

# TOP NEWS OF J&K



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

**Millie Bobby Brown calls out media for 'bullying' her about appearance: 'I'm now a target'**



NATIONAL | 7

**Modi govt weakening RTI in name of data protection: Kher**

Daily Evening Newspaper

INTERNATIONAL | 8

**Trump pauses military aid to Ukraine after Oval Office clash with Zelenskyy: Reports**



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## BRIEFLY

### Unidentified dead body found in Samba

JAMMU, Mar 4 (Agencies): An unidentified body was found on Tuesday near Sarore Adda Bridge in Bari Brahmana area of Samba district.

Officials said that this morning a male body around 27/28 of age was found lying near bridge.

Soon a team of police rushed to the spot and took the body in their custody and shifted to hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case in this regard and investigation has been taken up.

### CRPF personnel dies of cardiac arrest in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Mar 4 (Agencies): A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel posted with the B/117th battalion at Rajbagh in central Kashmir's Srinagar died of cardiac arrest on Tuesday.

Officials said that the CRPF personnel suddenly complained of chest pain and was immediately referred to the nearest medical facility.

However, he later succumbed to cardiac arrest. He has been identified as Jiterndera Devidass, a resident of Jalgaon in Maharashtra.

### Fresh snowfall in parts of Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Mar 4 (Agencies): Few areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall, while rains lashed widespread parts of the valley, officials here said on Tuesday.

Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg, Kokernag, parts of Kupwara and Baramulla, and other areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall.

They said during the last 24 hours, widespread rain was recorded in the valley, including in Srinagar.

The wet weather lowered the day temperatures in Kashmir, decreasing the normal maximum temperature by three to nine degrees across the valley.

The meteorological department said the weather will likely improve later in the day, and would stay mainly dry till March 10.

## Pilgrim Tourism circuits to be developed in Jammu Region: CM Omar Abdullah

JAMMU, Mar 4 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Tuesday that the government will develop pilgrim tourism circuits in Jammu to encourage pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishnodevi shrine to tour various other tourist destinations in the region.

Noting that one crore pilgrims visit the Vaishnodevi shrine annually, Abdullah said if the government could divert 10 to 15 percent of these pilgrims to various destinations in the region, it would benefit the people.

"As for the pilgrim tourism circuit in Jammu, we



will create three, four and seven day packages. We will promote these destinations to ensure pilgrims visit all such places," Abdullah said in the assembly.

Responding to a query from BJP MLA Yudhvir Sethi during the Question Hour, he said many

pilgrims are unaware of the pilgrimage tourism destinations in the region.

The chief minister emphasised the need to encourage pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishnodevi temple to also tour other places in the region.

"It is our challenge to

divert pilgrims to various destinations in the Jammu region. We have not succeeded in diverting these pilgrims to other parts of the region," he said.

Abdullah stressed that Jammu has distinct destinations that need publicity, adding that efforts will be made in this direction.

The department of tourism has been actively involved in developing tourism infrastructure in Jammu city to attract more tourists and has executed several projects under the State Capex Budget and Swadesh Darshan Scheme, he said.

■ Turn to page 9

## 4.48 crore tourists including 1.20 lakh foreigners visited J&K in past 2 years: J&K Govt

JAMMU, Mar 4 (Agencies): The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that 4.48 crore tourists, including 1.20 lakh foreigners, visited J&K during the past two years.

In a written reply to a question MLA Eidgah, Mubarak Gul, Minister in-charge Tourism, Omar Abdullah informed the House that 2.12 crore tourists visited J&K in 2023 and 2.36 crore in 2024.

Of them, 55337 foreign tourists visited J&K in 2023 and 65452 in 2024, the minister said.

He said that 2.11 crore domestic tourists visited J&K in 2023 and 2.35 crore in 2024.

The government disclosed that Rs 35.08 crore have been spent for promotion, advertisement and allied activities by the Department of Tourism during the past two financial years.

Of which Rs 14.14 crore were spent in 2023-24 and Rs 20.94 crore in 2024-25, the minister said.

He also said that 59 assets of the Tourism Department have been outsourced in the past two years.

## BJP objects to NC MLA's remarks on PoK

JAMMU, Mar 4 (Agencies): The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday sought expunging of remarks that facilities in the areas of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) are better. The remarks were made by a legislator of the National Conference.

During question hour, NC MLA from Trehgam said that facilities in the areas of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) near the Keran sector in Kupwara are better.

He made the remarks while asking supplementary questions during the question hour.

BJP legislator

■ Turn to page 9

## "J&K lost Special Status because of her," Dy CM Surinder Choudhary attacks Mehbooba Mufti



JAMMU, Mar 4 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary took a strong stance against former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti's comments regarding

the region's current political situation.

Ahead of the ongoing budget session of the J&K Assembly, Choudhary responded sharply to Mufti's remarks, stating, "Mehbooba Mufti can say anything because she is the reason for the destruction of J&K. If J&K has lost its statehood and special status, it is because of her."

Choudhary went on to assert that the current government does not need lessons from Mufti, stating, "We are answerable to the people who voted for us, not to her."

He also referred to a controversial incident when

■ Turn to page 9

## Sajad Lone stages walkout over disallowing of amendments regarding Article 370, Police Verification, and 1987 "Rigging"

JAMMU, Mar 4 (Agencies): Peoples Conference president and MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone, on Tuesday staged a walkout from the Legislative Assembly over the disallowing of his amendments regarding Article 370, police verification,

and the shifting back of detainees lodged in jails outside J&K.

After the question hour ended, Lone, stood up and questioned Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather over the disallowing of his amendments regarding Article 370, a probe into the rigging of the

1987 election, and PSA detentions.

The Speaker said that they had been disallowed under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House.

Lone had submitted seven amendments to the LG's address; how-

ever, only two were allowed. In his amendments, Lone had submitted that there was no mention of Article 370, doing away with the existing police verification system, and a probe into the rigging of the 1987 polls in the

■ Turn to page 9

## Tariq Karra calls Statehood Equivalent to Special Status

JAMMU, Mar 4 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Congress President Tariq Hameed Karra on Tuesday asserted that for his party, the restoration of statehood is equivalent to the restoration of special status following the Supreme Court verdict on Article 370.

Speaking to reporters outside the Legislative Assembly in Jammu, Karra said the Congress party's stance on special status has become clearer after the court's



ruling. "Every party has its own interpretation of special status, but for us, it means restoring full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

He emphasised that the Congress is committed to safeguarding

the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly regarding employment, land, and local resources. "We seek protection of jobs, land, and resources for our people, and this can only be ensured through the restoration of statehood," Karra said.

Karra urged the Modi government to act without delay in reinstating Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. "The people of this region deserve the constitutional guarantees that were taken

■ Turn to page 9

## 'Article 370 No Longer an issue, It's a 'Closed Chapter': JK LoP Sunil Sharma slams Mehbooba Mufti remark



JAMMU, Mar 4 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Leader of Opposition

and BJP MLA Sunil Sharma on Tuesday hit out at Kashmir-based political parties, stating

that they survive only by blaming each other for having ties with the BJP.

Speaking to ANI, BJP MLA Sunil Sharma said, "Kashmir-based political parties survive only by blaming each other for being associated with the BJP... They all chant the BJP's name time and again and blame each other. In the coming days, the BJP

■ Turn to page 9

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Budget Session-2025

# Discussion on 'Motion of Thanks' on LG's address commences in Legislative Assembly

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Tuesday started the discussion on Motion of Thanks on Lieutenant Governor's address, tabled by Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather before the house.

The motion moved by Mubarak Gul was seconded by Ghulam Ahmad Mir.

Speaking during the

Motion of Thanks, Mubarak Gul said that people gave overwhelming mandate to this government. He also called for restoration statehood. "Restoration of Statehood for Jammu and Kashmir is our right", he said.

Ghulam Ahmad Mir, during the address, thanked people for showing faith in the electoral process and participating during Assembly elections in large numbers. He also

called upon the legislators to make judicious use of the time of the house.

Sham Lal Sharma, while participating in the discussion said that our approach should be for making our institutions strong and work collectively in this regard.

Sajad Ahmad Shaheen appreciated the Government for presenting a holistic roadmap for the development of Jammu and Kashmir. He called for

development of health-care facilities as well as Educational infrastructure in his constituency. He enjoined upon all legislators to work collectively for the restoration of the Statehood.

Farooq Ahmad Shah in his address said that we have to maintain the dignity of the house and work for the welfare of people. He also called for framing of a policy to further promote sustainable Tourism in Gulmarg, Industrial growth

as well as creating employment avenues for the youth.

Dr. Rameshwar Singh also spoke during the motion of thanks tabled by Speaker. He said that the Government should frame a policy for the regularization of NRHM employees. He also called for creating job opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, besides timely action on illegal mining activities.

## 132 Cr expended for augmenting drinking water supply in Bandipora : Javed Ahmad Rana



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana on Tuesday informed the House that an amount of Rs 132 crore has been expended for augmentation of drinking water supply schemes under JJM/ UT Capex/ AMRUT 2.0 in Bandipora constituency. The Minister was replying

to a question raised by Nizam-u-din Bhat in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister further stated that DPR for WSS Bandipora Town project to be undertaken under AMRUT 2.0 is being surveyed and framed.

He further said that providing portable drinking water to every Household is a project of national importance launched by Prime

Minister in 2019 under Jal Jeevan Mission for the rural areas and same has been launched under AMRUT-2.0 for the Urban areas in Jammu & Kashmir.

On status of Aham-Sharief-Athwatoor- Waven WSS in terms of filtration component, the Minister said that the scheme has been made functional for Herpora Athwatoor and Tangtari habitations were as for Bunpora Athwatoor/ Tanghat it is 60 percent complete. Similarly, for Ahamsharief it is 70 percent complete and for Waven the stage of completion is 65 percent.

Nazir Gurezi, Balwant Singh Mankotia and Choudhary Mohammad Akram raised supplementaries on the question.

## 2,548.75 hectares of saffron land rejuvenated under National Mission on Saffron: Javed Dar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: The Minister for Agriculture Production, Javed Ahmad Dar on Tuesday informed that the National Mission on Saffron has made significant advancements, particularly strengthening of the irrigation system, rejuvenating 2,548.75 hectares of saffron land.

The Minister while replying to a question by Justice Hasnain Masoodi in the Legislative Assembly further said that the Government has successfully halted decline in saffron area and area under this crop has remained at 3,715 hectares (3665 Ha in Kashmir division and 50 Ha in Kishtwar) since 2010-11, with more areas identified for expansion supported by HADP. He further said that the productivity has enhanced from 2.50 kg/ha in 2009-10 to a maximum recorded productivity of 4.42 kg/ha in rejuvenated areas during 2023.

He said that the National Mission on Saffron initiated a plan to construct a network of 124 community bore-

wells. Each bore-well is intended to serve an area of 30 hectares, connected to sprinkler irrigation systems designed to support the irrigation needs of a total of 3,665 hectares of saffron fields.

He further informed that 85 bore-wells have been handed over to the Agriculture Department, however, efforts to construct the remaining 39 bore-wells have faced significant obstacles. Despite multiple invitations for tenders, there has been consistently poor participation in the tendering process. This lack of response has resulted in a substantial delay in further developing the necessary irrigation infrastructure.

He said that the Committee formed by the Government has found that 77 bore-wells are not functional for a long time.

The Minister said that a 400 Crore project had been sanctioned during 2010-11 by Ministry of Agriculture and Corporation, Government of India for boosting Saffron production and economic revival.

He further informed that the establishment

of Saffron Park/IIKSTC has helped farmers realize enhanced prices, increasing from Rs. 80,000 per kg to Rs. 2,20,000 per kg during 2021-22. Implementation of various scientific post-harvest processing methods increased saffron stigma recovery from 22g/kg to 28g/kg (an increase of 6g/kg) during 2021-22.

Through the mission, new technologies were implemented via Indian Institute of Kashmir Saffron and Technology Center (IIKSTC), leading to an increase in saffron colour quality from 8 percent (traditional drying) to 16 percent (scientific drying), the minister added.

He further said that the Mission addressed the issue of intermediaries exploiting saffron growers by implementing e-auctions at IIKSTC. This ensured fair farm-gate prices and enabled transparent transactions across India, effectively reducing the influence of intermediaries.

The Minister said that the Agriculture Department has made concerted efforts to combat disruptive activities of un-desirable element

among the saffron growing farmers which included damaging of sprinkler irrigation systems/bore-wells. The presence of Real-Estate players/land grabbers pose a significant threat to the success of saffron cultivation, in the area, complaints have also been lodged with the concerned revenue officials, he added.

While monitoring and evaluating the activities carried out under the Mission the Minister said that it is clearly suggestive that majority of the objectives and outcomes have been achieved under the Mission, however, a couple of objectives have remained incomplete due to various factors.

The Department has consistently involved local leadership and saffron growers in policy decisions to benefit farmers. Committees comprising saffron farmers, traders, civil society members, and other stakeholders have been formed to ensure their views are considered, the Minister maintained.

Sunil Sharma, M. Y Tarigami and Arjun Singh raised supplementaries on the question.

## JU organize interactive session of "ProQuest One Academic and its various services offered by the platform."

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: Dhanvantri Library, University of Jammu organized an informative and interactive session on "ProQuest One Academic and its various services offered by the platform.". The session aimed to equip library professionals with valuable tools and resources to enhance their academic journey.

The session provided an in-depth overview of ProQuest One Academic, an invaluable research platform offering access to a wide range of resources, including e-books, journals, theses, dissertations, and more sourced from reputed publishers. With a focus



on aiding scholarly research, the platform also integrates AI tools for research assistance, making it easier for researchers to streamline their work.

The event featured Sh. Sanjay Rajan, an expert from ProQuest One Academic team, who delivered a comprehensive

presentation on the various facets of ProQuest One Academic.

The session covered a variety of disciplines, including Social Science, Law, Language and Literature, Management, and more, showcasing a wide spectrum of academic content available

through the platform. In addition to written resources, attendees were also introduced to the video content provided on ProQuest One Academic, which includes access to video platforms and history channels, offering dynamic learning experiences for researchers and students.

### Budget Session 2025, Question Hour

## DPR for Keran -Jumgund tunnel to be prepared, taken up with MORTH : Deputy Chief Minister

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: The Deputy Chief Minister said that the demand for construction of tunnel on the road connecting Keran and Jumgund area of Kupwara for providing all weather connectivity will be taken up with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India. He said DPR would also be prepared and forwarded to concerned.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by Mir Saifullah on Tuesday.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that Keran sector is connected with the rest of UT of J&K via Parkiyan Gali to Keran road (46.76 Km), maintained by BRO.

He further said that the road remains partially closed during the winter season due to snow accumulation and regular snow clearance is being done by BRO for providing connectivity to Keran sector.

"The PMGSY Road Zirhama-Jumgund (length 25.00 km) is a high-altitude road. Snow clearance operations though carried out reg-

ularly but during heavy snow spells clearance operation becomes difficult beyond first 6 km and gets temporarily delayed till weather improves due to poor visibility, frost action, avalanches/ snow slides from upper reaches, especially in kms from 17th to 20th", he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister further informed that no alternate roads are available at present for the Keran and Jumgund areas. He said Parkiyan Gali to Keran (46.76 Km) road is maintained by BRO.

## Tara Chand demands land compensation to the farmers of ALC

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4 : In a statement Working President JKPC and Former Dy. Chief Minister Shri Tara Chand said that the farmers of border area whose land falls under mines area and fenced by the army have not received compensation for the last 15 years. He said that border area people face great hardships during peace and war. They cannot cultivate their fields properly due



to certain obstacles, like firing across the border, fencing of mines area etc., for which they were compensated but for the last several it was stopped. He demanded that proper compensation should be given to the

farmers of ALC on regular basis.

He also demanded special recruitment drive for border area people, in Army and Para Military Forces. He reiterated his earlier demand of regularization of all daily wagers, need based workers, besides those working in temporary, adhoc, consolidated & contractual basis for several years on meagre wages/salaries, filling up of vacant posts in various govern-

ment departments and preference should be given to local youths.

Former Dy Chief Minister demanded that 11 Kg. ration per head and Sugar and pulses on subsidized rates should be provided to the people through ration depots as they used to get this much ration years ago. He also demanded 12 gas cylinders on subsidized rates as promised by the parties and leaders during elections.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION R.S.PURA  
e-mail : xenpwrspura@gmail.com

### SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. DRSP/83 of 2024-25 Dated 01-03-2025

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of document (in Lacs)	Earnest Money (in Lacs)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of water Sump tank for rain harvesting at SM Farm Chakrohi (Under Component Agriculture Equipments (Irrigation system))	PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura	9.69	600	19380 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	2 Months	(1400 Hrs) on or after 10-03-2025	"A", "B", "C" & "D" Class

**Position of AAA** :- Office of the Directorate of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Jammu's vide No: 132-DDCJ of 2025 Dated: 04/02/2025.

**Position of TS** :- Accorded

**Project Authority** :- Directorate of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Jammu

**Major Head of Account** :- Under Component Agriculture Equipments (Irrigation system).

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01-03-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 01-03-2025 to 08-03-2025, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	03-03-2025 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura
4	Bid submission Start Date	01-03-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	08-03-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	10-03-2024 on or after 1400 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-challan in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division R S Pura through Treasury, indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) and Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. (The date of Treasury Challan, Earnest Money/Bid Security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End Date). The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura at the time of allotment.

No :- DIP/J-10680/24  
Dated :- Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura

## EDITORIAL

## India's Economy

As India strides into 2025, its economy stands at a critical juncture, shaped by global uncertainties, domestic reforms, and technological advancements. With the government's ambitious vision for a \$5 trillion economy, the nation is navigating a complex economic landscape that presents both challenges and opportunities. From inflationary pressures and fiscal management to green energy transitions and digital revolutions, India's economic trajectory in 2025 will be defined by its ability to adapt and innovate.

India has consistently been one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. Despite the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions, and fluctuating global markets, the country has demonstrated remarkable resilience. According to recent estimates, India's GDP growth rate is expected to hover between 6-7% in 2025, maintaining its position as a key driver of global economic expansion.

Key economic indicators such as foreign direct investment (FDI), infrastructure development, and employment generation are showing promising trends. The government's focus on Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and digital transformation has bolstered economic activity across sectors. However, inflation, job creation, and income disparity remain pressing concerns.

Inflation has been a persistent challenge for India. While food and energy prices remain volatile, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has had to strike a delicate balance between controlling inflation and sustaining growth. Interest rate adjustments have influenced borrowing costs, affecting businesses and consumers alike. Ensuring price stability without hampering economic momentum will be a crucial task for policymakers.

India's workforce is one of its greatest strengths, yet youth unemployment and underemployment pose significant concerns. The rapid rise of automation and artificial intelligence has disrupted traditional job markets, necessitating massive reskilling efforts. The government's Skill India initiative aims to bridge this gap, but ensuring widespread implementation remains a challenge.

The world is witnessing an era of geopolitical tensions, trade disruptions, and supply chain bottlenecks. India's dependency on imports for crude oil, semiconductor chips, and critical raw materials makes it vulnerable to external shocks. The Russia-Ukraine war, US-China trade tensions, and OPEC oil supply decisions have all impacted India's economic stability. Diversifying supply chains and boosting domestic production are vital to mitigating these risks.

While India's infrastructure push through projects like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, and PM Gati Shakti has spurred growth, it has also increased fiscal expenditure. Managing fiscal deficit and public debt without compromising economic development is a major challenge. The government's disinvestment plans, taxation reforms, and targeted subsidies will play a crucial role in striking this balance.

India's fintech revolution, led by UPI, Aadhaar-linked payments, and digital banking, has transformed financial inclusion. With the rise of Web3, blockchain, and AI-driven financial services, the digital economy is set to be a major growth driver. The government's push for 5G expansion and smart infrastructure will further accelerate this transformation.

With companies relocating supply chains away from China, India has a golden opportunity to establish itself as a global manufacturing hub. Policies like PLI (Production-Linked Incentive) schemes, ease of doing business reforms, and incentives for semiconductor manufacturing are attracting foreign investments. Strengthening domestic industries will create jobs, increase exports, and boost economic self-reliance.

As climate change concerns grow, India's shift toward renewable energy, electric vehicles (EVs), and sustainable urbanization is gaining momentum. The country has committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070 and expanding its solar and wind energy capacities. With initiatives like National Hydrogen Mission and FAME II for EVs, India is set to lead in green technology and sustainable infrastructure.

Agriculture remains the backbone of the Indian economy, employing nearly 50% of the population. The rise of AgriTech startups, modern irrigation techniques, and farm mechanization is revolutionizing the sector. Additionally, NABARD's priority sector lending and FPO (Farmer Producer Organizations) promotion are providing farmers with better credit access and market linkages. Strengthening rural infrastructure will further boost economic growth.

To sustain economic growth, India must focus on progressive policy reforms and robust governance. The following key areas will shape India's economic future:

A more simplified GST structure, corporate tax rationalization, and reducing bureaucratic hurdles will enhance business confidence.

Strengthening vocational training and tech-based learning will equip the workforce with future-ready skills.

Expanding universal healthcare access and investing in medical research will ensure a healthier, more productive population.

Continued investment in smart cities, high-speed rail, and connectivity projects will enhance economic mobility and urbanization.

## Fallout from Oval office meeting &amp; Trump-Zelensky's broken talks

By: Omkar Dattatray

The talks between US president Donald Trump who is the top cop of the world and the Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelensky failed as the American president rebuked his Ukrainian counterpart and ended the talks midway thus raising question on the fallout on the broken talks between the two leaders. The world saw on Friday in TV channels the unparalleled and unprecedented spat between the US president Trump and Ukrainian president Zelensky. What transpired at the White House between the two leaders in 45 minute talks is no less than a diplomatic disaster of the modern history. The implication of the failed talks go beyond Ukraine affecting NATO, European interests & US-Russia ties. The broken talks do not mean much for the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine and it is also seen as the shot in the arm of Russian president Putin and the impact and repercussion on the war between Russia and Ukraine will be great and in fact Trump not only cut the conversation but rebuked Zelensky. The reverberations of Fridays tense meeting between president Donald Trump and Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky –in which Trump and vice –president JD Vance berated and belittled the Ukrainian leader over Russia's war on the country are still being felt from Washington to Kyiv. The broken talks left Zelensky reared as the US president was angry over Ukrainian president's behavior which led to mass killings of the civilians in Ukraine. European leaders had an emergency summit in London following the failed talks between president Trump and Zelensky to rally support for Ukraine as British Prime Minister Keir Starmer seeks to wrestle control of negotiations away from the US. Russian officials and the state media have expressed glee at the highly public diplomatic breakdown. The White House, meanwhile, is making clear it views the showdown as an overwhelming win that underscores Trump's "America first" leadership. Meanwhile, the Trump administration is pursuing his top priorities at home, including shaking up the federal workforce with a new round of mass emails to government employees. Meanwhile, the American pub-

lic's view of Trump's presidency and the direction he is leading the country is more negative than positive just ahead of his first formal address to Congress. As Ukraine entered its fourth year of Russia's full-scale war, it was geopolitics, not the war itself, that dominated headlines, as Kyiv's relationship with the new US President Donald Trump nosedived over a proposed mineral deal. In the meantime though, the battlefield continues to rage on multiple fronts, with daily Russian assaults continuing through a period of consistent sub-zero temperatures across eastern Ukraine. Where will the breakdown fallout and help you to navigate the fast-evolving events. After failed talks due to its scuttling by Trump, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky said the relationship between the United States and his country "will continue" when asked by reporters in London how he would salvage it following an explosive meeting on Friday with President Donald Trump and vice president JD Vance. "I think our relationships will continue," Zelensky told reporters Sunday. "We are grateful to all the societies in the countries that support us. Indeed, we are very thankful, and the bipartisan support has always been on our side, and I think at the same level, the support will continue." Zelensky called the US a "strategic partner," saying it would not benefit anyone other than Russia if US assistance to Ukraine were to stop. British PM Keir Starmer gathered European leaders for a pivotal summit in London on Sunday as the continent sought to wrestle control of negotiations over the Russia-Ukraine war away from US and present a united front. Zelensky and an ensemble of European leaders were in attendance, at a moment of intense anxiety in the conflict. It is believed that UK PM Starmer was working with France and a small number of other nations to craft a ceasefire plan, which would then be presented to the US. The US President Donald Trump and Ukraine's President Zelensky meet in the Oval office of the white House but the Trump rebuked and berated Zelensky and held him and his policies squarely responsible for large scale civilian killings and wasting billions of dollars of financial and development aid and wasting it in fighting war with Russia whose

result is civilian killings and destruction of its country and economy which is very fragile and had been salvaged by US financial aid which stands wasted in fighting a losing battle with Russia. Trump admonished and even insulted/rebuked Zelensky for continuing war with Russia. US president Trump has claimed that the US spent dollar 350 billion on assistance for Ukraine. He also said he wants it back. Trump has used the sum to pressurize Ukraine into signing a deal that would give the US at least a 50% interest in Ukrainian natural resources through a joint investment fund as payback for its support for Kyiv. According to media reports and president Zelensky, Ukraine would be supposed to gradually contribute dollar 500 billion from its budget revenues from mineral resources to the fund. Ukraine had declined to sign Trump's version of the deal, with Zelensky saying, "I am not signing something that will be paid by 10 generations of Ukrainians." Trump doesn't lie all the time, sometimes he sleeps. How much Putin pay Trump to betray Ukraine and Europe? Trump is a Russian asset who won't defend Europe. He agreed to give Russia everything they wanted before the negotiations started. Trump won't honor the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 or his NATO commitments. Europe needs to lean Russian or fully support Ukraine. European weapons are far more effective at weakening Russia on Ukraine's battlefield than collecting dust in a European warehouse. In order to have long term peace, Russia's ability to wage war must be neutralized. Thousands of military and industrial sites across Russia must be destroyed. This will require tens of thousands of drones, ballistic and cruise missiles. Europe must build them. Europe doesn't seem to understand what fully supporting Ukraine looks like. This includes—

.G- Seize all Russian assets. This includes Russian ships. H-Putin must be removed from power. The sooner this occurs, the less bloodshed in Ukraine and Europe. The fact that Putin can travel without fear is an embroachment to the intelligence services of the free world. If Putin escapes consequences, the more radical elements of his government will continue wreck less aggression. Amid tension of failed talks US threatens to shut off star link if Ukraine won't sign minerals deal, it is learnt. The much awaited meeting between US president Trump and Ukrainian president Zelensky on Feb 28, 2025, was expected to be crucial milestone towards ending the long drawn war between Russia and Ukraine. But unfortunately the crucial talks failed and led to increased diplomatic tensions and uncertainty over US support to Ukraine. There were heated exchanges and no talks on ceasefire and lessening conflict and thus there is dark shadow now lingering on Ukrainian President and on the war between the two countries and Ukraine will continue to be at the receiving end. The rebuke by the President Trump to Zelensky will force him to think of pursuing ceasefire in near future or otherwise that country will continue to bleed as its civilian population will be the casualty which perhaps Trump does not like as he wants that no more civilians should be killed by the immaturity of Zelensky. The million dollar question that arises is if the Europe is looking for a new leader of the world after Trump-Zelensky spat and this question haunts the mind and needs answer after the failed talks between the two presidents of US and Ukraine but Zelensky will have to pay heavily for his wrong policies and bringing his country to continued was that resulted in the killing of the army as well as civilian population.

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

## Ram Teri Ganga Maili: A warning that became reality

By: Amarpal Singh Verma

Although most films are fictional, many films become reality. Raj Kapoor's 'Ram Teri Ganga Maili' is one such film, which gave a warning. This warning was about the polluted Ganga, which has now become a reality. Released on 25 July 1985, this film was not just a love story but it was a revolutionary film exposing the ugly truth of society which still shakes us. While this film exposed the moral degradation, religious hypocrisy and political selfishness in the society through the river Ganga, it also drew attention towards the pollution of the river Ganga. On 25 July 2025, this film will complete 40 years of its release, but its relevance and poignancy are still as deep today. This film was a warning about the polluted Ganga, which we ignored and today we are suffering its consequences.

I saw this film when I was sixteen years old. Before the conclusion of Prayagraj Maha Kumbh, when questions were raised on the purity of Ganga water, I

remembered this at the age of 56. In the film, Ganga (Mandakini) is not just a woman but a symbol of purity, innocence and truth. Her life journey begins with clean and pure streams like the river Ganga, but as she faces the harsh realities of society, her life gets polluted. This story is not just about exploitation of a woman but also about a society with double standards, which pretends to give the status of goddess to women but in reality considers women only as objects of pleasure.

The song 'Ram Teri Ganga Maili Ho Gayi Paapion Ke Paap Dhote Dhote' in the film was not just a song but a tight slap on those people who call Ganga mother but leave no stone unturned in polluting it. Compared to four decades ago in 1985, the problem of Ganga getting polluted has become a scary truth today. Plans have been made for decades to clean the Ganga river, but concrete campaigns like Namami Gange have raised some hopes of improvement in it. In the decade of the Modi government, under this campaign, hundreds of sewage treatment plants have been built on the banks of the

Ganga, monitoring of industrial waste has increased and efforts have been made to curb illegal construction on the banks of the Ganga. The government claims that the level of oxygen in the Ganga water has increased and improvement in the quality of water has been observed at many places. Although the Ganga has still not become completely clean, initiatives like Namami Gange can be considered a meaningful effort in this direction.

In festivals like Maha Kumbh, there is talk of cleaning the Ganga, but the required seriousness is not seen towards a permanent solution. What else is this if not an irony that we are poisoning the river that we worship? Ganga is not just a river but the life stream flowing in the arteries of India. It is the center of faith of crores of people as well as life-giving.

In this film, the main character Ganga has been shown to be exploited in the society, which is a reflection of the condition of women even today. What has changed in these 40 years? Girls are still unsafe, discrimination continues at workplaces and

domestic violence is on the rise.

There is a lot of talk about giving equal status to women but have they really got equality? Even today, somewhere or the other, some Ganga is fighting for its existence. Even today, this film forces us to think whether we are really moving towards a civilized society or are we just sitting under the blanket of hollow ideals?

The film shows how religion and politics collude to cheat and confuse the common people. Has the situation changed even after four decades? Ram Teri Ganga Maili was not just a film but a meaningful message which we ignored. Pollution of Ganga, exploitation of women, and politics in the name of religion, all these problems are still taking a terrible form in our society.

If we had understood the message of this film, perhaps the situation would have been different today but it is not too late yet. It is time that we consider Ganga not just a river but a living soul and take concrete steps to save it. Also, we should move beyond empty promises to give equality and respect to women and bring about real change so that the coming generation can get a better society. The big question is whether we will still ignore this warning or try to do something concrete?

## M3M India enters Jammu market, holds 'The Great Property Fest'



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: Real estate developer M3M India has announced that it has officially entered into the Jammu market. M3M India hosted "The Great Property Fest" on March 1st and 2nd, 2025, at the Radisson Blu, Jammu.

This strategic expansion into Jammu represents a significant milestone in the company's growth journey, as it broadens its national presence and offers its iconic projects to Jammu's residents and investors, setting new standards in the city's real estate market.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including Sat Sharma, BJP President, UT of J&K; Jugal Kishore, MP Lok Sabha; and Ashok Kaul, Organizing Secretary, BJP J&K, with many other dignitaries.

The event showcased an impressive 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.

The two-day property fest, "The Great Property Fest", received an overwhelming response from the people of Jammu. The event witnessed a significant footfall, with numerous prospective customers visiting the fest to explore the luxurious projects offered by M3M India. The enthusiastic response from the attendees was a testament to the growing demand for quality real estate projects.

M3M India's entry into Jammu is a strategic move to diversify its portfolio and tap into the city's growing demand for housing and commercial spaces. With less competition in the real estate market, M3M India aims to establish a strong presence and increase revenue.

"We are thrilled to introduce M3M India to Jammu and offer our customers a range of world-class properties. Our mission is to provide buyers with the highest quality properties, ensuring their ultimate satisfaction. We are committed to delivering exceptional projects that exceed our customers' expectations and contribute to the city's growth and development," said Mr. Robin Mangla, President, M3M India.

Rishi Singh, Founder of Silverdome Realtors, and Mr. Neeraj Lakhipuri, Founder of Quantum Realty, jointly stated, "Our goal is to deliver exceptional quality and satisfaction to our customers. We're excited to collaborate with M3M India, a prominent developer, to transform Jammu and Kashmir's real estate market."

With its entry into Jammu, M3M India is poised to bring its signature blend of luxury, quality, and innovation to the city's real estate market. The company's focus on customer satisfaction, timely delivery, and quality construction is expected to resonate with the city's discerning homebuyers and investors.

The plea specifically concerns the long-serving employees working under the Jammu and Kashmir NHM, many of whom have been serving on a contractual basis more than two decades.

In a statement issued here to the media, the NHM Employees Association highlighted that the Government of Maharashtra recently made a historic decision to regularize NHM employees who had been working on contractual terms for the past ten years. As part of this initiative, Maharashtra's government assured that these dedicated health workers would be accommodated in permanent positions within the state's health services.

This landmark decision has sparked optimism among NHM employees in Jammu and Kashmir, who have long been advocating for job security and official recognition of their contributions. Following this development, NHM employees in J&K have urged the government to adopt a similar approach and provide a clear pathway to regularization for the NHM workforce in the Union Territory.

## NHM employees demand regularization, urges Govt to follow Maharashtra's example

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: The National Health Mission (NHM) employees in Jammu and Kashmir have once again called upon the Omar Abdullah-led government to extend similar recognition and support to its workforce, as recently demonstrated by the Government of Maharashtra.

The plea specifically concerns the long-serving employees working under the Jammu and Kashmir NHM, many of whom have been serving on a contractual basis more than two decades.

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Dr. Vikas Sharma, Provincial President of All J&K NHM Employees Association, Jammu Division, strongly emphasized the need for immediate action, stating, "Our NHM employees have been the backbone of public health-

care services, working under strenuous conditions without job security. If Maharashtra can acknowledge and secure the future of its NHM workforce, there is no reason why the J&K government cannot follow the same course. The government must act now and implement a structured regularization process."

Faizan A Trambo, Sr. Vice President of NHM Employees Association Jammu Division, also voiced his concerns, stating, "It is disheartening that despite years of dedicated service, NHM employees in J&K continue to work under uncertainty. Regularization is not just about job security; it is about justice and recognition for the selfless contribution of healthcare workers. We urge the government to prioritize this demand."

Adding to the collective demand, Dr. Hamid Parry, Chief Spokesperson of NHM Employees Association, reiterated, "The government of Jammu and Kashmir must take inspiration from Maharashtra and address this long-pending issue. Regularizing NHM employees will not only ensure stability for the workforce but also enhance the overall efficiency of the healthcare system."

The All J&K NHM Employees Association Jammu Division firmly believes that this is a matter of fairness and equity. Regularization would provide job security, motivation, and a stable working environment for healthcare workers who have tirelessly served the people of J&K for years.

The association hopes that the Omar Abdullah-led government will acknowledge the importance of this demand and take necessary steps to ensure justice for NHM employees in the Union Territory.

## Local leaders to hinder construction of Rattle Hydro Electric Project: Bhagat

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 4: Senior National Conference leader, Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat said an alarming issue concerning the construction of the Rattle Hydro Electric Project in Drabshalla. It has come to my notice that certain local leaders are attempting to obstruct the ongoing construction of this prestigious project for their personal interests.

The National Conference leader said it is worth recalling that a similar situation occurred in 2014 when certain some local leaders forcibly entered the project site and compelled the management



of the then L&T Company to suspend work. Consequently, GVK, the principal employer of the Rattle Hydro Electric Project at that time, had no choice but to abandon the project. Unfortunately, the current scenario appears to be repeating itself due to similar interference by some local leaders. Bhagat said the Chief Operating Officer of the

executing agency, Mega Engineering Company, which is the contractor for the Rattle Hydro Power Project Corporation Limited, has publicly stated that local leaders are harassing the company for their personal gain. This undue pressure is forcing them to consider abandoning the project once again.

Bhagat requested to Honorable Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo take strict legal action against these individuals who are undermining this vital project. Their actions are not only detrimental to the project's progress but also to the overall development of the region.

## GDC R.S Pura conducts quiz competition



### Top News Report

R S PURA, Mar 4: In continuation to the month-long celebration of 75th Year of Adoption of Constitution of India and 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, GDC RS Pura hosted an engaging Online Quiz Competition on Tuesday under the patronship of Principal Prof (Dr.) Preetpal Kour and coordinated by Dr Rakesh Choudhary HOD Department of Political Science. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from

students across various departments, making it a resounding success.

The online quiz, conducted tested participants on a diverse range of topics, including Continuity and Changes in Constitution of India and Contributions of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel.

The competition aimed to enhance critical thinking on evolution of Indian Constitution, improve understanding of its leaders and promote a culture of learning beyond the classroom.

Principal Prof (Dr.) Pre-

etpal Kour, expressed delight at the overwhelming response, stating, "It is encouraging to see students actively engage in such intellectually stimulating events. The quiz not only fosters learning but also nurtures a spirit of healthy competition."

After the conduct of quiz, the winners were announced, with Jhanvi Majotra securing the first place, followed by Shikha Devi in second place. The winners were awarded certificates and prizes, recognizing their exceptional performance. The Quiz was prepared and judged by Prof Vijeeta Anand and Dr Varinder Kour.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr Rakesh Choudhary who appreciated the efforts of the organizing committee, faculty members, and participants. The success of this quiz reaffirms the college's commitment to academic excellence and interactive learning experiences.

## ZEO Office Ghat and Doda Heaven for Unfair Appointees

### Top News Report

DODA, Feb 4: Various available Enquiry reports reveal that over two dozen Rehbre Taleem Teachers enjoy appointment in ruthless violation of recruitment rules without advertisement, without framing of merit panel, without vacancy, manipulated documents and reports, without approval in Zone Ghat and Doda and encash hefty amounts monthly from public Exchequer. Recently Director School Education Jammu Vide No.DSEJ/Legal/21366-67 Dtd 09-09-2024 ordered for bulk termination of 18 ReT's working under the nomenclature of Surplus ReT's who managed their appointment in hawala style in 2014-15 but ZEO Ghat defied said order despite CEO Doda's direction dated 13-09-2024 bearing No.CEO/D/Legal/2024/394 to implement order of DSEJ within three days indicating administrative deterioration and monopoly in ZEO Office Ghat of District Doda. The deluge does not ends here, an ReT working under the control of ZEO Ghat Shehraz Hussain who managed appointment

as ReT on 3rd of December 2004 Vide No. ZEO/G/269-72 dtd 03-12-2004 through production of fake 10+2 marks card bearing roll No. 722881 showing 307/600 marks in place of actual marks 267/600 has encashed unlawful salary of rupees Seventy five lakhs, thirty thousands and seven hundred seven only (Rs 75,30,707) upto January 2025 on the strength of said fake marks card and with the blessings of his brother Ayaz Hussain presently Master Govt High School Shamthi Zone Bhagwah of Doda who in the capacity of then Cluster Resource Person (CRP) played role of a mastermind in the appointment of his brother in 2004 and his wife in 2015 by cheating then staff of ZEO Ghat. Said Master enjoys access to sensitive records in ZEO Office Ghat as terminated 18 Surplus ReT's of zone Ghat include his wife Farhat Riaz also. Illegal appointees Babloo Kumar and Pinky Devi of PS Chakri and Farid Ahmed Naik of UPS Chitran Zone Ghat also suffered cancellation of their regularization vide DSEJ's order No.DSEJ/4208-10 dated

20-02-2020 and No.163-of-DSEJ dated 31-05-2022 owing to adverse reports. ZEO Ghat is well aware of said scams but avoids to take any action thus allowing government resources to bleed profusely.

Same is the situation in ZEO Office Doda wherein decades old controversial appointments of Rafiq Banoo, Sumiah Kousar both ReT of UPS Home Guard Lines Doda, Zakir Hussain ReT of PS Check Post Doda and without advertisement appointment of Mohd Iqbal in UPS Basti Koti, out of norms appointment of Sabiha Fatima ReT PS Bijami Doda have also damaged the sanctity of selection process in Zone Doda. Recently DSEJ after instructions from Higher Ups vide his No.DSEJ/Legal/29524-31 Dated December 24, 2024 rejected the regularization case of Rafiq Banoo and Sumiah Kousar. Public of Distt Doda expects stern action from newly appointed Director School Education Jammu and Chief Education Officer Doda against involved officials and beneficiaries to create an example of transparency and justice.

## Youth must show maximum participation in Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament: Khushal

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: In a press briefing here in Udhampur, District Youth Officer, Khushal Gupta said that the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India is organising Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament in 301 nodal districts across the country.

This year, the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament will be organised in a restructured manner in line with the Prime Minister's Vision for heightened youth participation in shaping India's Future.

The applications of restructuring program have opened and youth in the age group of 18-25 years can apply well before 9th March, 2025.

The opportunity has been given to the youth to encourage them to engage with public issues, understand the common man's point of view, form their opinions and express them in an articulate manner.

Focussing more on the event, he added that the reimagined National Youth Parliament now Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament shall feature the deliberations in virtual mode in which the eligible youth will register on MY

Bharat (mybharat.gov.in) portal, apply for Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament and upload 1 minute video on the topic What does Viksit Bharat mean to you? The screening committee will shortlist 150 participants at each district node and will invite them to participate in physical mode where they will deliberate on the topic On Nation, One Election: Paving the Way for Viksit Bharat. It is pertinent to mention that only 10 participants will be shortlisted at each district node who will get an opportunity to speak in the State Legislative assembly.

To enable bright youth with a vision to share their ideas for Viksit Bharat at the transformative National Platform, it is important to give them the opportunity to participate. In this connection, he urged the youth (18-25 years) belonging to districts Udhampur, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Pulwama, Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian to participate in the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament on MY Bharat portal and conveyed them to approach the nearest NYK Office or NSS Programme Officer/ Coordinator for any further clarification.

## MSME DFO Jammu hosts awareness programme on LEAN at Jammu

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: MSME-Development & Facilitation Office a field office of Union Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSME Sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

The activities including Entrepreneurship Awareness Program, Intellectual Property Rights Awareness Pro-

gram, PM-Vishwakarma Seminar, PM-Vishwakarma Awareness Workshop, Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Program, Management Development Program, Reimbursement of Barcode Expenditure, Reimbursement of Stall Charges, To and From Charges, Advertising Expenditure for participating in 250 exhibition or trade fairs approved



by Union Ministry of MSME. The lists of approved

exhibitions are available in <https://my.msme.gov.in/MyMsme/Reg/>

COM\_ViewEvent.aspx An awareness program on LEAN competi-

tive scheme of Union Ministry of MSME was conducted in association with Association of Small Scale Industries Gangyal at Gangyal, Jammu for encouraging the MSMEs of the region manufacturing products of world class qualities with minimum wastages in manufacturing process like improvement in storage of raw material, arrangement of tools, placing of

machineries according to scientific layout, material handling, optimizing the work force, storage of Finished goods, conducting Motion study etc., Union Ministry of MSME provides subsidy from 12 Lakhs to 32 Lakhs for any LEAN Cluster. Address on LEAN by Vinod Pandita from Quality Council of India for achieving the said objectives was given.

Lecture on Schemes implemented by the field office was delivered by D.K.Tyagi, Assistant Director.

Earlier Virendra Jain, President of the association welcomed the participants and requested to G.Velladurai, Joint Director of MSME DFO Jammu to organize similar programs for the benefit of their members frequently.

## Anora, The Brutalist win big at 97th Academy Awards with five and three wins, respectively

Sean Baker's *Anora*, a movie about a sex worker who marries the pampered son of a Russian oligarch, won big at the 97th Academy Awards, held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, as it took home five Oscars, including Best Picture. Sean Baker, the maverick behind *Anora*, won for producing, directing, editing and writing the film's screenplay.

His latest film was a favourite with critics and its Oscar success is a statement-making moment for Neon, the indie distributor behind *Anora*, which previously guided *Parasite* to a best picture statue in 2020. However, having earned \$40 million globally, *Anora* also ranks as one of the lowest grossing Best Picture winners in history.

**Best of the best**  
Adrien Brody and Mikey Madison took the top acting honours. Brody, a previous winner for *The Pianist*, played a brilliant, but troubled architect in *The Brutalist*, while Madison scored an upset victory for her portrayal of an exotic dancer under pressure to get an annulment.

Madison said, "I grew up in Los Angeles, but Hollywood always felt so far away from me, so to be here, standing in this room today is really incredible." She went on to pledge her support to the sex worker community, calling herself, 'an ally'. Brody's win, one of three prizes for *The Brutalist*, came after a series of setbacks had seen him shunted aside by the movie business. "Acting is a very fragile profession," Brody, who had to hand his gum to his partner Georgina Chapman before taking the stage, said. "No matter where you are in your career, no matter what you've accomplished, it can all go away. And I think that what makes this night most special is the awareness of that.



And the gratitude that I have to still do the work that I love."

A *Real Pain* star Kieran Culkin was named best supporting actor for his turn as a troubled man on a tour of Poland with his cousin, while Zoe Saldana won best supporting actress for her performance as an attorney who helps a cartel leader undergo gender affirmation surgery in *Emilia Pérez*.

With tears streaming down her

face, Saldana declared herself 'a proud child of immigrant parents'. "I am the first American of Dominican origin to accept an Academy Award, and I know I will not be the last," she added.

Among other major winners, *I'm Still Here*, a family drama set during Brazil's military dictatorship, was named best international feature. It made history as it was the first time the country had ever won an Oscar.

*Flow*, a fantasy adventure from Latvia about a cat's efforts to survive a flood, picked up best animated feature over the likes of *The Wild Robot* and *Inside Out 2*. And *No Other Land*, a look at the Israeli government's efforts to force Palestinians from their homes in the West Bank, won best documentary despite struggling to get distribution.

**Top draw**  
Best Picture: *Anora*  
Best Actor: Adrien Brody, *The Brutalist*  
Best Actress: Mikey Madison, *Anora*  
Best Director: Sean Baker, *Anora*

Best Supporting Actress: Zoe Saldana, *Emilia Pérez*  
Best Supporting Actor: Kieran Culkin, *A Real Pain*  
Best International Film: *I'm Still Here*  
Best Documentary Feature: *No Other Land*  
Best Animated Film: *Flow*

Lisa dons Rahul Mishra's outfit  
Lisa of popular K-pop group Blackpink wore an outfit by Indian designer Rahul Mishra for her musical tribute to James Bond at the Academy Awards. Lisa, who is a rapper in Blackpink, created history by becoming the first K-pop idol to take the Oscars centrestage for a performance on the song *Live and Let Die* from the 1973 James Bond film of the same name.

## John Abraham, who is all set for his next release *The Diplomat*, talks about his career trajectory



Actor-producer John Abraham says he has often been written off in the industry in his over two-decade-long career but his audience has kept him going, something that he respects and wants to repay by telling good stories.

The actor, whose next release *The Diplomat* is inspired by true incidents, said the film will, hopefully, resonate with viewers in the brightest way possible.

"People have, in the past, said that Parmanu marked my 1.0 version because I'd disappeared for four years. These are obituaries that are written every day about me, and it's fine, I don't have a problem with it. My career has been built on criticism, I enjoy it," Abraham said in an interview.

"The only thing that's kept me going in this

my audience. People in the trade, producers, critics they all judge you by numbers and I get all that, and I respect that. That's business. But the only people that have kept me going and have made me survive is my audience. And I made 'The Diplomat' for that audience," he added.

The film industry had a terrible year in terms of box office and Abraham believes it is now important to focus on the basics that make any story click with the audience and that's writing.

"My vision as a producer and as an actor is just to create good stories and reach out to a wider audience. Do I want the numbers? I want the Rs 100 crore, 200s, 300s and the 400 crores. We all want that, but we want that with good stories. That's the

difference.

"We as an audience and trade are putting too much stress into the bifurcation of how the money is being spent. We've to cut all this noise, go back to writing, go back to where we started from and why we wanted to make films." Admitting that he also has been "guilty" of prioritising box office, Abraham said he now recognises the significance of well-crafted stories.

Citing the example of "The Diplomat", the actor said it's important that the movie, directed by Shivam Nair of Naam Shabana and "Special Ops", attains commercial success as that will empower him and his team to continue making such films.

Inspired by true events, the film features Abraham in the role of diplomat JP Singh, who steps in to rescue an Indian woman named Uzma (Sadia Khateeb of *Raksha Bandhan* fame) from Pakistan.

The actor said he was captivated by the script of "The Diplomat" from the first reading.

"I love geopolitics, so I thought this looks interesting, and I fell in love with what I read, credit to Ritesh Shah (writer). For me, it's about the story; it's immaterial whether you see a woman or a man in front. If the painting is beautiful, all the characters look beautiful," the actor said.

The film is scheduled to be released in theatres on March 14.

## Assam girl Binita Chhetry stuns 'Britain's Got Talent' judges with mesmerising dance

An eight-year-old girl from Assam has left the judges of 'Britain's Got Talent' amused with her dance performance.

In a video of the programme that has gone viral on social media, she introduces herself as Binita Chhetry. Her breathtaking performance earns her a standing ovation from both the judges and the audience.

Introducing herself, she says, "My name is Binita Chhetry and I am eight years old. I am from Assam, India. 'Britain's Got Talent' is my dream stage and I want to win it. I would like to buy a 'Pink Princess House'."

She wins the hearts of the judges and audience with her confidence.

The girl has garnered praise for her performance.

The video also caught the attention of Anand Mahindra, the renowned industrialist. Sharing the clip on X, he wrote, "Just 8 years old. World-class.



Steel-willed; because that kind of mastery over her body comes only with intense practice. And with unwavering focus on her ambition, even if it's just a 'Pink Princess House.' She's my #MondayMotivation."

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, too, shared the video and wrote, "My best wishes to the little one and hope she is able to buy a Pink Princess House."

Netizens couldn't hold back their appreciation

and wished for Binita's success. "What core strength! Her performance was full of plenty of power moves. Many congratulations to Binita Chhetry for her selection and many good wishes ahead! Go girl go!" commented a user.

"Many many congratulations, Assam's little princess," commented another.

A third user commented, "Congratulations! Achieving such an incredible feat at just eight years old is truly inspiring... You go girl!"

## Members of the band Delhi Indie Project say they are a concoction of everything, like a thali with all the flavours of Indian music

On a breezy March afternoon at the Hyatt poolside, just hours before their latest gig, the band Delhi Indie Project, known for their experimental indie rock songs like *Main Teri Yaad* (reprise) and *Guzarish*, began a conversation about their journey, influences and what lies ahead.

The members comprise Ashish Chauhan, vocals and guitar, Srijita Konar, vocals, Nysha, vocals, Ayush Gupta, keyboard, Siddhant Boruah, drums, Dev Taneja, electric guitar, Divesh Karki, bass and Suhail Ali Khan, violin. With roots in namesake Delhi and launched in 2015, the band has performed over 1,000 gigs in India and abroad. While discussing their musical influences, the band members also share their inspirations. "I have a background in classical Indian, semi-classical; others in our band play metal, a few of us are big fans of Bollywood—it's a concoction of everything, like a thali with all flavours of Indian music," says Konar.

The conversation moves ahead to the band's unique name to which Gupta replies, "We are all from Delhi, born and brought up in the city, so it makes sense to name it after Delhi, and Indie project because we want



to explore independent music." To which Chauhan adds, "We like to experiment. The songs are about different topics, travel, life's journey, about life in Delhi; *Yeh Dilli Hai Meri* is one such song from our discography."

Growing connect  
When talking about the local music scene in India, the members say, "When we go to different cities to perform, we try to cater to the audience there. We play covers of local songs and music inspired by the city. It helps people connect more with us." About their journey and their landmark performances, they

share, "It's definitely the opening for Bryan Adams back in December, 2024, in Delhi. It's one that we will always remember."

The band is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year and their evolution through years of experience is apparent in their performances. "Being a musician, you have to be constantly developing with music and technology. In the past decade, the industry has shifted from rock to pop to eventually electronic. It naturally influences our music taste and style," says Gupta, to which Chauhan adds, "His-

tory shows us that the bands that keep up with the emerging trends are the only ones that grow. So we are keen to learn and evolve."

Heart's wish  
About one collaboration that they wish for, Konar says, "We recently lost Zakir ji (Zakir Hussain) with whom we would love to share space and breathe the same air." Gupta and Chauhan add, "Modern, progressive musicians like Steven Wilson are quite elite and we would love to work with him."

Ashish Chauhan, the vocalist and guitarist of the band, recalls a fond anecdote of the tricity and chuckles, "I played at Punjab Engineering College years ago. All the other members of the band were senior to me and in college, while I was in school. I was their drummer; they made a fake college ID for me and we ended up winning the competition! We won a sum of one lakh rupees and I got 20,000. Back in 2006 it was a huge amount of money."

The band is currently crafting a brand new album, featuring original songs and fresh recordings. Leading the way is their highly anticipated feature track, *Laksh*, which is set to drop soon.

## Millie Bobby Brown calls out media for 'bullying' her about appearance: 'I'm now a target'

"Stranger Things" star Millie Bobby Brown has criticised media publications for dissecting her "face, body, and choices" in their recent coverage about her appearance and "bullying" her instead of doing journalism.

The British actor's comments come days after there was a lot of chatter about her new blonde-haired look during the promotional events of her upcoming Netflix film "The Electric State" which according to certain publications and social media users made her look older.

In an Instagram video posted on Tuesday, Brown said: "The fact that adult writers are spending their time dissecting my face, my body, my choices, it's disturbing... This isn't journalism. This is bullying. Let's do better.

Not just for me, but for every young girl who deserves to grow up without fear of being torn apart for simply existing." The actor detailed how tough it has been for her to grow in the public eye as a young woman.

"I think it's necessary to speak up about this. I started in this industry when I was 10 years old. I grew up in front of the world, and for some reason, people can't seem to grow with me," she wrote.

Brown, who is now 21, made her debut with the 2013 drama "Once Upon a Time in Wonderland". But her breakthrough came three years later with the premiere of the period sci-fi horror series "Stranger Things" in which she stars as Eleven. In her post, the actor also pointed out how people want her to look



the same as she did years ago. "They act like I'm supposed to stay frozen in time, like I should still look the way I did on 'Stranger

Things' Season 1. And because I don't, I'm now a target." Brown then mentioned a few articles about her appearance with headlines, such as "What has Millie Bobby Brown done to her face?", "Millie Bobby Brown mistaken for someone's mom as she guides younger sister Ava through LA" by Cassie Carpenter, and "Little Britain's Matt Lucas takes savage swipe at Millie Bobby Brown's new 'mommy makeover' look". The actor said she refuses to apologise for "growing up".

"I refuse to make myself smaller to fit the unrealistic expectations of people who can't handle seeing a girl become a woman. I will not be shamed for how I look, how I dress, or how I present myself," she added.

Many actors went on to support Brown in the

comments section. "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" alumna Emma Caulfield wrote, "Mills, sorry this happens my babes, you're such sunshine & light, sending you a big hug. (sic)" "Well said Millie. Handled with grace (sic)", her "Enola Holmes" co-star Louis Partridge said.

"I'm so sorry you going through this. I can relate with you on those tough moment. I'm also growing up in front of the media and feel constantly judged and criticized. Ofc females are on the spotlight in a harsh way, and I feel really sorry that you are going through this. Remember also that there is another side of the world that loves and respects you for your talent and for who u are. Sending lots of love (sic)" Brazilian actor and YouTuber Kevin Vechiatto said.

## World looking at India as trusted partner, industry should take advantage: PM Modi

*Stressing that India's manufacturing is the backbone for industrial growth, Modi asked the stakeholders to identify new products that have global demand and whose manufacturing can happen in India.*

NEW DELHI, Mar 4 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asked the Indian industry to take "big steps" for taking advantage of global opportunities at a time when the world is looking at India as a trusted partner, which can produce quality goods.

Addressing a post-Budget webinar on Regulatory, Investment and Ease of Doing Business Reforms, Modi also said that amid supply-chain disruptions caused by economic uncertainties globally, the world today needs a trusted partner which can produce high-quality products and have a reliable supply chain.

"Our country is capable of doing this, all of you (industry) are capable, this is a great opportunity for us. I want that our industry should not look at these expectations of the world as a mere spectator. We cannot remain spectators, you will have to look for your role in this, you will have to seek opportunities for yourself," Modi told the industry players.

The Prime Minister said the government is working together with the industry for the last 10 years and has shown its



commitment for undertaking reforms, financial discipline, transparency and inclusive growth.

"Today, India is a growth engine for the global economy. India has proved its resilience even in difficult times... Today every country wants to strengthen its economic partnership with India. Our manufacturing sector should take advantage of this partnership," Modi added.

The Prime Minister said industry has gained new self confidence due to the government's consistency and assurance for reforms, he said.

"I want to assure the stake-

holders in manufacturing and exports sectors that this will continue in the coming years. I urge you to move ahead with confidence, take big steps. For the country's manufacturing and exports sectors new avenues have been opened," Modi said.

Stressing that India's manufacturing is the backbone for industrial growth, Modi asked the stakeholders to identify new products which have demand in the world, and whose manufacturing can happen in India. This can then be pitched for exports.

Highlighting the role of R&D, the Prime Minister said indus-

try should focus on manufacturing innovative products and do value addition through research and development.

"The world knows our capability in toy, footwear and labour intensive sectors. Combining traditional craft with modern technology can help achieve success. We can become global champions in these sectors and increase exports manifold. This will also create jobs in labour intensive sectors and entrepreneurship," Modi said.

He said at a time when the world is passing through geopolitical uncertainties, India is being looked at as a "growth centre".

Nudging states to undertake ease of doing business reforms, Modi said states play an important role to increase investments. More investments will come in as states push ease of doing business reforms.

"States should compete amongst themselves... The states which come forward with progressive policies, companies will find them as attractive destination for investment," Modi said.

## Modi govt weakening RTI in name of data protection: Kharge



NEW DELHI, Mar 4 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday accused the Modi government of weakening the Right To Information (RTI) Act in the name of data protection and asserted that his party will keep fighting against the "dictatorial" regime to secure the rights of the people.

Kharge asserted that the Congress will not let RTI weaken and will continue to raise its voice from the streets to Parliament.

"On one hand, India has been topping the charts on Misinformation and Disinformation

for the past years and on the other hand, the Modi government is bent on weakening the Right To Information (RTI) Act implemented by the Congress-UPA by bringing in the Data Protection law," the Congress chief said in a post in Hindi on X.

Whether it is information in the public sector like the list of ration cards, beneficiary labourers of MGNREGA, names of people involved in public welfare schemes, voter list in elections, or the names of scamster billionaires who fled abroad after taking loans from government banks - it is important

for the public to have the names of all these in the public domain, he asserted.

But now the Modi government is weakening the RTI in the name of Data Protection, due to which such names will no longer be made public, Kharge claimed.

The Right to Privacy is a fundamental right, and the Congress has fought for it, but when it comes to Public Welfare, the Right to Information is necessary, he asserted.

The Right to Privacy was also taken care of in the RTI brought by the Congress, but this does not mean that the list of beneficiaries or the names of scamsters should not be made public, Kharge said.

"The Congress party will not let RTI weaken, we have raised our voice for it earlier also, and will continue to raise our voice from the streets to the Parliament. We will keep fighting against this dictatorial government to secure the rights of the people!" the Congress chief said.

## Treat all religions equally: Mayawati on UP Govt's crackdown on loudspeakers during Ramzan

LUCKNOW, Mar 4 (Agencies): Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati on Tuesday criticised the Uttar Pradesh Government's decision to remove unauthorised loudspeakers from religious places during Ramzan, urging authorities to treat all religions equally and without bias.

Taking to X, Mayawati wrote, "India is a secular country that respects all religions. In such a situation, the central and state governments should treat the followers of all religions equally without any bias, but the step-motherly attitude being adopted with Muslims even in religious matters is not justified."

She further stressed that rules regarding restrictions and exemptions for religious festivals should be implemented fairly across all faiths.

"The rules and regulations related to restrictions and exemptions for festivals of all religions should be implemented equally without any bias, which does not seem to be happening," she stated.

The BSP chief warned that such selective enforcement could disturb peace and harmony in society. "It is natural for peace and harmony in the society to deteriorate due to this, which



is a matter of great concern. Governments must pay attention to this," she added.

Ramzan, which began in India on Sunday, marks a month-long period of fasting and special prayers for Muslims. Throughout the month, Muslims observe fasts from early morning until sunset and participate in special evening prayers known as Tarawih, where the entire Quran is recited.

The Uttar Pradesh administration has launched a crackdown on loudspeakers exceeding prescribed noise levels at all religious sites.

The police have been strictly enforcing the directive, prompting Muslim religious leaders to demand concessions for the use of loudspeakers during Ramzan.

## India's economy deep in 'Modi-made crisis': Cong on rising gold loans

NEW DELHI, Mar 4 (Agencies): The Congress on Tuesday flagged the issue of rise in gold loans and claimed that the Indian economy is "deep in a Modi-made crisis".

Congress general secretary in-charge communications cited the February RBI data and pointed out that gold loans had jumped a whopping 71.3%.

"India's economy is deep in a Modi-made crisis. Recall that by 2024, widespread and persistent economic stagnation had resulted in a 300% growth in gold loans in just 5 years. Gold loans crossed the Rs. 1 lakh crore mark for the first time ever," Ramesh said on X.

"The bad news for India's women now continues to pile up. In



February 2025, RBI data showed that gold loans had jumped a whopping 71.3%," he said.

While bank credit in every other sector has slowed, from housing loans to car loans, distress lending such as gold loans is peaking, Ramesh said.

Not just that, a Cibil-NITI Aayog report showed that gold loans make up nearly 40%

of all credit issued to women, and the number of women forced to put up their jewellery has grown by more than 22% in just five years, he said.

"The Modi government has once again demonstrated its complete and utter incompetence in managing the economy. India's women are paying the price," Ramesh said.

He also shared on X a media report which stated that gold loan portfolio of banks rose by 71.3 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) till December of the current financial year (FY25) to Rs 1.72 trillion, compared to 17 per cent growth a year ago, on the back of rising prices of the yellow metal and slowdown in unsecured loan following increase in risk weights last year.

He also shared another media report which said the credit market has added 22% more women borrowers annually between 2019 and 2024, adding four crore new women borrowers who lapped up Rs 4.7 trillion of debt against their gold jewellery.

The Congress on Monday claimed that the Sovereign Gold

Bond Scheme launched with great fanfare by the Narendra Modi government has proven to be a "complete fiasco", much like demonetisation and the 'Make in India' initiative.

The Congress has also been attacking the government over its handling of the economy, claiming the issues of rising prices, decreasing private investment, and stagnating wages are hitting the common people hard.

Flagging issues of low consumption expenditure and inequality, the Congress on Friday had said the way out of this quagmire is to shift the focus of policymaking from cronyism to bottom-up empowerment and that it must begin with kick-starting rural incomes.

## Odisha man kills family for opposing online game addiction

PARADIP, Mar 4 (Agencies): A 21-year-old college student killed his parents and sister using stones in Odisha's Jagatsinghpur district on Tuesday morning as they were opposed to his addition to online games, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place at Jayabada Sethi Sahi under the Jagatsinghpur Police Station area around 3 AM as the student used stones or

any other hard objects to smash the heads of his father, mother and sister, Superintendent of Police Bhawani Sankar Udgata said.

A preliminary investigation revealed that accused Surjyakant Sethy was annoyed with his parents and sister for "opposing him playing online games on his mobile phone", Jagatsinghpur Police Station inspector-in-charge Prabhas Sahu said.



The deceased were identified as Prasant Sethy alias Kalia (65), his wife Kanaklata (62) and daughter Rosalin (25).

"After the incident, Sur-

iyakant Sethy hid near the village, and later he was arrested," the SP said.

SP Udgata said the man was suspected to have a mental problem.

Local MLA Amarendra Das said that the family members had once come to him over some land dispute.

Villagers claimed that Surjyakant admitted to them that he killed his parents.

A police team led by the SP and a scientific team reached the spot and started an investigation, another officer said.

The bodies were sent for post-mortem examinations, he added.

## Teenage girl set afire by male friend in Mumbai

MUMBAI, Mar 4 (Agencies): A 17-year-old girl has been battling for life with 60 per cent burns after a man allegedly set her ablaze in Mumbai's Andheri area, police said on Tuesday.

The girl and the 30-year-old accused, residents of Marol in Andheri, were friends for the last couple of months.

The victim's mother recently asked the accused not to meet her daughter, the police said, adding the exact motive behind the crime was yet to be ascertained.

The incident took place around 11.30 pm on Sunday behind a hospital in the Marol Gaonthan area during which the accused also suffered burn injuries.

While the victim was sitting in a chawl (row tenement) with her

female friends after having dinner, the accused, Jitendra, alias Jitu Tambe, allegedly poured petrol on her and set her afire, an official said.

The girl suffered 60 per cent burns, with injuries on her face, neck, stomach, private parts, hands and legs, he said.

The victim, who is critical and unable to speak, is undergoing treatment at a civic-run Dr RN Cooper Hospital here, the official said.

A boy, who knew the girl, had informed her mother about the incident.

The girl's mother then rushed to the spot and found her daughter with several burn injuries.

As per the FIR, the girl, on seeing her mother, said, "I am not at fault, Jitu poured petrol on my body and set me on fire." The victim and

the accused knew each other. They were friends for the last couple of months and used to meet in the area, the official said, quoting a complaint filed by the victim's mother.

The girl's mother had asked her about if they were in a relationship, but she had denied, the complaint mentioned.

Later, the girl's mother met the man and asked him not to meet her daughter, it added.

The accused also suffered burn injuries in the incident and was admitted to hospital, the police said.

Based on the complaint, a case was registered against the accused under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita provisions for voluntarily causing grievous hurt by using acid, etc, and a probe was underway, they added.

## Manipur Gov chairs security meeting, reviews law and order situation

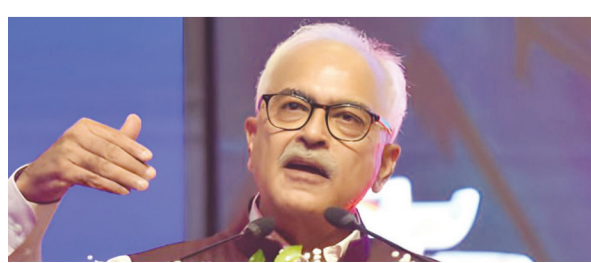
IMPHAL, Mar 4 (Agencies): Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla reviewed the law and order situation of the state on Tuesday, the Raj Bhavan said in a statement.

Chief Secretary PK

Singh, Security Advisor Kuldeep Singh, DGP Rajiv Singh along with senior officials from the Army, Assam Rifles, BSF, Manipur Police and CRPF attended the meeting, it said.

"This was a follow-up

meeting after the security situation of Manipur was reviewed at a meeting held in New Delhi recently, under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah," it added.



## Trump pauses military aid to Ukraine after Oval Office clash with Zelenskyy: Reports

**US President Donald Trump has decided to pause military aid to Ukraine, after the Oval Office clash with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, last week**

WASHINGTON DC, Mar 4 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump has paused military aid to Ukraine after the Oval Office clash with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy last week, Fox News reported.

According to Fox News, the Trump administration is pausing all aid to Ukraine, including weapons in transit or in Poland, until Ukrainian leaders show more appreciation for the US support and a commitment to peace.

A senior Trump administration official told Fox News that military aid will remain on hold until Ukrainian leaders show a commitment to good faith peace negotiations.

"This is not permanent termination of aid, it's a pause," a senior Trump administration official emphasized. "The orders are going out right now."

Last week, during media interaction with Ukraine President at the Oval Office, Trump used some strong words, telling the visiting leader that Volodymyr



Zelenskyy "does not have the cards" and is not "acting thankful" for the support the United States has provided to Ukraine in its war with Russia, which began in February 2022.

The two leaders had an exchange in an explosive press conference with the Ukrainian President emphasizing the need of security guarantees and noting that the Russian President Vladimir Putin had continued with his actions against his country even during Trump's first term as President.

US Vice President JD Vance

also expressed his disapproval of Zelenskyy's remarks, saying it is "disrespectful to come to the Oval Office of the United States of America and attack the administration that is trying to prevent the destruction of your country."

Trump emphasised the need of a deal to bring peace and prevent killings and told Zelenskyy "if you didn't have our military equipment, this war would have been over in two weeks".

Earlier in the day, during an investment announcement, Trump spoke on the ceasefire

deal and suggested that reaching a deal between Russia and Ukraine should be possible if all relevant parties, including European nations, are willing to negotiate.

"It takes two to tango, and if you are going to have to make a deal with Russia and Ukraine, you are going to have to have the assent and the consent from the European nations," he said, stressing the importance of getting everyone involved in the room to make the deal.

He further stated that such a deal could be reached "very fast," and added that if any party is unwilling to negotiate, they may not remain in power for long. "Maybe somebody doesn't want to make a deal and if somebody doesn't want to make a deal, I think that person won't be around very long," Trump remarked.

"Because I believe that Russia wants to make a deal. I believe certainly the people of Ukraine want to make a deal. They have suffered more than anybody else," he added.

## Kim's sister threatens response to US carrier's deployment in South Korea



SEOUL, Mar 4 (Agencies): The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened Tuesday to launch high-profile provocations in response to the arrival of a US aircraft carrier in South Korea and other US military activities, which she slammed as "confrontational hysteria of the US and its stooges".

The warning by Kim Yo Jong implies North Korea will likely ramp up weapons testing activities and maintain its confrontational posture against the US, though President Donald Trump has said he would reach out to Kim Jong Un to revive diplomacy.

In a statement carried by state media, Kim Yo Jong accused the US of clearly showing "its most hostile and confrontational will" to North Korea with the deployments of the USS Carl Vinson and other powerful US military assets and US-South Korean military drills this year.

"The DPRK is also planning to carefully examine the option for increasing the actions

threatening the security of the enemy at the strategic level to cope with the fact that the deployment of US strategic assets in the Korean Peninsula has become a vicious habit and adversely affects the security of the DPRK," she said, using the acronym of North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Her statement suggests North Korea may test-launch intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to strike the mainland US or other powerful missiles that would target US military bases in the region, observers say.

South Korea's Defence Ministry warned later it's ready to repel any provocations by North Korea based on a solid military alliance with the US. A ministry statement called Kim Yo Jong's statement "sophistry" meant to justify its nuclear development and future provocations.

On Sunday, the USS Carl Vinson and its strike group arrived in South Korea, the latest temporary deployment of a US strategic asset

aimed at displaying the firmness of the US-South Korean military alliance in the face of North Korean threats and boosting interoperability of the allies' combined assets.

The US carrier's arrival came four days after North Korea conducted cruise missiles, its fourth missile test event this year.

North Korea views arrivals of such powerful US military assets in South Korea as major security threats and often responds with missile tests.

North Korea hasn't directly responded to Trump's overture but alleged US-led hostilities against North Korea have intensified since the start of Trump's second term in January.

Experts say Kim Jong Un won't likely embrace Trump's outreach anytime soon as he is now focusing on his support of Russia's war against Ukraine with supply of weapons and troops. They say Kim could consider returning to diplomacy with Trump when he thinks he cannot maintain his country's current booming cooperation with Russia.

Kim and Trump met three times from 2018-19 during Trump's first term to discuss the future of North Korea's nuclear programme. Their high-stakes diplomacy eventually collapsed due to wrangling over US-led economic sanctions on North Korea.

## Philippine fighter jet goes missing while on mission against insurgents in southern province

MANILA, Mar 4 (Agencies): A Philippine air force fighter jet with two pilots on board has gone missing during a night combat assault in support of ground forces who were battling insurgents in a southern province, and an extensive search is underway, officials said Tuesday.

The FA-50 jet lost communication during the tactical mission with other air force aircraft around midnight Monday before

reaching a target area. The other aircraft were able to return safely to an air base in central Cebu province, the air force said without providing other details for security reasons.

A Philippine military official told The Associated Press that the incident happened in a southern Philippine province, where an anti-insurgency mission against communist guerrillas was underway.

The official spoke on condition

of anonymity because of a lack of authority to discuss the sensitive situation publicly.

"We are hopeful of locating them and the aircraft soon and ask you to join us in prayer during this critical time," air force spokesperson Col. Ma. Consuelo Castillo said.

It was not immediately clear if the rest of the FA-50s would be grounded following the incident.

The Philippines acquired 12 FA-50s multi-purpose fighter

jets starting in 2015 from South Korea's Korea Aerospace Industries Ltd. for 18.9 billion pesos (\$331 million) in what was then the biggest deal under a military modernisation programme that has been repeatedly stalled by a lack of funds.

Aside from anti-insurgency operations, the jets have been used in a range of activities, from major national ceremonies to patrolling the disputed South China Sea.

## Balochistan: Sit-in against enforced disappearances continues for fourth Day, CPEC Road remains blocked

SURAB (PAKISTAN), Mar 4 (Agencies): Demonstrators have continued their sit-in in the Surab district of Pakistan's Balochistan for the fourth consecutive day, blocking the key China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) road in protest against enforced disappearances and alleged human rights violations in Balochistan, The Balochistan Post reported.

The protest, organised by the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) Jhalawan region and the families of the missing persons, demanded justice and an end to systematic repression by the state. During a press conference held at the protest site, demonstrators accused security forces of forcibly disappearing Baloch youth, describing enforced disappearances as a state policy.

"Every day, another Baloch youth is taken away without any accountability. The state institutions are not only responsible for these abductions but are also using violence and intimidation to suppress voices that speak against this oppression," The Balochistan Post quoted a protest as saying.

The protesters emphasised the presence of families of 12 individuals who have been forcibly disappeared, drawing attention to their plight. They also

condemned the excessive use of force by authorities to break up the demonstration, claiming that security forces, including police, Levies, and Frontier Corps (FC) personnel, were deployed from across the Kalat Division to dismantle the sit-in.

Enforced disappearances of Baloch people in Pakistan have been a long-standing and alarming issue, particularly in Balochistan. The Baloch population, seeking greater autonomy and rights, has been targeted by state security forces, including the military and intelligence agencies.

Since the early 2000s, thousands of Baloch activists, political leaders, journalists, and students have been forcibly disappeared, often accused of separatism or militancy. These disappearances are linked to Pakistan's efforts to suppress Baloch nationalist movements and maintain control over the resource-rich region.

Families of the disappeared continue to protest, seeking justice, but they face harassment and intimidation. Despite international condemnation, the practice persists, with little accountability or transparency in the cases of forced disappearances in Balochistan.

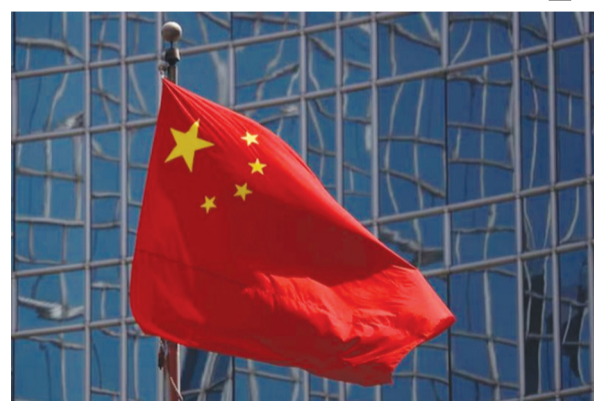
## China hits back on Trump's new tariffs; levies duty on food, other US imports

BEIJING, Mar 4 (Agencies): China on Tuesday said it is imposing tariffs as much as 15 per cent on a range of food imports from the United States as Donald Trump-imposed latest tariffs came into force today.

China's finance ministry announced 15 per cent tariffs on imports of chicken, wheat, corn and cotton from the United States, as well as 10 per cent tariffs on imports of "sorghum, soybeans, pork, beef, aquatic products, fruits, vegetables, and dairy products," Chinese state media said.

Further, China has also added several US firms to its "unreliable entity or export control lists."

On Monday, the United States announced that it would impose an additional 10 per cent tariff on all products imported to the US from China, effective from March 4. This follows an addi-



tional 10 per cent tariffs imposed by the United States on products imported from China in February this year.

China's Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council said that an additional 15 per cent tariff will be imposed on US chicken, wheat, corn, and cotton, plus 10 per cent tariff on soybeans, pork, beef, and dairy from March 10.

A spokesperson from the Chinese Commerce Ministry said that Beijing "will take countermeasures to firmly safeguard its own rights and

interests," Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported.

The spokesperson said US "typical act of unilateralism and bullying in disregard of facts, international trade rules and the voices of all parties."

As per a report in the New York Times, China's Ministry of Commerce has also singled out 15 companies from the United States, including the drone maker Skydio, for punitive trade measures to "safeguard national security and interests."

The NYT reported that Beijing has added 10 other American companies to what it calls an "unreliable entities list," preventing them from doing business in China. The steps include levies on US food imports and halting the sale of Chinese goods to 15 American companies.

Xinhua cited a Chinese government spokesperson as saying "We hope the US can work in the same direction as China and find a solution through equal-footed consultation."

A 25 per cent US tariff on goods imported from Canada and Mexico took effect just after midnight on Tuesday, along with an additional 10 per cent tariff on goods from China.

On Monday (local time) Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had announced that retaliatory tariffs on US goods

will go into force at midnight on Tuesday if the US tariffs on Canadian imports take effect.

In a statement on March 3, Trudeau said, "Our tariffs will remain in place until the US trade action is withdrawn, and should US tariffs not cease, we are in active and ongoing discussions with provinces and territories to pursue several non-tariff measures. While we urge the US administration to reconsider their tariffs, Canada remains firm in standing up for our economy, our jobs, our workers, and for a fair deal."

Trudeau's statement comes after US President Trump said that "tariffs are all set and are going to effect" on March 4 as planned. He said there is "no room left" for Canada or Mexico to avert US tariffs that will go into effect on Tuesday.

## Uyghur activists to gather in Munich for summits on human rights and China's repression

MUNICH, Mar 4 (Agencies): The World Uyghur Congress (WUC) has announced that the Third East Turkistan/Uyghur Summit and the Uyghur Youth Summit will take place in Germany's Munich from May 23-25.

According to the WUC's press release, the events will bring together Uyghur leaders, human rights advocates, community representatives, and activists from around the world alongside allies from the Tibetan, Southern Mongolian, Taiwanese, and Hong Kong communities.

The WUC noted that these summits occur at a pivotal moment, with China's growing authoritarianism and expansion-

ist foreign policy dominating global discussions. It emphasised that the Chinese government's systematic abuses in East Turkistan, including genocide and crimes against humanity, have been well-documented by 11 parliaments and the Uyghur Tribunal. However, despite this recognition, international responses remain weak, with many nations being influenced by China's economic influence and remaining complicit in its actions.

WUC also highlighted China's ongoing efforts to reshape the global order in ways that undermine international law, especially in light of its human rights abuses. The organisation also pointed out that Chi-



na's transnational repression, particularly through AI surveillance technologies, continues to target Uyghur refugees globally.

These individuals face mounting fear of forced repatriation, imprisonment, torture, or worse. Recent incidents, such as the deportation of at least 40 Uyghur refugees from Thailand, have underscored the urgency of addressing this issue.

As mentioned in the press release, the shifting global dynamics create both challenges and opportunities for the Uyghur movement. WUC said that while China grapples with internal economic struggles and growing opposition to Xi Jinping's regime, the international community must

do more to address China's human rights violations.

WUC called on Uyghur diaspora communities to actively engage in these critical summits, offering intellectual, material, and moral support to ensure the success of these vital discussions.

The Uyghur population in China, primarily in Xinjiang, faces severe repression, including mass detentions in "re-education" camps, forced labour, surveillance, and cultural suppression. Authorities target Uyghur religious practices, language, and traditions under the guise of counterterrorism efforts, leading to widespread human rights violations and international condemnation.



## IIM Jammu's Centre for Diversity and Inclusion commended for BGA Business School Impact Award 2025

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu has been highly commended for the BGA Business School Impact Award 2025, recognizing its commitment to fostering positive change for students, graduates, communities, and economies. Conferred by the Business Graduates Association (BGA), this prestigious recognition honours institutions aligning with BGA's vision and charter by driving transformative initiatives that promote responsible management, continuous improvement, and societal betterment through quantitative and qualitative impact.

IIM Jammu's Centre for Diversity & Inclusion, the first in India for

marginalised communities, was explicitly commended for advancing diversity and inclusivity. Originally established as "The Diversity Cell" in collaboration with the DICC and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the Centre was inaugurated on 9th June 2022 by then President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, in the presence of Minister of State (Independent Charge), Dr. Jitendra Singh, Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, Dr. Milind Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu and Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu.

Since its inception, the Centre has been instrumental in empowering entrepreneurs from marginalised communities, providing them with essential resources,

mentorship, and training to thrive in business.

Dr. Milind P. Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu, emphasized that this recognition underscores IIM Jammu's commitment to fostering an inclusive society. He highlighted that the Centre for Diversity & Inclusion serves as a model for academic institutions, reinforcing the importance of diversity in shaping the future of entrepreneurship and leadership. He reiterated IIM Jammu's dedication to creating opportunities that empower individuals from all backgrounds to thrive.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, stated that the Centre for Diversity and Inclusion is a testament to

IIM Jammu's pioneering efforts in social responsibility. This award reaffirms IIM Jammu's dedication to social responsibility and impactful leadership. He emphasized that the institute would continue to create a safe and supportive environment for marginalized communities, equipping them with the necessary tools for entrepreneurial success and Viksit Bharat.

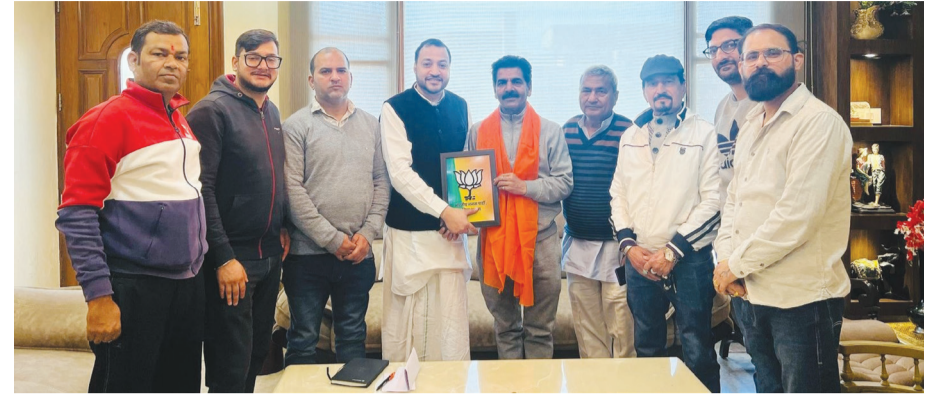
Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, emphasized academia's role in societal change, reaffirming IIM Jammu's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and responsible management to shape future leaders for sustainable global impact.

The award was presented by Andrew Main Wilson, CEO of AMBA

& BGA, to Dr Mahesh Gadekar, Chairperson, Centre for Diversity and Inclusion, IIM Jammu, and Centre for Small Business Development Units, at the Hyatt Regency, New Delhi.

The BGA Business School Impact Awards celebrate outstanding achievements in the global business education community. This year, the awards featured 12 categories, providing numerous opportunities for AMBA & BGA accredited business schools, students, and graduates to showcase their accomplishments. This recognition further cements IIM Jammu's position as a leading institution dedicated to academic excellence, social impact, and nation-building.

## Shakti Kendra Pramukhs are key members of organisational set-up of BJP: Nitish



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: Describing Shakti Kendra Pramukhs as the backbone of the BJP's organisational structure, Nitish Mahajan, Mandal President of Trikuta Nagar Mandal, BJP, J&K asserted that the party's strength lies at the grassroots level.

He was speaking at a meeting of Shakti Kendra Pramukhs and Booth Presidents of Ward No. 52, Trikuta Nagar Mandal (Bahu Constituency), held today.

Nitish Mahajan emphasized that the BJP firmly believes in the ideology of 'Mera Booth Sabse Majboot, Booth Jeeta Election Jeeta'. He stated that the primary objective of the meeting was to understand the challenges faced by Booth Presidents and to incorporate their feedback into future development plans under the leadership of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, and MLA Bahu Constituency Vikram Randhawa.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on strengthening the party's organizational structure at the grassroots level. Various issues concerning booth management, mobilization of party workers, and effective communication of BJP's policies and welfare schemes to the common people were deliberated.

Nitish Mahajan urged the booth-level leaders to work tirelessly to ensure that the benefits of Central Government schemes reach every household.

The meeting witnessed active participation and a fruitful exchange of ideas. Prominent attendees included Ajay Gupta (Former Chairman, JMC), Nitin (Shakti Kendra Pramukh),

Sandeep Gupta (Booth 128), Nitin Nagotra (Booth 133), Pardeep Khanna (Booth 60), T.R. Sharma (Booth 131), Subhash Arya (Booth 130), Joginder Lal (Booth 129), Vikas Kumar, and others.

The attendees unanimously resolved to intensify efforts for the upcoming elections, focusing on booth management and voter outreach programs.

Nitish Mahajan appreciated the dedication of Shakti Kendra Pramukhs and Booth Presidents and assured them of full support from the party leadership. He further stressed the need for consistent dialogue with the local populace to address their concerns and strengthen BJP's foothold in the region.

The meeting concluded with a pledge to uphold the party's vision and work collectively for the overall development of the region.

## IIM Jammu inaugurates Trekking-Based MDP Batch IV for Leadership Skills for NTPC Managers

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu inaugurated a unique trekking-based Management Development Programme (MDP) for NTPC's dynamic young leaders (Batch-IV) at the Prahalad Classroom on 04th March 2025. This leadership training program, conducted from 03rd March to 05th March 2025, is designed to enhance leadership skills through experiential learning in the picturesque lower Himalayas.

The program features seven carefully curated sessions aimed at fostering personal and professional growth. The batch featured 54 participants from the differ-



ent parts of the country.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE & C), IIM Jammu, Dr. V. Raj Kumar, Program Director, Dr. Vinod.C. Durge, Program Director, IIM Jammu Program Director, IIM Jammu.

Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE & C), IIM Jammu, highlighted the division's role in deliver-

ing high-impact training for professionals, government officials, and industry leaders. He emphasized its focus on skill enhancement, leadership development, and industry-academia collaboration through partnerships with NTPC, the Government of J&K, and PSUs, reaffirming EE&C's rapid growth in line with IIM Jammu's global vision for executive education and consultancy.

Dr. Vinod.C. Durge,

Program Director, IIM Jammu welcomed everyone and provided an overview of the program, briefing about the upcoming sessions and expressing his anticipation for an interactive and engaging discussion. He extended his warm wishes to all the participants, stating that the journey ahead is both promising and make best use of this training program.

Dr. V. Raj Kumar, Program Director, IIM

Jammu, emphasized the institute's commitment to transformative learning, reflecting its motto of "knowledge that liberates." He concluded the session with a vote of thanks followed by the national anthem.

The program includes field-based experiential learning activities such as trekking in the Himalayas, empowering leadership, team building, sustainability and good governance, conflict resolution, negotiating solutions, entrepreneurship skills, strategic thinking, mastering communication for leadership, and digital transformation. Through initiatives like these, IIM Jammu reaffirms its role in shaping future-ready leaders who can make meaningful contributions to society and industry.

## Army organises lecture on Women Empowerment at Harni

### Top News Report

POONCH, Mar 4: Indian Army organized a lecture on women empowerment at Govt Girls High School Harni, as part of its efforts to promote social awareness and community development in the region.

The lecture, which was attended by 57 students and 08 faculty members, focused on the importance of women's empowerment

and the various initiatives undertaken by the government to promote women's rights and welfare.

The lecture covered various aspects of women's empowerment, including education, healthcare, and economic independence. It highlighted the importance of gender equality and the need to challenge gender-based discrimination in all its forms. The event was well-received by the attend-



ees, who appreciated the Indian Army's efforts to promote women's empowerment and social development in the region.

## From Page No:1

### Pilgrim Tourism circuits to be developed in Jammu Region: CM Omar Abdullah

He highlighted notable tourism-related infrastructure projects under different schemes, including the construction of musical water fountains with sound and light shows at Bagh-e-Bahu, as well as the development of tourist facilities at Bhagwati Nagar.

Other projects mentioned include the development of tourist facilities at Sidhra Golf Course, construction of an amusement park near Sidhra Golf Course in Jammu, a ropeway project from Mohmaya to Bagh-e-Bahu, and various development works planned under the Capex Budget 2024-25 in Jammu.

Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) has actively pursued multi-

ple initiatives to enhance Jammu's infrastructure and make it a more appealing destination for tourists, the chief minister said.

He outlined major infrastructure projects planned and executed by JSCL, including heritage conservation and beautification efforts such as the restoration of iconic landmarks like Bahu Fort, Mubarak Mandi, and Raghunath Bazaar, along with temples and ghats under the Smart City initiative and other historical sites.

In terms of road and transport improvements, Abdullah spoke about the upgrade of major roads, development of pedestrian-friendly pathways, and the introduction of electric buses for eco-friendly public transport.

He also highlighted the redevelopment of the Tawi riverfront with promenades, cycling tracks, and leisure spaces.

Regarding historic buildings and Tawi bridges, he said plans for facade lighting are underway at Bahu Fort, Army headquarters

at Mubarak Mandi, Maha Maya Temple, and all Tawi bridges.

The chief minister said the JSCL's vision aligns with making Jammu a modern, tourist-friendly, and sustainable city while preserving its cultural and historical essence.

### BJP objects to NC MLA's remarks on PoK

RS Pathania stood up and demanded that these remarks be expunged from the records of the Assembly.

### "J&K lost Special Status because of her," Dy CM Surinder Choudhary attacks Mehbooba Mufti

Mufti responded dismissively to concerns about children's safety and the use of pellet guns.

"She is the same Mehbooba, when people used to ask questions, that children are being discriminated against and pellet guns are being fired, she replied that did the children want to buy milk and toffee from the camps?" Choudhary recalled.

### Sajad Lone stages walkout over disallowing of amendments regarding Article 370, Police Verification, and 1987 "Rigging"

LG's address. Lone said that there was no mention of Article 370 in the resolution passed in the J&K Assembly in the last session.

"We are victims of police verification, and the rules are very stringent. I am myself a victim. Nobody should be punished for what their kins have done. We cannot keep quiet on these issues," he said.

Congress MLA Nizamuddin Bhat supported Lone's argument that police verification should be discussed and debated in the House. "You should have kept the repeal of PSA in the LG's address if you had an intention," Lone said. To this, the Speaker said that these matters pertain to the Ministry of Home Affairs. "It cannot be done unless the state is restored," he said.

### Tariq Karra calls Statehood Equivalent to Special

status

### Status

away. The Centre must expedite the process and ensure that Jammu and Kashmir is granted its due rights," he added.

### 'Article 370 No Longer an issue, It's a 'Closed Chapter': JK LoP Sunil Sharma slams Mehbooba Mufti remark

will only strengthen in the valley..." Asserting that the abrogation of Article 370 is a settled issue, he further said, "370 is no longer an issue. It is just a waste of time. It's a closed chapter... BJP will give the status of state to J&K and fulfil its promise."

## Shiv Sena demands regularization of employees and minimum daily wages on lines of Ladakh UT

Seeks to close Liquor shops during Holy Ramzan

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: Shiv Sena UBT state chief Manish Sahni has jointly demanded from the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to increase the honorarium of daily wage earners on the lines of the Union Territory of Ladakh and regularization of temporary employees.

Briefing the media persons, state chief Manish Sahni said that the Ladakh Lieutenant Governor administration has fixed a monthly salary of Rs 28,950-45,300 for temporary employees according to the service period. At the same time, the minimum daily wage fixed by the central government is Rs 783-1035. While the daily salary of temporary employees in Jammu and Kashmir is only Rs 311-449. At the same time, the cooks preparing mid-day meals in government schools have been fixed a monthly salary of



Rs 1000 at the rate of only Rs 33 per day.

Sahni has demanded to stop the step-motherly treatment with the daily wage earners of Jammu and Kashmir and to give them daily wages on the lines of the Center and Ladakh and regularization of temporary employees posted in various departments.

Sahni has demanded from all the MLAs of the ruling and

opposition parties including the Lieutenant Governor to unanimously fulfill the demands of the temporary employees. On this occasion General Secretary Vikas Bakshi was present.

Manish Sahni has demanded to issue instructions to keep liquor shops closed in Kashmir and Muslim-dominated areas during the Holy month of Ramzan.

Sahni said that he is in favor of

prohibition of liquor on the Holy land of Jammu and Kashmir, but until the government does not make a law, instructions can be issued to keep liquor shops closed at least on Holy religious days. The religious faith of Muslim brothers is being hurt by the sale of liquor during the Holy month of Ramzan. Hundreds of Muslim brothers have contacted him and appealed to raise their voice. Shafi, a resident of Pahalgam, says that the sale of liquor continues even during the Amarnath Yatra and the Holy month of Ramzan at a distance of a few yards from the main base camp of Shri Amarnath Yatra. Which is a big blow to religious faith. Sahni has demanded from the Chief Minister and Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir to ban the sale of liquor in Muslim-dominated areas at least during the Holy month of Ramzan keeping in mind the religious beliefs of the people.

## Army organizes interaction with Ex-Servicemen at Dugga



### Top News Report

DODA, Mar 4: A special event titled "Meeting with Ex-Servicemen" was organized by the Indian Army at Dugga.

This gathering aimed to bring together ex-servicemen and widows from the surrounding areas of Dugga to address their concerns and honor their service to the nation. The event commenced with a solemn memorial service to pay tribute to the soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for the

country.

The gathering was attended by 20 ex-servicemen from nearby villages.

An interactive session followed wherein the Indian Army engaged with the attendees. The discussions revolved around understanding the challenges faced by ex-servicemen and their families post-retirement.

The attendees were provided with guidance on various welfare initiatives, including education, healthcare, and

employment opportunities for their dependents.

They were assured of continued support and encouraged to reach out for assistance in resolving any grievances in the future.

The meeting underscored the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to the welfare of its veterans and their families, reinforcing the strong bond between serving personnel and the ex-servicemen community.

## Army distributes Science Lab Equipment at Model Academy Sagra



### Top News Report

POONCH, Mar 4: In a significant initiative to promote education and empower young minds, the Indian Army distributed essential science laboratory equipment to Model Academy Sagra in Mendhar.

This noble effort aims to enhance scientific learning and encourage students to explore practical aspects of science. The event was attended by school authorities, teachers, and students apart from the Indian Army.

The distributed equipment is for physics, chemistry and biology laboratories which includes microscopes, lab glassware, physics kits, chemical reagents and models of biological parts, which will aid in hands-on learning and practical experiments.

This initiative is part of the Indian Army's ongoing efforts under Operation Sadbhavana, which focuses on fostering goodwill and development in remote and underprivileged areas. By facilitating better educational resources,

the Indian Army continues to bridge gaps and uplift communities.

The school principal expressed his gratitude, stating, "This generous contribution by the Indian Army will significantly enrich our science curriculum and provide our students with much-needed exposure to practical learning."

The event concluded with a demonstration of the new lab equipment by teachers and students, showcasing their excitement and eagerness to learn.

## World Cancer Care to organize free cancer screening & awareness camps in Jammu on March 15, 16

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: In a significant move towards cancer prevention and early detection, World Cancer Care (WCC), in collaboration with District Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC) Jammu and Health Employees Welfare Association (HEWA), will be organizing a free cancer screening and awareness camp in Jammu on March 15th and 16th, 2025. The camp will be held at Gurudwara Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Chand Nagar, Jammu, opposite Hotel Riviera.

Announcing the initiative at a press conference, Balvinder Singh, Vice President of DGPC Jammu, along with DGPC members S. Surjit Singh, S. Harjit Singh, S. Avtar Singh, S. Tejinder Singh, and S. Balvinder Singh, highlighted the importance of early detection in combating cancer.

He stated that the camp will feature advanced mobile medical units and a team of 25 expert healthcare professionals, offering high-quality cancer screenings and medical consultations completely free of charge.

The camp will provide essen-



tial medical screenings, including mammography for breast cancer detection, PAP smear for cervical cancer screening, PSA tests for prostate cancer in men, and oral & throat examinations to detect early signs of oral and throat cancer. Additionally, Bone Mineral Density (BMD) tests will be conducted to assess bone strength and calcium deficiency. General health checkups, such as blood sugar and blood pressure monitoring, will also be available, along with free distribution of essential medicines.

Beyond screening services, the event will focus on educating the public on cancer prevention. Informational brochures will be distributed, and expert doctors will conduct awareness lectures on lifestyle changes

that can help reduce the risk of cancer.

The initiative aims to empower the community with knowledge and resources to promote a healthier lifestyle and encourage early detection.

In addition to the main event on March 15th and 16th, similar cancer screening camps will be held across Jammu from March 5th to March 18th, 2025, covering multiple locations, including Guru Ravi Dass Gurudwara, Kathua (March 5), BSF-organized camp at Vill. Parngoli (March 6), PHC Govt Hospital, Samba (March 7), Sanskrit School, Smailpur Kothe (March 8), and Ground No-2 Counter, Katra (March 9).

Further screenings will take place at Govt. Girls Middle School, Panthal (March 10),

Pouni Sant Sree Balak Yogeshwar Dass Jagshalla, Jammu-Katra Road (March 12), Ambedkar Hall, Marh (March 13), and New Sabzi Mandi, Bishnah, organized by Yuva Helping Hand (March 14). The final camp will be held at Sanskriti School, Kathua, on March 18th.

Several prominent figures were present at the press conference to extend their support for this initiative, including S. Satinder Pal Singh, S. Rajinder Singh Soodan, S. Manjit Singh Bali, S. T. P. Singh, and S. Janak Singh. They emphasized the critical role such healthcare programs play in creating awareness and saving lives through early diagnosis.

This collaborative effort by WCC, DGPC Jammu, and HEWA is a major step toward improving healthcare accessibility, raising awareness, and ensuring timely detection of cancer.

The organizers encourage the public to take full advantage of these free services and spread the word to those in need, reinforcing the message that early detection can save lives.

## NABARD Projects Rs 43,297.01 Cr Credit Potential for J&K's Priority Sector in 2025-26

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: In a significant boost to inclusive growth and rural development, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has projected an estimated credit potential of Rs 43,297.01 crore under the priority sector for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the financial year 2025-26. The announcement was made during the UT Credit Seminar organized by NABARD on March 4, 2025, in Jammu.

The seminar was presided over by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, and attended by Chandrashekhar Azad, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, and Amitava Chatterjee, MD & CEO, J&K Bank, along with other distinguished guests.

Welcoming the participants, Bhallamudi Sridhar, Chief General Manager (CGM), NABARD,



J&K Regional Office, underscored NABARD's pivotal role in shaping the development landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the bank's strategic approach to boosting agricultural credit through meticulous planning, monitoring, and collaboration with multiple stakeholders.

As part of this vision, NABARD will focus on promoting Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Farmers' Collectives, enhancing horticulture crops such as walnut, saffron, and apple, and strengthening handloom and handicraft sectors through Off-Farm Producer Organizations (OFPOs),

marketing support, and Geographical Indication (GI) registration. Additionally, computerization of Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) is planned to improve efficiency and transparency in rural credit systems.

Delivering his keynote address, Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, appreciated NABARD's efforts in assessing credit potential and publishing the UT Focus Paper. He highlighted emerging economic opportunities in agriculture, MSME, and tourism sectors, urging banks to extend their reach to all Panchayats and provide loans to all

eligible farmers under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme. He also stressed the importance of timely repayment of loans and encouraged banks to actively participate in the "YUVA" scheme while ensuring collaboration on infrastructure projects across the Union Territory.

As part of the event, Atal Dulloo released two important NABARD publications. The first, "Transforming the Rural Landscape of J&K and Ladakh", is a compendium showcasing NABARD's initiatives in rural development. The second, "Indicative Unit Cost for Investment in Agriculture and Allied

Activities for 2025-26", serves as a comprehensive guide for potential investors in the agriculture and allied sectors of the UT. These booklets are expected to provide valuable insights for policymakers, financial institutions, and aspiring entrepreneurs in rural industries.

The seminar provided a crucial platform for stakeholders to discuss financial inclusivity and economic growth strategies in Jammu and Kashmir. NABARD reaffirmed its commitment to accelerating rural transformation and ensuring sustainable development in the region.

Concluding the event, Vikas Mittal, General Manager, NABARD, expressed gratitude to the UT Government and other stakeholders for their support and assured that NABARD would work diligently to achieve the targets set forth by the Hon'ble Chief Guest.

## Road Safety Club organizes awareness lecture on "Road Safety" at GDC Ramnagar

### Top News Report

RAMNAGAR, Mar 4: The Road Safety Club of Government Degree College (GDC) Ramnagar organized an awareness lecture on the theme "Be a Road safety Hero" under the esteemed patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Bhavnai Chand Anthal, Principal, GDC Ramnagar.

The programme aimed to sensitize students about the alarming issue of road safety and the importance of following road safety principles in their daily lives.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Ritika Mahajan, HoD Chemistry and Road safety Club Convenor, who briefed the audience about the objectives of the event and the critical importance of raising awareness about road safety.

The resource person, Prof. Pankaj Dabgotra, HoD Public Administration, delivered an insightful lecture on the critical importance of road safety norms.

He highlighted the human, social, economic cost of road safety violations, emphasizing the role of education and awareness in combating the issue. Further, Prof. Dabgotra elaborated and correlated the civic and economic advancement in the developed countries to the issue of road safety. He remarked that "Road Safety is sine qua

non for development".

Principal Prof. (Dr.) Bhavnai Chand Anthal applauded the efforts of the Road Safety Club in organizing the programme. He remarked, "Such initiatives are pivotal in nurturing a generation that is aware, responsible, and resilient against pressing issues like road safety." He also encouraged students to actively participate in creating awareness about road safety within their communities.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Prof. Tanmeet Kour, an active member of the Road Safety Club. Prof. Kour expressed gratitude to the resource person, faculty, and students for their enthusiastic participation.

The programme witnessed an overwhelming response with a large number of students in attendance. Faculty members, including Dr. Puyesh Kant Sharma, Prof. Sanjay Malhotra, Dr. Ujjwal Gupta, Mr. Tariq Ahmad Zai and Mr. Pardeep Kumar, graced the event with their presence, contributing to its success.

The Road Safety Club, comprising Prof. Ritika Mahajan (Convenor), Prof. Tanmeet Kour, Dr. Ujjwal Gupta, played a pivotal role in organizing the event. The lecture marked a significant step toward addressing the pressing issue of road safety and fostering a safe, secure and healthier community.

## This is not our home, pitch has given us different challenges: Rohit Sharma

Rohit Sharma dismisses claims of home advantage in Champions Trophy

DUBAI, Mar 4 (Agencies): Rohit Sharma dismissed claims that his team has an unfair advantage in the ICC Champions Trophy by playing all matches in Dubai, stating that the conditions have posed varied challenges.

Several former players from Pakistan, Australia, and England suggested that staying in Dubai has helped India acclimatize better than other Group A teams.

However, Rohit refuted the notion, saying Dubai is not India's home venue and the pitches have behaved differently in each match.

"Every time, the pitch is giving you different challenges. This is not our home; we don't play



so many matches here. It is new for us too," Rohit said ahead of India's semifinal clash against Australia.

He emphasized the importance of adapting to different surfaces, highlighting India's last match against New Zealand, where swing and spin played varying roles.

"If there is something in it for the bowlers as well, that makes it very, very interesting. I am one for it," he added, advocating for a balanced contest between bat and ball.

Rohit also justified India's decision to include five spinners in the squad, citing their observations from the ILT20 tournament in Dubai, which indicated that slow bowlers could be effective.

Reaching Dubai early, he said, helped the team adjust to conditions quickly.

"We came here five or six days before, had good training sessions, and adapted well in all three games," he said.

## Ajinkya Rahane appointed KKR captain ahead of IPL 2025



CHANDIGARH, Mar 4 (Agencies): India batter Ajinkya Rahane will captain defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League beginning on March 22, the franchise announced.

Venkatesh Iyer, who has been with KKR for a long time, has been made Rahane's deputy.

Rahane replaces Shreyas Iyer as the skipper with the latter tasked to lead Punjab Kings this season.

Making the announcement, KKR CEO

Venky Mysore said, "We are delighted to have someone like Ajinkya Rahane, who brings his experience and maturity as a leader. Also, Venkatesh Iyer has been a franchise player for KKR and brings a lot of leadership qualities. We are confident that they will combine well as we start the defence of our title."

Accepting the leadership role, Rahane said, "It's an honour to be asked to lead KKR, which has been one of the most successful franchises in the IPL. I think we have an excellent and balanced squad. I look forward to working with everyone and taking up the challenge of defending our title."

KKR will begin their IPL 2025 campaign with the season opener against Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the Eden Gardens on March 22.

KKR has made four appearances in the IPL final, winning the championship thrice (2012, 2014, 2024). They finished runners-up in the 2021 season, staging one of the most remarkable comebacks in the tournament's history.

## Sunil Gavaskar on Rohit Sharma fitness row: If you want slim guys, pick models

NEW DELHI, Mar 4 (Agencies): Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar lashed out at criticism of Rohit Sharma's fitness, saying selectors should pick models if they are looking for 'slim' cricketers.

Gavaskar, speaking to India Today, responded to the chatter around Rohit's physique after Congress National Spokesperson Shama Mohamed called him "fat for a sports person".

Gavaskar has consistently maintained that physical fitness and match fitness can be two different things in a sport as unique as cricket. He reiterated his stance by citing examples of stocky cricketers who have excelled at the highest level.

"I have always said, if you want only slim guys, then you should go to a modelling competition and pick all the models. It's not about that. It's about how well you can play cricket. We talked about Sarfaraz Khan—he was vilified for a long time because he was on the heavier side. But if he scores 150 for India in a Test match and follows it up with another two or three fifty-plus



scores, then what's the issue?" Gavaskar said on Monday.

"I don't think size has anything to do with it. It's your mental strength—whether you can last the distance—that's the most important thing. Bat well, bat for long, and score runs," he added.

Gavaskar has been a vocal supporter of Sarfaraz Khan, who had to wait for his international debut. The Mumbai batter made the most of his opportunity in 2024, scoring 371 runs in six Tests, including a century and three fifties.

Gavaskar famously remarked that the length of a player's waistline should not be equated with cricketering fitness.

Rohit Sharma, 37, remains one of the most dangerous batters in white-ball cricket. The India captain has been instrumental in provid-

ing the team with strong starts, particularly on tricky pitches in Dubai during the Champions Trophy.

He has also been widely credited with transforming India's approach to white-ball cricket, leading from the front with an aggressive, fearless style. His strategy nearly paid off in the 2023 World Cup, where India dominated their opponents before falling to Australia in the final. However, his methods were ultimately vindicated when India lifted the T20 World Cup trophy in 2024.

Now, Rohit has another opportunity to add an ICC title to his glittering trophy cabinet. India, unbeaten in the Champions Trophy with victories over Bangladesh, Pakistan, and New Zealand, will face Australia in the semi-final in Dubai today.

## NZ, SA look to shed white-ball underachievers tag in Champions Trophy semifinal

LAHORE, Mar 4 (Agencies): Loaded with world-class talent but haunted by the underachievers' tag at ICC events, New Zealand and South Africa will square off in an evenly-matched second semifinal of the Champions Trophy here on Wednesday.

South Africa and New Zealand have won the Champions Trophy once each in 1998 and 2000 respectively but the tournament was called the ICC Knockout Trophy at that time and didn't carry the significance which it has now.

While South Africa would look to shed their big tournament "chokers" tag, the Kiwis will also be desperate to lay their hands on a title after having finished second best twice in the ODI World Cup (2015 and 2019) and once in the T20 World Cup (2021).

Led by Mitchell Santner, New Zealand finished behind India in Group A, while South Africa topped Group B ahead of Australia.

But there is little to separate the two sides. Both are evenly-matched in most departments but the Proteas look to be slightly ahead on the bowling front because of variety.

The two teams have



enough firepower in their batting line-ups and have quality fielders but the contest is expected to be decided by the spinners.

Although the pitches here are a bit on the slower side but they haven't spun as much as the surfaces in Dubai and it will be interesting to see how the spinners of both the teams fare.

The 44-run loss to India in their last group match notwithstanding, New Zealand will take confidence from their win over South Africa in the tri-series here last month.

Recently, New Zealand successfully chased 305 against South Africa here and then went on to win the tri-series, beating Pakistan in the final, and senior batter Tom Latham feels those experiences will hold them in good stead.

"Yeah, the (South

Africa) team that we played potentially will be slightly different, they had a lot of guys that that weren't in that side. They were still playing in their SAT20 back in South Africa so will be slightly different.

"But I guess from our point of view, we'll lean back on those experiences of Lahore in playing against South Africa," Latham had said.

"We'll do everything that we do leading up to a game. It's obviously going to be a reasonably quick turnaround, but it is what it is. And, we'll be looking forward to the challenge of a semifinal," he added referring to the hectic travel schedule.

New Zealand were in Dubai on Sunday to play against India and headed to Lahore the next morning.

Latham has been New Zealand's best batter

so far with 187 runs from three matches, but Kane Williamson's return to form with a classy 81 against India also augurs well for the Kiwis.

On the bowling front, Matt Henry stood out and is currently the highest wicket-taker with eight scalps and has good support from Will O'Rourke (six wickets).

In skipper Mitchell Santner, Michael Bracewell, Rachin Ravindra, Glenn Phillips and Mark Chapman, New Zealand boast of a good spin attack.

South Africa too are in red-hot form. The Proteas have fielded one of their most prolific squads in the tournament and have all their bases covered.

With a century under his belt, Ryan Rickelton is in ominous form, while the likes of Temba Bavuma, Rassie van

der Dussen and Aiden Markram have also contributed with the bat.

South Africa's bowling also looks impressive with the likes of Wiaan Mulder, Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi in their ranks.

While on-paper, South Africa look a formidable unit and have been the team to beat in recent ICC events, their overall form over the last one year or so doesn't inspire confidence as the Proteas have lost eight of their last 13 ODIs.

Teams (from): New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (c), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Nathan Smith, Kane Williamson, Will Young, Jacob Duffy.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (c), Tony de Zorzi, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Wiaan Mulder, Lungi Ngidi, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs, Rassie van der Dussen, Corbin Bosch.

Match starts at 2:30pm IST.

## 'I've passed the stage of numbers or statistics,' says Pankaj Advani fresh off his 14th Asian title

BENGALURU, Mar 4 (Agencies): Bengaluru as a city enjoys the luxury of a host of sports stars who have gone on to make the city and the nation proud. While most Bengalureans revel in the number of homegrown cricketers the city has produced, an unassuming figure has quietly yet steadily continued his dominance in his field: Pankaj Advani.

His recent win at the Asian Snooker Championship 2025 understandably has Advani in high spirits. Still grounded, he mentions, "To win any gold medal for the country is obviously very satisfying and fulfilling; it is also very special because this is a championship that I have won after three years." It is worth noting that Advani is one of the very few who play

across formats. "It definitely takes some pressure off me to be honest, because I play both billiards and snooker and while I've done really well in billiards over the last three-four years, to win an international snooker title is definitely very, very challenging. In fact, one of the most challenging things," he says.

This win marks Advani's 14th gold across snooker and billiards in the Asian stage, a feat which is adequately superlative in its own right, and almost certainly unprecedented in Indian sports. Advani, who at this point has seen it all, remains motivated to better himself with each passing day, believing that he hasn't reached his 'full potential yet'. "At this point, it's not about the records or the statistics or the num-

bers. I think I've passed that stage. And I don't want to sound arrogant, but it's more about being the best version of yourself. And as long as I can improve each day, play the game the way it should be played, and have no doubts, I'm satisfied," he says.

Such dominance and results, of course, come as fruits of resolved toil and dedication. Advani, who still goes to the gym three to four times a week, spends around three hours per day playing solo and honing his skill. In a life that is so shaped by and geared towards billiards and snooker, the personal and the professional cannot help but blend in. Reflecting on the lessons he has learnt, he says, "Patience and acceptance. These are the two things that I've learnt from the game,

because in our sport, when you're sitting out and waiting for your opponent to finish, there's not a thing you can do. You've just got to wait for your next chance, because when you are at the table, you are in complete control of the situation."

A career that spans over a decade in a sport that is unconventional in the country, begs the question as to why Advani chose it to begin with. Unknown to many, the point that solidified his career for him, was when, at the age of 16, he reached the final of the Asian Billiards Championship as a wild card entry. The start of it all, as he reveals, goes back to his boyhood. "When I picked up the cue for the first time, I never thought that this would be my career. When I took up this

sport, I think I had a little spark in it and I think I'm fortunate to have been recognised very early in my life. I was just 10 or 11 years old. My elder brother started playing this game and I used to follow him into the snooker club near our house. After weeks of observation, at the first shot I ever tried, the ball disappeared into the pocket," he says.

Advani is currently in preparation for quite a busy year. Musing on the road ahead, he says, "The IBS World Championship is in October. That's still a long way, but I have the world championship in April in Ireland, and then I'm leaving for another international event in Mumbai a couple of days from now. So I think I just have to keep myself physically and mentally grounded."

## Champions Trophy semi-final: Australia win toss, opt to bat against India



DUBAI, Mar 4 (Agencies): Australia won the toss and opted to bat against India in the first semi-final match of the Champions Trophy in Dubai on Tuesday.

India would rely on a potent spin battery and familiarity with the conditions to break the knockout jinx against an undermanned Australia.

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.

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.

## YCET organizes visit at CIIT, Jammu

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: The Yogananda College of Engineering & Technology (YCET) organized an industrial visit for B.Tech students of all the branches as well as Semesters of Civil Engg, Electrical Engg, Mechanical Engg and Computer Science & Engineering to the Centre for Invention, Innovation, Incubation & Training (CIIT), Jammu which has been established by Tata Technologies Ltd, Pune at Government Polytechnic, Jammu to impart training in the latest trends of Manufacturing Technology, Construction Technology.

The prime aim and objective of the visit was to enrich the Knowledge & exposure to the world of work.

The Centre imparts training in cross-disciplinary, where designers & the curious can explore and pursue their interest in the modern world, develop personal projects and start collaborative projects. YCET is keen to find out various means to give exposure to their students.

Er. Rajnish Magotra, HOD (Civil Engineering Department, YCET) briefed about the latest technologies established at CIIT with the aim of up-skilling & enhancing employability of



Engineering students to the latest trends by imparting skill training on the latest technologies with the help of faculty from TATA Technologies that will certainly bridge the gap between Industry and Academia.

During interaction experts Ms. Heena Gupta, Lecturer CSE, Govt Polytechnic, Jammu discussed about Value Engineering, IoT, Critical thinking / writing and live product design of programme commenced with the kind projects to meet the demand of consumers and the market. She gave power point presentation on use of IOT for smart city project of Jammu mentioning six areas like Smart grid, Smart education, Smart water bodies, Smart governance, Smart health care and Smart transportation, the session ended with fruitful discussions and comprehensive

exposure with Industry experts.

The faculty accompanied were Rajnish Magotra, Loveneesh Talwar, Inderdeep Singh and Anshu Sharma.

The visit was made possible because of the dedication and able guidance of Er. Talat Hussain, Principal Govt Polytechnic, Jammu.

Er. Raj Kumar (HoD, Mechanical Engg, Jammu), Rishab, Ghulam Rabani.

The students were enriched by this visit.

Er. Vidhi S. Singh, Chairman (JGEI), Th. SDS Jamwal, Vice-Chairman (JGEI), Er. Renu Bangroo, Managing Director (JGEI) congratulated for such initiative and said that such visits should be a continuous practice.

Er. Dinesh Gupta, Dean Academics and Er. B.R. Verma, Chief Coordinator also complimented for such visit.

## NGO Anti Crime meets SDPO RS Pura to discuss measures against drug menace

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: In a concerted effort to address the growing concerns of drug abuse and criminal activities in the region, the NGO Anti-Crime held a meeting with the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of RS Pura, Gurmeet Singh.

The meeting, conducted under the supervision of the NGO's Chairman, Sham Lal Gupta, focused on the rising drug menace and the collective measures needed to combat such illicit activities.

The delegation included State President of the NGO, Sahil Gupta, along with ASI Naresh Digra, Rakesh Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Ratan Lal, Rohit

activities in the area.

The members also discussed the importance of strengthening community engagement programs to educate young individuals about the dangers of drug abuse.

SDPO Gurmeet Singh welcomed the initiative taken by the NGO and acknowledged the significance of community participation in crime prevention.

He stressed the need for a collaborative approach, urging citizens and social organizations to work hand in hand with law enforcement agencies. He assured the delegation that the police are committed to taking strict action against those involved in drug trafficking and other illegal

activities.

The NGO team further proposed awareness campaigns, rehabilitation programs, and counseling sessions to prevent vulnerable individuals from falling into the trap of substance abuse. They also pledged to support law enforcement in identifying and reporting any suspicious activities in the region.

The meeting concluded with a strong commitment from both sides to work together in creating a safer and drug-free society, ensuring that the youth stay on the right path and contribute positively to the community.

Kumar and several other team members.

They expressed their concerns regarding the increasing prevalence of drug-related issues in the region and highlighted the adverse effects these activities have on society, particularly on the youth.

During the discussion, the NGO representatives appreciated the efforts of the police in tackling crime and assured their full cooperation in raising awareness and mobilizing local support to curb these threats. They emphasized the need for stringent measures to control drug

peddling and other criminal

activities.

The meeting concluded with a strong commitment from both sides to work together in creating a safer and drug-free society, ensuring that the youth stay on the right path and contribute positively to the community.

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## Dimple reaffirms stand on Article 370, 35-A; calls for restoration of J&K statehood

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, held a press conference today, declaring that there will be no compromise on Article 370 and 35-A, which were granted by Dogra Maharaja Hari Singh in 1927 to safeguard the jobs and land rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that these provisions were constitutionally recognized in 1950 when India's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, confirmed Article 370 through a presidential order. Furthermore, he stated that Parliament had passed resolutions upholding Article 370 in 1951, 1965, and later for a lifetime.

Dimple accused BJP MLAs of displaying irresponsible and immature behavior during assembly sessions, stating that they lacked broad vision and knowledge about the core issues of Jammu and Kashmir.

He criticized them for failing to demand the return of J&K's statehood, the resumption of the Darbar Move, and a ban on liquor in the region.

Dimple reaffirmed that the struggle for the return of Maharaja Hari Singh's statehood, Article 370, and the implementation of the Instrument of Accession conditions will continue indefinitely. He asserted



that the special status resolution includes Article 370, the Standstill Agreement, and the Instrument of Accession conditions signed by Maharaja Hari Singh at the time of joining India.

Dimple urged former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to pass a resolution in the assembly demanding a plebiscite and referendum in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK), Gilgit, and Baltistan to reintegrate these areas into Jammu and Kashmir.

He also called for the scrapping of the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan, claiming it was unfair to the people of J&K.

Sunil Dimple directly warned Pakistan's Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, to conduct a plebiscite in POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan, as he insisted that these areas rightfully belong to Jammu and Kashmir. He also appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take immediate action to liberate POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan and merge them with J&K, India.

Dimple strongly criticized the BJP for delay-

ing the restoration of J&K's statehood and not implementing the special status resolutions submitted to the Prime Minister and President of India.

He called on NC, Congress, PDP, Apni Party, PC, and other political parties from Jammu and Kashmir to unite to protect the identity, culture, history, and demography of the region.

Dimple further demanded immediate elections for five Rajya Sabha seats from J&K and urged that one Dogra representative be nominated to fight for statehood, special status, and Article 370 in Parliament. He insisted that the Mission Statehood movement will continue its struggle for the reinstatement of Article 370, 35-A, and the cancellation of outsider domiciles.

Lastly, Dimple urged Omar Abdullah to pass a resolution in the assembly to implement Maharaja Hari Singh's Instrument of Accession conditions and reinstate the state subject system. He called for the unification of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, POK, and Gilgit-Baltistan under a single administration.

## Angrez Jasrotia elected as President of Election Department Employees Union Jammu Division

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 4: The election of new office bearers for the Employees' Union (Employees' Union of Election Department) of the Jammu Division Election Department was held on Saturday in a grand manner at Jammu in which majority employees of election department participated.

On the occasion, Angrez Singh, Election Naib Tehsildar from Kishtwar district, was unanimously elected as the President of Employees' Union of Election Department of Jammu Division. Election Naib Tehsildar one of most experienced and learned officer in the election department of Jammu and Kashmir who is known for his unwavering commitment, determination and



integrity garnered majority support of employees of the election department and got unanimously elected for the post of President of Election employee Union.

Among others elected members include, election assistant Nikku Singh who was elected as the Vice president, and other election assistant Anjar Ali who was elected as the General Secretary of the union.

Jammu Election Assistant Mohd Naseem was elected as the Joint Secretary, while

Samba Election Assistant Aijaz Ahmed was elected as the Coordinator. The newly elected President, Angrez Singh, ENT Kishtwar along with the Vice President and all other office members, expressed gratitude to everyone and assured that they will do their sumum bonum for the employees strength and also representing the genuine issues of the employees before the higher authorities. They further assured that all employees of the election department will continue with their strides to work together in unity for the betterment and improvement of the election department in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

The elections were held in most peaceful and cordial atmosphere which reflects the dynamic nature of the elected union.

## Rao appeals for Tourism Development and Road Completion in Sub-Division Thathri



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 4: The Thathri Development Front, District Doda, has made a heartfelt appeal to the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, MP Dr. Jatinder Singh, and MLAs Daleep Singh Parihar & Mehraj Malik to take immediate action for the development of natural tourist spots in Sub-Division Thathri.

Despite being home to five tehsils—Kahara, Thathri, Phaqsoo, Bhella, and Chirrala—the region has been completely ignored by successive state governments. The lack of tourism infrastructure has left many natural attractions untapped, depriving the local population of economic opportunities.

The breathtakingly beautiful locations of Jantron Dhar, Mata Rashwar Temple, and Lamote Dhar, stretching from Panshee to Goilla, are surrounded by picturesque villages such as Joura Kalan, Joura Khurd, Shamdlian, Budhi, Halaran, Sihal, Ranote, Goilla, Chirra, Dadi-Kathava, Panshee, Rokali, and many others in Chirrala Tehsil.

These locations have the potential to become major tourist destinations similar to Gulmarg, bringing employment, economic

prosperity, and infrastructural development to the region. However, due to poor road connectivity and government neglect, these areas remain isolated and underdeveloped.

The members of the Thathri Development Front have stressed the immediate need to complete the pending road projects in the region. Without proper road connectivity, tourism cannot flourish, and the local population continues to struggle with basic transportation. These road projects, once completed, will not only enhance tourism but also provide better access to healthcare, education, and trade opportunities for the people of all five tehsils.

One of the most crucial projects is the Kahara-Jai Road, which is already 85% complete up to Joura Kalan. Only 6 km of road remains unfinished between Joura and Jai, and completing this stretch would open up the region for tourism and trade, generating employment for locals.

Similarly, the Thathri-Chirra Road, a 19 km sanctioned project, is currently 14 km complete from Jangalwar Nallah to Chirra, but the remaining 5 km stretch up to Gallu Top needs to be completed urgently.

Another important link is


the 2 km stretch from Gallu Top to Joura. If completed, this would connect 90% of the region's tourist destinations, allowing easy travel between them. Additionally, a 5 km road from Joura Khurd to Chirrala-Panshee Road would complete the circuit, making tourism more viable and accessible.

The Halaran-Khatassu Road, if completed and linked to Badano with just a 3 km stretch, would provide crucial connectivity, benefiting thousands of people.

To ensure focused and sustained tourism development, the Thathri Development Front has also demanded the creation of a separate Tourism Development Authority for Sub-Division Thathri. Given the natural beauty and immense potential of the region, a dedicated authority would help implement structured tourism policies, improve infrastructure, and create employment opportunities for local residents. Without an official tourism body, the region will continue to be overlooked in government development plans.

The completion of pending road projects and the establishment of a Tourism Development Authority are crucial steps toward bringing Sub-Division Thathri into the spotlight as a major tourist destination.

These efforts will not only boost the local economy but also enhance the standard of living for thousands of people. The Thathri Development Front urges the Lt. Governor, Chief Minister, MPs, and MLAs to take immediate action and put an end to the long-standing neglect of this beautiful and historically significant region.



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