# TOP NEWS OF J&K



#### sets new jurisdictional limits for **Munsiff Courts** in Kathua district

SRINAGAR, Mar 1 (Agencies): The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has redefined the territorial jurisdiction of Munsiff Courts in Kathua district. The fresh notification supersedes older orders and notifications.

As per an official notification issued by Registrar General Shahzad Azeem, Munsiff Court Billawar will have jurisdiction over the revenue limits of Tehsil Billawar, Munsiff/Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Billawar will oversee cases from Tehsils Ramkot and Lohai Malhar

The notification quoted by news agency KDC further says that Munsiff Court Mahanpur will have jurisdiction over Tehsil Mahanpur while the Munsiff Court Basohli will handle cases from Tehsil Basohli.

**Court seeks** report over Kathua youth's

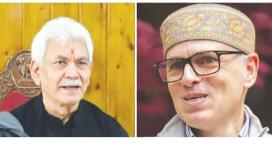


JAMMU, Mar 1 (Agencies): BJP president J P Nadda and Union Minister Jitendra Singh on

Saturday offered prayers at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Jammu and

Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said. Nadda, who is also the Union health minister, was accompanied by his wife Mallika Nadda, BJP National General Secretary and in-charge of Jammu and Kashmir, Tarun Chugh and Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Sat Sharma, they said. Nadda reached Katra, the base camp for the

pilarims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine, to address the concluding session of the twoday training workshop organised by the Turn to page 9 **budget session** 



SRINAGAR, Mar 1 (Agencies): Chief Minister Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah today called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha

SRINAGAR. Mar 1

Omar Abdullah today hit

out at BJP over reports

Highway opens for passenger vehicles JAMMU, Mar 1 (Agencies): The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) has been opened for passenger

vehicles, allowing light at Raj Bhawan Srimotor vehicles (LMVs) to travel in both direc-The meeting focused tions. on discussions related to An official said that the forthcoming budget **Turn to page 9** road was closed

Turn to page 9

### Major reshuffle in Civil Administration, 41 **JKAS officers transferred**

JAMMU, Mar 1: The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered a reshuffle in the administration with the transfer and posting of 41 officers across various departments. The General Administration Department issued two separate orders detailing the changes, which take effect immediately.

Vivek Sharma, Special Secretary in the Agriculture Production Department, has been



appointed as Director General, Floriculture, Jammu, and will assume the position following the retirement of Jatin

2025. Bhawani Rakwal, who was awaiting an adjustment order, has been

der Singh on March 31,

posted as Project Director, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.

Khalid Jahangir, Managing Director of the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization, has been reassigned as Special Secretary in the Industries and Commerce Department and will also hold additional charge as Director of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute.

Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza Turn to page 9

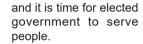


nagar.

'Shadow cabinet': Omar criticises BJP,

says time for elected govt to serve people

that the saffron party is (Agencies): Jammu and forming 'shadow cabinet' to build pressure on the Kashmir Chief Minister government, stating the BJP has ruled in past,



"There is only one cabinet. In our country there is no provision of shadow cabinet. BJP ruled in past and it is time for elected government to serve people. So there is no need of shadow cabinet. Whatever we have promised to our people, will be addressed and the government is firm on that." Chief Minister Omar Turn to page 9

#### death due to alleged police torture

SRINAGAR, Mar 1 (Agencies): The Sub Judge/Special Mobile Magistrate, Kathua, has sought an Action Taken report (ATR) from Billawar Police over the death of Gujjar youth from Billawar due to suicide following alleged custodial torture.

The report has been sought in the complaint filed by the father and wife of deceased Makhan Din and advocates Mohammad Anwar Chowdhary and Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed. The petitioners said that they were forced to move the court as no FIR was registered in the case.

Earlier the Civil society members in Jammu criticised the administration for its inaction and rued that " despite widespread outrage, neither a judicial inquiry has been ordered nor any compensation provided to the bereaved family, raising serious concerns about justice and accountability."

A candlelight protest and dharna were organised at Mecca Dharna, Bathindi, calling for a CBI probe into Makhan Din's case.

In a statement, a police spokesperson earlier said that "Makhandin

#### Turn to page 9

uninterrupted power supply during Ramadan meeting to review the

arrangements made for

the holy month of Rama-

dan, which commences

Abdullah emphasised

that the people rightfully

expect their elected

government to take all

necessary measures

to ensure they do not

face any inconvenience

on Sunday.

CM Omar Abdullah directs Power Dept to ensure

SRINAGAR, Mar 1 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday directed the Power Department to ensure there are no electricity outages during Sehri and lftar times in the holy month of Ramadan. The chief minister chaired a high-level

during this sacred month.

"As the holy month of Ramadan begins tomorrow, the people rightfully expect the government to take all necessary measures to ensure they do not face any difficulties during this sacred month," he said.

Turn to page 9

#### J&K budget session: CM's Advisor takes stock of arrangements in LA complex

JAMMU, Mar 1 (Agencies): Two days ahead of commencement of the maiden Budget session of J&K UT Legislative Assembly, Nasir Aslam Wani, the Advisor to the Chief Minister Saturday visited the legislature complex and took stock

of the arrangements. Sources stated that the Advisor took a round of the complex and inspect-



ed arrangements made for facilitating smooth proceedings. Besides, he also reviewed facilities for the legislators. media persons and issued instructions for further improvement, wherever needed.

He also visited a canteen set up in the Legislative Council complex and suggested replacing sofas with the dining tables. He instructed the concerned officials to ensure that the

Turn to page 9

# GUPSNUP RESTAURANT

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### Shantmanu gets Addl Charge of JKBOSE Chairman



JAMMU, Mar 1 (Agencies): Financial Com-

missioner Education Department to hold additional charge of Chairman JKBOSE, Director SCERT

The decision has been taken as "an interim arrangement, till further orders' The Jammu and Kash-

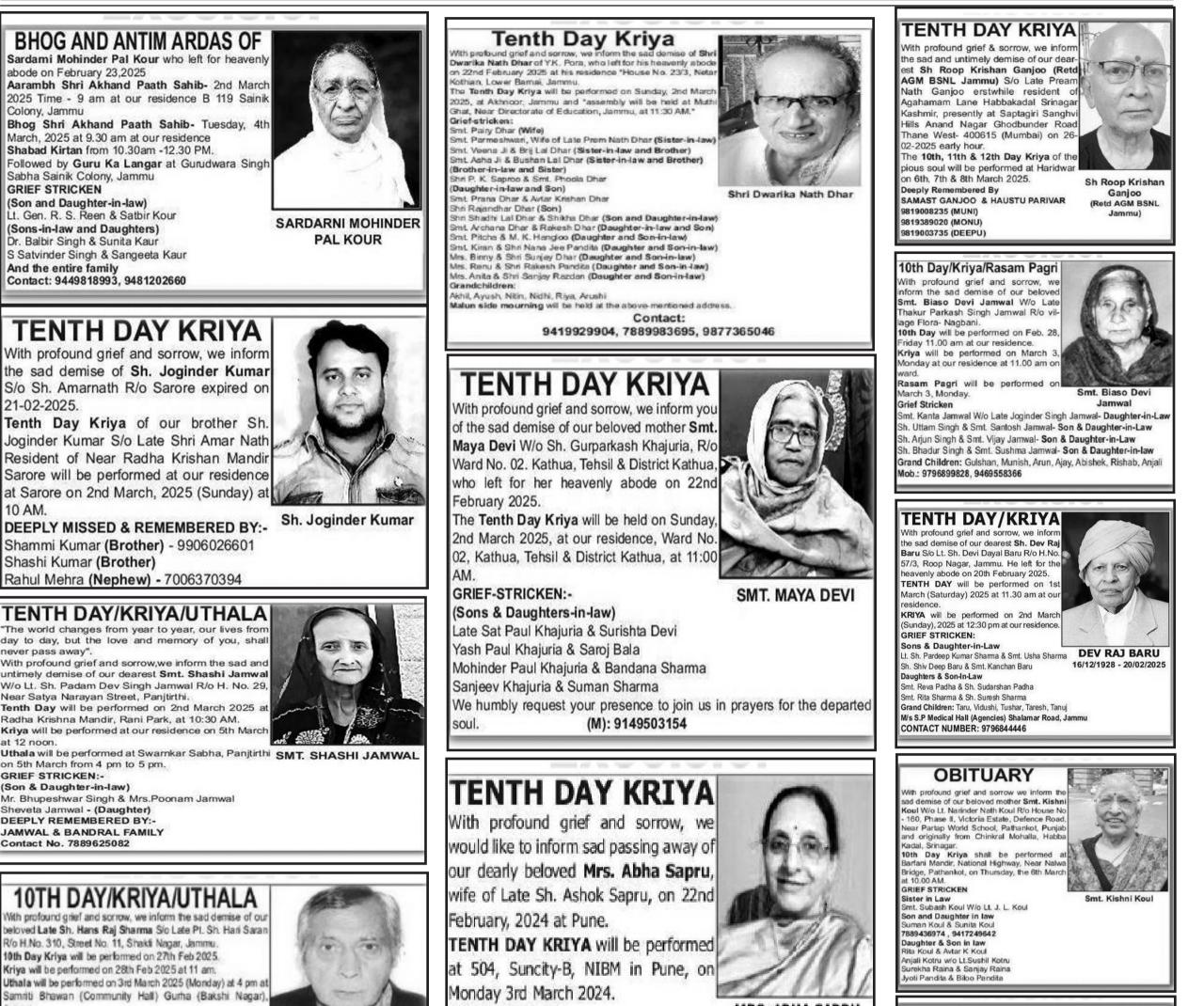
mir government has assigned the charge of Chairman JK Board of School Education (BOSE) and Director SCERT to Financial Commissioner Education Department Shantmanu.

The notification in this regard has been issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) by the orders of **Turn to page 9** 

**ORDER NOW** 

# **OBITUARIES**

Top News of J&K Jammu, Saturday, March 01, 2025



**GRIEF STRICKEN** 

Sh. Kuldeep Sharma (Son) Smt. Mainka Sharma (Daughter-in-law) Sh. Ravi Sharma (Son) Smt. Shallu Sharma (Daughter-in-law) Sh. Jai Kumar Sharma (Son-in-law) Smt. Kiran Bala (Daughter) Grand Children: Shubam, Deepali, Dhruv, Mehak, Shifali & Adharv Mob.: 9906382664, 7889771626

No. 10, Shakti Nagar, Jammu.

Opp. Relaxo Showroom.

**GRIEF STRICKEN** 

at 12 Noon.

(Tuesday) from 11 am at our residence.

**10TH DAY /KRIYA/UTHALA** 

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**(Son & Daughter-in-law) Mr. Bhupeshwar Singh & Mrs.Poonam Jamwal Sheveta Jamwal - (Daughter) **DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-**JAMWAL & BANDRAL FAMILY Contact No. 7889625082

### **10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

beloved Late Sh. Hans Raj Sharma S/o Late Pt. Sh. Hari Saran R/o H.No. 310, Street No. 11, Shakti Nagar, Jammu. 10th Day Kriya will be performed on 27th Feb 2025. Kriya will be performed on 28th Feb 2025 at 11 am. Uthala will be performed on 3rd March 2025 (Monday) at 4 pm at Samiti Bhawan (Community Hall) Gurha (Bakshi Nagar), Jammu.

MRS. ABHA SAPRU



Late Sh. Hans Raj Sharma

Sandeep Sapru: 9545569756 Satish Sapru: 9818231740

GRIEF STRICKEN

### **KRIYA /UTHALA**

SAPRUS, ZAIFRANIS, AND HINDUJAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we nform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Kuldeep Raj Anand S/o Late Sh. Chajju Ram Anand, R/o 4/103 Indira Vihar Old Janipur, Jammu on 17-02-2025.

KRIYA will be held on 1-03-2025 at 12 O'clock at our residence. Rasam Pagadi and Uthala will be performed on 3-03-2025 at Shiv Shakti Mandir opposite Govt Quarters Housing Colony, near

Janipur Main Stop, Jammu at 4:00 pm-5:00 pm. GRIEF STRICKEN:-

TENTH DAY

Phone No.- 9419102609, 9419133031, 7006993502

(Sons & Daughters-in-law)

Biveen Anand & Shivani Abrol

Sanjeev Mehta & Shallu Mehta

(Son-in-law & Daughter)

Sanjay Anand & Vandana Verma

SH. KULDEEP RAJ ANAND

myogi Shri Prithvi Nath Pandita S/o Late Sh R/o Rawalpore Handawara Kupwara Vasukev R/o Rawa bore Handawa ra Kupwara Kashmir at present Flat No.09/C Purkhoo camp Domana Jammu. He left for the heavenly abode on 23rd February 2025 Sunday in Gurgaon. The **10TH DAY KRYA** will be performed at Gauri Shankar Mandir New Palam Vihar Sector 109 block T near pillar No. P54 Dwarika Express Gurgaon Haryana on 4th March 2025 at 8:30 a.m. and the assembly shall bake place at our reai-dence H.No. 140/348 Gail No. 18 Ashok Vihar chase 2 Gurgaon Harvana at 11 a.m. phase 2 Gurgaon Haryana at 11 a.m.

TENTH DAY



SHRI PRITHVI NATH PANDITA

Sons & Daughter -in- law) Shri Bansi Lai & Meenakshi Shri Surender & Rinku (Daughters & Son-in-law) Daug niters & Sont and an Smit Nan cy & Sh Rattan Lai Pandita Smit. Reeta & Sh M K Raina Smit. In du Pandita & Sh Heera Lai Pandita DEEPLY SADDENED BY: Mehak, Sachin, Shagun, Riya, Shivi and Gurgun, MOBILE NO: 9910080723, 7006196152, 7006792856, 7006396233

#### **ANTIM ARDAS**

GRIEF STRICKEN

rofound grief and sorrow, we regret you of the sad demise of our beloved ter Singh Bijral S/o S Nawab Singh Bij



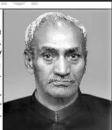
S. JOGINDER SINGH

BURAL MANAGER J&K BANK (RETD)

CRIEF STRICKEN:-Sdn Balvinder Kour - Wife Dr. Joga Singh Biral - Brother S. Raghbir Singh Biral - Brother Dr. Gurcharan Singh Biral - Cousin Principal S. Janak Singh Biral - Cousin Dr. Keinar Singh Biral - Cousin S. A.P. Singh - Brother-in-law Prabhjot Singh Biral - US Army) - Son Kiranjot Singh Biral - US Army) - Son Kiranjot Singh Biral - Grand Son Zora Logistic - Reno, USA Mob: 7298194501, 9906229266

#### TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. **Bushan Lal Zutshi** S/o Late Sh. Keshav Nath Zutshi R/o Qasba Devsar Dist. Kulgam A/P H.No. 315/B Sector No. 01 Durga Nagar Jammu on 22-02-2025. Tenth Day will be performed on 03-03-2025 (Monday) at Jiya Pota Ghat Akhnoor and Assembly will be held at our above mentioned residence at around 10:30 am.

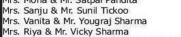


Sh. Bushan Lal Zutshi

Grief Stricken:



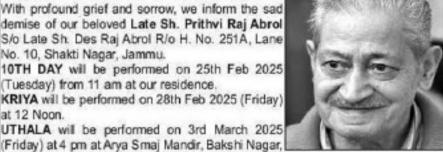
(Daughter & Son in law) Mrs. Mona & Mr. Satpal Pandita Mrs. Saniu & Mr. Sunil Tickoo Mrs. Vanita & Mr. Yougraj Sharma





### DISCLAIMER

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Late Sh. Prithvi Raj Abrol

Son & Daughter in law Rakesh Abrol & Sapana Gupta Neel Kamal & Satish Gandotra - Daughter & Son in Law Neeru & Abdul Hafeez - Daughter & Son In Law Grand Children: Bharat, Gautam, Sharay, Ayat MOBILE NO 9419164484, 9149705350

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother Smt. Shobawati Raina W/o. Lt. Sh. Sham Lal Raina erstwhile of Shopdani Newa, Pulwama presently residing at Qtr. No. 20, Block No 3, Lane No 01 Jagti Township. TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 2nd March 2025 at Bhadrakali Temple Thalwal Mandal Jammu and assembly will be held at Muthi Gath Near Directorate of School Education at 10:30am.

#### GRIEF STRICKEN :



Son's & Daughter in Law Sh. Bushan Lal Raina & Smt. Tosha Raina (7006833945) Smt. Babita Raina & Lt. Sh Gopi Krishan Raina (7005038300) Sh. Dwarika Nath Raina & Smt. Pinky Raina (7889918854) Sh. Kuldeep Raina & Smt. Babita Raina (8082899141) Daughters & Son in Law Smt. Tosha Kachroo & Sh. S. L Kachroo Smt. Basanti Bhat & Lt. Sh. Kaka JI Bhat Grand Childrens : Amit, Ashish, Anshu, Aman & Jatin Raina

Sunil, Sandeep Kachroo & Ashwani Bhat

Tenth Day on 2nd March, 2025 Sunday at 11:00 AM, Banke Bihari Gorkha Mandir, Sector-4 Shivaji Chowk, Nanak Nagar, Jammu. Mother of: Pankaj Taggar (+91 9419211298) Rajnish Taggar(+91 9419120456) Rashi Taggar Grand Mother of: Hiteshi Taggar Kaashvi Taggar Svetlana Dubey

ly abode on 21st February, 2025.



SMT. USHA RANI TAGGAR

# LOCAL/ADVT

# Shri Chandi Mata Sathapna Diwas celebrated with religious fervor

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 1: The Annual Day Function (Sathapna Diwas) of Shri Chandi Mata Ji was celebrated with immense devotion and religious enthusiasm at Sarv Shakti Chandi Mata Mandir, Pacca Danga, Jammu, on Saturday.

The event witnessed a large gathering of devotees who came together to seek the divine blessings of Goddess Chandi. The celebrations

began early in the

morning with a Hawan

(sacred fire ritual) con-

ducted from 8:00 AM

to 10:00 AM, filling the

temple premises with

divine chants and spiri-

tual energy. Devotees

from across the region

participated in the ritual,

praying for peace, pros-

Following the Hawan,

a Bhandara (community

feast) was organized

perity, and well-being.

from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM at Brahmin Sabha, Parade, Jammu.

Hundreds of devotees partook in the Bhandara, embracing the spirit of unity and devotion. The temple management ensured a well-organized and disciplined arrangement for the feast, making it a fulfilling experience for all attendees

The highlight of the celebration was the Kirtan (devotional singing),

1:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The soulful rendition of bhajans and hymns



which continued from dedicated to Goddess Chandi created an atmosphere of divine bliss, leaving the devo-

tees deeply immersed in devotion. The melodious chanting and rhythmic beats of traditional instruments uplifted the spiritual energy of the gathering.

The event was graced by the presence of several prominent personalities and VIPs, who paid their respects to the deity and extended their best wishes to the devotees. The presence of respected community members and religious leaders added to the significance of the occasion

Under the able leadership of Sanjay Gandotra (Alias Sukesh Gandotra), President of Sarv Shakti Chandi Mata Mandir, Jammu, the event was meticulously organized, ensuring a smooth and spiritually enriching experience for all participants. The temple management, volunteers, and organizers played a commendable role in making the event a grand success. The devotees expressed their gratitude for being part of such a spiritually uplifting celebration and prayed for Goddess Chandi's blessings.

3

Many attendees emphasized the importance of preserving and promoting such religious traditions that strengthen community bonds and spiritual consciousness

#### NORTHERN RAILWAY

# CM dismisses BJP's 'Shadow Cabinet' claim, vows to fulfill promises

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Mar 1: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday dismissed the BJP's claim of forming a 'shadow cabinet' in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that no such concept exists anywhere in the

country.

He asserted that his government remains the only legitimate cabinet in the Union Territory and is committed to fulfilling its promises to the people.

"There is only one cabinet which functions under my leadership. The shadow cabi-

net does not exist anywhere in the country. We will fulfill all the promises we have made with the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Omar Abdullah told reporters in Srinagar.

His remarks came in response to the BJP's assertion that it had established a parallel 'shadow cabinet' to

oversee governance and hold the administration accountable.

The Chief Minister dismissed the move as irrelevant, stating that his government is actively working to address public concerns.

Omar Abdullah also chaired a high-level meeting with top officials to ensure the uninterrupted supply of electricity, water, and essential commodities during the holy month of Ramadan

He directed the administration to take necessary measures to provide adequate sanitation and other facilities to the people.

Train

Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAFZR- OH25-7	12.03.2025 at 11.00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for Commercial Advertisemer rights through: 1) Exterior of Overhead of Water Tanka a Sahnewal, Amritsar & Jalandhar City Railway Station. 2 Static media at Level crossings adjoining to Verke Jaintipura, Batala, Bhagtawala & Patti Railway Statior 3) Static media at Goraya & Lohian Khas Railwa Station. 4) Static media/overhead of water tank a Makhu & Nakodar Railway Station.
EAFZR- PRKG25-5	12.03.2025 at 11.30 Hrs.	Allotment of Parking lot on contract adjoining to Railwa colony Banga.
EAFZR- MIS25-4	12.03.2025 at 12.30 Hrs.	1) Allotment of contract for Peaceful/ Relaxed Zone b installation, operation and maintenance of Body Relie chairs at Railway station Amritsar, Jalandhar City & Pathankot Cantt. 2) Allotment of contract for provision operation and maintenance of Plastic Bottle Crushin Machine with advertisement rights on body of machine at Railway station Firozpur Cantt

### **EXTENSION OF PERIODICITY OF SPECIAL TRAIN**

It is notified for the information of rail passengers that Northern Railway has decided to extend the periodicity of the run of Train No. 04688/04687 Budgam-Banihal-Budgam Vistadome Special Train as per details given below:-

### **IIM Jammu inaugurates "Inner Engineering**" Workshop by **Isha Foundation**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 1: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, inaugurated the Inner Engineering Workshop by Isha Foundation, organized by Anandam: The Center for Happiness.

The workshop, which commenced on March 1, 2025, will continue until March 13, 2025, at the Yoga Room in the Sports Complex.

The Inner Engineering program is a powerful tool for self-transformation, helping individuals develop mental clarity, emotional stability, and inner well-being. Conducted by Shri Atheer Khairallah Razzad Alsarayfi, an experienced instructor from Isha Foundation, the workshop is designed to introduce participants to the fundamentals of yogic practices, meditation, and holistic wellbeing techniques. The sessions focus on self-awareness, stress reduction, and fostering mindfulness, enabling participants to experience a profound shift in their overall outlook on

life.

program's focus on Dr. Mamata Tripathi, practical techniques and Chairperson, Ananexperiential learning has dam, highlighted the made it an enriching workshop's transformaexperience, fostering an tional impact, stating environment of growth that Inner Engineering and self-improvement at enables participants to IIM Jammu. explore new perspec-The Inner Engineering Workshop is part of IIM tives, enhance focus, Jammu's larger initiative and cultivate inner balance. She reaffirmed to integrate mindfulness and well-being into the

Anandam: The Center for Happiness' at IIM Jammu's commitment to integrating holistic wellbeing into Institute's learning environment. The Inner Engineering

Workshop witnessed active participation from students, faculty, and staff who are eager to explore the benefits of yogic practices and meditation. Each session is carefully structured to guide partici-

### **Buyer-Seller meet** organized to promote local products



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 1: A Buyer-Seller Meet was organized by the Indian Society of Agri-Business professionals and HDFC Bank in Narwal Jammu aiming to promote the "Vocal for Local" initiative and

Kidney Beans, Anardana, Bhaderwahi Rice, and more.

Farmers and sellers from various districts across the region actively participated, presenting the rich diversity of the Jammu region agricultural produce.

Days of Run Period of Extension From То Except Friday 04688 Budgam Banihal 28.02.25 01.03.25 to 31.03.25 01.03.25 to 31.03.25 04687 Banihal Budgam Except Friday 28.02.25 Note :- Rest of the instructions will hold good. For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of other stations enroute and composition etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App. YouTube 🕇 🕅 Visit RailMadad Website:-**NORTHERN RAILWAY** RailMadad Helpline No. www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Your Convenience - Our Concern 139 Download RailMadad app. Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov ERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE **NORTHERN RAILWA** E-Tender Notice Sr.DEN-I/FZR acting for and on behalf of The Pres ent of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and variable on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 21.03.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in document section on the portal ender Type Tendering Section Bidding System Date of Uploading Tenders Bid Starting Date Bid Closing Date/Time Singal Bid System 21.03.2025/15:00 Hrs Open Works 25.02.2025 07.03.2025 S.N.| Tender No. Details of Ten Provision of 02 nos. 225 KL RCC OH tanks in lieu of old abandoned steel overhead water storage tank with 322-2024-25-ADENplumbing pipes with pump house, bore & pump at LDH under ADEN/LDH. LDH Earnest money (Rs.) Period of Completion Advertised Value (Rs.) Validity of Offer 1.92.13.000.54/-2.46.100.00/-60 Days 06 Months Similar nature of work:-"Construction/Repairs of Reinforced cement concrete over head tanks/RCC framed structure" Launching of slabs and jacketing of piers & Abutments (span 7 to 12) of Br. No.58 UP at km 29/2-3 having spar (6x3.43 + 6x3.52m) on JRC-PTKC section under ADEN-JRC. 323-2024-25-ADEN-JRC Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest money (Rs.) Validity of Offer Period of Completion 2,15,000.00/-60 Days 1,29,99,158.10/-06 Months Similar nature of work:- "Construction/rehabilitation of box bridges/PSC slab bridge/construction of abutments/piel foundation/jacketing/RCC box on open foundation" Before bidding, b

pants through a journey of self-discovery, equipping them with the tools to manage stress, improve concentration, and develop emotional resilience.

Participants have expressed their appreciation for the insightful and immersive experience, noting that the sessions are helping them achieve greater clarity, balance, and overall well-being. The

nity. As the workshop progresses, participants continue to embrace this transformational journey, enhancing their self-awareness and

overall quality of life. The initiative highlights IIM Jammu's unwavering commitment to creating a holistic learning environment, where students and faculty alike can thrive both professionally and personally.

academic ecosystem,

reinforcing its mission

to develop well-rounded

leaders equipped with

both intellectual and

emotional intelligence.

The ongoing collabora-

tion between Anandam:

The Center for Happi-

ness and Isha Founda-

tion reflects a shared

vision of promoting

mental well-being and

personal growth within

the IIM Jammu commu



#### Appri Party leaders pay condolence visit to Mirwaiz, Masoodi

#### **Top News Report**

SRINAGAR, Mar 1: Senior leaders of the Apni Party visited Westend Colony near Tengpora to offer their condolences to the family of Ghulam Sibtain Masoodi, who passed away on Wednesday night.

He was the father-in-law of Mirwaiz Molvi Mohammad Umar Faroog and the brother of MLA Pampore, Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi. According to a press release issued here, "Apni Party General Secretary Rafi Ahmad Mir led a delegation of prominent party leaders to visit the Masoodi family and extend their condolences on the demise of Ghulam Sibtain Masoodi. The leaders met Mirwaiz Sahib and Hasnain Masoodi Sahib and expressed their sympathy over their

#### profound loss."

"While meeting to the bereaved family members, they said that the April Party stands in solidarity with the bereaved family during this time of grief. On this occasion, Apni Party leaders prayed for eternal peace for the departed soul and for patience and strength for the bereaved family to bear this immense loss," the press note adds.

The prominent leaders who were part of this delegation included the party's Provincial President Mohammad Ashraf Mir, Chief Spokesperson and District President Budgam Muntazir Mohiuddin, Media Advisor Farooq Andrabi, Spokesperson and former MLA Yawar Dilawar Mir, Constituency Incharge Pampore Mohammad Altaf Mir, Mohammad Athar, and others.

----

boost local trade.

The event was graced by the Deputy Direction Horticulture Planning and Marketing Jammu Aijaz Ahmed Natnoo as the Chief Guest, alongside with Assistant Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing, Area Marketing Officer Jammu.

From organizers side Project Manager Manish Chauhan, Project Coordinator Jammu Dr. Rahat Ashraf Wani, and members of Farmer **Producer Organizations** (FPOs).

The meet showcased unique products from Jammu & Kashmir. including the worldrenowned Kishtwari Saffron, Honey, Red

sion, the Chief Guest highlighted the exceptional quality of J&K's agricultural products and emphasized their uniqueness.

Speaking on the oc

He assured the department will support for farmers in the Chenab Valley and across the Union Territory. Manish Chauhan, Project Manager, underlined

the importance of such initiatives in empowering farmers, sellers, and producers. He emphasized that the meet serves as a

platform for networking, lead generation, and collaborations, which are critical for enhancing the region's socioeconomic development.

#### NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

ender Notice No :- 770-W/169/WA-1/FZR- 324-2024-25-ADEN-JAT & 325-2024-2 ADEN-PTK (to be opened on date 24.03.2025) acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 24.03.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders vill be able to submit their original/revised bids up to the closing date and time only Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer receive shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender toward ender document cost and earnest money only through payment modes available on the REPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card, etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheques, Deposit receipts, FDR, etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type		Те	ndering Section	<b>Bidding System</b>			
Open			Works	Single Packet S	ystem		
Dat	Date of Uploading Tenders			Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date	e/Time	
	28.02.2025			10.03.2025	24.03.202	5	
S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Ter			der		
1.	324-2024-25- ADEN-JAT	Supply, installation and commissioning of trackbased Electronic type rail guage face lubricator 68 nos (68x12x5 yrs = 4080 month) in the section of ADEN/JAT under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN-I/IFZR for 5 years.					
	Advertised Value (Rs.)			Validity of Offer	Period of Completion		
	8,91,26,503.20			90 Days	60 Mon	60 Months	
2. 325-2024-25- ADEN-PTK Supply, installation and commissioning of track base Electronic type rail gauge face lubricator 16 nos (16x 960 month) in the section of ADEN/PTK under the ju of Sr.DEN-II/FZR 5 years.					2x5yrs=		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)			Validity of Offer	Period of Completion		
	2,16,94,877.40		90 Days	60 Mon	iths		
	TE: Contractor	s are advi	sed	to check the IREPS w	vebsite for any co	rrigendum	
ISSU	ed against this	tender befo	ores	submitting the bids.			
ISSU	0			ubmitting the bids.	A SMILE	652/25	

OFFICE OF	Union Territory of Jammu THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (Tele-fax No. 01992-270208, Email id: xenrand	D(R&B) DIVISION UDHAMPU
	CANCELLATION OF	TENDER
Name of works:-	Upgradation of Pakka Pond at Jag	vanoo.
Reference: -	This office e-NIT No. 108of 2024 endorsement No. 25281-86 dated 17.02	1
immediate effect	Due to some technical issues, the abor and fresh tender shall be invited shortly	
No. 25613-18		
Dt:-27.02.2025	DIP/J-10615/24	Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division

#### **CORRIGENDUM**

Retender due to 2Nos bidder technical rejected Subject:-

Reference:- This office e-NIT No. 47 of 2024-25 Dated 29-01-2025

#### The above mentioned e-NIT for the Work

S. No	Name of Work	Cost of tender document [Rs.]	EMD 2% of NIT amt. [lacs ]	Contract period	Tender receiving authority	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
1.	Supply of Blasting Material at Magazine Shed Reasi	3000/-	300000/-	1 year	Xen PWD (R&B) Division Reasi	
1	1 Date of Publishing of Tender Notice		28-02-2025			
2	V		From 28-02-2025 to 08-03-2025, 1600 Hrs			
4	4 Bid submission Start Date		28-02-2025			
5	5 Bid Submission End Date		08-03-2025 up to 1600 Hrs			
6 Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)			10-03-2025 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Reasi .			
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bio (Online)	ls To be complet		ifter techni	cal bid evaluation is	
	DIP/J-10650/24 :-5853-57 ed: 28/02/2025		Sd/ (Er. Bhopinder Kumar Banotra) Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Reasi.			

# **OP-ED**

# EDITORIAL

# **Celebrating Scientific**

**Progress** ational Science Day is celebrated every year on February 28 in India to honor the discov-ery of the Raman Effect by Sir C.V. Raman in 1928. This significant scientific breakthrough earned him the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930, making him the first Indian to receive this prestigious award in the field of science. The day serves as an opportunity to recognize the contributions of Indian scientists, promote scientific thinking, and inspire young minds to pursue careers in research and technology.

National Science Day was first observed in 1987 following the recommendation of the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC). The government of India accepted the proposal to commemorate this day annually as a tribute to Sir C.V. Raman's groundbreaking discovery. Since then, February 28 has been marked by various scientific activities, exhibitions, and seminars across the country to encourage scientific temper among students and the general public.

The Raman Effect refers to the phenomenon of scattering of light when it passes through a transparent material, leading to a change in wavelength. This discovery had a profound impact on optics and spectroscopy, playing a crucial role in scientific advancements, including the study of molecular structures, chemical compositions, and even astronomical observations.

Each year, National Science Day is celebrated with a specific theme that highlights contemporary scientific issues and challenges. These themes are chosen to align with India's scientific goals and to promote awareness about the role of science in addressing national and global concerns. Themes in previous years have covered topics such as sustainable development, climate change, digital transformation, and the role of women in science.

The theme for National Science Day 2024 was "Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat", focusing on the development and promotion of homegrown innovations to drive India's progress.

National Science Day is observed in schools, colleges, universities, research institutions, and science academies across India. Various activities are organized to engage students, researchers, and the public in celebrating the spirit of scientific discovery.

Educational institutions host science exhibitions showcasing innovative projects, working models, and research presentations by students. These exhibitions encourage hands-on learning and provide a platform for young minds to demonstrate their creativity and scientific knowledge.

Prominent scientists, researchers, and educators deliver lectures, panel discussions, and seminars on recent scientific advancements and their applications. These sessions inspire students and highlight the importance of scientific research in nation-building.

To generate interest in science, various competitions like quiz contests, essay writing, poster-making, and debate competitions are organized. These events foster curiosity and encourage students to explore scientific concepts beyond textbooks.

#### Several organizations and institutions honor scien-

### Inordinate delay in nominating MLA's to J& K Legislative Assembly

#### **By: Omkar Dattatray**

s per the recommendations of the delimitation commission four members are to be nominated to the legislative assembly for giving proper representation to certain groups of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Accordingly two persons from the displaced Kashmiri Pandits that must include one women from this community and two persons from the POJK refugees should be nominated by the government to legislative assembly to give democratic representation and political rights to these two sections of people. Delimitation commission recommended additional seats in the legislative assembly for Kashmiri Pandits and Displaced persons from POJK. The central government approved these recommendations regarding the nominations of persons from these two sections of the people. Thus the centre government decided that the J&K LG will appoint three persons from Kashmiri Pandit migrants to the legislative assembly necessarily one women from this section and two persons will be nominated from displaced persons from the POJK to the legislative assembly. The delimitation commission raised the total number of the elected legislative assembly seats to 90 and the five nominated seats will increase the total number of MLAs to 95. The new legislative assembly members were elected on October 8,2024. Omar Abdullah was sworn as the first chief minister of the Jammu and Kashmir UT on 16th October 2024 and the new assembly came into being after 8th October 2024.But to great dismay the government of JK UT has not still nominated the five MLAs to the

new house. J&K's first Assembly session was held on November 4,2024 .However those sections of people who were recommended to be given representation in Legislative Assembly are not nominated up to this time, thus delaying their nomination to the legislative assembly and thus defeating the very purpose of their nomination as recommended by the delimitation commission and approved be the centre government. The budget session of Jammu and Kashmir assembly will commence on 3rd March 2025 and new budget will be unveiled in the assembly on March 7. The five MLA's should have been nominated before the budget session of the assembly so that they could raise their issues and allocations before the government so that funds would be earmarked for the development of these sections of the people .But alas! no nomination from these groups of people has been made, thus defeating the very purpose of their nomination. Section 15,15 A and 15 B of the J&K Reorganization Act 2019 authorize the LG to nominate five members to the assembly potentially altering the elected body's composition. There five nominated members will have the same powers and position as the other elected MLA's. Supreme Court had earlier declined to consider the plea challenging the authority of the LG to nominate five members to legislative assembly and has asked the petitioners to go to the high Court in this regard. The petition challenging the powers of the LG to nominate members to assembly is sub-judice in the UT's high Court and the hearing on this plea will commence on March 20.It is very unfortunate that the genuine matter of nominating 5 members to the legislative assembly

has wrangled in legal battle .It shows that the regional political parties such as NC,PDP and even national party Congress is averse to giving some representation to migrant KP's and displaced persons from POJK and thus they are trying to scuttle the move of nominating 5 members by the LG. The fact of the matter is that NC, PDP, Congress and other like that the 5 members should be nominated by the elected government headed by the chief minister Omar Abdullah. Whatever it is, the sufferers are the migrant KP's who are living as refugees in their own country for last more than three decades and there is no say for them in the legislative assembly and the government. In fact it is within the jurisdiction of the LG to nominate five members to the legislative assembly and there is no wrong in it as per the provisions of the reorganization act 2019 and so the issue should not have been snowballed into a political slugfest and controversy but it has happened and the high court is seized of the matter. The High Court should decided on the petition challenging the authority of the LG to nominate 5 members to the soon so that the groups of people get political rights and they are heard in the assembly and the government. Thus the High Court should decide the plea immediately so that the interests of those sections to be represented by nominated MLA's are not affected. Since the budget of the new government will be tabled in March 2025, and the marginalized sections such as the migrant KP's and displaced refugees from POJK will not be represented and there will be no one to plead their needs and aspirations and the funds to be allocated to these groups of people. The best course in this

regards would have been not to politicize the genuine issue of nomination of five members to the LA. It is very disturbing that everything is seen through the prism of mere and cheap politics. The betterment, ensuring political interest and welfare of the migrant KP's and POJK refugees should be above petty politics. It seems that the regional parties such as NC,PDP and others do not like these sections to be given representation and so they are creating impediments in the way of nominating five members .If there is no direction from the honorable high court to the government ,the LG should at the earliest opportunity nominate five members from migrant KP's and displaced persons from POJK so that these groups of people will put forward their issues before the legislative assembly and the government in order to give some relief to these sections of the people. Therefore without any delay either high court should decide the matter or in the alternative the LG should use his power under the provisions of the J&K reorganization act 2019 and nominate five members to give fair representation to these sections of people so that they are heard and their issues are solved. No further delay should be made in nominating the members to the legislative assembly otherwise the very purpose of the nomination will be defeated and that would be the doomsday for these sections of the people.

(The author is a columnist, social, **KP** activist& Freelancer)

### **Pop culture liberating sexuality**

affecting the personal, financial, By: Dr. Satyawan Saurabh and future well-being of women and girls as well as their families and communities. In India, the influence of pop culture and entertainment media plays a significant role in shaping gender norms and social attitudes, as well as influencing perceptions, behaviors, and legal discussions. While these media can bring about social change, they also perpetuate stereotypes. In our rapidly evolving world, pop culture has become an indispensable part of our lives. Movies, music, television programs, and social media shape our worldview and expectations. Particularly in relation to gender roles and stereotypes-such as the notion that girls should play with dolls while boys should play with cars. Society's views on masculinity and femininity are heavily influenced by the media. For example, the Bollywood film Kabir Singh (2019) depicted a version of masculinity that glorified aggressive and dominating male behavior. Similarly, portrayals of professional roles in the media shape career aspirations. The film Kargil Girl (2020) encouraged the recruitment of women into the military, highlighting changes in gender roles. Entertainment media often promotes national discussions on gender justice, as seen in the Satyamev Jayate program, which brought forth issues such as domestic violence and

prominently featured violent and authoritarian male protagonists. Women are typically portrayed in nurturing roles, while men are placed in positions of authority. However, the film Tumhari Sulu (2017) challenged these norms by showing the challenges women face in unconventional careers. The media often promotes thinness and fair skin as the ideal of beauty, with advertisements for fair-skinned creams being prevalent, reflecting Bollywood's preference for fair-skinned actresses and the promotion of colorism. Additionally, homosexual characters are often exaggerated for humor, and some films trivialize same-sex attraction through satirical portrayals. Although entertainment media has played a role in advancing social issues and raising gender awareness, it also promotes harmful narratives. For meaningful social change to take place in the future, a greater emphasis on gendersensitive representation, diverse portrayals, and responsible storytelling is needed. Media and popular culture have a significant influence in shaping social attitudes towards women, gender equality, and social norms. Films, television, advertising, and social media can either reinforce stereotypes that hinder women's empowerment or serve as powerful agents for positive change.

tists, researchers, and educators for their outstanding contributions to science and technology. Awards are also given to students for innovative ideas and scientific achievements.

Science organizations conduct outreach programs, science camps, and public demonstrations to educate people about the importance of science in everyday life. These initiatives help bridge the gap between scientific research and society.

Science and technology have played a pivotal role in India's progress, contributing to agriculture, healthcare, space exploration, information technology, and environmental sustainability. Several landmark achievements highlight India's scientific excellence

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has made remarkable contributions to space exploration with missions like Chandrayaan, Mangalyaan, and Aditya L1. India's space programs have not only enhanced satellite communication and weather forecasting but have also positioned the country as a global leader in space technology.

Indian scientists have made groundbreaking contributions to medicine and biotechnology, including the development of affordable vaccines, genetic research, and pharmaceutical advancements. The successful production of indigenous vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic showcased India's scientific capabilities.

The rapid growth of information technology, artificial intelligence (AI), and robotics has transformed industries, making India a global IT hub. Advances in AI-driven healthcare, smart cities, and automation have improved the quality of life and economic growth.

With the increasing focus on renewable energy and sustainability, Indian scientists are working on innovations in solar energy, wind power, and electric mobility. Research in climate change, pollution control, and conservation efforts is crucial for a greener future.

National Science Day serves as an inspiration for young minds to develop a scientific temper-a spirit of inquiry, curiosity, and rational thinking. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education to prepare students for future scientific challenges.

Government initiatives like Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research), and research grants for young scientists are encouraging students to take up careers in research and innovation.

owadays, our desires and perceptions are often influenced by the images and narratives we see in movies and on television. These portrayals are often heavily biased towards stereotypes. For example, an emphasis on conventionally attractive women can make girls and women want to look like them. As consumers of pop culture, it is important for us to view this critically. In our fast-paced society, pop culture has become an important aspect of our lives. The influence of movies, music, TV shows, and social media can significantly shape our views of gender roles and stereotypes. Additionally, the media often promotes narrow standards of beauty and favors thin bodies and fair skin. This is evident in the prevalence of fairness cream advertisements and the preference for fair-skinned actresses in Bollywood, which promotes colorism.

Women have a fundamental right to participate fully and equally in every aspect of society. Yet, women and girls are underrepresented globally in areas such as the workplace, entertainment, and politics. This gender disparity reveals the slow pace of progress over time. The impact of patriarchal norms and traditions is pervasive and harmful,

female foeticide. Long-running television serials also establish familial gender roles and perpetuate the stereotypical image of the obedient daughter-in-law commonly seen in Indian soap operas. The connection between mass movements and activism is often facilitated by media representation. The film Chhapaak (2020) highlighted the struggles of acid attack survivors and advocated for legal reforms, including stricter penalties under the IPC. Although popular culture has played a role in reinforcing discriminatory gender norms, it also has the power to challenge and change them. A notable example is The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, set in the 1950s and 1960s, in which housewife Miriam Maisel discovers her talent for standup comedy. The series not only received critical acclaim but also raised important themes such as female empowerment, the pursuit of dreams, and freedom from societal expectations of the "ideal" housewife. This is one of many examples in popular culture.

Music and films often portray love from a controlling and possessive perspective. Some Bollywood songs perpetuate the image of the obsessive male lover. Action films often feature aggressive, dominant men as role models. Recent releases have

# **GDC** Thannamandi

### Three days hands on training programme in **Aquarium Making held at GDC Udhampur**



#### **Top News Report**

UDHAMPUR, Mar 1: NSS Units in collaboration with Department of Zoology successfully conducted a three days training programme on aquarium making from 24th to 27th February 2025. The programme aimed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge required to design, construct and maintain aquarium catering to hobbyists, students and NSS volunteers.

The event started on 24th February 2025 with the inaugural session with lighting of lamp by worthy principal Dr. Sanjay Verma and senior faculty members including Prof. B.L.Thakur, Prof. Suresh Kumar, Dr. Rajni and Dr. Mohinder Pal, anchor Baljeet and Monika welcomed the one and all present there with beautiful notes. This was followed by address of worthy principal sir in which he motivated the volunteers about attending such training programs which will be beneficial to them in near future,

he also emphasized on the importance of skill in the coming era and is must in NEP 2020 also.

First day schedule included two technical sessions ie session 1 and 2 by expert Dr. Gurpreet Kour Associate Professor from Department of Zoology where in she included Aquarium Design principles, its construction, maintenance and precautions to be taken while constructing aquarium the day ended with group photograph with the

expert. Day two started with welcome address by Monika to the trainer Kewal Krishan, Dy Inspector fisheries, Fish Farm Nowabad, Jammu which is expert in the field and working from the last 30 years. The trainer covered wide range of topics including glass cutting, its assembling techniques, filtration system and fish selection, the hands On session allowed participants to gain practical experience in creating functional and aesthetically appealing aquariums.

**Short Term Training Program** 

on 'Emerging Technologies'

organised at MMTTC-SMVDU

the conference hall in which Mohit and Mooseena first of all welcomed all the dignitaries which was followed by report sharing by Programme coordinator Dr. Gurpreet Kour, she feels delighted to see the enthusiasm of the participants. It was

followed by Address of Principal Dr. Sanjay Verma who wholeheartedly acknowledged the efforts of Organizing Team Prof. Sanjeet Singh, Prof. Tania Mahajan and Dr. Jyoti Sharma and above all he appreciated the hard

On the third day the

event was concluded in

work of the participants. The event ended by certificate distribution to the participants by worthy principal and is followed vote of thanks by NSS PO Prof. Sanjeet Singh and concluded with Exhibition of 15 Aquariums prepared by all 75 participants who were divided into 15 groups.

All the students and faculty of college visited the exhibition and appreciated the beautifully constructed aquariums of our budding experts.

#### spearheads awareness program on drug de-addiction text of drug addiction and **Top News Report** its socio-cultural impact. THANNAMANDI, Mar 1: Mohd Yunis, Project Man-

**LOCAL** 

ager, and Somika Sharma,

Trainer/Supervisor at the

Drug-De-addiction Centre,

shared their expertise on

rehabilitation strategies

and support systems avail-

able for individuals battling

The vote of thanks was

presented by Prof. Abdul

Hague, Head of the

Urdu Department, who

expressed gratitude to all

participants and organizers

for their efforts in making

Dr. Nazar Ul Islam, Head

of Islamic Studies, con-

ducted the proceedings,

ensuring a smooth conduct

The event was well-

attended by college staff,

including Prof. Asif, Prof.

Rakesh Puri, Dr. Goher

lobal. Dr. Gulshan Rashid

Bhat, Dr. Shiraz Ahmad,

Dr. Altaf Hussain, Dr.

Junaid Ahmad, Dr. Ather

Aziz Raina, Prof. Fatima,

Dr. Rumi Dar, Dr. Nagina

Koser, Rizwana Koser, Dr

Atiqul Rehman, Dr. Muda-

sir Gori, Dr. Mohd Zubair,

and Dr. Mohd Shakoor, Dr.

Sajid Ali, Dr Arshid, Naima

Mughal Staff nurse, Nisar

Hussain and Mohd Jameel.

with a pledge by all attend-

ees to support the fight

against drug addiction and

promote a healthy, drug-

free lifestyle in the com-

The initiative is a testa-

ment to the commitment

of GDC Thannamandi and

its partners in addressing

the pressing issue of drug

addiction and fostering

a brighter future for the

munity.

youth.

The program concluded

the event a success.

of the program.

addiction

Demonstrating a profound commitment to combating the rising challenge of drug addiction, Govt. Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi, under the banner of Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, and in collaboration with the National Educational Society and the Social Welfare Organization, Rajouri, hosted a comprehensive and impactful drug de-addiction program today. The event, meticulously orchestrated, sought to educate and empower the community by fostering awareness about the perils of drug abuse and the ave-

nues for rehabilitation. The program commenced with an inspiring address by Prof. Farooq Ahmad, Principal of GDC Thannamandi, who spoke on the pivotal role educational institutions play in shaping a drug-free society.

He emphasized the need for continuous efforts and collaborative approaches to effectively address the menace of drug addiction. Dr. Naseem Ahmad, Nodal Officer of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan Committee at GDC Thanamandi elaborated on the multifaceted strategies adopted by the institution to tackle this pressing issue. He highlighted the impor-

tance of early intervention and the support systems in place for students and community members struggling with addiction.

Several speakers addressed the gathering, including Prof. Nazakat Hussain, Head of the History Department, who spoke on the historical con-

### Kidnapped girl rescued, accused arrested

#### **Top News Report**

KULGAM, Mar 1: Kulgam police rescued a kidnapped girl and arrested the kidnapper Mohd Anwar, son of Bashir Khatana, resident of Arnas area of Reasi district.

In a statement, police spokesperson said, Police Station Kund was set into motion. On tip off a team headed by SHO Kund under the close supervision of ASP, and SDPO Quazigund constituted to rescue the kidnapped girl and to nab the culprit, spokesperson said.

the investigating team

which led in rescuing the

kidnapped girl and arrest-

ed the accused involved

in committing the crime.

Further investigation

regarding the incident

is in process, he further

General public, espe-

cially the family mem-

bers of the rescued girl

applauded the strenu-

ous put forth by Kulgam

police in rescuing their

girl, the statement added.

said.

Utilizing all available means, with strenuous efforts specific information was generated by

### **CLUJ celebrates 9th Foundation** Day with grandeur



tributions.

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 1: The Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) celebrated its 9th Foundation Day with an impressive function held at the auditorium of PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The event was marked by a series of events highlighting the institution's remarkable growth and achievements.

The occasion was graced by Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, Vice Chancellor of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), as the chief guest.

The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the university's journey of knowledge, progress, and enlightenment.

Prof. (Dr.) Raj Shree Dhar, Dean Student Welfare, delivered the formal welcome address, emphasizing the significance of introspection and continual improvement in the university's journey.

Dr. Naveen Anand, Dean Academic Affairs, underscored the institution's mission to provide accessible and quality learning while reflecting on key initiatives and achievements. He also highlighted the remarkable milestones

sity of Jammu as one of the leading institutions in the state. He stressed the importance of maintaining educational quality and embracing the challenges and opportunities posed by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. He emphasized the significance of skill-based and innovative courses to shape future-ready students.

achieved by Cluster The event was University of Jammu attended by several over the years. distinguished dignitar-Prof. Rajinder Singh. ies, including Abdul Principal of SPMR Col-Majeed Bhat, Director lege of Commerce, rep-Finance, Higher Educaresented the constituent tion Department, Govt colleges of Cluster Uniof J&K, Prof. Geeta versity and presented Sumbli, Dr. Jatinder an overview of their Khajuria(Former regachievements and conistrar CLUJ), Prof. Z. A Hashmir(Former The celebration fea-Controller CLUJ), Dr. tured a series of cap-Rajinder Sharma, Dr. tivating cultural perfor-Twinkle Suri, Dr. Sanjay mances, adding vibran-Verma, Prof. S.P Sarcy to the event. swat, Prof. B. B. Anand, A special documentary

besides Ankur Mahawas showcased during jan (KAS), Registrar of the event, visually nar-Cluster University of rating the university's Jammu: Deans of varijourney and milestones. ous Schools; Principals To recognize and appreof Constituent Colleges; ciate student excel-Associate and Assistant lence, awards were pre-Deans (SW); Chairpersented for outstanding son campus cultural contributions in Sports, committee, Cultural Cultural Activities, NSS, Coordinators; faculty and NCC, honoring stumembers; non-teaching dents who have brought staff: Student Council laurels to the university. members; and students In his address, Vice from the university's Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) K. schools and constituent S. Chandrasekar reitercolleges. ated the institution's The program was concommitment to aca-

ducted by Prof. Sugandha Mahajan, while Dr. Monika Sharma, Dean of Humanities and Liberal Arts, delivered the vote of thanks. The event concluded on a high note, reaffirming Cluster University of Jammu's dedication to fostering innovation, academic excellence, and cultural enrichment

Several Panchs, Sarpanchs from **Rajouri joined Congress** 

demic excellence and

He highlighted the

university's ongoing

efforts to enhance its

infrastructure and foster

academic and research

collaborations, ensuring

sustainable growth for

the next two decades. In

his presidential address,

Prof. Jawaid lobal

lauded Cluster Univer-

holistic development.





#### **Top News Report**

KATRA, Mar 1: A week long Short-Term Training Program on Emerging Technologies conducted in online mode, with an impressive enrolment from 18 states and 37 institutions across India. The program featured expert lectures by distinguished academicians from reputed institutes, including IITs, NITs, Central Universities, Amity University, Thapar University, and other premier institutions.

Among various insightful sessions, Prof. A. K. Tandon's session on "Role of Activity-Oriented Lectures in the Teaching-Learning Process" was particularly well-received and highly appreciated by participants.

The inaugural session was graced by

Ararian Chair, School of ECE, and Prof. Supran Sharma, Director, MMTTC, SMVDU, along with Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Associate Professor, School of ECE, and Dr. Kamaldeep, Assistant Professor, School of Electrical Engineering, who coordinated the event. Shortterm training programs play a crucial role in upskilling faculty members and researchers by providing exposure to the latest advancements in technology and pedagogy.

They bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical applications, fostering innovation and interdisciplinary learning. Such initiatives enhance professional development and equip participants with the

Prof. Asok De, Bharti necessary tools to effectively integrate emerging trends into academic and research domains.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, was thanked for his support in facilitating this opportunity. Special appreciation was extended to the MMTTC support staff for their tireless efforts in ensuring the smooth execution of the program, managing technical aspects, and coordinating logistics efficiently.

Their dedication and behind-the-scenes contributions were instrumental in making the event a grand success. The program concluded successfully with positive feedback from participants, acknowledging the valuable insights shared by

experts and the over-

all effectiveness of the

training sessions.

on February 17, 2025 received a written complaint from a person Namely Manzoor Ahmad Bakerwal, resident of Koka Basti Nageenpora Nard that his daughter (name withheld) was missing at Koka Basti Nageenpora Kund.

Acting promptly upon the complaint Case with FIR No. 03/2025 U/S 87,49 BNS was registered in Police Station Kund and investigation

#### **Bukhari extends warm greetings** on the beginning of Ramzan

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Mar 1: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari has extended warm greetings to the people, especially Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir, on the arrival of the holy month of Ramzan.

He described this month as "a time to deepen devotion through piety, prayers, and selfdiscipline."

In his statement, Bukhari said, "As we all know, Ramzan is the holiest month and has always held great significance for Muslims throughout history and across the world. This

sacred month gives us an opportunity to seek Almighty Allah's blessings and teaches us gratitude, compassion, spirituality, devotion, charity, generosity, and more.

He added, "I extend my heartfelt greetings to the people, especially Muslims, on the arrival of this holy month. May this sacred time bring peace, tranquility, harmony, and compassion to our society." Ápni Party President urged the administration

to ensure the sufficient availability of essential commodities in markets and the uninterrupted supply of drinking water and electricity across J&K during this holy month.

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 1: Several Panchs, Sarpanchs and others from District Rajouri, including Mrs. Shazia Tabassum Choudhary (Ex-Sarpanch & General Secretary BJP Raiouri). Mohd Razaq Choudhary, Maneer Choudhary, Mehroof Choudhary and Nazeer Hussain (all Ex-Panches), Rakesh Kumar, Rajesh Sharma & Neeraj Singh (Ex-servicemen), and numerous Senior Leaders have joined the Congress party here on Saturday at PCC HQ Shaheedi Chowk Jammu in the presence of PCC President Tariq Hameed Karra.

They were welcomed in the party by JKPCC President Tariq Hameed Karra, Ved Mahajan Ex-MLC Incharge HQ, Shabir Ahmed Khan President DCC Rajouri, Ch. Iftikhar Ahmed(MLA) & and others. Speaking on the occa-

sion PCC President Tariq Hameed Karra said that Congress Party is an instrument of service to

the people, which has remained dedicated to the cause of serving the people.

The Congress Party is duty bound to address the urges and aspirations of the people, for the fact, it is the Congress Party alone which has always taken care of the urges and aspirations of the common man. Congress has been pioneer in implementing revolutionary programmes aimed at improving the conditions of the people, especially those living in remote and backward areas. He said Congress party believes in strengthening the people and is committed to equitable development of the JKUT. He described BJP dispensation as anti-poor, anti youth, anti kissan and due to its wrong policies the sufferings of the people increased manifold. The insensitive government pushed people to the wall, as unemployment has increased, prices have risen and developmental activities

have suffered a lot.

Karra said that people

who want to contribute to the political discourse and development of the Jammu and Kashmir must become part of the Congress's growth story. The doors are open for the people who want to contribute in the party's efforts to see the state out of the present mess Congress is committed for the people's cause and will always uphold their aspirations and sentiments, he added. Newly joined Congress party members said that they are impressed with the working and secular approach of Congress party which is progressing very fast under the dynamic leadership of Mallikarjun Kharge and our Young leader Rahul Gandhi.

They said that in the present time it is only the Congress party which can lead the country to the prosperity and development. They were highly impressed by the party functioning which motivated them to join Congress party under the leadership of Tariq Hameed Karra.

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e-mail: topnewsjk@gmail.com, editortopnewsjk@gmail.com

(All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu City).

### **ENTERTAINMENT**

# **Young rappers from Himachal Pradesh are** making waves with their Chambiyali, Mandyali and Kangri renditions of rap songs

Smitten by the hip hop culture and rap music, youngsters in Himachal Pradesh are becoming a sensation on social media as they are weaving pahari dialect into their rap songs! What makes their initiative different is that many of the rappers have blended local dialects and culture of the state in their songs. Be it in Hindi, English, Chambiyali, Mandyali or Kangri, rappers from across the state are making their presence felt on social media as well as various other platforms.

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Some of these young stars have made their way to MTV Hustlers, a popular hip hop reality show that features upcoming rappers. These artistes are also making their presence felt in popular audio streaming platform Spotify and on YouTube with many of their songs gaining acclaim.

Know these young artistes Shimla Cypher, a hip hop community envisioned and established in Shimla, has set the foundation and given a platform to budding rap artistes. A 20-year-old rapper from Shimla and the founding member of



even girls are making waves in

the world of rap with Rapper

Rani, her stage name, win-

ning accolades. "I love going to

Shimla Cypher because it's a

space where I can truly speak

my mind without fear of judge-

ment. As a female rapper, that

sense of belonging is so impor-

tant, and here I feel like I'm

exactly where I'm supposed to

be, surrounded by people who

understand and respect my

What started with five teen-

agers has now developed into

an underground sensation

craft "

Shimla Cypher, who goes by the stage name Eddy, said he was introduced to the hip hop genre in 2020. "I was instantly drawn to the genre and later got introduced to Indian artistes such as Raftaar and Krishna. From thereon began our journey. With time, our community has only got bigger with our page getting collective views that are in millions. The only hurdle for us is that we do not have much funds to make music videos and record songs in big studios," Eddy said.

Not the ones to be left behind,

with over 150 rap artistes from across the state and in Shimla itself. Since March 2023, the artistes have been showcasing their talent with freestyle raps, beat boxing and music production. They gather twice a month on Sundays and showcase their skills. Not just Shimla, rap artistes from Mandi, Solan, Kangra and other areas also reach Shimla to participate in these sessions. Gaining ground

With increase in their popularity, the rappers also got a chance to perform during Summer and Winter Carnivals held in Shimla. Their hard work started to pay, as Eddy and his fellow rappers got a chance to perform in a show featuring a renowned rapper from Delhi, named Raga, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The youngsters have also

bagged a sponsorship from Urban Monkey — a Mumbaibased hip hop fashion brand. Now these young guns plan to make an impact at the national and even at the international level by making Himachali hip hop as popular as rap songs in other languages.

### **Actor Srikant Dwivedi reveals** the concept of Time Bank



cases where old par-

ents have no one to take care of them. In an

is when you give your time to taking care of an elderly, and that time gets deposited for you when you are in such need of care! Srikant Dwivedi, who recently led the show Lakshmi Narayan, says people will have to get used to such a concept. "This is a wonderful

effort to avoid this, there is something called the

Time Bank now. This

initiative. However, I believe that if something like this is being introduced in India, it will be quite a cultural shock. India is known as a country where children are expected to take care of their parents in old age. But when we hear about children abandoning their parents, it is truly shocking. This is not what our Vedas and Puranas teach us about humanity. It is heartbreaking to know that parents are being neglected by their own children in their old age, but, unfortunately, this is the reality today. I think this initiative will help," he says.

### Govinda's sister refuses to comment on divorce rumours, citing family privacy

In the midst of growing rumors surrounding the separation of Bollywood actor Govinda and his wife Sunita Ahuja, the actor's sister, Kamini Khanna, has finally spoken out.

Kamini revealed that she does not have much information about the situation, citing the busy schedules of both Govinda and Sunita. She stated, "No, I don't know much. I stay very busy, and they are very busy too. We meet very rarely, so I don't know much. I don't want to say too much on this topic because both families are involved, and I have a lot of love for both.' When asked about her bond with Sunita, Kamini shared, "Our parents are no longer with us, so we are like parents to each other. And we are also very good friends."



Govinda regarding the speculation

According to her, while she is aware of the rumors circulating in the media, she believes that such personal matters should be handled pri-

However, the actor's legal representative has since clarified that the couple has worked through their issues and resolved their dif-

> ferences. In a recent interview, Sunita made a startling revelation about living separately from Govinda. She also shared that she has been celebrating her birthday alone for the past 12 years, which sparked further speculation about issues in their marriage. For the unversed, Govinda and Sunita tied the knot in March 1987. The couple welcomed their daughter, Tina, in 1988, followed by their son, Yashvardhan.

### Stylist Amanpreet Singh Virk is slowly but surely becoming the ultimate fashion trouble-shooter

A ripped sleeve minutes before a red carpet? A missing bow tie on the wedding day? A power suit that refuses to fit before a boardroom battle? When fashion disasters strike among celebrities, one name comes to the rescue-Amanpreet Singh Virk. The man behind the brand—NobleStitch Atelier-isn't just a stylist; he's the ultimate fashion trouble-shooter, ensuring every gentleman steps out looking impeccable, no matter the crisis.

For someone who once considered himself an ordinary guy, Amanpreet's entry into the fashion world was completely unexpected. "My neighbour bought a DSLR camera and we started taking pictures for fun. I posted them on Instagram and soon, shout-out pages picked them up. Followers started growing and brands began reaching out," he recalls. What started as a casual experiment, quickly transformed into a full-fledged modelling career. Over the years, he walked for renowned designers, including JJ Valaya and landed major

goal was clear—to craft outstanding outfits that define individuality and leave a lasting impact," he recalls. His first client? A close friend. "I started by making clothes for people around me, and, slowly, the word spread. It wasn't just a businessit was my passion."

His time in modelling had given him a keen eye for design, fabrics and fittings, which he now applies to his brand. "Having worked with top designers, I understood what works and what doesn't. I wanted to create something classic yet modern," he says. Every fabric at NobleStitch is handpicked and each design is tailored with precision. "I don't just make designs; I create an experience that resonates with the personality." Over the years, NobleStitch has styled some of the biggest names in the Punjabi entertainment industry. Tarsem Jassar, Amar Sehmbi, Gurnam Bhullar, Ravneet Singh and Nirvair Pannu are just a few among his loyal clientele. "Celebrities come to us with their ref-

erences and ideas, and we love bringing those to life," he says. Expression of confi-

dence For Amanpreet, style is more than just clothing—it's an expression of confidence. "Taur kadhni jaruri aa (carrying oneself with pride is essential)," he says with a smile, encapsulating his design philosophy. More than just a designer, he sees himself as a cultural ambassador, blending Sikh heritage with contemporary fashion. "I weave culture and innovation into every design. I want people to recognise the depth

Kamini also mentioned that she did not feel it was appropriate to reach out to Sunita and

vately within the family. She emphasized that it's important to respect the privacy of both Sunita and Govinda, especially when it comes to sensitive issues such as their relationship. Rumors have been circulating regarding a possible divorce between Govinda and his wife, Sunita Ahuja. It was reported that Sunita had issued a divorce notice to Govinda six months ago.



campaigns with global brands. As a Sikh model breaking barriers, he became a sought-after face in the industry. "Being a Sikh actually worked to my advantage. The industry was looking for something unique and I was the perfect fit," he shares. Call of passion

After 12 years of modelling, Amanpreet knew

it was time for a change. "Modelling has a short shelf life. I wanted to build something longterm," he explains. The idea for NobleStitch was born when he decided to convert a basement space in his house into a small styling studio. "I converted the basement of my home into a workspace and worked with just one tailor. The

of Sikh culture in every design and dismantle the stereotype that turbaned men don't belong in high fashion."

Despite his success, Amanpreet remains grounded. "I don't think I've 'made it' yet. There is still a long way to go," he admits. For aspiring stylists, his advice is clear, "Hard work, patience and consistency. Don't be afraid to start small. The key is to trust your journey—keep learning and never compromise on quality."

### Kangana Ranaut, Javed Akhtar settle defamation case; actor apologises for inconvenience to lyricist

Ranaut's lawyer Rizwan Siddiquee and Akhtar's advocate Jay Kumar Bhardwaj said matter was settled through hour-long mediation before special magistrate court in Bandra

Actor Kangana Ranaut resolved the over fouryear-long defamation case filed against her bv veteran lyricist Javed Akhtar through mediation, with the BJP MP apologising for the "inconvenience" caused to the screenwriter.

The duo appeared before a special court here and informed it of their decision to withdraw the complaints they had filed against each other. After the court appearance, the actor also posted a photo on her social media platform along

with Akhtar, stating that they have resolved the legal matter.

The court will pass a formal order on this later in the day.

The actor said she made the statement against Akhtar due to misunderstanding, and apologised for the inconvenience caused to him due to it.

Akhtar had filed a complaint against Ranaut in 2020, alleging that she had defamed and damaged his 'immaculate reputation' by dragging his name into actor Sushant Singh Rajput's

death in an interview with a news channel in July that year.

Ranaut had later filed a cross complaint against Akhtar, alleging criminal intimidation and insult to modestv.

She had claimed that during her meeting with Akhtar at his residence in 2016, he criminally intimidated her, demanding that she apologise to a co-star.

Ranaut's lawyer Rizwan Siddiquee and Akhtar's advocate Jay Kumar Bhardwaj said the matter was settled through an hour-long



mediation before a special magistrate court in Bandra.

Ranaut stated before the mediator that she

made the statement due to misunderstanding and she has decided to withdraw it, Bhardwaj told agency.

Ranaut has apologised to Akhtar for inconvenience caused to him due to her statement, he said, adding that she has undertaken not to make such a statement in future.

Siddiqque said, "We were looking for mediation for a long time. We had exchanged drafts also.

Finally we have resolved the case." "There were no issues, only the wordings were to be decided, which was done today. We prepared the draft, signed it and both the cases

were withdrawn today," he added.

The case was initially heard by a magistrate court in Andheri.

In 2024, after she was elected as a Member of Parliament (MP) from the Mandi Lok Sabha constituency in Himachal Pradesh, the matter was transferred to a special magistrate court designated for matters involving MPs and

MLAs. In his complaint, Akhtar claimed that Ranaut dragged his name during an interview while referring to a 'coterie' existing in Bollywood, following the alleged suicide by actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

Ranaut posted a photo with Akhtar on Instagram and said the cinema veteran was "kind and gracious" during the mediation process.

"Today, Javedji and I have resolved our legal matter (defamation case) through mediation. In the mediation Javed ji has been very kind and gracious, he also agreed to write songs for my next directorial," the BJP MP wrote in the caption.

### **NATIONAL**

# PM Modi calls India 'factory of the world'; highlights innovation, global leadership

The PM also spoke about India's initiatives in the artificial intelligence (AI) sector and the country's efforts in giving a strong voice to the Global South.

NEW DELHI, Mar 1 (Agencies): Describing India as a land of infinite innovation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday claimed that the country is emerging as the new factory of the world.

"Once the world used to call India its back office for decades; now India is emerging as the factory of the world. We are not just a workforce, but a world-force now," Prime Minister Modi asserted while speaking at the NXT conclave here. He stated that the world is keenly observing 21st century India, witnessing its organisational and innovative capabilities.

Highlighting his government's initiative to promote local products under the 'Vocal for Local' campaign, PM Modi said that the initiative has started yielding results, with Indian products gaining global demand and acceptance.

Discussing the nation's progress across various sectors, the Prime Minister added that India is now manufacturing everything from semiconductors to aircraft carriers, adding that the world wants to study India's success in detail and visit the country.

Speaking about the recent general elections, he pointed out that, for the first time in 60 years, a government in India has been re-elected for a third consecutive term.

"This public trust is based on India's numerous achievements over the past 11 years. A few years ago, I had presented the 'Vocal for Local and local for Global' vision to



and Kashmir's cricket bats are

among Indian products expe-

riencing growing international

"India is not only providing

products to the world but also

becoming a trusted and reliable

partner in the global supply

chain," he remarked, adding that

the country's leadership in vari-

ous sectors is a result of years

of hard work and systematic

Focusing on social develop-

ment, he said that electricity

has now reached more than 2.5

crore families for the first time.

He highlighted India's achieve-

Emphasising that India's ability

to set and achieve large targets

is rooted in the mantra of 'Mini-

mum Government, Maximum

Governance', he stated that, by

following this principle, the gov-

ernment has abolished around

1,500 obsolete laws over the

past decade. Interestingly, one

of those obsolete laws was the

Dramatic Performances Act,

which had allowed the arrest

of individuals dancing in public

Taking a swipe at previous

places for the past 70 years.

ments done in every field.

policy decisions.

demand.

the nation, and now this vision has turned into a reality," he said.

Providing examples, he mentioned that millets, turmeric, and various Indian products have transitioned from local to global markets, with India now supplying over 60% of the world's turmeric. He cited coffee, electronic products, medicines, and mobile phones, among others, as examples of Indian products making a mark on the global stage.

The PM also spoke about India's initiatives in the artificial intelligence (AI) sector and the country's efforts in giving a strong voice to the Global South. Discussing India's role in climate action, he stated that the country has introduced the Mission LiFE vision to the world. He highlighted India's leadership in the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

The PM further reiterated that India is not only emerging as a new factory of the world but also as a global force. He pointed out how Pulwama's snow peas, Maharashtra's Purandar figs,

leaders, he criticised the silence of past governments and the Lutyens' elite on such outdated laws, stressing his government's efforts to remove them. Highlighting that India, the land

that introduced the world to the concept of zero, is now becoming the land of infinite innovations, the Prime Minister underscored that India is not just innovating but "innovating" --- inno-vating the Indian way. He stated that India is creating solutions that are affordable, accessible, and adaptable, offering them to the world without gate-keeping. He cited the example of UPI (Unified Payments Interface), which was developed to provide a secure and cost-effective digital payment system. He noted that Professor Carlos Montes was impressed by the peoplefriendly nature of UPI technology and mentioned that countries such as France, the UAE, and Singapore are now integrating it into their financial ecosystems. Stressing India's global aspirations, the Prime Minister remarked that this is not the time for small thinking or limited steps. He asserted that 'Made

in India' should become the world's mantra Expressing his vision, he said he wants people to think of 'Heal in India' when they require medical treatment, 'Wed in India' when planning a wedding, and to prioritise India for travel, conferences, exhibitions, and concerts.

"India is moving forward with the resolve to become a developed nation in the next 25 years," PM Modi declared.

### HM Shah directs officials to ensure free movement on all roads in violence-hit Manipur

Later in a statement,

the Union Ministry of

Home Affairs (MHA)

said, the Home Minis-

ter instructed the offi-

cials to take appropri-

ate measures to make

Manipur drug-free by

dismantling narcotic

trade networks in the

The meeting was

attended by the Gov-

ernor of Manipur

Ajay Kumar Bhalla,

Union Home Secre-

tary Govind Mohan,

Director, Intelligence

Bureau, Deputy Chief

of Army Staff, Army

Commander of the

Eastern Command,

Directors General

of Border Security

Force (BSF), Central

**Reserve Police Force** 

(CRPF) and Assam

Rifles, Security Advi-

sor, Manipur and

senior officers of the

MHA, Army and Mani-

Shah also directed

that the fencing work

on both sides of the

designated entry

points along Manipur's

international border

should be completed

pur administration.

state.



NEW DELHI, Mar 1 (Agencies): Union Minister for Home Amit Shah on Saturday issued directions to the administration and security forces in Manipur to ensure free movement of people on all roads in the troubled state, which is under President's Rule, beginning March 8, officials said.

While chairing a highlevel security review meeting on violencehit Manipur, the Home Minister has also given instructions to the state authorities to take strict action against anyone attempting to obstruct movement on the roads, they said.

The meeting, which was held here, mainly discussed ways and means to restore peace and normalcy in the northeastern state, which has been struggling with ethnic violence since May 2023. The Home Minister chaired the first such review meeting since the imposition of President's Rule in the state.

at the earliest.

The Home Minister also held the meeting in the wake of an ultimatum issued by Governor Bhalla on February 20, urging all individuals in possession of illegal and looted weapons to surrender them.

During the seven days following the Governor's ultimatum, more than 300 weapons were surrendered. mostly in the valley districts. Around 246 firearms were turned in by the Meitei group Arambai Tenggol. However, on Friday,

in response to requests from people in both hill and valley areas, the Governor extended the deadline for surrendering illegal and looted arms until 4 pm on March 6.

Huge number of weapons had been looted from police stations across Manipur during the initial phase of ethnic violence and the Centre has since been working to retrieve these arms as part of its broader strategy to stabilize the region.

President's Rule was imposed in Manipur on February 13 following the resignation of Chief Minister N Biren Singh. The state assembly, which is set to run until 2027, has been suspended.

### **Bus crashes into stationary truck** in Agra; four dead,19 injured

AGRA, Mar 1 (Agencies): Four persons died and 19 others were iniured after a Varanasi-Jaipur bus rammed into a stationary truck on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway on Saturday morning, police said. According to police, the bus crashed into the truck from behind in the Fatehabad police station area in Agra around



resident of Rajasthan:

### Massive fire erupts in chemical factory in Madhya **Pradesh capital**

BHOPAL, Mar 1 (Agencies): A massive fire broke out in a paint-making chemical factory in Madhya Pradesh's Govindpura on Saturday. The blaze erupted behind the Tata

smoke billowing into the sky. The smoke was visible from several kilometres away.

Bogda, and Fatehgarh fire stations arrived at the scene with 10 to 12 fire brigade vehicles.

A large cylinder burst As the flames conwithin the factory premtinued to rage, a large crowd gathered near the ises, amplifying the fire's intensity and causing site.

5.30 am. ACP Fatehabad Amardeep Lal said, "The bodies of the deceased

have been sent for postmortem examination. One of the deceased persons is yet to be identified. All the injured have been sent to the hospital with the help of an ambulance."

> three have been identified - Govind (68), a

Of the deceased,

Ramesh (45), a resident of Rajasthan and Deepak Verma (40), a resident of Agra. Four injured persons have been admitted to a private hospital, while

the rest have been admitted to a government hospital.

Mahindra showroom on JK Road, with firefighters engaged in rescue operations.

The cause of the fire is suspected to be a short circuit. Flames soaring up to 20 feet have engulfed the factory, sending thick black



panic. As a precaution, all showroom operators in the vicinity shut their businesses. The industrial area houses several major vehicle showrooms.

In response to the emergency, firefighters from Govindpura, Pul

The police have also reached the spot and are managing the situation, ensuring that civilians maintain a safe distance. Nearby shop owners and showroom employees evacuated their premises as a precautionary measure.

### Goldy Brar gang member injured in 'encounter' with police in Punjab's Mohali

CHANDIGARH, Mar 1 (Agencies): A member of the Goldy Brar gang Malkiat Singh, alias 'Maxi' was injured in an "encounter" with the Punjab police.

Malkiat Singh was allegedly trying to escape from police custody at Bhankharpur in Dera Bassi on Saturday morning when he was shot at by the Punjab police and Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF)

Director General of Police (DGP), Punjab, Gaurav Yadav said the gangster sustained bullet injury on his left leg while "unsuccessfully attempting to escape from police custody" near Ghagar bridge on Zirakpur-Ambala Highway in Dera Bassi.

Malkiat Singh, a native of Rodala village in Rajasansi near Amritsar, is an operative of foreign-based terrorist Goldy Brar and Gangster Goldy Dhillon. He was operating an extortion racket on their behalf.

Recently, 'Maxi' and his accomplice Sandeep alias Deep were arrested by the Patiala Police in Arms Act case.

Subsequently, both were brought on production warrant from Patiala Jail by SAS Nagar Police on Friday, in connection with an extortion case.

The case relates to the suspects targeting a Mohali-based property dealer and demanding Rs 50 lakh from him in January 2025.

Gaurav Yadav said that following the disclosures of 'Maxi,' a police team led by DSP Dera Bassi Bikramjit Singh Brar was taking him to a spot where he had confessed to have concealed a .32 Calibre Pistol on Zirak-



pur-Ambala Highway in a bid to harm the property dealer.

However, upon reaching the location, 'Maxi' allegedly opened fire at the police team in an attempt to flee from custody. The police retaliated in which 'Maxi' sustained bullet injury on his left leg. He has been shifted to Civil Hospital in Mohali for treatment.

Gaurav Yadav said the weapon along with three cartridges and two used and empty casings have been recovered from his possession.

Sharing more details, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) SAS Nagar Deepak Pareek said that the arrested accused has a criminal history with cases pertaining to extortion and arms act registered against him. Further investigations are on, he added. A fresh case has been registered under sections 109, 132, 221 and 262 of the

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and section 25 of the Arms Act at Police Station Dera Bassi in SAS Nagar

Two gangsters injured in "encounter" In another "encounter" between the state police and gangsters in Kheda village of Tarn Taran district, two gangsters sustained injuries while one was arrested.

A police vehicle was also hit by a bullet during the exchange of fire.

Sources said the three gangsters Arshdeep Singh, Robinpreet Singh, and Karandeep Singh were involved in the shootout. They had a criminal history, particularly in cases relating to extortion and drug trafficking under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act).

Illegal weapon smuggling module busted Meanwhile the Counter Intelligence in Amritsar has busted an illegal weapon smuggling module with the arrest of on associate of Jaggu Bhagwanpuria gang and recovered six .32 bore pistols along with 10 cartridges from his possession.

The arrested accused has been identified as Gurbaaz Singh, a resident of Warring Suba Singh village in Tarn Taran. The latter has been facing at least eight criminal cases pertaining to attempt to murder, snatching, NDPS act, and violations of the Arms Act.

A case has been registered under section 25 of the Arms Act and 61(2) and 111 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Police Station State Special Operations Cell (SSOC), Amritsar.

### **Tourist from Maharashtra** dies in fire in Shimla bed and breakfast accommodation, two more injured



SHIMLA, Mar 1 (Agencies): Three tourists from Maharashtra sustained burn injuries, one of whom died, following a fierce fire in a private accommodation offering bed and breakfast in the Kachighati area of Shimla city, police said on Saturday. All three tourists from Maharashtra were sleeping when the fire broke out around 11.30 pm on Friday night.

While two of them managed to escape, Ritesh, a resident of flames. However, tourists staying in other rooms were safely rescued. Three rooms of the hotels were engulfed in the fire and there was a loss of property worth lakhs, police said.

Preliminary investigations suggested negligence on the part of the owner and a case under sections 106 (causing death by negligence) and 125 (endangering life) of BNS has been registered.

The family members of the deceased have been informed and the body would be handed over to them after the post-mortem is conducted, police said.

The exact cause of the fire is being investigated and fire safety measures in the accommodation are being examined, they said.

Koregaon in Maharashtra, was killed in the fire, they said. Ashish and Avdhoot who were injured in the fire are under treatment at Indira Gandhi Medical College Hospital,

Shimla. The three of them had come to Shimla on Friday and were staying in the bed and breakfast accommodation.

About half a dozen fire tenders were rushed to the spot and it took the firefighters several hours to douse the

### **INTERNATIONAL**

ment. The contentious

deportation has been publicly acknowledged

by Deputy Prime Minister/Defense Minister

Phumtham Wechaya-

cha and reported in

Earlier, the United

States criticized the

Thailand government

for forcibly sending back

40 Uyghur refugees to

China. US Secretary

of State Marco Rubio

emphasized the impor-

Chinese media.

# Russian Foreign Ministry says Trump, Vance displayed "miracle of restraint" against Zelenskyy

Zakharova accused Zelenskyy of speaking lies and said that his biggest lie was his statement in the White House about Kyiv regime being without support in 2022.

MOSCOW, Mar 1 (Agencies): Russian Foreign Ministry Maria Zakharova has said that US President Donald Trump and US Vice President JD Vance displayed a "miracle of restraint" by refraining themselves from hitting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whom she called "scumbag," Al Jazeera reported.

Zakharova accused Zelenskyy of speaking lies and said that his biggest lie was his statement in the White House about Kyiv regime being without support in 2022, Al Jazeera reported.

In a statement on Telegram, the Russian foreign ministry official Zakharova wrote, "I think Zelenskyy's biggest lie of all his lies was his assertion in the White House that the Kyiv regime in 2022 was alone, without support."

"How Trump and Vance held back from hitting that scumbag is a miracle of restraint," she said

Zakharova's statement followed Zelenskyy's verbal sparring with US President Donald Trump and Vice President Vance at the White House's Oval Office on Friday (local time). This shouting match between the leaders was witnessed by White House officials, mediapersons and other Ukrainian officials.

Meanwhile, Russian Security Council deputy head Dmitry Medvedev stated that Trump had given Ukraine a "strong slap on the wrist." Medvedev, who is also former Russian President,



said, "Trump told the cocaine clown the truth to his face."

He said, "For the first time, Trump told the cocaine clown the truth to his face: The Kyiv regime is playing with the Third World War. And the ungrateful pig received a strong slap on the wrist from the owners of the pigsty. This is useful. But it's not enough - we must stop military aid to the Nazi machine," Al Jazeera reported.

The Oval Office meeting began with warm exchanges and handshakes, with Trump at one point saying of Zelensky: "I think he's a great guy." But matters took an ugly turn after Zelensky attempted to explain Russian President Vladimir Putin's lack of diplomacy to Vance in a heated confrontation in front of live cameras and journalists. US Vice President accused Zelenskyy of "litigating" in front of the world's press, criticized him for taking part in photoops with Democrats during the 2024 campaign, and said his remarks were "disrespectful" to

the administration. Raising his voice, Trump called the Ukrainian president "disrespectful" and told him he should be thanking the US, saying, "You don't have the cards." "You are either going to make a deal or we're out and if we are out, you will fight it out. I don't think it's going to be pretty," he added. Following the Oval Office meeting, Trump said that the Ukranian President was not willing to pursue an immediate ceasefire in the ongoing conflict with Russia. Zelenskyy left the White House earlier than planned without signing a muchanticipated minerals agreement or attending a scheduled press conference with Trump.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Trump said, "He (Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy) says that he wants to come back right now, but I can't do that...They should have an immediate ceasefire...A ceasefire could take place immediately. If you want to end the war, you sign up for an agreement that's going to take a period of time. It takes time."

He reiterated that he wants the war to end immediately: "I want it to end immediately, and I think if you had a ceasefire, it would be a ceasefire, a real one that would end it," he said. "He [Volodymyr Zelenskyy] doesn't want to do that...I want it to end immediately. I want a ceasefire now," he added.

According to Trump, Zelenskyy's position is influenced by the support he receives from the United States. He said, "Well, all of a sudden, he is a big shot because he has the US on his side. Either we're going to end it or let him fight it out, and if he fights it out, it's not going to be pretty easy as without us, he doesn't win."

Further, Trump has criticized Zelenskyy, stating, "That was not a man (Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy) that wanted to make peace, and I am only interested if he (Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy) wants to end the bloodshed."

"Zelenskyy got to say, I want to make peace. He doesn't have to stand there and say about Putin this, Putin that, and all negative things. He's got to say, I want to make peace. I don't want to fight a war any longer, his people are dying," he added.

### US Representative Chris Smith condemns Thailand govt's decision to deport Uyghur refugees to China, calls for sanctions



WASHINGTON DC, Mar 1 (Agencies): US Representative Christopher Smith, a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and co-chair of both the Congressional-Executive Commission on China and the Uyghur Caucus, has blamed Thailand Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra for the deportation of Uvghur refugees to China and called on the US to impose sanctions against her.

In the statement, Smith stated, "The government of Thailand forcibly repatriated 45 Uyghur refugees to Communist China in violation of its obligations under the Convention against Torture. Culpability for this lies directly with Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra. The United States must sanction her and her family, including via Treasury sanctions."

"As the Chinese Communist Party will likely subject the renditioned Uyghurs to forced labor, Thailand's complicity in this should also be reflected in Thailand's tier ranking in the Trafficking in Persons report. When coupled with tolerance for sex tourism and backpedaling on enforcing protections for labor trafficking in the fishing sector, the Government of Thailand has forfeited any goodwill generated at trafficking reform," stated Smith.

by its previous efforts at trafficking reform," stated Smith. Smith has been in communication with the US State Department, which has noted that the 45 refugees have been sent back involuntarily, amid international condemnation and concerns about

the refugees' safety,

according to the state-

tance of treating the Uyghurs "with dignity" and ensuring the protection of their rights. In a post on X, Rubio wrote: "Thailand forcibly returned a group of Uyghurs to China. As a longstanding ally of Thailand, we are alarmed by this action, which runs afoul of its international obliga-

"The US condemns this action. We urge the Thai government to ensure and verify that the Uyghurs are treated with dignity and that their rights are protected," he added.

tions."

The situation regarding China's Uyghur population, primarily based in Xinjiang, has drawn significant international attention. Reports indicate widespread human rights abuses, including forced labour, arbitrary detentions in so-called "re-education" camps, and surveillance.

### PKK declares ceasefire with Turkey after 40 years of armed struggle

ISTANBUL, Mar 1 (Agencies): Outlawed Kurdish militants on Saturday declared a ceasefire with Turkey following a landmark call by jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan asking the group to disband.

It was the first reaction from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) after Ocalan this week called for the dissolution of the group and asked it to lay down arms after fighting the Turkish state for over four decades.

"In order to pave the way for the

able secure environment must be created" and Ocalan "must personally direct and lead it for the success of the congress".

Better prison conditions

The group also said Ocalan's prison conditions must be eased, adding he "must be able to live and work in physical freedom and be able to establish unhindered relationships with anyone he wants, including his friends."

After the last round of peace talks collapsed in 2015, no further contact

### US Secy of State Marco Rubio says Zelenskyy should apologise after Oval Office spat

Rubio's remarks came after Zelenskyy's verbal clash with US President Donald Trump and US Vice President Vance at the White House.

WASHINGTON DC, Mar 1 (Agencies): US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky should apologize fol-



the fiasco for him that it became. There was no need for him to go in there and become antagonistic. Look, this thing went off the rails. You were there, I believe everyone who's been involved in communications with them leading up to today. And I think the campaign for wasting our time for a meeting that was going to

implementation of leader Apo's call for peace and democratic society, we are declaring a ceasefire effective from today," the PKK executive committee said referring to Ocalan and quoted by the pro-PKK ANF news agency.

"We agree with the content of the call as it is and we say that we will follow and implement it," the committee based in northern Iraq said.

"None of our forces will take armed action unless attacked," it added.

The PKK, designated a terrorist group by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, has waged an insurgency since 1984 with the aim of carving out a homeland for Kurds, who account for around 20 percent of Turkey's 85 million people.

Since Ocalan was jailed in 1999 there have been various attempts to end the bloodshed, which has cost more than 40,000 lives.

After several meetings with Ocalan at his island prison, the pro-Kurdish DEM party on Thursday relayed his appeal for PKK to lay down its weapons and convene a congress to announce the organisation's dissolution.

The PKK said on Saturday it was ready to convene a congress as Ocalan wanted but "for this to happen, a suitwas made until October when a hardline nationalist ally of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan offered a surprise peace gesture if Ocalan rejected violence.

While Erdogan backed the rapprochement, his government cranked up pressure on the opposition, arresting hundreds of politicians, activists and journalists. Erdogan on Friday said Ocalan's appeal was a "historic opportunity". He said Turkey would "keep a close watch" to make sure the talks to end the insurgency were "brought to a successful conclusion".

"When the pressure of terrorism and arms is eliminated, the space for politics in democracy will naturally expand," Erdogan promised.

Iraq has welcomed Ocalan's call, saying it was "a positive and important step towards achieving stability in the region".

The PKK's presence in Iraq has has been a recurrent source of tension between Baghdad and Ankara.

The group holds positions in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region, where Turkey also maintains military bases and often carries out ground and air operations against the Kurdish militants. lowing his meeting with President Donald Trump in the Oval Office. He stated that Zelenskyy should apologize for "turning this thing into the fiasco for him that it became."

Rubio's remarks followed Zelenskyy's verbal clash with US President Donald Trump and Vice President Vance at the White House on Friday (local time). This shouting match between the leaders was witnessed by White House officials, mediapersons and other Ukrainian officials.

In an interview with CNN, Rubio said that there was no need for Zelenskyy to "go in there and become antagonistic." He stressed that Trump wants to bring an end to the conflict and wants to get Russians to a negotiating table.

Asked whether he

feels otherwise on Zelenskyy's statement that he does not believe he owes an apology, Rubio said, "I do, I do because you guys don't see. You guys only saw the end. You saw what happened today? You don't see all the things that led up to this. So, let me explain the president's been very clear, he campaigned on this. He thinks this war should have never started. He believes, and I agree, that had he been president it never would have happened. Now, here we are. He's trying to bring

an end to this conflict.

We've explained very clearly what our plan is here, which is we want to get the Russians to a negotiating table. We want to explore whether peace is possible. They understand this. They also understand that this agreement that was supposed to be signed today was supposed to be an agreement that binds America economically to Ukraine, which to me, as I've explained, I think the president alluded to today is a security guarantee in its own way because we're involved, it's not us, it's our interests. That was all explained. That was all understood."

"And nonetheless, for the last ten days and every engagement we've had with the Ukrainians, there's been complications in getting that point across, including the public statements that President Zelenskyy has made. But they insisted on coming to DC. This agreement could have been signed five days ago, but they insisted on coming to Washing-

ton. And it was a very

and should have been a very clear understanding, don't come here and create a scenario where you're going to start lecturing us about how diplomacy isn't going to work. So, as President Zelenskyy took it in that direction and it ended in a predictable outcome as a result. It's unfortunate that was supposed to be this way, but that's the path he chose. And I think, frankly, you know, sends his country backwards in regards to achieving peace, which is what President Trump wants at the end of the day, is for this war to end. He's been as consistent as anyone can be about what his objective is here," he added. Speaking to CNN, he said that the verbal clash between the leaders started after Zelenskyy asked Vance on what kind of diplomacy they are talking about. Rubio said the meeting went "off the rails" after that interaction. Asked on what does he

Asked on what does he want to see Zelenskyy apologise for, Rubio stated, "Well, apologize for turning this thing into

it went off the rails when he said, let me ask you a question to the vice president, What kind of diplomacy are you talking about? Well, this this is a serious thing. I mean, thousands of people have been killed. Thousands and he talks about all these horrible things that have happened to prisoners of war and children. All true, all bad. This is what we're dealing with here. It needs to come to an end. We are trying to bring it to an end."

"The way you bring it to an end is you get Russia to the table to talk, and he understands that attacking Putin, no matter how anyone may feel about him personally, forcing the president into a position where you're trying to go to him into attacking Putin, calling him names, maximalist demands about Russia having to pay for the reconstruction, all the sorts of things that you talk about in a negotiation when you start talking about that aggressively and the president's a dealmaker. He's made deals his entire life. You're not going to get people to the table. And so you start to perceive that maybe Zelenskyy doesn't want a peace deal. He says he does, but maybe he doesn't and that active open undermining of efforts to bring about peace is deeply frustrating for

end the way it did," he added.

The Oval Office meeting began with warm exchanges and handshakes, with Trump at one point saying of Zelensky: "I think he's a great guy." But matters took an ugly turn after Zelensky attempted to explain Russian President Vladimir Putin's lack of diplomacy to Vance in a heated confrontation in front of live cameras and journalists. US Vice President accused Zelenskyy of "litigating" in front of the world's press, criticized him for taking part in photo-ops with Democrats during the 2024 campaign, and said his remarks were "disrespectful" to the administration.

Raising his voice, Trump called the Ukrainian president "disrespectful" and told him he should be thanking the US, saying, "You don't have the cards." "You are either going to make a deal or we're out and if we are out, you will fight it out. I don't think it's going to be pretty," he added.

Trump and Zelensky were set to sign a deal that would have created a joint US-Ukraine fund investing in extracting the country's rare-earth mineral supply. Friday's meeting was supposed to ink a deal on rare earth minerals which are used to make a variety of tech products.

Israel: Gasoline prices to drop slightly on Sunday

TEL AVIV, Mar 1 (Agencies): The Fuel and Gas Administration in Israel's Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure announced that at midnight between Saturday and Sunday (March 1, 2025 - March 2, 2025), the prices of fuel products that are under supervision and sold to consumers at gas stations will be updated. The maximum price per liter of unleaded 95 octane gasoline for the consumer at a self-service station (including VAT) will not exceed 7.23 Shekels (USD 2.02) per liter, a decrease of 0.08 Shekels from the previous update. The surcharge for full service will be 0.24 Shekels per liter (including VAT), unchanged from the previous update.

The maximum price per liter of unleaded 95 octane gasoline for the consumer at a self-service station in Eilat (excluding VAT) will not exceed 6.13 Shekels (USD 1.71) per liter, a decrease of 0.06 Shekels from the previous update. A surcharge for full service will be 0.20 Shekels (excluding VAT), unchanged from the previous update. Eilat is a VAT free zone.

### LOCAL/CONTD....

## So-called Hindutva will not stand before Uddhav Thackeray: Sahni

Appeal made to raise voice for restoration of statehood

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 1: Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Jammu-Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni has proposed party chief Uddhav Bala Saheb Thackeray the face of India (Alliance) and development of the alliance at the state level with a minimum common program.

While talking exclusively to the media at a program organized at the press club, Jammu, Manish Sahni said that the goal of forming India (Alliance) was to protect democratic values, promote public welfare and progress and counter the ideology that endangers the idea of India.

Today, a party is continuously moving ahead on the pitch of so-called Hindutva.

There can be no one better than Uddhav Thackeray to expose so-called Hindutava & double-faced act.

Sahni further said that Uddhav Thackeray having ability to unite alliances, commitment to secularism and far-sighted



status

On this occasion Vikas Bakshi

(Gen Secretary), Rohan Malwal

Meanwhile, Manish Sahni,

citing the famous film Chhava,

said that Chhatrapati Shivaii

Maharaj and his son Sambhaji

defeated the Mughals with their

It is a historical fact that

whenever there is a crisis in

the country and the people,

the Marathas have been seen

My proposal is also to hand

standing in the front row.

valor and wisdom.

(City president) were present.

economic vision, belief in giving more autonomy and power to the states and strengthening regional voices, make him an ideal and better choice for this challenging moment.

Sahni has also appealed to the alliance to expand at the state level with a common minimum program. Sahni expressed hope that his request will be considered sympathetically.

Along with this, the alliance was also appealed to raise its voice for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir state over the leadership of the INDIA (Alliance) to a Maratha. Sahni proposed, Uddhav Bal-

asaheb Thackeray, son of the Hindu Hriday Samrat, the venerable Balasaheb Thackeray, the face of the Alliance.

Manish Sahni has urged all the parties of India (alliance) to raise their voice in unity for the restoration of the state status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sahni said that it is unfortunate that which is counted among the largest democratic countries in the world and is an integral part of India, J&K is not able to get the status of a state and the rights of the people's elected government.

A nominated Lieutenant Governor has been placed above the people's elected government and public issues are being crushed in the mill of this dual power centre.

Sahni has also appealed to Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to contact all the parties of India and raise this demand in the Parliament with unity and strength.

FromPage No:1



**GCW Bhagwati Nagar organizes** 

Under the guidance of

Prof. Goyal Giri (PTI),

the competition saw

intense matches, cul-

minating in an exhila-

rating final showdown

between Team Chenab

After a keenly con-

tested match, Team

Chenab, comprising

Meenakshi and Anjali,

emerged as the cham-

pions. Their remarkable

coordination and strate-

gic gameplay secured

their well-deserved vic-

Speaking on the

occasion, Principal Dr.

Meeru Abrol applauded

tory.

and Team Tawi.

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 1: The Department of Sports and Physical Education at Government College for Women (GCW) Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu, successfully organized an exciting Carrom Competition under the patronage of the esteemed Principal, Dr. Meeru Abrol.

The event, held with great enthusiasm, witnessed active participation from students, fostering a spirit of sportsmanship and healthy competition.

the efforts of the organizing team and encouraged students to actively engage in such extracurricular activities.

She emphasized the importance of indoor games like carrom in enhancing concentration and analytical skills among students.

Prof. Goyal Giri (PTI) also expressed his appreciation for the enthusiasm displayed by participants and assured that more such sporting events will be organized in the future to promote a culture of holistic development at the institution.

The event concluded on a high note, with winners being felicitated amidst cheers from their peers.

The college continues to uphold its commitment to fostering sports and physical education, ensuring students have a platform to showcase their talents and skills.

### **BJP Chief Nadda in** Jammu for Budget Workshop, Visits Vaishno Devi Shrine

party for its 28 legislators majority of whom are first-timers - ahead of the budget session, which is scheduled to start on March 3.

The 'Vidahayak Prashishan Shivir' was jointly inaugurated by BJP national general secretary B L Santosh and Sat Sharma at a hotel in Katra on Friday.

The focus of the workshop is to ensure the effective participation of the BJP legislators in the assembly proceedings.

### CM Omar calls on LG Manoj Sinha ahead of budget session

Rubina Kausar has been appointed as Director, Libraries, Jammu and Kashmir.

Sudarshan Kumar, Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation.

Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, Managing Director of the Horticulture Produce, Marketing and Processing Corporation, has been transferred as Director, School Education, Jammu.

Mohammad Younis Malik has been reassigned as Special Secretary in the Power Development Department.

Vikas Sharma has been transferred to the Housing and Urban Development Department as Special Secretary and will also serve as Mission Director, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar

Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Deputy Commissioner of State Taxes (Stamps), Kashmir, has been appointed as Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar.

Ghulam Jeelani Zargar, Joint Commissioner of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, has been transferred as Director of Horticulture, Planning and Marketing.

Shokat Mehmood, Programme Officer of the ICDS Project, Kathua, has been reassigned as Additional Secretary in the Information Technology Department.

Vishal Sharma, Additional Secretary in the Revenue Department, has been posted as Additional Secretary in the Hospitality and Protocol Department.

Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, has been appointed as Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education.

Mohammad Anwar Banday, Programme Officer of the ICDS Project, Reasi, has been transferred as Additional Secretary in the School Education Department. Sunaina Sharma, Joint Director of Tourism, Jammu, has been posted as Principal of the Revenue Training Institute, Jammu.

Social Welfare Officer, Ramban, has been placed at the disposal of the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs.

Supinder Kour, Under Secretary in the General Administration Department, has been transferred to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission.

Nowshad Anjum Mir, who served as Assistant Director in the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Kupwara, has been placed at the disposal of the Social Welfare Department for further posting.

Irfan ul Ashaq, previously Child Development Project Officer, Narvaw, Baramulla, has also been placed at the disposal of the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs.

Sahir Majeed, formerly District Social Welfare Officer, Bandipore, has been posted as Under Secretary in the Jammu and Kashmir

Public Service Commission.

outages during Sehri and Iftar time. Any necessary shutdowns should be well-planned and curtailment could be made during the daytime as per a proper schedule.

The maintenance works, wherever required, be also taken up during the day time," the CM instructed.

He directed officials to immediately address system issues or faulty distribution transformers (DTs) to avoid disruptions.

On water supply, Abdullah said the recent spell of snow and rainfall had helped improve the situation, but stressed the need for supply of adequate potable water to house holds.

"By the grace of Allah, the recent rainfall over the past few days has been beneficial in this regard," he added.

The chief minister also directed officials to focus on cleanliness, particularly around mosques and shrines, traffic management, and making security arrangements.

### **Addl Charge of JKBOSE Chairman**

the Jammu and Kashmir government.

As per the notification, the decision has been taken by the government in exercise of the powers conferred by section (1) of section 1w of Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, Act 1975.

"The government hereby orders that Shantmanu, Financial Commissioner, School Education Department, shall discharge the function of Chairman JKBOSE and Director SCERT, in addition to his own duties," the notification reads. The decision has been taken as "an interim arrangement, till further orders.

As already reported by this newspaper, the J&K Government in December last year reconstituted a search committee for recommending the panel of the candidates for the appointment as Chairman JKBOSE and the Director J&K SCERT. The committee is headed by Administrative Secretary Agricultural Production Department as its chairman while the Administrative Secretary of School Education Department (SED), GAD and Higher Education Department (HED) will be the members of the committee. The other two members of the search committee are Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir (KU) and Vice Chancellor University of Jammu (JU). The Search Committee after holding its meeting on February 17 of 2025, shortlisted 14 candidates for the appointment of Chairman JK Board of School Education (JKBOSE) and Director JKSCERT. The shortlisted candidates, as per the official document are scheduled to appear for the interaction before the Search Committee on March 5 of 2025 in civil Secretariat Jammu.

session of J&K Legislative Assembly, which is set to begin on March 3

"The Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah called on Lieutenant Governor Manoi Sinha, earlier today and discussed various issues relating to the forthcoming Budget Session of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. The Budget Session, 2025 of the Assembly will commence on Monday the 3rd March, 2025," the government in a communication said.

### Jammu-Srinagar **National Highway** opens for passenger vehicles

following heavy snowfall for two davs

He said the road has been opened now and commuters have been advised to maintain lane discipline to prevent congestion.

Authorities have also urged passengers to travel during daylight hours and avoid unnecessary stops between Ramban and Banihal due to risk of landslides and shooting stones.

Meanwhile, the movement of heavy motor vehicles (HMVs) will be permitted later after an assessment of road conditions.

### Major reshuffle in **Civil Administra**tion, 41 JKAS officers transferred

has been appointed as Managing Director of the Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board.

has been appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Lakes, Conservation and Management Authority.

Ashok Kumar Sharma, Director of School Education, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary in the Labour and Employment Department.

Rajinder Kumar Sharma, Director of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Jammu and Kashmir, has been posted as Special Secretary in the Jal Shakti Department.

Suraj Parkash Rukwal, Director of Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu, has been reassigned as Director of Geology and Mining. Mohammad Farooq Dar, Special Secretary in the Skill Development Department, has been appointed as Managing Director of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticulture Produce, Marketing and Processing Corporation.

Abdul Sattar, Special Secretary in the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, has been transferred as Special Secretary in the Tourism Department. Mohammad Nazir Sheikh, who was under orders of repatriation from the Union Territory of Ladakh, has been posted as Director of Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu

Puneet Sharma, Director of Geology and Mining, Jammu and Kashmir, has been reassigned as Special Secretary in the Revenue Department and will also oversee DILRMP, NAKSHA, SVAMITVA, and AGRISTACK projects.

Ashish Kumar Gupta, Managing Director of the Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board, has been transferred as Special Secretary in the Skill Development Department. Rakesh Magotra, Project Director of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, has been posted as a Member of the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board.

Syed Shabir Ahmad, General Manager of DIC, Pulwama, has been transferred as Joint Director of Education (Central), Kashmir.

Mohammad Syed Khan, Member of the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board, has been reassigned as Additional Secretary in the Public Works (R&B) Department.

Hakeem Tanveer Ahmad, Programme Officer of the ICDS Project, Kupwara, has been posted as Joint Director of Education (North), Kashmir.

Pankaj Bhagotra, Regional Transport Officer, Jammu, has been reassigned as Programme Officer of the ICDS Project, Reasi. Vivek Phonsa, Additional Secretary in the Public Works (R&B) Department, has been transferred as Programme Officer of the ICDS Project, Kathua.

Surinder Paul Sharma, Joint Registrar of Cooperatives (Special), Jammu, has been posted as Regional Transport Officer, Kathua (Hqr: Lakhanpur).

Jasmeet Singh, Principal of the Revenue Training Institute, Jammu, has been transferred as Regional Transport Officer, Jammu.

Ajaz Qesar Malik, Additional Secretary in the Information Technology Department, has been reassigned as Joint Director of Tourism, Jammu.

Zeba Suleman, formerly Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Samba, has been moved to the Social Welfare Department as Under Secretary. Rahul Gupta, previously District

Nazir Ahmad Rather, Under Secretary in the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat References Monitoring Cell, has been transferred to the Hospitality and Protocol Department.

The government has stated that these transfers and postings have been made in the interest of administrative efficiency and service delivery.

### 'Shadow cabinet': **Omar criticises BJP** savs time for elected govt to serve people

Abdullah told reporters in Srinagar.

About Ramadhan preparedness, he said the holy month is going to start from tomorrow and it is duty of the government to provide all necessary facilities to people. "A meeting was held today in this connection wherein directions were passed to all line departments regarding supply of adequate electricity during Iftar and Sehri times, water supply, ration, smooth regulation of traffic and better sanitation services," CM Omar added.

### CM Omar Abdullah directs Power Dept to ensure uninterrupted power supply during Ramadan

He stressed that key departments under pressure must deliver service particularly the power supply which must be prioritised.

"People want, and we must strive, to ensure that there are no power

He said both the inspectors general of police in Jammu and Kashmir have addressed the security concerns. To enhance public service delivery, the chief minister directed all Deputy Commissioners to set up fully staffed and operational district control rooms to promptly address grievances.

"Our collective effort should be to ensure a smooth and hassle-free Ramadan for the people. It is our responsibility to put all necessary arrangements in place," he said. The meeting was conducted

both in person and through virtual mode.

Earlier, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Bidhuri, presented a detailed report on the arrangements in place for the holy month. The meeting was informed about

the electricity demand during peak hours, particularly at Sehri and Iftari, water supply, sanitation around religious and significant public places, ration distribution for March, traffic deployment plans, police security arrangements, food safety and joint market inspections.

### J&K budget session: CM's Advisor takes stock of arrangements in LA complex

legislators and media persons do not face any inconvenience.

Meanwhile the police personnel this morning also conducted a national anthem drill.

The national anthem is played before the address of Lieutenant Governor or Governor to the Members of the Legislative Assembly on the inaugural day of session and also when the dignitary (LG) leaves after his address.

### Shantmanu gets

### **Court seeks report** over Kathua youth's death due to alleged police torture

was the nephew of Pak Exfiltrated Terrorist Swar Din @ Swaru Gujjar, he is helping in the same group that conducted the Badnotta Army Convoy attack in July 2024 in which 4 Army Jawans were Martyred. It is the same group which led to the killing & Martyrdom of HC Bashir in Kohag Operation. Makhan had a number of suspicious contacts in Pak and other foreign countries. There was no custodial torture or injury. He was questioned and then got exposed, went home and committed suicide." Police said that authorities have taken cognisance of the case and a magisterial enquiry has also been ordered.

### LOCAL

# **Two-day workshop on 'Accreditation Procedure & Ranking in HEIs' inaugurated at SMVDU**

#### **Top News Report**

10

KATRA, Mar 1: A two-day workshop on Accreditation Procedure & Ranking in HEIs commences at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra.

This workshop was organized by Directorate of Quality Assurance (DQA), SMVDU, and sponsored by Pradhan Mantri- Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan, Govt. of India. Prof. (Dr.) Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu was the chief guest at the inaugural session. Prof. Supran Sharma, Director, DQA, and Coordinator of the workshop briefed the participants about the workshop, highlighted the changing dynamics of the accreditation and data-capturing sys-

address, Vice Chan-

cellor, SMVDU empha-

sized on developing a

work-culture wherein

complexities of accredi-

tation related data-

collection and data

processing may be

reduced, and pace of

accreditation process

The chief guest Prof.

(Dr.) Umesh Rai high-

lighted the importance

may be increased.

tems and necessity of sensitization of all the stake-holders regarding accreditation procedures. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor,

SMVDU felicitated the chief guest, and Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Director, IQAC, Panjab University, Chandigarh. Prof. Sharma is one the eminent resource person of this workshop.

In his inaugural

of appropriate data in the accreditation process.

A self-assessment of data, identification of strengths and challenges in the institutional data, and subsequent removal of the weaknesses is essential to secure a good score in the accreditation, Prof. Rai said

He also advised that a sense of belongingness of all employee with their institution is pivotal for its upliftment. At the end, Dr. Surender Singh, Deputy-Director, DQA, and Co-Coordinator of the workshop proposed the vote of thanks.

The aim of this workshop was to sensitize the participants about the underlying intricacies of accreditation and ranking procedures. Prof. Abdul Q. Ansari, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi, and Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava, University of Jammu are also the highly learned resource persons of this workshop.

This workshop is expected the enhance the necessary skills of the participants regarding accreditation and ranking procedures.

**Red Ribbon Club of GDC Akhnoor organizes HIV/AIDS Awareness Program** 



**Top News Report** 

AKHNOOR, Mar 1: The Red Ribbon Club of GDC Akhnoor, under the leadership of Professor Gopal Singh, organized a series of activities to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS among students

The event aimed to educate students on the causes, prevention, and impact of the disease while encouraging them to contribute to breaking the stigma surrounding it.

The program was chaired by Prof. Dr. Romilla Malla Bhat, Principal of the College, who emphasized the importance of awareness initiatives in promoting a healthier society.

A key highlight of the event was an

informative lecture delivered by Professor Slony Gupta, Assistant Professor of Zoology, who discussed the biological aspects of HIV/AIDS, methods of transmission, and preventive measures.

To further engage students, a poster-making competition was conducted, where participants creatively expressed their understanding of the issue.

The event also featured the formation of a human chain symbolizing unity and commitment to spreading awareness and supporting those affected by HIV/ AIDS.

The program was graced by the presence of Professor Vijay Rukwal, Assistant Professor of Political Science, and Sonu, Physical Training Director, who encouraged students with their inspiring words.

Professor Gopal Singh appreciated the active participation of students and faculty members, highlighting that such initiatives play a vital role in fostering an informed and responsible society.

The event concluded with a strong call to action, urging students to spread awareness and contribute to a stigmafree community.

### Four-Year Undergraduate and **One-Year Postgraduate Programs** to begin at CSU

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 1: Central Sanskrit University is set to introduce a four-year Shastri (UG) program and a one-year Acharya (PG) program from the academic session 2025-26. These programs, designed under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, will award degrees such as Shastri (Graduate), Shastri Shodh (Research), and Acharya (Postgraduate) based on semester completion.

The new Shastri program will integrate both traditional and modern subjects. Students will have the opportunity to study classical disciplines like Vedas, Jyotish, Vyakarana, Sahitya, Darshan, Buddhist Philosophy, Kashmir Shaiva Darshan, Dharmashastra, Advaita Vedanta, Puranic History, and Pali-Prakrit. Alongside these, contemporary subjects such as Political Science, History, English, Hindi, and Computer Science will also be offered. Skill development courses will further enhance the curriculum.

Under the restructured academic framework, students will be awarded qualifications at different stages of completion. Those completing two

while four semesters will lead to a diploma. A full Shastri (Graduate) degree will be granted after six semesters. Students who complete eight semesters will be awarded a Shastri (Research Honors) degree. Furthermore, those successfully completing ten semesters will directly qualify for an Acharya (Postgraduate) degree and gain eligibility for research programs.

Each semester's core subjects will carry 100 marks, with a 60-mark written exam and a 40-mark continuous assessment component. The curriculum will also include interdisciplinary subjects, skill-based education, and value-based learning

To enhance employability, skill development courses will cover languages, yoga, computer science, music, theater, ritual studies, astrology, and vastu shastra. Additionally, internships will be mandatory for all students, ensuring practical exposure and career readiness.

By implementing this progressive academic structure, Central Sanskrit University aligns itself with the vision of NEP 2020, ensuring a holistic education system that balances tradition with modern learning and prepares students

### Four-day national training program on Natural **Farming concludes at SKUAST-J**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 1: The four-day National Training Program on "Natural Farming," organized by the Directorate of Extension, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) in collaboration with the Centre for Organic and Natural Farming, Chatha, and the Directorate of Research, SKUAST Kashmir, concluded today. The training, held from February 25-28, 2025, was aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of Scientists and Professors from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of SKUAST-J and the Centre for Organic and

Natural Farming. The valedictory function was graced by Prof.



Extension, SKUAST-J, as the Chief Guest. Dr. Pooja extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries, including Prof. Parshant Bakshi, Head of the Division of Fruit Science and Incharge, Centre for Organic and Natural Farming. Dr. Parshant Bakshi,

who served as the Cocoordinator of the training, provided an overview of the program. He highlighted that the training featured 10

demonstrations of bioformulations, including Panchgavya, as per the National Mission for Natural Farming (NMFN) guidelines. He appreciated the efforts of Bansi Lal, Farmers trainer from Reasi.

He also shared his practical experiences using natural farming bioformulations on fruit crops such as guava, dragon fruit, and strawberries. On behalf of the partic-

expressed gratitude to all resource persons for their valuable insights into natural farming, particularly in its association with crop and horticulture production and livestock manage-

ment. Addressing the participants, Prof. Amrish Vaid lauded the efforts of Dr. Vikas Sharma, Coordinator, Dr. Parshant Bakshi, Co-coordinator, and Dr. Satesh Kamar, Nodal Officer, for the of the training program. He emphasized that natural farming, an age-old practice, needs revival and assured continued support for similar capacity-building programs for KVK Heads and university scientists in the future. During the ceremony, certificates were distributed to the participants, acknowledging their engagement and learning.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Satesh Kumar.

The participants also shared their practical experiences, reflecting on the knowledge gained during the training.

This training marks a significant step forward in promoting sustainable and natural farming

followed by a successful

semesters will receive a certificate,

for diverse career opportunities

Amrish Vaid, Director

lectures and practical

ipants, Dr. Banarasi Lal

practices successful organization

### **AICTE approved 2 days conference concludes** at Aryans on National Science Day

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 1: A twoday National Conference, jointly organized by the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Aryans College of Engineering. Rajpura, Near Chandigarh on "Disaster Management & Resilient Infrastructure" was concluded in Urdu & English Languages under AICTE-VAANI (Vibrant Advocacy For Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages) scheme.

12 seminars conducted and concluded on National Science Day which is celebrated on

28th Feb across Nation to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian physicist Sir C. V. Raman.

Dr JK Saini, Director, Aryans College of Engineering addressed all on importance of this conference.

The 12 session including inauguration & concluding were addressed by Dr Amit Goyal, National Institute of Technical Teachers Training & Research (NITTTR), Chandigarh; Dr. Debashish & Dr Hemant, Chitkara Uni-

versity, Chandigarh; Dr Kaushik Bharti & Er Ifra, SVIET, Chandigarh; Er. Rahul, Doaba Group of Colleges, Er Mudasir Ahmad, Aryans College of Engineering, Dhamika Singla, AIMT, Rajpura, Participants from Swami Vivekananda

Institute, Quest Group of Colleges, Gulzar Group of Colleges etc. attended this conference.

Sessions focused on various topics including Natural disasters Disaster Management concept, Disaster preparedness, Early Warning, Disaster recovery, Community resilience training, Disaster response, Disaster management cycle, Disaster risk Reduction, A disaster resilient design, Early assessment of disasters, Disaster resilient infrastructure, Risk management, Vulnerable communities etc were discussed.

### Nikshay Shivir organized in DHS Jammu under 100 days **TB** elimination campaign

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 1: As part of the ongoing 100 Days TB Elimination Campaign, the State TB Cell, Directorate of Health Services, Jammu, successfully organized a special Nikshay Shivir aimed at facilitating early detection and treatment of Tuberculosis (TB).

All officers and officials of DHS complex actively participated in the camp and underwent X-ray and sputum tests for TB screening. The Director Health Services, Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Magotra emphasized

that the campaign is designed to increase community awareness, ensure early diagnosis, and provide prompt treatment, thereby contributing to the vision of a TB-free society. This initiative marks a significant step towards strengthening TB elimination efforts across the region. Dy. Director Schemes Dr. Poonam Sethi, Chief Medical Jammu Dr. Harbaksh Singh, State TB Officer Dr. Jyoti Jolly and District TB Officer Jammu Dr. Anu Saloch were present in the Shivir.

The primary objective of this initiative is to accelerate TB detection, enhance public awareness, and reinforce eradication efforts. To maximize outreach, a substantial

amount of Information, Education & Communication (IEC) material was displayed and distributed, educating the public on symptoms, prevention, and treatment of TB.

This initiative aligns with the broader goal of eliminating TB by ensuring timely intervention and improved healthcare accessibility.

The Directorate of Health Services, Jammu, urges the community to actively participate in such programs and contribute towards a healthier and TB-free future.





Jammu.

ease.

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 1: The Red Ribbon Club of Government Gandhi Memorial Science College (GGM Science College), Jammu, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS), organized an enlightening awareness lecture on AIDS.

The event, held under the patronage of the esteemed Principal Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, and the expert guidance of Dr. Seema Rani Minhas, Convener of the Red Ribbon Club, was aimed at raising awareness on HIV/AIDS, its prevention, treatment, and the importance of public understanding in combating the disease.

The insightful lecture was delivered by Prof. Bal Krishan, Assistant Professor in Zoology at GGM Science College,

He provided valusession facilitated with able insights into the active assistance from causes, symptoms, and the committee memmodes of transmission bers, including Dr. Purshottam Singh Thakur, of AIDS. Prof. Krishan also emphasized the Dr. Bhekam Pal Singh, Prof. Sunita Kumari, significance of living a pure and healthy life, Dr. Arti Sharma, NSS incorporating practices Programme Officer Dr. Rahul Kait, and Dr. like yoga and spirituality to cope with the chal-Neha Sharma. Faculty lenges posed by the dismembers, including Dr. Ashaq Hussain and Dr. Arbaaz Wani, were also

In his address, Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, the Principal of the college, highlighted the global impact of AIDS and stressed the importance of spreading awareness, education, and responsible behavior to prevent its spread. He emphasized the role of the youth in leading this charge and helping society make informed choices to safeguard health.

The event began with a warm welcome address by Dr. Neha Sharma, presented by Dr. Sunita Kumari, who expressed gratitude to Prof. Bal Krishan, all participants, and everyone involved in making the event a success. The session reinforced the critical importance of awareness in the fight

present to grace the

The program conclud-

ed with a vote of thanks

occasion.

against HIV/AIDS and encouraged a collective effort toward a healthier future.

# **SPORTS**

### **Shooter Deepak Kumar and TV personality Rannvijay** Singha inaugurate world-class shooting facility in Delhi

Elevating the spirit of sports in the national capital, Indian sport shooter Deepak Kumar and TV personality Rannvijay Singha inaugurated a state-of-the-art shooting range at GD Goenka School, Vasant Kunj, on Saturday.

NEW DELHI, Mar 1 (Agencies): Elevating the spirit of sports in the national capital, Indian sport shooter Deepak Kumar and TV personality Rannvijay Singha inaugurated a state-of-the-art shooting range at GD Goenka School, Vasant Kunj, on Saturday.

"I am really excited to see the shooting facility and revisit some of the sports I played here. Competing against GD Goenka always made me envious of their outstanding infrastructure. If young kids receive this level of support and infrastructure from their parents and schools, nothing can stop our sportsmen, sportswomen, and athletes from winning numerous medals for the country," said Singha, as quoted by a GD Goenka School press release. Echoing his views, Deepak Kumar, a celebrated Indian sport shooter, Junior Warrant Officer in the Indian Air Force. and Asian Games silver medallist in the 10m air rifle event, said, "The inauguration of the shooting facility marks an auspicious endeavour. An athlete has the capability to make our national flag fly high in front of the entire world, and I can say that in the future, many athletes from this school, this state, and this country will bring glory and



numerous medals."

The shooting range is an impressive, Olympic-size 10-meter facility equipped with modern air rifles and air pistols and an advanced electronic target-scoring system.

"GD Goenka School remains at the pinnacle of offering a conducive environment for holistic growth. The shooting facility will not only provide the best-in-class training to students but will also inspire the next generation of champions. With exemplary infrastructure and support, our students can achieve remarkable success on the global stage," said Nipun Goenka, Managing Director of GD Goenka Group.

Another rising star in Indian shooting, Parth Makhija, Junior World Champion and leader of the Delhi shooting contingent at the Goa National Games, attended the event. Further adding to the prestige of the occasion was Ria Rajeshwari Kumari, a proud Goenkan alumna (Batch of 2010), international trap shooter, silver medallist at the 2022 Asian Games, and 2024 Olympian currently ranked 9th in the world.

Shreya Agrawal, a shooting sensation and air rifle gold medallist at the World & Asian

Championships, former India Junior Rank 1 holder, and Senior World Cup medallist, who is currently pursuing her MBA at GD Goenka University, also graced the event.

"The new shooting range is a reflection of our dedication to promoting both academic and athletic excellence. This initiative will not only enhance the physical abilities of students but also instil discipline, focus, and a competitive spirit at a young age," said Kevin Brady, Principal of GD Goenka Public School, Vasant Kunj, Delhi, as the GD Goenka School press release added.

The event commenced with a formal inauguration ceremony followed by inspiring speeches from dignitaries who underlined the significance of promoting sports in schools. The distinguished athletes were also honoured for their achievements and contributions in the realm of sports, motivating young students to pursue excellence in their athletic endeavours.

The new shooting facility stands as a testament to GD Goenka School's commitment to the well-rounded development of its students, establishing new benchmarks in both academics and sports.

### **Champions trophy 2025:** Washout seals semi-final spot

#### Chasing 274 for victory, Aussies hit 109-1 in 13 overs as rain plays spoilsport

LAHORE, Mar 1 (Agencies): Australia entered the semifinals of the Champions Trophy after their crucial Group B clash against Afghanistan was called off due to rain here.

The match was halted by a downpour when Australia were 109 for 1 in 12.5 overs, chasing a target of 274.

Despite the ground staffs' efforts to clear the field, several pools of water remained on the pitch and the umpires ultimately declared the match abandoned after an inspection.

The interruption came just an hour before the cut-off time for completing the match.

With the game called off, Australia advanced to the semifinals with four points. Their last match against South Africa in Rawalpindi was also abandoned.

At the time of interruption, Travis Head was in superb form, having scored 59 runs off 40 balls, including nine fours and one six.

His knock came after a lucky reprieve when Rashid Khan dropped him on six, diving at mid-on off Fazalhag Faroogi. Head capitalised on this opportunity and dominated the Afghanistan bowlers, particularly taking 28 runs off Farooqi's 17 balls.

Skipper Steve Smith was at the other end, playing a more measured knock with 19 not out from 22 balls, including two boundaries

With no result from this match, Afghanistan's chances are slim and would depend on the result of Saturday's match between South Africa and England.

If South Africa win, they will top the

group with five points. If England emerges victorious, South

Africa and Afghanistan will both finish on three points, leading to a net run-rate (NRR) calculation. Earlier in the day, Afghanistan posted

a competitive total of 273, largely due to Sediqullah Atal's gritty 85 and Azmatullah Omarzai's explosive 67.

Atal then took charge, initially struggling against Johnson's movement, but settling in with crisp cover drives and flicks.

He found a steady partner in Hashmatullah Shahidi, and together they stitched a 68-run stand, navigating Australia's spinners on a sluggish pitch. Atal brought up his second ODI fifty in style, launching Maxwell over mid-on for a six.

He later dismantled Zampa with two more sixes but fell 15 short of a maiden hundred, chipping a Johnson delivery to Steve Smith at short cover in the 32nd over.

His dismissal at 159/4 triggered a collapse, with skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi (20 off 49) falling soon after, and Mohammad Nabi getting run out in a bizarre fashion.

From 182/6, Afghanistan struggled to keep the momentum, and at 235/8 after Rashid's departure, they were staring at a modest total. All-rounder Omarzai, fresh from a match-winning 5/58 haul and 41-run contribution against England, then took charge.

Unfazed by the situation, the No. 6 batter played with calm assurance, reaching his eighth ODI fifty off 54 balls with a single off Dwarshuis in the 48th over.

U Mumba launches youth team Yuva Mumba to nurture talent and shape future of Indian Kabaddi

MUMBAI, Mar 1 (Agencies): Following their strong legacy in the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL), U Mumba has officially announced Yuva Mumba, a dedicated youth team aimed at developing the next generation of Kabaddi stars. This initiative marks a significant step in the franchise's long-term vision of nurturing young talent and strengthening the future of Indian Kabaddi, as per the U Mumba press release.

U Mumba has consistently focused on and backed young players, aiming to create a pipeline of talent. Yuva Mumba will now serve as the pipeline for emerging players to showcase their skills, with exposure to high-level competition. The team, which includes players aged between 18 and 23, features the New Young Players (NYPs) of U Mumba, alongside promising talent scouted meticulously from across the country. The likes of Mukilan S, Lokesh Ghosliya and Deepak Kundu, who have donned the U Mumba jersey in the past, will now be the mainstays of Yuva Mumba as well. Yuva Mumba will make its competitive debut in the Yuva Kabaddi Series All-Star Championship, a month-long tournament starting on 6th March in Haridwar. This will serve as a platform for the young athletes to showcase their talent. With newly-announced Head Coach Rakesh Kumar also keeping a close eye on proceedings, the competition will provide an opportunity to scout and identify potential future signings for U Mumba.

Speaking on the launch of Yuva Mumba, U Mumba's CEO Suhail Chandhok emphasised the franchise's commitment to long-term player development.

"U Mumba has always been home to a lot of fantastic talent, and we have been known to nurture and homegrown young talent. Whether it has been an Arjun Deshwal, Siddharth Desai, a younger Fazel Atrachali, or the likes of a Mohit & Surender or a Rishank Devadiga, U Mumba's homegrown talent has soared to great heights in the sport. We want to continue that pathway for a number of youngsters that continue to churn their way through the U Mumba stable. In that vein, we today launch Yuva Mumba, our Youth Squad, and we are very very excited about the future potential of the players that will emerge. With the depth of young talent that exists in the country, we hope that U Mumba can be the melting pot for all those youngsters under the age of 23, and have Yuva Mumba pave the way for the future stars of Indian kabaddi," Suhail Chandhok said as quoted by the U Mumba press release.

### Didn't expect such over-reliance: Ryan ten Doeschate hails India spinners for impact in CT

DUBAI, Mar 1 (Agencies): India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate acknowledged that they didn't expect 'over-reliance' on spin in the ongoing Champions Trophy. He also addressed the minimal probability of 300-plus scores on the Dubai strip and how the management operates within the Indian setup. India spinners have been the vanguard of India's bowling attack in the first two group-stage games. In the campaign opener against Bangladesh, Mohammed Shami led the ambush against Bangladesh batters with his fivewicket haul, but spinners remained the silent guardians.



a puzzle that Pakistan's star-studded line-up had no answer to. He has been the go-to figure returned with figures of in Dubai. Ryan expects 3/40 while the duo kept things silent during the middle overs. "Yes, I think so. Now, there are four spinners as well, so it could be a contest of spin. I think that coming into the competition, we weren't expecting such an overreliance on spin, but the guys have bowled nicely, and the pitch has

think it's around about 280-290, judging on the first two pitches," he added.

Ryan has been a part of head coach Gautam Gambhir's regime since the new era dawned on Indian cricket. The former Dutch cricketer has been part of the topsy-turvy journey from India's T20I dominance to a shambolic ODI series and back-to-back defeats against New Zealand and Australia

of experienced players there. So you've got to choose your words very carefully. You've got to know what you're talking about. And it's obviously got to be in their interest and the interest of Indian cricket. So it's a continual work on. You can't go there with rubbish. Like I said, I think it's working pretty well, and as a coaching group, we're getting better at it," he added.

Batting coach Sitanshu Kotak became Gam-

The introduction of Yuva Mumba aligns with the franchise's broader goal of strengthening grassroots kabaddi and creating opportunities for young athletes to transition into the professional circuit. Carrying forward the iconic orange and black colours of U Mumba, Yuva Mumba is set to bring the same fearless, high-energy approach to the YKS All-Star Championship.

Axar Patel had two scalps to his name, while Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav kept the run flow in check by maintaining their economy under 5.00.

In the high-voltage clash between India and Pakistan, the spinners kept the defending champions at bay and struck at crucial junctures. 'Chinaman' spinner Kuldeep remained

helped a little bit. So I'm sure it's going to be the same for the next game in two days' time," Ryan said on the impact of spinners while speaking to reporters. Unlike Pakistan's venues, Dubai's turf

hasn't been helpful to batters. While Pakistan has hosted numerous

the trend to continue in Dubai and sees a score around 280-290 as the ideal fit for the surface. "Look, I won't say it's difficult. I think we've become used to a standard where you score 320 without thinking too much about it. So, getting to 320 has been difficult. The pitch played slightly differently, in our opinion, in those two games. But there are probably like 280-290 pitches if you bat it really well. So, in the bigger picture, it's not like playing in Pakistan, where you expect to get 320-330. But you've got to adapt yourself and get a score that's good on these wickets, and we

es, a total of around 270

in the lest format.

After a turbulent year, Ryan shared his experience of working in the Indian setup and believes "progression" is truly in place.

"Yeah, I think progression is probably the keyword there. You come into a new environment, and you need to earn the players' respect and the players' trust. That does take a bit of time. I think it certainly helps when you're winning as well. Players are a lot more open to listening to you and listening to new ideas. And I think it's going in the right direction now," he said. "I think you've got a lot bir's latest recruit after the Border-Gavaskar Trophy debacle. Ryan shed light on how the management operates and splits the workload. "Obviously, with Kotak

coming in now, he's taking care of the batting. So, between the five of us, we're just trying to disseminate the same message. I think consistency in the messaging, I think we're very clear as a team on how we want to play. It's just making sure the messaging is consistent and the players are striving towards the same thing all the time. Between the five of us," he said.

### Familiarity advantage for India in Champions Trophy: Robin Uthappa

#### Pakistani pitches flat, Dubai slower, but India in good shape

NEW DELHI, Mar 1 (Agencies): Former India opener Robin Uthappa believes that the Indian team has a "familiarity" advantage of playing all their Champions Trophy campaign matches at Dubai International Stadium. "I will not say it's a home advantage, but there is definitely an advantage of familiarity. I heard an interview where former India opener Wasim Jaffer was saying that there could have been one match in Abu Dhabi, one in Dubai, and one in Sharjah, and definitely that could have been done so that other teams couldn't find a reason to complain," said Uthappa. He further added, "However, we must ask why we didn't go to Pakistan? Because of the geo-political situation. And each country has their right to decide if they don't want to travel to a particular nation. If one country ends up playing in one venue, then so be it. India could have complained that

had they played on flat Pakistani pitches, their record could have been nicer. Each batsman would have got an opportunity to score heavily. You may say whatever, but at the end of the day, cricket is a contest between bat and ball, and the team which plays well on that day wins. And those who complain, you can sense their mental state. It becomes so obvious."

Uthappa and current UAE head coach Lalchand Rajput have a reunion ahead of the India-New Zealand game in Dubai.

The duo, who was part of India's inaugural 2007 T20 World Cup winning team under the leadership of MS Dhoni, spoke at length about the importance of happiness in life. They spoke at the launch of a book - Life Lessons from Cricket. The book has been written by senior journalist Vimal Kumar along with Ashish Ambasta. The foreword of the book has been written

by former India coach Greg Chappell, and the preface by 2011 World Cup winning support staff Paddy Upton. Meanwhile, on India's preference for semifinal opponent, the former opener added: "Genuinely, as a cricketer, it does not matter to us who is going to be our opponent. We as a team should focus on our form, strength, and the mood of the team, which is more important than who we are going to face or the pitches we are going to play on. They will concentrate on what we are going to do to win the game.'

Rajput Rajput also seconded Uthappa and maintained that Pakistani pitches are flat. "See, there is definitely an advantage as one team is playing all matches in one venue. But if you look closely, Pakistani pitches are flat while Dubai is on the slower side, and it will take some effort to get used to these conditions quickly," he said.

On the upcoming clash with New Zealand, Rajput added: "See, for a coach, there is nothing called an inconsequential game, as you want your team to win every match and want to play your best players unless there is an injury or workload management. When you are having a good run, it's important to maintain the momentum. Sometimes when you qualify and make changes, and if we lose, then in the next game there is the same kind of pattern (like lack of rhythm), and hence when you are having a good time, we have to finish, we should always be on top." He also appreciated Virat Kohli and Indian skipper Rohit Sharma. "To be very honest, I had predicted very early that he (Kohli) would break Sachin Tendulkar's record. He still has got the same hunger and passion, and 300 is a lot of games. He is still so fit and every run is so important for him, and he values

his wicket. That is why he is number 1," he added. "As a captain, he (Rohit) is the best so far with young players. He keeps the dressing room very happy. Because he allows the batsmen to perform well and doesn't put any pressure, and he is a jolly mood fellow. He keeps the mood very light, and that is what you saw in the West Indies when India won the T20 World Cup. Apart from the captain, he is also a friend, philosopher, and guide for many players. So, I think this CT will be another feather in his cap. And the way India has played so far, I do believe that there is another global trophy India can win."

Former India opener VVS Laxman and IPL chairman Arun Dhumal have spoken glowingly about the book. Besides the topic of Life Lessons from cricket, both guests spoke on some important topics of the ongoing Champions Trophy in Dubai.

# LOCAL/ADVT

# **Tejinder Pal Singh Aman felicitated by YNC Activists in Samba**

#### **Top News Report**

SAMBA, Mar 1: Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President of Youth National Conference (YNC), was felicitated on Saturday by the YNC activists of District Samba for his recent nomination as the Provincial President YNC Jammu.

The event witnessed an enthusiastic gathering of party workers and supporters who expressed their confidence in his leadership and vision for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Expressing gratitude for the warm reception and the support of YNC activists, Tejinder Pal Singh reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening the party at the grassroots level. He called upon the youth to

actively participate in the political process and work collectively to address the challenges faced by the region.

Singh emphasized that the YNC would continue to fight for the rights of every section of society and ensure inclusive



development across Jammu and Kashmir.

During his visit, Tejinder Pal Singh held an interactive session with members of the Gujjar community, who voiced their concerns regarding the inclusion of their land in the upcoming Cluster University project in Samba. The community members highlighted the potential

displacement and loss of livelihood they might face due to the project.

They urged the YNC leadership to intervene and safeguard their rights. Teiinder Pal Singh assured the community that their issues would be taken up with the party high command. The YNC activists of Samba District expressed their confidence in Tejinder Pal Singh's

leadership and pledged their full support in strengthening the party's presence in the region. The visit concluded with slo-

gans of unity and commitment to the party's vision of equitable development for all. Those who were present

included: Rajesh Pargotra Senior leader, Muzamil Malik, Sunil Sharma, Jaseen Malik, Sakib YNC Leaders and others.



dailv life

The primary objec-

tive of the event was to

foster scientific curiosity

among students raise

awareness about the

significance of science

and enhance public

understanding of scien-

Science is vital for the

development and prog-

ress of nations and it

forms the backbone of

Today's scientific

innovations are tomor-

row's technologies,

which have drastically

improved the quality of

The event aimed to

inspire young minds to

pursue scientific fields

for a brighter and more

sustainable future. The

life.

a progressive society.

tific advancements.

**National Science Day** 

#### **Top News Report**

POONCH, Mar 1: As part of its ongoing commitment to engage and empower local communities, the Indian Army marked National Science Day on Saturday at Government Higher Secondary School, Fatehpur, Haribudha District Poonch.

National Science Day is observed annually on 1st March to commemorate the discovery of the "Raman Effect" made by the eminent physicist Sir CV Raman in 1928.

Since 1986, India has celebrated this day to acknowledge scientific achievements and promote awareness of science's crucial role in

event was witnessed participation from local school faculty and community leaders who lauded the Indian Army's efforts in organizing such an enriching experience for the children of this remote region.

12

Poster painting was conducted to involve students in creative activity on this occasion. Students participated with full enthusiasm and were made aware of employment and growth opportunities in upcoming era of science and technology.

The teachers and the students expressed their gratitude for this initiative to Indian Army which provided a platform to discuss global advancements in science and technology and their pivotal role in fostering a secure and progressive society. They vowed to carry forward the message and apply it in their future.

# **ABVP J&K demands** justice for paramedical students

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 1: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu and Kashmir has strongly condemned the delay in the completion of the Paramedical course for the batch of 2020. Despite successfully completing their final exams, students are being sub-

jected to an extended internship period, causing undue hardship and affecting their future career prospects.

Expressing concern over the issue, Sannak Shrivats, State Secretary of ABVP Jammu Kashmir, stated, "We demand that the Allied and Healthcare Council take immediate action to address the grievances of the Paramedical students. The students have already faced a delay of one and a

half years in completing their course, and further prolonging their internship period is unacceptable."

ABVP Jammu Kashmir has put forth the demands to the university administration asking to count the extra clinical postings attended by students during their course as part of their internship period, reduce the internship period to compensate for the delay in course completion, and issue a valid degree and internship certificate to students immediately after their final exams.

The organization has urged the authorities to take a sympathetic view of the students' struggles and ensure swift action to resolve their grievances. ABVP has reaffirmed its commitment to fighting for students' rights and ensuring that justice is served.

# **Illegal 'constructions' going on in Qazigund; Admin silent**

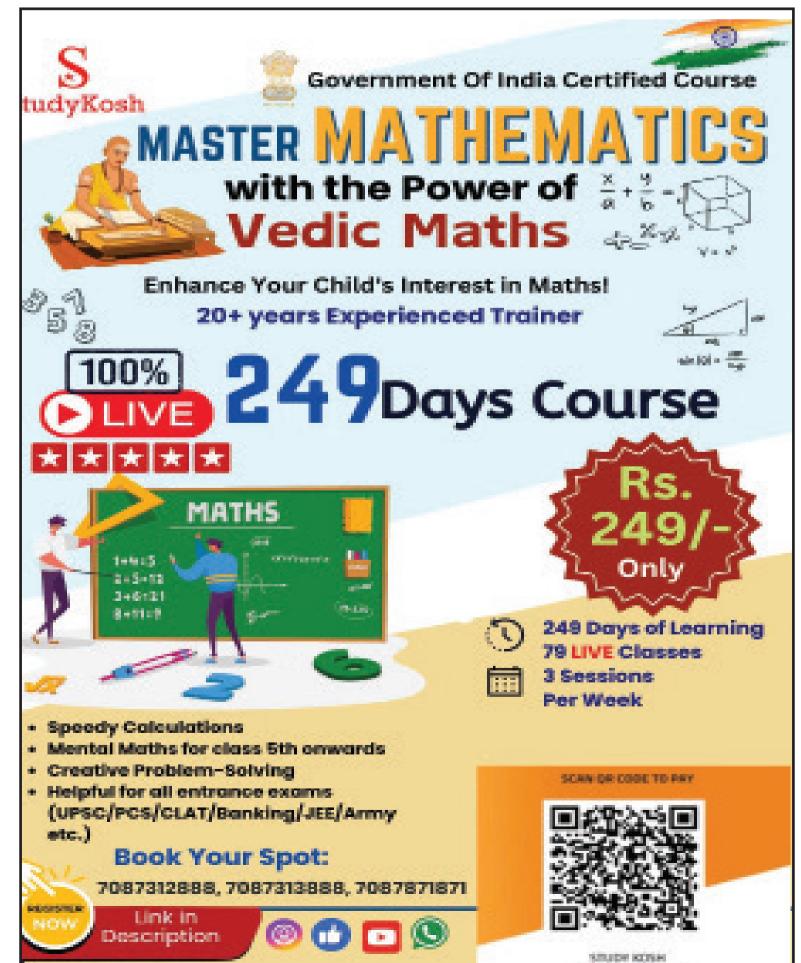
#### Matter taken up with higher ups for necessary action: Tehsildar **Top News Report**

QAZIGUND, Mar 1: Illegal constructions continued unabated in Qazigund, mainly along the National Highway, as the administration has failed in acting against the accused.

Credible sources informed that some influential people continue to raise constructions in Qazigund area of South Kashmiri's Anantnag district. They said that in Qazigund belt some influential persons have completed the constructions of residential cum commercial structures but the revenue officers despite being informed timely couldn't demolish the illegally raised structures.

Highly placed sources informed that violators are Hand in glove with the administration before staring the raising the constructions in the area. "These constructions come up literally under the supervision of revenue officers," they said.

"I have already taken up the matter with ADC Anantnag for necessary action. We will take strict action against those who are violating government orders," said Khurshid Tantray, Tehsildar Qazigund.



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### organizes lecture on National Science Day-2025

**GGM Science College** 



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 1: On the occasion of National Science Day, the Research Committee in collaboration with Institution's innovation council of GGM Science College Jammu organised a one lecture on the topic "Graphene: The wonder material in Nanotechnology for Viksit Bharat" in connection with theme of the year "Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science & Innovation for Viksit Bharat" under the guidance of Principal Prof. (Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta).

The theme of the year resonates as both a call to action and a vision for the future Viksit Bharat. More than 100 students from different semesters of the college enthusiastically attended the program and interacted during the session.

Dr. Vishal Singh, Assistant Professor, Central University of Jammu acted as a resource

person and gave an insightful lecture on the potential of graphene as a revolutionary material. Graphene is indeed a game-changer in various fields such as electronics, energy storage, and even healthcare. By emphasizing its importance, especially in shaping India's future as a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India), he also inspired the students to explore its vast possibilities. His call to recognize the groundbreaking contributions in India's scientific community might have encouraged students to actively engage in research and innovation.

Dr. Ajay Singh Dadwal, Convener (Research Committee and Institution's innovation council mentioned of Dr. C.V. Raman's ground-breaking discovery of the Raman Effect in his welcome address is a great way to honour India's rich scientific heritage. The Raman Effect,

which explains the scattering of light and its interaction with matter, opened new doors in the field of spectroscopy and continues to have wide-ranging applications in science and technology today.

Prof. (Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta), Principal of the college, highlighted the contribution of Indian scientists to various fields, benefiting mankind and appreciated the efforts by the Research Committee and Institution's innovation council and encouraged the committee members for organizing such events in the future also.

Others faculty members who attended the lecture were Dr. R.K. Bhatt, Dr. Balwinder Kaur, Dr. Devinder Kumar, Dr. Bikampal Singh, Dr. Arti Sharma, Dr. Varun, Dr. Ridham Bakshi, and Dr Deepika. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Ajay Singh Dadwal.