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"Spend less time worrying about Putin, and more time worrying about migrants," Trump



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BRIEFLY

Gulmarg to host khelo India winter games from March 9-12

SRINAGAR, Mar 3 (Agencies): Gulmarg is set to host the second leg of the 5th Khelo India Winter Games from March 9 to 12 after the event was postponed due to inadequate snow, officials said on Monday.

An official said that the event will feature over 300 athletes from across the country, competing in various winter sports, including alpine skiing, Nordic skiing, ski mountaineering, and snowboarding.

He said that all necessary arrangements have been finalised, ensuring a seamless experience for athletes and visitors alike.

Snowfall in Kashmir reaches as rain lashes J&K

SRINAGAR, Mar 3 (Agencies): Rain lashed the plains, while higher reaches received fresh snowfall on Monday in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Meteorological (MeT) office has forecast light to moderate rain and snow in higher reaches on Monday, adding that a few higher reaches in north and central Kashmir might receive moderate to heavy snowfall.

The weather is expected to remain mostly dry from March 4 to March 9, while a fresh spell of rain and snow is expected between March 10 and March 12.

Rain and snow during the last seven days has set at rest the fears of a prolonged dry spell resulting in drought in the union territory this year.

The water level in rivers, streams, lakes, springs and other water bodies has improved considerably. Some of the perennial springs that had dried up due to the prolonged dry spell for 50 days in January and February have again started flowing with water.

The weather woes had started when Kashmir witnessed just one major snowfall during the 40-day long period of harsh winter cold called the 'Chillai Kalan' that starts each year on December 21 and ends on January 30.

It is this snowfall during the 40-day long period of harsh winter cold that replenishes the perennial water reservoirs in the mountains and provides abundant water.

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JK Government prioritises Statehood, Economic Growth, and Good Governance: LG Sinha Addresses Legislative Assembly

Rajiv

JAMMU, Mar 3: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today, marking the commencement of the newly elected body. In a comprehensive address, the Lt Governor reiterated the government's dedication to restoring full statehood, fostering economic growth, upholding the region's composite culture, and ensuring good governance throughout the Union Territory.

Sinha began by congratulating the elected representatives, recognizing their pivotal role in fulfilling the people's aspirations for peace, progress, and prosperity. He emphasised the significance of the budget session as a demonstration of commitment to transparency, inclusive development, and good governance.

Lt Governor Shri Manoj Sinha administered the oath of office and secrecy to Chief Minister Shri Omar Abdullah at the swearing-in-ceremony held at SKICC, Srinagar (1)

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister shaking hands after he was given the oath of office and secrecy at



SKICC On October 16, 2024.

The Lt Governor emphasised the historical importance of this budget, noting it's the first in over seven years to be presented by an elected government. He said it symbolises the people's power, prepared by their elected representatives, and reflects their hopes for a brighter future.

"This budget is not merely a financial document; it is a testament to the aspirations of the masses, reflecting their hopes for a brighter future!" Sinha said.

He highlighted that, for the first time, the Chief Minister personally chaired meetings for all twenty districts, directly engaging with elected representatives to understand their aspirations, regional needs,

and development priorities in budget formulation. He emphasized that this participatory governance ensures the needs and aspirations of the common person remain central to policymaking.

Addressing the paramount aspiration of the people, Lt Governor Sinha reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to restoring full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"My Government remains steadfast in its commitment to addressing this legitimate desire of the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir," he said. "My Government recognises the emotional and political significance of Statehood and is actively engaging with all stakeholders to facilitate this process to ensure peace,

stability, and progress."

Sinha also emphasised the government's commitment to preserving the unity in diversity that defines Jammu and Kashmir and to maintaining peace and harmony, protecting the aspirations of the people from divisive influences and cultivating an inclusive society built on mutual respect.

Lt Governor Sinha outlined the government's commitment to fulfilling its promises, focusing on political empowerment, employment creation, sustainable development, social inclusiveness, and economic expansion. He emphasized the importance of balancing economy, ecology, and equity for a better future. He stressed that the government's interven-

tions would prioritize youth, women, and farmers, striving to make Jammu and Kashmir a progressive and inclusive economy, working towards the welfare of every section of society, especially the poor and marginalised.

The Lt Governor highlighted significant advancements in infrastructure, including the inauguration of the Sonamarg Tunnel (Z-Morh) and the completion of segments of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. He stressed the commitment to fast-tracking major connectivity projects, including expressways, national highways, and ring roads, streamlining land acquisition and addressing encroachment issues. Furthermore, eligible rural habitations are being linked under

the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project is poised to transform connectivity, integrating Jammu and Kashmir more closely with the rest of the nation. To enhance air connectivity, evening flights have been made operational, and the expansion of Jammu Airport is underway.

Recognising the untapped potential of Jammu and Kashmir's water resources, the Lt Governor stated the government's commitment to harnessing their full potential to enhance people's lives and the region's financial position. Key hydropower projects like Pakal Dul, Kiru, Kwar, and Ratle are expected to significantly strengthen the region's energy security, with other projects like Dulhasti-II and Kirthai-I in the pipeline. The government is also committed to solarizing all government buildings in a phased manner and is implementing the PM-Surya Ghar Muft Biji Yojana.

The Lt Governor emphasised the government's commitment to providing clean and safe drinking water to every household through the Jal Jeevan Mission. He

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Omar Abdullah rules out alliance with BJP, citing 'Different Vision' for J&K



SRINAGAR, Mar 3 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah clarified that there are currently no plans for an alliance with the BJP, emphasizing the party's commitment to its own political vision.

"We are not talking about any alliance

(with the BJP); neither is there any scope nor the need. Our thoughts also do not align. If we talk about J&K, our thoughts are vastly different... We will hold discussions on everything (during the session)," he said. Meanwhile, today, the Chief Minister addressed the first

Budget session in the Jammu Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

While addressing the assembly, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah praised former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, highlighting his contributions to India's economic growth and key welfare initiatives.

"Manmohan Singh ji was born in undivided India. He went to Oxford and Cambridge and started as an officer and finance minister and then PM. When he became finance minister, our country was going through an economic crisis. Today we

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Jammu Kashmir Assembly: Mubarak Gul pushes for free services for former MLAs

SRINAGAR, Mar 3 (Agencies): Former Speaker and MLA Eidgah, Mubarak Gul, on Monday demanded free medical treatment and transportation services for former legislators of Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the government to extend these benefits on par with those provided to former parliamentarians.

Gul made these remarks during obituary references on the first day of the budget session.

He said that former leg-



islators of Jammu and Kashmir, after completing their tenure, struggle to resume normal life due to prevailing uncertainties, unlike their counterparts in other parts of the country.

"A former legislator cannot engage in routine

business. He cannot sit in a shop or any other place. Anyone can attack him. This is the reality of the situation. That is why I urge the government to establish a comprehensive mechanism for former legislators," Gul said.

He added, "In many states and even in Parliament, former members receive free medical treatment and transportation services. We seek a similar arrangement for the former legislators of Jammu and Kashmir."

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BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS OF

Sardani Mohinder Pal Kour who left for heavenly abode on February 23, 2025
Aarambh Shri Akhand Paath Sahib- 2nd March 2025 Time - 9 am at our residence B 119 Sainik Colony, Jammu
Bhog Shri Akhand Paath Sahib- Tuesday, 4th March, 2025 at 9.30 am at our residence
Shabad Kirtan from 10.30am -12.30 PM.
Followed by **Guru Ka Langar** at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Sainik Colony, Jammu
GRIEF STRICKEN
(Son and Daughter-in-law)
Lt. Gen. R. S. Reen & Satbir Kour
(Sons-in-law and Daughters)
Dr. Balbir Singh & Sunita Kaur
S Satvinder Singh & Sangeeta Kaur
And the entire family
Contact: 9449818993, 9481202660



SARDANI MOHINDER PAL KOUR

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we would like to inform about the untimely demise of **Sh. Mohan Shah S/o (Late) Sh. Prem Nath Shah** of Martand, Mattan District Anantnag, Kashmir, at present House No. 5, Lane 1, Adarsh Nagar, Paloura, Jammu.
Tenth Day falls on 10-03-2025 and will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat. **Assembly** will be held at residence at 11:30 am.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Suman Shah- Wife
Smt. Pyari and Mr. Maharaj Shah- **Sister-In-Law and Brother**
Mrs. Sheetal and Mr. Rohin Ji- **Sister and Brother in Law**
Mrs. Poonam and Ankit Chaturvedi - **Sister and Brother in Law**
Mrs Ruchi and Mr. Rakesh Thusoo- **Sister and Brother in Law**
Smt. Nisha and Sh. Amit Shah- **Daughter in Law and Son**
Contact: 9999361796, 9419279629, 9906730378



Sh. Mohan Shah

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our dear-
Sh Roop Krishan Ganjoo (Retd AGM BSNL Jammu) S/o Late Pream Nath Ganjoo erstwhile resident of Agahamam Lane Habbakadal Srinagar Kashmir, presently at Saptagiri Sanghvi Hills Anand Nagar Ghodbunder Road Thane West- 400615 (Mumbai) on 26-02-2025 early hour.
The **10th, 11th & 12th Day Kriya** of the pious soul will be performed at Haridwar on 6th, 7th & 8th March 2025.
Deeply Remembered By
SAMAST GANJOO & HAUSTU PARIVAR
9819008235 (MUNU)
9819389020 (MONU)
9819003735 (DEEPU)



Sh Roop Krishan Ganjoo (Retd AGM BSNL Jammu)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

The **Tenth Day Kriya** of **Smt. Gunwati Peer** W/o Lt. Sh. Jia Lal Peer, former resident of Reshi Peer, Balyar, Alikadal, Srinagar and at present residing at 211, lane-K, Sector-2, Durga Nagar, Roop Nagar Jammu will be performed on Wednesday, 5th of March at Akhnoor Ghat.
Subsequently the **Assembly** will be held at Muthi Ghat at 12 noon.
IN MOURNING
(Son and Daughter-in-law)
Sh. B.N. Peer (Saheb Ji) and Smt. Pooja Peer # 9419187691
(Daughters and Sons-in-law)
Smt. Tosha Raina (Jigga) and Sh. M.K.Raina # 9419626085
Smt. Vijay Chhangoo (Guddi) and Sh. M.K. Chhangoo # 700698690
Grand Children and Great Grand Children
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY
PEERS AND RAINA'S (Wadhwan) & TIKOO'S (Wadhwan)



Smt. Gunwati Peer

TENTH DAY/KIRYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Rano Devi** W/o Sh. Des Raj Khajuria R/o House No 144-B, Ram Vihar, Near Monalisa Showroom, Old Janipur Jammu on 23rd of February, 2025.
10th Day will be observed at our residence on Monday, 3rd March, 2025 at 11.00 am to 12.00 noon.
Kirya will be performed at our residence on Tuesday, 4th March, 2025 from 11.00 A.M.
RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA will be performed on Friday, 7th March, 2025 at Prachin Shiv Mandir, Pandoka Colony (on Patoli-Paloura Road) from 3 P.M to 4 P.M.
Grief Stricken:-
Des Raj Khajuria (Retd Tehsildar) (Husband)
Daughters-in-laws & Sons
Veenu & Vijay Khajuria (LIC of India)
Rohini (Govt. Teacher) & Ashwani Khajuria, JKAS (Director Hospitality & Protocol, J&K)
Daughters & Son-in-laws
Darshana Sharma & Late Sh Ashok Sharma
Sureshtha Sharma & Sh Madan Lal Sharma (Ashoka Dry fruits Railway Station Jammu)
Sunita Khajuria (Govt. Teacher) & Sh Agninder Bakshi, (Executive Engineer, SIDCO J&K)
Grand Children:- Marvi, Asthva, Aanvi & Danish, Anyansh, Rahul & Ruby, Aana & Rahul, Preeti & Puneet, Sukriti & Kanav, Abhishek, Abhey, Neha Bakshi
Mob.9419804945, 9419154693, 9419170818, 9419133864



Smt. Rano Devi

10TH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Late Sh. Hari Saran Sharma (Panthal Wale)** S/o Late Sh. Karan Chand R/o House No. 118, W/o 6, Lane No. 2, Karan Nagar, Railway Road, Udhampur.
10TH DAY will be performed on 4 March (Tuesday), 2025 at 11:30 a.m. at Pine Villa Guest House, Karan Nagar, Udhampur.
KRIYA will be performed on 5th March (Wednesday), 2025 at 12:00 noon at Devika Ghat, Udhampur.
Rasam Pagri will be performed on 5th March 2025 (Wednesday) at 4 pm at our residence Karan Nagar, Udhampur.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Son and Daughter-in-law
Sh. Vidhu Bhushan Sharma and Smt. Neeru Sharma
Daughters and Son-in-law
Smt. Madhu Sharma and Sh. Ashwin Koushal
Smt. Manjula Sharma and Sh. Ashok Mathur
Smt. Meenakshi Sharma and Sh. Chander Sharma
Grand Children: Vipasha, Shrisht, Nigank, Avri, Minerva, Aasha, Dvishree, Rushi
Phone No: 9419104621, 9419194921



LATE SH. HARI SARAN SHARMA (PANTHAL WALE)

TENTH DAY KRIYA & PRAYER MEETING

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you that **Shri Awtar Krishan Malik**, formerly a resident of 10-Hazuri Bagh, Lane No-6, Bohri, Jammu, recently residing at E-406, Satisar Apartment, Plot No-6, Sector-7, Dwarka, New Delhi, left for his heavenly abode on Wednesday, 26th Feb, 2025.
A prayer meeting will be held at the Community Centre, Satisar Apartment, Plot No-6, Sector-7, Dwarka, New Delhi, on Friday, March 7, 2025, between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM.
The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Ganga Canal, Muradnagar, Uttar Pradesh, on Friday, March 7, 2025, at 8:00 AM.
SAMASTH MALIK FAMILY, NEAR & DEAR ONES.
CONTACT: 8878717000



Shri Awtar Krishan Malik

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

"The world changes from year to year, our lives from day to day, but the love and memory of you, shall never pass away".
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our dear-
Smt. Shashi Jamwal W/o Lt. Sh. Padam Dev Singh Jamwal R/o H. No. 29, Near Satya Narayan Street, Panjirthi.
Tenth Day will be performed on 2nd March 2025 at Radha Krishna Mandir, Rani Park, at 10:30 AM.
Kriya will be performed at our residence on 5th March at 12 noon.
Uthala will be performed at Swamkar Sabha, Panjirthi on 5th March from 4 pm to 5 pm.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
(Son & Daughter-in-law)
Mr. Bhupeshwar Singh & Mrs. Poonam Jamwal
Sheveta Jamwal - (Daughter)
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-
JAMWAL & BANDRAL FAMILY
Contact No. 7889625082



SMT. SHASHI JAMWAL

RASAM UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our respected **Sh. Jatinder Kumar Sharma** on 24th Feb. 2025.
The **Uthala** will take place on Wednesday 5th March, 2025 between 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm at our residence Ward No. 4, near JK Bank Bhaddu, Billawar Kathua, J&K (Pin 184203)
Grief Stricken
Vinod Bala- Wife
Son - Daughter-in-Law
Abhinandan - Sukanya Sharma
Grand Son: Arindam Sharma, Aahan Sharma
Daughter - Son-in-Law
Akreeti - Pankaj Mansotra
Aditi - Sanjay Sharma
Grand Son & Daughter
Swayam Mansotra, Aarya Mansotra, Cynthia Sharma



Sh. Jatinder Kumar Sharma (1954-2025)

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Kishni Koul** W/o Late Mr. Narinder Nath Koul R/o House No - 160, Phase II, Victoria Estate, Defence Road, Near Partap World School, Pathankot, Punjab and originally from Chinkral Mohalla, Habba Kadal, Srinagar.
10th Day Kriya shall be performed at Barfani Mandir, National Highway, Near Nalwa Bridge, Pathankot, on Thursday, the 8th March at 10:00 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sister in Law
Smt. Subash Koul W/o Lt. J. L. Koul
Son and Daughter in law
Suman Koul & Sunita Koul
7889436974, 9417249642
Daughter & Son in law
Rita Koul & Avtar K Koul
Anjali Kotru w/o Lt. Sushil Kotru
Suresha Raina & Sanjay Raina
Jyoti Pandita & Biloo Pandita



Smt. Kishni Koul

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Bushan Lal Bhat**, S/o Late Sh. Brij Nath Bhat, originally from village Tengpona, Pulwama, who departed for his heavenly abode on 25th February 2025 at his residence, H.No. 157/3, Sector 2, Dreamcity, Muthi, Jammu.
The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on Wednesday, 5th March 2025, at Akhnoor, Jammu. The **Assembly** will take place at Muthi Ghat, near the Directorate of Education, Jammu at 10:00 AM.
Grief Stricken:
Smt. Binla Bhat (Wife)
Smt. Sheela Bhat W/o Late Sh. M.L. Bhat (Bhabi)
Smt. & Sh. Chaman Lal Bhat (Bhabi & Brother)
Smt. & Sh. Janki Nath Bhat (Sister & Brother-in-law)
Rinkoo Bhat & Anita Bhat- **Son & Daughter-in-law**
Ajay Bhat & Anupama Bhat- **Son & Daughter-in-law**
Rajni & Arvind Bhat- **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Grandchildren, near and dear ones
Samast Koul & Bhat Parivar
Contact: 8803175309, 9004015168



Sh. Bushan Lal Bhat

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow we inform you the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Shri Prithvi Nath Pandita** S/o Late Sh. Vasudev R/o Rana Gora Handwara Kupwara Kashmir at present Flat No.09/C Purkoo camp Dornara Jammu. He left for the heavenly abode on 23rd February 2025 Sunday in Gurgaon.
The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Gauri Shankar Mandir New Palms Vihar Sector 109 block T near pillar No. P54 Dwarka Express Gurgaon Haryana on 4th March 2025 at 8:30 a.m. and the assembly shall take place at our residence H.No. 140/348 Gali No. 18 Ashok Vihar phase 2 Gurgaon Haryana at 11 a.m.
GRIEF STRICKEN
(Sons & Daughter-in-law)
Shri Bansil Lal & Meenakshi
Shri Sudever & Rinku
(Daughters & Son-in-law)
Smt. Nancy & Sh. Rattan Lal Pandita
Smt. Roopa & Sh. M. K. Raina
Smt. Indu Pandita & Sh. Heera Lal Pandita
DEEPLY SADDENED BY: Mehak, Sachin, Shagun, Riya, Shivi and Gungun.
MOBILE NO: 991080723, 7006196152, 7006792856, 7006395233



SHRI PRITHVI NATH PANDITA

OBITUARY (IN LAWS SIDE)

WITH DEEP SENSE OF GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM OUR NEAR & DEAR ONES ABOUT THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELoved (PAPA) **SH. SH. ROOP KRISHAN GANJOO (RETD AGM BSNL)** S/O- LATE SHRI PREAM NATH GANJOO OF AGAHAMAM LANE HABBAKADAL SRINAGAR KASHMIR & PRESENTLY RESIDING AT SAPTAGIRI SANGHVI HILLS, ANAND NAGAR GHODBUNDER ROAD, THANE WEST MUMBAI- 400615 ON 26-02-2025.
THE **10TH/11TH/12TH DAY KRIYA** OF THE PIOUS/NOBLE SOUL WILL BE PERFORMED AT HARIDWAR ON 06TH / 7TH & 8TH MARCH 2025 RESPECTIVELY.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
SHRI J.L. RAJA & SMT. USHU LAKSHMI RAJA
SHRI RATTAN LAL RAJA & SMT. RAJ DULAR
SHRI BRISHU LAL RAJA & SMT. SUSHILA RAJA
SMT. RAMA SAPROO
SMT. NOLA RAJA
SMT. REETA RAJA
(ORIGINALLY FROM KHAR DHOR / POST OFFICE LINE HABBA KADAL)
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-
SAMAST WEST WILLY RAMAN DHAR SAPROO PARIVAR
CONTACT DETAILS:-
RATTAN LAL RAJA @ 908870208
BRISHU LAL RAJA @ 987420007
SMT. REETA RAJA @ 979791527
SMT. ANKIT MANI RAJA @ 987663038
WE PRAY TO ALMIGHTY GOD TO BESTOW ETERNAL PEACE UPON TO THE DEPARTED SOUL & COURAGE TO THE FAMILY MEMBERS TO BEAR THIS IRREPARABLE LOSS



SH. ROOP KRISHAN GANJOO (RETD AGM BSNL)

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Phoola Ji** W/o Sh. Hirday Nath Bhat of village Hawal Pulwama at present H.No. 168 Sector I near JKB ATM Durga Nagar on 26-02-2025.
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 07-03-2025 and **Assembly** will be held at our residence H.No. 168, Sector I, Durga Nagar Jammu at 11.30 am.
Grief Stricken
Smt. Phoola Ji
Sh. Hirday Nath Bhat- Husband
Smt. Sunita Mattoo & Sh. Ashok Mattoo - **Daughter & Son-in-Law**
Smt. Sujata & Sh. Sanjay Bhat- **Son & Daughter-in-Law**
Smt. Shanta Bhat W/o Late Justice M.L. Bhat
Smt. Shama Ji Kachroo W/o Late J.L. Kachroo
Smt. Santosh & Sh. G.L. Bhat
Smt. Tosha Ji W/o Late P.K. Bhat
Grand Children: Snehal Mattoo, Saitu Bhat, Kartike, Iyish Mattoo



Smt. Phoola Ji

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Grand Mother **Smt Kishni Koul** W/o Late Narinder Nath Koul R/o H. No 160 Phase II, Victoria Estate, Defence Road, Near Partap World School, Pathankot, Punjab and Originally from Chinkral Mohalla, Habba Kadal, Srinagar.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sukriti, Vikram, Mokshak, Tejasvini, Abhishek, Ymberzal, Srishti, Yashasvini, Heather, Saubhagya and **Great Grand Daughter Wamika.**



Smt Kishni Koul

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we deeply regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Pyari (Shama Bhat)** W/o Lt. Sh. Makhan Lal Bhat originally resident of Fatehpura Anantnag (Kmr.) at present H.No. C/113, Sector-2 near M.Dass School Durga Nagar Jammu.
The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 09.03.2025 (Sunday) and the Mourning Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Director School of Education at 10.30 A.M.
Grief Stricken
Dolly Bhat (Daughter-in-law)
Son & Daughter-in-law
Ravinder Bhat & Princy Bhat
Priyanka Bhat, Pranoy Bhat & Dewanshi Bhat (Grand children)
Contact No. 9419131406, 8717031596



Smt. Pyari (Shama Bhat)

ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **S. Dalip Singh, Retd. Headmaster** S/o Late Girdawar Lakhmir Singh R/o Basti Bhanteen, Miran Sahib on 24/2/2025.
Aramb Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 3/3/2025 (Monday) at 9 am.
Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 5/3/2025 (Wednesday) at 9 am at our home.
Kirtan and Antim Ardas will be performed at Gurudwara Sahib Basti Bhanteen on 5/3/2025 from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sdn. & S. Gurcharan Singh
Sdn. & S. Jasbir Singh
Sdn. & S. Amarjeet Singh (Chandigarh)
Sdn. & S. Amardeep Singh



S. Dalip Singh (Retd. Headmaster)

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Budget Session 2025:

Legislative Assembly pays glowing tributes to former PM, legislators

Top News Report

The Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir, which convened today for Budget Session, paid glowing tributes to former Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, other former parliamentarians and legislators who passed away since the last session.

During the Obituary references, the Speaker remembered the contribution of former Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh in shaping the economy of the country. He remembered him as a statesman, whose contribution to this



Nation will be remembered forever.

The Speaker also paid glowing tributes to former Minister, Syed

Ghulam Hussain Geelani; former MP, Shamsher Singh Manhas; former MLAs, Ghulam Hassan Parrey and

Choudhary Paira Singh.

During the obituary reference, MLAs, Mubarak Gul, Sham Lal Sharma,

Dr. Narinder Singh, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, Abdul Majeed Larmi, Mohd Rafiq Naikoo, Vikram Randhawa, Nizamuddin Bhat, Satish Kumar Sharma and Iftikhar Ahmed also paid tributes to former Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and other former parliamentarians and legislators who passed since the last session was convened.

The Speaker and members of the house also held two minute silence in their remembrance.

Budget Session-2025:

Speaker nominates panel of Chairmen



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: The Speaker Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather today

announced the panel of Chairmen for the ensuing Budget session.

The Speaker named MLA Eidgah, Mubarak Gul; MLA Kulgam,

Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami and MLA, Samba, Surjeet Singh Slathia. Earlier, the Speaker tabled the Lieutenant Governor's address before the house for discussion.

NC acting as extension of BJP in Jammu and Kashmir: Mehbooba Mufti



SRINAGAR, Mar 3 (Agencies): Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief Mehbooba Mufti on Monday accused the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference (NC) government of acting as an extension of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu tourism

The former Chief Minister suggested that the NC was attempting to legitimize the BJP's actions over the past six years, including the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. "Unfortunately, it seems that the BJP's agenda, their policy regarding Jammu and Kashmir, has become an extension of the ruling government that was elected with a massive majority. The things for which we used to raise our voices, which are unconstitutional, it seems that the people of the National Confer-

ence are in a race to legitimize those things that happened in recent years," Mufti told a press conference in Srinagar.

She criticized the Lieutenant Governor's address on the opening day of the Budget Session, expressing disappointment that it did not address the issues of disempowerment faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"There was no mention of a resolution which NC claims they brought for restoration Article 370 in the Lt Governor's address. This cabinet has not even dared to bring it up. What else can we say?" she said.

Mufti took a jibe at Omar Abdullah, stating that no one was asking him to become Delhi former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, but that he should at least stand up for the rights of his people.

"Our Chief Minister Omar Abdullah says that

I do not want to become Kejriwal. No one is asking him to become Kejriwal, but for God's sake, stand up for the rights of your people," she said.

Mufti said that the BJP had been raising the issues of Article 370 abrogation even when it had no power.

"Omar sahib says how he will get it (Article 370) from the BJP. When BJP could talk on abrogating Article 370 for 70 years, at least you (Omar) can speak on this and say this was done illegally," she said.

She said that people voted for Omar Abdullah hoping the government would address issues of disempowerment, as well as concerns over property, minerals, and jobs.

"I did not expect miracles from the NC in four months, but at least they should have raised their voice on such issues," she said.

Mufti said that besides Article 370 and Statehood restoration, several issues were being faced by the public.

She said they have brought several bills and expect that there would be unity among political parties to address these critical issues facing Jammu and Kashmir.

Govt committed to press freedom, ensuring secure environment for journalists: LG

SRINAGAR, Mar 3 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha on Monday reaffirmed his government's commitment to press freedom, emphasizing that a free, independent, and responsible press is the cornerstone of a vibrant democracy.

Speaking in the legislative assembly, Sinha highlighted the crucial role of the media in shaping public discourse, holding institutions accountable, and keeping citizens informed.

He said that the administration is dedicated to creating a secure and transparent environment for journalists to operate without fear or restrictions.

"My government remains firmly committed to upholding press freedom, ensuring that journalists can operate in an environment that is secure, transparent, and conducive to free expression," LG said.

He further said that efforts are underway to strengthen press infrastructure, enhance access to information, and protect the rights of journalists. These measures, he noted, reaffirm the administration's unwavering dedication to democratic values and an open society.



However, the LG also underscored the importance of responsible journalism, stating that while freedom of expression is fundamental, it must be exercised with responsibility and in alignment with the national interest.

Sat, Ashok, Jugal others inaugurate Property Fest in Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP accompanied by Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), Jugal Kishore, MP Lok Sabha inaugurated "The Great Property Fest" by M3M India at the Radisson Blu, in Jammu.

Kavinder Gupta, former Dy CM, BJP Vice-Presidents & MLAs Sham Lal Sharma, Yudhvir Sethi, & Surjeet Singh Salathia, MLA Choudhary Vikram Randhawa, former Minister Priya Sethi, District President Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Arun Gupta President CCI, Indu Lucky Puri, Neeraj Lucky Puri, and others graced the occasion.

Sat Sharma, while inaugurating the event, lauded the efforts of the management team of M3M including the local collaborators and the national team in organizing the event. He shared the importance of holding business exhibitions, conferences, and festivals in the area to boost socio-economic ties bilaterally between the businesses, and the society. He praised the organizers for bringing a range of world class properties and projects before the visitors and wished them success in their endeavour.

"Property festivals are more than just sales events; they are vital platforms for economic development, homeownership promotion, and real estate education. They help individuals, businesses, and governments work together towards sustainable and affordable housing solutions," said Sat Sharma.

Ashok Koul said the property fests boost economic growth, encourage homeownership, and improve network and collaboration. He said that such events bring the ongoing development in the area towards Encouraging Sustainable Development by improving collaborations.

Jugal Kishore Sharma said that these events encourage the developers and the investors to engage with the Government and hence Policy planning and Engagement.

Kavinder Gupta emphasized on the roles of property fests as a catalyst for market which can attract potential buyers and investors to boost the market activity.

Sham Lal Sharma said that these events bring together investors, real estate developers, financial institutions, and government agencies.

Yudhvir Sethi said that Property fests include education on real estate trends, financial planning, and legal aspects hence help in informed decisions.

Surjeet Singh Sal

athia said that these events offer people easy access to discounts and flexible payment plans.

Vikram Randhawa said that these events help bridge the gap between the public sector and private developers.

Priya Sethi stressed that these events create job opportunities for realtors, developers, financiers, and construction workers.

The event showcased an line-up of M3M India's projects, featuring six of its most prestigious developments. These included the luxurious M3M Altitude, the scenic M3M Golf Hills, the majestic M3M Antalya, the opulent M3M Mansions, the stylish M3M The Line, and the breath-taking M3M The Cullinan. Each of these projects reflects M3M Group's commitment to delivering world-class properties that redefine the standards of luxury living.

"We are committed to delivering exceptional projects that exceed our customers' expectations and contribute to the city's growth and development," said Robin Mangla, President, M3M India.

Neeraj Lucky Puri, Founder, Quantum Realty, said, "Our expansion is fuelled by a passion to provide unparalleled quality and satisfaction to our buyers."

Bankers from across country protest at Jantar Mantar, demand 5-day work week and recruitment

Top News Report

JAMMU /NEW DELHI, Mar 3: Thousands of bank employees protested at Jantar Mantar in Delhi today (3 March) under the banner of UFBU.

One of the main demands of the unions is the introduction of a 5-day work week in the banking industry. During the bilateral agreement and joint note of March 2024, the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the unions reached an agreement to implement a 5-day week, and a formal recommendation was sent to the government for approval. However, almost a year has passed and the government is yet to notify this change.

"With 24x7 digital banking services already available and most government and corporate offices working five days a week, this should be implemented in the banking sector with immediate effect. This will only lead to an increase in customer service and productivity," said a UFBU spokesperson.



The union leaders emphasised that a strong workforce not only ensures better customer service but also reduces workload on existing employees, ultimately improving the quality of banking operations. They also highlighted several other concerns, including the urgent need to address the increasing work

load in branches due to shortage of staff, ensuring fair and transparent policies with regard to promotions, transfers and employee welfare, and opposing unfair labour practices and any attempt at further privatisation in the banking sector. Today's dharna is part of a wider agitation programme, with the

union leaders saying that if their demands are not heeded, they will intensify their protests in the coming weeks and there will be a nationwide strike on March 24 and 25, 2025.

Presidents, General Secretaries, State Secretaries, Presidents and Office Bearers of all bank associations participated in it.

MPSEC Inks MoU to provide equipment, training for Urban Body polls in J&K

JAMMU /BHOPAL, Mar 3 (Agencies): The election commissions of Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU), under which the MPSEC will provide equipment and training for the upcoming urban body polls in the northern state, an official said on Monday.

The MoU was signed at the ongoing 31st National Conference of State Election Commissioners at Pench National Park in Seoni district, the official said.

As per the agreement, the MPSEC will provide 7,000 EVMs and other equipment for the upcoming urban body elections in Jammu and Kashmir and will

train the polling staff, he said.

The official said efforts will be taken to implement in Jammu and Kashmir the innovations made in Madhya Pradesh.

He said that as a pilot project, it will help adopt the concept of paperless booths in select places in Jammu and Kashmir.

MPSEC secretary Abhishek Singh and JKSEC secretary Sushil Kumar signed the MoU in the presence of state Election Commissioner Manoj Srivastava.

The official said the participating state election commissioners also observed the model of a paperless booth of Madhya Pradesh on the occasion.

EDITORIAL

AI BREAKTHROUGH

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing industries worldwide, and India is emerging as a major player in this technological shift. With a booming digital economy, a thriving startup ecosystem, and strong governmental support, India's AI breakthrough is paving the way for innovation, economic growth, and societal transformation. From healthcare and agriculture to finance and education, AI is reshaping multiple sectors, making India a global leader in artificial intelligence.

India's AI revolution is not a coincidence but the result of strategic government policies and initiatives. The Government of India has recognized AI as a crucial component of its vision for a digitally empowered society. One of the major steps in this direction was the launch of the National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence by NITI Aayog, which aims to position India as an AI powerhouse by fostering research, innovation, and implementation.

Key initiatives such as AI for All, the Digital India Programme, and Make in India have significantly contributed to the growth of AI. The government has also established the IndiaAI Mission, which focuses on building AI infrastructure, developing AI-driven applications, and training talent to meet the increasing demand for AI professionals. Moreover, the creation of AI Centers of Excellence (CoEs) across the country is promoting AI research and collaboration between academia and industries.

India's healthcare system is leveraging AI to enhance diagnostics, treatment, and patient care. AI-powered solutions are helping doctors detect diseases like cancer at an early stage, analyze medical images with precision, and even predict outbreaks of infectious diseases. Startups like Niramai are using AI to develop non-invasive breast cancer screening, while companies like Qure.ai are revolutionizing medical imaging and diagnostics.

Agriculture, the backbone of India's economy, is benefiting immensely from AI. Precision farming, crop monitoring, and pest control are being optimized using AI-powered tools. AI-driven drones and sensors are assisting farmers in making data-driven decisions, improving productivity, and reducing resource wastage. Companies like CropIn are utilizing AI to provide real-time data on soil health, weather patterns, and crop conditions.

The financial sector in India is witnessing a transformation with AI-driven solutions enhancing fraud detection, risk assessment, and customer service. Chatbots, robo-advisors, and AI-powered trading platforms are becoming increasingly common. RBI and major banks are leveraging AI to detect suspicious transactions and improve financial inclusion by offering AI-driven banking solutions to rural areas.

AI is revolutionizing education by making learning more personalized and accessible. AI-powered edtech platforms like Byju's, Unacademy, and Vedantu are using machine learning algorithms to offer personalized learning experiences. AI is also helping automate administrative tasks, allowing teachers to focus more on quality education.

India is integrating AI into governance through initiatives like AI-powered chatbots for citizen services, predictive analytics for policymaking, and AI-driven crime detection systems. AI is helping cities become smarter by managing traffic, improving waste management, and enhancing security through facial recognition and surveillance systems.

India is home to a rapidly growing AI startup ecosystem, with numerous companies working on cutting-edge AI solutions across various domains. AI startups are attracting significant investments, and India has become one of the top destinations for AI-related funding.

Startups like SigTuple, Haptik, and Mad Street Den are making waves in AI-driven healthcare, customer engagement, and computer vision. AI unicorns like Fractal Analytics and Innovaccer are putting India on the global AI map. The combination of government support, venture capital investments, and a growing pool of AI talent is fueling the AI startup boom in the country.

India is also making remarkable progress in AI research and talent development. Premier institutions like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) are leading AI research, publishing groundbreaking papers, and collaborating with global tech giants.

Additionally, companies like Google, Microsoft, and IBM have set up AI research labs in India, further strengthening the country's AI capabilities. The rise of AI-focused online courses, government-backed skill development programs, and industry-academia collaborations is producing a skilled AI workforce to meet the growing demands of the industry.

Concerns about delimitation to be held after fifty years

By: Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

By strengthening fiscal federalism and the institutional framework, we can ensure that political equity blends with demographic changes, promoting a coherent and united India. Increasing the number of Lok Sabha seats will provide better representation to citizens, reduce the size of constituencies, and improve governance. Increasing parliamentary seats from 543 to over 800 will allow Members of Parliament to serve the needs of voters more effectively. Northern states have suffered underrepresentation due to fixed seat allocations, and delimitation offers an opportunity to correct these historical imbalances.

It is important to maintain the current seat ratio while adding more seats to more populous states to ensure fair representation. A model similar to the Rajya Sabha can provide a balanced approach without disadvantaging progressive states. While redistributing seats, we should take into account economic contribution, development metrics, and governance effectiveness. States achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be given special political representation, which rewards good governance. Legal measures should be taken to maintain regional balance and prevent the dominance of fast-growing states. The establishment of a regional council within Parliament can help advocate for the interests of underrepresented states.

A gradual approach after the 2031 census will allow discussions with stakeholders and a smooth transition. Before any delimitation, a national commission should assess the potential impacts and suggest necessary safeguards. It is impor-

tant for state governments to actively participate in delimitation negotiations through established channels. There should be mandatory consultations with the Inter-State Council before any seat redistribution is finalized to encourage cooperative federalism. A well-planned delimitation process can link demographic realities to the integrity of federalism. To avoid regional disparities, we should consider innovative strategies such as the dual representation model, weighted voting, or increasing the powers of the Rajya Sabha.

By strengthening fiscal federalism and the institutional framework, we can ensure that political equity aligns with demographic changes, thereby promoting a coherent and united India. Increasing the number of Lok Sabha seats will provide better representation to citizens, reduce the size of constituencies, and improve governance. Increasing parliamentary seats from 543 to over 800 will allow Members of Parliament to address the needs of voters more effectively. Northern states have suffered underrepresentation due to fixed seat allocations, and delimitation provides an opportunity to correct these historical imbalances.

Bihar's representation is still based on 1971 data, despite its population having grown significantly. Revising constituencies according to the latest census data would promote democratic equality and prevent population disparities in electoral representation. Jharkhand, which was carved out of Bihar in 2000, still follows the old electoral structure, which reduces political clarity. Increasing the number of MPs from more populous states would draw attention to developmental inequalities, ensuring that policy interventions are targeted

towards underdeveloped regions. For states like Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, a higher number of MPs could lead to better infrastructure planning and better allocation of investments.

The diminished role of progressive states harms federalism and fair political representation. Southern states with effective governance may lose influence, reducing the incentive for sound policy management. Growth driven by Kerala's high literacy rate may not translate into adequate seat allocations, discouraging other states from adopting similar strategies. Greater representation for more populous states may lead to a tendency towards centralized policymaking, which may restrict regional governance autonomy. Legislative adjustments favoring agricultural states may neglect the needs of industrial sectors, disrupting economic balance. This political realignment may affect the allocation of taxes by the Finance Commission, which could potentially favor states with larger populations.

Despite their significant economic inputs, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra may struggle to protect their fiscal interests due to underrepresentation. Increasing representation based on population alone could exacerbate the divide between north and south, leading to regional tensions. Political parties in Tamil Nadu are against delimitation, fearing that states with a higher Hindi-speaking population will lose power, which could further fragment the political landscape. Maintaining the current seat ratio while adding more seats for more populous states is important to ensure fair representation. A model like the Rajya Sabha can provide a balanced approach without hurting progressive states. While redistributing seats,

we should take into account economic contribution, development metrics, and governance effectiveness.

States that achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be given special political representation, which rewards good governance. Legal measures should be taken to maintain regional balance and prevent the dominance of fast-growing states. Establishing a regional council within Parliament can help advocate for the interests of under-represented states. A gradual approach after the 2031 census will allow for discussions with stakeholders and a smooth transition. Before any delimitation, a national commission should assess the potential impacts and suggest necessary safeguards. It is important for state governments to actively participate in delimitation negotiations through established channels. There should be mandatory consultations with the Inter-State Council before any seat redistribution is finalized to encourage cooperative federalism.

A well-planned delimitation process can align demographic realities with the integrity of federalism. To avoid regional disparities, we should consider innovative strategies such as the dual representation model, weighted voting, or increasing the powers of the Rajya Sabha. By strengthening fiscal federalism and the institutional framework, we can ensure that political equity aligns with demographic changes, leading to a coherent and united India.

(Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, radio and TV panelist)

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From Rote to Wonder: How science education evolved from facts to Curiosity

By: Vijay Garg

While science was, and still is, seen as a career-oriented subject, there were never cases of students being taught why something is happening or why they are studying it.

H₂O is water. CO₂ is carbon dioxide. Gravity pulls everything down. Decades ago, science was often taught as a collection of facts to memorise — definitions, formulas, and rigid laws that left little room for wonder. A teacher would write equations on the blackboard, which students would copy, and the lesson would go on. But over the years, science became more about questions.

Today, science education is not just about learning concepts but experiencing them — through

exploration and a sense of curiosity that makes students see the world differently. This transformation, experts say, was not just about teaching but a fundamental shift in how science was perceived.

For the longest time, it was seen as a subject perfect for securing a job, promising stability rather than excitement. Senior scientists recall that many pursued science degrees primarily for career opportunities, rather than a genuine interest in understanding the subject. But over the years, that mindset changed. Science became a topic of passion, a discipline for those who wanted to learn, explore and teach, rather than just a stepping stone to employment.

"Science is no longer just a subject people study to get a job — it

has become a field of curiosity, learning and teaching." Over the years, science has grown into an area of genuine interest, attracting those eager to understand its concepts, Garg said.

Even the way science has evolved in terms of accessibility has changed, thanks to technology, Garg said, adding that decades ago, researchers spent years during their Ph.Ds learning what can now be grasped in less than two months with the vast amount of information available online.

While science was, and still is, seen as a career-oriented subject, there were never cases of students being taught why something is happening or why they are studying it.

Garg said that over the past decade, students' interest in sci-

ence has shifted — not just as a subject, but as a field rooted in real-world principles and discoveries. This growing fascination is largely driven by advancements in space science, satellite technology, and other scientific breakthroughs. "Children are naturally curious about the world around them. When they see, read and hear about these developments, it leaves an impression on their minds and sparks a desire to explore and contribute."

(Vijay Garg Retired
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PTTI Vijaypur holds valediction of four-week basic course for SPOs



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Mar 3: Four weeks "Basic Course for SPOs" concluded at Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur which was conducted for the first time at the Institute as per the directions of PHQ J&K in which (480) SPOs of various districts of Jammu Province i.e. Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban participated.

On this occasion a valedictory function was organized at the Institute which was graced by Shri Dushyant Sharma-SSP, Principal PTTI Vijaypur who while speaking on the occasion congratulated the trainees for successful completion of

their training course and stressed upon them to work with more zeal and dedication to make the force more effective and people friendly.

He told that the objective of the course was to hone the skills of SPOs and expose them to the physical training, drill (with and without arms), weapon handling and other routine outdoor/Indoor activities as per the prescribed syllabus which would have added substantial value to their existing knowledge and skill base and will definitely help these SPOs in performing their field duties more effectively. He further told that special lectures were delivered to SPOs on different topics by the Indoor staff of PTTI and the special guests invited on many occasions during their routine indoor

classes to facilitate them with effective learning/knowledge. Principal PTTI Vijaypur also applauded staff of the Institute for their dedication in imparting excellent and effective basic training to the trainees in a short period of just one month and also praised the SPOs for showing their dedication, devotion and discipline in acquiring the said training.

Among others, Raj Kumar-SrPO, Asif Iqbal-SrPO, Davinder Gupta-DySP(Tech), Khushwant Singh DySP(Admn), Bhagwan Dass-DySP(Outdoor), Surinder Paul Singh-DySP(R&D), Insp. Anil Kumar-CDI, Insp. Javeed Hussain-RI, SI Sulinder Singh-SM, SI Shakeel Singh-LO were present during valedictory function.

Jammu & Kashmir Media Association team distributes Iftaar food kits

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 3: Jammu and Kashmir Media Association and Valley Headlines Group jointly distributed Iftaar Food Kits across J&K and general public give iftar Food Like Khajoor Juice and fruits.

In this program President UT Jammu and Kashmir Media Association Tariq Mir and Valley Headlines Group Editor General Public highly thanked to President Media Association and Editor Valley Headlines for this step on Muslims Holy Month of Ramadan.

Tariq Mir said our Media Association and



Valley Headlines Always work for the Country and every religious festivals provide free lingers and other free food camps always support our Media association.

Raman Suri advocates for enforcement of generic medicine prescriptions

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Raman Suri, Executive Member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has urged the government to enforce a newly introduced directive from the Health Department requiring doctors to write prescriptions using generic medicine names in capital letters, a move designed to protect patient welfare across Jammu and Kashmir.

In line with the Indian Medical Council guidelines, this new drug policy mandates that generic names appear on prescriptions to ensure clarity and accuracy in healthcare documentation.

Suri lauded this holistic approach, emphasizing that legibility and precision are essential in every medical document, whether it's a prescription or a medico-legal report.

Suri called on the government to monitor the implementation of this policy rigorously and take strict action against any non-compliance. "It is essential that every doctor follows these guidelines without exception.

Regular audits and awareness campaigns will ensure its success, and the BJP remains committed to supporting policies that prioritize the health and well-being of the people," he stated.

The BJP leader further stressed the need for this policy to be enforced uniformly across all hospitals and healthcare facilities in Jammu and Kashmir, not just in the Jammu division.

"This is about accountability. Every doctor, whether in

the public or private sector, must comply," Suri emphasized.

"This decision is a major step forward for patients' rights," said Raman Suri. "By writing the generic names in bold, capital letters, doctors will make it easier for patients to understand what has been prescribed, helping to prevent errors and confusion. This will also give patients the ability to purchase medicines at more affordable prices."

The directive aligns with both the Indian Medical Council's guidelines and the new drug policy, fostering greater transparency and accessibility in healthcare.

Issued by Dr. Rakesh Mangotra, Director of Health Services Jammu, the circular mandates all doctors to write prescriptions using generic names in capital letters. Suri also highlighted that the directive is a significant measure to enhance patient safety and awareness. "This change ensures that patients of all literacy levels can read and comprehend their prescriptions.

The inclusion of generic names will provide them with cost-effective alternatives, reducing the financial burden of healthcare," he added. Additionally, the circular requires doctors to include details about the patient's condition alongside the prescribed medication, helping to bridge the communication gap between healthcare providers and patients. The directive also applies to medico-legal reports, ensuring clarity and standardization in all medical documents.

LFO-BHF conducts Mission R-SAP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF) organized Mission R-SAP at Gorkha Nagar, Jammu, and at Dhanu, Udhampur, focusing on menstrual hygiene awareness and breaking societal taboos surrounding menstruation.

The sessions, led by Stuti Abrol as Resource Person, educated a total of 265 individuals on the importance of menstrual health, proper hygiene practices, and the need to eliminate stigma associated with periods.

The activity in Dhanu, Udhampur, was organized in collaboration with Mission Shakti Kendra of the Social Welfare Department, Udhampur, under the supervision of DC Udhampur and Pooja. As part of the initiative, the foundation distributed 4,000+ sanitary nap



kins to ensure access to essential menstrual hygiene products for those in need.

Speaking on the occasion, Shruti Sharma, a member of Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation, emphasized the importance of such awareness drives, stating, "Menstrual hygiene is not just a woman's issue; it is a matter of public health and dignity. Through Mission R-SAP, we aim to educate, empower, and provide necessary

resources to ensure better menstrual health for all."

The initiative was met with a positive response from the community, with participants actively engaging in discussions and sharing their experiences. Such awareness sessions help in breaking myths and fostering a more informed and supportive society.

The foundation members present during the sessions included Kunal, Radhika, and Manvi.

SGWF conducts Plantation Drive at GHSS Kathar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: In a continued effort to promote environmental sustainability, Synergetic Green Warriors Foundation (SGWF) organized a plantation drive in collaboration with Govt. Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Kathar.

The drive was hoisted by Yogita Sharma, Principal, along with Pritam Lal Verma, Lecturer, and Anil Kumar and Multan Singh, Teachers.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from all staff members and students of the school.

The plantation drive, conducted under the visionary leadership of Dr. Sonia Verma, Director/CEO of SGWF, aimed at enhancing green cover and raising environmental awareness among students and locals.

A variety of saplings, including fruit-bearing trees, medicinal plants, and shade-providing species, were planted

within the school premises as part of SGWF's ongoing 'Adopt a Tree' campaign.

Reeta Verma, National President of SGWF, highlighted the importance of ceremonial plantation drives in connecting communities to nature and inspiring collective responsibility towards environmental conservation. She emphasized that such initiatives help cultivate a sense of respect for trees and nature among the younger generation.

Makhni Devi, General Secretary of SGWF, also participated in the drive and encouraged the students and staff to actively contribute to such green initiatives.

She appreciated the enthusiasm shown by the school and assured continuous support from SGWF for similar events in the future.

Addressing the gathering, Yogita Sharma, Principal, appreciated the initiative and emphasized the importance of trees in combating climate change and

maintaining ecological balance.

Pritam Lal Verma and other teachers encouraged students to adopt the planted saplings and ensure their proper care and growth.

Dr. Sonia Verma highlighted the crucial role of educational institutions in fostering a culture of environmental responsibility among the youth. She emphasized that such initiatives not only beautify surroundings but also impart a sense of duty towards nature among students.

The drive concluded with a pledge by all participants to protect and nurture the planted saplings and to spread awareness about the importance of trees in ensuring a sustainable future.

Synergetic Green Warriors Foundation remains committed to its mission of making Jammu and Kashmir greener and cleaner through community-driven initiatives and widespread plantation drives.

JKTF welcomes ZEO Drabshalla, raises issues of teachers

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 3: Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Forum (JKTF) unit of zone Drabshalla under the leadership of Provincial President Jammu Sanjeet Sharma and Zonal President Mudasser Hussain today welcomed Zonal Education Officer Drabshalla Roshan Din warmly in his office chamber.

On the occasion a bouquet was presented to the officer as a token of respect.

JKTF leadership assured to give full cooperation to ZEO office in smooth functioning of

the schools and hoped timely redressal of the issues of the teachers of Zone Drabshalla

While speaking on the occasion Sanjeet Sharma apprised the Officer with genuine issues of the teachers of Zone Drabshalla. Sanjeet Sharma said that Jammu and Kashmir Teachers forum headed by State President Mohd Ashraf Sheikh is the only organization which is affiliated with All India Secondary Teachers federation & Education international which represents all all grades of teachers, masters, as well as non teaching community.

Zonal Education Officer Drabshalla Roshan Din listened the deputation quite patiently and assured to redress each and every issue raised by the JKTF leadership.

He also thanked the JKTF leadership for warm welcome.

Others who were present on the occasion included Mudasser Hussain, Mohd Younis Ali, Mohd. Yaseen, Nisar Ahmed Keen, Lok Raj Parihar, Juman Gujjar, Kamal Shan, Jeevan Lal, Ramesh Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Kuldeep Kumar, Deepak Raj, Bipan Lal, Rajesh Kumar, Ashok Kumar and others.

KDP Wing of DPAP demands Budgetary support and seat reservation for Kashmiri Displaced people

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: In a strong appeal to the authorities, the Kashmiri Displaced People (KDP) Wing of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) has called for reserved budgetary support and seat reservations in the upcoming Urban Local Bodies (ULB), Panchayat, and Municipal elections.

In a joint statement issued by President Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Piary Lal Pandita, General Secretary Raj Kumar Ticku, Youth President Naveen Gosien, Publicity Secretary Charanjeet Singh, and other leaders, they emphasized that the Legislative Assembly's upcoming budget session is a historic event, being the first of its kind in over eleven years.

Given this, the KDP leaders have urged the government to allocate a reasonable share

of budgetary funds from the state exchequer for the developmental rights of displaced Kashmiri Hindus in exile as well as for those still residing in the Valley.

The leaders highlighted that since their forced exodus in 1990, not a single penny has been allocated from the State/UT Budget for the welfare of displaced Kashmiri people. Instead, their survival has solely depended on Central Government funds under security and relief measures.

They strongly criticized this step-motherly treatment and demanded that Kashmiri Displaced People, who have always been an integral part of the Valley's population, be granted constitutional and financial rights as equal citizens of Jammu & Kashmir.

The KDP leaders have urged that a special budgetary allocation be announced and

passed during the ongoing budget session to support the developmental needs of Kashmiri Displaced People.

Additionally, they demanded two reserved seats per district in the Valley for displaced Kashmiri Hindus in the upcoming Panchayat, Municipal, Local Bodies, and District Development Council (DDC) elections. They further proposed that the displaced Kashmiri Hindu camps in Jammu be granted the status of Town Areas or Panchayats and receive full budgetary support based on the registered population of these camps. This, they believe, would improve living standards and end the hazardous conditions faced by displaced communities.

A key demand put forth by the leaders is that the already announced three Assembly seats for the displaced community should be filled through

elections rather than nominations. They argued that in the past, nominated MLCs failed to represent the community effectively, leading to further marginalization.

Lastly, the leaders called for the formation of district committees consisting of displaced Kashmiri Hindus from each respective district to act as caretakers of temples and shrines in the Valley. They demanded that trusts formed by individuals from other districts or outside J&K be abolished to prevent the misuse of financial resources belonging to temples and shrines.

With these demands, the KDP Wing of DPAP hopes to bring justice, financial security, and political representation to the displaced Kashmiri Hindu community, ensuring that their rights are safeguarded and their voices heard.

How stage was set for designers

As India's first fashion week marks its silver jubilee, a look at how the event kickstarted the growth of a billion-dollar industry

WHEN the Lakme Fashion Week starts in Mumbai on March 26, it will mark the silver jubilee of India's first marquee fashion event, a trendsetter.

In these 25 years, the fashion industry has stitched a mega success story. According to an industry report by Statista, the revenue in the apparel market in India is projected to reach \$109.45 billion (over Rs 10 trillion) in 2025. Women's apparel holds the largest share, with a market volume of \$53.13 billion (over Rs 5 trillion).

However, in the early 1990s, the established names today were just starting out. "JJ Valaya, Ashish Soni, Rajesh Pratap Singh, Ritu Beri, Rina Dhaka, Rohit Bal, Rohit Khosla, Tarun Tahliani and many others were just about beginning their careers. There was a great momentum and more designers were coming out of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT). But there was no one platform for designers to showcase their vision," recalls designer Narendra Ahmed, who graduated from NIFT in 1990 and was ELLE India's first fashion editor.

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (APEC) had facilitated some designers to present their work at fashion shows in New York, London and Paris. With that in mind, most designers were feeling

the need for a fashion week in India, says Rajesh Pratap Singh, who was one of the designers to showcase his collection in the first fashion week.

The Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) had been set up in 1998, in response to an urgent requirement to organise the Indian fashion industry under a formal structure. Sumeet Nair was appointed the executive director of the FDCI.

"Most designers felt that an Indian fashion week will provide the right platform to bring all designers together. Most of them were already holding individual shows but such an event could provide a collective platform for both the designers and the buyers," says Ahmed.

While most industry stakeholders felt the need for such an event, two persons came together to conceptualise and create India's first-ever Fashion Week in 2000 — FDCI's Nair and Zubin Sarkari, fashion director at IMG (International Management Group), India, a global sports and culture company (now known as RISE Worldwide Limited, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited).

"It was all very exciting. Some of the nitty-gritty of the first fashion week was thrashed out in our office where Nair and Sarkari would hold meetings with us, my partner Asha Koch-



har and I, seeking inputs on various logistics — from the size of the ramp to the number of green rooms for models to the music to be played, and much more," remembers Vidyun Singh, co-founder, Media Makers. Vidyun, part of the journey of Indian fashion since its first hesitant steps in the 1980, and Asha had already been working with designers in creating individual fashion shows.

The FDCI and IMG then approached Lakme for the title sponsorship, convincing its then CEO Anil Chopra to steer the fashion week.

"The initial years were really wonderful. We were

doing everything ourselves, whether it was designing the sets or sourcing the music. I used to create music sequences while editing on spool tapes. I remember a crazy incident from one of the early fashion weeks. It was a Rohit Bal finale, and set designer Sumanth Jayakrishnan had crushed mica and mixed it with sand to create a sparkly set. We felt proud at our innovation but when the models walked on the ramp, the hems of their long lehengas blew the mica-sand mix right into the eyes of people sitting in the first row! Those were challenging but fun times. The best part was that the event literally

put India on the global fashion map. Though it is still not as big as other international weeks in Paris or London, designers got access to both international and Indian buyers," says Vidyun.

The week became the catalyst that not only sparked the fashion boom in India, but created a large number of new jobs. "Apart from models and modelling agencies, many ancillary professions evolved and grew exponentially over the years because of the fashion week, including stylists, makeup artists, scenographers or scenic designers, production and set designers, show directors, music

creators and many more backstage jobs. Sound and light vendors invested in special equipment because they realised that this is a recurring business. Everything grew organically from there," adds Vidyun.

In the earlier seasons, most designers did ethnic wear. This brought back the focus on traditional weavers and artisans. Hand embroideries like zardozi, chikankari, kantha and phulkari came back in vogue through elaborate wedding wear, emphasises designer Sonam Dubal, the first designer from the Northeast to create a stir in mainstream Indian fashion. His first fashion week collection was a blend of cultures weaving Pali calligraphy onto eri silk and using Banarasi silk and Chanderi to contemporise the Sikkimese honju and bakhru dress.

"India has a vast heritage of traditional techniques, be it in weaving or block printing. As the industry grew, it provided support to a lot of craftspeople around the country," says designer Rakesh Thakore of Abraham & Thakore.

As the market grew, so did the awareness and understanding about fashion. "People realised fashion could be a full-fledged career," says Ritu Kochhar, founder director, Inter National Institute of Fashion Designing.

"This led to the expansion of fashion education institutes. NIFT opened more centres all across India," adds Dubal.

As more and more young designers emerge out of these institutes, the fashion week, too, has expanded its scope to provide a platform to these emerging voices in its GenNext show. "It has given us talented designers like Rahul Mishra, Nachiket Barve and many more," says Ahmed, one of the brains behind the show.

While social media and fashion influencers may have taken some sheen away from these fashion weeks, most stakeholders across the industry agree that that one event 25 years ago changed the landscape of Indian fashion forever.

Stitching success

— The first Lakme India Fashion Week at Taj, Delhi, in 2000, had 32 designers presenting pret lines over five days. The number increased to 44 during the second fashion week held in Mumbai.

— Between 2000 and 2005, there was just one fashion week a year, alternating between Delhi and Mumbai.

— In 2000, the major buyers were international brands like Selfridges, Macy's, Browns. At present, over 80 per cent buyers are domestic.

Vidya Balan asks fans not to engage with misleading AI content featuring her

Actor Vidya Balan has warned fans against several inauthentic "AI-generated" videos featuring her that are circulating on social media, saying she has no involvement in their creation or dissemination.

Balan, who has been a part of films such as 'Kahaani', 'The Dirty Picture', 'Tumhari Sulu' and 'Sherni', shared a post on her Instagram handle on Saturday addressing the same. It featured one of the fake videos of the actor.

"There are multiple videos currently circulating on social media and WhatsApp, which appear to feature me. However, I want to clarify that the videos are AI-generated and



inauthentic. I have no involvement in its creation or dissemination, nor do I endorse its content in any way," the 46-year-old actor captioned the post.

"Any claims made in the videos should not be attributed to me, as it does not reflect my views or work. I urge everyone to verify information before sharing and be cautious of misleading AI-generated content. #FakeAlert #StayAware," she added. It's not the first time that AI-generated content featuring actors has surfaced online. In the past, film celebrities such as Rashmika Mandanna, Katrina Kaif, Aamir Khan and Ranveer Singh also went viral on social media.

Actress Sanya Sagar says she loves playing diverse roles

From Lucknow to Mumbai, London, and now Goa, Sanya Sagar has carved a path that blends the art of filmmaking, a deep love for theatre, and a fearless approach to acting. Whether it's starring in the recently released Party Till I Die on Amazon MX Player or playing a passionate swimmer in Tairaki, her journey is one of exploring the untold corners of cinema.

With a wealth of experience under her belt—from working on Wes Anderson's Isle of Dogs to learning from heavyweights like Salma Hayek and Danny Huston—Sanya knows what it means to be at the centre of a truly collaborative process.

In a chat with Sanya about her diverse roles, her global experiences, we draw out that her focus is the art, the story and the emotion that fuels it all.

Different strokes Sanya's latest projects couldn't be more different, but both reflect the range and depth of her talent. "In Tairaki, I play Shipra, a National swimmer from a small town, who is driven by passion and dreams of Olympic glory. But life doesn't always go as planned, and she finds herself mentoring a village boy who has what it takes to make it to the Indian Olympics," she shares, her eyes lighting up as she talks about the character. "This film is about hidden talent and the way India's sports infrastructure tends to ignore everything except cricket. It really spoke to me on a personal level, and my own background in sports made it a special experience."

Switching gears completely, she dives into her role as Sister Tere-



sina in A Mosquito in the Ear, an international crossover project. "It was such a unique character—based on a real-life story, this nun works at an orphanage, and the film is deeply tied to the themes of adoption. It challenged me in ways I didn't expect. I've never played a mother figure before, so I had to dig deep, observe, and draw from the maternal feelings I didn't have firsthand."

Playing Laiba If you've seen Party Till I Die, you already know Sanya brings a raw, visceral intensity to the screen in her role as Laiba. "The role of Laiba was physically and emotionally demanding. Akhilesh, our director, really helped guide me through the process. He kept saying, 'Trust me,' and that became my mantra throughout the shoot. The toughest part was navigating trauma and violence—it's one thing to act in those moments, but your mind and body react in ways you don't expect, and that emotional weight stays with you after the scene ends."

She continues, "I had

she says, her passion evident in every word. "The best roles are the ones that hide something deep inside—a secret, a flaw. It's that internal conflict that drives the narrative. It's what makes the character interesting."

Culture & cinema With experience across both Indian and international film industries, Sanya has a broad perspective on how culture and cinema intersect. "Every country has its unique way of telling stories," she reflects. "Working with Wes Anderson or Salma Hayek, I learned that every crew member, from the runner to the director, has an essential job. We're all on the same level. You put your head down and do your work."

She adds, "Culturally, cinema varies from country to country. For instance, Indian films bring out the drama, while Iranian cinema is much more subtle. I've had the privilege of working in different systems, and it's shaped the way I approach each character. Every role, every location, adds a new layer to my understanding of the world and the stories I'm part of."

As the entertainment industry shifts with the rise of social media and digital platforms, Sanya remains focused on the craft. "Today, cinema is more intelligent. Audiences are smarter, and that challenges us as actors to be more authentic," she says. "But there's a danger in chasing fame. I'm not here for influencer culture. I'm here for the craft of acting. The power of storytelling through believable performances—that's what excites me."

Mr India winner Shubham Sharma to represent country at Mister Supranational 2025

Shubham Sharma, the recently crowned Mr India winner, is set to represent the country at the Mister Supranational 2025 pageant.

The 24-year-old from Maharashtra emerged as the winner out of 80 prospective participants from across India who were shortlisted and invited to Mumbai to compete at the mega auditions for the coveted title.

Sharma said he is honoured to represent the country at Mister Supranational 2025, which will take place in Poland on June 28.

"Winning Mr India 2025 is a dream come true, and I am honoured to represent my country globally. I'm grateful to the Times Group for this life-altering opportunity,

and I look forward to making India proud at Mister Supranational 2025," Sharma said in a statement.

During the Mr India 2025 competition, the contestants went through different rounds which tested them on the basis of personality, talent, confidence, intellect, fitness, and presentation.

The jury panel comprised Mr World 2016 winner Rohit Khandelwal, who was also the first Indian to win the title; Mister Supranational 2018 Prathamesh Maulingkar; Mister Supranational 2016 — 2nd Runner-up Jitesh Thakur; Miss Supranational Asia 2022 Ritika Khatnani; Femina Miss India World 2023 Nan-



dini Gupta; and Femina Miss India World 2024 Nikita Porwal.

This year, Mr India 2025 also launched a web series titled "The

Hunt for India's Most Desirable Man," which documents the journey of the contestants right from registration to the finale.

PM Modi chairs National Wildlife Board meet in Gujarat, announces lion census

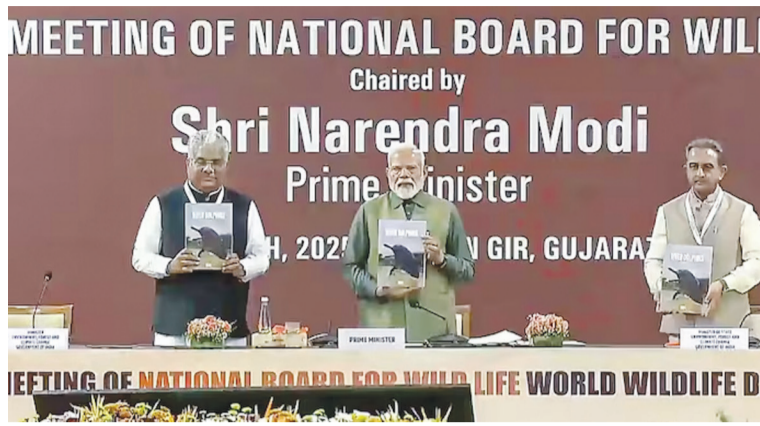
NEW DELHI, Mar 3 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the National Board for Wildlife's seventh meeting here on Monday, on the occasion of the World Wildlife Day, and announced the Asiatic lion population estimation to be held in May this year.

Soon after completing his lion safari at Gir National Park in the morning, Modi headed for the NBWL meeting, at Sasan in Gujarat's Junagadh district, which was attended by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav and other members.

On the occasion, Modi laid the foundation stone for the National Referral Centre-Wildlife at Junagadh and announced the 16th Asiatic lion population estimation to be carried out in May this year.

He also announced the setting up of a Centre of Excellence for Human-Wildlife Conflict Management, SACON, at Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, and unveiled a book on river dolphins.

The NBWL, a statutory body that advises the government on wildlife conservation, has 47 members, including the Chief of Army Staff, members from different states, representatives from NGOs working in this field, chief wildlife



wardens and secretaries from various states.

The prime minister is the ex-officio chairperson of the NBWL, and the Union environment, forests and climate change minister is the board's vice-chairperson.

After the safari, Modi in a post on X said the population of Asiatic lions has seen a steady rise due to collective efforts, and commended the contribution of tribals and women living in surrounding areas in preserving the Asiatic lion habitat.

"This morning, on #WorldWildlifeDay, I went on a Safari in Gir, which, as we all know, is home to the majestic Asiatic Lion. Coming to Gir also brings back many memories of the work we collectively did when I was serving as Gujarat CM," he said.

"In the last many years, col-

lective efforts have ensured that the population of Asiatic Lions is rising steadily. Equally commendable is the role of tribal communities and women from surrounding areas in preserving the habitat of the Asiatic Lion," Modi said.

"Over the last decade, the population of tigers, leopards, rhinos have risen too, indicating how deeply we cherish wildlife and are working to build sustainable habitats for animals," the PM said in another tweet.

The central government has approved more than Rs 2,900 crore for Project Lion, meant for the conservation of Asiatic lions for which Gujarat is the only abode, stated a government release.

Currently, the Asiatic lions inhabit nearly 30,000 square kilometres across 53 talukas in 9 districts of Gujarat, it said.

Additionally, as part of a national project, a National Referral Centre for Wildlife is being established on over 20.24 hectares of land at New Pipalya in Junagadh district, it said.

A high-tech monitoring centre for wildlife tracking and a state-of-the-art hospital have also been set up in Sasan to strengthen conservation efforts, the release said.

The state government has also formulated a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in collaboration with the Railways to prevent potential accidents caused by lion movement on railway tracks in the Greater Gir region.

"This has significantly reduced such incidents," a release said.

As part of his three-day visit to Gujarat, Modi on Sunday offered prayers at Somnath temple (in Gir Somnath district) and visited Vantara, an animal rescue, conservation and rehabilitation centre located at the Reliance Jamnagar refinery complex.

Vantara is a rescue centre dedicated to the welfare of captive elephants and wildlife, providing sanctuary, rehabilitation and medical care to animals rescued from abuse and exploitation.

Delhi govt to present 2025-26 budget between March 24-26: CM Rekha Gupta



NEW DELHI, Mar 3 (Agencies): Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday said the Delhi government will present the 'Viksit Delhi' budget for 2025-26 in the assembly between March 24 and 26.

Addressing a press conference, she said the budget will be prepared after incorporating suggestions from various sections of society.

"To make this a

people's budget, we will meet representatives from different women's organisations on March 5 on the assembly premises. Additionally, we will hold discussions with stakeholders from the education sector and traders on March 6," the chief minister said.

She also shared an email ID and a WhatsApp number where Delhi residents can send their suggestions

for the budget. Gupta reiterated that all promises made in the BJP's 'Sankalp Patra' will be fulfilled and that her government is working on a war footing in this direction.

Further, Gupta said that only two Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports have been tabled in the assembly so far and they have already exposed multiple corruption charges against the previous AAP government.

"Twelve more CAG reports are yet to be tabled and more irregularities are likely to surface," she said.

Cabinet ministers Parvesh Sahib Singh, Ashish Sood, and Manjinder Singh Sirsa were present at the press conference.

Disability no bar to become a judge: Supreme Court

The top court strikes down Rule 6A of Madhya Pradesh Judicial Services Rules which didn't allow visually-impaired candidates and those with low visibility to join the judiciary

NEW DELHI, Mar 3 (Agencies): Holding that disabled candidates were eligible for appointment to judicial services, the Supreme Court on Monday ruled that no person can be denied consideration solely on account of their physical disabilities.

"Any indirect discrimination that results in the exclusion of Person with Disabilities, whether through cut-offs or procedural barriers must be interfered with in order

to uphold substantive equality...No candidate can be denied such opportunity (appointment to judicial service) solely on account of disability," a Bench of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan said.

The top court struck down Rule 6A of Madhya Pradesh Judicial Services Rules which didn't allow visually-impaired candidates and those with low visibility to join the judiciary. It also

quashed the rule which required three-year law practice for visually impaired candidates to become a judge.

The judgment came on petitions highlighting the denial of reservations to such candidates in judicial services of certain states, including Madhya Pradesh from where the mother of a visually-impaired candidate wrote to the top court last year against a rule in the MP Judicial Services (Recruitment

and Service Conditions) Rules that prevented visually impaired candidates from seeking appointment in the state judicial services.

The letter was converted into a PIL by the top court.

Pronouncing the verdict, Justice Mahadevan said, "We have treated it as the most important case...We have touched upon constitutional framework also and institutional disability jurisprudence..."

Persons with disabilities must not face any discrimination in judicial services and the state must take affirmative action to provide an inclusive framework. It gave similar relief to candidates from Rajasthan.

"A right-based approach necessitated that persons with disabilities must not face any discrimination in the pursuit of judicial service opportunities," Justice Mahadevan said.

Jharkhand government tables Rs 1.45 lakh crore budget for FY 2025-26 in assembly

RANCHI, Mar 3 (Agencies): The Jharkhand government on Monday tabled a Rs 1.45 lakh crore budget for the financial year 2025-26 in the state assembly.

Presenting the first budget of the Hemant Soren-led government after it retained power in Jharkhand following the assembly elections last year, Finance Minister Radhakrishna Kishore said the state's economy is expected to grow at a rate of 7.5 per cent in the financial year 2025-26.

"I lay on the table of the House a budget of Rs 1.45 lakh crore for the 2025-26 financial



year," the finance minister said in the assembly. He said that the fiscal deficit in the budget for the upcoming fiscal is estimated to be at Rs 11,253 crore.

He stated that the budget provides for an outlay of Rs 62,844 crore for the social sector and Rs 13,363 crore for Maiyan

Samman financial aid to women.

"The budget will meet the aspirations of every section of the society, including the poor, farmers, tribals and women," he said.

The JMM-led coalition government had presented a budget of Rs 1.28 lakh crore for the 2024-25 financial year.

Infant branded with hot iron 40 times to cure disease in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR, Mar 3 (Agencies): A one-month-old baby boy was branded with a hot iron rod about 40 times to cure a disease in Odisha's Nabarangpur district following which he was admitted to a government hospital, officials said on Monday.

The child is a resident of Phundelpada village under Gambhariguda panchayat in the Chandahandi block of the district.

He was admitted to the Umerkote Sub-Divisional Hospital for treatment.

Nabarangpur Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Dr Santosh

Kumar Panda visited the hospital and said the infant's health condition is now stable.

"There are about 30 to 40 branding spots on the belly and head of the child. There is a superstition that if a child is branded with hot metal, then the child would be cured of diseases," he said.

The doctor said that the child was down with a fever, running a high temperature ten days ago and was crying a lot.

The family members believed that the child was under the influence of some evil spirit. Instead of seeking medical help, the family

branded him 30-40 times with hot metal, in the belief that it would cure him, the CDMO said.

When the child fell seriously ill after the branding, he was admitted to the Umerkote Hospital. Such practices have been going on in remote areas for a long time, the CDMO said.

He also said that the health department has decided to focus on Chandahandi block and create awareness among the people to bring children to hospitals for treatment instead of branding them with hot metal.

Meghwal calls for safer digital space for women, urges vigilance against cyber crimes

NEW DELHI, Mar 3 (Agencies): Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Monday stressed on the need to create a safer digital environment for women, ensuring their dignity and participation in nation-building.

Speaking on the rising threat of cyber crimes during his address at the Final Law Review Consultation on "Cyber Laws Relating to Women" and Cyber Awareness Programme by the National Commission for Women (NCW), Meghwal urged citizens, especially women, to adopt strong passwords and limit sharing personal information on social media.

"Use strong passwords and share minimal personal details online. Cyber offenses are such that we often get trapped unknowingly. Avoid long conversations with strangers and remain vigilant while interacting with unknown people online. If a cyber crime occurs, report it to the police immediately," he said.

Meghwal also highlighted the govern-



ment's efforts to address emerging challenges in the digital space, including artificial intelligence (AI)-driven misinformation campaigns, cyberbullying, fake profiling and video manipulation. "The new laws we have enacted address these issues comprehensively. We have incorporated provisions to deal with AI-based misinformation, digital arrests and other cyber-related offenses," he said.

The minister stressed the need to create a safer digital environment for women, ensuring their dignity and participation in nation-building. "Cyber security is a

critical issue and it is essential to understand its relationship with women. Women must continue to contribute to the country's progress without fear. Cyber crimes should not deter them from moving forward," he said.

Meghwal also unveiled a book titled 'Cyber Saheli', aimed at educating families about cyber safety.

"There is no need to fear cyber threats. 'Cyber Saheli' will act as a guide and support system for everyone," he added.

Highlighting the growing role of women in the IT sector, Meghwal

noted that women are leading the way in technology.

"If anyone is leading in the IT sector, it is women. With the advent of AI, new challenges have emerged, but women are equipped to tackle them. Whether it is cyberstalking or other forms of online harassment, women will not only overcome these challenges but also guide the nation forward," he said.

The minister also praised the recent legislative measures, including the 33% reservation for women in legislatures, calling it a game-changer for gender equality.

"As Babasaheb Ambedkar said, the progress of a society can be judged by the degree of progress its women have achieved. When women secure their rightful place and representation, no technological challenge, be it cyberstalking or cyber harassment, will be insurmountable. Women will lead the nation and society forward," he said.

Renowned Kerala doctor found dead in farmhouse

KOCHI, Mar 3 (Agencies): Prominent nephrologist and senior surgeon Dr George P Abraham was found dead at his farmhouse near the Cochin International Airport.

The 77-year-old, one of the leading kidney transplant surgeons in the country, was found hanging in his farmhouse, and a suicide note was recovered.

In the note, he mentions that due to his failing health, he is not able to carry out his

duties.

Abraham, in his nearly five-decade career, has done more than 2,500 kidney transplants, a record in Kerala.

On Saturday, he was active at the private hospital here, where he met patients.

Abraham had recently undergone a spine surgery. A resident near his farmhouse said that every Sunday, he made it a point to visit his farmhouse and spend time there.

"He was here on Sunday (March 2). His

brother was also there," said the local, who on Monday morning was startled to hear the news that the doctor had committed suicide.

Dr Abraham had arrived at the farmhouse with his younger brother on Sunday evening and later sent him away. He was later found hanging in the farmhouse.

In his long career as a renal transplant specialist, Abraham wrote himself into medical history when he became just the third surgeon to harvest a kidney from a

donor using the laparoscopic method.

Among the other path-breaking work done by Abraham includes a transplant from a cadaver and a few other procedures not normally done in Kerala.

A very strong academic, Abraham was a popular person, attending seminars and meetings and sharing his expertise with his juniors.

The local police have registered a case of unnatural death and have commenced a probe.

“Spend less time worrying about Putin, and more time worrying about migrants,” Trump

US President Donald Trump posted on his social media, ‘We should spend less time worrying about Putin, and more time worrying about migrant rape gangs, drug lords, murderers, and people from mental institutions entering our Country - So that we don’t end up like Europe!’

WASHINGTON DC, Mar 3 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump on Monday pushed back criticism that his stand on Ukraine was pro Putin by asking people to focus more on domestic issues like immigration.

In a post of Truth Social, the President said, “We should spend less time worrying about Putin, and more time worrying about migrant rape gangs, drug lords, murderers, and people from mental institutions entering our Country - So that we don’t end up like Europe!”

This comes after a heated exchange between the US president and President of Ukraine earlier at the White House as the negotiations broke down on the Minerals deal. On the contrary to US response, Europe has stood in support of Ukraine as Zelensky travelled to the Summit in London after United States.



At a summit in London, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer told reporters he was working with France and a small number of other nations to craft a plan to stop the fighting, which would then be presented to Trump, CNN reported. The Ukrainian President in turn expressed strong appreciation for the support Ukraine has received during a European leaders summit in London on Sunday (local time) focused on Ukraine’s future and

its relationship with Europe. In a post on X, Zelensky emphasised the united stance Europe has taken in supporting Ukraine’s independence and security. He wrote “The summit in London was dedicated to Ukraine and our shared European future. We feel strong support for Ukraine, for our people - both soldiers and civilians- and our independence.” Zelensky further highlighted the high level of unity within

Europe, noting that it had not been seen in a long time. “Together, we are working in Europe to establish a solid foundation for cooperation with the United States in pursuit of true peace and guaranteed security. Europe’s unity is at an exceptionally high level, one that has not been seen in a long time. We are discussing with our partner’s security guarantees and the conditions for a just peace for Ukraine,” he said.

“A series of important meetings and decisions are being prepared for the near future,” Zelensky added, expressing gratitude to the global community for their efforts in supporting a stable and guaranteed peace for Ukraine.

“I am grateful to all our friends and partners for their efforts in bringing about a stable and guaranteed peace in Ukraine. Joint strength can protect our future,” he said.

Zelensky’s “gratitude” video message after Trump’s “not thankful” charge



KYIV, Mar 3 (Agencies): Days after a row with President Donald Trump over not being “thankful” for the United States’ support in the war against Russia, Ukraine’s Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday said he “understands the importance of America” and is “grateful” for all the assistance.

His video message on X came two days after he was shouted down at the White House by Trump and Vice Presi-

dent JD Vance for not being “thankful” and refusing to accept their proposed truce terms. “Of course, we understand the importance of America, and we are grateful for all the support we’ve received from the United States. There has not been a day when we haven’t felt gratitude. It’s gratitude for the preservation of our independence – our resilience in Ukraine is based on what our partners are doing for us – and for

their own security,” he said after attending a key summit on the Russia-Ukraine war in London.

“Everyone is united on the main issue - for peace to be real, we need real security guarantees. And this is the position of all of Europe - the entire continent, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and Turkey,” he added.

The security summit was hosted by UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer. France’s Emmanuel Macron, Canada’s Justin Trudeau, and Italy’s Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni were among the 18 leaders who attended the meeting on the war, which broke out when Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

“What we need is peace, not endless war. And that’s why we say security guarantees are the key to this,” Zelensky said.

Israel’s new project ‘senior future’ to aid senior citizens

TEL AVIV, Mar 3 (Agencies): Israel’s Ministry of Social Equality and the Advancement of Women, in collaboration with the National Student Association, is launching project “Senior Future” - an innovative national initiative in which students will carry out various activities with senior citizens in exchange for a scholarship.

The goal of the programme is to empower senior citizens and improve their quality of life as part of the war on loneliness, which we see as a bad and dangerous disease in society - and out of the desire to strengthen the social resilience of the senior citizen population in Israel - while at the same time we also



strengthen young and talented students with scholarships.

The project will operate in 204 local authorities across the country and will include a variety of activities to alleviate loneliness, strengthen community ties, create social frameworks and promote civic engagement of senior citizens

within Israeli society.

The project offers several key activities aimed at empowering senior citizens and promoting social equality, including leading senior councils, retirement preparation and healthy lifestyle workshops, integrating senior citizens into community activities, and more.

Former Pak Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah alarms, ‘armed groups could seize control of Balochistan’

BALUCHISTAN, Mar 3 (Agencies): Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) leader and former Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has sounded the alarm on the deteriorating security situation in Balochistan, warning that armed groups could seize control of the region if security measures aren’t strengthened, according to The Balochistan Post.

Sanaullah described the situation as “alarming” and emphasized the need for strict action against militants. He also stressed the importance of bolstering the military presence to preserve national security and counter potential threats.

However, his remarks have drawn mixed reactions from political figures and the public,



with some analysts suggesting they reflect broader political and law-and-order issues in Balochistan. There was no immediate response from other Pakistani officials, reported The Balochistan Post.

The warning comes amid a surge in armed attacks in Balochistan, with Baloch “pro-independence” groups

intensifying operations against Pakistani security forces, government installations, and Chinese-backed projects.

In a significant development, the Baloch Raji Aajoi Sangar (BRAS) alliance has announced a major restructuring of its military and diplomatic strategy, reported The Balochistan Post.

The alliance, which

comprises groups like the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), Baloch Republican Guards (BRG), and the Sindhu Desh Revolutionary Army (SRA), plans to merge into a single military entity called the Baloch National Army.

This new force aims to escalate attacks against Pakistani and Chinese targets, seeking to form a more “organized, coordinated, and decisive force” against Pakistan, reported The Balochistan Post.

BRAS believes this strategic shift will make Baloch national liberation an “inevitable reality,” marking a “decisive phase” of increased intensity and innovation in their movement. The situation in Balochistan

remains volatile, with far-reaching implications for regional stability and security.

Balochistan - Pakistan’s largest but least populous province - has a long history of marginalisation. The province was annexed by Pakistan in 1948, soon after its partition from India, and there has been a separatist movement since, as per Al Jazeera.

Balochistan faces numerous challenges, including state oppression, enforced disappearances, and the extrajudicial killings of activists, scholars, and ordinary citizens. The region is characterized by economic neglect, lack of development, poor infrastructure, and limited political autonomy.

Taiwan considering immigration law changes to curb China’s influence from Hong Kong, Macau

TAIPEI, Mar 3 (Agencies): The government is considering changes to immigration laws for residents of Hong Kong and Macau to prevent influence from China, Taipei Times reported.

According to a source, the government may remove an optional path to citizenship for these residents and extend the time required for them to qualify for permanent residency.

The proposed changes aim to prevent the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) from influencing Taiwan through immigration from Hong Kong and Macau, as per Taipei Times.

An official familiar with the matter speaking on condition of anonymity said the government could amend immigration laws for residents of the territories who currently receive preferential treatment.

The move was part of “national security-related legislative reform,” they added.

Under the proposed amendments, individu-

als from Hong Kong and Macau would need to live in Taiwan for four years before being eligible for permanent residency, up from the current one-year requirement. Additionally, they would no longer be able to apply for citizenship after gaining permanent residency, the official said.

According to the source, the proposal was being considered in response to the changing situation in Hong Kong, to which more than two million mainland Chinese have migrated since the 1997 handover of the territory, the source said.

According to Taipei Times, Taiwan’s relaxed immigration policies for Hong Kongers have become a major national security loophole, especially after Beijing imposed the territory’s National Security Law in 2020, which significantly altered Hong Kong’s landscape and enhanced the authorities’ power, they said.

“Whether they arrived



through marriage with a Taiwanese, investment immigration or obtained residency through a professional skill, Hong Kong migrants almost always apply for permanent residence in the second year,” they said. “No country in the world has an immigration policy like Taiwan, with such relaxed terms,” they added.

Highlighting the strict rules, the official stated, under the proposed amendments, residency applicants from Hong Kong or Macau who have worked for the

CCP, the Chinese military or Chinese public institutions would be strictly scrutinised and potentially have their applications denied.

“The original purpose behind allowing Hong Kong and Macau residents to easily apply for permanent residency in Taiwan is no longer applicable given the changes to those territories caused by CCP policies,” they said.

The government’s proposed changes to immigration laws would align the rules for Hong Kong and Macau residents

with those for immigrants from other countries. However, the new rules would still be more lenient than those for applicants from mainland China, who must stay in Taiwan for six years before applying for a national ID card.

The option of “long-term residence” for applicants from the two territories is similar to the permanent residency option available to other foreigners, with the key exception being that the “long-term residence” option does not allow a path to citizenship, the source said.

“We have found that some migrants from Hong Kong and Macau are not interested in Republic of China citizenship anyway, and only want some form of permanent residence. So, we do not anticipate the change being a problem,” they said.

Authorities would review the proposal, and would communicate with Hong Kong groups in Taiwan before amending the laws, they said.

Stabbing attack in Israel’s Haifa leaves one dead, several injured

The attack took place at a bus and train station in Haifa, a large coastal city in northern Israel home to a mixed Jewish and Arab population.



HAIFA, Mar 3 (Agencies): A stabbing attack on Monday at a transport station in the Israeli city of Haifa left one person dead and several wounded, medics said, in what police called a “terror attack” whose perpetrator was killed.

The attack came with negotiations between Israel and Hamas Palestinian militants over Gaza’s ceasefire stalled after the deal’s first phase ended on the weekend.

“Paramedics and EMTs have pronounced the death of a man

around 70 years old and are providing medical treatment to and evacuating four injured individuals”, Israel’s Magen David Adom emergency service said.

It said a man and woman around 30 years of age as well as a 15-year-old boy were seriously injured.

Israeli police label as “terrorist” attacks those connected to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The attack took place at a bus and train station in Haifa, a large coastal city in northern Israel home to a mixed Jewish and Arab population.

Israel blocked the entry of humanitarian aid to Gaza on Sunday after a disagreement with the Palestinian Islamist movement over extending the ceasefire.

Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, urged Indian Corporates to invest in building specialised educational institutions

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Marking 75 years of illustrious journey in education, the Hinduja Group reaffirmed its commitment to shaping India's future through its flagship institution, Hinduja College of Commerce, which started as a humble primary school for children of refugees. Today with over 6000 students, Hinduja College is now advancing towards becoming a deemed university.

Today the Group through Hinduja Foundation nurtures over 7,00,000 students across India through initiatives like Road to School and Road to Livelihood. With ambitious plans to empower 1 million students by 2030, the Hinduja Foundation continues to champion education as a catalyst for change and is a key contributor to India's vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

The celebration witnessed the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, as the Chief Guest. The Governor



of Maharashtra, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan was also present as Guest of Honour. Hon'ble VP Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar felicitated outstanding students for their academic and extracurricular achievements.

Addressing the students & dignitaries at a function to commemorate the 75 years in education through Hinduja College, the Vice President of India Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar stated, "Sanatan must be a part of the country's culture and education because it stands for inclusivity and stressed the need to remain well grounded or rooted in it. He also urged corporate India

to invest in education to create specialised institutions. Philanthropic endeavours should not be driven by the philosophy of commodification and commercialisation. Our healthcare and education systems are being plagued by these. He also called education the most impactful transformative mechanism that brings about equality." He also expressed his confidence that Hinduja College will not stop at just becoming a deemed university but become an institution of global eminence.

Reflecting on this milestone, Mr. Ashok Hinduja, Chairman,

Hinduja Foundation, remarked, "The institution is set to establish a Skill Development Centre, reinforcing its commitment to bridging industry-academia gaps, with long-term plans to transition into a Deemed University and expand student capacity multi-fold. College plans to introduce new programs in Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, and Wealth Management, along with specialized courses in Climate Finance and Export-Import Management."

Mr. Ashok Hinduja also urged the government to consider introducing Sanatan principles

in education. Agreeing to this suggestion the Vice President added that "Sanatan promotes inclusivity".

Mr. Paul Abraham, President, Hinduja Foundation, said, "Hinduja College is undergoing redevelopment to build a state-of-the-art, multi-storied facility equipped with cutting-edge infrastructure and modern amenities. This ambitious project is expected to be completed by 2028. We expect the new Facility to triple the physical capacity of the college to create enhanced capabilities for digital outreach and programming across a spectrum of opportunities."

Hinduja College offers more than 30 academic programs and achieved NAAC A+ accreditation in 2023-24. Granted autonomous status in 2022, the college has aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to equip students with future-ready skills.

The college's vision is clear: "To empower our students not only to excel but to outshine." As part of its commitment to empower students.

Dire need to promote sports culture to prevent youth from falling prey to drugs: Rattan Lal Gupta

Rising Spartans triumph in Legal Fraternity Cricket Tournament



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: The cricket tournament organized by Advocate Zeeshan Rana and Additional Spokesperson Jammu concluded today with the Rising Spartans emerging victorious over Legal Star by a margin of 57 runs in the final match.

The event was graced by Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Jammu, as the Chief Guest, and Baldev Singh Advocate, Vice President Bar Association Jammu as the Guest of Honour. Other notable attendees included JKNC leaders Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, S. Tejinder Pal Singh Aman Provincial President Jammu, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Mohinder Kumar Rana Joint Secretary Central Zone and Sunil Sharma.

Advocate Gupta congratulated the Rising Spartans on their impressive performance

and commended both teams for their sportsmanship. He emphasized the importance of such tournaments in fostering camaraderie and unity within the legal community. He also lauded the organizers, particularly Advocate Zeeshan Rana, for their initiative in bringing the legal community together through sports. He emphasized that such events play a pivotal role in fostering unity and brotherhood among professionals, echoing his previous sentiments on the importance of sports in promoting community bonding.

The senior NC leader also raised serious concern over the escalating drug menace affecting the youth in the region. He emphasized the urgent need to promote a robust sports culture as a preventive measure against substance abuse. He highlighted that engaging young individuals in sports and other constructive activities can serve as a deterrent

to drug use, fostering discipline, teamwork, and a healthy lifestyle. He urged the community and authorities to collaborate in creating more opportunities for youth participation in sports, thereby steering them away from the dangers of drug addiction.

Rattan Lal Gupta also highlighted the NC's commitment under the dynamic and young leadership of Omar Abdullah Honble Chief Minister Jammu and Kashmir and Young Sports Minister Satish Sharma already organizing sports events Khelo India and other sports activities that encourage fellowship and holistic development within society and the young world.

Adv Zeeshan Rana, organizer of the cricket tournament, expressed his gratitude to all participants and supporters including senior NC leaders for making the event a success. He highlighted the importance of organizing such tournaments to engage the youth constructively, steering them away from negative influences and channeling their energies into positive endeavors. He reaffirmed his commitment to continue organizing similar events in the future, aiming to nurture talent and strengthen communal bonds through sports.

Haier launches India's Only Colorful Range of Kinouchi ACs—Revolutionizing Cooling with the Power of Artful Intelligence

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Haier Appliances India, the No. 1 global major appliances brand for 16 consecutive years, is setting a new benchmark in home cooling with the launch of its exclusive colorful range of Kinouchi Air Conditioners. Aimed at transforming modern homes, this premium series seamlessly blends avant-garde aesthetics with superior performance.

The Kinouchi Limited Edition air conditioners blend cutting-edge technology with premium colorful finish, redefining home aesthetics beyond just cooling. As Indian consumers become more design-conscious, they seek appliances that align with their lifestyle and personal taste. Keeping this in mind, Haier India introduces this exclu-

sive range, offering a perfect combination of functionality and style, ensuring the air conditioners deliver outstanding efficiency while seamlessly enhancing the overall décor of the home.

Available in three sophisticated shades—Black, Morning Mist & Moonstone Grey—the Kinouchi series seamlessly integrates with diverse interiors, making it an ideal choice for those who prioritize both performance and aesthetics. More than just high-performance cooling solutions, these newly launched Haier ACs serve as statement pieces that reflect modern lifestyle choices. With this launch, Haier India reaffirms its commitment to customer-inspired innovation, ensuring consumers no longer have to choose between efficiency and

elegance—they can have both, perfectly complementing their stylish homes.

Commenting on the launch of the Kinouchi Air Conditioner series, Mr. NS Satish, President, Haier Appliances India, said, "At Haier India, prioritizing the evolving needs of consumers has always been fundamental to our ethos. As the only brand in India offering colorful range of Limited-Edition AC series, we continue to set industry benchmarks in premium aesthetics and advanced cooling solutions. The new Kinouchi Limited Edition reflects this commitment, offering premium design while ensuring efficient and unmatched cooling. Committed to creating customer-inspired innovations, all our air conditioners, including the latest Kinouchi

Dark Edition, are manufactured in India and meticulously designed for the Indian market."

Advanced Features for Superior Cooling & Efficiency

The Kinouchi Limited Edition AC is engineered to transform home cooling with its intelligent technology. Powered by AI-driven Supersonic Cooling, it delivers 20X faster cooling in just 10 seconds, even in extreme temperatures up to 60°C. Frost Self-Clean Technology ensures 99.9% sterilization, circulating clean air within minutes for a healthier indoor environment.

With HEXA Inverter Technology, the AC dynamically offers heavy duty performance based on real-time conditions, optimizing efficiency and ensuring long-term durability. The 20-metre-long air flow

with Turbo mode provides uniform and powerful cooling across the room, creating a consistently comfortable environment.

The HaiSmart App elevates user control by enabling real-time electricity monitoring and AI-powered energy optimization, allowing consumers to make smarter energy decisions effortlessly.

Available in 1.6 Ton, 5-Star Rating, the newly launched Haier Kinouchi Air Conditioner colorful series will be available across leading online and offline retail channels in India starting 27th February, with prices starting at INR 49,990.

Kinouchi Limited Edition Available in 3 Models: HSU19K-PZAIB5BN-INV in Black | HSU19K-PZAIM5BN-INV in Morning Mist | HSU19K-PZAIS5BN-INV in Moonstone Gray

ICICI Pru GIFT Select – a product with Guaranteed Income to manage current market volatility

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has introduced 'ICICI Pru GIFT Select', a long-term savings product which offers customers guaranteed immediate income providing them with liquidity.

Amit Palta, Chief Product and Distribution Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "We continue to build on our legacy of innovation to meet the evolving needs of our customers with ICICI Pru GIFT Select being the latest addition to our product portfolio. This unique product allows our customers to get the benefit of guaranteed income that they can customise as per their life goals and cash flow requirements. This product offers multiple flexibilities to customers such as choosing when they want the guaranteed income to start, the duration of the guaranteed income and the amount that they can get at the time of maturity. Additionally, the life cover component ensures financial security for the family. One of the unique features of the product is the increasing income option wherein the income increases at a compounding rate of 5% per annum, thereby helping customers to manage inflation. We recognise that in a dynamic macroeconomic environment, there could be spells of market volatility like the one that we have seen over the last couple of months. In such situations, we have seen customers preferring products that offer guaranteed returns while ensuring wealth preservation. ICICI Pru GIFT Select will enable customers to insulate their financial savings from market fluctuations and achieve their financial goals. The increasing income feature of the product can enable customers to effectively address the fear of inflation. Our commitment to deliver on the promises made to our customers is reflected in our industry-leading claim settlement ratio of 99.3% in 9M-FY2025, with an average claim settlement time (non-investigated) of just 1.2 days."

NOTICE



I, Sharda Sambyal (formerly known as Shiv Kumari Pathania), daughter of Kesar Singh Pathania, wife of Surinder Singh, resident of Mandi Dansal, Samba (J&K), hereby notify that both names Sharda Sambyal and Shiv Kumari Pathania belong to one and the same person i.e., myself. Any person/agencies having any objection or claim regarding the use of both names is requested to come forward and intimate the same to me within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

From Page No:1

JK Government prioritises Statehood, Economic Growth, and Good Governance: LG Sinha Addresses Legislative Assembly

also highlighted the importance of strengthening irrigation infrastructure through projects like the Shahpur Kandi Dam Project and the New Pratap Canal.

Acknowledging tourism as a cornerstone of Jammu and Kashmir's economy, Lt Governor Sinha noted the record-breaking number of tourist visits in 2024. He empha-

sized the government's commitment to diversifying tourism offerings, strengthening infrastructure, and promoting sustainable tourism practices.

He underscored the importance of the annual Amarnath Ji Yatra, assuring that the government remains committed to strengthening arrangements for the pilgrimage, ensuring seamless logistics, enhanced infrastructure, and eco-friendly initiatives to preserve the fragile Himalayan ecosystem.

Lt Governor Sinha highlighted the progress in industrial development and investment, driven by the new Central Sector Scheme. He noted the significant number of units registered and under development, emphasising the government's efforts to expedite infrastructure provision in Industrial Estates. He also recognised the vital role of the handicraft sector in Jammu and Kashmir's economy, noting that the government is actively facilitating

GI tagging for traditional products to promote 'Brand JK'. Under the Vishwakarma Scheme, 1.19 lakh artisans have been provided skill training. To further strengthen the handicraft and textile sector, the government is commissioning two Raw Material Banks for Pashmina and Wool.

The Lt Governor concluded by reaffirming the government's commitment to revitalizing the agriculture sector through transformative initiatives and centrally sponsored schemes, aiming to promote sustainable farming practices and enhance productivity across horticulture, livestock, and fisheries.

Omar Abdullah rules out alliance with BJP, citing 'Different Vision'

for J&K

are the biggest economies of India. Today, the private sector is developing as the license raj was stopped. As PM, he took Indira Awas Yojana, MGNREGA initiatives," Omar Abdullah said.

He recalled Manmohan Singh's farewell press conference and said, "Manmohan, in his last press conference, said, 'History will be a better judge of me than contemporary times.' All world leaders respected him."

He further recounted an incident showcasing the former PM Manmohan Singh's humility, saying, "I remember I wrote a letter to him (Manmohan) on some issue, and I gave an interview on that issue. But I didn't mention the letter, there was an issue that protocol has been broken. He called me and said This is not right; you addressed the issue in the press. I told him I have not done that... but

after 15 minutes, he called back and apologized... He was PM, didn't need to do so."

Chief Minister also stated that former Pakistan President Gen Pervez Musharraf and Manmohan Singh had made significant progress in resolving the Kashmir issue.

Highlighting infrastructure projects initiated during Manmohan Singh's tenure, Abdullah said, "Working groups were made, and for Kashmiri Pandits, jobs were created, and they went back to Kashmir. Jagti township was made at his time and Kashmiri Pandit migrants... Manmohan Singh started the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. Today, we are waiting for the PM to inaugurate the train to Banihal. It was started by Manmohan Singh's time, and he started the world's highest railway bridge work."

Snowfall in

Kashmir higher reaches as rain lashes J&K

including for drinking, to the people in the valley. All the water bodies of Jammu and Kashmir are sustained by these perennial water reservoirs during the hot summer months. No appreciable snowfall in winter naturally foretells a dry summer when water for both drinking and irrigation of agricultural fields becomes hard to come by. The local Jal Shakti department had already started supplying potable water to areas where perennial springs had dried up due to the dry winter spell. Srinagar had 4.9 degrees Celsius, Gulmarg minus 4.3 degrees and Pahalgam minus 0.8 as the minimum temperature on Monday. Jammu city had 12.4 degrees Celsius, Katra town 7.8 degrees, Batote 4.7, Banihal 3.6 and Bhandarwah 3.4 as the minimum temperature.

EPG in collaboration with The Institution of Engineers (India) host workshop

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: The Environmental Policy Group (EPG), in collaboration with The Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu & Kashmir State Centre, hosted a workshop on the theme of, "Water, Weather, and Well-Being: Climate Change in the Kashmir Valley."

The event focused on the profound impacts of climate change on various aspects such as water resources, agriculture, economy, and public health in the region.

Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Professor Shakil Romshoo was the chief guest on the occasion.

With the Kashmir Valley facing increasing erratic weather patterns, unpredictable precipitation, and rising temperatures, the workshop aimed to unite experts, policymakers, academicians, and civil society representatives to deliberate on the urgent threats posed by climate change and suggest remedial measures to be adopted in consideration of assessing the vulnerabilities, identifying adaptation measures, and proposing policy recommendations to bolster resilience in the region.

Faiz Bakshi, Convenor of EPG, opened the session with a welcome address emphasizing the organization's commitment to environmental advocacy. He said, "EPG is dedicated to the conservation of natural resources, the implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and the promotion of sustainable development practices. We have actively highlighted environmental issues through Public Interest Litigations (PILs) concerning the devastating floods of 2014 and ongoing concerns about solid waste management in Jammu and Kashmir. Despite numerous court orders, implementation has been sluggish, often hindered by a lack of commitment from concerned officials. However, the proactive stance taken by the NGT, including imposing significant fines, has begun to foster some hope for enforcement."

The successful workshop featured a series of presentations from eminent speakers providing deep insights into the climate crisis.

In his address, the Chief Guest



VC IUST Prof. Romshoo highlighted the paradox of climate change as a global phenomenon disproportionately affecting regions like Jammu and Kashmir, which contribute minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions. He expressed concern over how major industrial powers and nations, responsible for significant emissions, have left vulnerable communities in the Himalayas to confront severe climatic consequences. Prof. Romshoo pointed out worrying trends, including altered autumn seasons that are critical for agriculture, exemplified by unprecedented dry spells such as the seven-month drought that disrupted local water resources and agriculture. He pointed out that the decline in saffron productivity, a cornerstone of Kashmir's culture and economy, reflects the tangible impacts of these shifting climatic patterns. He also noted alarming weather extremes, including the heavy snowfall of 2019 and record-breaking cold temperatures during the harsh Chilai Kalan winter period. He said that with global temperatures rising by 0.8°C in the past century, the Kashmir region is experiencing an even sharper increase of 1.3°C, underscoring the urgent need for global awareness and action to address these local challenges.

Arjumund Hussain Talib, an International Development Specialist and Founder of Ziraat Times, presented on virtual mode and revealed that Jammu & Kashmir is projected to be 60% food-deficient due to changing climatic conditions. He added that this stark projection underscores the immediate need for comprehensive funding and resources dedicated to environmental conservation. He further said that the time has come to consider an Environmental Cess in J&K. He pointed out that J&K must strengthen its Social Environmental Impact Assessment regime. He said that lately, we all know that this Regime has become lax, and

big projects are barely subjected to a transparent system of environmental assessment and mitigation measures that must be taken for damages involved. He further added that as we all know climate change adaptation and mitigation business is cost intensive and J&K would need resources for this work. He referred that we don't have that kind of money available with the present J&K government and that the J&K government must implement the "Polluter Pays Principle" – a concept in vogue in advanced societies for a long time now – and introduce an Environmental Cess, particularly on high-pollution tourism, construction sector, and other polluting industries. J&K can easily raise Rs 1000 crore from such a cess, that must exclusively go to a Climate Change Fund, primarily for funding climate adaptation and mitigation activities, including afforestation and greening activities."

Dr. Khurshid Iqbal, Former Head of Cardiology at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, addressed health vulnerabilities that are increasingly evident due to the climate change. He said, "The rise in respiratory illnesses, particularly among vulnerable populations, is directly linked to the environmental degradation we are facing. Poor air quality due to increased dust storms and pollution exacerbates chronic diseases, leading to a public health crisis."

Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat, an RTI activist and environmentalist, presented a passionate appeal for urgent action against environmental degradation.

He said, "The situation in Kashmir is becoming alarmingly critical. We are facing a future where, by 2030, we will have no access to clean drinking water."

He further said that our reliance on plastic bottled water is a temporary fix for a much larger problem caused by pollution and illegal mining. The government must take immediate

action to regulate these activities and restore our natural water sources, or we risk forcing entire communities to migrate due to uninhabitable conditions," he warned.

Maajid Farooq, a scientist from the Department of Environment, Ecology & Remote Sensing, delivered a power point presentation on regional climate trends supported by data analysis. He stated, "Our research indicates not just shifts in temperature but also significant changes in precipitation patterns that threaten our traditional farming calendars. It is crucial that we use this data to inform our adaptive strategies, ensuring that farmers are equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to sustain their livelihoods amidst changing climates."

Dr. GN Qasba, Former Commissioner of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, emphasized the urgent need for urban planning that considers climate resilience.

Altaf Ahmad Andrabi, Former Director, concluded the event with insightful recommendations focusing on grassroots-level actions. He remarked, "To mitigate the impacts of climate change, we must engage with communities directly, promoting the cultivation of alternate crops that are better suited for a changing climate. The knowledge and resources must be shared with farmers so they can adapt and remain productive in their fields, ultimately contributing to sustainable development in the region."

The panel discussion was moderated by Er. Ajaz Rasool, Er. Iftikhar Hakim, who facilitated an engaging Q&A session with participants.

Er. Iftikhar Hakim presented a vote of thanks.

The workshop underscored the critical need for collaborative efforts to address climate change in the Kashmir Valley, aiming to foster resilience and sustainable practices in the face of unprecedented environmental challenges.

The EPG-IEI will prepare a comprehensive report that will address key findings, analyses, and recommendations relevant to its mandate. Upon completion, this report will be formally submitted to the appropriate level of the Government to ensure it informs and supports effective decision-making processes.

MLA Mohan Lal Reviews Flood Protection Works in Akhnoor, Assures Completion of Pending Projects



Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Mar 3: MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat visited Gurgi Takki in Ward No. 3, Akhnoor, to inspect and review the ongoing flood protection works being carried out by the Flood Control Department. During the visit, he strictly directed the department's engineers and contractors to ensure high-quality construction and avoid any negligence in the execution of the project.

MLA Mohan Lal highlighted that every year, rising water levels in the Chenab River submerge hundreds of kanals of farmland on both sides of Akhnoor, causing massive losses to farmers. To address this recurring issue, the Flood Control Department has initiated protective works worth crores of rupees to safe-

guard agricultural land and residential areas.

As part of this initiative, a protective wall is being constructed at a cost of 1.40 crore along the Chenab River in Ward No. 3 to shield houses from floods. MLA Mohan Lal personally visited the site to assess the progress of the work and held a review meeting with officials. He assured that upon completion, these measures would provide significant relief to both farmers and local residents. During his visit, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat also assured that the pending flood protection work in Paidia Takki, Ward No. 6, will be taken up and completed soon.

Addressing the media, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat urged residents to actively monitor the development projects in

their locality. He encouraged people to directly report any lapses in quality and assured that strict action would be taken against corruption or negligence in any government work.

He further stated that the construction of flood protection embankments along the Chenab was one of his key electoral promises, and the government is working diligently to fulfill this commitment. These efforts aim to safeguard the region's agricultural land and households from future flood damage. MLA Mohan Lal emphasized the importance of community involvement in ensuring the quality of developmental projects. He urged locals to actively oversee the ongoing work and provide feedback to the administration, ensuring that public funds are utilized effectively for the betterment of the region.

On this occasion, former councillor Rakesh Malhotra, Anil Sharma, Ramesh Chandra, Jai Pal Sharma, Chiku Mahajan, Vishal Sangral, Abhishek Verma, and several other dignitaries were also present.

Kaith, others pray at Hazrat Makhdoom Shah Baba Mahimi for well-being of all

Top News Report

JINDAR MILLU, Mar 3: R.L. Kaith accompanied by Hans Raj Loria, Des Raj Kaith, Darshan Kumar Bassa, Jagdish Raj Kaith Tilak Raj Bassa and many others when visited the Mazaar of Hazrat Makhdoom Shah Baba Mahimi at Village Jindar Millu, the disciple Delip Kumar Mandi told them that his Pir devoted his full life with prayer, meditation, writing the books on Divine love. He was a great pious, devotee, ocean of knowledge with Shariat and Tariqat

and he was such personality that his impression was there extremely and widely on Human beings.

He was firm believer in the unity and oneness of Allah.

He was all the time in deep meditation with Almighty.

He had no relation with both of the worlds. He had miracles with good manners, good habits and the manner of great Sufis.

Mandi further said, Whosoever prays at this Mazaar, his wish is fulfilled by the grace of his Pir.

Sainik School Nagrota hosts Sadbhavana contingent from Billawar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Being a premier residential school of national repute, Sainik School Nagrota had the privilege of hosting a Sadbhavana contingent from Billawar, J&K, on 03 March 2025. This educational visit was part of the Sadbhavana Trip organized Gurj Division of the Indian Army. The contingent comprised 92 students, including 60 boys and 32 girls, from Government High School Machedi and Barnota in Malhar Tehsil, Billawar. The aim of this initiative was to provide exposure to students from remote areas, offering them an insight into national-level educational institutions and facilities of significance.

The visit was coordinated by Capt Utkarsh, Sub Bharat Singh, and Naik Anil, along with four accompanying teachers from the respective schools. The students



received a warm welcome at the school gate before being escorted to Lakshya – NDA Hall, where they viewed documentaries showcasing the rigorous routine followed by cadets and the rich legacy of Sainik School Nagrota, a premier institution with a proud history spanning over 50 years.

The visiting students were taken on a tour of the school's state-of-the-art infrastructure, including the Cadets' Mess, Hostels, Academic Block, Stadium,

Playfields, and Gymnasium. Capt (IN) Shibu Devasia, Principal of Sainik School Nagrota, interacted with the students, encouraging them to imbibe the spirit of nationalism and pride, which would contribute to shaping them into responsible and ideal citizens of the country.

Following a session of interaction and refreshments, the contingent proceeded to White Knight Corps, where they had the rare and prestigious opportunity

to meet and interact with the General Officer Commanding (GOC). This visit provided them with firsthand exposure to the discipline and commitment associated with the armed forces, leaving a lasting impact on their aspirations.

The Sadbhavana Trip was a remarkable initiative, reflecting the Indian Army's commitment to fostering national integration and inspiring the youth from remote areas to dream big and work towards a brighter future.

Dimple leads protest demanding statehood restoration, liquor ban

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Sunil Dimple, president of the Mission Statehood Jammu and Kashmir, along with hundreds of people from all religions and traders, staged a strong protest and dharna on Janipur High Court Road on the first day of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly session. The protest called for the early restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's Dogra state, a debate on Article 370 in the Assembly, and the passing of a bill to ban the sale of liquor, particularly in Jammu, Katra, and other temple towns. Addressing the protesters, Dimple demanded that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and the 90 members of the Legislative Assembly bring forth their respective party bills to ban the sale of liquor in Jammu City, Katra, and Kashmir.

He also sought a debate on the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood



and the abrogation of Article 370.

Dimple criticized Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for once again failing to provide a timeline for the restoration of statehood in his address during the budget session.

He accused the LG of avoiding the issue, which remains a major concern for the region.

In addition to his demands on statehood, Dimple also called for the reinstatement starting in April 2025.

He further demanded a CBI inquiry into the

liquor mafia, alleging that certain businessmen in Jammu, along with an external liquor mafia, have gained control over the liquor industry in Jammu and Kashmir with the help of BJP leaders, corporators, and mayors.

Dimple also urged the Chief Minister to direct the Excise Department not to issue tenders for wine shops in March 2025, and to immediately halt the sale of liquor across Jammu and Kashmir.

Among his other demands, Dimple called for the Jammu

and Kashmir government to pass a bill in the Assembly to provide free 200 units of electricity, twelve free LPG cylinders, and double ration to the people of the region starting this March. Additionally, he sought the nomination of four Rajya Sabha members, including one from Jammu's Dogra community.

The protest highlighted significant public concerns, with Dimple emphasizing the need for accountability and change in policies that impact the welfare of the people.

CT semifinal: India look to spin a new tale against Australia in ICC knockouts

Last time India triumphed against Australia in knockout stage of any ICC event was way back in 2011 World Cup quarterfinal

DUBAI, Mar 3 (Agencies): History weighs heavily against them but India would rely on a potent spin battery and familiarity with the conditions to break the knockout jinx against an underranked Australia when the two formidable cricket forces clash in the Champions Trophy semifinal here on Tuesday.

It will not be a straightforward task, though, as the Aussies are a resilient beast in global tournaments even without their lead cast of Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc. Their stunning chase of 352 against England at Lahore a few days back validates the thought.

The last time India triumphed against Australia in the knockout stage of an ICC event was way back in the 2011 World Cup quarterfinal.

India lost to Australia in the semifinals of the 2015 ODI World Cup and in the title clash of the 2023 ODI World Cup before succumbing to them in the World Test Championship final in 2023.

This Indian side will realistically hope to rewrite that largely melancholic script over the last 14 years and the primary reason for that optimism is the presence of some top of the line spinners in their ranks.

Their pre-tournament decision to fill the squad with five spinners drew a lot of flak from all corners, but it is now proving to be a masterstroke on the slow pitches in Dubai.

The easiest explanation of their dominance is the knowledge of the conditions having had the luxury of playing all



their matches in Dubai. But that is only partially true. They have made an effort to tweak their craft as per the needs of the surfaces here.

Since there was no fast or spitting turn on offer here like in a dustbowl, the Indian spinners were made to play the waiting game.

Patience, rather than magic is the key in bowling on these decks, as revealed by Varun Chakravarthy.

"The pitch here is not a rank turner as such, which people were projecting it to be, but definitely it was holding on a bit, and it was deviating a little bit to create the doubt. So basically, you had to play around it," said Chakravarthy.

The Indian spin quartet of Chakravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel walked away with nine New Zealand wickets, but they applied the pressure consistently to earn their rewards.

They delivered 128 dot balls in the 39 overs bowled between them as the Kiwis struggled to break free, a sequence eventu-

ating in a flurry of wickets.

Even the dismissal of an otherwise stoic Kane Williamson had a touch of desperation as his shimmy against Axar ended in a stumping by KL Rahul.

On the other hand, Australia have only one genuine spinner in Adam Zampa, while hoping for part-timers Glenn Maxwell and Travis Head to deliver the goods.

Matthew Short has been ruled out of the tournament with a calf injury and it has also robbed the already creaking Australian bowling unit of a handy spin option.

The absence of premier names was felt in the previous matches as the Aussie bowlers conceded 352 and 273 against England and Afghanistan respectively, albeit in better batting conditions.

Hence, the likes of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Shreyas Iyer and Shubman Gill will be eager to go full throttle at them here.

They have found the perfect rhythm of batting on these sluggish tracks here.

Skipper Rohit hoped as much.

"It is going to be a good game. Australia has a rich history of playing well in ICC tournaments. Now, it's about us to do things right. We have to be focussed on what we need to do on that day. Looking forward to that, hopefully we can stitch one towards us," he said after the match against New Zealand.

But he will not be unaware of the batting might the Aussies possess as the latter hunted down a 350-plus target without any meaningful contribution from Head and captain Steve Smith.

India will certainly want to evict them at the earliest, particularly Head as he has been the team's nemesis in recent years.

It is also a chance for Rohit and his company to mitigate the still lingering pain of losing to Australia in the 2023 World Cup final in Ahmedabad.

This match could be slow-burner but brace for a cracker nonetheless.

Teams (from):

India: Rohit Sharma ©, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohd. Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, Varun Chakravarthy.

Australia: Steve Smith ©, Sean Abbott, Alex Carey, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Aaron Hardie, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Adam Zampa, Cooper Connolly.

Match starts at 2.30 pm IST.

Shastri backs Chakravarthy for semi-final, calls it "Right time to unleash him"



DUBAI, Mar 3 (Agencies): Former India head coach Ravi Shastri has strongly backed Varun Chakravarthy's inclusion in the semi-final of the Champions Trophy against Australia, stating that it is the perfect time to unleash the mystery spinner.

Chakravarthy produced a sensational five-wicket haul (5/42) to power India to a 44-run victory over New Zealand in their final Group A match at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday.

"Very impressed with him (Chakravarthy), and full marks to the think tank and the team management for making the right choice because he's someone who will get you wickets in the middle overs," Shastri said in an ICC video posted on Instagram.

"It's the right time to unleash him. They brought him into the side; he's got a five-wicket haul, and I think he's there to stay. His current form, body lan-

guage, and confidence make him a key asset, especially against teams like New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa, who haven't faced him much," Shastri added.

India fielded a four-pronged spin attack against New Zealand, with Chakravarthy, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, and Kuldeep Yadav exploiting the sluggish Dubai pitch. Shastri believes India should continue with the same XI against Australia.

"I think I would go with the same eleven now because the turnaround time is less than 48 hours. The pitch is worn out, and spinners will play a crucial role again," he said.

Former India captain and legendary leg-spinner Anil Kumble also lauded Chakravarthy's performance and supported the idea of retaining the same combination for the semi-final.

"Varun has been exceptional over the last 1-1.5 years, whether for Tamil Nadu, KKR, or

India. His performance today proves that this four-pronged spin attack will be a huge challenge for Australia on this pitch," Kumble told ESPNcricinfo Match Day.

Former India batter Ambati Rayudu also praised Chakravarthy's evolution as a bowler, highlighting how his deceptive variations trouble batters.

"Varun was great today. Earlier in his career, he struggled with consistency, but now he is very difficult to face. His action makes it seem like he's bowling left-arm spin, but most of his deliveries are googlies, making it tricky for batters unfamiliar with him," Rayudu said on JioHotstar.

Rayudu added that Chakravarthy's performance has created a selection dilemma for India ahead of the semi-final.

"India will have a tough time deciding, with so many quality players to choose from, but Varun has been brilliant. Jadeja was amazing, and all four spinners bowled exceptionally well," he said.

With Chakravarthy's match-winning performance and the pitch conditions favoring spinners, India may stick to the same XI as they take on Australia in the high-stakes semi-final on Tuesday.

Yuki wins maiden ATP 500 doubles crown

DUBAI, Mar 3 (Agencies): India's Yuki Bhambri claimed his maiden ATP 500 men's doubles title after he and his Australian partner Alexei Popyrin staged a dramatic comeback to edge past world No. 14 Harri Heliövaara of Finland and Great Britain's Henry Patten at the Dubai Tennis Championships. Having lost the first set, the duo saved four match points in the second set to seal a 3-6 7-6 10-8 win.

With this win, Bhambri is set to achieve a career-high ranking of No. 40 in the ATP Rankings. Their title-winning run featured a string of impressive wins. The duo had also eliminated world No. 1 Marcelo Arevalo of El Salvador



and Mate Pavic of Croatia.

"It was just about having fun on the court," Bhambri said. "We went match by match. We were so close to losing in the first round, so it's unbelievable to be in the finals and to win it — I don't think I ever dreamt of that. Alexei is

an incredible player, we all know that he's very good in singles, but I think he has a great doubles career ahead of him as well."

Greece's Stephanos Tsitsipas claimed the men's singles title after beating Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-3 6-3.

Airports Employees Sports Club to host Inaugural Aviation Premier League

MUMBAI, Mar 3 (Agencies): The Aviation Premier League (APL), launched by the Airports Employees Sports Club, is set to take flight from March 7 to March 9, 2025, at the MCA Cricket Ground, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai. Approved by the Mumbai Cricket Association, this high-intensity T10 championship will bring together aviation professionals from across the industry in a competitive and fast-paced cricket tournament, as per the APL press release.

Featuring two pools and a total of 15 matches over three days, the tournament will culminate in an exciting T10 championship final on March 9. Eight prestigious teams represent-



ing various sectors of the aviation industry will compete for the title: Air India Aviators, AESC Warriors, DFS Daredevils, Kolkata Strikers, Ahmedabad Titans, Customs Challengers, MIAL Mavericks, and Target Thunderbolts. Emphasizing the tour-

nament's vision, Kunal Kothari, Promoter of APL and spokesperson of Prithvi Group, stated, as quoted by an APL press release, "The APL has been conceptualized not merely as a sporting event but as a professional development opportunity that

transcends traditional networking formats. This tournament will deliver exceptional cricket while facilitating meaningful interactions among key stakeholders in our industry."

In an official statement, Suhas Mate, Secretary of APL, commented, "The substantial interest we have received from organizations across the aviation ecosystem validates our assessment that such a tournament fulfills an important function in building industry cohesion and professional camaraderie."

Prashant Kakde, Working President of APL, also added, "The selection of the T10 format ensures matches of the highest competitive standard while accommodating the

professional schedules of our participants. This structure will effectively showcase the considerable talent that exists within our aviation personnel."

In a concluding statement, Nitin Jadhav, President of APL, shared, "This tournament underscores our institutional commitment to professional development and work-life integration. The Aviation Premier League will serve as a testament to the multifaceted capabilities of our industry professionals."

The Aviation Premier League is designed to establish a distinctive sporting platform that unites the aviation community while delivering high-quality cricket entertainment.

I was nervous ahead of first spell: Varun Chakravarthy

DUBAI, Mar 3 (Agencies): Varun Chakravarthy erased his painful Dubai memories with a match-winning five-wicket haul against New Zealand but the India spinner admitted feeling "nervous" ahead of his opening spell due to the "emotions" running through his mind.

The 33-year-old had given 33 runs in his four overs in a 10-wicket drubbing by Pakistan during the 2021 T20 world Cup here, but four years later he registered 5 for 42 as India defeated New Zealand by 44 runs in the Champions Trophy to top group A here on Sunday.

"In 2021, I didn't have a great tournament here. But it looks good right now. I was a little nervous ahead of my first spell (vs NZ). The emotions were playing (in mind) because of whatever happened three years before at this ground," said Chakravarthy in the post-match press conference.

Chakravarthy, who replaced rested Harshit Rana in the playing eleven, said a chat by the senior pros helped him to "calm down". "They (emotions) were playing with me and I was trying to keep it down, control it. But



Virat bhai, Rohit and Hardik were telling me to calm down. They were coming and talking to me. That really helped," he added.

Once settled down, Chakravarthy, who made his ODI debut against England last month, had to find a way to shift through the spells unlike in T20s where he largely bowls four overs on the trot.

"In T20s, my sequencing of balls as in how I construct an over is totally different com-

pared to the 50-over format. I was able to figure it out when I played the last two years in the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

"It really helped me to understand when I can bowl my incoming delivery or outgoing delivery or the straighter one or the top spin. It is completely different from what I do in the T20s," he said.

The DICS pitch had considerable assistance for spinners, and Chakravarthy said he was judicious in using his bottomless bag of tricks.

"It was not a rank turner which people were projecting it to be. But definitely it was holding on a bit, and it was deviating a little bit just to create the doubt.

"So, basically, you had to play around it. I would also dedicate my five wickets to the other bowlers as the way they bowled helped me pick wickets," he noted.

Patience was another key component for Chakravarthy while bowling on such pitches.

"It is a patience game. You just need to wait on such slow wickets as the ball doesn't turn fast. So, you need to wait," he said.

Virat Kohli touches Axar Patel's feet after spinner ends Kane Williamson's innings



DUBAI, Mar 3 (Agencies): A funny moment between Virat Kohli and Axar Patel during India's Champions Trophy clash against New Zealand has taken social media by storm. The

group A game, held in Dubai on Sunday, saw the Blackcaps chasing a 250-run target. While Kane Williamson anchored the innings with a solid knock, India kept striking at crucial

intervals to stay ahead in the game.

Williamson, looking set to take the game away from India, was dismissed by Axar Patel for 81, leaving New Zealand in deep trouble. As Indian players gathered to celebrate the wicket, Kohli bent down to touch Axar's feet in admiration. The spinner quickly stopped him, and it all ended with a laugh. Meanwhile, India secured a comfortable 44-run victory, finishing at the top of Group A and setting up a semi-final showdown with Australia.

PM attends BJP spokesperson Siddharth Yadav's wedding reception party

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: The country's proud Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi arrived to bless the reception party of the wedding ceremony of the sharp spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Siddharth Yadav.

On this auspicious occasion, the wife of a successful lawyer and BJP spokesperson Siddharth Yadav is also an advocate. Seeing this successful pair, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said jokingly that now both the lawyers are tied in the bond of marriage together, you both should give arguments and arguments among yourselves at home. Hearing this, all the guests who had come to the wedding started laughing loudly. Member of the Central Parliamentary Board, Mrs. Sudha Yadav, who is



the mother of our sharp BJP spokesperson Siddharth Yadav, was also present*

On this occasion, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, and Union Minister Manohar Lal were present. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Union Law Minister Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, BJP National President JP Nadda,

Union Minister Anurag Thakur, former Union Minister Smriti Irani, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Shri Krishna Lal Midri, Shri Sudhanshu Trivedi, Amisha Devgan, Ruby Ka Liaquat, Mayank Gupta, Vikas Bhadoria, Romana Khan, Ashok Srivastava, Reema Parashar, Anjana Om Kashyap, Chitra Tripathi, Delhi State Scheduled Caste Front State President Mohanlal Gihara, Rahul Yadav and other

dignitaries were present. Giving this information, Scheduled Caste Front Media Co-incharge Raju Chandel said that the wedding reception party was held with great pomp at Ashoka Hotel in Delhi and in this magnificent reception party, all the guests from the country and abroad expressed their happiness and blessed the newly married couple and said that BJP spokesperson

and lawyer, everyone's favourite Siddharth Yadav will definitely be successful in his innings of life, just as he has played a successful innings in politics, in the same way he will play this important role well in life and his life will be successful. And it will be completed. All the guests gave their blessings to the newly married couple in the same way.

As you know, Siddharth Yadav's father, late Shri Yadav, attained martyrdom while leading the BSF in the Kargil war of 1999 started by India and Pakistan and he happily sacrificed his life for the country to protect Mother India. Our BJP spokesperson Siddharth Yadav is the son of such a great father, late Shri Yadav and his mother Sudha Yadav is a member of the Central Parliamentary Board.

First Aid Training Programme organized by GDC Udhampur

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Mar 3: Under the patronage of Principal Dr. Sanjay Verma, Road Safety Club in collaboration with NSS Units of GDC Udhampur organized a "First Aid-Training" session for the students of the college.

The session was conducted by Suresh Kumar, Sr. Pharmacist of the college. The training session was well

coordinated by members of Road Safety Club i.e Prof. Anoksha, Prof. Rajesh Singh, Prof. Tania Mahajan, Dr. Jasmeet Kour and Prof. Sanjeet along with NSS PO Dr. Gurpreet Kour.

The session was aimed at equipping students with essential life saving skills. Mr. Suresh provided hands on Training on handling emergencies, administering first Aid and responding effectively

to Medical situation. The session covered crucial topics as Bandaging, wound management, CPR and some other basic life support techniques.

Students actively participated in practical demonstration and learned how to provide immediate care before the professional medical help arrives.

The medical assistant highlighted real life scenario ensuring students understood significance of quick decision making in emergencies.

The college aims to continue such initiatives promoting health awareness and safety among students the success of this programme reflects the institution commitment to equipping students essential life skills beyond academics.

Shiv Sena protests demanding for special privileges under Section 371

Demand for strict laws on drug and cow smuggling

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 3: Leaders of Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit held a strong protest on Monday demanding special privileges under Section 371 for Jammu and Kashmir, liquor ban in the "city of temples Jammu", strict laws on drug and cow smuggling.

Shiviks Sain, under the leadership of party state head Manish Sahni, gathered at Indira Chowk and staged a protest and raised slogans holding placards with demands

like "Strict laws should be implemented on drug and cow smuggling", "Privileges under Section 371 should be restored", "Sons of the soil should have the first right on jobs and educational institutions" etc.

Sahni said in his address that in the last decade, narco terror has created fear in Jammu and Kashmir. On the other hand, liquor shops opened in every nook and corner of Jammu city are an attack on religious faith and a tampering with the future of the youth. The



statistics of drug abuse and smuggling are also terrifying. In Jammu and Kashmir, which has a population of about 1.25 crore, every tenth person

is addicted to some kind of drug. The number of drug addicts coming to de-addiction centers has increased 100 times in the last 5 years. Every 10-15

minutes, a drug addict is reaching the OPD of government hospitals for treatment. He said that if timely measures are not taken, then in the coming

times, the Pakistan-sponsored terror will be replaced by narco-terror, which can wipe out an entire generation.

Along with this, on the lines of the northeastern states of the country, a proposal has been demanded to be passed to protect the cultural identity of Jammu and Kashmir under Section 371 and to give the local people the first right to get government jobs and admission in educational institutions. He said that recently the BJP-ruled Uttarakhand government

has also banned the purchase of land for people from outside the state.

Sahni has demanded from the BJP MLAs to bring and support a proposal against privileges under Section 371, prohibition of liquor, drug and cow smugglers.

On this occasion, Meenakshi Chhibber, Vikas Bakshi, Bharat Mahajan, Raj Singh, Sukhwinder Kaur, Vicky Sharma, Davinder Kumar, Sunita Kumari, Yashpal Singh etc. were present.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kash-

mir unit chief Manish Sahni has demanded from the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha to take strict cognizance of the increasing criminal incidents in Jammu and fix accountability. Sahni said that the common man is in panic due to the continuously increasing criminal and theft incidents in Jammu. He said that increasing drug addiction and drug smuggling is a major reason for the increasing criminal incidents.

GDC Kathua organizes Quiz Competition to celebrate National Science Day



Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 3: In a remarkable celebration of National Science Day, the Department of Physics at Govt. Degree College, Kathua, organized a Quiz Competition to foster scientific awareness and encourage students' interest in the field of science. The event was held to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect by renowned physicist C.V. Raman, which earned him the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930. The quiz competition, which attracted participation from students of physics department, was a great platform to showcase their knowledge and enthusiasm for scientific advancements. The event was aimed at engaging the youth in learning about the significance of science in our daily lives and promoting critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Prof. Seema Mir, Principal of the College encouraged the students and praised

the efforts of Physics Department in organizing such a successful event.

"It is inspiring to see our students taking an active interest in science. The spirit of National Science Day is alive in the enthusiasm displayed by our students today," said Principal.

Dr. Dinesh Jasrotia, head of the Department of Physics, emphasized the significance of National Science Day in inspiring future scientists.

The quiz was designed and conducted by a team of assistant professors, Prof. Ajay Sharma, Dr. Ahsan Elahi, Dr. Shivali Sharma and Dr. Gopal Sharma with supervision from Prof. Ravinder Kour, IQAC Coordinator of the college. Thematic approaches were provided by Prof. Rakesh Sharma, Dr. Neeraj Gupta, and Dr. Daya Ram of the physics department.

The function was graced by senior faculty members of the college, Prof. Jagdish Kumar,

Dr. R.K. Manhas, Dr. Ram Singh, Dr. Yash Paul Sharma, Dr. Kehar Singh and Prof. Raj Kumari.


In the quiz completion, Akrant Sharma of UG semester-VI has secured first position while second and third position was clinched by Shalini Sharma and Ishita Padital, respectively.

Nishant Sharma, Udit Sharma and Devang Sharma were awarded with consolation prizes.

The event concluded with the distribution of prizes and certificates to the winners, followed by a vote of thanks.

The Quiz Competition was a grand success, leaving students motivated to explore and contribute to the world of science.

The Department of Physics at Govt. Degree College, Kathua, continues to take steps to promote scientific knowledge and encourage students to embrace science and technology for the betterment of society.



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