffic should check violations in this regard.

Addressing the protesters Dimple said that after starting battery buses and small battery run ten seater autos, the Government has totally destroyed the 50 years

old auto and matador transport industry.

The prominent leaders present on the occasion were Sanjay Sethi, Haneef Choudhary, Ajiet Singh, Amar Jeet Singh, Pawan Kumar, Chaman Lal, Mukhhtar Kallia, Satish, Ranjiet Singh, Ramesh Kumar, Madan Lal, Rameshwar Kumar, Kasturi Lal, Raju Bhati, and others.

## SMVDU Tech Community Stars achieves Google Cloud Certification in "Cloud 30" Program



### Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 26: The "SMVDU Tech Community" proudly shares the successful achievement of seven outstanding members in obtaining the prestigious Google Cloud - Associate Cloud Engineer certification through its groundbreaking "Cloud 30" initiative.

The "Cloud 30" program, a beacon of innovation within the "SMVDU Tech Community" and SMVDU itself, saw students demonstrating unwavering dedication and determination, setting a new standard for excellence in cloud computing.

Throughout the program, students embraced intensive learning sessions, engaging Q&A sessions, and hands-on practical experience, showcasing their commitment to mastering cloud technology. In a heartwarming culmination, students had the honor of meeting the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, who extended his congratulations and support, inspiring further initiatives like "Cloud 30." Dr. Manish Sabraj, Faculty Coordinator, and Jatin Sharma, EX-Lead & Founder of SMVDU Tech Community, provided unparalleled support

and guidance. Current Lead and Co-founder of SMVDU Tech Community, Aman Raj, who initiated the "Cloud 30" program, spearheaded efforts to establish a strong pillar for the future, fostering a culture of tech within SMVDU. Congratulations to the "Cloud 30" Heroes - Anshul Upadhyay, Prem Aayush, Ankush Kumar Jha, Navin Kumar, Shivam Chaudhary, Ashu Kumar, and Avinash Kumar. Their hard work and perseverance have made us immensely proud, and we anticipate their bright futures in the dynamic world of cloud computing.

## Current high interest rates make right time to invest in a pension product: Experts

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Several market experts are of the view that interest rates in India will decline over the next few months from the current levels of approx. 7% giving customers an opportunity to now lock-in their investment in an annuity product at the current interest rate.

The ICICI Pru Guaranteed Pension Plan Flexi stands out among annuity products as it helps customers build a retirement fund by making systematic investments. This ensures a sure and stable income after retirement, which is particularly beneficial in a market like India where interest rates are predicted to decline. Additionally, a variant of this plan offers a unique feature which provides a 100% refund of all premiums paid, making it the life insurance industry's first such product. So how does investing in an annuity product now benefit customers? Pension or annuity products which are only offered by life insurance companies provide a guaranteed regular lifelong income. The rate of interest is

locked-in at the time of purchase. Retirees prefer a steady income not affected by interest rate movements, annuity or pension products are the best option, which offer regular income enabling them to be financially independent.

Since the interest rate is expected to fall going forward, customers buying an annuity product will be able to lock-in their investment at the current interest rate. Let's take the example of Mr. Prajapati, who initially invested his savings of Rs. 1 crore in deposits at 8% interest, earning him Rs. 67,000 monthly, which supported a comfortable lifestyle.

However, when he tried to renew his deposits after a few years the interest rate dropped to 6%, his monthly income reduced to Rs. 50,000, affecting his standard of living. Let's see what would have happened if Mr. Prajapati had invested his money in an annuity product. Assuming the interest rate of 7%, he will receive approx. Rs. 58,000 per month for the rest of his life. This will remain constant irrespective of the any movement in interest rates.

## KB Kachru elected as HAI President for 2-year term

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: The Hotel Association of India (HAI) elected KB Kachru, Chairman South Asia at Radisson Hotel Group as President for a two year term at the Association's milestone 100th EC meeting held after HAI's 27th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at The Park, New Delhi on the 18th of March 2024. Mr. Kachru takes charge from outgoing President, Puneet Chhatwal, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, IHCL. The Executive Committee (EC) also elected Rohit Khosla, Executive Vice President - Operations, IHCL as Vice President of the Association for a concurrent term.

Hotel Association of India (HAI), the apex body of the Indian hospitality sector also unanimously elected. Dr. JK Mohanty, Managing Director Swosti Premium Limited as Honorary Secretary and Mr. Sanjay Sethi, Managing Director & CEO, Chalet Hotels Limited as Honorary Treasurer of the Association for a term of two years.

Welcoming the new members and congratulating the team, HAI Secretary-General, MP Bezbaruah thanked the outgoing committee members while adding that the relationship with them is enduring and continuous. Thanking the outgoing president, Puneet Chhatwal for laying a strong foundation for the industry body and creating a unified voice for the sector as it faced its worst crisis in recent times, KB Kachru, said, "during Covid-19 HAI collaborated with other Industry bodies, followed an aggressive advocacy plan that included launching a magazine, a newsletter and engaged actively with the media for a wider outreach"

"Over the last two years, HAI has achieved new heights under the stellar leadership of Chhatwal. As we embark on a new journey under the leadership of Kachru, we look forward to taking the legacy forward and contribute further to take the Association to the next level and create newer benchmarks for HAI. The industry has great hopes for HAI to be the

driving force in achieving its goals. I am sure the new management team under Kachru will make all strides in ensuring the industry gets its due recognition in the times to come", Khosla said.

In addition to adopting and approving the financial results for the year 2022-2023 and appointing auditors for the financial year of 2023-2024, the AGM's agenda included elections of the Association's Executive Committee. The Association also elected two new members to the Executive Committee - Shashank Bhagat, Managing Partner Radisson Blu Marina Hotel and Sonali Chauhan, General Manager, IHCL Selections - who replaced Surinder Singh, Area Director - Haryana & Dwarka and General Manager - Taj City Centre Gurugram & Samir MC, Managing Director, Fortune Hotels on completion of their respective term. While Bhagat is the nominee for HAI's member hotels in the category of 4 star and 3 star, the hotels classified in the ministry's classification categories of Heritage 1 and 2 star would be represented by

## SC ruling sparks advocacy for curb on coercive religious conversion



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: In response to the recent Supreme Court ruling, the Chairman of the National Sikh Front, Varinder Jeet Singh, has expressed commendation for the decision barring individuals from retaining government benefits associated with their previous caste upon conversion to a new religion.

Singh emphasized the Sikh tradition of aiding those in need without imposing religious beliefs, highlighting the community's longstanding commitment to humanitarian efforts both in India and globally.

He underscored the importance of respecting individuals' faith while condemning any attempts to induce religious conversions through incentives or coercion.

The Supreme Court's recognition of the Sikh community's non-coercive approach to religion serves as a model, with Singh urging state governments to vigilantly monitor and penalize those engaging in forced conversions.

Addressing the gravity of the issue, the Supreme Court reiterated the need for legislation to address coercive and incentive-driven conversions, stressing the imperative for a centralized approach to effectively tackle this national concern.

In light of these developments, Singh called upon the central government to enact legislation aimed at curbing coercive and financially motivated conversions, signaling a collaborative effort to safeguard religious freedom and prevent exploitation

## GGF President J&K releases educational book

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Padma Shri Dr S P Varma, President, Gandhi Global Family J&K today released an educational book titled as "Essentials of learning In Modern Educational System" which has been written by an eminent cardiologist Dr. K C Verma who is having over 30 yrs of experience in the practice of medicine and cardiology & has so far published more than 15 books in the field of cardiovascular medicine.

His 40 research papers published in reputed Indian medical journals have been very well recognized by international scientific societies. Appreciating his scientific contributions, he was awarded fellowship of Cardiological Society of India with a Gold medal, certificates of Fellow of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (London), Best citizen and Glory of India awards. He was also honoured with a life achievement award by chairman interventional

cardiology Medanta, the medicity New Delhi.

This fully color illustrated educational book comprising 45 chapters on different aspects of human has been published by Notion Press, India based in Karnataka (Bengaluru) with branches in Malaysia and Singapore.

This book has been fore worded by Dr. S P Varma President, Gandhi Global Family J&K and fully dedicated to Dr Sreedhara Panikar Somnath ( ISRO Chief) The book has been categorized into 45 illustrated chapters. It starts with the historical basis of the origin of our earth and the first couple to inhabit it. It also explains how sperm and egg meet to initiate the process of fertilization and finally to produce their offspring to maintain their future generations.

One would also like to know when your baby can hear in the womb of the mother? Does Music around the fetus have positive effect on IQ ? One may also acquire the

knowledge about formation of the black holes in space and gravity holes in the Indian ocean and their geographic effects on this Earth. There may not be many people who know about the history of past civilizations like Maya, Chola and Indus civilizations and their language, living standards, administration, their rise and fall. Through this book, one would also get ready made knowledge regarding Sanatam Dharma, Guru Vivekananda's life history, the Universal relevance of Sanatana Dharma and Philosophy of Universal Brotherhood.

One may also like to know about our Solar system, planets and type and nature of life inhabiting on it. The author has added a separate chapter on ISRO, Chandrayaan -3, Lunar-1 and future missions of ISRO and giving a brief description of aliens and their proof of existence has been mentioned with utmost care. Just to add further to the knowledge of students and general public,

two chapters regarding prominent personalities, firstly from cinema, art and culture and secondly about the worldly famous scientists of ancient and modern India along with their brief biographies have been appended.

There are also chapters on the prevention of various epidemic and nutritional ailments and keeping the body fit and chapters like nutritional requirements, dietetic prescriptions in major dysfunctions of the body and various yogic asanas have been written with colored illustrations. A brief description regarding earthquakes, submerged and submerging cities all over the world and sacred rivers and temples of India, including Ram Mandir, Ayodhya has been included.

Gandhi Global Family J&K congratulated Dr. K C Verma on his accomplishments in the fields of medical science and his untiring journey in regularly contributing in the field of general and holistic medicine.

## JKBS members visit Gaushala, hand-feed grass to cows



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: To perform service of cows by keeping them in the Gaushala and providing conducive environment for proper feeding medical facilities, the social activist Dr Tara Chand has built a big cowshed at Village Shahzadpur. He is being assisted by his two law graduate sons.

Members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha Sunday visited there and hand-fed the green grass to cows.

When asked how he serves the cows, Dr Tara Chand replied that he daily bathes cows, cleans sheds and opens enclosures, inspects

cows for injuries and ailments, and attends to their medical needs.

Besides he said, he lets hapless women make organic soaps and pots out of cow dung obtained from the Gaushala, so that they can empower themselves by supplementing their family income. JKBS General Secretary R.L. Kaith said, Cow is considered as the holiest animal among all the animals.

Among JKBS members who visited the Gaushala included Subedar Baldev Chand Sandhu, Hans Raj Loria, Havildar Des Raj Kaith, Thoru Ram Dogra, Master Sat Pal and Aman Motan.