

TOP NEWS OF J&K

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Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

J&K Govt orders inquiry against Social Welfare Officers

JAMMU, Mar 5 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Social Welfare Department has appointed Mohammad Akbar Wani, IAS, Director Social Welfare, Kashmir, as the Inquiry Officer to investigate allegations against former Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Mehjabeen Bano and former Anganwadi Centre Supervisor Rafeeqa Akhter in Tangmarg.

Avalanche in Sonamarg, No loss of life reported

SRINAGAR, Mar 5 (Agencies): An avalanche occurred in Jammu and Kashmir's Sonamarg tourist resort on Wednesday, officials said.

No loss of life or damage has been reported so far.

The avalanche occurred in Sarbal village, the last village of the Kashmir valley, they said.

The avalanche caused panic among the people of the area, they added.

Army jawan dies after sustaining firearm injuries in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Mar 5 (Agencies): An army jawan died of firearm injuries sustained from his service rifle at a forward location in Kamalkote sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said on Wednesday.

Naik B T Rao (25), hailing from Andhra Pradesh, died on Tuesday.

The bullet was fired from the service rifle of the deceased jawan, they said adding the exact circumstances of his death were being ascertained.

The officials said prima facie it appeared to be a case of death by suicide.

However, Srinagar-based defence spokesman did not comment on the incident.

Inquiry officer appointed in departmental action against former Patwari

JAMMU, Mar 5 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Financial Commissioner (Revenue) has initiated departmental action against Shabir

MLAs express concern over rising drug addiction in J&K, Speaker Rather orders discussion

JAMMU, Mar 5 (Agencies): Cutting across party lines, the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly members on Wednesday expressed grave concern over the rising drug addiction in the region, prompting Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather to order a discussion to seek suggestions from the House on anti-drug measures.

Several MLAs questioned the effectiveness of existing mechanisms to combat the drug menace. They called for the establishment of an expert panel and a House committee to examine the issue in depth.

Minister for Health Sakina Itoo acknowledged the severity of the problem but highlighted the impact of the 'Nasha Mukht Abhiyan' launched in September 2022.

"There has been an alarming increase in drug addiction among the youth of J&K. However, after the launch of 'Nasha Mukht Abhiyan', records indicate a slight decline in new registrations," Itoo said in the House while responding to a question by National Conference (NC) MLA Mubarak Gul during the Question Hour.

She informed the House



that 25,402 drug addicts have been receiving treatment at various centers in Jammu and Kashmir over the past three years. This includes 9,775 in 2022, 8,702 in 2023 and 6,925 in 2024.

The minister said while outpatient (OPD) drug addiction cases have shown a declining trend over the past three years, inpatient (IPD) cases have significantly increased. She attributed this rise to the expansion of inpatient services in de-addiction centers, leading to better access to care.

CPI (M) MLA M Y Tarigami, Congress MLA Nizamuddin Bhat, AAP MLA Mehraj Malik, BJP MLAs Arvind Gupta and Yudhvir Sethi, and NC MLA Justice Hasnain Masoodi raised supplementary questions, demanding answers on the alleged failure of agencies tackling the crisis.

"It is a very important issue. Over the last several years, drug addiction has drastically increased. Who ruled this region for the past ten years? They must answer for this rise. What measures have they taken to address

it?" asked Tarigami.

Calling for a review of the current mechanisms, he urged the formation of an expert team and a House committee to assess and respond to the crisis effectively.

BJP MLAs Yudhvir Sethi and Arvind Gupta also sought details from the government on its efforts to combat drug addiction and called for a full discussion on the matter.

AAP MLA Mehraj Malik criticized the administration for its "utter failure" in handling the menace and said "there has

been a large-scale increase in drug addiction in the region and the government has completely failed to address it".

Congress MLA Nizamuddin Bhat supported the demand for a House committee, while NC's Justice Hasnain Masoodi called for enhanced infrastructure to strengthen the de-addiction framework.

Despite the minister's initial opposition to further discussion citing her detailed response, Speaker Rather insisted on a half-hour debate to allow members to present their suggestions.

The minister outlined various initiatives taken to curb drug addiction, including adoption of a drug de-addiction policy, formation of a state-level policy, Implementation Committee and massive awareness campaign — Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan.

She informed the House that 11 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) are functional in Kashmir and 9 in Jammu.

"OPD services are operational in all 20 districts, while inpatient services are available in all nine Government Medical Colleges (GMCs), catering to both male and female patients. Psychiatrists

are available in all GMCs in J&K," she said.

She said that 25 medical officers (12 from Jammu and 13 from Kashmir) have been trained at NIMHANS, Bengaluru, and deployed to de-addiction centers across the UT.

To enhance monitoring and intervention, real-time surveillance using Google Sheets has been introduced to track trends and measure the effectiveness of interventions, she added.

The minister highlighted the ongoing awareness efforts, including seminars, workshops and programs in schools, colleges and universities, in collaboration with district administrations, NGOs and volunteers.

She also emphasized the TeleMANAS initiative, a helpline set up across all 20 districts to provide mental health support and addiction counseling.

Under 'Project Najaath', launched in November 2023 in Jammu and Pulwama, the government has partnered with J&K Bank to combat drug abuse. The initiative aims to educate communities on the

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'You are in my heart and a younger brother': J&K CM Abdullah to AAP MLA Malik



JAMMU, Mar 5 (Agencies): "You are in my heart and a younger brother," Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah told sulking Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislator Mehraj Malik after he complained about being provided a seat behind the opposition BJP members in the House.

Abdullah made the

remarks shortly after Malik, who represents the Doda Assembly constituency, intercepted the chief minister who was responding to a question about revamped distribution sector scheme (power) during the Question Hour in the House.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather warned Malik to behave properly or

otherwise he will be marshalled out for intercepting the members. Malik first raised his voice during a question on drug addiction and demanded winding up of liquor wholesale stores. When the chief minister was replying to a question, he intercepted him and raised the issue of the government failure to improve power distribution in Doda and ensuring power and water supply to the consumers.

Malik, in the meanwhile, expressed his displeasure at being provided a seat behind the opposition BJP members and said he was shifted from the treasury

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MLAs demand house committee on JJM, Minister orders action on wrong answers

JAMMU, Mar 5 (Agencies): Several members of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Wednesday alleged bungling in the Jal Jeevan Mission and demanded a House committee be set up to investigate the matter.

Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Rana assured the House that action would be taken against officials who provided incorrect answers. He also announced an inquiry into the alleged nexus between contractors and the department in a spe-



cific constituency.

During the Question Hour, in response to a query by Dr Mohammad Shafi Wani, the minister said 38 schemes had been approved for the Beerwah constituency at an estimated cost of Rs 113.19 crore. He

further informed the House that 24 of these schemes had been completed at a cost of Rs 64.29 crore, while work was in progress on the remaining 14. He also gave detailed information about the schemes,

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OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we would like to inform about the untimely demise of **Sh. Mohan Shah S/o (Late)** Sh. Prem Nath Shah of Martand, Mattan District Anantnag, Kashmir, at present House No. 5, Lane 1, Adarsh Nagar, Paloura, Jammu.



Tenth Day falls on 10-03-2025 and will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat. **Assembly** will be held at residence at 11:30 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Suman Shah- Wife
Sh. Mohan Shah
Smt. Pyari and Mr. Maharaj Shah- **Sister-In-Law and Brother**
Mrs. Sheetal and Mr. Rohin Ji- **Sister and Brother in Law**
Mrs. Poonam and Ankit Chaturvedi - **Sister and Brother in Law**
Mrs Ruchi and Mr. Rakesh Thusoo- **Sister and Brother in Law**
Smt. Nisha and Sh. Amit Shah- **Daughter in Law and Son**
Contact: 9999361796, 9419279629, 9906730378

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our dearest **Sh Roop Krishan Ganjoo (Retd AGM BSNL Jammu) S/o Late Pream Nath Ganjoo** erstwhile resident of Agahamam Lane Habbakadal Srinagar Kashmir, presently at Saptagiri Sanghvi Hills Anand Nagar Ghodbunder Road Thane West- 400615 (Mumbai) on 26-02-2025 early hour.



The **10th, 11th & 12th Day Kriya** of the pious soul will be performed at Haridwar on 6th, 7th & 8th March 2025.

Deeply Remembered By
SAMAST GANJOO & HAUSTU PARIVAR
9819008235 (MUNI)
9819389020 (MONU)
9819003735 (DEEPU)

Sh Roop Krishan Ganjoo (Retd AGM BSNL Jammu)

TENTH DAY/KIRYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Rano Devi** W/o Sh. Des Raj Khajuria R/o House No 144-B, Ram Vihar, Near Monalisa Showroom, Old Janipur Jammu on 23rd of February, 2025.



10th Day will be observed at our residence on Monday, 3rd March, 2025 at 11.00 am to 12.00 noon.

Kirya will be performed at our residence on Tuesday, 4th March, 2025 from 11.00 A.M.

RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA will be performed on Friday, 7th March, 2025 at Prachin Shiv Mandir, Pandoka Colony (on Paloli-Paloura Road) from 3 PM to 4 P.M

Grief Stricken:-
Des Raj Khajuria (Retd Tehsildar) (Husband)
Daughters-in-laws & Sons
Veenu & Vijay Khajuria (LIC of India)
Rohini (Govt. Teacher) & Ashwani Khajuria, JKAS (Director Hospitality & Protocol, J&K)
Daughters & Son-in-laws
Darshana Sharma & Late Sh Ashok Sharma
Sureshtha Sharma & Sh Madan Lal Sharma (Ashoka Dry fruits Railway Station Jammu)
Sunita Khajuria (Govt. Teacher) & Sh Agninder Bakshi, (Executive Engineer, SIDCO J&K)
Grand Children:- Marvi, Asthva, Aanvi & Danish, Aryanish, Rahul & Ruby, Aara & Rahul, Preeti & Puneet, Sukriti & Kanav, Abhishek, Abhey, Neha Bakshi
Mob. 9419304945, 9419154693, 9419170818, 9419133864

Smt. Rano Devi

TENTH DAY KRIYA & PRAYER MEETING

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you that **Shri Awtar Krishan Malik**, formerly a resident of 10-Hazuri Bagh, Lane No-6, Bohri, Jammu, recently residing at E-406, Satisar Apartment, Plot No-6, Sector-7, Dwarka, New Delhi, left for his heavenly abode on Wednesday, 26th Feb, 2025.



A prayer meeting will be held at the Community Centre, Satisar Apartment, Plot No-6, Sector-7, Dwarka, New Delhi, on Friday, March 7, 2025, between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM.

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Ganga Canal, Muradnagar, Uttar Pradesh, on Friday, March 7, 2025, at 8:00 AM.
SAMASTH MALIK FAMILY, NEAR & DEAR ONES.
CONTACT: 8878717000

Shri Awtar Krishan Malik 24-11-1940-26-02-2025

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Kishni Koul** W/o Lt. Narinder Nath Koul R/o House No - 160, Phase II, Victoria Estate, Defence Road, Near Partap World School, Pathankot, Punjab and originally from Chinkral Mohalla, Habba Kadal, Srinagar.



10th Day Kriya shall be performed at Barfani Mandir, National Highway, Near Nalwa Bridge, Pathankot, on Thursday, the 6th March at 10.00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sister in Law
Smt. Subash Koul W/o Lt. J. L. Koul
Son and Daughter in law
Suman Koul & Sunita Koul
7889436974 , 9417249642
Daughter & Son in law
Rita Koul & Avtar K Koul
Anjali Kotru w/o Lt. Sushil Kotru
Surekha Raina & Sanjay Raina
Jyoti Pandita & Biloo Pandita

Smt. Kishni Koul

BJP members walkout of J&K Assembly after speaker expunges remarks of Opposition Leader



JAMMU, Mar 5 (Agencies): All 28 BJP members on Wednesday walked out from the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly after Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather announced expunging of "derogatory remarks" of the Leader of Opposition on the July 13, 1931 "martyrs".

Leader of the Opposition Sunil Sharma made the remarks against the "martyrs" in response to the speech of PDP legislator Waheed-ur-Rehman Para, who demanded restoration of the public holidays on July 13 and the December 5 in honour of National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. CPI(M) member M Y Tarigami and Congress leader Nizamuddin Bhat also joined the chorus and demanded expunging of the remarks against the

1931 "martyrs" and an apology from the Leader of the Opposition. Later, the Speaker announced expunging of the "derogatory remarks" following which the entire 28 members of the BJP staged a walkout.

July 13 was observed as a public holiday in Jammu and Kashmir to commemorate the 22 men who fell to the bullets of Dogra Maharaja's soldiers outside Srinagar central jail in 1931.

The holiday along with the December 5 holiday in connection with birth anniversary of Sheikh Abdullah were, however, scrapped by the Lt Governor Administration post 2019 following abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories.

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Phoola Ji** W/o Sh. Hirday Nath Bhat of village Hawal Pulwama at present H.No. 168 Sector I near JKB ATM Durga Nagar on 26-02-2025.



Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 07-03-2025 and **Assembly** will be held at our residence H.No. 168, Sector I, Durga Nagar Jammu at 11.30 am.

Grief Stricken
Sh. Hirday Nath Bhat- Husband
Smt. Sunita Mattoo & Sh. Ashok Mattoo - **Daughter & Son-in-Law**
Smt. Sujata & Sh. Sanjay Bhat- **Son & Daughter-in-Law**
Smt. Shanta Bhat W/o Late Justice M.L. Bhat
Smt. Shama Ji Kachroo W/o Late J.L. Kachroo
Smt. Santosh & Sh. G.L. Bhat
Smt. Tosha Ji W/o Late P.K. Bhat
Grand Children: Snehal Mattoo, Saitu Bhat, Kartike, Iyris Mattoo

Smt. Phoola Ji

Those killed on July 13, 1931 were arsonists, not martyrs: BJP's Sunil Sharma

JAMMU, Mar 5 (Agencies): Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Sunil Sharma on Wednesday said those who rebelled against Maharaja Hari Singh's rule in J&K were anti-nationals, adding that "traitors cannot be called as martyrs."

Speaking to reporters in Jammu, Sharma, who is the Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly, said martyrs day cannot be celebrated in the name of traitors and anti-nationals. He said July 13 should be remembered in the name of Maqbool Sherwani, Major Somnath Sharma, Brigadier Rajinder Singh and others who rendered their services to the nation and protected J&K from the enemy.

"We are saying it in and outside the assem



blly and we will continue it that traitors cannot be accorded with the title of martyr," Sharma said.

He said those killed on July 13, 1931 outside Central Jail Srinagar were arsonists. "I want to tell you today that those killed on July 13 set a Hindu area on fire first, and then started resistance against Maharaja's rule. These people were made martyrs by the Congress party, but under Narendra Modi rule they cannot be considered as martyrs," Sharma said.

He also accused the Speaker of acting biased and the representative of a particular party.

Earlier, the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday witnessed uproarious scenes over remarks made by BJP leader Sunil Sharma, who called the July 13 martyrs as "traitors".

During the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the Lieutenant Govern-

JKNC President Farooq Abdullah appears in Assembly



JAMMU, Mar 5 (Agencies): Former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) President, Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday made an appearance in the Assembly.

During the debate on Motion of Thanks on the LG's address, Farooq Abdullah appeared in the House and was sitting in the Speaker's Gallery along with NC leaders Nasir Aslam Wani, Ajay Sadhotra and Rattan Lal Gupta.

July 13 martyrs fought for democracy, constitution: Deputy CM Surinder Choudhary



JAMMU, Mar 5 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir's Minister for Industries and Commerce, Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Wednesday criticized the opposition for its remarks on July 13 martyrs, saying the language were inappropriate.

"Martyrs should be respected, no matter from which community they belong. They fought for upholding democracy, safeguarding constitution and the rights of the people,"

Choudhary said, insisting the need to honor those who made sacrifices for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

His comments come amid the ongoing political debate surrounding historical decisions and the legacy of Jammu and Kashmir's erstwhile rulers in Assembly.

Taking a dig at opposition BJP leaders, he questioned their selective praise for the regions past rulers. "If these people love the Maharaja so much why BJP abrogated Article 370 and 35(A) granted by Maharaja Hari Singh, and stripped down the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir into two Union Territories. Why don't they speak about this?" he questioned.

Sajad Lone lashes out at NC over killings in Jammu and Kashmir



SRINAGAR, Mar 5 (Agencies): MLA Handwara Sajad Gani Lone today questioned the accountability of those in power over the countless killings in Jammu & Kashmir.

He made an intervention in the assembly and stated that while many lives have been lost, there is no clarity on who was responsible for these deaths.

Taking a dig at the National Conference MLA Shamima Firdous, Lone highlighted that from 1996 to 2002 and 2008 to 2014—periods when the NC was in power—J&K witnessed large-scale killings.

He also cited the case of incarcerated separatist leader Shabir Shah, who has spent over 45 years in jail, pointing out that 30 of those years were under National Conference rule.

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we deeply regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Pyari (Shama Bhat)** W/o Lt. Sh. Makhan Lal Bhat originally resident of Fatehpura Anantnag (Kmr.) at present H.No. C/113, Sector-2 near M.Dass School Durga Nagar Jammu.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 09.03.2025 (Sunday) and the Mourning Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Director School of Education at 10.30 A.M.



Grief Stricken
Dolly Bhat (Daughter-in-law)
Son & Daughter-in-law
Ravinder Bhat & Princy Bhat
Priyanka Bhat, Pranoy Bhat & Dewanshi Bhat (Grand children)
Contact No. 9419131406, 8717031596

Smt. Pyari (Shama Bhat)

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Kavinder visits Govindpura Chatha, emphasizes Party's commitment to grassroots development



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 5: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today conducted an extensive tour of the Govindpura Chatha area, engaging directly with local residents to understand their concerns and aspirations. This initiative underscores the BJP's dedication to grassroots engagement and responsive governance. During his visit, the BJP stalwart interacted with a diverse cross-section of the community, attentively listening to issues ranging from infrastructure deficits to social welfare needs. Residents highlighted challenges such as inadequate road connectivity, irregular water supply, and limited access to healthcare facilities.

assured them that these matters would be promptly addressed by liaising with the relevant authorities to devise effective solutions. Emphasizing the BJP's unwavering commitment to holistic development, he stated, "Our party remains steadfast in its mission to ensure that the benefits of progress reach every corner of our society. Engaging directly with citizens allows us to tailor our efforts to the unique needs of each community."

Kavinder further highlighted the transformative initiatives undertaken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, noting that these programs have significantly uplifted various sectors across the nation. He expressed confidence that, with collaborative efforts, the challenges faced by

the Govindpura Chatha community would be effectively mitigated.

The visit also served as a platform for Kavinder Gupta to gather feedback on existing government schemes. Residents were encouraged to share their experiences, enabling the identification of areas where implementation could be enhanced. This feedback loop is integral to the BJP's approach of adaptive governance, ensuring policies remain aligned with the populace's evolving needs.

The former deputy Chief Minister reiterated the BJP's ideology that sustainable development is anchored in community participation. He urged residents to remain proactive in voicing their concerns and assured them of the party's unwavering support in their developmental endeavors.

NMC urges Govt to hike medical allowance, release pending DA Arrears

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 5: The National Mazdoor Conference (NMC), under the leadership of President Subash Shastri, has urged the Jammu and Kashmir Government to increase the medical allowance for employees and pensioners from Rs 300 to Rs 1,000 per month.

The demand aligns with similar provisions in other Union Territories, including Ladakh, which implemented the hike in April 2020.

Speaking at an NMC workers' meeting, Shastri emphasized that the cost of medicines and medical expenses has skyrocketed, making the current Rs 300 medical allowance outdated and inadequate. He urged the JKUT administration to address this issue in the upcoming 2025-26 budget.

Shastri also demanded an increase in the House Rent Allowance (HRA) by 2%, as the Dearness Allowance (DA) has now crossed 50%. He insisted that J&K UT employees should be granted this increase to cope with rising inflation and living costs.

Another critical issue raised by Shastri was the release of 18 months' pending DA/

DR arrears from January 2020 to June 2021, which was withheld by the Central Government. He emphasized that the salaried class and pensioners are struggling financially due to rising prices, and releasing these arrears is necessary to provide them with much-needed relief.

Additionally, he called for the immediate release of the 4% DA due from January 1, 2025, and urged the authorities to merge 50% of DA with the basic pay and pension, a step that would significantly improve the financial stability of employees and retirees.

Shastri also reiterated the long-pending demand for the regularization of daily wage workers employed under SRO-64, stressing that these workers have been waiting for their rights for years and deserve permanent employment.

The meeting saw the presence of several key NMC members, including Rajan Babu Khajuria, B.S. Jamwal, Surinder Kumar, Ram Singh, Anil Gupta, Ramesh Sharma, Chaman Lal, Birbal, Raman Sharma, Vinod Kumar, Sukhdev Singh, Subash Sharma, and Ram Lal Sharma.

Helping Hands Jammu undertook responsibility of girl's wedding

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 5: In a heartfelt act of social responsibility, Helping Hands Jammu, a dedicated NGO, took the initiative to solemnize the wedding of a young girl from an underprivileged family. Understanding the financial hardships her family faced, the organisation stepped in to ensure that all wedding arrangements were made with respect, tradition, and dignity.

Taking complete responsibility for the ceremony, Helping Hands Jammu provided everything from the bride's wedding attire to the venue and other essential arrangements. Every

ritual was performed with proper traditions, ensuring that she embarked on a new journey in life with joy and blessings.

Founder Sourav Sharma expressed, "Every daughter deserves a happy and secure future. This wedding was not just about fulfilling rituals but a strong message to society that we must stand together to support those in need. Our NGO remains committed to uplifting and empowering the underprivileged."

The successful execution of this wedding was made possible through the tireless efforts of Jasbir Singh (Tony), Sushil Kumar (Gugu)

and several other dedicated team members who worked selflessly to make the occasion memorable. Their contributions ensured that the bride experienced a beautiful and respectful wedding, just like every girl deserves.

This initiative has been widely appreciated by the community, inspiring many to contribute towards such humanitarian efforts. Helping Hands Jammu continues to work tirelessly in the fields of education, healthcare, social welfare and marriage assistance, spreading hope and making a tangible difference in people's lives.

SPMR College of Commerce organises HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 5: Red Ribbon Club of Government SPMR College of Commerce under the aegis of IQAC organized the valedictory function of week-long series of events aimed at raising awareness regarding HIV/AIDS among the students.

The HIV/AIDS Awareness programme began on 24th February 2025 with Poster Making Competition in which 12 students participated.

The participants made posters on various issues such as HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention and the fight against stigma. Ms. Sonakshi Sharma of BBA Sem 4th bagged first prize in the competition whereas Isha Bhagat of B.com Sem 6th and Akhlesh Singh of BBA Sem 2nd secured second and third position respectively.

A Rangoli Making Competition was held on 25th February 2025 in which students expressed their ideas regarding prevention of HIV/AIDS through colorful creations. Stuti, Niharika Mehra and Anish bagged 1st, 2nd, and 3rd

prizes respectively.

The third day was marked by an online Debate Competition on the topic "Prevention is better than Cure".

In the competition, Ridham (B.Com 4th Sem), Taranpreet Kaur (B.Com 4th Sem) and Isha Bhagat (B.Com 6th Sem) secured first, second and third positions respectively. The judges of these events were Prof. Pawan Kumar Gupta, Dr. Reena Rani, Prof. Ashu Manhas and Dr. Chetna Gupta.

The series of events concluded with valedictory function today in which Principal Dr. Rajinder Singh was the Chief Guest. Rajesh Sharma, Assistant Director and Rishesh Sharma, Assistant Director from J&K AIDS Control Society were the resource persons.

The function started with traditional lighting of the lamp. Dr. Jagmeet Kaur, Convener, Red Ribbon Club formally welcomed the gatherings.

Rajesh Sharma, resource person shared his valuable detailed insights with the students

during his lecture. He highlighted several support centers that assist those affected by HIV/AIDS. Additionally, he mentioned the Helpline number 1097, which individuals can call for information regarding HIV/AIDS. Later Certificates and Medals were distributed among the winners as well as participants.

Dr. Rajinder Singh, the Principal of the college, urged the students during his address to engage in self-reflection and to steer clear of the harmful practices that exist in society. He advised the students that being ambassadors, it is your responsibility to aware masses in your areas about this menace. The proceedings of valedictory function were conducted by Dr. Roomi Rani and vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Binny Kumar.

The entire activities were conducted under the supervision of Dr. Jagmeet Kaur (Convener, Red Ribbon Club), Dr. Deepak Pathania, Dr. Fayza, Dr. Madhu Bala, Prof. Binny Kumar, Dr. Roomi Rani and Ravi Kumar (Physical Director).

NSS Unit of GCW Bhagwati Nagar organizes door-to-door campaign against substance abuse

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 5: NSS Unit of GCW Bhagwati Nagar has taken a proactive step in the fight against substance abuse by organizing a comprehensive door-to-door campaign on Wednesday as part of the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan initiative under NCORD.

The campaign was designed to reach every household in the adjoining community, focused on educating residents about the dangers of substance abuse and promoting healthier, drug-free lifestyles.

The dedicated team of volunteers went directly to the neighbourhoods, engaging in meaningful conversations with residents, distributing informational pamphlets, and answering questions related to addiction prevention and available



support services.

"We believe that community awareness is the cornerstone of a safer, healthier society. Our door-to-door approach allows us to reach people directly and offer them the knowledge and resources needed to combat substance abuse," said one of the NSS volunteer representatives.

This campaign is a key

element of the broader Nasha Mukta Abhiyan drive, which seeks to curb the prevalence of substance abuse by fostering informed communities and creating support networks for individuals and families.

NCORD's involvement underscores the commitment to coordinated action, ensuring that local efforts are supported by a larger

framework dedicated to a drug-free society.

The NSS volunteers of GCW Bhagwati Nagar, in partnership with NCORD, plan to continue their outreach initiatives in the coming weeks.

Their ongoing efforts will include follow-up visits and the distribution of additional educational resources, further solidifying community

resilience against substance abuse.

The programme was organised under the supervision of Dr. Kamal Deep Singh, NSS Programme Officer of the college.

FDP on Indian Knowledge System concluded at CUJ

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 5: The Department of Social Work, Central University of Jammu, in collaboration with UGC-MMTTC, successfully organized an eight-day (online) Faculty Development Program (FDP). The program was organized under the visionary leadership of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, CU Jammu. The main focus was on the capacity building of educators and research scholars of social work on the Indian Knowledge System (IKS). This initiative, probably the first in North India, aimed to concretize the foundations of Social Work from 'Bhartiya Gyan Parampara' and reinvent social work education.

The FDP brought together 16 distinguished experts from various social work institutes, who explored the

shift from Eurocentric social work education to an Indianized approach. The sessions covered a diverse range of topics, including Upanishads, concept of Dharma to Seva, Sankhya Philosophy, Values and teachings of Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta, Spirituality as a method of social work, replacing the western model with Indian values system, integrating Yogic Science in therapy, Gandhian perspective and the contribution of Nanaji Deshmukh and Lok Mata Ahilya Devi Holkar in community development.

The discussions emphasized the importance of contextualizing social work education in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, addressing diversity, contemporary challenges, and the need for an indigenous, culturally rooted approach to the discipline.

The valedictory session was graced by Dr. Mahesh Chougule, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand, as the chief guest. In his address, he underscored the significance of an interdisciplinary approach, merging IKS with contemporary knowledge systems and localizing curricula to reflect Indian traditions and culture, thereby positioning IKS on a global platform.

Dr. Nancy Mengi, Head, Dept. of social work, presented a comprehensive report on the program's outcomes, highlighting enthusiastic participation with over 55 attendees from 17 states and union territories.

Dr. Neelika Arora, Director, MMTTC appreciated the organizing team for smooth coordination and congratulated on the successful conduct of the program. Dr. Akshay Kumar,

Asst. Director, MMTTC, was also present in the valedictory session.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Vinay Kumar, Faculty, Dept. of social work acknowledging the valuable guidance of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, CU Jammu, Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, Prof. Aswini Kr. Nanda, Dean, Social Sciences and the contributions of resource persons, participants, organizing committee members, and research scholars for successful completion of the FDP.

The Valedictory session was coordinated and moderated by young faculty member Fateh Lal Bheel of the Department. This initiative marks a significant step toward integrating Indian traditions into social work education and fostering a more holistic, indigenous approach to the discipline.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR
JAMMU POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ELECTRIC DIVISION-I JPDCL, Parade JAMMU
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e- NIT No: ED-Ie-NIT/08 of 2025-26 Dated: 03.03.2025

I. INVITATION:-

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer Electric Division-I JPDCL Parade Jammu, hereinafter referred as 'Employer', invites online e-bids from reputed Companies or Class 'A' registered contractors for "Fixing of Rate Contract for handling and fabrication of various material in Divisional stores at Narwal Under the jurisdiction of JPDCL Electric Div.-I, Parade, Jammu for the financial year 2025-26."

- Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful/conscious study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.
- The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Tender Document Sale/Download Start Date	03.03.2025; 02:00 PM
B	Tender Document Sale/Download End Date	24.03.2025; 02:00 PM
C	e-Bid submission (start) date & time	03.03.2025; 02:00 PM
D	e-Bid submission (end) date & time	24.03.2025; 02:00 PM
E	Submission of Hard Copy of Tender Fee	24.03.2025; up to 04:00 PM
F	Commercial and Technical Bid opening date & time	25.03.2025; 02:00 PM
G	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified Bidders)	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualifying Bidders.
H	Venue of opening of techno-commercial Bids	Soft Copy Electronically & Hard copy in the Office of the Executive Engineer Electric Division-I JPDCL Parade Jammu.
I	Tender Value	
J	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 1000 (Non-Refundable)
K	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 30000.00

- The Bidders need to submit the proof/cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through Demand Draft from any Nationalized/Scheduled bank pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division-I JPDCL Parade Jammu, payable at Jammu. The original demand draft shall be submitted in a separate envelope to the Office of the Executive Engineer Electric Division-I JPDCL Parade Jammu and should reach at least one day before opening of commercial and technical e-Bid. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft must be uploaded along with the e-Bids.
- Bidders must quote for all the particulars of the item in the Technical Bid and in the price schedule/BOQ of financial bid. The bids of Bidders who will not quote for all the particulars for any item in technical and financial bids shall be liable to be rejected at the discretion of the Employer keeping in view the interest of the JPDCL.

No. ED-I/7808-11 DIP/J-4131-P/24
Dated: - 03.03.2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
JPDCL, Electric Division-I
Parade Jammu

EDITORIAL

LIVESTOCK
HEALTH

Livestock health plays a crucial role in agriculture, food security, and rural livelihoods. Healthy animals contribute to increased productivity, economic stability, and nutritional security for millions of people. However, ensuring good health in livestock requires proper management, disease prevention, and access to veterinary care. The well-being of livestock is directly linked to public health, environmental sustainability, and economic growth. This article explores the importance of livestock health, common diseases, prevention strategies, and the role of government policies and technology in improving animal well-being.

Maintaining healthy livestock is essential for food production and economic development. Livestock provides meat, milk, eggs, wool, leather, and other animal-based products, serving as a vital source of protein and essential nutrients. Millions of people, especially in rural areas, depend on livestock for their livelihood and income generation. Additionally, animals contribute to agricultural sustainability by providing manure, which enhances soil fertility.

Another significant aspect of livestock health is its impact on public health. Several infectious diseases, known as zoonotic diseases, can spread from animals to humans. Controlling livestock diseases helps prevent serious health risks such as brucellosis, tuberculosis, and bird flu. Therefore, ensuring livestock health is not only an agricultural necessity but also a public health priority.

Livestock are susceptible to a variety of viral, bacterial, parasitic, and metabolic diseases, which can lead to reduced productivity, economic losses, and high mortality rates.

Viral diseases such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), Rabies, and Newcastle Disease can cause severe outbreaks, leading to significant economic losses. These diseases spread rapidly and require strict control measures.

Bacterial infections like Brucellosis, Anthrax, and Mastitis affect livestock's reproductive and milk-producing abilities, impacting both farmers and consumers. These infections often require antibiotic treatments and preventive vaccinations.

Parasitic diseases such as tick infestations, worm infections, and lice can weaken animals, leading to anemia, weight loss, and reduced productivity. Parasitic infections are common in cattle, goats, and sheep, requiring regular deworming and pest control measures.

Metabolic disorders like Milk Fever and Ketosis are common in dairy animals and result from improper nutrition and mineral deficiencies. These conditions can be prevented through balanced feeding and proper veterinary care.

Ensuring livestock health requires a comprehensive approach that includes proper nutrition, vaccination, disease control, and hygiene.

Vaccination and disease prevention are among the most effective ways to protect livestock from infectious diseases. Farmers must follow government-recommended immunization schedules for common diseases such as FMD, rabies, and brucellosis. Early vaccination helps prevent major disease outbreaks.

Providing a nutrient-rich diet is essential for boosting animal immunity and productivity. Livestock should receive a balanced diet containing proteins, vitamins, minerals, and clean water to maintain good health. Feeding livestock with high-quality fodder, grains, and supplements enhances their growth and milk production.

Maintaining proper hygiene and sanitation in animal shelters is critical in preventing infections. Farmers should ensure that sheds are clean, well-ventilated, and not overcrowded. Regular cleaning of water troughs, feeding areas, and waste disposal systems helps minimize the spread of diseases.

Access to veterinary services and regular health check-ups is essential for early disease detection and treatment. Farmers should consult veterinarians for routine vaccinations, deworming, and medical treatments. Prompt medical attention prevents minor infections from developing into severe diseases.

Breeding and genetic improvement play a significant role in livestock health. Farmers should select disease-resistant breeds and avoid inbreeding to ensure healthy animal populations. Advanced breeding techniques help develop high-yielding and resilient livestock breeds.

Proper grazing and pasture management are also necessary to prevent malnutrition and disease outbreaks. Overgrazing leads to nutrient depletion and soil degradation, affecting both livestock and the environment. Farmers should adopt rotational grazing methods and provide supplementary feed when necessary.

Governments play a vital role in supporting livestock farmers by implementing policies that promote animal health and disease control. National vaccination programs help prevent the spread of infectious diseases, while subsidized veterinary services support small-scale farmers who may not afford expensive treatments. Some governments also provide livestock insurance schemes to compensate farmers for losses due to disease outbreaks or natural disasters.

Advancements in technology and modern farming practices have significantly improved livestock health management. Digital animal tracking systems, using RFID tags and GPS, allow farmers to monitor the movement and health status of their animals. Artificial intelligence (AI) is now being used for early disease detection, helping veterinarians diagnose and treat illnesses before they become severe. Precision livestock farming, which involves the use of smart sensors and automated feeding systems, ensures that animals receive optimal care with minimal human intervention.

Why are people not coming out to vote?

By: Dr. Satyawan
Saurabh

Are citizens feeling oppressed by the perceived political autocracy and reminiscing about the British Raj? Is interest in the electoral process crucial to democracy waning? These burning questions are being raised across various segments of society, highlighted by the significant drop in voter turnout in elections. A major challenge before the Election Commission is how to increase voting percentage in this sector. It is essential to find ways to encourage maximum participation in the electoral process. To achieve a high voting percentage, raising voter awareness is important, but it must go hand in hand with elevating the political discourse. Both these aspects are interlinked; without improving the quality of politics, efforts to woo voters may not yield results. If we want to keep democracy vibrant and meaningful, we must all commit to voting in large numbers. Elections are crucial for the health of our democracy. Voting is not just a right; it is a fundamental duty we perform as an independent and sovereign nation. It is important to remember that voting day is not just a holiday or a chance to have fun; it also carries the solemn responsibility of choosing our country's leaders and government, a responsibility that is often overlooked.

The power of politics and democracy lies in the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM). After all, voting rep-

resents a significant power, and it is important for every voter to recognize this. The nation is ours, and so is our democracy. In this democratic setup, the vote has the greatest power. With this power, we shape our future and that of our children. Therefore, it is the duty of every person above the age of 18 to participate in elections. Choosing not to vote is essentially a reneging on this democratic obligation. Every voter must make an effort to engage in the electoral process despite their busy lives. Just as people take out time to visit places of worship to pray for happiness and prosperity, we must view Parliament as the holy of holies of our democracy. Elections are a celebration of this democracy, and fulfilling our responsibility of voting is equally important. Unfortunately, voting has become less of a priority for many ordinary citizens, especially the youth, who are the future of our country. They often fail to engage with the democratic process with true enthusiasm and patriotism. Many working people are eager to enjoy voting day with their families, but for young people, voting often takes a backseat. Their mindset is, "If I have time during the holiday fun, I will vote," and if they find long queues at polling stations, they may abandon the idea altogether. This trend shows that voting is not a priority for the younger generation, and despite the efforts of elders to explain the importance of civic duty, their advice often goes unheeded. This is a significant factor contributing to voter turnout decline.

The state of politics has deteriorated to such an extent that voters often question their choice in leaders. A politician may stay with a party for many years, enjoying the benefits of power, but when they sense a possible defeat in the upcoming elections, they switch parties and start criticizing the very organization they have been a part of for so long. This behavior has eroded voters' trust in their leaders, which is troubling for our democratic system. Seventy-five years after independence, India, the world's largest and oldest democracy, is facing global concerns about waning faith in democracy. Are citizens feeling oppressed by alleged political autocracy and missing the British Raj? Is there a waning interest in the electoral process crucial to democracy? These burning questions are being raised across various segments of society, highlighted by the significant drop in voter turnout in elections. The root of the issue is not just young voters; it is a collective failure to inculcate a sense of nationalism and patriotism in the new generation. Had these values been a part of their early education at home, perhaps we would not be facing this situation today. If we take a moment to reflect on our commitment to patriotism and civic responsibilities, we may find ourselves falling short. In the hustle and bustle of daily life, we often forget to reflect on our duties towards our country. However, we still have time to reflect on our personal issues as well as national issues. We must seriously reflect on the

current political direction of our country; otherwise, we run the risk of repeating the old saying, "What good does it do to regret now that the bird has eaten the crop?"

It is important to give priority to principles in politics. Political actions should always keep the national good in mind. Before changing parties, we should think about how this decision will affect our supporters. Leaders can change quickly, but winning voters takes time. To increase voter turnout, leaders must respect the sentiments of voters and avoid playing with their emotions. To strengthen democracy, strong ideals need to be established in politics, which can significantly increase voter participation. We need to create an environment where voters are motivated to vote voluntarily. This can only be achieved by improving the political system. To improve the political scenario, we must ensure that opportunistic leaders are kept away so that the feeling of respect for the party increases among the public.

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Growing depression in children: What is poor parenting responsible?

By: Vijay Garg

Today's young generation is trapped in a strange mental confusion. On the one hand they are highly concerned about their career, their inclination on the other is moving towards a materialistic lifestyle. The distance between parents and children is increasing, due to which children are deprived of the right guidance. A fall in moral values, not respecting elders, adopting night culture, lack of behavioral knowledge all these problems raise questions somewhere on the framework of our parenting. Career anxiety, money attraction Today's youth is insecure about his future. In a career-making race they remain under pressure feeling mental, and due to the same stress they are falling prey to depression (depression). Parents also consider their responsibility to be fulfilled by giving only economic support to children, instead of understanding this situation. However, the supply of money can lead to life, but children start feeling lonely by not getting the right guidance and emotional support. Lack of practical knowledge in chil-

dren can be clearly seen. They are becoming unable to understand social relationships, have become autism, and have only started prioritizing their advantages. One of the main reasons for this is that parents themselves also spend less time with children and are unable to teach them moral values. The result is that children do not respect elders, become indiscipline, and only start considering their desires as paramount. increasing distance in the family Distances are increasing in family relationships due to the increasing distance between parents and children. Earlier where in joint families children also had the opportunity to learn from grandparents, uncles- aunts, today in single families parents have become so busy in their career and personal life that children are not able to give enough time. Because of this, emotional instability is increasing in children and they start finding their mental support by social media, friends, or other external means, which is not always in the right direction. Impact of Night Culture Nowadays, the effect of night culture is increasing. Staying out late at night, having unnecessary parties, spending

more time on internet and social media is making a bad impression on children's mental and physical health. Parents are not able to control it, because they either want to become more Liberal or else don't pay attention to it because of their busy being. This is reducing the sense of discipline in children, which is working to further enhance depression and stress. Now the question here arises what can do to get rid of all these problems. Parents spend time with children Only with money, the needs of the children are not fulfilled, they also want the time and love of the parents. Interact with them regularly and try to understand their problems. Give correct guidance It is important to explain the importance of career and money, but it is also necessary to give knowledge of morality and life values along with it. Give practical education Give children not only bookish knowledge but also practical knowledge. Teach them how to treat others and how to maintain good relations in society. Emphasize rituals Respecting elders, following discipline, and understanding the difference in right-wrong children should learn from home. Control Night

Culture: Keep children in discipline and teach punctuality. Explain to them that adequate sleep and correct adherence to routine is essential for their mental health. If all parents give money as well as take responsibility if future will be our bright. The point of understanding is here that many reasons for growing depression in children may be responsible, but poor parenting plays a major role in it. Parents should support children not only financially but also mentally and emotionally. If today's young generation didn't get the right guidance, the coming future can be dark. Therefore, parents have to build strong relationships with their children, they have to be endowed with moral values, spiritual knowledge and behavioral knowledge, so that they can become mentally strong and successful in life.

**(Vijay Garg Retd
Principal Educational
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ABGP announces zonal seminar in Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 5: A press conference was organized on Wednesday under the banner of Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat (ABGP) Jammu, where key leaders addressed the media regarding the upcoming Zonal Seminar to be held in Jammu for the first time.

The press conference was led by ABGP President Thakur Dass Sharma, State Organizer Secretary Rajeev Bhardwaj, and Media In-charge Surinder Mishra.

During the session, it was announced that the Zonal Seminar will take place on March 8-9, 2025, bringing together beneficiaries from five states. The seminar aims to educate participants on consumer rights protection and the responsibilities of consumers. Senior central leaders of ABGP will guide and train attendees on how to safeguard their rights and ensure fair trade practices.

Prominent personalities, including Yudhvir Sethi (MLA Jammu East), Prant Sanghachalak Dr. Vikrant, and Prant Pracharak Rutesh, will address the gathering, offering insights into consumer awareness and advocacy. The event is expected to play a vital role in strengthening consumer rights activism in the region and empowering individuals with the knowledge to uphold fairness in trade and commerce.

Delegation of casual labourers/ daily-rated workers of Sub-Transmission Division Kargil calls on LG Brig Mishra



Top News Report

LEH, Mar 5: A delegation of casual labourers and daily-rated workers of the Sub-Transmission Division, Kargil called on the Lt Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) at the Lt Governor's Secretariat to discuss matters concerning their remuneration. The delegation sought the HLG's intervention to enhance their wages.

During the meeting, the delegation informed the LG that despite having Aadhaar-seeded accounts, they were not included in the list of 1900 casual labourers whose remunerations were enhanced. They highlighted their continuous service of over eight years and requested the LG to address their concerns and improve their remuneration.

The LG assured the delegation that a committee would be formed to thoroughly examine their matter. He emphasized that the guidelines set forth by the Supreme Court of India regarding casual workers would be followed, and decisions would be made accordingly. The LG also reassured the delegation that their wages would not be decreased and that they would be paid minimum wages, as determined by the committee. Principal Secretary, Sankeej Khirwar, Commissioner/Secretary to the HLG Dr. L Franklin, IAS; Director Finance, Dr. Safdar Ali, and Superintendent Engineer PDD, Tundup Spalrang were present during the meeting.

JKTF welcomes ZEO Arnas, highlights teachers' issues

Top News Report

REASI, Mar 5: The Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Forum (JKTF) unit of Zone Arnas, led by Zonal President Parshotam Singh, extended a warm welcome to the newly appointed Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) of Arnas, Shri Dwarkanath, in her office chamber. As a gesture of respect, the forum presented a bouquet to the officer upon arrival.

During the interaction, the JKTF leadership assured full cooperation with the ZEO office to ensure the smooth functioning of schools in the region. They also expressed hope for the timely resolution of key issues affecting teachers in Zone Arnas.

The delegation raised several concerns, including the release of time-bound and other arrears, the entry of earned leave for teachers engaged in various surveys during winter vacations, the clearance of time-barred arrears for teachers and



masters, the rationalization of teachers as per the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR), and the updating of service books. ZEO Arnas patiently listened to the concerns presented by the forum and assured that each issue would be addressed with due diligence. He also expressed gratitude for the warm welcome extended by the JKTF leadership.

In response, JKTF Zonal President Parshotam Singh thanked the ZEO for his positive assurance. He emphasized that the Jammu and Kashmir Teachers' Forum, under the leadership of State

President Mohd Ashraf Sheikh, is the only organization affiliated with the All India Teachers' Federation and Education International, representing both teaching and non-teaching staff across all grades.

The event was attended by several prominent members, including Sukhdev Singh, Ghulam Mustafa, Mohd Asgar, Reyaz Ahmad, Manshad Ahmed, Sajad Ahmed, Jagdev Singh, Narotam Singh, Arshad Hussain, Javed Ahmed, and many others.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with a commitment to collaborative efforts for the betterment of teachers and the education system in Zone Arnas.

International Workshop held at GCoE Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 5: The Government College of Education (GCoE), Jammu, in collaboration with the Centre for Women's Studies (JU) and Rotary Club Jammu Elite, successfully organized a one-day International Workshop and Seminar on the occasion of International Women's Day.

The event, titled "Breaking the Barrier," aimed to empower women, address gender equality, and celebrate the achievements of women across various fields.

The workshop was held under the esteemed guidance of the Chief Patron, Dr. Jyoti Parihar, whose leadership and vision were integral to the success of the event.

The organizing committee, which included Prof. Savita Nayyar, Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, Dr. Rajinder Kour, Prof. Satish Sharma, Dr. Davinder Kour, Prof. Sarita, Prof. Roopa Kumari, Prof. Sunanda Rani, Prof. Priyanka Mahajan, and Prof. Chanchal Singh, played



a key role in ensuring the event's smooth execution. The one-day international seminar featured distinguished resource persons who shared their valuable insights on various topics related to women's empowerment and gender equality.

Notable speakers included Dr. Marcia Jane (Senior Lecturer, Department of Language Study, University Teknologi Mara, Malaysia), Prof. Savita Nayyar (Professor of Law, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, JU), Prof. Monika Chadda (Chairperson, Department of English, University of Jammu), Mandeep Kaur (Inspector, J&K Police), Anuradha Thakur (Deputy Secretary, JKAS Mis

sion Youth), Dr. Sushma Rani (Principal, SCERT Jammu), and Ruchika Gupta (Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL, Jammu).

The event provided an essential platform for thought-provoking discussions on leadership, empowerment, and the ongoing need for gender equity. The seminar emphasized the crucial role that women play in various sectors and reaffirmed the commitment of the Government College of Education, Jammu, to fostering a more inclusive, progressive society.

This international workshop was a significant step toward breaking barriers and building a future where women are empowered and celebrated in all spheres of life.

LPEF Doda holds condolence meeting for Aarif Sheikh's family

Top News Report

DODA, Mar 5: The Low-Paid Government Employees Federation (LPEF), Doda, held a condolence meeting under the chairmanship of its District President, Niaz Ahmad Rahi, to express grief over the passing of Niaz Ahmad Sheikh.

Senior leaders of the federation, including Ghulam Hassan Pampori, Shakeel Ahmad, and Er Nazir Ahmad Sheikh, paid tribute to the late Niaz Ahmad Sheikh. They described him as a remarkable individual known for his kindness and helpful nature in his community.

Speaking on the occasion, Niaz Ahmad Rahi highlighted that Niaz Ahmad Sheikh was an intelligent and dedicated Medical Assistant at District Hospital Doda. Having retired 15 years ago, he was also a skilled mechanic and a pillar of society. His contributions to maintaining

communal harmony and fostering Hindu-Muslim brotherhood were widely acknowledged. The gathering prayed for the departed soul and hoped for his highest place in Jannah.

The meeting was attended by numerous employees and well-wishers, including Vicky Kumar, Ghulam Hassan Bagwan, Ishfaq Ahmad Dev, Faizan Ali Trambo, Abid Pampori, Manzoor Ahmad Butt, Mehboob Ahmad Tak, Umar Khan, Mohd Iqbal Balwan, Mohd Ashraf Khokhar, Surishta Devi, Vishwa Mitter, Mohd Saleem Wani, Niaz Ahmad Kulhandi, Molvi Abdul Hameed, Ghulam Rasool (PDD), Ghulam Hassan Bagwan, Mohd Hussain Butt, Mohd Rafiq Malik, and many more. The condolence meeting concluded with prayers and heartfelt tributes to the departed soul, remembering his contributions to society and his legacy of compassion and service.

J&K Bhagat Welfare Forum opposes changes in SC Reservation Policy

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 5: Ajeet Bhagat, Convener of the Jammu and Kashmir Bhagat Welfare Forum, has strongly opposed the recent review of the reservation policy for the Scheduled Caste (SC) community by the J&K Government, calling it a direct attack on their rights. Bhagat emphasized that any attempt to dilute the reservation system

is unacceptable. "These policies are not just about numbers; they are about our identity, progress, and justice. If the government moves forward with plans to merge categories and reduce quotas further, it will push our community into an era of inequality and oppression," he stated.

Condemning the changes in the strongest terms, he highlighted how the SC community has historically faced marginalization, and such policies only add to their struggles. He urged the authorities to take immediate action to protect the constitutional rights of the community. "This is the time to stand united. Let's raise our voices on every platform and let the world know that we will not accept this injustice," Bhagat asserted. He further demanded an increase in the reservation quota for the Scheduled Caste (SC) community in employment from 8% to 27%, in line with policies adopted by other states. The Jammu and Kashmir Bhagat Welfare Forum has vowed to continue its fight for justice and equality for the SC community.



BADC calls for impartial probe into affairs of BGSBU



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 5: The Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JK-BADC), a registered organization working for the welfare of border residents and scheduled tribes of J&K, has urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who also serves as the Chancellor of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), Rajouri to intervene in the arbitrary suspension of Dr. Pervez Abdullah, Assistant Professor in the Department of Management Studies.

In its appeal, BADC has also called upon the Vice Chancellor and Registrar of the university to conduct an impartial probe and clarify the reasons behind

Dr. Abdullah's suspension, particularly since he was not issued a show-cause notice, a pre-requisition and procedural necessity before taking such an extreme action. The organization has termed the suspension arbitrary and invalid.

Dr. Shazad Ahmed Malik, Chairman of BADC and former Vice Chancellor of SNU, expressed deep concern, stating that it is unfortunate to see one of the premier institutions of the Pir Panchal region embroiled in controversies and administrative turmoil. He supported the teaching association of the BGSBU in their demand of revocation of suspension of their president.

He also criticized the lack of initiatives by the government and the university administration to upgrade and promote academic and infrastructural development at BGSBU and alleged that deliberate neglect is pushing this institution into decline.

Dr. Shazad asked the university authorities to reconsider their decision and grant Dr. Pervez Abdullah a fair opportunity to present his case. Further, the BADC Chairman called upon the University administration to clarify its stance on the experience certificate issued to Dr. Abdullah by the former Registrar on 13, December, 2024.

ABDPSS continues Shriram Stuti and Hanuman Chalisa Path Abhiyaan in temples

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 5: The Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti (ABDPSS) organized a grand Shriram Stuti and Hanuman Chalisa recitation program at Channi Himmat, Jammu. The event was led by social worker Vinay Sharma and Aayushmaan Sharma. Special Guest Sunil Sharma, National Coordinator of the Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti, graced the occasion with his esteemed presence, along with Swami Mahesh Dwivedi.

The program commenced with the recitation of Vedic mantras and the devotional prayer "Hey Prabhu Anand-data Gyan Humko Dijiye." This was followed by the Samoohik Path (group recitation) of Shriram Stuti



and Hanuman Chalisa, in which a large number of devotees, along with their families, actively participated. The presence of young participants added to the significance of the event, highlighting the growing interest of the younger generation in spiritual and religious activities.

Following the recitations, speakers addressed the gathering and emphasized Lord Hanuman's devotion, his

incredible contribution to society, and his selfless service to Lord Rama. They spoke about how Hanumanji's exemplary deeds in difficult times continue to inspire people and remain relevant in today's society.

After the completion of Shriram Stuti and the Samoohik Hanuman Chalisa recitation, a Sat-sang session was conducted. Devotees had the opportunity to gain

spiritual wisdom and inspiration from Acharya Mahesh Kumar, who had specially come from Ayodhya for the occasion. The gathering provided attendees with a chance to deeply engage in worship, fostering inner peace and devotion to Lord Ram and Hanuman.

Addressing the event, National Coordinator Sunil Sharma highlighted various initiatives undertaken by the Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti over the years. He particularly emphasized their efforts in spreading awareness about the sacred scripture Bhagavad Gita to instill love for humanity and God. He also mentioned that for the past ten years, the organization has been engaged in the free distribution of Shrimad Bhagavad Gita Granth

(not just a book but a scripture) to spread the divine teachings of Lord Krishna, following the directions and guidance of Brahmgyani Guruji.

The event witnessed active participation from key figures, including Kewal Krishan Sharma, Bhuvneshwari Sharma, Aayushmaan Sharma, Rohit Verma, Sanjeev Sharma, Prateek Kumar, Om Prakash Sharma, Manmohan Sharma, Sanjay Yadav, Rahul Yadav, Vimbo Devi, Seema Jamwal, Sonia Kumari, Shalini Devi, Savitri Sharma, Vimal Kumar, and Srinjan Devi. Their contributions were pivotal in making the event a grand success.

The program concluded with heartfelt prayers and a commitment to continue promoting spiritual values and devotion through such initiatives in the future.

As Ramadan begins, celebs share how the holy month brings a renewed sense of purpose

Ramadan, also called Ramzan, is not just about fasting, but also nourishing the spirit and purifying the soul. It is a time to think beyond the self, connect to one's compassionate side and join the loved ones in fasting, followed by feasting. Celebs talk about the significance of the holy month and how they are observing it.

Act of kindness
Vikrant Saluja in TV show *Mannat*—Har Khushi Paane Ki, Adnan Khan, feels way more connected to his compassionate side in the month of Ramadan. He looks forward to it every year and hopes to observe roza. He started doing it as a kid, but could not follow it for a while before becoming a regular. "Somehow, through the month, my materialist needs taper off and so do things that feed my ego. I am inclined towards acts of kindness than being self-centred through it all," says Adnan. For actor Zain Imam, Ramadan is a significant



month. "It is a time for fasting, prayer, reflection and community service. Fasting from dawn till sunset, we abstain from food and drink to develop self-discipline, empathy for the less fortunate and a closer connection to God. Since it's a month to ask for forgiveness too, we do it with all the heart and soul," shares Zain, who has been keeping roza for three years. Since he is shooting this year, he is determined to keep as many as he can. "It gets a tad difficult to be in roza and act. But a missed fast can be compensated after Rama-

dan too," avers Zain, who gained fame playing Neil Khanna in Star Plus show *Naamkaran*.
Family time
Actor Sheezaan Khan feels Ramadan is a very special time and the entire 30-day period is akin to a festival. While the celebrations have changed over the years, he has fond memories of his childhood, when he would visit his grandparents and exchange Iftaari with the neighbours. "It was always a joyous and communal experience," he reminisces. Sheezaan tries his best to observe fast on all the 30 days,

though sometimes he misses a few. "However, I always make it a point to be present for Iftaari," he smiles. "Ramadan teaches us patience, discipline and self-control. Fasting is a way to strengthen our willpower and stay away from negativity, arguments or wrongdoings—not just during this month but throughout the year," shares Sheezaan, who celebrates Iftaari at home with his family, praying and enjoying the meal. "My favourite Iftaari dishes are onion pakoras, fruit salad and sheer kurma," he shares.

Yami Gautam reveals why she turned down a big-budget film



Bollywood actress Yami Gautam has opened up about her decision to turn down a big-budget film. In a recent conversation,

Yami shared that she had always prioritised content-driven cinema. When asked if she had ever turned down a major film for lack of a compelling script, Yami confirmed, "Yes." However, she chose not to reveal the title of the project she had turned down. Reflecting on her decision-making process, Yami shared, "Every decision is a conscious one. Both personally and professionally, I value the time I get to spend on projects that truly resonate with me."

She added, "I'm glad that audiences respect and appreciate me for my work rather than just the scale of the film," she added. Yami Gautam also shared insights into her approach to choosing scripts, revealing that her decision-making process is driven by instinct and a desire for versatility.

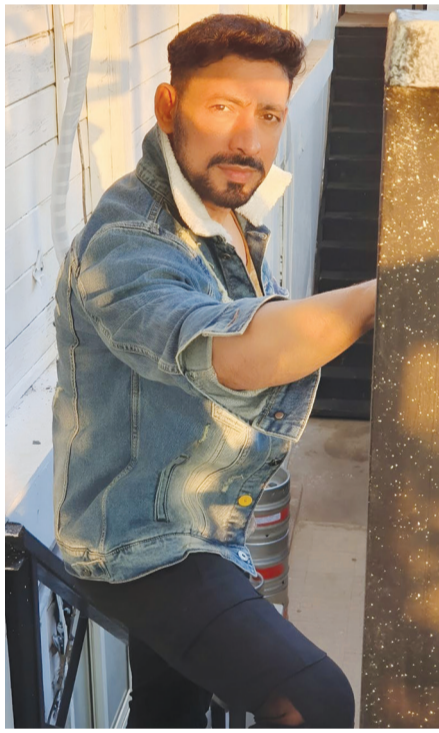
The actress explained, "I rely on my instincts. I make a conscious effort not to get too comfortable with what I've previously done."

Once more: Hrishikesh Pandey to play Inspector Sachin in CID's latest season

Hrishikesh Pandey is set to reprise his role as Inspector Sachin in the beloved Sony Entertainment Television series *CID* Season 2. Reports suggest that the actor is currently in full preparation mode for his highly anticipated return. A source shared, "The shooting for the show has been underway for the past two months, and during this time there has been an outpouring of fan requests for Sachin's comeback. While the makers had planned to bring him back, it's clear that his fans are eagerly waiting to see him again."

Hrishikesh first joined *CID* in 2010 as Inspector Sachin and quickly became a fan favourite for his portrayal of a dedicated officer committed to justice. His character made its debut in the episode *Khooni Deewar*, where he played an undercover cop.

The much-awaited second season of *CID* has officially premiered on Netflix, with the first 18 episodes now available for streaming since February 21. New episodes will be released every weekend at 10 pm. The show boasts of an impressive cast, including Narendra



Gupta, Ansha Sayed, Ajay Nagrath, Shivaji Satam, Dayanand Shetty and Saumya Saraswat.

Nayanthara tells people, fans to not address her as 'Lady Superstar'

Titles and accolades are priceless, but they can sometimes forge an image that distances actors from their craft, popular Tamil cinema actor Nayanthara said as she announced her decision to renounce the moniker 'Lady Superstar' that was bestowed on her.

Nayanthara, known for films such as "Sri Rama Rajyam", "Anaamika", "Chandramukhi", "Ghajini", and "Jawan", made the announcement in an X statement addressing fans, media, and film fraternity.

"Many of you have graciously referred to me as 'Lady Superstar', a title born out of your immense affection. I owe you all a lot for crowning me with such a valuable title. However, I humbly



request you all to call me 'Nayanthara'.

"This is because I feel that the name is what I hold closest to my heart. It represents who I am not just as an actor but as an individual. Titles and accolades are priceless, but they can sometimes create an image that separates us from our work, our craft, and the unconditional bond we share with you, the audience," she wrote.

Nayanthara is the latest South cinema personality, after Kamal Haasan, Ajith, and Jayam Ravi, to relinquish a title given to them.

The actor's real name is Diana Mariam Kurian and it was Sathyan Anthikad, the director of her first film "Manassinakkare", who gave her the stage name 'Nayanthara'.

Nayanthara, 40, said the "language of love" keeps people connected beyond all limits.

"While the future might be unpredictable for all of us, I'm so happy that your unfading support will remain constant, and so will my hard work to entertain you. Cinema is what keeps us united, and let us keep celebrating it together. With Love, respect, and gratitude, Nayanthara," she added.

The caption of the post read: "NAYANTHARA will always be and only NAYANTHARA"

The actor has a string of upcoming projects, including Mahesh Narayanan's film with Mohanlal and Mammootty, period-action drama "Rakkayie", and fantasy comedy "Mookuthi Amman 2".

Adaa Khan on Ramzan: Sticking to only home-cooked meals this time

For actor Adaa Khan, Ramzan is a time of devotion, family and cherished memories of her mother. It's also a month to embrace its countless blessings.

"Ramzan is always about the Almighty, home and family — that's where the true essence of the festival lies.

This year, I've decided to completely avoid outside food. It often gets heavy on the stomach, and the quality isn't always guaranteed. Plus, eating out every day for an entire month isn't sustainable. So, at home, we are sticking to only home-cooked meals this time," says the actor popular for her role of Shesha in *Naagin*.

She's also making the most of her culinary skills this festive season. Adaa says, "With so many amazing recipes being shared

by top chefs and home cooks alike, I've planned simple yet delicious meals for each day."

But one thing she's being extra mindful of is overeating. "No matter how much you try, overeating ho hi jaati hai! So, I've made it a point to either skip dinner or keep my iftar light — with fruits, fresh juices and salads. It helps with hydration after a long day of fasting and keeps me feeling refreshed until the next morning," shares Adaa.

Her fondest Ramzan memories, however, will always be tied to her mother: "No iftar has ever matched the taste of her cooking. I miss her the most during Ramzan and Eid — she had a way of making every festival feel special, something no one else can replicate. Woh kehte hain na, saari maaon ke hath ke khane mein ek magic hota hai."



Ayushmann Khurrana reflects on the security challenges of being a public figure

Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana opened up about the growing concern over the security risks actors face due to their constant presence in the public eye and the widespread use of social media.

Ayushmann shared, "Being in the public eye means that personal space and privacy are constantly at risk. Social media is a powerful tool, but it also has its downsides.

Overexposure can sometimes lead to security threats, whether it's unwanted attention or the risk of personal information being misused. It's important to strike a balance between staying connected with fans and ensuring personal safety."

The actor also spoke about the importance of family security, both at home and in public spaces.

Ayushmann shared the steps he takes to



mitigate risks. "For me, security starts at home. I ensure that our home is well protected with the right safety measures and reliable security systems.

In public places, basic awareness of safety protocols and being mindful of the surroundings to know the risks and threats, goes a long way," he added.

Further, the 40-year-old actor shared his thoughts on the rapidly evolving field of artificial intelligence (AI). "AI is gradually transforming many aspects of our world, and security is one area where it shows great promise.

From AI-driven surveillance systems to smart safes that recognise fingerprints and faces, we're already seeing how technology is making security more efficient. AI can also help with personal security by identifying potential threats," Ayushmann shared.

India's education system is undergoing transformation after decades: PM Modi

Says investment in people rests on three pillars: education, skills, and health

NEW DELHI, Mar 5 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday addressed a post-budget webinar, highlighting the government's emphasis on investing in people, the economy, and innovation as key to a developed India.

He stated that investment in people rests on three pillars: education, skills, and health.

"India's education system is undergoing a transformation after decades. The National Education Policy (NEP), expansion of Indian Institutes of Technologies (IITs), integration of technology with education, including the use of AI and digitisation of textbooks, are some of the steps taken by the government. Today, learning mate-



rials are available in 22 Indian languages," Modi said.

He added that India's education system now meets the requirements of the 21st century.

Since 2014, 30 million youths

have received skill training, the Prime Minister said, adding that 1,000 ITIs will be upgraded and five Centers of Excellence will be established.

"Youth should be trained to meet the requirements of our

industries. We are ensuring that our youth compete at a global level. Industries and educational institutions should understand each other's requirements and fulfill them. We have launched the PM Internship Scheme to provide new opportunities to youth," Modi said.

Speaking on the healthcare sector, the Prime Minister said that 75,000 medical seats will be added over the next five years.

"This year's budget announced the addition of 10,000 medical seats with a target of adding 75,000 seats in five years. The telemedicine facility is being expanded. Through day-care cancer centers and digital healthcare infrastructure, we want to bring healthcare to the last mile," he said.

Row over Abu Azmi's remarks: UP CM Adityanath slams Samajwadi Party for 'idolizing' Aurangzeb



LUCKNOW, Mar 5 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on the Samajwadi Party, accusing it of glorifying Mughal ruler Aurangzeb while disregarding India's cultural and spiritual heritage.

"It is unfortunate that the Samajwadi Party considers Aurangzeb as its ideal. Even Aurangzeb's father, Shah Jahan, wrote in his autobiography that he wished no one would ever have such a wretched son," Adityanath said in the Legislative Council.

His scathing attack comes amid an ongoing controversy in Maharashtra over Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA Abu Azmi's remarks.

Azmi was on Wednesday suspended from the Maharashtra Assembly till the end of the ongoing Budget Session over his remarks eulogising Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.

The chief minister criticized the Samajwadi Party's deviation

from the principles of socialist leader Dr Ram Manohar Lohia, who upheld India's cultural unity despite being a political rival of the Congress.

"I want to tell my friends in the Samajwadi Party—even if you do not take pride in India's heritage, at least follow the ideology of the leader whose name you use for political gain," Adityanath said.

Quoting Dr Lohia, Adityanath added, "Lohia believed that India stands on three pillars—Lord Ram, Lord Krishna and Lord Shiva. As long as Indians revere these great figures, no power in the world can stop India from remaining India."

The chief minister alleged the Samajwadi Party's purpose now seems to be to oppose India's cultural traditions.

"Today the Samajwadi Party has strayed so far from Lohia's ideology that attacking the legacies of Lord Ram, Lord Krishna and Lord Shiva has become its primary goal," he said.

Referring to Aurang-

zeb's reign, the chief minister said, "Aurangzeb imprisoned his own father Shah Jahan in Agra Fort, depriving him of water and left him to suffer."

"If the Samajwadi Party feels proud of Aurangzeb, they should visit a library in Patna and read Shah Jahan's autobiography, where he laments that even a Hindu son is better than Aurangzeb because a Hindu serves his elderly parents in their lifetime, performs their last rites with devotion, and offers water for their souls. Meanwhile, Aurangzeb left his own father to die of thirst," Adityanath said.

"No civilized Muslim today names their son Aurangzeb because they know that a person's deeds define them. 'Yatha naam tatha kaam' (as the name, so the deed)," he added.

Demanding the Samajwadi Party to clarify its position, the chief minister asked why it venerates a ruler, who imposed jizya tax, persecuted non-Muslims and attempted to Islamize India.

"The SP must answer whether it truly considers a tyrant like Aurangzeb its role model, a ruler who attacked India's faith and traditions," Adityanath said.

"Will work as per our agenda, not theirs": Delhi CM slams AAP over poll promises

NEW DELHI, Mar 5 (Agencies): Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Wednesday hit out at AAP, asserting the opposition party cannot dictate her government's agenda while reiterating the BJP dispensation's commitment to fulfilling its poll promises.

The Aam Aadmi Party has been mounting pressure on the newly-formed BJP government to expedite the rollout of its promised scheme of providing Rs 2,500 monthly assistance for women. The party has consistently raised the issue in the first assembly session and staged multiple protests.

Addressing a press conference, Gupta said, "Nobody needs to remind us how many days are left... We will work as per our agenda, they will not dictate it." She highlighted the ongoing consultations with women's organizations for the upcoming Viksit Delhi budget and said the discussions covered various issues, including health, safety and economic

empowerment.

"All expectations of women from the budget were discussed in detail. We will ensure they are incorporated into government policies," the chief minister said.

Gupta announced that over the next three days, she would visit the slum areas to interact with women and understand their concerns. Additionally, she plans to engage with youth to know their perspectives.

"The upcoming Delhi budget will be one that fulfils the hopes of the people," she asserted, reiterating her commitment to implementing all promises made in the BJP's election manifesto.

Earlier on Wednesday, AAP workers put up posters across Delhi with the message "only three more days," seeking to build pressure on the BJP government over its "promise" to roll out Rs 2,500 monthly financial assistance to women by March 8.



March 8 is celebrated as International Women's Day.

On Tuesday, AAP workers led by Leader of Opposition Atishi staged a protest outside the Mandi House metro station. The party has been demanding a clear timeline from the newly elected BJP government in Delhi about the implementation of the scheme to provide financial assistance to women.

Will put across porters' demands to govt, fight for their rights: Rahul

NEW DELHI, Mar 5 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said porters at the New Delhi Railway Station risked their lives to help people during the stampede last month but their voices were not being heard as they face financial difficulties, and asserted that he would fight for their rights. Former Congress president Gandhi posted a video on his YouTube channel of his recent interaction with porters at the New Delhi Railway Station. "A few days ago, I reached New Delhi Railway Station and met the porter brothers there again. During the interaction, they told me how everyone together made every possible effort to save people's lives on the day of the stampede," Gandhi said in his post accompanying the video.

"Whether it was trying to remove people from the crowd, ensuring that the injured reached the ambulance and administration, or taking out the bodies of the dead—using their physical abilities, handcarts or spending money from their own pockets, they helped the passengers in every way," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

Gandhi thanked them for saving many lives and helping in the relief work during the stampede that took place at the station on February 15.

At least 18 people were killed in the stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station, which was witnessing a surge of passengers waiting to board trains



for Prayagraj.

The Congress leader said, "I am very impressed to see the compassion of these brothers who come to earn daily wages".

"They are still living in financial difficulties—but are full of passion and goodwill. They need help, about which they conveyed their demands. I will definitely make every possible effort to help them," Gandhi said.

In a post in Hindi on X, the Congress leader quoted a porter as saying, "Some days we don't even have money to eat. We either send money home or eat food." Our porter brothers are forced to live in such difficulties, he said in his post on X.

"During the stampede at New Delhi Railway Station, these people risked their lives to help people, but their voice is not being heard. I will put their demands before the government and fight with all my might for their rights!" Gandhi said.

In the video, the porters tell Gandhi that their demand is that they get Group D employment.

Equity in technology needed for true gender parity: Smriti Irani

NEW DELHI, Mar 5 (Agencies): Former Union minister Smriti Irani on Wednesday underscored the urgent need for ensuring equity in technology for true gender parity.

Speaking at the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce Conference on Women Empowerment, Irani highlighted the systemic biases embedded in AI systems and called for a collective effort to address these disparities.

She urging the stakeholders to prioritize digital equity as a cornerstone of women's empowerment.

"In the age of AI, it is not man confronting woman or woman confronting man. It is humanity confronting what AI will do to us," Irani said.

She pointed to a research, which revealed that out of 133 AI systems around the world, 44% of AI sys-



tems are not gender-inclusive.

Irani shared a striking example of gender bias in AI-driven financial systems.

"A woman with the same income, tax returns and financial standing as her husband was offered a credit limit 10% lower than his. Another woman's credit limit was set 20 times lower than her husband's despite identical financial profiles," she said.

The former minister also drew attention to the psychological manipulation of women

through AI-driven consumer behaviour.

"Seventy-two per cent of content purchased by women is algorithmically designed to encourage higher spending on consumer durables and perishables, while they are 33% less likely to receive investment advice online," she noted.

Irani urged for a deeper study of consumer behaviour in the digital age, particularly its impact on women.

The former minister praised India's strides in financial inclusion, citing initiatives like

the 'Jan Dhan Yojana' and the 'Mudra' loan scheme, which she said has empowered millions of women.

"Bankers say that the non-performing asset (NPA) for women owned businesses are about 1.8 to 1.9 per cent as compared to men which stands at 2.3 per cent," she said.

Irani, however, highlighted the lingering disparities.

"While there is no gender gap in bank account ownership, women receive only 27% of the credit equivalent to their deposits, compared to 52% for men. So we have better NPA records, but we have moderately okay credit records," Irani said.

Irani urged India to lead the way in ensuring equity in technology. "This is a nation that gave the world zero and is a global leader in IT services. Let us also be

the country that shows the world how to achieve equity in technology," she said.

Irani pointed out that only 22% of AI professionals globally are women, with just 17% in leadership roles.

"We need to ensure that the digital world is gendered for the purpose of equity. Women's contributions to health and education, which account for 80-90% of their earnings, must be recognized and supported by inclusive technology," she said.

The former minister made a call for action, urging to focus on tangible outcomes before the next International Women's Day.

"Between this eighth of March and the next, let us work towards equity in technology. If we can achieve this, we will truly be harbingers of change, equality and gender justice," she said.

Two earthquakes including one of 5.7 magnitude strike Manipur, tremors felt across northeast

IMPHAL, Mar 5 (Agencies): Two consecutive earthquakes, including one of 5.7 magnitude, rocked Manipur on Wednesday and the tremors were felt across the Northeast, officials said.

The earthquake of 5.7 magnitude struck the state at 11.06 am.

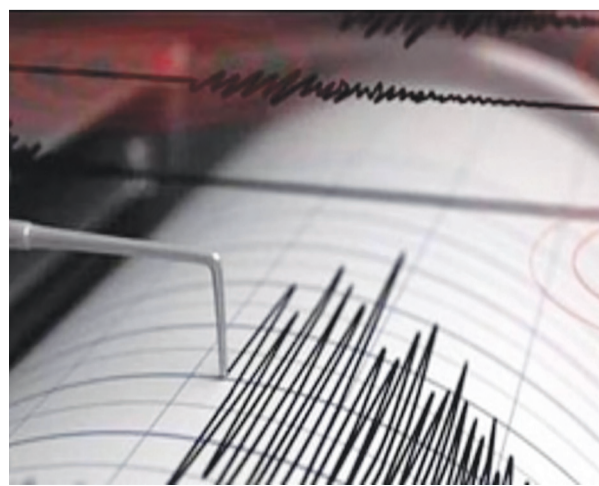
Its epicentre was 44 km east of Yairipok in Imphal East district, and at a depth of 110 km,

according to officials of the Regional Seismological Centre in Shillong.

The tremors were felt in Assam, Meghalaya and other parts of the region, they said.

A second earthquake of 4.1 magnitude hit Manipur at 12.20pm. It struck the Kamjong district of the state, at a depth of 66 km, they added.

Cracks were seen in several buildings in



Manipur following the quakes.

Videos shared on social media showed cracks at a school building in Wangjing Laming in Thoubal district where a relief camp for the ethnic strife hit people was being run.

"We are confirming the reports of the damage," an official in Imphal said. No damage was reported so far in other states of the region.

3 CRPF jawans injured in IED blast in Jharkhand



CHAIBASA, Mar 5 (Agencies): At least three CRPF jawans were injured in an IED blast in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum dis-

trict on Wednesday, police said. The injured jawans were airlifted to Ranchi for treatment, they added.

"An IED exploded during the search operations and three jawans were injured. They were airlifted to Ranchi," he added.

Strong signals from Russia it is ready for peace, Ukraine ready to come to negotiating table: Trump

Says Zelenskyy went on to write in the letter that his team and him 'stand ready to work under President Trump's strong leadership to get a peace that lasts'

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, Mar 5 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump said he has received "strong signals" from Russia that it is ready for peace and that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has written to him saying his country is ready to come to the negotiating table and also sign an agreement on minerals and security.

Trump made these remarks during an address to the Joint Session of Congress, the first of his second term in the White House.

"I'm also working tirelessly to end the savage conflict in Ukraine. Millions of Ukrainians and Russians have been needlessly killed or wounded in this horrific and brutal conflict with no end in sight," Trump said.

He told Congress that he received an "important letter" from Zelenskyy, in which he said that "Ukraine is ready to come to the negotiating table as soon as possible to bring lasting peace closer. Nobody wants peace more than the Ukrainians," Zelenskyy wrote in the letter, Trump said.

Trump said that Zelenskyy went on to write in the letter that his team and him "stand ready to work under President Trump's strong leadership to get a peace that lasts. We do really value how much America has done to help Ukraine, maintain its sovereignty and independence. Regarding the agreement on minerals and security, Ukraine is ready to sign it at any time that is convenient for you."

Trump said he appreciates the letter and added that "simultaneously we've had serious discussions with Russia and I've received strong signals that they are ready for peace. Wouldn't that be beautiful? Wouldn't that be beautiful?" he said amid applause.



"... It's time to stop this madness. It's time to halt the killing. It's time to end the senseless war. If you want to end wars, you have to talk to both sides," Trump said.

In a post on X, hours before Trump's address to Congress, Zelenskyy said Ukraine is "ready to work fast to end the war, and the first stages could be the release of prisoners and truce in the sky — ban on missiles, long-ranged drones, bombs on energy and other civilian infrastructure — and truce in the sea immediately, if Russia will do the same. Then we want to move very fast through all next stages and to work with the US to agree a strong final deal."

Zelenskyy said that Ukraine really does value how much America has done to help Ukraine maintain its sovereignty and independence.

"And we remember the moment when things changed when President Trump provided Ukraine with Javelins. We are grateful for this."

In the post, Zelenskyy also referred to the disastrous meeting between him and Trump in the Oval Office last week and said "Our meeting in Washington, at the White House on Friday, did not go the way it was supposed to be. It is regrettable that it happened this way. It is time to make things right. We would like future cooperation

and communication to be constructive."

Trump said that the United States has sent hundreds of billions of dollars to support Ukraine's defence with no security, with no anything and asked lawmakers if they want to keep it going for another five years.

Trump said that more than 2,000 people are being killed every single week in the conflict that is now in its third year.

"They are Russian young people, they're Ukrainian young people. They're not Americans, but I want it to stop," Trump said.

Trump added that meanwhile, Europe has sadly spent more money buying Russian oil and gas than they've spent on defending Ukraine, by far.

"Think of that. They've spent more buying Russian oil and gas than they have defending. We've spent perhaps USD 350 billion, like taking candy from a baby. That's what happened. And they've spent USD 100 billion. What a difference that is. And we have an ocean separating us, and they don't. But we're getting along very well with them and lots of good things are happening," he said.

"Biden has authorised more money in this fight than Europe has spent by billions and billions of dollars. It's hard to believe that they wouldn't have stopped it and said at some point. Come on, let's equalise. You've got

to be equal to us. That didn't happen," he said.

A day before Zelenskyy wrote to Trump about Ukraine being ready to come to the negotiating table, the US President had temporarily suspended, with immediate effect, the delivery of all American military aid to Ukraine.

A report in The New York Times had quoted a senior administration official as saying that Trump had temporarily suspended the delivery of all US military aid to Ukraine and that the order takes effect immediately, affecting "more than USD 1 billion in arms and ammunition in the pipeline and on order."

This setback for Ukraine had come just days after Trump and Vice President JD Vance had a heated verbal exchange in the Oval Office with Zelenskyy, who was visiting the White House last Friday, and the two countries were all set to sign a rare mineral deal. But talks between Trump and Zelenskyy unravelled in a stunning exchange that played out in front of the global media.

Vance told the Ukrainian leader, "I think it's disrespectful for you to come to the Oval Office to try to litigate this in front of the American media... you should be thanking the president for trying to bring you into this conference."

As the conversation grew heated, Trump said to Zelenskyy "You're gambling with the lives of millions of people. You're gambling with World War Three. You're gambling with World War Three, and what you're doing is very disrespectful to the country, this country that's backed you far more than a lot of people say they should."

Trump and Vance also criticised Zelenskyy for not being grateful enough for the support that the US had given so far to Ukraine in its war with Russia.

Australia pushing for 25% tariff exemption: Foreign Minister Penny Wong



SYDNEY, Mar 5 (Agencies): Donald Trump's second presidency is already more disruptive than his first, Australia's foreign minister said on Wednesday, although she held hopes the country might still get an exemption when it comes to tariffs.

Foreign Minister Penny Wong said there was "no doubt" from Trump's flurry of executive orders since taking office just over six weeks ago that

Australia was dealing with a "very different American administration".

"President Trump and his administration envisage a very different America in the world," she said at the Australian Financial Review Business Summit in Sydney.

"We saw that in the first Trump administration, but I think it's clear that the scale of change in this administration, the second term of the Trump

administration is even more so."

Wong said tariffs had been a major focus for Trump and that Australia was still pushing for an exemption with 25% tariffs on steel and aluminium set to start next week.

"I wouldn't concede that (we will not get a tariff exemption) ... we are still, putting our case very clearly and our case, I think is a strong case," she said.

She added that the US was Australia's most important strategic partner and that alliance had endured people, administrations and governments of all political persuasions.

"There will be areas where our position and the US position might differ. That's always been the case. We have to navigate that sensibly. We have to remember the value of the alliance," she said.

Indian national jailed seven months for molesting woman in Singapore

SINGAPORE, Mar 5 (Agencies): An Indian national was sentenced to seven months' jail on Wednesday after pleading guilty to one count of molestation, with one count of housebreaking taken into consideration for his sentencing.

Erakkodan Abinraj, 26, climbed into his neighbour's condominium unit and molested a 36-year-old woman who cannot be named due to a gag order.

She was asleep in the master bedroom with her husband, and her daughter was in another room, when Abinraj, who entered the house through the balcony around 4.50 am on September 22 last year, entered her room and proceeded to touch the victim's underwear as he saw her asleep.

The victim woke up as she felt someone touching her, a Channel News Asia report said, adding that she turned to the accused holding up his handphone with the torchlight on after she

got puzzled seeing her husband sleeping next to her.

The victim screamed, waking her husband who confronted Abinraj and asked him to leave the room.

The accused then urinated in fear and pleaded with him not to call the police, the court heard.

The victim called the police and Abinraj stayed in the unit until the police arrived, before admitting to trespassing.

However, he denied touching the victim and lied that his handphone had dropped on the victim, claiming that was when she had woken up.

The prosecution sought a jail term of six to eight months as a punishment.

The prosecution said it was aggravating that Abinraj had broken into the victim's home, which is a "private place" where the victim should expect to feel safe. She added that the victim was also

vulnerable because she was asleep.

She said Abinraj had caused further inconvenience by urinating in her unit.

Abinraj's lawyer Ambalavanar Ravidass asked for seven months' jail, saying his client comes from a humble family in India.

He added that Abinraj's grandmother had died by suicide, suggesting that his client had been mentally disturbed during the time of the offences.

In response, the prosecution said an Institute of Mental Health report had not diagnosed Abinraj with any mental condition.

Ravidass accepted that his client had no mental condition, but had been undergoing "normal depression" that anyone would go through given the circumstances.

For molestation, Abinraj could have been jailed for up to three years, fined and caned.

Pope 'rested well' overnight and wakes up on Ash Wednesday, his 20th day in hospital

ROME, Mar 5 (Agencies): The pope "rested well during the night" and woke shortly after 8 a.m. this morning, his 20th day in hospital, as his condition remains stable and his prognosis remains reserved, according to the Vatican.

The pontiff had needed medical intervention amid two episodes of "acute respiratory failure" on Monday, Vatican sources told agency.

The pope did not have any

episodes of respiratory failure or bronchospasm on Tuesday, according to the Vatican.

Pope Francis has remained "alert, cooperating with therapy and oriented," the Vatican's press office, the Holy See, said. He underwent "high-flow oxygen therapy and respiratory physiotherapy" on Tuesday, the Vatican said.

He resumed noninvasive mechanical ventilation overnight into Wednesday morning "as

planned," according to the Vatican. The pope, 88, was taken off noninvasive mechanical ventilation and resumed receiving supplemental oxygen through a nasal tube, Vatican sources said Tuesday. He was no longer wearing a mechanical ventilation mask, a device that pumped oxygen into his lungs, the sources said.

Wednesday marks Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, which is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting and giving. It concludes with

Holy Week, which leads to Easter Sunday, the most important day in the Christian calendar.

The Vatican said last week that Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, major penitentiary and delegate of the pope, will replace Pope Francis at Wednesday's liturgical celebration for Ash Wednesday in Rome.

The Cardinal will read the Homily prepared by the Pope and the text will be released later today, the Vatican said.

China accuses US of spreading all kinds of false information on fentanyl issue

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian expressed China's opposition to US pressure, threats and blackmailing under the pretext of the fentanyl issue.

BEIJING, Mar 5 (Agencies): China has accused the US of spreading all kinds of false information on the fentanyl issue, smearing and scapegoating China and raising tariffs on Chinese imports over fentanyl, terming these moves "unjustified."

In a statement on March 5, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian expressed China's opposition to US pressure, threats and blackmailing under the pretext of the fentanyl issue. He said that China's position is "clear-cut" and expressed Beijing's readiness for practical cooperation with the US based on equality and mutual respect.

In a post on X, Lin stated, "The US is spreading all kinds of false information on the fentanyl issue, smearing and scapegoating China, and hiking tariffs on Chinese imports over fentanyl. Such moves are unjustified and will do no one good. China's position is clear-cut. We stand ready for practical cooperation with the US based on equality and mutual respect. We firmly oppose the US pressuring, threatening and blackmailing China under the pretext of the fentanyl issue. We urge the US to respect facts, bear in mind its own interest and make the right choice."

Lin Jian also highlight-

ed some takeaways from the white paper "Controlling Fentanyl-Related Substances--China's Contribution." According to the white paper, China has imposed full control of fentanyl-related substances from May 1, 2019. China has implemented integrated measures like expanding the list of controlled substances, bolstering regular supervision, boosting inspection and seizure, and implementing innovative controls.

In a post on X, Lin wrote, "Some takeaways from the white paper 'Controlling Fentanyl-Related Substances--China's Contribution': China imposed full control of fentanyl-related



substances from May 1, 2019, making it the first country in the world to do so. China has enumerated fentanyl-related medications in the List of Controlled Narcotic Drugs and exercises strict control in terms of their manufacturing, sale, use, and export."

"China has adopted integrated measures such as expanding the

list of controlled substances, strengthening regular supervision, stepping up inspection and seizure, and implementing innovative controls. China has expanded the control list of precursors of fentanyl-related substances and supervise their production, sales, purchase, transportation, and export. China has

been promoting China-US cooperation on drug control. Since 2024, with more than 100 instances of information exchange, China and the US have achieved breakthrough progress in the collaborative investigations of multiple transnational cases," he added.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson's statement comes after US President Donald Trump doubled the tariff on all Chinese imports from 10 percent to 20 percent, CNN reported. The Trump administration stressed that the tariffs were necessary to stop the flow of fentanyl into the United States.

China retaliated on Tuesday by announc-

ing 15 per cent tariffs on chicken, wheat, corn, and cotton imports from the US, according to a statement from the State Council Tariff Commission. In addition, a 10 per cent tariff was imposed on "sorghum, soybeans, pork, beef, aquatic products, fruits, vegetables, and dairy products," it said.

Separately, China's Ministry of Commerce said it included 15 more American companies, including drone maker Skydio, to its export control list, which would ban Chinese companies from exporting dual-use equipment to them, as per CNN.

Alfredo Montufar-Helu, head of the China

Center for the Conference Board, said, China's retaliatory tariffs followed a "restrained, targeted approach aimed at causing pain to those industries that matter the most to the supporters of the Trump administration." He noted that China's tariffs allow negotiations to potentially avoid even more damaging tariffs down the road.

On Tuesday, China announced more measures targeting the US, including stopping lumber imports from the US, suspending permits given to three US companies for exporting soybeans to China and an anti-dumping probe into some imports of American fiber optic products.

HDF & Sessional Labourers meet EJAC Vice President, seek resolution of two-decade-old grievances

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 5: A delegation of Hospital Development Fund (HDF) employees, led by its President Nissar Ahmad Mir, met veteran trade union leader and EJAC Vice President Farooq Ahmad Khan at the association office to discuss their long-pending issues, which have remained unresolved for over two decades.

The delegation included key representatives from Govt Gousia Hospital Srinagar, Ranawari Hospital, Mahraj Gung Hospital and several other healthcare institutions, with Hilal Ahmad and Tariq Ahmad among the prominent members present.

During the meeting, Farooq Ahmad Khan made a strong appeal to the J&K Government, urging the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Health and Education Minister Sakeena Itoo, Commissioner Secretary of Health and Medical Education and the Director of Health Services Kashmir to seriously address the long-standing grievances of

HDF employees.

"The government must immediately look into the genuine demands of HDF employees, including the release of all pending salaries and the regularization of their jobs. Thousands of employees have been waiting for justice for years, and it is time for the administration to act responsibly," said Khan.

In a strong statement issued to the press, Farooq Ahmad Khan warned against certain trade union leaders who misuse the employees' movement for personal benefits, betraying the true essence of trade unionism and EJAC. He reminded everyone of the contributions of legendary trade unionists, including Former EJAC President Abdul Qayoom Wani, Haji Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Farooq Ahmad Trali, Fayaz Shabnum, Khursheed Bhat and several other dedicated leaders.

"The efforts of our founding leaders and members should never be forgotten. They fought selflessly for employees' rights, yet today, some individuals are using trade unions for political



benefits, completely ignoring the sacrifices made by these great leaders," he asserted.

Farooq Khan highlighted the significant achievements of trade union leaders, including the regularization of thousands of employees, implementation of the 6th and 7th Pay Commissions, and resolution of various other pending issues through collective trade union struggles.

"This is not a political party; this is the voice of the employees. Unfortunately, some individuals are exploiting trade unions for personal and political gains. We must reclaim our true purpose and continue the fight for justice for all employees," he emphasized.

In a separate meeting, a delegation from the Sessional Labourers Irrigation and Flood

Control Department, led by Riyaz Ahmad Dar and Nazir Ahmad Raina, met with EJAC Vice President and Irrigation And Flood Control department Chairman Farooq Ahmad Khan to highlight the concerns of sessional labourers, daily wagers employees.

The delegation demanded their immediate regularization and urged the government to include their issues in the ongoing budget session.

Several other union members and employees were present at the meeting, including: Farooq Ahmad Shalmari, Bilal Ahmad Khan, Farooq Ahmad Malik, Shiraz Ahmad Digoo, Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Naseer Ahmad Nehvi, Shabir Ahmad Khan, Mohammad Shafi Khan, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Harwan etc.

The meeting concluded with a firm commitment to the continue struggle until the demands of daily wagers, casual laborers, sessional labourers and HDF employees, along with other affected workers, are met.

Anantnag Police conducts market checking drive ahead of Ramadan



Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Mar 5: In view of the holy month of Ramadan, Anantnag Police conducted an extensive market checking drive across the district to ensure fair pricing, quality standards, and hygiene compliance.

A team comprising Police officers, officials from the Food Safety

Department, and the Revenue Department inspected various markets, including grocery stores, vegetable and fruit vendors, meat shops, and other essential commodity suppliers.

The drive aimed to prevent hoarding, overpricing, and the sale of substandard or adulterated food items, ensuring that consumers receive

quality goods during this sacred month.

During the inspection, shopkeepers were instructed to display rate lists and strictly adhere to government-approved pricing. They were also sensitized about maintaining cleanliness and ensuring quality control, especially for high-demand food items during Ramadan. Strict action has been warned against violators.

The general public is encouraged to report any instances of overpricing, hoarding, or sale of substandard goods to the nearest Police station or relevant authorities.

Anantnag Police remains committed to ensuring a fair and smooth market experience for all citizens during this holy month.

President G N Var calls for inclusive decision-making, stakeholder engagement and student-centric policies

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 5: The Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) extends a warm welcome to Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, who has officially assumed charge as Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), taking over from Sudershan Kumar.

Hailing from South Kashmir's Anantnag district, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh is a seasoned officer of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS). With his vast experience in public administration and a strong commitment to educational excellence, he is well-positioned to lead JKBOSE effectively.

In a statement issued to the press, PSAJK State President G.N. Var said "We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Ghulam



Hassan Sheikh on his appointment as Secretary of JKBOSE. His rich administrative background and dedication to public service are commendable. We are confident that under his leadership, all stakeholders will be actively involved in pivotal decision-making processes."

He further highlighted the pressing concerns in the education sector, stating "In recent times, students and educational institutions have faced several challenges requiring immediate attention, including the denial of examination forms, non-issuance of

roll number slips, out-of-syllabus question papers, textbook errors and other issues affecting both students and school administrations."

Moreover, PSAJK along with its executive body, district presidents and general members, is optimistic about fostering a collaborative relationship with the new Secretary to address key challenges in the education sector.

The association remains hopeful that Secretary Ghulam Hassan Sheikh will take swift action to resolve these critical issues and ensure a transparent and seamless examination process for all students.

PSAJK reaffirms its commitment to constructive engagement with JKBOSE and looks forward to participating in meaningful dialogues under Secretary Sheikh's leadership to further enhance the education system in Jammu and Kashmir.

JKCCC demands immediate payment release in JJM & R&B

Raises concerns over R&B Department's functioning

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 5: The Jammu & Kashmir Contractors Coordination Committee (JKCCC) has strongly urged the administration to immediately release long-pending payments owed to contractors working under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and other government projects. The Committee highlighted the severe financial crisis faced by local contractors due to non-payment of funds for the past two years, despite their work being completed on time.

In a statement issued to the press, JKCCC Chairman Ghulam Jeevani Purza expressed disappointment over the administration's failure to honor its commitments.

"The government had announced an expenditure of Rs 10,000 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme in Jammu & Kashmir. Initially, tenders were floated, making it diffi-



cult for local contractors to qualify. However, at that time, the government called us for intervention and encouragement. We participated actively and completed the projects as per the given time. As of now, J&K contractors have executed work worth Rs 1,500 crore under JJM and have successfully completed 15 major projects. Unfortunately, despite assurances, our payments remain stuck, causing severe distress to contractors," he stated.

Purza further lamented that over Rs 400 crore owed to J&K contractors remains unpaid. "This delay is unjustifiable and has put contractors in a financial crisis. With the holy

month of Ramadan ongoing, our contractors are struggling due to a lack of funds. I appeal to the J&K Government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Shaleen Kabra and all concerned authorities to ensure that these payments are released without any further delay," he added.

The JKCCC Chairman also pointed out the alleged discrimination against Kashmir-based contractors compared to their counterparts in Jammu. "Before 2019, funds for these schemes were readily

available. Now, despite the government's claims that financial allocations exist, payments worth Rs 250 crore for Kashmir-based contractors are still pending. Why is there discrimination? Jammu-based contractors have received their payments, with only Rs 17 crore still pending, whereas our bills are gathering dust," he questioned.

JKCCC Senior Executive Member Amin Raina raised serious concerns about the functioning of the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department. He highlighted that the department is facing an acute shortage of technical staff and Superintending Engineers (SEs). "Several key positions remain vacant, and instead of fresh recruitment, existing officials are being given additional posts and responsibilities. This has resulted in a severe administrative backlog. Development projects across J&K are suffering due to this

negligence. The lack of technical oversight is causing unnecessary project delays, and to date, no substantial progress has been made on several major works," he said.

Raina urged the J&K Government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, who oversees the R&B Department, to take immediate corrective measures. "If urgent action is not taken to fill vacant posts and streamline pending payments, development in Jammu & Kashmir will continue to suffer," he said.

The JKCCC has called on the authorities to address these critical issues without delay to ensure the seamless execution of developmental projects and to protect the interests of local contractors who have played a vital role in the region's progress.

Poster Making Competition on "75 Years of Adoption of Indian Constitution" held

Top News Report

RAMKOTE, Mar 5: The NSS Unit of GDC Ramkote organized a Poster Making competition on the Theme "75 Years of Adoption of Indian Constitution" to commemorate the

adoption of the Indian Constitution on November 26, 1949. The competition was organised to create awareness among students about the importance of the Indian Constitution. Students were also encouraged to think critically about the significance of the Indian Constitution in modern times.

The participants were given one hour to create their posters on the theme "75 Years of Adoption of Indian Constitution".

Prof. Pankaj Nandan and Prof. Vasundra Rajee evaluated the posters based on creativity, originality, and relevance to the theme. The competition witnessed enthusiastic

participation from students of BA Semester 2nd.

First, second and third position in the competition was secured by Neha Devi, Rita Rani and Janvi Devi respectively. The event was organised by Prof Anu Sharma, NSS PO under the guidance of Prof. Ramneek Kaur, Principal of the college.

From Page No:1

MLAs express concern over rising drug addiction in J&K, Speaker Rather orders discussion

dangers of drug addiction and promote prevention, treatment and support services.

She said the government's proactive approach, including policy reforms, treatment facilities, real-time monitoring and community engagement, aims to tackle the drug menace effectively.

'You are in my heart and a younger brother': J&K CM

Abdullah to AAP MLA Malik

bank to this side. Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary decried Malik for not honouring the leader of the House and suggested him to behave properly.

The chief minister responded to Malik and informed him that it is the speaker as custodian of the House who decides the seating arrangements for the members. "You are in my heart and a younger brother. I would have liked you to sit near me," Abdullah said, sending the House in laughter. Earlier, responding to the starred question of BJP member Shakti Raj Parihar, the chief minister said Jammu and Kashmir is facing 50 per cent transmission and distribution (T&D) losses and added the government is trying to bring it down.

Abdullah said the sanctioned cost for loss reduction works in Doda district is Rs 86.28 crore. The chief minister expressed hope that the works would be completed by next year.

MLAs demand house committee on JJM, Minister orders action on wrong answers

expenditures and areas where water supply had been provided. However, Wani expressed dissatisfaction with the minister's response.

Several other legislators, including Congress MLA Nizamuddin Bhat, National Conference's Ali Mohammad Dar, AAP's Mehraj Malik, BJP's Baldev Raj and Con-

gress' Legislative Party leader G A Mir, raised supplementary questions, accusing the government of "inefficiency and mismanagement" in implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission.

They alleged that many areas still lacked water supply, particularly in rural regions. The minister attempted to pacify them, saying that recent rains had helped recharge water sources and that the government was working on a war-footing to complete the pending schemes.

Dar, who had also raised a separate question on the issue, challenged the minister's response. "If this answer is correct, I will resign from my position. It is completely wrong. Action must be taken against those misleading the House," he said.

Dar was supported by various members seeking action against the officials. The minister said that action would be taken against

those responsible for preparing misleading replies.

Congress leader G A Mir termed the Jal Jeevan Mission a "major scam" in Jammu and Kashmir and insisted on a thorough probe. "Even a BJP legislator has now raised concerns. A House committee must be formed," he said.

Nizamuddin Bhat said that even a former secretary of the department had alleged irregularities in the mission. "A House committee should be set up to investigate these claims," he demanded.

AAP MLA Mehraj Malik also echoed similar concerns, alleging "massive corruption" in the mission and calling for an inquiry. "Officials are misleading the House by providing incorrect information," he said.

Addressing the demand for a House committee, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather advised the members to raise the issue during the

department's grant discussions.

Inquiry officer appointed in departmental action against former Patwari

Ahmed Gorski, former Patwari of Halqa Chak Lala, Jammu, who was also in charge of Patwari Deeli, now posted in Pulwama. Jammu tourism Jammu tourism guide

This followed FIR No. 16/2016 filed by the Vigilance Organization Jammu (now ACB).

In partial modification of a previous order, Rakesh Kumar (IAS), Additional Deputy Commissioner (Adm.), Jammu, has been appointed as the Inquiry Officer, replacing Shishir Gupta (IAS), who has been transferred as Deputy Commissioner Shopian.

Former VC supports Teaching Association of BGSBU, condemns arbitrary suspension of its President

Top News Report

LEH, Mar 5: The UT of Ladakh State Association of the Bharat Scouts and Guides was formally launched with the presentation of the warrant of appointment and honour of patta and administration of Scout Guide Promise to the officer bearers by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) in the presence of First Lady Neelam Mishra; Chief National Commissioner, Bharat Scouts and Guides (BSG), Dr KK Khandelwal and officials from UT Ladakh and BSG at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat.

The LG is the Chief Patron and President of UT of Ladakh State Association of the Bharat Scouts and Guides, with Chief Secretary, Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS, as the Patron and Principal Secretary, Sanjiv Khirwar, IAS, as the Vice-Patron. The new office bearers of UT of Ladakh State Association of Bharat Scouts and Guides are Principal Secretary, Sanjiv Khirwar, IAS; Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Vikram Singh Malik; Director, School Education, Tsering Paldan; Under Secretary, Education, Sumera Shafi, and Joint Director, Youth Services and Sports, Tahir Hussain.

Speaking at the event, the LG expressed his happiness to be a part of the programme as the new chapter of Bharat Scouts and Guides is being opened in



Ladakh. Calling Bharat Scouts and Guides an ideal organisation, the LG commended the organisation for promoting services before self and for promoting culture, cooperation and devotion towards the nation among others. Stating that scouting means intelligence collection in Army language, he mentioned that guiding means to help and reiterated the need to scout and provide help wherever required.

Commending for keeping the organisation's status apolitical, the LG praised Bharat Scouts and Guides for helping in personality and nation-building. He also asked the top officials of Bharat Scouts and Guides to raise awareness about the Fundamental Duties enshrined in the Indian constitution among its members. He also commended Bharat Scouts and Guides members for their role and contribution in organising national-level events.

On the occasion, the LG highlighted the issue of feral dog menace in society and asked if Bharat Scouts and Guides members can help in raising awareness to tackle the issue. The LG also assured to provide all possible assistance to promote the organisation as a movement and not merely as an organisation as it would help in the personality development of Ladakhi youth. He also thanked Bharat Scouts and Guides for opening its chapter in Ladakh.

The LG also administered the Scout Guide Promise to the new office bearers of UT of Ladakh Association of Bharat Scouts and Guides.

Chief National Commissioner, BSG, Dr KK Khandelwal, apprised the LG of BSG being one of the largest youth organisations in the world, with the highest number of girls members in the world. He informed the HLG about the celebration of the diamond jubilee of Bharat

Scouts and Guides as the organisation came into being on 7th November 1950 after the merger of the Boy Scouts Association in India and the Hindustan Scout Association. He also informed that members are provided military and life skills and trained in community services.

Dr KK Khandelwal expressed gratitude to the HLG for being the patron and president of UT of Ladakh State Association of the Bharat Scouts and Guides and hoped that the Ladakh chapter would thrive under his guidance.

Dr KK Khandelwal presented State byelaws and Charter of Affiliation of UT Ladakh State Association of Bharat Scouts and Guides to the LG.

National Commissioner (Spl Programme), BSG, Wing Commander MM Joshi gave the vote of thanks.

A video on BSG Diamond Jubilee Jamboree activities was screened on the occasion.

Principal Secretary, Sanjiv Khirwar, Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, Dr L Franklin, IAS; Under Secretary, Education, Sumera Shafi, JKAS; Joint Director, YSS, Tahir Hussain, JKAS; Chief Education Officer, Leh, Sonam Angchuk; OSD to Secretary YSS, Dr Stanzin Thakchos; District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Leh, Tsering Tashi; DYSSO Kargil, Abid Hussain and officials/members of Bharat Scouts and Guides were present in the meeting.

Army conducts Lecture on Women Specific Schemes by Government at Behramgala



Top News Report

POONCH, Mar 5: Keeping in view the Indian Army's core objective of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens through Awam, a lecture on Women-Specific Schemes by the Government was organized in Behramgala, Poonch district.

The event aimed to spread awareness among girls and women to enhance their skills for self-employment and better job opportunities in the remote parts of Rajouri and Poonch by the Indian Army. The lecture was addressed to the local populace about employment campaigns and various ini-

tiatives for employment by the State and Central Governments. A total of 75 people attended the event, including 30 women, 25 men, and 20 children.

The aim of the event was to interact with and educate girls, women, and the local populace about various educational and scholarship schemes of the Central and State Governments to address the problems of unemployment in our country.

A representative of the Indian Army addressed the locals and provided insights into various government initiatives and actions being taken to gradually reduce the unemployment rate.

Several initiatives have been launched to boost employment, including skill development programs, job fairs, and entrepreneurship.

These include schemes such as the Integrated Rural Development Programme, Drought Prone Area Programme, Nehru Rozgar Yojana, and the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme. This gesture and effort by the Army were highly appreciated.

The Army's endeavor to reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between the people and the Indian Army.

The event also served as a platform to strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the people of this region and showcased the Indian Army's commitment to serving the nation.

Administrative Secy Bhupesh chairs meeting on cultivation of Saffron, Asafoetida in Ladakh

Top News Report

LEH, Mar 5: The Administrative Secretary of the Agriculture Department, UT Ladakh, Bhupesh Chaudhary, chaired a meeting at the Civil Secretariat, Leh, to review the cultivation of saffron and asafoetida (Heeng) in Ladakh.

A detailed discussions focused on the cultivation process of both saffron and asafoetida in Ladakh. A representative from CSIR-IIIM, Leh, provided insights into their ongoing saffron cultivation trials, stating that the institute has been working on a trial basis for the past two years.

The Secretary instructed CSIR-IIIM representatives to collaborate with the Agriculture Department to transfer technology and share expertise to introduce saffron cultivation among farmers in



Ladakh.

Additionally, the Secretary directed the Agriculture Department to identify suitable villages and locations for saffron cultivation in both Leh and Kargil districts. He noted that the department would be cultivating saffron on a trial basis this year and emphasized the need for technical inputs from CSIR-IIIM. He also instructed the department to draft a comprehensive policy on saffron cultivation, including demonstration projects and training programs for farmers, in collaboration with CSIR-IIIM.

Regarding asafoetida

(Heeng) cultivation, a representative from DIHAR, Leh, briefed the meeting on the progress of its cultivation in Ladakh. The Secretary further directed the concerned officials to write to the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) regarding the provision of Heeng seeds.

The meeting was attended by Under Secretary, Agriculture Department; Joint Director, Agriculture; and representatives from the Defence Institute of High-Altitude Research (DIHAR) and CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Leh.

IMS Jammu organizes Manthan 2K25-an annual business tech conclave

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 5: Institute of Management Sciences (IMS), Jammu, successfully hosted the Business Tech Conclave – Manthan 2K25, a platform for students to showcase their talents. Held on the college campus, the event drew enthusiastic participation from numerous institutions.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with traditional lamp lighting and Ganesh Vandana. Dr. Meenakshi Sharma, Director of IMS, welcomed Chief Guest Annil Suri, President and CEO of AB Consultants, Er Vidhi S Jamwal -- Chairman Jamwal group, Er Renu Bangroo -- Managing Director, Jamwal Group, Vice Chairman, Shivdev S Jamwal along with other dignitaries and students. She outlined



the various contests and competitions that were to be held during the day and wished luck to the participating students.

Er. Vidhi S Jamwal, Chairman of the Jamwal Group, congratulated the organizers and encouraged students to hone their skills through such events.

He advised the students to channelize their energies in the positive way to become good

citizens of the world.

In his address the Chief Guest, Annil Suri thanked and praised IMS Jammu's initiative in providing a platform for undergraduate students in the region.

He said that such events provide a great platform to the students of this region to showcase and enhance their talent and skills.

The ceremony also featured the release of

Reflection' 25, the IMS College annual newsletter.

In the prize distribution ceremony in the afternoon session, Special Guests Nakul Khanna, Cluster Head, and Lakshmi Badiar, Relationship Manager, both from Nippon Mutual Fund, delivered inspiring speeches and appreciated the initiative taken by IMS Jammu. With 156 participants from

14 colleges, including SPMR College of Commerce, MAM College, and others, the conclave was a resounding success.

This year's event competitions include Product Launch, Quiz, Code-a-Thon, Just a Minute, and Blindfold Games fostered creativity, teamwork and problem-solving.

Prof. J.R. Dhotra delivered concluding remarks, emphasizing the importance of such initiatives in developing future leaders.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Er. Divya Jamwal, who expressed gratitude to all participants, organizers, faculty, and staff.

Manthan 2K25 reaffirmed IMS College's dedication to promoting innovation and excellence among students.

NSS seven-day special winter camp concludes at GDC Ramgarh

Top News Report

RAMGARH, Mar 5: The NSS unit 'Prabha' of Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh concluded the seven day special winter camp under the theme "Women Empowerment" with a valedictory function organized in the College Campus.

The camp was organized to develop a sense of social responsibility, leadership, and teamwork among students through community service.

The seven day camp which took place from February 27 to March 5, 2025 was inaugurated by the College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra.

During the seven day

camp, various social activities were conducted.

The activities were organized by Prof. Brham Dutt, NSS PO. The camp commenced with the registration of NSS Volunteers in the winter camp.

On Day 1, the inauguration ceremony featured Dr. Kailash Sharma, NSS Programme Officer of Govt. MAM PG College, Jammu, as the resource person.

Dr. Sharma provided valuable insights into the significance of NSS and its pivotal role in nation-building, while also explaining the meaning behind the NSS logo and the importance of its colors and lines.

On Day 2 a yoga



session led by Pooja Sharma, Yoga Instructor/Therapist. The session focused on various yoga asanas aimed at promoting physical well-being and mental peace. Afterward, the students participated in a group discussion on women empowerment, where they shared their thoughts and perspectives on the role of

women in society.

On Day 3, a cleanliness drive was organized across the campus, promoting a clean and sustainable environment. Following this, NSS volunteers hosted a rally of women bikers, organized by the Shakti Udgoosh Foundation, to raise awareness about women's safety and empowerment.

The day also featured a signature campaign on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao to emphasize the importance of girl education and gender equality. Furthermore, volunteers took a collective pledge for Nasha Mukta Bharat, pledging to fight against substance abuse in the community.

On Day 4, another cleanliness drive was

conducted focusing on the plantation of trees and the beautification of the college campus.

On Day 5, the NSS unit organized a rally on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, a national campaign promoting the education and protection of girls. This was followed by a nukkad natak (street play) at the adopted school, Govt. High School Swankha, which addressed the importance of women's rights, education, and empowerment.

On Day 6, volunteers embarked on an adventurous trek from Mansar to Mohr Garh, a journey that also included a cleanliness drive at the Mansar religious site. The trekking activity not only provided a

physical challenge but also instilled a sense of respect and responsibility towards preserving natural and sacred sites. Volunteers collected waste materials during the trek and ensured that the area was left cleaner than before.

On Day 7, the camp concluded with a Valedictory function. The event featured an exhibition of traditional Dogra food items, prepared by NSS volunteers, celebrating the local heritage and culture. The chief guest for the event was Suinder Sharma, Headmaster of Govt. Degree College Swankha.

At the end, a video was also screened that documented all the activities throughout the week.

The video captured the enthusiasm, dedication, and teamwork of the volunteers, providing a visual representation of the camp's impact on the students and the community. In the closing remarks, NSS Programme Officer, Prof. Brham Dutt, expressed his gratitude to the volunteers for their active participation and dedication throughout the camp.

Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the college, congratulated the NSS coordinators and volunteers for their hard work and urged students to continue embracing the spirit of volunteerism, as it helps them become responsible, compassionate, and proactive citizens.

Haven't played a perfect game so far, hopefully it will be in finals: Gambhir

India trounce Australia by 4 wickets in the first semifinal

DUBAI, Mar 5 (Agencies): Not the one to be easily pleased, India head coach Gautam Gambhir said his team is still searching for that "perfect game" despite entering the Champions Trophy final with an all-win record and he is hopeful that it would come in the summit clash on Sunday.

India trounced Australia by four wickets in the first semi-final here on Tuesday, with senior batter Virat Kohli making a well-paced 84.

"See, in international sport, you want to keep improving. You don't say that you've ticked all the boxes. We still haven't played a perfect game. I will never be satisfied with the performances," Gambhir said in the post-match press conference.

Gambhir hoped that India can produce that "perfect game" in the Champions Trophy title clash on March 9.

"We still have one more game to go. Hopefully, we can play a perfect game. We want to keep improving, we want to be ruthless on the cricket field but



absolutely humble off the field," he added.

India have taken some bold calls such as playing four spinners, promoting Axar Patel to No 5 and pushing down KL Rahul to No 6 to suit the team's needs.

It may look illogical from outside but for Gambhir they were minor pieces in the grand plans of keeping the players "out of the comfort zone" to extract the best out of them.

"I think cricket is all about being out of your comfort zone, and that is how you grow. If everyone is in their comfort zone, then there is stagnation. So I believe,

and you've seen the results. I know you guys will keep going back to 3-1 in Australia.

"But everyone in the dressing room is staying out of the comfort zone, be it the coaching staff, be it the players and hopefully we continue to do what is important for Indian cricket," he said.

Future discussions only after final

At some stage in the near future, Gambhir will have to sit down with some senior players to know their future plans.

But for now, the former Indian opener is focusing on the Cham-

pions Trophy final.

"I'm someone who tries to stay, as much as I can, in the present, and at the moment, all I can say is that the entire focus is going to be on the game which is on the 9th.

"And then obviously there's a long-term vision, there's a long-term plan as well, but at the moment, it's only the 9th but after the 9th we can sit down and plan," he added.

Gambhir also lauded the side for the effortless manner in which it chased down a stiff 265-run target against the Aussies here.

"I think it was very professional and the reason why I say that is because we had wickets in hand and that was the plan because we know that obviously pitches here in the second half can actually get a little slower.

"We actually planned the chase really well. If you see after 40 overs, we were only four down. We had two set batters in. So, we knew that the kind of quality we have, the kind of depth we have, we were always in control," he noted.

"Maarne to chhakka...": Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma's dressing room banter goes viral

Lighthearted moment between Indian cricket stars delight fans



NEW DELHI, Mar 5 (Agencies): A tense yet jovial interaction between Indian cricket stars Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma has gone viral on social media, as Ravindra Jadeja went in to bat with just six runs remaining for India to sail into the finals for the Champions Trophy.

The viral video has officially been shared by BCCI on its X handle @BCCI, captures their

relaxed conversation after an intense match. The caption says, "A bundle of emotions from a joyous bunch! Presenting raw moments from #Team-India's semi-final victory over Australia."

In the video, the two batting stalwarts can be seen discussing a shot, with Kohli humorously remarking, "Maarne to chhakka hi hai who", which has resonated with fans.

The candid exchange highlights the strong bond between the two cricketers, who have been key figures in India's batting lineup for years.

Fans have widely shared and commented on the video, appreciating the chemistry and sportsmanship between the senior players.

"The raw emotions, the celebrations, the camaraderie- it's what makes cricket so special", a user commented.

Another user commented, "Look at them! Makes me so happy and emotional! Enjoying probably the best times of their lives!"

This viral moment comes amid India's ongoing campaign, where the team's unity and spirit remain crucial in high-stakes matches.

BCCI extends Indian team SOPs to IPL franchises ahead of 2025 season: Report

NEW DELHI, Mar 5 (Agencies): The BCCI has partially extended its recently implemented SOPs on the Indian team to the 10 IPL franchises ahead of the 2025 edition, covering players' travel only by team bus and barring the entry of families in dressing rooms even on non-match days. Following India's loss in the Test series in Australia, the BCCI came up with a set of rules that barred personal managers from travelling in the team bus besides limiting the presence of players' families on tours.

The exact same SOPs can't be applied in a multi-team competition like the IPL, but some of them have made their way to the world's premier T20 league.

"Players to use the team bus while coming for practice. Teams may travel in two batches," read a BCCI note that was shared with the team managers of all IPL sides recently. As for as the families of players, they won't be allowed in the dressing room even on training days.

"On practice days (during pre-tournament & tournament), only accredited staff is allowed in the dressing room and on the field of play. Player family members and friends to travel in a different vehicle and can watch team practice from the hospitality area.

"For extended support staff (throw down specialist/net bowlers) list need to be submitted for approval to BCCI. Once approved, non-match day accreditations will be issued for the same," read the BCCI note further.

A top official of a franchise welcomed the

steps taken by the BCCI.

"In our franchise, the families and even the team owners were not permitted in the dressing room even on non-match days. Having said that, some of the players used to travel separately and not in the team bus after a game. It won't be allowed from this season onwards," the official told agency.

Additionally, fines will be levied on players if they forget to bring their accreditation card at the venue or show up at the post-match presentation wearing loose and sleeveless clothes.

"It is mandatory for PMOA (players and match officials) accredited staff to bring their accreditation on match day. On the first instance failure of not carrying the accreditation, warning will be issued. On second instance, monetary fine will be issued to the team. "...In the post-match presentation, floppies and sleeveless jersey are not allowed. Failure to do so will result in warning on the first instance. On the second instance, there will be a financial penalty," the BCCI said.

The board also warned the batters to not hit the advertising LED board outside the boundary ropes.

"Despite providing hitting nets, player keep hitting on the LED boards. We request teams to adhere to it.

"Players and support staff are not to sit in front of the LED boards. Sponsorship team will mark places across the FOP where substitutes carrying towels and water bottles can be seated," the board added.

"I always keep it simple": Mohammed Shami on adapting to conditions

DUBAI, Mar 5 (Agencies): After India's crucial four-wicket win against Australia in the first semifinal of the ICC Champions Trophy in Dubai, fast bowler Mohammed Shami shared his insights on adapting to the conditions and his approach to bowling in challenging situations.

Shami, who played a key role in India's victory with figures of 3/48 in 10 overs, has now climbed to the top wicket-takers list alongside New Zealand's Matt Henry, both have eight wickets in the tournament.

With all their matches in the tournament being played at the same venue, Shami emphasized the importance of understanding the pitch conditions and preparing accordingly.

"See, the main thing is that you have to know the conditions very well. You have to know the



behaviour of the pitch because you are playing in the same venue. So, you can know it very well. If you want to know.

So, my effort is that you should practice in the same way according to the wicket, you should bowl in the nets as per the wicket. So, there is not much. I always keep it simple," Shami told reporters.

When asked if playing multiple matches at the same venue had bene-

fited him, Shami agreed.

"Of course. You get familiar with the conditions, the pitch behaviour, and other factors like the weather. Today, for example, it was colder, so you have to adjust accordingly. It's definitely a plus point to play all matches at the same venue," he said.

"In a tournament where fast bowlers have struggled to make an impact, Shami has found ways to succeed. When asked

about his strategy and the captain's expectations, he explained his approach.

"I am doing my best. The captain always wants wickets, but as a bowler, it's my responsibility to hit the right areas. We have enough experience in our team, and the results speak for themselves. In white-ball cricket, you don't need to overthink early on. The real skill adjustments come after 30-35 overs, when the demands of the game change," he noted.

Shami also acknowledged the workload that comes with being a strike bowler but takes pride in handling the pressure.

"There is always a load when you are the main fast bowler because you have to take wickets and then come back for crucial spells. It can be challenging, but I've gotten used to it. I try to

make things easier for the team by putting in more than 100% effort on my end," he noted.

Despite the physical demands of fast bowling, Shami remains focused on his effort rather than dwelling too much on fitness concerns.

"Trust is built when you're selected in the team. I don't believe in overthinking fitness. What matters is how much effort you put in and how your body responds. As far as the workload is concerned, I am a labourer," he chuckled, highlighting his work ethic.

With India securing a hard-fought victory over Australia, they now move into the final of the Champions Trophy. Shami's ability to adapt to the conditions and maintain his wicket-taking form has been a crucial factor in India's campaign.

KL Rahul masters middle order: adapting, excelling, delivering for India

DUBAI, Mar 5 (Agencies): Since becoming a full-time number 5 in ODIs, KL Rahul has expanded his range as a middle-order batter. Since 2020, he has averaged 61.52 in that position--higher than anyone else with a minimum of 20 innings, including Heinrich Klaasen, whose average is nearly seven points lower. However, leading up to the Champions Trophy, India wanted to introduce variety in their right-hand-heavy lineup and decided to promote Axar Patel to No. 5. As a result, Rahul shifted down to No. 6 but has quickly adapted, working extensively on his power-hitting.

"Yeah, I do [enjoy batting at the top], I mean I won't lie," Rahul told Star Sports, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

"It's after opening the batting in Australia in Test matches and having to face that attack in Australia and

you know how red-ball [cricket] is much harder. I opened the batting there and then to come here and bat low seems a bit different, but this is how I've played white-ball cricket in the last four-five years," he added.

"So, I'm quite used to going up and down the order so I'm just happy getting a chance to play in the middle and whatever role is given, I think it's really helped me understand my game a lot more and I've had to work on boundary hitting a lot more in the last year or so because the last ODI we played in Sri Lanka I batted at No. 6, so I knew that's where I'll be batting and [we] needed a left-hander in the top order," he noted.

Before the Champions Trophy, there was a debate over whether Rahul or Rishabh Pant should take the wicket-keeper-batter slot, but the team ultimately stuck with Rahul. On Tuesday,



he walked in after Axar's dismissal, with India needing 86 runs from 15 overs and six wickets on a challenging Dubai surface. When Virat Kohli fell for 84, Australia sensed an opportunity, but Rahul shut the door with an unbeaten 42 off 34 balls, striking two fours and two sixes to steer India into the final. When asked about the uncertainty surrounding his role, Rahul reflected on his approach.

"Honestly, I mean it's since I think 2020 I've batted at No.5 and a lot of times people forget

that that's where I've been batting," Rahul said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

"And every time I perform in a series and then there's a break from ODI series, ODI cricket and then we come back after four or five months there's a question mark again about 'oh well will he play in the XI, where does he fit' and sometimes I'm sitting there thinking what more can I do. Everywhere that I've been asked to play I've played and I feel like I have performed my role. Whatever's been told to

me by Rohit [Sharma], Rohit's been the captain for the last four-five years," he added.

"And whatever he's told me I feel like I've done that to the best of my ability. And I know that Rohit feels the same and he's always supported me and backed me with that. So, there's that confidence going into the game that the captain has my back," he said.

Although Dubai had prepared a fresh pitch for the semi-final, it remained slow and spin-friendly, making strike rotation difficult. Recognizing this, Rahul decided it was worth taking a calculated risk in every over, particularly with Kohli in imperious form at the other end. He took on Tanveer Sangha, Ben Dwarshuis, and Adam Zampa, finding boundaries in quick succession before Kohli was caught at long-on. Hardik Pandya followed soon after, but Rahul kept his

composure, finishing the job alongside Ravindra Jadeja.

"When I walked in and when I played 10-12 balls, I told him [Virat Kohli] that you're the batter that needs to go on and be there till the end," Rahul said.

"And let me try and hit or let me try and take one chance over. Because like you said, we only needed 6 runs and over. But 6 runs and over on that wicket seemed like 8-8.5. So, you had to take one chance and over, one boundary or one six," he said.

"So, I told him that I will do that and why don't you just rotate the strike and be there because you're the set batter and it might be harder. If you get out another set batter comes it becomes a lot more harder. But yeah, he felt like it was in his range to hit and yeah he didn't time it well," he noted.

Steve Smith retires from ODI cricket after Australia's Champions Trophy exit



DUBAI, Mar 5 (Agencies): Australia's stand-in skipper and batting mainstay Steve Smith on Wednesday announced his retirement from ODIs after his team's semifinal loss to India in the Champions Trophy here.

The 35-year-old, who top-scored in the match with a 96-ball 73, informed his teammates of the decision after the four-wicket loss on Tuesday night, according to a statement from Cricket Australia. He will continue to play Tests and T20 Internationals.

"It feels like the right time to make way. It has been a great ride and I have loved every minute of it," Smith said.

"Test cricket remains a priority and I am really looking forward to the World Test Championship Final, the West Indies in the winter and then England at home. I feel I still have a lot to contribute on that stage," he added.

After making his debut in 2010 as a leg-spinning all-rounder, Smith evolved into one of Australia's finest ODI batters, amassing 5,800 runs in 170 matches at an average of 43.28, with 12 centuries.

J&K Retired Police Pensioners protest against pay anomaly



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 5: The Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum staged a protest at Hari Singh Park, Jammu, under the chairmanship of Ajit Singh, demanding justice for retired police pensioners and J&K Fire Services personnel facing pay anomalies and other issues.

The protestors raised several long-pending concerns before the J&K Government, urging immediate redressal of their grievances:

Pay Anomaly Issue – As per Govt. Order No. 229-F of 2014 dated 17-10-2014, the pay anomaly was corrected prospectively from the date of the order.

However, retired police personnel argued that the correction should have been implemented retrospectively from 1996, when the 5th Pay Commission was

enforced across the state, excluding only the police department. Many affected personnel have since passed away, and surviving retirees should be granted the rightful benefits.

ECHS Card Benefits for Pre-2019 Retirees – Retirees after 2019 receive benefits under the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), while those who retired before 2019 are left out. The forum demanded equal healthcare benefits for all retired personnel.

Retired police officials facing court trials as witnesses do not receive any travel allowance (TA) despite earning only pensions. The forum demanded TA reimbursement for such cases.

Special Police Officers (SPOs) in J&K should be paid at par with Punjab Police SPOs, with additional benefits like uniforms, mess

facilities, and a regularization policy.

Village Defense Committee (VDC) members should receive wages equivalent to SPOs, given their contribution to security.

Risk allowance, medical benefits, and ration money for police personnel should be brought on par with CAPFs.

Retired police personnel should be provided a comprehensive health care policy, similar to those available to Army and paramilitary personnel. The forum also pointed out that Leh UT has increased medical allowances to ₹1000, while J&K UT personnel still receive only ₹300, despite both becoming UTs at the same time.

Many retired personnel have not received their leave salary and gratuity for the past year. The forum urged the government to release these pending funds immediately to ease financial hardships.

Chairman Ajit Singh emphasized that these disparities must be addressed at the earliest, as retired police personnel have served with dedication and now face injustice and financial distress. The protestors vowed to continue their struggle until their demands are met.

Long offended married couple reunited happily

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 5: A long offended couple: Ajay Kumar and Seema Devi both hailing from Jammu, were married in 2020 according to traditional Hindu rites and ceremonies.

Until sometime their matrimonial life was quite happy and harmonious and had a son by the said marriage, but after that both the husband and the wife began to bandy taunts over trivial matters, held onto resentment and hurt feelings towards each other, as a result of which, the wife carrying the son went to her parental home and lived there too much of the time.

Now when the matter came to the notice of some prominent persons of their community, they held a meeting at Gopinath Vihar today, listened to the offended couple patiently.

Since wife was much

more at fault as she would often start the conflict with her harsh words, R.L.Kaith said to her, "You should use your accumulated wisdom to deal with the sensitivity of the situation as you are dealing with your man's family and that the hubby desires, peace and good ambience in the family at large. So modest in wear as per family tradition would be a welcome sign. You should only talk when you are expected to be vocal. You should not be insisting on your importance as much as possible. Respect for the elders in the family as per the family traditions would be really much appreciated. These basics should really make you the star in the hubby's family and make your husband feel proud of your better half as the best half."

Acting upon the advisory, the wife returned to her matrimonial home with her husband to live together.

FPS dealers of J&K UT demand resolution of long-pending issues



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 5: The Fair Price Shop (FPS) Dealers Association of Jammu and Kashmir UT has urged the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) to address their long-pending demands, which have remained unresolved since 2019. Despite multiple reminders, the authorities have failed to take any concrete action, leading to growing frustration among FPS dealers.

The association alleged misappropriation of funds by the department, stating that despite the availability of funds in 2024-25, they are being misused for self-interest instead of clearing the long-overdue liabilities of FPS dealers.

FPS dealers have been awaiting commission payments from the Centre Share and Mid-Day Meal Scheme since 2019. The delay has caused severe financial hardships.

The association has

demanded immediate approval of handling losses (wastage) charges, which have been pending for years.

FPS dealers demand a minimum fixed consolidated amount of Rs 50,000, equivalent to government salesmen working under the ration department. They argue that they perform the same duties and should receive equal compensation.

In their final request to the Minister of FCS&CA, J&K UT, the association has warned that if their demands are not met, they will be forced to take stern action to protect their rights and prevent further harassment by the department.

Association President Ajay Gupta reaffirmed their commitment to fighting for justice and ensuring that FPS dealers receive their rightful dues.

Wall Painting Competition on drug awareness held at GDC R S Pura

Top News Report

R S PURA, Mar 5: A wall painting competition focused on raising awareness about the dangers of drug abuse was held at Government Degree College (GDC) R S Pura by Drug De-Addiction Committee.

The event, aimed at educating students and the community about the harmful effects of drugs, featured vibrant and thought-provoking art from participants who



creatively expressed the theme.

The competition saw enthusiastic participation from students, who showcased their artistic talent while addressing

the pressing issue of drug abuse.

Speaking at the event, Principal Prof. (Dr.) Pre-etpal Kour, emphasized the importance of such initiatives in fostering

a drug-free environment and the need for continuous awareness campaigns.

"Art has a unique power to convey important messages, and today, our students have used their creativity to send a strong message against drug abuse," she said.

The competition received positive feedback from both participants and visitors, who commended the students' efforts to creatively highlight this critical issue.

The event was part of a series of programs organized by the college to engage students in social causes and encourage them to be active contributors to their community's well-being.

The whole event was coordinated by Prof. Neelam Kumari, Convener Drug De-Addiction Committee. The committee members who were present in the event were Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch and Prof. Rajinder Singh.

Innospark 2025 Ideathon competition concludes at SMVDU

Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 5: Innospark 2025, the flagship ideathon competition organized by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University's Technology Business Incubation Centre (SMVDU-TBIC), concluded successfully, showcasing groundbreaking ideas and the entrepreneurial brilliance of emerging startups. The event served as a powerful catalyst for fostering innovation and encouraging entrepreneurship.

The event featured an inspiring lineup of startup pitches, expert panel discussions, and mentorship sessions. Enthusiastic entrepreneurs presented innovative solutions to both global and local challenges, making the competition highly engaging and impactful.

A total of 86 startup ideas were received, and after undergoing rigorous evaluation by panel of judges in multiple stages, the top three winners of Innospark 2025 were announced.

Prize money totaling Rs. 1.75 lakh was generously sponsored by Dhananjay Singh, an alumnus of the School of Mechanical Engineering at SMVDU. First Prize of Rs. 1,00,000 was awarded to Ravi Kumar for his groundbreaking startup idea – a Portable, Quantitative, Real-time Isothermal Nucleic Acid Amplification Test for Infectious Disease Detection using a Microfluidic Device integrated with a UV-LED Photodiode Detector. His solution was praised for its scalability, market impact, and sustainability.

Second Prize of Rs. 50,000 went to Sid-dharth Gupta for his innovative approach to "Route Farm to Your Home" through the Farm Rooter, demonstrating a strong business model with high growth poten-




tial. Third Prize of Rs. 25,000 was awarded to Khushneet Singh for his disruptive concept of an eco-friendly, all-in-one walnut sorting and cracking machine, which has the potential to revolutionize walnut processing. His idea was particularly recognized for its real-world applicability and innovation.

The event also brought together key figures from the startup ecosystem, including investors, government representatives, corporate leaders, and academics, providing invaluable mentoring and networking opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs.

The distinguished jury and panelists included notable personalities such as Manik Batra, Director & Co-Chairman, Batra Group; Amit Singh Rathor, CEO, IIF, DTU (Innovation & Incubation Foundation, Delhi Technological University); Taranveer Singh Gujral, Managing Director, TV Super Filters; Dr. Navneet Kour, Social Entrepreneur and Consultant, MSME; Vinu Jee Koul, Assistant Director, MSME (Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises); Prof. Ankush Anand, SMVDU; Prof. Manoj Kumar Gupta, SMVDU; Mr. B.K. Bhatia, Training & Placement Officer, SMVDU; and Mr. Dhananjay Singh, MD, Go Productions/Chenab Valley Designers. During the event, Dr. Sanjay Mohan, CEO of SMVDU-TBIC, delivered a brief summary of the Incubation Center's

achievements and future endeavors, emphasizing the importance of nurturing innovation in the region. He also provided an overview of the event's structure, highlighting the rigorous evaluation process through which the startup ideas were assessed and how the event fostered collaboration and innovation. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, who was the Chief Guest at the event, underscored the importance of fostering an innovation-driven economy. He stated, "InnoSpark 2025 has once again showcased the immense potential within our youth. We must continue to support and guide these emerging entrepreneurs as they pave the way for a brighter and more sustainable future." He also commended the efforts of the TBIC team in organizing such a successful event. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Divye Duheta Mahajan, Manager, SMVDU-TBIC. She expressed gratitude to all those who were directly and indirectly involved in making the event a success. SMVDU-TBIC remains committed to its mission of accelerating entrepreneurship and innovation. With ongoing support from stakeholders and industry leaders, the incubator aims to provide more such opportunities, ensuring that budding entrepreneurs receive the guidance and funding needed to bring their ideas to life.



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