

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, MARCH 06, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

No issue with this part of Kashmir, Real case is PoJK: LoP Sunil Sharma hails Jaishankar's remarks



NEW DELHI, Mar 6 (Agencies): The Leader Opposition (LoP) in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and BJP MLA, Sunil Sharma on Thursday welcomed External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar's statement that the 'Kashmir issue will be solved once the stolen part under illegal Pakistani occupation is returned'. Jaishankar made these remarks during a session titled 'India's Rise and Role in the World' at the Chatham House think tank in London. LoP Sunil Sharma said that the EAM had rightly said that there was no issue with this part of Kashmir.

Sharma hit out at those parties in J&K whose leaders raised the issue of talks with Pakistan in the Assembly. Sharma said, "Jaishankar ji has rightly said that there is no issue with this part of Kashmir; the real issue is PoK. Some members in this Assembly talk about it, but the real concern lies in PoK."

He said that after the abrogation of Article 370, development has taken place here, and GDP has increased, though some people still engage in such activities. But, Kashmir and J&K as a whole are moving ahead, he said. EAM Jaishankar, on Wednesday, spoke about the situation in Kashmir and the steps taken by the Indian government, such as removing Article 370, restoring growth and economic activity and social justice in Kashmir, as well as holding elections, which were successfully conducted in the Union Territory with a large turnout by the people there.

He also added that the only part of Jammu and Kashmir illegally controlled by India's neighbour, Pakistan, is the only thing which was left from attaining complete resolution of the problems in Jammu and Kashmir.

On being asked about the issues of Kashmir, EAM Jaishankar said: "Look in Kashmir actually we have done I think good job solving most of it. I think

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Jammu and Kashmir Economy expected to grow at 7.06% in 2024-25: Economic Survey

JAMMU, Mar 6 (Agencies): The economy of Jammu and Kashmir is projected to grow at 7.06 per cent in real terms, while the nominal Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is expected to rise by 11.19 per cent in 2024-25, according to the Economic Survey Report (ESR) for 2025.

The report said that J&K has shown significant progress, with the unemployment rate declining to 6.1 per cent in 2023-24 from 6.7 per cent in 2019-20.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also serves as the finance minister, tabled the report in the J&K Assembly on Thursday.

The report provides an in-depth analysis of the region's economic performance, development progress, and future outlook, offering valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders.

"The real GSDP of J&K is expected to grow at 7.06 per cent, and the nominal GSDP is expected to grow at 11.19 per cent in 2024-25," the report stated.

"The size of J&K's economy (Nominal



Gross State Domestic Product) is estimated to be approximately Rs 2.65 lakh crore, and its real GSDP is estimated to be about Rs 1.45 lakh crore during 2024-25," it said.

The report stated that J&K is estimated to achieve a compound annual growth rate of 4.89 per cent in its real GSDP from 2019-20 to 2024-25, compared to the 4.81 per cent growth rate recorded from 2011-12 to 2019-20.

The report further stated that J&K's per capita annual income (per capita NSDP) at current prices is estimated to reach Rs 1,54,703 in 2024-25 (advance estimates), compared to the national per capita income of Rs 2,00,162

in 2024-25.

As per the report, the per capita income of J&K at current prices is anticipated to grow at 10.6 per cent in 2024-25.

"The comparative analysis of J&K's per capita income with that of northern states from 2019-20 to 2023-24 indicates that J&K's per capita income grew at a compound annual growth rate of 8.3 per cent, which is higher than Punjab (6.22 per cent), Delhi (6.74 per cent), and Himachal Pradesh (6 per cent)," it said.

The report further maintained that J&K is actively contributing to the national GDP (0.8 per cent) in proportion to its population (0.98

per cent).

"The primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors are expected to contribute 20.00 per cent, 18.30 per cent, and 61.70 per cent, respectively, to the Gross State Value Added during 2024-25," it said.

It stated that inflation in J&K increased to 4.5 per cent in 2024 from 4.3 per cent in 2023, showing an overall rise of 0.2 percentage points. In contrast, at the all-India level, inflation decreased to 5 per cent from 5.7 per cent during the same period. Inflation in J&K hovered between 3.8 per cent and 4.5 per cent from 2019 to 2024, compared to national figures of 3.7 per cent to 5.0 per cent during the same period.

The report further stated that a revenue of Rs 15,737.80 crore was realised in the first nine months of the financial year 2024-25, which is 77 per cent of the Rs 20,333.55 crore revenue realised in 2023-24.

The contribution of non-tax revenue to total revenue increased to 32 per cent in FY25, the

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If Pakistan vacates PoJK, Kashmir issue will be 'Solved': Jaishankar



LONDON, Mar 6 (Agencies): External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said that Pakistan vacating Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir would resolve the Kashmir issue in its entirety. The Minister was responding to a question from a member of the audience at the Chatham House, the London-based think-tank. The question was about whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi could use his relationship with U.S. President Donald Trump to "solve" the Kashmir issue.

Removing Article 370

was step number one," Mr. Jaishankar said, referring to the controversial changes in the special status of Jammu and Kashmir made by the government in August 2019.

"Then restoring growth and economic activity and social justice in Kashmir was step number two," the Minister added.

"Holding elections, which were done with a very high turnout, was step number three. I think the part we are waiting for is the return of the stolen part of Kashmir, which is under

illegal Pakistani occupation. When that's done, I assure you, Kashmir [is] solved," he said.

The discussion host, Chatham House chief executive Bronwen Maddox, suggested there were a number of questions on Kashmir as well as human rights. The House of Commons held a debate earlier in the day. "Government support for human rights in Jammu and Kashmir", led by Labour MP Sarah Smith.

Asked if the Indian government acknowledges some of its shortcomings on human rights, Mr. Jaishankar said the government had, for political reasons, been at the receiving end of campaigns around human rights.

"There can be situations which require redressal and remedy," he said, adding that India had a strong record on human rights relative to global comparators.

"I think any sort of sweeping concern on human rights is really misplaced. I don't see justification for it at all,"

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J&K's Bungus Valley being developed as offbeat tourism destination: CM Omar Abdullah



JAMMU, Mar 6 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday

announced that the Bungus Valley in Kupwara district is being developed as an offbeat

tourism destination with development works totaling Rs 72 lakh proposed for the area.

Responding to a query from Jammu and Kashmir Assembly member Sheikh Khurshid during Question Hour, Abdullah said the approved allocation for the plan for 2024-25 is Rs 30 lakh.

"To promote Bungus as an offbeat destination, the tourism department

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J&K Council of Ministers capped at 10% under reorganisation act: Govt

JAMMU, Mar 6 (Agencies): The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Thursday said that the council of ministers in Jammu & Kashmir shouldn't consist of more than 10 per cent of the total members in the Legislative Assembly.

In a written reply to question of MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who happens to be minister in-charge of the General Administration Department, said that strength of the council of ministers

shouldn't be more than 10 per cent of the total members of the Assembly as per Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019.

To a question about the names of the departments held by the

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PDP holds protest march over BJP Leader's remarks on 1931 'Martyrs', demands apology

SRINAGAR, Mar 6 (Agencies): The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Thursday held a protest march here against Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Sunil Sharma over his remarks on the 1931 "martyrs" and



sought an apology from the BJP legislator.

Led by PDP leader Iltija Mufti, party leaders and activists marched from the party head office here towards the Lal Chowk City centre but were stopped by police near Polo View.

The protesters,

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Union Ministry of MSME conducts PM Vishwakarma awareness workshop at Ramban

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Mar 6: MSME-Development & Facilitation Office, field office of Union Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSME Sector in Jammu & Kashmir. The activities including Entrepreneurship Awareness Program, Intellectual Property Rights Awareness Program, Procurement Marketing Support Scheme Awareness Program, PM-Vishwakarma Seminar, PM-Vishwakarma Awareness Workshop, Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Program, Management Development Program, Reimbursement of Barcode Expenditure, Reimbursement of Stall Charges, To and From Charges, Advertising



Expenditure for participating in various exhibitions conducted in all parts of the Country. PM Vishwakarma scheme is implemented in Jammu & Kashmir with active participation of Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The scheme is meant for upliftment of skilled artisans of 18 trades who preserve the cultural identity and play vital role in economy of J&K.

The scheme offers the benefit like training with stipend, Loan up to 3 Lakhs, incentive of Re.1 towards digital transaction and toolkits worth Rs.15,000 and training has been completed at various centers in various districts of J&K. As per the scheme guidelines toolkits are being given to the Vishwakarmas for enhancing their production levels resulting in higher pro-

ductivity with enhanced quality with better value for their products. The delivery of Toolkits is implemented with the assistance of India Post. Toolkit delivery has started recently. Detailed road map has been laid for delivery of Tool Kits at the door step of the artisan which includes showing the toolkit to the artisans by open delivery method and recording, uploading of a video with 30 seconds duration before making payment to vendor of tool kit through DBT. Total delivered toolkits are more than 15000 numbers in J&K. To further increase the penetration and saturation of the scheme awareness program was organized by DFO Jammu in Batote of Dis-

trict Ramban for especially with lesser registration trades. The benefits of the scheme was informed to the participants in detail and the queries of already registered participants have been cleared on the spot by officers of the Union Ministry and Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The program was organised as per the directions of G.Velladurai IEDS, Joint Director, MSME DFO, Jammu. BDO, Batote, Officer from DIC, Ramban, Representative from CSC, Ex.Sarpanch's and various officers participated in the program. The program was coordinated by Rajesh Kumar IEDS, Asst. Director of MSME DFO Jammu.

Rs 583.78 lakh DPR formulated for Kaloran Bheeni Nalla bridge: Dy CM



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, on Thursday informed the House that

a comprehensive DPR has been formulated for construction of bridge over Bheeni Nallah at Kaloran, Nangla Dull road in Bani worth Rs

583.78 lakh. The Deputy Chief Minister was responding to a question raised by MLA, Dr. Rameshwar Singh. He said that DPR for construction of 75 m span bridge with 700 m approach road amounting Rs 583.78 lakh has been prepared which is under active consideration of the sanctioning authorities during next financial year, subject to availability of resources. The Deputy Chief Minister further stated that the grievance, in this regard, had been registered on the web portal of LG Mulaqaat.

Burzahama Hospital to be constructed at alternate site: Sakeena Itoo

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Thursday informed the House that the Burzahama Hospital will be constructed at an alternate site and appropriate provision of funding will be kept for timely execution of the project. The Minister made these remarks while replying to a starred question raised by Salman Sagar in the Legislative Assembly. She informed that the construction work on Burzahama Hospital building was stopped on the objections of the Archaeological Survey of India, Union Ministry for Culture. "During the year 2013-14, the construction of PHC Burzahama was taken up in hand under State Sector Capex Budget at an estimated cost of ₹179 lakh

through JKPHC, against which ₹17 lakh were released. However, the construction work could not be carried out due to objections raised by the Archaeological Survey of India as the construction site comes under their jurisdiction thereby, causing the work on the project to halt", apprised the Minister. The Minister further said that the Intizamia Committee Burzahama offered a piece of Auqaf land for construction of the Health Centre at an alternate site but the Revenue Authority (Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar) has not yet transferred the land to the department for execution of this vital project. "The department shall explore the possibility for construction of this health project at an alternate site and make appropriate provision of funding for timely execution", the Minister informed.

Sat interacts with Nagrota residents, says won't let Constituency suffer in terms of development



Top News Report

NAGROTA, Mar 6: The politico-administrative situation in Jammu & Kashmir is volatilized due to directionless politics being pursued by the NC that has resulted in a performance deficit on the governance front. NC is pursuing emotional politics as a diversionary tactic from administrative failure. This was stated by Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, during his visit to various villages of Nagrota constituency, district Jammu North in which he interacted with the party leaders and the local people to take stock of the problems faced by them. Accompanied by District President Nand Kishore, Somraj Khajuria, Rakesh Sharma expansion, he assured the people that the issues of the people will not go unattended in the absence of the popular leader of area, former MLA Nagrota Swargiya

Devender Singh Rana. He said that the dream and the vision of tall leader to work for the welfare of people will be pursued by the whole cadre of BJP. The locals apprised him of the issues like construction and repair of lanes/drains as well as the road connectivity problem. They also raised the issue of the regular drinking water and electricity supply. He was also apprised of the issues like mobile connectivity in certain areas, and certain other issues of public relevance. Sat Sharma, while interacting with the people, stressed that Nagrota holds the privilege of being a first step of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra, and will be given due recognition as an important tourism town. He said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Union government is progressing with the idea of developing tourism

circuits to enhance the socio-economic standing of the local people. He said that the BJP will ensure that the people of Nagrota constituency do not feel ignored in terms of development and other issues of importance. Sat Sharma, while attacking the ruling NC government for its mismanagement of the Jammu & Kashmir affairs, said that the NC government, instead of trying to play with the people's emotions, must streamline its energy for the benefit of the J&K residents through a streamlined governance process. Targeting guns on the lack-lustre performance of the ruling dispensation, Sat Sharma rued that marred with the heaviness of inability to fulfil its poll promises, NC leadership is desperately trying to shift the people's attention on the emotional issues that have been buried deep under the ground.

3 Solid Waste Management Plants approved for Dooru-Verinag : Sakeena Itoo

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: Minister for Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, on Thursday informed the House that the Municipal Committee Dooru /Verinag distributes twin household dustbins among all households to segregate waste at the source, along with installation of twin bins in commercial areas for segregated collection of garbage in twin towns of Anantnag district. The Minister was replying on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to a question raised by G A Mir in the Legislative Assembly. The Minister said that for collection of waste from the households and commercial establishments, 08 Hoppers are deployed regularly and the waste is subsequently transported to the Material Recovery Facility Plant at Verinag, where it is further segregated into dry waste and wet waste separately. The dry waste is processed in the MRF center which is then recycled and sold out, while the wet waste is put into the compost pits for generation of organic compost. The Minister informed that 8 hoppers, 25 tri-cycles and one truck laden with sucker have been procured for Dooru and Verinag while as the department intends to procure machinery including weight bridge, baling machine and shredder for improvement in sanitation and waste management segregation. The Minister, while replying to a supplementary, stated that three Solid Waste Management Plants of 4 TPD each have been approved for MC Dooru-Verinag. Besides, one Solid Waste Management Plant of 4 TPD is functional at Veering where the dry waste is processed at MRF facility and the wet waste is processed through pit composting method, she added. She said that the Municipal Committee is committed towards ensuring efficient waste management practices through continuous improvements in segregation methods. Efforts are being made to

enhance citizen participation, upgrade infrastructure and adopt innovative solutions for waste processing, she added. The Minister further said that under SBM (U) scientific processing of the Municipal Solid Waste in the small and medium Towns of J&K has been undertaken. She said that the establishment of 78 Solid Waste Management centers (WMCs)/ Material recovery Facility (MRF) along with compost pits has been approved. She added that construction work in 52 locations has been undertaken, of which, 33 Waste Management Centers/MRFs and 30 compost pits have been completed, while the work in 19 more sites of WMCs/MRF and 22 compost pits is under progress. Further, she informed that bio-remediation of legacy waste at the dumping sites like Bhagwati Nagar, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Tral, Bijbehara, Pahalgam, Anantnag and Tangmarg has been completed and 3.88 lakh MT legacy waste has been bio-remediated. She apprised that the work has been awarded for bio-remediation of 6.16 lakh MT legacy waste at Kot Bhalwal by JMC, 2.98 lakh MT by DULBK and 1.20 lakh MT for 7 ULBs of DULBJ. Besides, the tender has been floated for bio-remediation of 11.00 lakh MT legacy waste at Achan, Srinagar, she added. Regarding housing facilities, the Minister said that PMAY-Urban 2.0 has been launched in September 2024 to address the housing needs of EWS/LIG and MIG income categories by providing financial assistance for construction/purchase of houses through different verticals of the scheme in the next 5 years. She informed that Rs 907.68 lakh have been released to the beneficiaries for construction of houses since 2018 in Dooru and Verinag. Out of 747 sanctioned houses, 505 houses have been completed while 161 are under-construction as per the CS&MC data of MoHUA Government of India, she added.

Measures underway to protect vulnerable spots along Jehlum: Javed Rana



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, on Thursday informed the House that crate protection works are being undertaken under Flood Management Project Phase-II along river Jehlum, wherever required. He was replying to a question raised by Peerzada Mohammad Syed in the Legislative Assembly. The Minister stated that crate protection works are being undertaken at specific locations depending upon the vulnerability/weak spots. He said that these works will be completed by the end

of March, 2025 at an estimated cost of Rs. 84.00 lakh. Regarding the beautification work on river banks of Jehlum from Mehandi Kadal to Donipawa, the Minister informed that Irrigation and Flood Control Department does not have any exclusive budget to undertake beautification work on river banks. He said that the mandate of the department is to undertake anti-erosion works to prevent the bank damage, sloughing and breaching due to flood-waters. MLAs, Basheer Ahmad Veeri and Tanvir Sadiq raised supplementary on the question.

NORTHERN RAILWAY		E-AUCTION NOTICE	
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.			
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EAFZR-OH25-8	18-03-25 at 11:00 hours	Allotment of contract for Commercial Advertisement rights through: 1) Static media at Madhopur Punjab & Bhogpur Sival Railway Station. 2) Static media/overhead of water tank at Samba Railway Station. 3) Exterior of Overhead of Water Tanks at Sujapur, Bari Brahmna, Jammu Tawi, Pathankot, Baramulla Bopur, Budgam, Srinagar, Anantnag, Qazigund & Banihal Railway Station. 4) Static media at Level crossings adjoining to Chhina, Railway Station.	
EAFZR-CTG25-7	18-03-25 at 11:00 hours	Allotment of Catering stalls on contract at Beas/2 & Kokaipura Railway Station.	
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.reps.gov.in. No. MC/0815/Pub/E-Auction/FZR/22 Date : 05/03/2025			
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01	Providing and Fitting of Essential items and allied material for Snow Clearance Operation at Nathatop - Sanasar Road	ENIT No: MHDU/TS/ 2024-25/107 Dated: 04/03/2025 Due on:- 10.03.2025	1.51 (Lacs)	Earnest Money 2% of estimated amount, amounting to Rs. 3020/- only shall be submitted by all Participating Bidder in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG. Performance Security 5% of the contract value shall be submitted by the lowest Bidder before the allotment of work order in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG.	Rs. 200/- (Fixed Amount) in the shape of challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to MH-0059(PWD) Misc. Revenue and uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt on e-tendering portal OR the bidder may deposit tender fee in shape of e-challan through Account No. 002801020000009, J&K Bank, Udhampur, of Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Udhampur)	05 (five days)	Registered/ Reputed Mechanical firms having sufficient experiences for the similar nature work	Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division Udhampur

Position of Funds:- (Available)
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EDITORIAL

Revolutionizing
Financial Inclusion

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) play a crucial role in the economic development of any country, contributing significantly to employment, industrial output, and GDP growth. However, one of the biggest challenges MSMEs face is access to timely and adequate credit. Traditional lending models often rely on rigid criteria that fail to capture the true financial health of small businesses, leading to high rejection rates or unfavorable loan terms. To address these issues, a New Credit Assessment Model for MSMEs is being introduced, leveraging advanced data analytics, alternative credit scoring methods, and digital financial tools to facilitate better access to credit.

Traditional credit assessment models primarily rely on financial statements, collateral, and credit history. However, MSMEs often lack formalized financial records or a strong credit history, making them appear risky to lenders.

One major challenge is the lack of formal documentation. Many MSMEs operate informally, making it difficult to provide structured financial statements and tax filings. Another key issue is insufficient collateral, as small businesses may not have substantial physical assets to pledge as security for loans.

The high cost of credit evaluation is also a deterrent, as banks and financial institutions incur significant expenses in assessing MSMEs' creditworthiness using conventional methods. Furthermore, delayed credit decisions due to lengthy documentation and assessment processes restrict MSMEs from seizing timely business opportunities. Lastly, risk aversion by lenders leads to many financial institutions hesitating to extend credit, further limiting financial inclusion.

The new model is designed to overcome these challenges and provide a more inclusive, accurate, and efficient way to evaluate MSME creditworthiness.

The model leverages various alternative data sources, such as bank transaction history, which assesses regular cash flow patterns and account statements. GST and tax filings also play a crucial role, as businesses registered under GST can have their tax compliance and turnover evaluated as key indicators.

Other essential data sources include digital payments and e-commerce data, which provide insights into revenue consistency and growth trends, and utility and rental payment history, which reflect financial discipline. Additionally, social and behavioral data, such as online reviews, supplier feedback, and business engagement on digital platforms, offer further insights into reliability and market reputation.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) algorithms process large volumes of structured and unstructured data to create predictive credit scores. These systems analyze financial transactions, sales trends, seasonality, and even social behaviors to determine repayment capacity and risk levels.

Unlike traditional models that emphasize collateral, the new approach evaluates real-time cash flow patterns. Financial institutions assess revenue cycles and sales trends, payment consistency from clients/customers, and inventory turnover rates and supply chain transactions. This allows credit decisions to be made dynamically rather than based on static historical data.

MSMEs can now access credit through digital lending platforms that connect them directly to multiple lenders. Fintech solutions and embedded financing options (such as credit facilities within e-commerce platforms) enable businesses to obtain loans seamlessly during their routine operations.

Using real-time data analytics, lenders can adjust interest rates dynamically based on an MSME's risk profile. Businesses with strong digital transaction records and financial discipline can access lower interest rates, improving affordability.

The adoption of this New Credit Assessment Model is expected to bring transformative benefits to the MSME sector. It will lead to improved access to credit, allowing small businesses with limited credit history to qualify for loans based on real-time financial data rather than traditional rigid metrics.

With faster loan approvals, automated credit scoring and digital documentation will reduce processing time from weeks to days or even hours. Additionally, lower default rates will be achieved through AI-driven predictive modeling that helps identify genuine creditworthy businesses, reducing the risk of loan defaults.

The model also promotes greater financial transparency, as MSMEs are incentivized to digitize transactions and maintain proper financial records, strengthening their financial footprint. Furthermore, it will provide a boost to the digital financial ecosystem, encouraging MSMEs to adopt digital payment solutions and integrate into the formal financial system.

By: Dr Satywan
Saurabh

Priyanka 'Saurabh' is working for "Accelerate Action" through meaningful participation.

(Apart from being a writer, Priyanka Saurabh is also a teacher and social worker. She works on social concerns related to women's empowerment, Hindi language, Indian civilization and heritage, religion, culture, and literary and educational activities for children and women. She has successfully conducted literary, social, cultural, and women- and children-related programs on many prestigious platforms in the country and abroad. She also gives free coaching by running her own educational YouTube channel.

It is said that the environment children get at home, its impact is definitely seen in their future. If there is an environment of singing in the family, then children automatically develop singing skills. The same is the case with other arts. Priyanka 'Saurabh,' born in Aryanagar

Women's Day Special

village of Hisar in Haryana, who grew up in a family with a literary environment, is today a famous editorial writer, teacher, writer, and social worker of the country. She says, "My grandfather and father loved books in my maternal home, and now after coming to my in-laws' house, my husband has given me a literary environment." Her husband, Dr. Satyavan 'Saurabh,' is a famous poet and writer, so literary discussions and activities keep going on in the house almost every day. The seed of writing a diary had been sown in my mind in childhood. During school and college days, I had the habit of writing something or the other in the diary. During my master's and MPhil in political science, my understanding of contemporary topics increased, and I developed the habit of writing contemporary articles. Today she is writing daily editorials for more than 10,000 newspapers in Hindi and English, which are published in different languages. During the Corona period, when online seminars started, she started writing poems due to her interest in poetry.

During this time, the first poetry collection, 'Deemakt Lage Gulab,' was published and became quite popular. By continuing to write on issues related to women, the second book, 'Nirbhayaayen,' came in the form of an essay collection, and the third book, 'Fearless,' came in English. Recently, the fourth book, 'Samay Ki Ret Par,' has been published from Ahmedabad, and along with it, the second edition of the poetry collection 'Deemakt Lage Gulab' has come in the market.

Work in many fields; get respect too.

Introducing her meaningful participation, Priyanka Saurabh is working for "Accelerate Action" for women. Apart from being a writer, she is also a teacher and social worker. She works on women's empowerment, Hindi language, Indian civilization and heritage, religion, culture, and literary and educational activities for children and women, and social concerns. She has successfully conducted literary, social, cultural, and women- and children-related programs on many prestigious platforms

in the country and abroad. She also runs her own educational YouTube channel and gives free coaching. She has also received many awards for literary, educational, and social activities. These include the IPS Manumukt 'Manav' Award, the Nari Ratna Award, Haryana's Powerful Women Award (Dainik Bhaskar Group) awarded by District Administration Bhiwani, honorary doctorate degrees from the UK, Philippines, and Bangladesh, the Vishwa Hindi Sahitya Ratna Award, the Super Woman Award, the Global Super Woman Award, the Mahila Ratna Samman, and the Vidya Vachaspati Honorary Ph.D. (Literature). The Mahatma Gandhi Award is the main award for outstanding writing in independent journalism and literature.

Self-talk: - If you want to be successful in life, always keep striving for betterment. Whatever work you do should be for a specific purpose and in the interest of society. Whatever you do, think about what better you can do. Always give your best.

Bharat, Indonesia Aur Spain Barsh Ne Kya Bechain

By: Omkar Dattatray

Nature in the month has unfortunately played spoil sport and brought havoc in the form of incessant rains, snowing, unpredicted and unprecedented floods as well as landslides in all these three countries and thus created disasters which made the people who stood alive in these floods worst sufferers. It is the nature's fury which resulted into unwanted sufferings due to flash floods and flooding of the rivers and rivulets. But one thing must not lose sight of that nature cannot be so unkind and cruel with the people in these three countries as all the havoc in the form of floods and landslides occurred because of the insensitiveness and negligence of the humans who destroyed the ecological balance and natural environment and in fact the nature itself, cutting woods, shrinking rivers and also making other greedy advances to destroy nature and in turn the nature causes havoc through floods, landslides and the like. In India, there are floods and landslides as well as untimely snowing at the end of the winter season in the first week of March in J&K, Himachal Pradesh and many places in Uttarakhand as incessant rains, floods and untimely snow caused havoc resulting in loss of life and property at a large scale. In early March 2025, heavy rains, snowfall, and flash floods caused widespread disruption in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Avalanches, floods ravage HP as snowfall & rains wreak havoc. Heavy snowfall and incessant rains threw life out of gear in many parts of HP on Friday as over 200 roads remained blocked, water supply got disrupted and several regions plunged into darkness, with avalanches, landslides and flash floods occurring in many parts of the state. While

high hills received snowfall, the mid and low hills were lashed by heavy rainfall on Friday. Lahaul-Spiti district remained cut off from the rest of state and continued to receive snowfall for the third consecutive day. All roads in the district remained blocked and many areas faced power outages for several hours. HP remained in the grip of severe weather conditions as landslides and heavy snowfall over the past two days have led to widespread disruptions. A total of 583 roads, including five national highways remained blocked as restoration efforts continue. The SDMA has intensified its efforts, even as the meteorological department has predicted another wet spell from March 3. In Uttarakhand, 50 workers trapped in an avalanche in Chamoli district were rescued, but four of them died on Saturday as rescuers raced against time to save remaining five. The strategic 270 Km Jammu - Srinagar National which was shut on Thursday evening following heavy rains and snowfall and multiple landslides in the Ramban district of J&K, was reopened for light motor vehicles. Parts of Delhi, Rajasthan and HP received showers on Saturday. Chamba, Chamoli in Uttarakhand witnessed heavy snowfall and rains thus putting the life there in disarray. The Kullu-Manali road was closed and traffic was diverted via Naggar. A landslide at Rokaru in the Kangra district damaged vehicles and endangered 12 houses. A landslide at Tohlu nullah blocked the Kartarpur-Manali national highway. Flash floods in Kullu's lower areas swept away or trapped many vehicles in sludge. Flood water entered many houses in the surrounding areas of Shastri Nagar. The vegetable market in the nearby Bhuntar town was submerged in water. 279 water supply schemes were impacted in HP. Many

regions were plunged into darkness. Landslides occurred in several parts of the state including near Banala in Mandi district and near Pandoh in same district. Avalanches occurred in many parts of the state, including near Tinku Nullah in kinnaur and Jangi Nullah. Uttarakhand's many hilly areas were badly affected by the heavy snow, incessant rains which caused flash floods, lightening at several places, landslides etc. An avalanche trapped 50 workers in the Chamoli district, killing four of them. IMD issued an Orange alert on February 27 for heavy to very heavy precipitation in the Mandi, Kangra, Kullu, and Chamba districts warning of continued adverse weather conditions and the forecast proved right and led to havoc in several parts of HP. Flash floods occurred in many places across Uttarakhand and caused havoc. It occurred in river Ganga due to the falling of a portion of Nanda Devi glacier in the river which exponentially increased the volume of water. Rishiganga meets Dhauli Ganga near Raini. So Dhauli Ganga also got flooded. With heavy rains battering parts of northern India, at least 14 people were killed and hundreds are stranded in Uttarakhand and HP. In Badrinath and kedarnath hills flash floods, snowing and torrential rains caused landslides, floods resulting into human sufferings. NDMA spokesperson Abdul Muhari said flash floods swept away villagers and vehicles passing through devastated villages and triggered a landslide that buried two houses. The disaster also destroyed two main bridges connecting villages in Pekalongan district. Landslides, flash floods hit Indonesia's Java island leaving 10 persons dead and missing two persons. The floods, landslides, incessant rains caused havoc in many parts of Indonesia and led to the sufferings of people and washing away

of many vehicles. The scenes of flash floods and landslides were terrifying causing pain and material, human and animal loss. Spain is also experiencing worst flash floods and landslides causing untold sufferings to the people of many parts of the country ravaged by floods and incessant rains as well as flash floods. Spain has a history of flash floods, torrential rains and landslides and it happened in year 2024. Heavy rain sparked flood warnings across Western Spain, with significant flooding reported in the Valencian area and Castellon province. Torrential rainfall causing deadly flash floods has hit southern and eastern Spain in regions the Costa del Sol, where the city of Malaga is located. Heavy rain fall of over 150 mm in 24 hours caused severe flooding in parts of northern Spain, prompting evacuations and dramatic rescues by helicopter. All the above shows that in early March people in northern India including HP and Uttarakhand witnessed incessant rains, floods, snow and landslides at many parts causing much suffering human and material loss. The situation in Indonesia and Spain is worse as several parts of these foreign countries experienced torrential rains and snow causing flash floods, landslides in several places causing loss of life and property. It seems that onset of March is very cruel to Spain and Indonesia.

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

GDC Kathua hosts online workshop on "Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)-Patents & Design Filing"

Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 6: The Department of Computer Science and Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Govt. Degree College (GDC) Kathua, in collaboration with the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Intellectual Property Management (RGNIPM), Government of India, Nagpur, successfully organised a One-Day Online Workshop on "Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) – Patents & Design Filing" on Thursday.

The workshop, held under the National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM), aimed to educate and empower faculty members on the importance and process of IPR, particularly patents and design filings.

Kumar Raju, Assistant Controller of Patents & Designs from RGNIPM, Nagpur, served as the resource person for the



event. His insightful lecture covered the fundamental concepts of IPR, detailed information on patents, and the procedural aspects of filing patents for research, innovation, and technology. He strongly encouraged faculty members to leverage IPR to protect their innovative work.

The workshop commenced with a warm welcome address by Prof. Seema Mir, Principal of Govt. Degree College Kathua.

In her speech, she underscored the critical role of IPR in fostering technology sharing and innovation, emphasizing the necessity of such workshops for faculty development.

She commended the Department of Computer Science and IQAC for their proactive initiative in organizing an IPR-focused event, recognizing its direct impact on institutional and national growth. Prof. Mir also motivated the faculty to

actively engage with IPR knowledge.

Kumar Raju's comprehensive presentation provided a clear understanding of the IPR landscape, particularly focusing on the intricacies of patent filing. Participants gained valuable insights into the steps involved in securing patent rights for their research and innovations.

The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from fac-

ulty members across various colleges within the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof. Shiv Kumar, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Coordinator of the workshop, expressed gratitude to the resource person and all participants through a vote of thanks. Deepak Gupta, Assistant Professor in Computer Applications, adeptly conducted the proceedings of the program.

The successful organization of this workshop underscores Govt. Degree College Kathua's commitment to promoting intellectual property awareness and fostering a culture of innovation among its faculty. This initiative is expected to significantly contribute to the enhancement of research and technological advancements within the region.

GDC R S Pura celebrates birth anniversary of Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar

Top News Report

R S PURA, Mar 6: The literary Committee of the college under the patronage of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour and convenership of Dr. Neena Gupta Rohmetra in collaboration with Jammu Kashmir Ladakh Prant Samajik Samrasta Gatividhi celebrated the birth anniversary of Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar as a part of series of activities being conducted throughout the year.

Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar was one of India's most revered rulers, known for her visionary leadership, social reforms, and dedication to public welfare. Events and programs are being held across the country to honor her legacy as a just and progressive ruler.

The event began with the introductory remarks by Dr. Jatinder Kumar, Convener Samajik Samrasta Jammu Kashmir where he introduced



Ahilyabai Holkar's leadership as a beacon of inspiration, exemplifying empowerment, justice, and the spirit of selfless service.

The celebrations included expert talk where Dr. Vikrant Sharma, Co-Convener Prant Sangchalak Jammu and Kashmir highlighted her role in rebuilding temples, fortifying governance, and promoting trade and infrastructure.

In his lecture, he emphasized that Ahilyabai Holkar, who ruled from 1767 to 1795, is revered for her administrative acumen and philanthropic initiatives.

The Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour in her address urged the students reaffirm their commitment to her ideals, strive to build a society that upholds equality and progress and also advised the students to take inspiration from the life of Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar and make their future bright.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, Assistant Professor in Dogri. The vote of thanks was delivered by Devender Sharma, Co-Convener Samajik Samrasta Jammu and Kashmir.

Aryans College of Pharmacy celebrates National Pharmacy Education Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: To commemorate the birth anniversary of Professor Mahadeva Lal Schroff, to recognize his contribution in establishing pharmacy education in India, Aryans College of Pharmacy, Rajpura Near Chandigarh celebrated as the National Pharmacy Education Day. On the occasion various activities were organized & the B. Pharma & D. Pharma students participated enthusiastically.

Dr. Krishan Singla, Principal while addressing students said that Prof. M.L. Schroff is recognized as the Father of Pharmacy Education in India. He certainly

remains an ideal to all pharmacists working in the country irrespective of their branches and diversity of duties. Pharmacists are critical professionals in delivery of healthcare in the country.

The role of a pharmacist is gradually evolving from a dispenser of medicines to an expert in the field with multi-disciplinary health care systems, Singla mentioned.

On the occasion various activities were organized including Speech Competition, Poster presentation, model display where students highlighted importance of pharma education for well-being of the society.

ADDC Ramban chairs meeting on SDRF relief cases, 45 cases reviewed



Top News Report

RAMBAN, Mar 6: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ramban, Roshan Lal, on Thursday chaired a meeting to review and decide upon relief cases under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

A total of 45 cases were assessed and 41 decided during the meeting, focusing on necessary relief measures for affected individuals.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ramban, Harpal Singh, District Sheep Husbandry Officer (DSHO), Tehsildar

Khari, Tehsildar Banihal, Tehsildar Batote, Tehsildar Pogal-Paristan, and other concerned officials.

Emphasizing the need for expedited relief distribution, the ADDC directed officials to ensure timely assistance to affected families. He also stressed a transparent and efficient verification process for assessing damages and disbursing relief funds. Discussions were held on streamlining the relief mechanism to enhance responsiveness in times of distress.

The ADDC urged the officers to coordinate effectively and uphold a swift and just relief process to support those in need.

Shiv Sena, Sainik Samaj Party decide to fight unitedly on issues of Jammu division

Demand for special financial package to boost economy, tourism religious places



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: In the discussion meeting organized by Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sainik Samaj Party on "Future of Jammu Division", it was unanimously decided to form a non-political joint front, along with this to know public sentiments through signature campaign on the demand of Jammu as a separate state and Article 371. In the meeting held at Jammu Press Club. Members of various political and social organizations and intellectuals put forth their views on the future of Jammu division during the discussion.

Addressing the media jointly, Shiv Sena (UBT) state chief Manish Sahni and Col. SS Pathania said that suggestions were given to declare

Jammu as a separate state or Jammu as the permanent capital, to start the Darbar Move process, give impetus to the economy of Jammu, to increase adequate employment opportunities, to develop tourism and religious places along with making Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Yatra Circuit.

Sahni said that it has been decided to form a 'united front' to jointly raise voice on all the above suggestions. Along with this, a joint decision has been taken to take the opinion of the public through a Jan-bhaavna Abhiyan on the suggestions to give the status of a separate state to Jammu division.

He said that in order to curb the growing drug addiction, worrying increase in drug con-

sumption and smuggling and criminal incidents in Jammu division, opinion was expressed on cooperating with the police administration and putting pressure on them to fix accountability.

In this meeting Jugal Kishore Gupta, Santosh Kashmiri, Mohan Lal Raina, Anoop Sharma, ID Khajuria, Santosh Khajuria, Brigadier Vijay Sagar, Major General Sunita Kapoor, Colonel Dr. Varinder Sahi, Brigadier VS Salathia, Ramesh Singh, Romesh Chib, Narendra Singh Khalsa, Sunny Kant Chimb, Satish Punchi, Pawan Sharma, Nirmal Mahana, Safir Chaudhary, Sumit Sharma, Captain Sanjeev, Narendra Khajuria, Vikas Bakshi, Meenakshi, Sanjeev Kohli, Bharat Mahajan, Subhash Mehta etc. gave their suggestions and registered their presence.

Yoga session organized by IRP-19th Bn

Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 6: In a significant initiative to enhance the physical and mental health of its personnel, IRP-19th Battalion organized a comprehensive Yoga session on Thursday at its Battalion Headquarters, Kathua.

The event, presided over by Ramesh Angral, Commandant of the unit, was aimed at fostering overall well-being and promoting stress management techniques among the police force.

A large number of police personnel enthusiastically participated in this session, which was conducted by expert Yoga instructors from the J&K Ayush Department.

The session commenced with an introductory briefing by the Ayush Department instructors, who emphasized the importance of yoga for maintaining both physical and mental health.

The instructors then proceeded to demonstrate a variety of yoga postures (Asanas) and breathing exercises (Pranayama), offering step-by-step guidance for the participants.

These exercises were specifically chosen to



cater to the needs of police personnel, focusing on improving flexibility, strength, and mental clarity, while also reducing stress and anxiety.

The Commandant, in his address, highlighted the crucial role that physical fitness and mental well-being play in the performance of duties, especially in law enforcement.

He expressed his appreciation for the Ayush Department's contribution and stressed the importance of integrating yoga into daily routines to help officers manage the demanding aspects of their jobs effectively.

The Commandant also encouraged the participants to adopt these practices to help them stay energized, focused, and resilient in their work.

In addition to promoting health, the event also served as a reminder of

the unit's commitment to ensuring the welfare of its personnel. The Commandant assured that similar events would continue to be organized in the future.

This initiative is part of a broader effort by IRP-19th Bn to create a positive and supportive atmosphere that contributes to the holistic development of its personnel. As law enforcement officers face a unique set of challenges, incorporating health and wellness practices like yoga is an essential step toward maintaining peak performance and resilience.

Among others, the officers who participated in the event included Karanvir Singh-SSP, Dy.CO, Syed Majeed Mosavi-SP, Adjutant-cum-Quarter Master & other officers/officials of IRP-19th Bn.

SPMR College of Commerce organizes signature campaign to raise awareness about sexual harassment

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: A signature campaign was organized at Govt SPMR College of Commerce on Thursday to raise awareness about sexual harassment and gender equality to celebrate Woman's Day. The event was initiated by SPARSH in Collaboration with ICASH under the aegis of IQAC. The event saw an active participation of students, faculty, and staff.

The purpose of the campaign was to stand against sexual harassment and ensure that all have equal rights, opportunities and access to resources regardless of their gender. Students were encouraged to



pledge their support by signing petitions.

Principal, Dr. Rajinder Singh of the college, the chief guest of the event, praised the initiative, stating, "This campaign is a great step towards spreading awareness among

students and community and it will make a positive change. It is inspiring to see students take responsibility for such an important issue."

By the end of the day, the campaign had successfully gathered two hundred signa-

tures, demonstrating strong support from the college community.

The collected signatures will be displayed on the wall near auditorium to showcase that students are committed to fight against sexual harassment

and maintain push for further action on the issue.

The entire program was conducted by Dr. Reena Rani (Convener ICCASH), Prof Ashraf Nawaz (Convener IQAC) and Dr. Madhu Bala (coordinator SPARSH, Cluster university Jammu).

Those present on the occasion included Prof. Pawan Gupta, Dr. Mohd Azam, Dr. Chetna Gupta, Prof Ashwani, Dr. Deepshikha Sharma, Dr. Shaji Khan, Dr. Jagmeet Kour, Prof. Binny Kumar, Dr. Roomi Rani, Dr. Deepak Pathania, Dr. Rajni Sharma, Dr. Neeru Devi Anand, Payal Manhas (student representative of SPARSH) and Krish Sumbria (student representative of SPARSH).

In Amritsar ahead of the release of *Waking Up Of A Nation*, filmmaker Ram Madhvani and his wife Amita seek blessings at the Golden Temple

Jallianwala Bagh was not an isolated event. Amritsar, before April 13, 1919, was the epicentre of social and political streams that fed the Indian national movement, and fuelled the aspirations of a country wanting to break free from the shackles of slavery. The year was an eventful one for India—Mahatma Gandhi launched Satyagrah against the Rowlatt Act, undercurrents were being felt for the Sikh gurdwara reform movement and it all coincided with the socio-political presence of Gadarites in the holy city.

So, when producer-director Ram Madhvani decided to create a series that re-imagines one of the most-written-about events in the history of our country, it clearly piqued interest. With some solid credits in filmmaking, remember the refreshingly gripping *Let's Talk*, the critically and commercially acclaimed *Neerja*, and International Emmy-nominated *Aarya*, Madhvani's craft also means good business. With his latest web series, *The Waking Of A Nation*, he brings the story of Jallianwala Bagh through the lens of the Hunter Commission's inquiry.

"What follows in the series is



set largely in the aftermath of the massacre. I have chosen not to show the bloodbath graphically. Rather, the series raises questions of accountability, about colonial imperialism and the larger dialogue whether there was just a single person responsible behind it or was there something beyond it? It was a conspiracy! Now, the audience needs to find out how Kanti Lal Sahni, the protagonist, is going to prove it," shared Ram.

Investigative thriller

The series rolls out as a crime investigative thriller, more than a historical period drama. "It's a courtroom drama. There were eight members in the

Hunter Commission, five British and three Indians. The report was a whitewash. So, we have attempted to explore the underlying facts, understand why brown is considered a bad colour? What is the white man's dilemma? Why do we still use fork and knives to eat our food?" said Ram, as he added that these questions have remained with him since he was seven.

The series features an ensemble cast, including Taaruk Raina, Nikita Dutta, Sahil Mehta and Bhawshel Singh Sahni, among others. Taaruk, Madhvani's latest find, looks promising in the trailer and we hope that he goes the Jim Sarbh way in adding to

the list of fresh new talents in the film industry! "It also a story of four friends, Kanti (played by Taaruk), Hari (Bhawsheel), who has returned from WWII, his wife Poonam (Nikita Dutta) and Allahbakhsh (Sahil), who are caught in the upheaval that follows the Jallianwala Bagh incident," said Ram.

Seeking blessings

After a five year journey of bringing the show to life, Madhvani, and his wife and co-producer Amita Madhvani, visited the Golden Temple to seek blessings. They also revisited various landmarks that served as key locations during the filming of the series, including the Gobindgarh Fort and the Kucha Korianwalla lane, where the infamous crawling order was passed by General Dyer.

As *The Waking Of A Nation* gears up for its release on Sony LIV on March 7, Ram's visit to Amritsar reflects his reverence for history and his spiritual connection to the stories he brings to life on screen. "It has four Kabir songs, which I feel resonate with the soul of the series and people as well. I believe this is the best way to speak to my audience, reverberate with them."

How Jane Fonda once drove a wild bear away from her grandson's crib



Hollywood star Jane Fonda said that she pushed out a wild bear after it broke into the room where her grandson's crib was.

The 87-year-old star appeared on an episode of Netflix's podcast *Skip Intro* alongside her son, actor Troy O'Donovan Garity. When Troy was asked to share something people don't already know about his actress mom, he opted to share the story.

"She pushed a bear out of her bedroom," the actor, whom Fonda

welcomed with late ex-husband Tom Hayden, told podcast host Krista Smith.

Fonda, meanwhile, nodded to confirm the claim.

At the time, Fonda was living "out in the wild" in New Mexico, and was "looking after her grandson," the two-time Oscar winner has two grandchildren, Malcolm and Viva Vadim, who are the son and daughter of her eldest child, Vanessa Vadim.

"She heard something so she left the bedroom

in the middle of the night to go see what the sound was," Troy said.

"And when she came back in, the screen door was dismantled and there was a bear in the bedroom, sniffing over the crib."

Seemingly on the edge of her seat, Smith then turned to Fonda to ask, "What did you do?" and the actress demonstrated without hesitation.

"Roar!" she yelled loudly and held up her hands to appear larger. Fonda explained that, at the time of the incident, she "had just learned what to do if you're close to a bear."

She added: "And that was it. And to get very big, I opened my bathrobe."

Though she ultimately scared the bear away, saving her then-infant grandson Malcolm, now 25, the star's home didn't make it out entirely unscathed, as the intruder tinkled "on the rug", Fonda said.

"And then (it) walked back to the door and sat down and I did, I pushed it out, yeah," she recalled.

Ishwak Singh's *Tumko Meri Kasam* role reminds him of his parents' love story

Actor Ishwak Singh, known for his work in *Paatal Lok* and *Rocket Boys*, is set to make his silver screen debut with *Tumko Meri Kasam*. He said that his character in the film reminds him of his parents' love story. About what drew him to the film, Ishwak highlighted its music as a key element that instantly took him back in time. "The kind of music this film has takes me back to my wonder years when music truly meant something. The character I play is so touching—it reminds me of my parents' love story, appreciating the romance of yesterday. This tagline is my favourite because it perfectly encapsulates the soul of the film." Set against a backdrop of timeless love, *Tumko Meri Kasam* addresses IVF and fertility taboo going by the trailer, which was unveiled on March 4. The film also stars Adah Sharma and Anupam Kher. The film shines a spotlight on the challenges and societal stigma that couples face when dealing with fertility issues, offering a powerful narrative that aims to break



down the barriers and misconceptions surrounding reproductive health. The two-minute and 51-second trailer opens with Anupam taking centerstage. The intense drama unfolds as he faces murder charges, desperately working to prove his innocence. As the trailer progresses, Adah's character stands by the face of her husband, played by Ishwak—of launching an IVF clinic while simultaneously

navigating societal judgment. The film also stars Esha Deol in a pivotal role. Loosely inspired by the life of Dr Ajay Murdia, the founder of the well-known Indira IVF chain, the movie explores the challenges of fertility and the stigma surrounding it. Directed by Vikram Bhatt, the upcoming emotional drama is produced under the banner of Indira Entertainment, Shwetambari Bhatt and Krishna Bhatt Sarda.

R Madhvan-Nayanthara film 'Test' to release on Netflix in April

Actors R Madhavan and Nayanthara's film "Test" is set to premiere on April 4 on Netflix, the streaming platform announced Thursday.

The cricket drama, which also features Siddharth and Meera Jasmine, marks the directorial debut of producer S Sashikanth, the founder of banner YNOT Studios.

Set against the backdrop of high-stakes cricket, it's an emotional rollercoaster that puts the lives of a national-level cricketer (Siddharth), a genius scientist (Madhavan) and a passionate teacher (Nayanthara) on a collision course and forces them to make choices



that test their ambition, sacrifice and courage.

Sashikanth said he is grateful to Netflix for

helping him bring his vision of "Test" to life.

"Having nurtured stories as a producer for years, stepping into the director's chair for 'Test' was both exhilarating and deeply personal. This film is about resilience, the weight of choices, and how life itself is the greatest test of all."

"Bringing together three powerhouse performers — R. Madhavan, Nayanthara, and Siddharth — for the first time made this journey even more special," the director said in a statement.

Monika Shergill, Vice-President, Content, Netflix India, said she is

excited about their first Tamil original feature film.

"It's a deeply compelling drama thriller that tests the moral thresholds of its three protagonists played by the powerhouse talents R. Madhavan, Nayanthara and Siddharth. Director S Sashikanth brings a fresh and assured directorial voice and deftly tells a story that will keep you hooked till the last minute. We are incredibly excited to bring 'Test' to our audiences across India and the world," Shergill said.

"Test" is produced by Sashikanth alongside Chakravarthy Ramachandra.

Family time for Manas Shah



Manas Shah, who has been a part of shows like *Humari Devrani*, *Sankat Mochan Mahabali Hanumaan*, *Yeh Hai Chahatein* and *Tulsi—Hamari Badi Sayani*, is disappointed that his last show went off air so soon, but he plans to utilise this time off with his family.

Asked if he would be travelling during this

time, he said, "I am not very fond of travelling. I am more of a homebody. I prefer staying in rather than constantly being on the move."

For me, spending quality time with my loved ones is more important, whether at home or while travelling. So, I don't mind where I am as long as I am with the people who matter."

"Over the past 6-8 months, I had switched to intermittent fasting, started sleeping early, and waking up early—it had become a proper routine."

But due to my shooting schedule, everything got disturbed. Now, I really want to get things back on track and focus on my health again," he said.

Renuka Shahane says she is working on a black comedy as her next directorial

Actor-director Renuka Shahane says she is working on the script of her next directorial, which will likely feature husband Ashutosh Rana.

Shahane, known for her performance in films such as "Hum Aapke Hai Koun...!", "Masoom" and "Dil Ne Jise Apna Kaha", said the project will be a black comedy about police and politics.

"It's (direction) my passion and I'm writing the script. It's a black comedy and for once, it's about men. (It deals with) police and politics," Shahane told agency.

"No one can really predict (when the film will go on floor) because I'm still scripting... Hopefully, I'll direct him (Ashutosh Rana) in it," she added.

Shahane made her directorial debut with



the 2009 Marathi film "Rita", which was based on the novel "Rita Welingkar" by her mother Shanta Gokhale.

Her second directorial was "Tribhanga" (2021), which explored a multi-generational relationship story of mothers and daughters. The film, featuring Kajol, Tanvi Azmi and Mithila Palkar, was released on Netflix.

Shahane will next be seen in the upcoming comedy series "Dupahiya", set for release on Prime Video on Friday.

Directed by Sonam Nair of "Masaba Masaba" fame, the show is created and written by Avinash Dwivedi and Chirag Garg.

The nine-episode comedy series also features Gajraj Rao, Bhuvan Arora, Sparsh Shrivastav, Shivani Raghuvanshi and Yashpal Sharma.

The show is produced by Salona Bains Joshi and Shubh Shivdasani under the banner of Bombay Film Cartel.

Fun times for Sonakshi Sinha



Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha took to social media to share her per-

sonal and 'convenient' definition of marriage. She posted a video on Instagram, where she is seen having fun with her husband, Zaheer Iqbal. While Zaheer drives the car, Sonakshi is in full masti mode.

The video also included a screenshot of a fan's message that read, "Marriage is understanding that you will drive eight hours straight while your wife drinks coffee, gives bad directions, and sleeps even though she will offer to drive."

The caption on the video read, "Hence proved." Sonakshi also shared the link to her latest vlog titled "Trip to Australia—Part 2 —Melbourne to Sydney." In the clip, Zaheer and Sonakshi give a sneak peek into their fun-filled day!

PM Modi calls for boosting year-round tourism in Uttarakhand, says it will boost economy

The prime minister flagged off a trek and bike journey to the predominantly tribal village of Jadung from Harshil and said it is to help the border areas of Uttarakhand reap the benefits of tourism.

HARSIL, Mar 6 (Agencies): Making a strong pitch for round the year tourism in Uttarakhand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday said there should be no off-season in the picturesque hill state and this would strengthen its economy in a big way.

Addressing a rally in Harsil after offering prayers at the village of Mukhwa, the winter abode of Goddess Ganga in Uttarkashi district, he said visitors will get the true flavour of Uttarakhand if they come to the state in winter.

"When fog envelops the rest of the country during winter, the state is bathed in sunlight," Modi said as he coined a new term—"Ghaam Tapo Paryatan" (soak the sun tourism)—in Garhwali language for winter tourism in the state.

Praising the state government for its 12-month tourism vision, he stressed the need for a "360-degree approach to tourism" to create employment opportunities for the local youth throughout the year.

After doing business in summer, hotels, resorts and homestays in the hills of Uttarakhand become empty during winter, slowing down its economy, Modi said.

Tourism should be on in all seasons, there should be no off-season, the prime minister said, adding winter tourism will help Uttarakhand realise its full economic potential. Uttarakhand's unique cultural features such as its traditional dance and music, cuisine and hot springs can be showcased, he suggested.

Modi said he feels blessed to visit Goddess Ganga's winter abode in Mukhwa. "I think Maa Ganga has adopted me. It is her



blessings that took me to Kashi and gave me an opportunity to serve the people," the prime minister said.

He also expressed grief at the death of eight workers in the recent avalanche at a Border Roads Organisation camp in Chamoli district's Mana village.

The prime minister flagged off a trek and bike journey to the predominantly tribal village of Jadung from Harshil and said it is to help the border areas of Uttarakhand reap the benefits of tourism.

"We haven't forgotten that border village Jadung was evacuated during the 1962 India-China war and efforts are being made to turn such villages habitable," he said at the public meeting in Harsil.

Speaking of the two major ropeway projects cleared for the state by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) headed by him, Modi said the ropeway to Kedarnath will reduce the eight-nine hour journey to just 30 minutes.

The CCEA on Wednesday approved two major ropeway projects to Kedarnath and Hemkund Sahib worth over Rs 6,000 crore.

In a bid to promote religious tourism and boost the local economy, the Uttarakhand government has initiated a Winter Tourism programme this year.

In the new budget, provisions have been made for developing 50 new tourist destinations, the prime minister told the gathering in Harsil.

Modi appealed to people to make Uttarakhand their destination for weddings and asked filmmakers to shoot their movies in the hill state which has been awarded for being the most film-friendly.

Content creators and social media influencers should make short films on winter tourism destinations in Uttarakhand and the best works should be awarded, the prime minister said, adding it will go a long way in promoting winter tourism in the state.

He also asked corporate houses to organise their conferences and seminars in Uttarakhand.

"Winter tourism is prevalent in many countries. People in the tourism sector should study how it is conducted in those countries and apply those in Uttarakhand," the prime minister said.

Before reaching Harsil, Modi offered prayers at Mukhwa temple—the winter abode of Goddess Ganga in Uttarkashi district—amid chanting of Vedic hymns by the priests.

The locals, dressed in traditional attire, accorded a warm welcome to the prime minister through a dance performance circling him as Modi stood in the middle with folded hands. He also enjoyed the morning view of the distant snowclad peaks surrounding the area.

Mukhwa is located on the way to the Gangotri temple dedicated to Goddess Ganga. Her idol is moved to Mukhwa temple from Gangotri Dham every year after the closure of its gates for winter.

This was Prime Minister Modi's second visit to Uttarakhand this year.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami extended a warm welcome to the prime minister in a post on X.

"A hearty welcome and greetings to the prime minister on his visit to Devbhoomi Uttarakhand, the sacred land of religion, spiritualism and sacrifice. Residents of the state are excited to receive the prime minister in Mukhwa-Harsil, a land full of spiritual and natural beauty," he said.

"Certainly, this winter trip of yours will give new dimensions to the cultural, spiritual and tourism development of our state," Dhami said and hoped that Modi's visit would put Mukhwa on the global tourism map.

Later, speaking at the public meeting in Harsil the Chief Minister said Modi is the first Prime Minister to set his foot in the border village.

Amit Shah expresses gratitude to people of Telangana for BJP's performance in MLC polls



NEW DELHI, Mar 6 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday expressed gratitude to the people of Telangana for blessing the BJP with a thumping victory in the election

to the state's legislative council.

BJP-backed candidates have won two of the three MLC seats in Telangana for which elections were held on February 27.

"Gratitude to the

people of Telangana for blessing the BJP with a thumping victory in the MLC election. Your trust inspires us to serve even harder," Shah wrote on 'X'.

The home minister said this is a triumph of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's untiring efforts to develop Telangana.

"Heartiest congratulations to Telangana BJP President Shri @kishanreddy-bjp Ji along with the Karyakartas of the party for all the hard work," he said.

Serve people, take decisions for their good: CM Saini to CRPF officers

GURUGRAM, Mar 6 (Agencies): Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday told newly passed out CRPF officers to serve the people and take decisions that are meant for their well being.

He was speaking while officiating as the chief guest at the passing out parade of the 55th batch of trainee CRPF officers at their training academy in Kadarapur here.

"This is a new chapter in your life. I wish you a successful, exciting and challenging career," the CM said.

While holding the national flag today, you should remember that this service is for doing good for the people. You should remember that all your decisions have a deep influence and hence you should act accordingly, Saini told the young officers.

You should not only apprehend criminals but also ensure harmony in society, he said.

A total of 39 trainee officers, including two women, passed out from the academy on Thursday.



These officers, who will now be posted as Assistant Commandants in various internal security theatres of the country, have been trained in battle craft, combat, firing and various other subjects for about 52 weeks.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) with about 3.25 lakh personnel is the world's largest paramilitary force. It is deployed in three main theatres of Left Wing Extremism, counter-terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and counter-insurgency in the north eastern states.

UP man strangles daughter, 5, chops up body, for disobeying him

SITAPUR, Mar 6 (Agencies): A man in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur has been arrested for allegedly choking his five-year-old daughter to death and chopping up her body into four pieces.

The motive shared by police is more shocking than the crime: accused Mohit was angry because his daughter Tani visited his neighbours with whom he had a dispute.

A senior police officer told the media that on February 25, they were informed that the child had gone missing from near her home. "We registered a case and four teams were formed to find her. During the search, we found a piece of her body. The next day, we found

other parts. By now, it was clear that she had been murdered," Additional Superintendent of Police Pravin Ranjan Singh told the media today.

He added that they had been questioning people repeatedly as part of the probe when the girl's father disappeared. "The father gave his phone to his wife and disappeared. When he disappeared, we asked the family members about the events that took place before the child went missing. When the father resurfaced, he was questioned and he eventually confessed to killing the girl and disposing of the body," the officer said.

Mohit has told police that his family and



neighbour Ramu's family were very close earlier and would often visit each other. "Some days back, the two families had an altercation and they stopped visiting each other. Mohit repeatedly told his daughter to stop going to Ramu's place, but she would still go and play there."

"On the day of the incident, Mohit said, he saw his daughter coming

from Ramu's place. This angered him so much that he made the child sit on his bike, took her to a deserted place and choked her to death using her clothes. He then threw the body in a mustard field," he said.

The senior police officer praised police for their work in uncovering the chilling crime and said over 100 people were questioned during the investigation.

Man assaulted with cricket bat, police register case against 5 persons

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, Mar 6 (Agencies): Police in Maharashtra's Beed district have registered a case against five persons after a purported video showing them attacking a man with a cricket bat surfaced on social media, an official said.

Though police are yet to track down the victim, the Shirur police registered an FIR (first information report) suo motu (on their own) on Wednesday night, he said.

According to the police, the video is from Bawi village. It shows one Sachin Bhosale, a resident of Zapewadi, and four unidentified persons thrashing a man with a cricket bat, the official said today.

Efforts are being made to trace the person who was beaten up and ascer-



tain the trigger for the attack, the official said.

The five persons have been booked for charges, including voluntarily causing hurt and hurting using dangerous weapons, under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, he added.

Six dead in road accident in Rajasthan

JAIPUR, Mar 6 (Agencies): A speeding car collided with a truck in Rajasthan's Sirohi district on Thursday, leaving six persons dead, police said.

The accident occurred near Kivrali village on Abu Road, Circle officer, Mount Abu, Gomaram said.

The deceased were identified as Narayan Prajapat, his wife Poshhi Devi, son Dushyant, driver Kaluram and two others.

They were residents of Ahmedabad.

PM Modi has forgotten his guarantee of cleaning Ganga, his govt only cheated Maa Ganga: Kharge

NEW DELHI, Mar 6 (Agencies): Hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered prayers at the winter abode of Goddess Ganga in Uttarakhand, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge took a swipe at him on Thursday, saying the government has only "cheated" 'Maa Ganga' in the name of cleaning the river.

Modi offered prayers at Mukhwa temple in Uttarkashi district in the morning. Mukhwa is located on the way to the Gangotri temple dedicated to Goddess Ganga. Her idol is moved to Mukhwa temple from Gangotri Dham every year after the closure of its gates for winter.

In a post in Hindi on X, Kharge said, "Modi Ji had stated that 'Maa Ganga had called him' but the truth is that he has 'forgotten' his guarantee of cleaning the Ganga!" The Namami Gange scheme was launched nearly 11 years ago under which Rs 42,500 crore was to be used by March 2026, he said. "But the answers to questions in Parliament show that only Rs 19,271 crore have been spent till December 2024."

"That is, the Modi government has not spent 55 per cent of the funds of the Namami Gange scheme. Why so much indifference towards Maa Ganga?" Kharge posed.

Addressing a rally in Harsil after praying at the Mukhwa temple, the prime minister said



he feels blessed to visit Goddess Ganga's winter abode. "I think Maa Ganga has adopted me. It is her blessings that took me to Kashi and gave me an opportunity to serve the people," he said.

Hitting out at Modi over the issue of cleaning the Ganga, Kharge said, "In 2015, Modi Ji had urged our NRI friends to contribute to the Clean Ganga Fund. Rs 876 crore has been donated to this fund till March 2024, but 56.7 per cent of it has not been used yet. Around 53 per cent of this fund has been donated by government undertakings." A November 2024 reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha shows that 38 per cent of Namami Gange projects are still pending, the Congress president pointed out.

He claimed 82 per cent of the total allocated funds were to be spent to build Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) but 39 per cent of those have still not been completed. Those that are completed are not even operational, Kharge claimed.

Referring to a reply given by the government in Rajya Sabha, he said that in Uttar Pradesh 75 per cent of the drains that were supposed to go to STPs have been discharging their effluents directly into the Ganga.

Asserting that 3513.16 MLD sewage was being dumped into the river, Kharge said, "Rules have not been followed in 97 per cent of the STPs. (November 2024)." "Bihar — 46 per cent of STPs are not operational; rest do not meet faecal coliform levels (October 2024). West Bengal: 40 STPs not functional; 95 per cent do not meet NGT norms; 76.16 per cent do not comply with MoEF norms (March 2024)," he said.

In November 2024, the National Green Tribunal expressed strong displeasure over the administration's "failure" to maintain the cleanliness of the Ganga in Varanasi, Modi's parliamentary constituency, the Congress chief said.

"While reprimanding, the tribunal even suggested that a board be

installed on the river bank, stating that the Ganga water in the city is not safe for bathing.

"The latest report of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) released in February 2025 found faecal coliform levels to be much higher than the safe limit of 2,500 units/100 ml. It was 11,000 units/100 ml near Shastri Bridge in Prayagraj and 7,900 units/100 ml at Sangam," Kharge said.

He pointed out that according to another research, the transparency of Ganga water has decreased to only 5 per cent due to the increase in solid waste, a sign of serious pollution.

Karge further said that plastic pollution in Ganga increased by 25 per cent between May and June 2024, which further aggravated the pollution crisis.

"In the name of Ganga Gram, the Modi government has only constructed toilets. Afforestation of 1,34,106 hectares along the Ganga in five states was to be done and the cost of it was Rs 2,294 crore. But till 2022, 78 per cent of the afforestation was not done and 85 per cent of the funds were not used, an RTI has revealed," he said.

"Ganga is life-giving. It is India's cultural and spiritual heritage, but the Modi government has only cheated 'Maa Ganga' in the name of cleaning the river," Kharge added.

“Release hostages or it is over for you”: Donald Trump gives ‘last warning’ to Hamas

He urges Hamas leadership to leave Gaza while they still have a chance

WASHINGTON DC, Mar 6 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump has issued a final warning for Hamas, demanding the release of all hostages and return of the dead bodies of the people who have been “murdered” by them or “it is over” for them.

Trump stated that the US is sending Israel with everything it requires to finish the job and not a single Hamas member will be safe if they don't release the hostages. He urged the Hamas leadership to leave Gaza while they still have a chance.

In a post on X, Trump stated, “Shalom Hamas’ means Hello and Goodbye - You can choose. Release all of the Hostages now, not later, and immediately return all of the dead bodies of the people you murdered, or it is OVER for you. Only sick and twisted people keep bodies, and you are sick and twisted! I am sending Israel everything it needs to finish the job, not a single Hamas member will be safe if you don't do as I say.”

He further added, “I have just met with your former Hostages whose lives you have destroyed. This is your last warning! For the leadership, now is the time to leave Gaza, while you still have



a chance. Also, to the People of Gaza: A beautiful Future awaits, but not if you hold Hostages. If you do, you are DEAD! Make a SMART decision. RELEASE THE HOSTAGES NOW, OR THERE WILL BE HELL TO PAY LATER!”

In a statement, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt announced that Trump met eight of the hostages released from Gaza and listened to their heartbreaking stories. Trump met hostages - Iair Horn, Omer Shem Tov, Eli Sharabi, Keith Siegel, Aviva Siegel, Naama Levy, Doron Steinbrecher and Noa Argamani.

“Today, President Trump took time to meet with eight of the released hostages from Gaza.

The President listened intently to their heartbreaking stories. The hostages thanked President Trump for his steadfast efforts to bring all of the hostages home,” Leavitt stated.

Officials of the US and Hamas held a meeting in Qatar regarding hostages in the Gaza Strip, agency reported, citing two Israeli officials, a Western official and a diplomat briefed on the matter. According to the diplomat, Trump's nominee to be special envoy for hostage affairs, Adam Boehler, participated in the meeting held with Hamas officials this week. All four officials discussed the meetings on the condition of anonymity as they were not allowed to speak publicly regarding the sensitive

diplomacy.

The talks during the meeting in Qatar's Doha were focused on securing the release of Edan Alexander, the only Israeli American hostage still believed to be alive and bodies of four other Israeli Americans who were taken hostage in Gaza on October 7, 2023 after Hamas launched an attack on Israel, according to one of the Israeli officials and the Western official, agency reported.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt did not deny that direct talks between the US and Hamas were underway. When asked why the US administration was holding talks with Hamas during the press briefing, Leavitt stated that Boehler, “who is engaged in those negotiations,” had “the authority to talk to anyone.”

After the White House confirmed that the Trump administration has been holding direct talks with Hamas, Israel expressed its position to the US regarding the contacts but did not share further details. The Times of Israel reported. Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office stated, “In our contacts with the US, Israel expressed its stance on direct talks with Hamas.”

South Korean jets accidentally drop eight 500-pound bombs on homes, 15 injured



POCHEON, Mar 6 (Agencies): Fifteen people were injured in South Korea on Thursday after bombs dropped by fighter jets landed in a civilian district, damaging houses and a church during military exercises in Pocheon, the Air Force and the fire department said.

The Gyeonggi-do Bukbu Fire Services said in a statement that 15 people were wounded, out of which two were seriously hurt.

Pocheon is about 40 kilometres (25 miles) northeast of Seoul, near the heavily militarised border with North Korea.

South Korea's Air Force said eight 500-pound (225kg) Mk82 bombs from KF-16 jets fell outside the shooting range during joint live-

fire exercises.

“We are sorry for the damage caused by the abnormal drop accident, and we wish the injured a speedy recovery,” the Air Force said in a statement.

Residents in the area have protested about the disturbance and potential danger from nearby training grounds for years.

Residents were evacuated around midday as authorities checked whether there were any unexploded bombs, Yonhap news agency said.

Agency' photographs from the scene showed shattered windows and a church building strewn with debris.

The defence ministry said earlier on Thursday that South Korea and U.S. forces were holding

their first joint live-fire exercises in Pocheon, linked to annual military drills due to start next week.

South Korea and the United States will kick off their annual Freedom Shield exercise on Monday, said Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS).

The joint drills, which will run until March 20, aim to strengthen the readiness of the alliance for threats such as North Korea, the JCS said.

This year's drills will reflect “lessons learned from recent armed conflicts” and North Korea's growing partnership with Russia, it added.

“Our planners look across the globe and identify the trends that are changing and we look at how we can incorporate that into our exercises,” Ryan Donald, a spokesperson for the United States Forces Korea (USFK), told a media briefing on Thursday.

About 70 combined field training sessions are scheduled for this year's exercise, said Lee Sung-jun, a spokesperson for Seoul's JCS.

Vietnam expands cost-cutting drive with province merger plan

HANOI, Mar 6 (Agencies): Vietnam is planning to merge provinces and eliminate district-level authorities, the government said Thursday, as a streamlining drive aiming to slash billions of dollars from state budgets gathers pace.

The cost-cutting measures have already seen the number of government ministries and agencies slashed from 30 to 22, and one in five public sector jobs will be cut over the next five years.

On Thursday, a statement on the government's website cited Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh as saying a “key and urgent task” was to complete the rearrangement of “administrative boundaries... merging some provinces... and cutting off the district level.”

State media said the merging of provinces is scheduled for this year, aiming at “streamlining the apparatus and improving the quality, efficiency and effective distribution of resources.”



Communist-ruled Vietnam, a one-party state, is currently divided into 63 major cities and provinces, under which there are around 700 administrative units at the district level and more than 10,000 at the communal level.

Almost two million people worked in the public sector as of 2022, according to the government, which announced this year that 100,000 people would be made redundant or offered early retirement as part of the bureaucratic reforms.

It is unclear if there will be further job cuts as part of the provincial mergers, or which provinces will be affected.

Vietnam's top leader To Lam, who last year

became Communist Party general secretary following the death of his predecessor, has said that state agencies should not be “safe havens for weak officials.”

“If we want to have a healthy body, sometimes we must take bitter medicine and endure pain to remove tumours,” Lam said in December.

However, there are fears the bureaucratic reforms could cause short-term chaos, with reports surfacing of log-jams in provincial offices as administrative procedures slow.

Vietnam's foreign ministry has denied any impact on the investment and business environment.

Dubai Municipality launches ‘Safe Water for Healthy Community’ initiative

DUBAI, Mar 6 (Agencies): Dubai Municipality, in collaboration with the Community Development Authority (CDA), has launched the ‘Safe Water for a Healthy Community’ initiative to enhance water system safety in senior citizens' homes and villas. The initiative aligns with 2025 as the Year of the Community, reinforcing the UAE's commitment to fostering a cohesive, supportive, and sustainable society.

The initiative reflects Dubai Municipality's dedication to proactive public health protection, ensuring that domestic water systems meet the highest international quality standards. Through technical assessments, laboratory testing, and community engagement, the initiative aims to reduce health risks associated with water contamination, while strengthening community partnerships and service excellence.

In the first phase, the initiative will assess 42 homes and villas in 10

different areas across Dubai, focusing on water system safety and compliance with international best practices. Field inspections will be conducted by specialist engineering teams, who will collect water samples for analysis at Dubai Central Laboratory. Any identified risks will be addressed through corrective measures in collaboration with water treatment specialists.

Naseem Mohammed Rafee, Acting CEO of the Environment, Health and Safety Agency at Dubai Municipality, emphasised the initiative's role in enhancing community well-being and preventive health measures: “This initiative shows Dubai Municipality's commitment to ensuring a healthy and safe environment for all community members. By implementing proactive measures, we aim to enhance public health protection, improve water quality, and strengthen Dubai's sustainable health system.

Through community engagement, education, and preventive action, we are working towards a safer and healthier future for all.”

Naseem further highlighted the importance of regular household water testing, ensuring that water remains free from chemical and bacterial contaminants. By maintaining high water quality standards, the initiative reduces the risk of diseases linked to contaminated water, safeguarding community health.

For his part, Muhanad Saeed, Director of the Senior Citizens Department at the Community Development Authority, stated, “This initiative is part of the Authority's ongoing efforts to enhance the quality of life for senior citizens and ensure their well-being across various aspects. Safe water in homes is a fundamental factor in maintaining their health and daily comfort. Our collaboration with Dubai Municipality reflects our com-

mitment to providing a safe and sustainable environment for senior citizens through proactive measures that ensure household water systems meet the highest quality standards.

Additionally, raising awareness about the importance of regular maintenance and water quality checks helps in strengthening preventive measures and reducing health risks, ultimately contributing to the well-being and overall quality of life of senior citizens. We believe that these joint efforts will further enhance a supportive environment that safeguards their health and ensures their comfort and stability.”

To further promote awareness on water safety and hygiene, Dubai Municipality and CDA will host educational workshops in Dubai councils, highlighting the importance of maintaining clean and safe water systems and the impact of water quality on public health.

Dubai Municipality

encourages residents to adopt sustainable water safety practices to maintain the cleanliness and efficiency of domestic water systems. As part of these efforts, residents are advised to disinfect and clean water tanks and plumbing systems at least every six months using companies approved by Dubai Municipality. Regular maintenance is essential to prevent the accumulation of pollutants and ensure the proper functioning of water systems, reducing potential health risks. Additionally, draining stagnant water is recommended to minimise the risk of bacterial growth and contamination, ensuring a safe and hygienic water supply for households.

By implementing preventive measures and raising awareness, Dubai Municipality and CDA aim to ensure long-term water safety, enhance public health, and promote sustainable living practices across the emirate.

Women's rights are under attack 30 years after leaders adopted blueprint for equality, UN says

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 6 (Agencies): Thirty years after world leaders adopted a historic blueprint to achieve gender equality, a new United Nations report says women's and girls' rights are under attack and gender discrimination remains deeply embedded in economies and societies.

The report released Thursday by the UN agency focused on women's rights and gender equality found that nearly one-quarter of governments worldwide reported a backlash to women's rights last year.

Despite some prog-

ress, including on girls' education and access to family planning, UN Women said a woman or girl is killed every 10 minutes by a partner or family member and that cases of conflict-related sexual violence have increased by 50% since 2022. The report, released ahead of International Women's Day on Saturday, also noted that only 87 countries have ever been led by a woman.

“Globally, women's human rights are under attack,” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement. “Instead of main-

streaming equal rights, we're seeing the mainstreaming of misogyny.” He said the world must stand firm “in making human rights, equality and empowerment a reality for all women and girls, for everyone, everywhere.”

The 189 countries that attended a 1995 Beijing women's conference adopted a landmark declaration and 150-page platform for action to achieve gender equality, calling for bold action in 12 areas, including combating poverty and gender-based violence and putting women at top levels in business, government and at peacemaking tables.

It also said for the first time in a UN document that human rights include the right of women to control and decide “on matters relating to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of discrimination, coercion and violence.”

In the new review, which includes contributions from 159 countries, UN Women said countries have taken many steps forward on gender equality and women's rights in the past five years but that such rights still are facing growing threats worldwide.

On the positive side,

the report said some 88% of countries have passed laws to combat violence against women and established services to help victims in the past five years.

Most countries have banned workplace discrimination, and 44% are improving the quality of education and training for girls and women, it said.

Yet gender discrimination is deeply embedded, with wide gaps in power and resources that restrain women's rights, the report said.

“The weakening of democratic institutions has gone hand in hand with backlash on gender

equality,” UN Women said.

It warned that “anti-rights actors are actively undermining longstanding consensus on key women's rights issues” and seeking to block or slow legal and policy gains they can't roll back.

UN Women said almost 25% of countries reported that backlash on gender equality is hampering implementation of the Beijing platform.

According to the report, women have only 64% of the legal rights of men, and while the proportion of female lawmakers has more

than doubled since 1995, three-quarters of lawmakers are still men.

UN Women also said women aged 15 to 24 lag behind other age groups on access to modern family planning; maternal mortality ratios have remained almost unchanged since 2015; and 10% of women and girls live in extremely poor households.

The UN agency said cases of conflict-related sexual violence have increased 50% since 2022—and women and girls are victims of 95% of these crimes.

UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous said that based on the

report's findings, the agency has adopted a roadmap to bring the world closer to the UN goal of achieving gender equality by 2030.

It calls for a digital revolution ensuring equal access to technology for all women and girls; investments in social protections, including universal health care and quality education to lift them out of poverty; and zero violence against girls and women.

The roadmap also includes equal decision-making power for women and financing for “gender-responsive humanitarian aid” in conflicts and crises.

SSP Kulgam chairs PCPG meeting in Qazigund to strengthen police-public relations

Top News Report

KULGAM, Mar 6 : Kulgam police held a public meeting at Police Station Qazigund in Kulgam district on Thursday.

The meeting was chaired by SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal, besides, SP NHW Mumtaz Ali Bhatti, SDPO Qazigund, Mansoor Ayaz, SHO Qazigund Masood Malik and others were present on the occasion.

The meeting was attended by a large number of respectable members of the area including Numberdars and Chowkidars and its adjacent areas.

During the meeting, various issues including road connectivity, electricity issues, water supply, Solar lights, drug menace, price rise in markets, rising social evils and other



public service delivery were discussed.

All the grievances were heard patiently in the meeting. The attendees were assured that all the grievances pertaining to

police will be dealt with as per law and remaining grievances will be taken up with the concerned departments.

The cooperation of the general public was sought in eradication

of drug menace and other social crimes from the society. It was said that these meetings play an important role in bridging the vacuum between police and the general public and transforming police force into responsible, transparent, accountable and sensitive to public issues," said police official.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP said such meetings are conducted to solicit suggestions and seek public support for better policing in the area and this process will continue in the future as well.

The participants appreciated the role of the police in conducting such interaction meetings and assured their full support & cooperation in curbing the menace of social evils of society.

Kulgam police solves theft case, stolen property worth Rs 4 lakh recovered, 7 arrested, 3 absconding



Top News Report

KULGAM, Mar 6: Kulgam police on Thursday solved theft case within 15 hours and recovered stolen property in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

A police spokesperson said, "Police Station Kund had received an application from one Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat, son of Ab Rashid Bhat of Churat Qazigund to the effect that who purchased Number of popular trees from Walleengoo area in Kund for business purpose and after cutting in shape of logs, which were dumped in road side at Waltango and were stolen during intervening night of 4/5-March." Accordingly case

FIR No. 05/2025 U/S 303(2), 3(5), 49, 191(2) BNS was registered at PS Kund and fast track investigation was taken up by Police Kulgam.

During the course of investigation, after strenuous efforts and analysis of evidence, the Police team led by SHO P/S Kund following the directions from SSP Kulgam under the close supervision of Addl SP, NHW and SDPO Qazigund have recovered all the stolen property (popular Timber logs) which worth to Rs about 4 lacs within 15 hours, from one band saw mill in Oukh Pulwama.

He said apprehended accused identified as Manzoor Ahmad Deeder, Muneer Deeder, Mohd Haneef

Deedar, sons of Rajwali Deeded Resident of Nigeenpora Nard, 4. Basharat Tandha Son of Mohd Shafi Tandha, Rakesh Kumar, resident of Shimla Himachal Pradesh, Dealer of Popular Timbers Pulwama, Mushtaq Ah Laway, son of Ab Gani, Mudasir Maqbool Laway son of Mohd Maqbool of Kakapora Oukh in Pulwama arrested along with vehicle (2007) load carrier without no plate and without registration seized.

According to Police, three other persons involved in the crime are absconding while police are working hard to arrest them who have been identified Mohd Shafi Tendha, son of Mohd Yaqoob Tendha, Mohd Shafi Tendha, son of Laaldin Tendha and Mohd Haneef Awaan, son of Rajwali, all residents of Waltango.

General public hailed the efforts of Kulgam Police for swift action in solving the theft case within 15 hours of the theft.

Revenue deptt develops online portal for public ease: Sakeena Itoo

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Thursday said that the government has developed an online portal for availing various revenue services for the ease of

public. The Minister said this while replying to a question on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, asked by MLA, Surinder Kumar. The Minister informed the house that the Revenue department has developed an online portal 'jkrevenue.nic.in' for application of

CLU in order to ensure ease of process for the applicant. She added that with this portal an applicant has no need to visit any government office for availing such services.

The Minister also quoted Section 133 A, Proviso 2, "Provided further that holder of any

Agriculture land may construct a residential house or erect farm building, grain storage, primary processing of Agriculture Produce, wells or tanks or make any other improvements thereon for residential purpose or Agricultural improvement, on intimation to the Tehsildar

concerned, however, the plinth area of such building or improvement shall not exceed four hundred Square meters in total".

The Minister also assured the house that any issue faced by the public on this account will be addressed promptly.

Thana Diwas in Kokernag, emphasizing New Criminal Laws & Public Grievance Redressal

Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Mar 6: In a significant outreach initiative, Anantnag Police organized 'Thana Diwas' in the far-flung area of Kokernag, focusing on public awareness of the newly enacted 'Criminal laws' and Grievance redressal.

The event was graced by DIG South Kashmir

Javid Iqbal Madoo, and SSP Anantnag, Dr. G.V. Sundeep Chakravathy, along with other senior officers, including SP Headquarters Anantnag, Sajad Ahmad, SP Ops Anantnag, Furqan Qadir, ASP Anantnag (Camp Aishmuqam), Gh Hassan, SDPOs, SHOs, and other officers of District Police Anantnag. A large number of people, community

leaders, and stakeholders actively participated, underscoring strong public engagement with law enforcement.

The session primarily focused on educating the Public about the key changes in the criminal justice system, their impact on Policing, and legal proceedings, while also addressing various grievances raised by the attendees.



Speaking on the occasion, Javid Iqbal Madoo, highlighted the importance of community participation in law enforcement and the necessity of legal awareness.

SSP Anantnag, Dr. G.V. Sundeep Chakravathy, reiterated the Police department's commitment to justice, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that citizens remain

informed about their rights and responsibilities under the revised legal framework.

The event also served as a platform for grievance redressal, where officers attentively listened to public concerns and directed SDPOs and SHOs to take prompt action for effective resolution.

Anantnag Police remains committed

to conducting similar awareness programs in other remote areas, strengthening Police-Public relations, and ensuring legal literacy while addressing community issues. The department continues its mission to foster a secure and law-abiding society through proactive community engagement and responsive Policing.

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Jammu and Kashmir Economy expected to grow at 7.06% in 2024-25: Economic Survey

report said and pointed out that the share of power tariffs in non-tax revenue grew from 56 per cent to 67 per cent since FY22.

"Tax revenue of Rs 10,624.09 crore was realised in the first nine months of FY25, which is 76 per cent of the Rs 13,903.22 crore revenue realised in FY24, whereas non-tax revenue of Rs 5,113.71 crore was realised in the first nine months of FY25, which is 80 per cent of the Rs 6,430.33 crore revenue realised in FY24," it added.

Among the major revenue contributors, the highest increase of 96 per cent in revenue realisation was witnessed in taxes on vehicles, followed by a 67 per cent increase in power, 36 per cent in GST, 33 per cent in water user charges, and 14 per cent in excise collection, among others, it said.

The revenue expenditure in the first nine months of FY25 stood at Rs 49,828 crore, which is 75 per cent of the Rs 66,621 crore revenue expenditure incurred in FY24.

Meanwhile, capital expenditure in the first nine months of FY25 stood at Rs 11,538 crore, which is 51 per cent of the Rs 22,531 crore capital expenditure incurred in FY24.

The report revealed that J&K has shown significant progress, with the unemployment rate on usual status declining to 6.1 per cent in 2023-24 from 6.7 per cent in 2019-20.

"This improvement is also reflect-

ed in the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and Worker Population Ratio (WPR), which have risen to 64.3 per cent and 60.4 per cent, respectively, in 2023-24, showcasing enhanced employment opportunities and economic activities in J&K," it said.

As many as 40,778 units have been established under various self-employment schemes (SESS), employing about 1.16 lakh young boys and girls, it said.

It stated that 35.28 lakh unorganised workers have been registered on the e-SHRAM portal as of November 2024.

It added that gross non-performing asset has reduced from 5.71 per cent in December 2022 to 4.13 per cent as of March 2024.

The report revealed that total food crop production increased by 7.12 per cent (from 19,515 thousand quintals to 20,904 thousand quintals) over the past year. The region has also progressed towards self-reliance in vegetable production, reaching 520 thousand quintals in 2023-24.

The agriculture sector in J&K is shifting towards high-value crops, organic vegetables, and exotic varieties. Under initiatives like the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan, the government will invest Rs 5,013 crore in 29 projects over five years. This is expected to add Rs 28,000 crore to GSDP, creating 2.88 lakh sustainable jobs, it said.

It added that the plan will also benefit 13 lakh families and provide skills to 2.5 lakh youth through 19,000 new enterprises.

If Pakistan vacates PoJK, Kashmir issue will be 'Solved':

Jaishankar

he added. Mr. Jaishankar had, earlier in the discussion, referred to the idea of equal delivery of benefits for all Indian citizens — a concept he has used before to defend the government record on human rights.

In some parts of the world there was a politics that was driven by "creating" and "pandering to" identity politics, the Minister said.

Good politics was about "treating your citizens equally", he argued.

Concerns raised by Indian citizens, organisations within and outside India, and foreign governments, when they are raised, however, have been larger in scope and on topics other than the delivery of benefits.

J&K's Bungus Valley being developed as off-beat tourism destination: CM Omar Abdullah

has proposed development works amounting to Rs 72 lakh under the capex budget 2024-25," the chief minister said.

"However, all land in the Bungus Valley falls under the Forest Department's jurisdiction and we have engaged with the deputy commissioner of Kupwara to identify suitable land parcels for these proposed works," he said.

Once the Forest Department identifies the parcels, permissions and No Objection Certificates (NOCs) will be sought through the Parivesh portal for forest clearance, he added.

"In order to preserve the eco-

logical balance, the focus remains on avoiding construction of large buildings and hotels. Our goal is to develop the area as an ecotourism destination," Abdullah said.

He also outlined plans to provide basic recreational facilities, rain shelters, public conveniences, signage, lighting and waste disposal facilities for visitors.

In the financial year 2024-25, an allocation of Rs 30 lakh has been approved for the plan, he added.

Legislators Mir Saifullah, Darshan Singh and Javaid Ahmed posed supplementary questions.

To support the livelihoods of local shepherd nomads and other residents of the Bungus Valley, the Department of Tourism has initiated the registration process for paying guest houses, Abdullah said.

"This initiative aims to preserve and promote local culture, traditions and cuisine, offering an immersive travel experience for tourists," he said.

As of now, 19 paying guest houses in proximity to the Bungus Valley are registered with the Department of Tourism, the chief minister said.

J&K Council of Ministers capped at 10% under reorganisation act: Govt

ministers including the Chief Minister, the Government has specified names of the departments held by five cabinet ministers but has not mentioned names of the departments held by Chief Minister.

"Departments not allocated to any of the Hon'ble ministers are

held by the Hon'ble Chief Minister," the government said, in the written reply.

PDP holds protest march over BJP Leader's remarks on 1931 'Martyrs', demands apology

carrying placards reading "Martyrs of July 13, 1931 are our heroes" and "July 13, 1931 sacrifices will never die", raised slogans against Sharma and the BJP.

Those martyrs sacrificed their lives to end the "autocratic" rule in Jammu and Kashmir, Iltija told reporters.

"We will not accept the disrespect of the martyrs. Had they not sacrificed their lives, democracy would not have been established here," she said.

She said the PDP would not allow the BJP to erase "our collective memory".

"We will foil all such plans of the BJP. Those 22 martyrs are our heroes and we will remember their sacrifices," she said. The PDP leader also demanded an apology from Sharma.

Iltija called on other parties to support a resolution brought by PDP MLA Waheed Para seeking restoration of holidays on July 13 and December 5 — the birthday of National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

Sharma made the remarks on Wednesday after Para demanded the restoration of the two holidays in the assembly during the ongoing budget session. The leader of opposition's "derogatory remarks" were later expunged by Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather.

More than 20 protesters were

killed by soldiers of the Dogra army on July 13, 1931, during an uprising against Maharaja Hari Singh, the last ruler of Jammu and Kashmir.

The BJP accused the protesters of rebelling against Maharaja Hari Singh. It said the observance of this day would never be revived in the region.

"I want to clarify that July 13, which is called 'martyrs' day' by them (Kashmiri leaders), we consider it a 'traitors' day'. This will never be restored in the land of Jammu and Kashmir again," Sharma told reporters on Wednesday.

July 13 used to be a public holiday in J&K with the governor or the chief minister paying tributes to those killed on this day at an official function in the Nowhatta area.

The holiday was scrapped after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. The official functions are not held anymore.

No issue with this part of Kashmir, Real case is PoJK: LOP Sunil Sharma hails Jaishankar's remarks

removing Article 370 was step number one. Then, restoring growth and economic activity and social justice in Kashmir was step number two; holding elections, which were done with a very high turnout, was step number three. I think the part we are waiting for is the return of the stolen part of Kashmir, which is on the illegal Pakistani occupation. When that's done, I assure you. Kashmir solved."

Army organizes Lecture on 'Renewable Energy Resources & their Utility' at Khanetar

Top News Report

POONCH, Mar 6: The Indian Army organized a lecture on renewable energy resources and their potential utility at Fatehwal Moh, Khanetar, Poonch.

The session was designed to engage the local community in a discussion about the various renewable energy sources and the rapid depletion of conventional resources.

The lecture highlighted the significant potential of renewable energy to address the long-standing energy challenges faced by the region. The lecture



began by informing the local residents about conventional energy resources, which are non-renewable and cannot be reused once consumed.

These include coal, petroleum, natural gas, and nuclear energy. These resources are being used at an alarm-

ing rate to meet daily energy requirements, driving the urgent need for alternatives such as wind, solar, biomass, and tidal energy.

The Government has launched several initiatives to promote renewable energy, such as the PM KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja

Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyaan) scheme. Additionally, various financial incentives like grants, loans, rebates, and tax credits have been introduced to encourage the development of renewable energy.

These initiatives aim to ensure reliable day-

time power supply for irrigation, reduce subsidy burdens, and provide additional income opportunities for farmers.

With a growing population and ever-increasing energy demands, it is essential to look beyond conventional sources and harness renewable energy to meet future needs.

The lecture emphasized the importance of creating an enabling environment for the effective utilization of renewable energy sources, which will contribute to a sustainable and energy-efficient future.

Dy CM's assertion that Maharaja Hari Singh was a dictator is a misrepresentation and insult to his legacy: Pawan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: Pawan Sharma, BJP Senior leader and former state secretary J&K, stated that the Deputy Chief Minister's recent assertion that Maharaja Hari Singh was a dictator grossly misrepresents history and insults the legacy of Maharaja Hari Singh, who played a crucial role in Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India.

According to Sharma, Maharaja Hari Singh was a visionary leader who worked tirelessly for his people's welfare, and his contributions to Jammu and Kashmir's development are unparalleled, with his commitment to the state's accession to India being a historical fact.

He stated that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will firmly reject this misrepresentation of their revered Maharaja, emphasizing that their history will

not be distorted by those seeking to serve their own political interests.

Pawan Sharma urged the Deputy Chief Minister to reconsider his statement and offer an apology to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, while reaffirming his commitment to honoring the legacy of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji and working towards a prosperous future for the state.

He further stated that the BJP is dedicated to preserving the rich history and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, and asserted that no individual or entity will be permitted to distort our history or undermine our cultural identity.

Pawan Sharma urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to remain vigilant and united in the face of attempts to distort their history, ensuring the preservation of their legacy and protection of their cultural identity.

Srinagar getting sufficient portable water supply: Javed Rana

PHE, Irrigation & flood works being executed expeditiously in Shangus

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, on Thursday informed the House that all areas in Srinagar have been covered and the people are being supplied scheduled portable water supply by the department.

The Minister was responding to a question from legislator, Shamima Firdous.

The Minister said that the government is committed to facilitate supply of essential services to the people and ensure timely repairing of defunct water supply schemes.

He maintained that no water supply pipeline is defunct in Srinagar city and whenever any distribution line gets damaged, the same is restored under stage contracts and the damaged pipelines beyond repair are replaced by new pipelines properly.

The Minister said that the department is providing sufficient potable water supply as per schedule of existing water treatment plants and currently there is no area as uncovered.

MLA, Mubarak Gul, also raised supplementary questions on the question.

Replying to another

question raised by MLA Reyaz Ahmad Khan, the Minister said that, PHE works are being executed by PHE Division Bijbehara while as irrigation works are being looked after by Irrigation Division Anantnag and flood related works are being executed by the Flood Control Division Anantnag for Shangus.

The Minister said that there is no requirement for creating these facilities separately for Shangus as of now. He assured that the government is committed to provide all basic facilities to the people in all far flung areas.

Army organizes Lecture on Women Empowerment at Hasplot

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Mar 6: Keeping in view of Indian Army's core objective of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens through AWAM, a 'Lecture on Women Empowerment' was organized at Hasplot, Rajouri district for spreading awareness amongst girls and women to enhance their skill for self-employment and better job opportunity in remote parts of Rajouri and Poonch by Indian Army.

The lecture was addressed to the local populace about the employment campaign/ various initiatives for employment by State



and Central Government. Refreshments were also offered to the invitees. A total strength of 40 attended the event.

The aim of the event was to interact & educate girls, women and local populace about the various educational and scholarship schemes of Central Govt/ State

Govt to address the problems of unemployment in our country.

Representative of Indian Army addressed locals and gave an insight on various initiatives of the Government and actions being taken to slowly decrease the level of unemployment.

Various initiatives have been launched to boost

employment including skill development programmes, job fair and entrepreneurship with the following schemes- Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradica-

tion Programme (PMU-PEP).

This gesture and effort by Indian Army were highly appreciated by Awam.

This endeavour by Indian Army 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 Jawan and Awam.

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

YRS holds strong protest against Dy CM

Seeks apology on his derogatory statement against Maharaja

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) held a protest against derogatory remarks of Deputy Chief Minister against Maharaja Sahib and also burnt effigy of Dy CM Surinder Choudhary.

The protest was led by Founder members & Core Committee members Yuva Rajput Sabha Surinder Singh Gilli, Dharminder Singh, Shamsher Singh, Komal Singh and Ballu Singh.

Gilli during talking with media persons stated that Maharaja Hari Singh rule was counted to be as the best rule in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. As Maharaja Hari Singh made many reforms during his tenure and major reforms like allowing lower caste to enter into temples, construction of High Court for proper justice, J&K Bank, uplifting of lower economical peoples of different castes and many others.

Dharminder Singh stated that National Conference after 1949 works just like as a dictator and



if we want to gave a example of Dictatorship Govt. then National Conference is the best example, as Sheikh Abdullah under the shelter of Article 370 misuse the resources of Jammu and Kashmir and after that Farooq Abdullah and now Omar Abdullah misuse Article 370 for their personal benefits and to gave set back to peoples of Jammu

region and leaders of NC done several scams under the shelter of Article 370.

Shamsher Singh further stated that Surinder Choudhary is a puppet of National Conference and now after abrogation of Article 370, NC and PDP both gets depressed because now they have to survive with their pay only because they have

nothing in there hands. And this is the reason they are giving statements like this.

Gilli further stated that statement given by Surinder Choudhary is a big setback for the peoples of Jammu and Kashmir who have their faith in Maharaja Sahab and if National Conference didn't take any action against the Surinder Choudhary and Surinder Choudhary didn't apologies for his mistake then it seems that National Conference intentionally with the help of Surinder Choudhary made this statement in assembly.

He further added that Yuva Rajput Sabha and peoples of Jammu region wants apology from National Conference and Dy CM Surinder Choudhary otherwise National Conference would suffer in future.

Others present were Dalbir Singh, Bachan Singh, Bikram Singh, Pardeep Singh, Surinder Singh, Vishal, Shan, Udhay Singh, Mohit Singh, Vishal Choudhary, Shubam, Aryveer, Shan and Bhupinder.

Mission Director JJM takes virtual review of Jal Jeevan Mission



Top News Report

RAMBAN, Mar 6: Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K Khurshid Ahmad Shah on Thursday reviewed the implementation of JJM in district Kulgam through virtual mode. The chair was appraised about the various components under execution through a power point presentation.

As per the figures 93 schemes are in different phases of execution in the district out of which 28 schemes

have been completed so far. 276 civil works which include bore wells, Slow Sand Filtration plants, General service reservoirs and laying of pipe networks have been allotted out of which 52 works stand completed.

The chair took review of all components and directed the concerned officers to give new impetus to the works stalled due to harsh weather conditions. The Mission director emphasized the need to complete the schemes on time so that the

beneficiaries of these schemes are benefitted.

The chair was informed about the land, forest issues and delay in payments causing delay in execution of works.

The Chair directed all officers to speed up the process of Har Ghar Certification of reported villages within 10 days, as per the guidelines of National Jal Jeevan Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

The MD stressed the need for better supervision and monitoring of the projects to ensure timely completion.

The meeting was attended by top Jal Shakti Officials of the district, Consultant JJM, Technical Officer to Chief Engineer, Jammu besides representatives of Third Party Monitoring Agency (TPIA) also attended the meeting.

Tejinder Pal highlights NC Govt's commitment to youth empowerment

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: In a significant boost to the Youth National Conference (YNC), Pt Abhishek Sharma, a prominent social worker from Nagrota, along with his supporters, joined the party fold in a function held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu. The Joining programme was organized by Mohinder Kumar Rana Joint Secretary Central Zone. The induction took place under the leadership of Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President of Youth National Conference Jammu.

Welcoming Pt Abhishek Sharma and his supporters into the party, Tejinder Pal Singh emphasized that their decision reflects the growing faith of the youth in the

National Conference's vision for a prosperous and progressive Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that the Youth National Conference remains steadfast in its mission to provide a robust platform for young leaders committed to serving the people selflessly.

Tejinder Pal Singh took the opportunity to highlight the unwavering commitment of the present NC Government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, towards the empowerment of youth in the Union Territory. He mentioned various initiatives undertaken by the government to enhance educational and employment opportunities, skill development, and entrepreneurship for the younger generation.

"The National Conference has always believed that the future of Jammu and



Kashmir lies in the hands of its youth. Under the Young and dynamic leadership of Omar Abdullah, our government would introduce youth-centric policies in the

upcoming Budget to harness their potential and addressing their concerns effectively," Tejinder Pal Singh said.

Tejinder Pal Singh further asserted that the party's focus on creating sustainable job opportunities, improving infrastructure in educational institutions, and launching skill development programs has received widespread appreciation from the youth across the Union Territory. He urged the new entrants to work dedicatedly at the grassroots level to strengthen the party's base and uphold its vision of equitable development for all regions.

Expressing his gratitude, Pt Abhishek Sharma said that he was inspired by the National Conference's people-centric policies and the leadership of Omar Abdullah.

He assured that he and his supporters would work tirelessly to further the party's mission of peace, progress, and unity in Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those who joined the party fold namely Sanjeev Sharma, Abhimanu Sharma, Gopal Mehra, Sanjeev Kumar and others.

The event concluded with slogans in support of the National Conference, reflecting the enthusiasm and optimism of the new members towards their political journey under the party's banner.

Those who were present on this occasion included Zamir Quershi, Nitish Gowsami, Sahil Kerni, Rajesh Sharma, Amit Sharma, Atal Singh Vishal Parihar, Gourav Bhagat, Rajeshwar Singh and others.

Champions Trophy final: India, New Zealand to battle in title clash after 25 years

Champions Trophy 2025: New Zealand produced an all-round effort to outclass South Africa in the second semi-final in Lahore. New Zealand and India will meet in the final of an ICC white-ball tournament for the first time since 2000.

DUBAI, Mar 6 (Agencies): India and New Zealand are set to clash in a major tournament final in white-ball cricket for the first time in 25 years. New Zealand secured their place in the Champions Trophy 2025 final with a dominant performance against South Africa in the second semi-final in Lahore on Wednesday. The Black Caps will now face familiar rivals India in the grand finale on Sunday in Dubai.

India became the first team to book their spot in the final after defeating Australia by four wickets in Dubai on Tuesday. New Zealand, who lost their last Group A match against India, will now have the opportunity to avenge that defeat when they take on Rohit Sharma and his men at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

India and New Zealand have met twice before in ICC tournament finals. The last time they faced each other in a title match was in the 2021 ICC World Test Championship final in Southampton, where a Kane Williamson-led New Zealand outclassed India by eight wickets in a rain-affected contest that stretched over six days.



Interestingly, the last time these two teams played in a white-ball tournament final was in the 2000 ICC Knockout Trophy in Nairobi. On that occasion, New Zealand defeated India by four wickets to secure their first ICC title.

INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND IN ICC TOURNAMENT FINALS
2000 ICC knockout final - winner: New Zealand
2021 ICC World Test Championship final: winner New Zealand

WHEN CHRIS CAIRNS BROKE INDIA'S HEART

India, led by Sourav Ganguly, posted 264/6 in 50 overs, with Ganguly scoring 117 and Sachin

Tendulkar adding 69. India appeared poised for a bigger total, but the middle order, comprising Rahul Dravid, Vinod Kambli, and Yuvraj Singh, failed to capitalise.

New Zealand, captained by Stephen Fleming, successfully chased the target, thanks to Chris Cairns' unbeaten 102 off 113 balls. Cairns played a match-winning knock despite battling injuries.

Since then, New Zealand have not won a global white-ball title in men's cricket. They came close in the 2015 and 2019 World Cups but stumbled at the final hurdle.

Will Sunday be their day? Can

they trouble the mighty Indian team in Dubai?

Just last week, India dismantled New Zealand, bowling them out for 205 and successfully defending a target of 249 in Dubai. Varun Chakravarthy took five wickets in his first match of the tournament as India's spinners ran through New Zealand's batting order. Shreyas Iyer starred with the bat, scoring 79 runs.

However, New Zealand will take confidence from their inspired performance against South Africa, who were knocked out despite finishing top of Group B. Rachin Ravindra and Kane Williamson hit centuries in Lahore, while Mitchell Santner led a dominant display with the ball. Santner claimed three wickets, while Michael Bracewell and Glenn Phillips took two each to stifle South Africa's chase with spin.

Despite David Miller's valiant 100, New Zealand secured a comfortable 50-run victory.

It was another disappointing end to an otherwise impressive campaign for South Africa, as they bowed out following their first defeat of the tournament.

Australian tennis great Fred Stolle has died at age 86

Tennis Australia CEO Craig Tiley described Stolle as "iconic figure" in tennis and later as commentator for Australia's Nine Network and for CBS and Fox Sports



MELBOURNE, Mar 6 (Agencies): Fred Stolle, a two-time major winner and member of three Davis Cup-winning teams, has died, Tennis Australia said on Thursday.

He was 86. Tennis Australia CEO Craig Tiley described Stolle as an "iconic figure" in tennis as a player and later as a commentator for Australia's Nine Network and for CBS and Fox Sports. Tiley did not provide a cause of death.

Stolle was part of Australia's successful era in the 1960s as tennis progressed from an amateur to a professional sport.

"His legacy is one of

excellence, dedication, and a profound love for tennis," Tiley said.

"His impact on the sport will be remembered and cherished by all who had the privilege to witness his contributions."

"A star member of Australia's Davis Cup team, Fred made significant contributions to the sport following his decorated career, as a coach and astute commentator." Stolle lost the first five Grand Slam singles finals he reached — including four times to fellow Australian Roy Emerson — before beating Tony Roche to win the 1965 French Open. He won the US Open in 1966, beating John Newcombe in the

final, and held the No. 1 ranking.

He won 10 men's doubles titles at Grand Slams from 1962-69. He also won seven mixed doubles at the majors.

Stolle was born in Sydney but lived in the United States after his playing career.

Tennis Australia said Stolle is survived by his wife, Pat, his son Sandon — a former tennis professional — and daughters Monique and Nadine.

Rod Laver, an Australian who won 11 major titles including the calendar-year Grand Slams in 1962 and 1969, posted a tribute to Stolle on X.

"As I wrote in my book on the Golden Era of Aussie tennis, Fred Stolle was too nice a guy to hold a grudge. He won many Grand Slams and was in the finals of many more. It took the best to beat the best," Laver posted.

"We never tired of reliving the past as we travelled the world looking into the future with an enduring love of the sport."

After yet another ICC knockout match exit, South Africa coach's heartbreaking message

LAHORE, Mar 6 (Agencies): Yet another knockout stage heartbreak at yet another ICC event. But perennial bridesmaid South Africa remains on the right track two years before the ODI World Cup at home, feels the team's head coach Rob Walter after its semifinal exit from the Champions Trophy in Lahore. Having topped their group, South Africa came up short in the second semifinal against New Zealand in Lahore on Wednesday night and went down by 50 runs in a chase of 362. Walter said there are enough positives to take back home notwithstanding a tough loss.

"You know, in the wins, we managed to put some significant partnerships together. We had guys contributing significantly with the bat. From a bowling point of view, I think our biggest development was our accuracy. We were able to be very accurate as a seam unit," said Walter in the post-match press conference.

"And that's something that we've been working really hard on. Every game we play is a learning opportunity. We just keep trying to take the little lessons. Today is a hard lesson, you feel it

a little bit more, because it's the end of a campaign.

"But we certainly continue to keep learning from things, little bits here and there, that we can do better. We're still evolving as a team; there's no doubt in my mind. Two and a half years to 2027 and that's the eyes on the prize," he added.

The 2027 ODI World Cup will co-hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Walter was expectedly asked about South Africa going down in a knockout game of another global event. Last year, the Proteas lost the T20 World Cup final to India from a commanding position.

"I don't think it was any one particular thing that resulted in the loss, probably a couple. We could have handled the last 10 overs (while bowling) a little bit better. They got away from us a little bit.

"There was a period sort of in the middle of the innings where Kane (Williamson) and Rachin (Ravindra) started to up their rates a bit. And we missed a few opportunities there," he explained.

"...when we were batting. We were just starting to get going and that partnership got broken and really slowed us

down in the middle and obviously we saw Dave (Miller) play unbelievably well in the end to get a hundred...you know you're just one partnership away from doing something special," said Walter.

With Williamson and Ravindra easily manipulating the bowlers, it seemed South Africa ran out of ideas. However, Walter did not agree to that.

"No, I don't think that's entirely accurate. We certainly tried to change it up, we tried to change the pace. I think the ball wasn't really gripping at that stage in the early phases, so the ball kept sliding on.

"I mean, it just plain to see that it was a pretty good batting wicket. I don't think you can score 360 if it's not a good batting wicket. So no, through no lack of effort, I don't think," he asserted.

Walter did admit to lapses in execution of plans "a little bit" but insisted there was nothing lacking in effort.

"...certainly you'll never question the effort of the guys and we sort of threw whatever we could at them but unfortunately we couldn't break that partnership which really set them up to push towards the end," he added.

IML 2025: Sachin Tendulkar's blistering fifty in vain as Australia Masters beat India Masters by 95 runs

VADODARA, Mar 6 (Agencies): It's a battle etched in cricketing folklore -- one that has thrilled generations of fans, and on Wednesday, it unfolded once again under the floodlights at the BCA Stadium in Vadodara, where a jam-packed crowd were treated to a vintage Sachin Tendulkar masterclass for the India Masters after Australia Masters duo of Shane Watson and Ben Dunk unleashed carnage to eventually help their side notch up their first win of the ongoing International Masters League season.

Cometh the hour, cometh the master blaster -- Tendulkar brought back memories of the epic Desert Storm in Sharjah with an electrifying 33-ball 64, setting the perfect tone for India Masters' run chase. The delicate late cuts and booming straight drives were on full display as Tendulkar took on the Australian attack with fearless intent, to raise his fifty off mere 27 deliveries, reminding fans why he remains the heartbeat of Indian cricket, as per IML press release.

Despite losing his partners at the other end, Tendulkar raged a lone battle, smoking four



sixes and seven fours to power India Masters to 100/3 midway through the innings, thus enthralled the crowd, who were left shocked when Xavier Doherty held on to a catch off Daniel Christian. After his departure, Yusuf Pathan came up with a 15-ball 25 to raise hopes of a fourth win on the trot for the India Masters, who are already assured of a place in the knockouts.

But with the required rate mounting and the rest of the batters expected to step on the gas from the word go, it turned out to be a tall ask as India Masters eventually fell short by 95 runs for their first loss of the tournament. For the Aussies, left-arm twaker Doherty (5/25) emerged the pick of the bowlers, claiming the first fiver of the tournament.

Earlier, Dunk and Watson turned back the clock in style to raise an unbeaten 236-run partnership, the highest partnership in T20 cricket for the second wicket to propel Australia Masters to a mammoth 269/1. Watson, who received a reprieve on one after being dropped by wicketkeeper Naman Ojha, made the India Masters pay for the let-off, with his second century of the tournament, and four balls later, Dunk got to the three-figure landmark too, to pile on more misery on the home side.

There was no shortage of excitement to the rip-roaring contest as Shaun Marsh started with a hat-trick of boundaries off Vinay Kumar before Watson was dropped. The Aussie duo took full advantage of the field restrictions, racing to 28 off the first

three overs before leg spinner Rahul Sharma's introduction curbed the flow of runs.

Sharma, fresh from a hat-trick in the previous match against South Africa Masters, hardly allowed the Australian pair to free their arms, and the pressure helped the left-arm spinner Pawan Negi to draw first blood for the home side with the scalp of Marsh for a 15-ball 22, laced with four boundaries. That eventually turned out to be the only moment to cherish for the India Masters on a rather miserable day on the field.

Dunk, coming in at No.3, opened his account with a mighty six over midwicket and continued to make life miserable for the India Masters as he joined forces with Watson to set the tempo of the mighty total. The 37-year-old wicketkeeper-batter soon went on to outscore his skipper, getting to a half-century off just 23 deliveries, even as Watson, who preferred to take the back seat, shifted gears with consecutive sixes off Sharma to notch up a 29-ball fifty.

Refreshing memories of their heydays, the Australian pair dealt mostly in fours and sixes,

as the second wicket partnership flourished to more than a hundred inside mere eight overs. At no point during their knocks did Watson and Dunk appear they be past their prime, as Watson went on to notch up a 47-ball 100 before Dunk surpassed his skipper to blast a 43-ball century -- the fastest of the tournament. In the end, the duo went back undefeated with Watson slamming a 52-ball 110, laced with 12 fours and seven massive sixes, while Dunk notched up a brutal 53-ball 132, powered by 12 hits to the fence and 10 gigantic sixes.

Adding to the drama, this clash comes just a day after the current Indian team's triumph over Australia in the ICC Champions Trophy semifinal in Dubai--a poetic coincidence that makes this face-off even more special, and serves a perfect reminder of how this rivalry continues to deliver, no matter the era.

Brief Scores: Australia Masters 269/1 (Ben Dunk 132*, Shane Watson 110, Pawan Negi 1/34) vs India Masters 174 (Sachin Tendulkar 64, Yusuf Pathan 25; Xavier Doherty 5/25).

India have real clarity on how they want to operate in Dubai, says Williamson

DUBAI, Mar 6 (Agencies): New Zealand batting mainstay Kane Williamson reckons India have "real clarity" on how they want to operate in Dubai, having played all their Champions Trophy games at the same venue, but his team will also be reasonably well-prepared for the tournament finale due to its limited past familiarity with conditions.

Williamson did not specifically say that India had an advantage of playing at one venue, choosing to compare it to New Zealand's understanding of conditions in Lahore, where they beat South Africa on Wednesday to set up a final clash against the Rohit Sharma-led side in Dubai on Sunday.

New Zealand had played two games in Lahore during the preceding tri-series

involving Pakistan and South Africa.

"I suppose having played there on a number of occasions; there's real clarity in how they want to operate," said Williamson when asked if India go into the final with an advantage of knowing the conditions.

"A little bit like our opportunity here, having played a number of times at this venue as well and I think that's part and parcel in cricket," he added.

Having scored a hundred in the semifinal, Williamson is high on confidence and looking forward to the final.

"It is what it is (India play all games in Dubai). Our focus is the next match, the location of that match, the opposition, they're all factors. Obviously, we played India once there," he said.

"The conditions are different, so it's impor-



tant that we try and take away some of those positives and be nice and clear in how we're trying to operate come two or three days' time in the final," he said, referring to New Zealand's loss to India in the group stage.

Both Williamson and Rachin Ravindra

struck hundreds to fashion New Zealand's emphatic win.

Williamson called Ravindra, who has scored two hundreds in three games, a special talent. "It's a final, so it's exciting. If we go back to Rachin, an incredibly special talent. It's always great to bat with him. He goes out and he puts the team first and he plays with that freedom. "When we were out there batting together, there were moments where there were some good spells and it was a little bit challenging. We tried to feed off each other and keep each other focused on the job," Williamson said.

"He's so gifted, really, really confident, clear in what he's trying to do. We've seen it on so many occasions. In big tournaments where he stood up and shone, and we've seen it here again in this one," added the

former New Zealand captain.

The conditions in the UAE have favoured spinners, with the slow surface making stroke-making tough. But the fact that New Zealand have played a game in Dubai can only help them in the final, feels Williamson.

"Yeah definitely the conditions are a lot different but you know that's sort of the nature of the beast I think in any tournament that you have, conditions change a little bit throughout. For us, it was nice to have that last match against India. There's some really good bits there," he said.

"India are an outstanding team and playing really well. So, look, it's important we try and take away some learnings from that last game. Park this match, and in a final, anything can happen."

Movement Kalki raises voice against neglect of athletes

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: With the slogan "Respect for Athletes – Respect for the Nation," Movement Kalki brought attention to the government's neglect of talented athletes in Jammu and Kashmir and the struggles they face due to the absence of financial support and proper infrastructure.

In a press conference was chaired by Movement Kalki's Advisory Board Member Pritam Sharma highlighted that states like Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Manipur, Uttarakhand, and Bihar provide significant support to their sportspersons, including financial incentives, free training, and priority in government jobs under the sports quota.

This encouragement has enabled athletes from these states to excel in their careers and bring pride to the nation. However, in Jammu and Kashmir, athletes receive no such assistance. Despite their talent and hard work, they are left struggling without recognition or financial aid.

Many of them are forced to give up their dreams due to the lack of government support. Sharma expressed deep concern over the fact that while other states nurture and reward their athletes, those from Jammu and Kashmir are expected to succeed without any resources or encouragement. He warned that without proper assistance, many potential champions



would be lost.

To address these concerns, Movement Kalki has put forward a list of key demands to ensure that athletes from Jammu and Kashmir receive the respect and support they deserve. The organization is demanding financial incentives of Rs 5,00,000 for Gold medal winners, Rs 3,00,000 for Silver medal winners, and Rs 2,00,000 for Bronze medal winners at the national level. It has also called for financial assistance and official recognition for international medal winners, in line with the guidelines of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) and the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

In addition to financial aid, Movement Kalki is pushing for special training facilities and scholarships for athletes who perform exceptionally well at the state level. It has also urged the government to provide priority in government jobs and welfare schemes for athletes under the sports quota, as is done in other

states.

Another crucial demand is the construction of a large sports stadium in North Jammu, which would provide much-needed infrastructure for training and competitions.

The organization has also raised the issue of pending sports quota jobs since 2011. Despite promises, no government jobs have been granted under this quota in the last fourteen years. Movement Kalki has demanded immediate restoration of these jobs, with appointment letters issued to deserving athletes without further delay. Furthermore, it has called for the announcement of a special sports scholarship scheme to financially support young and talented athletes.

Speaking at the event, Pritam Sharma stressed that neglecting athletes is not just a failure of governance but a social issue. Without financial assistance and recognition, many young people lose interest in sports and, in some cases, fall into drug addiction or other

negative influences. If the government provides adequate support to athletes, youth will be drawn towards sports and will have the opportunity to make the nation proud.

One of the major concerns raised was the lack of proper training grounds in Jammu. Athletes do not have access to the necessary facilities for high-level training, which severely limits their ability to compete at national and international levels. Movement Kalki has strongly demanded the construction of a world-class sports stadium in North Jammu, which would serve as a dedicated space for training and competitions.

A particularly serious concern raised during the press conference was the complete absence of sports quota jobs in Jammu and Kashmir since 2011. While athletes from other states are rewarded with government positions for their achievements, those from Jammu and Kashmir are left without any employment opportuni-

ties.

Pritam Sharma questioned why the government forgets athletes once they have won medals for the country. He demanded that the administration take immediate steps to restore the sports quota jobs and ensure fair treatment for sportspersons who have brought pride to the region.

Movement Kalki has issued a strong warning to the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and the Jammu and Kashmir administration. The organization has urged them to take immediate action by implementing a financial incentive scheme for athletes, granting government jobs and official recognition to deserving sportspersons, and announcing a special sports scholarship scheme for young talents.

If these demands are not met, Movement Kalki has vowed to launch a massive agitation and continue the movement until athletes receive their rightful due. The organization made it clear that it will not rest until the sports community in Jammu and Kashmir is treated with dignity and respect.

Members present at the press conference including Sapna Hindu, Anuradha Yogi, Sushma Sharma, Dr. Sudesh Kumar, Antu Kotwal, Pawan Sharma, Sunita Kundal, Advocate Sumeshwar Kohli, and Advocate Harmeet Singh.

Dimple demands restoration of J&K Statehood, ban on liquor



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, led a massive protest on on BC Road, Rehari Chungi. Hundreds of transporters and prominent citizens joined the demonstration, demanding the immediate restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood with special status.

Addressing the large gathering, Dimple urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to declare April 24, the death anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh, as a gazetted holiday. He emphasized the Maharaja's contributions to the region and stated that honoring his legacy is a long-overdue demand of the people.

Dimple strongly criticized BJP MLAs for remaining silent on the issue of statehood restoration. He accused them of diverting attention from their failures over the past ten years

by creating unnecessary political disruptions. He called upon the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly to take concrete action in the upcoming session.

One of the key demands raised during the protest was the immediate passing of a bill to ban the sale of liquor and drugs in Jammu and Kashmir. Dimple argued that the rising cases of substance abuse among the youth are alarming and need urgent intervention. He further demanded a CBI investigation into the alleged liquor mafia, alleging that a few big businessmen, along with outsiders, have monopolized the liquor trade in connivance with BJP leaders.

Dimple also called for the resumption of the Darbar Move from April 2025, ensuring fair governance for both Jammu and Kashmir regions. He demanded immediate welfare measures for the people, including 200 units of free electricity,

12 free LPG cylinders, and double ration starting from March 2025.

Additionally, Dimple urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and all 90 MLAs to pass a bill in the assembly to permanently ban the sale of liquor. He specifically demanded that the Excise Department cancel all upcoming wine shop tenders scheduled for March 2025 and take strict action to curb liquor sales.

Dimple also pressed the Omar Abdullah-led government to nominate four Rajya Sabha members, ensuring that one seat is allocated to a Dogra representative from Jammu. He emphasized the need for political representation that truly reflects the aspirations of the region's people.

Prominent figures present at the protest included Shami Kumar, Ashok Sharma, Happy Kumar, Narender Choudhary, Sanjeev Kumar, Rajesh Kapoor, Suny, Raju, and several others.

J&K thrashes formidable Punjab to lift 15th NZ Softball C'ship title



championship.

General Secretary J&K Softball Association has praised the big role played by the Technical Staff and Coaches from J&K in guiding the team to convincing victory in the Championship.

"The Coaches and other allied Technical Staff including Harvinder Singh, Padam Dev Singh, Sudhir Singh, Yogesh Mahajan, Madan Mohan, Rawat Singh and Javeed Akhooon have played a pivotal role in improving the standard of Softball game in Jammu and Kashmir. The Technical Staff included outstanding Softball Athletes, NIS Coaches and one Harvinder Singh, who was the Chief Coach of Indian National Men's Softball team which had toured Japan in 2023. He is also a Certified Level-A holder," said Waseem Raja.

He further said that J&K Softball Association is highly thankful to Nuzhat Gul, General Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council for encouraging Softball athletes to bring laurels for J&K UT.

Top News Report

JAMMU/ FATEHGARH, Mar 6: Thrashing formidable Punjab by four homes to one (4-1) in the summit clash, the strong Jammu and Kashmir men's team lifted the title trophy of 15th North Zone Softball Championship at Shri Guru Granth Sahab World University, Fatehgarh in Punjab.

The 3-day Championship was organised by Punjab Softball Association under the aegis of Softball Association of India from March 3 to March 5, 2025.

Displaying extraordinary skill and showing grit, gum and composure, the members of J&K team dominated the

game from the word go and continued the brilliance till the outcome of the final result, thus winning the game by (4-1).

S. Sakhran Singh, CEO FIL Industries was the chief guest on the Closing Ceremony, while Sh Waseem Raja Khan, Joint Secretary Softball Association of India and Sh Shrikant Thorat, Member Advisory Board Softball Association of India (SBAI) were the guests of honour, who distributed trophies and medals among the winners, runners-up and the third place team.

While addressing the gathering he appreciated the players for their discipline and sporting spirit during this Northern India Softball Cham-

Kaith Biradari expresses shock over demise of Mohindro Devi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 6: Kaith Biradari members Members at a meeting held here on Thursday, expressed deep shock over the sad, sudden and untimely demise of Mohindro Devi wife and said, strange are the ways of God, nobody knows what happens the next.


Her husband Darshan Kaith Bawa said, "She

was the most respected woman and the superhero. In every step, she supported and encouraged me. Whether day or night she was always there for me, no matter what the condition was. Furthermore, her every work, persistence, devotion, dedication and conduct was an inspiration for me."

May Almighty rest her noble soul in peace

and give strength to her family to bear this immeasurable loss boldly, prayed all present in the meeting.

Among those deeply affected by this loss were R.L.Kaith, Hans Raj Loria, Des Raj Kaith, Bidhi Chand Kaith, Mela Ram Kaith, Madan Raj Kaith, Naresh Kumar Kaith, Jagdish Raj Kaith, Deepak Jyoti and Rahul Kaith.



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