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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

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BRIEFLY

Driver dead, Helper injured as 2 trucks collide head-on inside Navyug Tunnel

SRINAGAR, Mar 7 (Agencies): A driver died and his helper was injured after two trucks collided inside the Navyug tunnel late last evening, officials said. An official said that a truck travelling from Srinagar to Jammu, crashed into another truck inside the tunnel at around 10:20 pm on Thursday. Jammu tourism

He said that in the incident driver, identified as Sukhdev Singh (30) of Punjab, died on spot, while his helper, identified as Jaswinder Singh (26) of Punjab got injured. He said that police have taken cognisance of the matter.

Schools reopen in Kashmir after three-month winter break

SRINAGAR, Mar 7 (Agencies): Schools in Kashmir re-opened on Friday after remaining closed for almost three months on account of winter vacations.

The schools were scheduled to reopen on March 1 but the government extended the vacations by a week due to inclement weather.

Officials said around 10,000 government and private-run schools across the Kashmir valley reopened this morning and resumed their academic activities.

Minister for Education Sakina Itoo extended best wishes to the students and teachers on the re-opening of schools.

"As Winter Zone students join their schools after winter break, I wish them success for the session and future. I appreciate support from all stakeholders, especially the teaching fraternity to make it a memorable, successful year. Best wishes to all!" Itoo said in a post on X.

Many schools were decked up and small celebrations were held to welcome the students.

The students, many of whom were feeling bored and confined in their homes for such a long time, were excited going back their schools.

"I am very excited that the schools are re-opening. I am more excited to meet my friends and teachers after such a long time," Ziya-ul-Islam, a student at a private school, said.

Another student,

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J&K Assembly Budget | Omar Abdullah allocates Rs 815 Crore for Agriculture, Rs 390 Crore for Tourism Development



JAMMU, Mar 7 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, while presenting the state's budget on Friday, emphasized that the region is on the path to lasting peace.

It is the first budget to be presented by the elected government in the last seven years. He mentioned that the state's GST compliance has increased and expressed commitment to aligning with Sustain

able Development Goals (SDG).

Abdullah highlighted that the focus of the budget was on empowering youth and women, addressing regional disparities, and striving for the restoration of statehood.

The budget includes an allocation of Rs 815 crores for agriculture, to generate 2.88 lakh jobs. The state will promote a two-crop pattern and focus on expanding

horticulture. The government also plans to boost wool processing and promote the leather tanning industry, which is expected to help the local economy.

Abdullah emphasized the state's ongoing journey towards peace, noting that Jammu and Kashmir is now on the path of lasting peace after decades of unrest.

Tourism is another major focus, with the government project

ing a volume of 2.36 crore tourists in 2024. Events like the Kashmir Marathon, which hosted 1,800 global participants, and the growing popularity of places like Shiv Khori and Dudh Pathri, led to the inflow of tourists in the state.

The budget has provisioned Rs 390.20 crore for tourism development, with plans to increase homestays, promote water sports,

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J-K CM Omar Abdullah announces 200 units of free electricity for AAY families, free rides to women in govt buses

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 7 : Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in his budget speech today, unveiled a significant relief measure, announcing 200 units of free electricity for families under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and transport benefits.

Omar Abdullah said that 200 units of free electricity will be provided to all AAY families in J&K. He also announced that from April 1, women will be allowed free travel in all government-operated transport, including e-buses.

Additionally, AAY beneficiaries will receive 10 kg of free ration every month from April 1, and marriage assistance for girls under the AAY category has been increased

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No proposal in place to impose blanket ban on private practice of Doctors across J&K: Minister



JAMMU, Mar 7 (Agencies): Health Minister Sakina Itoo on Friday said that there is no formal proposal to impose a blanket ban on private practice of doctors across Jammu and Kashmir.

Replying to a question of MLA Pulwama Waheed Ur Rehman Para, the minister, said that presently, there is no formal proposal or initiative in place to impose a blanket ban on the private practice of doctors across J&K.

"However, it is crucial to emphasise that doctors are strictly prohibited from engaging in private practice during their official duty hours or while serving in emergency duty roles. This policy ensures that healthcare professionals remain fully commit

ted to their obligations within the public healthcare system and prioritize their duties towards the patients they serve, without any distractions or conflicts of interest." She said.

She added that in case, any complaint regarding private practice by doctors during duty hours is received, the department takes immediate and decisive action. "Orders are promptly issued for enquiring the matter and if the allegations are substantiated, the private practice of the concerned doctor is banned throughout the Union Territory. This serves as a deterrent and highlights the commitment of the administration to uphold the integrity and focus of the doctors serving in the

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LoP Sunil Sharma expresses concern over "Pro-Pakistan" Remarks in Assembly, Seeks action



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 7: Jammu and Kashmir Leader of Opposition (LoP) and BJP leader Sunil Sharma has expressed his concerns over remarks made by

some of the members related to engaging in talks with Pakistan, comparing development situations in POJK and our Union Territory, and "glorifying" Pakistan.

In a written letter to J-K

Legislative Assembly speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on March 6, LoP Sharma says, "I write to you in my capacity as the Leader of Opposition, deeply concerned about certain remarks being made on the floor of this august House. It has been observed that discussions within the Assembly are increasingly veering towards subjects such as engaging in talks with Pakistan, comparing the development situation in Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (POJK) with that of our

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Three civilians missing in Kathua, BJP MLA raises issue in J&K Assembly

JAMMU, Mar 7 (Agencies): A BJP MLA on Friday raised in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly the issue of three civilians missing from a village in Kathua district, and sought a response from the government.

Officials said the three, who were on way to attend a wedding, went missing on Thursday night and a massive search operation is underway in Lohai Malhar area of Kathua district to trace them.

As the Assembly session began for the day,



BJP member Satash Sharma raised a point of order to inform the House about the missing civilians in Lohai Malhar area of Billawar constituency.

"I want to inform you

about the missing three civilians. We want to seek answers from the government," Sharma said.

In response, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather said the Question Hour

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OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Suman Shah- Wife

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

**Sh. Mohan Shah****17TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother, **Smt. Veena Kumari**, W/o Sh. Satpal Choudhary, R/o Sec - D, Sainik Colony, Near Tiny Tots School. **17th Day, Kriya** will be performed at our residence on 8-03-2025, 9:00 am - 12:00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Sat Paul Choudhary (Husband)

Sons

Labbu Choudhary & Rajinder Choudhary (Mangu)

Daughters & Son-in-law

Sapna Choudhary & Vishal Dhiman

Pooja Choudhary & Vikas Choudhary

Grand Sons and Daughter

Jaiwin, Aayukt Shree & Revathi Shree

Ph. No. - 9419223297, 8716011285

**Smt. Veena Kumari****TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Nancy Dhar W/o Sh. Deepak Dhar R/o Chattabal, Srinagar A/P H.No. 161/3, Vivek Vihar, Paloura.**

The **10TH DAY** will be performed on 12-03-2025 (Wednesday) at Thalwal (Bhaderkali), Jammu and **ASSEMBLY** will be held at Muthi Ghat (Near Education office, Jammu) at 11 A.M. Sharp.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Jai Kishori Dhar/Prabhjigni (Mother- in-law)

Deepak Dhar (Husband)

Daughters and Son-in-laws

Neha Dhar Sharma and Anuj Sharma

Sapna Dhar Bhat and Rahul Bhat

Samast Parivaar Dhar, Safaya, Mattoo, Pandita, Koul, Bakshi, Sharma and Bhat Families.

MOB. NO: 9796407446, 8867861675, 9103171700

**SMT. NANCY DHAR****FIFTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Sham Lal Gupta H/o Smt Seema Gupta (Rano) R/o Udhampur on 05/03/2025.** **FIFTH DAY** will be performed on 8th March 2025 (Saturday) at Mahajan Hall Akhnoor from 11:00 am to 12 Noon

GRIEF STRICKEN**Father-in-law & Mother-in-law**

Sh Chaman Lal Gupta & Smt. Nirmala Gupta

Brothers-in-Law & Sisters-in-Law

Sh Bharat Bhushan Gupta & Smt. Anju Bala

Sh Rakesh Gupta & Smt Sindhu.

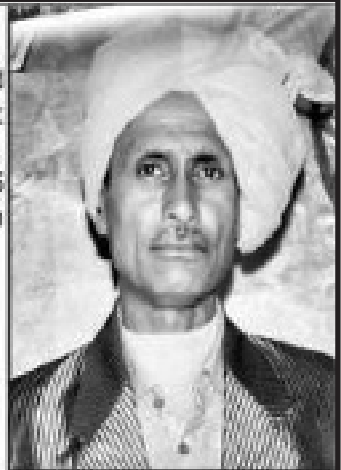
Sisters-in-Law & Brothers-in-Law

Smt Jyoti Gupta & Sh Joginder Gupta

Smt Sapana Gupta & Sh Virinder Gupta

Smt Bandana Gupta & Sh Ashish Gupta

Mob. 9419100109, 9086322590

**Sh Sham Lal Gupta****TENTH DAY KRIYA**

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

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

Grief Stricken

Dolly Bhat (Daughter-in-law)

Son & Daughter-in-law

Ravinder Bhat & Princy Bhat

Priyanka Bhat, Pranoy Bhat & Dewanshi Bhat (Grand children)

Contact No. 9419131406, 8717031596

**Smt. Pyari (Shama Bhat)****TENTH DAY KRIYA**

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

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

Deeply Remembered By

SAMAST GANJOO & HAUSTU PARIVAR

9819008235 (MUNI)

9819389020 (MONU)

9819003735 (DEEPU)

**Sh Roop Krishan Ganjoo (Retd AGM BSNL Jammu)****TENTH DAY KRIYA**

We are observing the **Tenth Day Kriya** of our respected and beloved **Shri Pran Nath Pandita S/o Janki Nath Pandita** of Watterkhani, Kupwara Kashmir, at present 121-E Wazir Bagh, (near Nath Jewellers) Anand Nagar, Bhoori Jammu, on March 12, 2025 at Akhnoor, on the banks of Chenab River at 7 am.

This will be followed by gathering at Muthi Ghat, Near Directorate of School Education at 11am the same day.

Venue of gathering: Muthi Ghat

Date: 12/03/2025

Time: 11am

Samast Pandita/Darvesh and Koul (Kutlari) Parivaar.

094193 20661, 098718 66063

**Shri Pran Nath Pandita****10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Karamyogi father **Sh. Dina Nath Saproo** - Originally resident of Krandidgam, Bijbehara, at present B-28 Vasant Vihar Talab Tillo Jammu.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 12th March, 2025 at Akhnoor. Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Director of School Education at 10 A.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Phoola Saproo - Bhabhi

Gitija Koul and BN Koul (Daughter and Son-in-Law)

Sarla Koul and BL Koul (Daughter and Son-in-Law)

Dulari Dhar and Vijay Kumar Dhar (Daughter and Son-in-Law)

Ram Krishan Saproo and Basanti Shah (Son and Daughter-in-Law)

Mobile - 9419123299, 9419207067

**Sh. Dina Nath Saproo****TENTH DAY**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform sad demise of our beloved mother, **Smt. Anjali Dhar W/o Lt. Sh. Nand Lal Dhar R/o Lar Ganderbal A/p N-11 Pandit Colony Sheikhupura Budgam.**

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 10/3/2025 (Monday) at Shuryar Shiv Mandir Opp. G.B. Panth Hospital Sonwar at 7 A.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Suriender Dhar - Son

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Ayaz Krishen Dhar & Anjali Dhar

Kuldeep Dhar & Pammy Dhar

Ravi Dhar & Sunita Dhar

Daughter & Son-in-law

Ruby Gass/Dhar & Sanjay Gassi

Kiran Kumar Bazaz & Veena G. - Brother & Sister-in-law

OM Krishen Bazaz and Sarla Bazaz - Brother & Sister-in-law

Grand Children : Ayushmaan Dhar, Cheshla Dhar, Shivarsh Gassi, Shreesith Gassi

Samasth Dhar, Bazaz & Raina Parivar

Ph.No.: 9697031303, 7006309075, 7006977008

**Smt. Anjali Dhar****10TH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Krishna Devi W/o Madan Singh Jamwal** and Mother of Ex. President Shri Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha and Senior BJP leader (Kr. Narayan Singh Jamwal) R/o H.No. 32 Fattu Chowgan Patel Bazar Jammu.

10th Day will be performed on 8th March, 2025 (Saturday) 11.00 AM at Rani Park Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Madan Singh Jamwal- Husband

Brother and Bhabhi

Late Sh. Gurdial Singh and Smt Satya Devi

Sh. Bedhan Singh Jamwal and Smt Kamla Devi

Son & Daughter-in-Law

Kr. Narayan Singh Jamwal & Smt. Nisha Jamwal

Daughters & Son-in-Law

Smt. Chander Kanta & Sh. Babir Singh

Smt. Neeru Bandral & Late Sh. Ramesh Singh Bandral

Smt. Sushma Devi & Sh. Surinder Singh Sialthia

Smt. Sushela Manhas & Sh. Narayan Singh Manhas

Mr. Bhavishyat Jamwal- Grandson

Grand Daughters and Grand Son in law

Dr. Nabasha Jamwal & Mr. Kanav Bajoria

Mrs. Yashvi Jamwal & Mr. Aditya Raina

Mob.: 9419193937

**Smt. Krishna Devi****TENTH DAY KRIYA**

Loved Ones may leave this world, but never our hearts.

They walk beside us in every step, unseen, yet felt in every moment.

Forever loved. Forever missed.

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Jeeta Pandita Miya W/o Sh. Vinod Kumar Miya**, originally resident of Kocha Nidhan, Rainawari, Srinagar, Kashmir at present 2215 coronation tower, Gaur Saundaryam, Greater Noida West (UP), who left for heavenly abode.

Tenth Day Kriya will be held on 11th March 2025 (Tuesday) at 8.30 AM at Murad Nagar, Ghaziabad (UP).

Grief Stricken

Sh. Vinod Kumar Miya (Husband)

Sh. Vikas Miya and Smt. Divya Miya (Son and Daughter in law)

Miya's, Raina's Pandita's, Ganjoo's, Bhat's and Paliwal's.

Divik, Aarna, Ritvik, Cherry, Aadhyia, Aagya, Akarsh & Lakshya (Grand Children)

Mob : 9818199753, 9999644660

**Smt. Jeeta Pandita Miya****TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you the sad demise of **Sh. Moti Lal Raina** son of Shri Son Nath Raina originally from Village Zainapora Shopian. He departed for his heavenly abode on 05-03-2025 at his residence Dina Nagar Sector-2, Lane No.2, Barnali, Jammu.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on Friday 14th March, 2025 at Akhnoor. The Assembly will be held at our residence Dina Nagar, Sec-2, Lane No.2, Barnali, Jammu at 9.00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Shri Son Nath Raina - Father

Smt. Babi Raina - Wife

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Shri Rohit Raina & Smt. Jyoti Raina

Shri Anil Raina & Smt. Shilpi Raina

Brothers & Bhabhi

Shri M.K. Raina & Smt. Veena Raina

Shri Deepak Raina & Smt. Sugeena Raina

Shri Vimal Raina & Smt. Nirdosh Raina

Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Kalpana Koul & Shri Ashish Koul

Grand Children: Isha Raina, Pearl Raina, Uddeshya Raina

Mob No: 7889853125, 9149762924, 8551842204, 8600790948

**SH. MOTI LAL RAINA****10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of Late **Sh. Vidya Sagar Dutta S/o Late Sh. Anant Ram Dutta R/o 402 Julaka Mohalla Jammu.**

10th Day will be performed on 8 March (Saturday) 2025 at 11:00 AM to 12 Noon at Brahmin Sabha Parade Ground Jammu.

Kriya will be performed on 9 March (Sunday) 2025 at 12:00 Noon at residence 402 Julaka Mohalla Jammu Tawi.

Uthala will be performed on 15 March (Saturday) 2025 from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Brahmin Sabha Parade Ground Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughter-in-law

Sh. Sanjay Dutta & Smt. Preeti Dutta

Sh. Ramen Dutta & Smt. Nimal Dutta

Sh. Deepak Dutta

Grand Children : Inder Dutta, Aadhyia Dutta

Mobile No.: 8803620241, 7889799323, 9419129730

**Late Sh. Vidya Sagar Dutta (D.O.D. 27-02-2025)****TENTH DAY /KRIYA/ UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Vinay Sharma** Wife of Sh. Parshotam Sharma R/o Pritam Lane, Canal Road, Jammu.

Tenth Day will be performed on 7.03.2025 (Friday) at our residence. Time 11:00 A.M.

Kriya Karam will be performed on 8.03.2025 (Saturday) at our residence. Time 12:00 Noon.

Uthala will be performed on 08-03-2025 (Saturday) at Hari Ghat Mandir, Canal Road, Opposite R.L. Lab. Time: 4 pm to 5 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Parshotam Sharma (Husband)

Son and Daughter-in-law

Mr. Karan Sharma and Mrs. Parul Sharma

(Daughter and Son-in-law)

Mrs. Shubani Sharma and Mr. Suresh Sharma.

Mrs. Robi Sharma & Mr. Vinay Sharma.

All Banathia Family

9796889899, 9419141173

**Smt. Vinay Sharma****OBITUARY**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Shanta Razdan (D/o Late Shri Ptambar Nath Shastri of Rainawari), R/o 137, Vikas Nagar Sarwal, Jammu (Originally R/o Sheetal Nath Srinagar, Kashmir) presently at L-Block, House No. 08, Sector - 11, Noida** has left for heavenly abode on 04-03-2025.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Shri Ptambar Nath Razdan (Husband)

(Daughter in law and Son)

Smt. Pooja Razdan and Karwal Razdan

(Daughter and Son in law)

Smt. Archana Jattu and Ajay Jattu

GRAND CHILDREN

Sai Kiran Jattu

Sai Veishnavi Jattu

**Smt. Shanta Razdan****10TH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our Mother **Smt. Champa Sharma (Retd. Sr. Govt. Teacher) W/o Sat pal Sharma R/o 455/17 Rajpura Mangotrian Jammu** who left for heavenly abode on 26/02/25 Wednesday.

10TH DAY will be performed on 7/03/25 Friday our Residence at 10.00 am

KRIYA will be performed on 8/03/25 Saturday at our Residence 12:00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Sons And Daughter In Law

Rameshwar Sharma & Trishla Sharma

LG Manoj Sinha inaugurates Tawi Festival organised by Hari Tara Charitable Trust



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 7 : Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the 3rd edition of Tawi Festival organised by Hari Tara Charitable Trust (HTCT), at Amar Mahal Palace, Jammu. Jammu travel packages

The event also marked the beginning of Golden Jubilee celebration commemorating 50 years of Amar Mahal Museum and Library.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to Dr. Karan Singh and everyone associated with the Hari Tara Charitable Trust for organizing the unique festival, and bringing together experts and practitioners from different fields to share and highlight new ideas in

art, literature and history.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the valuable contribution of artists and litterateurs in inspiring change in the society and enriching the global knowledge platforms.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "Art is the essential element for building an enlightened society and helping the growth of citizens with value system and creativity. Art and Culture is as important for a prosperous and peaceful world as science and technology.

Science and Technology has provided new facilities and redefined the way human society works and lives. But the modern instruments are incomplete without rich and vibrant tradition of

art and culture. We need to have a fine balance between Technology and Arts. The role of new inventions of science and technology in making our civilization alive is incomparable. Therefore, I believe that society needs artists and spiritualists along with scientists".

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated the commitment of the government, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to work with the resolve of 'Vikas Bhi Virasat Bhi'.

He further emphasized the important role of artists and intelligentsia in promoting education based on local culture, moral values and traditional knowledge.

"Society's economic development is powered by art and culture.

For sustainable development we need more creative leaders. Our efforts to connect the young generation with our culture and values should be further deepened," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also shared the dedicated measures taken by the government to promote rich diversity and uniqueness of artistic, cultural and linguistic heritage of Jammu Kashmir.

Dr. Karan Singh, former Union Minister and Chairman, Hari Tara Charitable Trust; Trustees and members of the Trust and various dignitaries including Sh Vikramaditya Singh, Ajatshatru Singh, Dr Jyotsna Singh, Ritu Singh, Martand Singh; senior officials of Police and Civil administration and renowned artists were present.

Jammu and Kashmir govt allocates Rs 86 crore for construction of 250-bed MCCH in Anantnag

ANANTNAG, Mar 7 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir government has allocated Rs 86 crore for the construction of a 250-bed Maternity and Child Care Hospital (MCCH) in Anantnag.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced on Friday that the new facility will be established within the premises of Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital at Janglat Mandi, Anantnag.

Currently, maternity and child care services are provided at a facility in the congested Sherbagh area, which has long been deemed unsafe by the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department and Fire and Emergency Services since 2014.

Despite its deteriorat-

ing condition, the hospital remains the primary choice for expectant mothers and newborns, handling over 40,000 Out-Patient Department (OPD) visits and around 7,000 in-patient admissions each month.

Originally designed for just 40 beds, the existing maternity ward operates far beyond capacity, with only two labour wards, four surgical wards, and a single operation theatre to accommodate the increasing patient load.

At times, two to three patients are forced to share a single bed, significantly raising the risk of infections and medical complications.

The poor hygiene conditions in the wards and operating rooms have contributed to high rates

of cross-infections.

The safety concerns surrounding the current facility remain.

In the last two months of 2024 alone, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) witnessed two electrical short circuits, though both were contained before causing major damage.

In 2015, a fire partially damaged the OPD, leading to a temporary relocation to the then District Hospital premises at Janglat Mandi.

However, political intervention resulted in the facility being shifted back to the unsafe building within a day.

Another fire incident in March 2022, caused by a gas leakage at the ticket counter, left 12 people, including two children, injured.

Efforts to relocate the facility have faced roadblocks.

In 2015, the government proposed shifting the hospital to Rehamat-i-Alam Hospital on KP Road, which was previously managed by a local trust. While Rs 13 crore was spent on constructing the top two floors of the building, the plan was abandoned after an IIT Jammu safety assessment found that the structure did not meet post-2005 earthquake safety standards.

The institute recommended retrofitting and reinforcing the vital beams of the older floors, built two decades ago by the trust, at an estimated cost of Rs 8 crore. However, the proposal was eventually shelved.

Jammu and Kashmir will give a befitting reply to those who insult Maharaja Hari Singh: Chugh

BJP Condemns National Conference Leader's Remarks on Maharaja Hari Singh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 7: Bharatiya Janata Party's National General Secretary and Jammu and Kashmir in-charge, Tarun Chugh, strongly condemned the comments made by the National Conference regarding Maharaja Hari Singh.

He stated that the contribution of the great ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh Ji, is an integral part of the region's culture, history, and identity. Not only did he play a significant role in the progress of the state, but he also made a historic contribution to its integration with the Indian Republic.

Addressing the media, Chugh reaffirmed the party's commitment to upholding the rich legacy of Maharaja Hari Singh, a leader whose contributions to Jammu and Kashmir remain unparalleled.

Chugh emphasized that Maharaja Hari Singh was not merely a ruler but a visionary leader who spearheaded progressive reforms, modernization, and inclusive governance. His contributions to education, healthcare, and administration played a pivotal role in shaping Jammu and Kashmir's socio-economic landscape.



Chugh added that it is unfortunate that some individuals, driven by political selfishness and narrow-mindedness, continue to insult Maharaja Hari Singh Ji. He asserted that such attacks are not just an affront to the identity of Jammu and Kashmir but also an attempt to hurt the sentiments of millions who revere the Maharaja as their ideal.

"Maharaja Hari Singh introduced landmark reforms that safeguarded the rights of marginalized communities and promoted social justice. His secular outlook fostered communal harmony in the region. Any attempt to malign his legacy is unacceptable and must be retracted immediately," Chugh asserted.

Expressing deep disappointment, the BJP urged political leaders to exercise caution and responsibility

when commenting on historical figures. Chugh called upon National Conference leader Omar Abdullah and his party to issue a clarification and retract the remarks, stating that such statements only create unnecessary controversy and hurt public sentiments.

He further reiterated the BJP's commitment to preserving and honoring the contributions of historical leaders who played a crucial role in shaping Jammu and Kashmir's identity.

Speaking on the July 13, 1931, incident, Chugh reaffirmed the BJP's stance, calling it a "black day and a day of betrayal." He stated that the party would continue to uphold the truth of history and counter any attempts to distort it.

Chugh concluded by stating that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will never tolerate such insulting statements and actions. Any forces attempting to distort history or undermine the contributions of great leaders will be given a befitting reply.

The Bharatiya Janata Party, along with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, is ready to take every possible step to protect the honor of their great hero.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Short Term)

MHDJ/e-NIT 246 of 2024-25

Dated: 05.03.2025
Due : 15.03.2025

On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders in two cover system on turnkey basis are invited from registered/reputed firms having sufficient relevant experience for the work mentioned below:

S. No	Description of work	Project Authority	Estt	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Eligibility Criterion of Bidder
1	Providing & Installation of New Exhaust Fans, Wall hanging fans along with allied works at Additional Block in Govt. Dental Hospital, Jammu.	Principal IGGDC Hospital Jammu	1.19 LACS	Rs.3000.00 in the Shape of CDR/FDR/TDR valid for 12 months pledged to the Executive Engineer MH Division Jammu	Rs 200.00 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 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal. OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in the shape of e-Challan through Account no. 0097010100002163 in the name of Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division Jammu Name of Bank: J&K Bank Town Hall Jammu Branch Code:0097 IFSC code: JAKA0TNHALL MICR CODE: 180051025	10 days	Registered & Reputed firms having sufficient experience as per Annexure "C" similar nature of work

THE NIT CONSISTING OF Qualifying INFORMATION, ELGIBILITY CRITERIA, BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ) SETS OF TERMS & CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT & OTHER DETAILS CAN BE VIEWED / DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE www.jktenders.gov.in.

DIP/J-10790/24

Sd/-
(Er. Vishal Mahajan)
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospital Division
Jammu

OFFICE OF STATE DRUGS CONTROLLER
DRUGS & FOOD CONTROL ORGANISATION, J&K, JAMMU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act,1954 relates to regulation enacted to control the advertisement of drugs in certain cases, to prohibit the advertisement for certain purposes of remedies alleged to possess magic qualities and to provide for matters connected therewith;

Whereas it has been observed that certain nefarious elements are indulging in certain omissions/contraventions like advertisement of certain drugs for treatment of certain diseases and disorders; misleading advertisements relating to drugs making a false claim; advertisement of magic remedies for treatment of certain diseases and disorders; import into, and export from, India of certain advertisements in violation to the provisions laid down under the said regulation;

Whereas the above regulation provides for below penalties for who so ever contravenes any of the provisions of the said Act :

- (a) in the case of the first conviction, with imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both;
- (b) in the case of a subsequent conviction, with imprisonment which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

Now, therefore, it is informed through the medium of this notice that if any person /entity who indulges in any activity related to misleading advertisement of magic remedies for treatment of the disease or disorder or condition covered under the Schedule /Regulation(sections 3(d) and 14)(i.e Appendicitis ,Arteriosclerosis, Blindness , Blood poisoning, Bright's disease. , Cancer , Cataract, Deafness, Diabetes , Diseases, disorders of the brain. Diseases and disorders of the optical system ,Diseases and disorders of the uterus , Disorders of menstrual flow, Disorders of the nervous system, , Disorders of the prostatic gland, Dropsy, Epilepsy, Female diseases (in general) , Fevers (in general). , Fits, Forms and structure of the female bust.,Gall stones, kidney stones and bladder stones, Gangrene , Glaucoma. , Goitre. , Heart diseases. , High or low blood pressure,. Hydrocele, Hysteria, Infantile paralysis, Insanity, Leprosy, Leucoderma, Lockjaw, Locomotor ataxia, Lupus. , Nervous debility, Obesity,. Paralysis, Plague. , Pleurisy, Pneumonia, Rheumatism., Ruptures., Sexual impotence, Smallpox, . Stature of persons,Sterility in women.,Trachoma, Tuberculosis, Tumours. , Typhoid fever, Ulcers of gastrointestinal tracts, Venereal diseases, including syphilis, gonorrhea, soft chancre, venereal granuloma and lympho granuloma) shall invite action as contemplated under the provisions laid down under the said regulation by the empowered authorities.

The public at large is requested to report any incidence which contravenes the provisions of the saidAct to the Controlling cumLicensing Authority @ controllerdrugsfoodjk@gmail.com,0191-2538527 for appropriate action against the offenders as per the legal provisions.

No :DFO/D-279/5503-5521 Date : 05.03.25

DIP/J-10802/24

-Sd-
State Drugs Controller,
Drugs & Food Control Organization,
J&K, Jammu

EDITORIAL

Strengthening National Language

Language is not just a medium of communication but also a powerful symbol of cultural identity, unity, and national pride. In India, Raj Bhasha (Official Language) holds a special place as a unifying force among the diverse linguistic landscape of the country. Hindi, designated as the Raj Bhasha of India under Article 343 of the Constitution, serves as a crucial bridge connecting people from different regions and backgrounds. Promoting Raj Bhasha is essential for national integration, administrative efficiency, and cultural preservation.

India is a multilingual country with 22 official languages recognized under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. However, Hindi, written in the Devanagari script, has been given the status of Raj Bhasha to ensure smooth communication across different states and government departments. The promotion of Raj Bhasha strengthens national unity by providing a common language for governance, education, and daily communication.

In a country where linguistic diversity sometimes creates barriers, Hindi plays a crucial role in bridging gaps. It fosters better coordination between the central government and states, facilitates effective administration, and enhances participation in governance. Moreover, promoting Raj Bhasha does not undermine regional languages but rather ensures that there is a common platform for communication while respecting linguistic diversity.

The Government of India has taken several steps to promote Raj Bhasha and encourage its widespread use in official and public domains. In the modern era, digital platforms and mass media have played a crucial role in the promotion of Raj Bhasha. Television channels, newspapers, radio programs, and social media platforms contribute significantly to the widespread use of Hindi.

The Hindi film industry (Bollywood) has had a profound influence on the growth and popularity of Hindi worldwide. Through movies, songs, and dialogues, Hindi reaches millions, fostering a sense of connection and pride.

With the rise of the internet, Hindi content has expanded exponentially. Websites, blogs, and YouTube channels in Hindi provide information, entertainment, and education to a vast audience.

Platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram allow users to communicate in Hindi, making it more relevant in daily life. Many government websites and mobile applications are now available in Hindi to encourage its use.

The publication of Hindi books, magazines, and newspapers continues to grow, providing a vast collection of knowledge in Raj Bhasha and preserving the linguistic heritage.

In higher education, business, and international communication, English remains the dominant language, often sidelining Hindi. Some regions strongly prefer their native languages, making the widespread acceptance of Raj Bhasha challenging. Many scientific, legal, and technical terms still rely heavily on English, requiring further development of Hindi terminology in these domains. Some sectors of society resist the mandatory use of Hindi due to historical, regional, or political reasons. While promoting Hindi, regional languages should also be encouraged, ensuring linguistic harmony. Efforts should be made to develop and popularize Hindi terminology for scientific, technical, and legal fields. Schools and universities should introduce innovative teaching methods to make learning Hindi more engaging and practical. Both government agencies and private enterprises should encourage Hindi use in official communication, advertisements, and customer services. More software, mobile applications, and websites should be developed in Hindi to make digital content more accessible to the masses.

Promoting Raj Bhasha is not just about language; it is about fostering national unity, cultural pride, and effective governance. While English continues to be important in global communication, Hindi serves as a strong foundation for internal communication within India. By embracing Raj Bhasha, India can strengthen its national identity while preserving its rich linguistic diversity.

It is the collective responsibility of the government, educational institutions, media, and citizens to ensure the continued growth and promotion of Raj Bhasha. With the right efforts, Hindi can flourish as a powerful language that unites and empowers the people of India.

Special for International Women’s Day (March 8, 2025)

By: Amarpal Singh Verma

Beyond Equality: the Battle for Public Urinals

In our country, women’s rights are often talked about. There is always a cry for women to have equal rights as men, but have we ever thought that let alone equality, even access to public toilets is a big struggle for women? Recently, it was surprising to know that an organization called Coro India has to run a ‘right to Pee’ campaign for women in Mumbai. Under this campaign, the establishment of free, clean and safe public urinals for women in the busiest areas of Mumbai is being advocated. From this, it is not difficult to understand that access to basic facilities for women in the country also remains a serious problem.

Urinals are easily available for men on roads, markets, bus stands and railway stations in small and big cities, but such facilities for women are either very few or are in very poor condition. In such a situation, women are forced to hold urine or go to unsafe and unhygienic places. The consequences of which they have to suffer in the form of urinary tract infection (UTI), kidney problems and other diseases.

Many times public toilets are in such an unsafe condi-

tion that women are afraid to go there. Defecating in public places in the open affects their dignity and self-respect.

Under Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty) and 15 (right to protection against gender discrimination) of the Constitution, it is the responsibility of the government to provide basic facilities to all citizens. Some time ago, the Rajasthan High Court has taken suo motu cognizance of the lack of toilets for women at workplaces and public places and the poor condition of the existing toilets and has sought a reply from the government. In its order, the court has said that women play the role of the backbone of a developing country. Women are facing many health problems due to the lack of toilets. The court said that women who go out of their homes look for toilets but they either do not find any toilet or it is not clean enough, due to which women hold back urine until they reach home. The High Court expressed concern that due to lack of toilets in the state, women drink less water and hold back urine, which can cause diseases.

The Chhattisgarh High Court has also taken suo motu cognizance of the lack of toilets in 150 government schools in Bilaspur district and the toilets not being usable in more than 200 schools and has sought a

reply from the government. The High Court noticed that due to the lack of toilets in schools, female teachers and girl students are affected as they have to go to the open field to urinate.

With the Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh High Court taking cognizance, it is clear that now this is not only a social problem but has also become a matter of legal rights, but the big question is when will this problem be solved? Will women have to raise their voice by running a campaign for the right to Pee everywhere on the lines of Mumbai?

The important campaign called ‘right to Pee’ launched by Coro India to solve the serious problem of women draws attention to this serious issue. This initiative is not limited to just ensuring the availability of special urinals for women, but it is a big step towards protecting the health, dignity and basic rights of women.

The facility of clean and safe urinals for women is not a privilege but a basic human right which they must get. This is not only an issue related to their health but also a question of equality, dignity and self-respect. The government, administration and society together will have to take serious initiatives on this subject so that women do not have to struggle to get such a basic right which is available to

men without any effort.

Hearing about this campaign of Coro India seems strange at first, but thinking about it makes one understand how serious this issue is and why it is important to discuss it? This campaign challenges the mindset of considering the lack of public urinals for women as a ‘normal situation’. Actually, this is a long-neglected problem of women, which needs a debate at the national level. The solution to any problem comes only by talking. If we have a wide discussion on this, then this demand of women will be raised strongly. There will be pressure on the government and administration and this will pave the way to work towards making the life of women more safe and convenient.

It is important that more clean and safe urinals be built for women at public places. There should be CCTV cameras at outside women’s toilets, proper lighting, sanitary napkin vending machines and regular cleaning. It is important that the government makes a clear policy on this subject and immediately takes steps like making women’s urinals compulsory in new building plans. It is a matter of shame for us to be forced to run a campaign like ‘right to Pee’ on the lines of right to education.

How can women be empowered in the era of ‘sex objectification’?

By: Dr. Satyawan ‘Saurabh’

In the social media sphere, girls are often sexualized more than boys. This platform has further amplified the long-standing expectations for young girls to adhere to specific sexual narratives. Such behavior reduces women to mere objects, stripping them of their individual identity. The way women are portrayed in advertisements and similar media is not only degrading but also undermines their true worth and dignity. A study has shown that girls are portrayed in a more sexualized way than boys, often seen wearing revealing clothing and adopting body language or facial expressions that indicate sexual availability. This objectification and sexualization of girls in the media has been linked to violence against women and girls globally. The impact of excessive sexualization on girls and women can lead to anxiety about their appearance, feelings of shame, eating disorders, low self-esteem, and depression.

Today, there is a growing trend of objectifying women in entertainment media. In Indian films, social media, music videos, and television, women are often depicted as mere sex objects. This phenomenon rep-

resents a significant harm to society, as it perpetuates harmful stereotypes. Many films and songs objectify the female form, following a predictable pattern. An entire generation has been influenced to believe that life is what is shown on screen. As a result, women are often objectified during “item dances” at village fairs, local theater, and various art forms, which are attended by men of all ages. Advertisements in newspapers, magazines, radio, television, the Internet, billboards, and flyers often portray women in a sexualized manner, with the aim of attracting female customers. In Indian society, there is a prevailing belief that women are naturally weak. Research on social media shows that girls are sexualized more often than boys, increasing the pressure on teenage girls to fit into typical sexual narratives. For example, there is a deodorant ad that depicts a woman as a ‘sex object,’ suggesting that she is attracted to a man simply because he uses that particular brand. This representation turns women into objects that do not have their own identity. Such portrayals in advertisements are not only degrading but also undermine the true status and dignity of women.

Cases of violence against women and girls are on the rise

in India, reflecting a disturbing mindset that seeks revenge against them. This trend reinforces harmful patriarchal stereotypes that exist in society. The phenomenon of “self-objectification” makes women experience negative emotions such as shame and anxiety, which can cause them permanent psychological damage. Unfortunately, mass media in India has largely failed to address issues affecting women or empower them to advocate for their rights and achieve equality. Instead, women often find themselves focused on conforming to ideal body images portrayed in the media, neglecting their own physical and mental well-being. The objectification of women in the media has a clearly harmful effect on society. To combat this, we need to increase social support and initiatives aimed at reducing the objectification of girls and women. It is important to establish and enforce laws that promote gender equality by eliminating discrimination against women. This includes promoting media awareness, encouraging parent and family involvement in media consumption, ensuring religious sensitivity, positive representation of girls in the media, teaching youth life skills, and advocating for egalitarian gender norms within comprehensive

sex education. Only through these efforts can we truly discuss women’s empowerment in an era marked by sexual objectification.

Recently, the ‘Boys Locker Room’ incident surfaced on social media, where pornographic images of underage girls were shared through leaked conversations from a certain group. It is important to recognize that this incident is not just an isolated incident of young boys promoting rape culture; rather, it reflects a deeper issue within our societal outlook. Over the past few years, there has been a rise in reports of cyberbullying and harassment. In view of this situation, we urgently need strong legislation that criminalizes cyber violence against women and girls. Without a dedicated law, the existing IT Act and IPC only serve as temporary measures, proving inadequate to deal with the scale of these issues. The IPC was established much before the digital age, and the IT Act was primarily created to promote e-commerce rather than address the unregulated online environment. Hence, creating a law that specifically targets cyber abuse, harassment, and violence against women will significantly contribute to turning the conversation towards safety and equality.

'One Nation, One Election' is a transformative reform: Sat Sharma

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 7: The 'One Nation, One Election' proposal of the union government under PM Narendra Modi is a transformative reform that aims to synchronize Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections across the country. This initiative is expected to bring political stability, reduce electoral expenses, and enhance governance efficiency.

Sat Sharma CA, President, Jammu and Kashmir BJP and the Chief Guest, said this while addressing a massive gathering of the senior functionaries of different social organizations of Ward Numbers 47 and 48 of Bahu assembly segment, in a programme organized by Bahu Fort Development Committee Trust (Regd.) at Bahu Fort, Jammu.

This programme was organized by Kr. Rajeev Charak, Chairman of the Committee and Vice Chairman Adv. Ishant Gupta and Vice president Haradesh Khokhar.

The programme aimed at highlighting the significance of holding elections at different levels at one time across the country.

Sat Sharma said that India, the world's largest democracy, holds elections frequently at different levels—Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. This continuous cycle of elections disrupts governance, increases administrative costs, and diverts resources from development work.

'One Nation, One Election' idea seeks to establish a synchronized electoral process to ensure better governance and economic progress.

Sat Sharma said that the frequent elections require significant financial and human resources. The Election Commission, security forces, and government machinery are mobilized repeatedly, leading to high expenditure. Holding elections simultaneously would drastically cut down costs.

Priya Sethi, NEM and former minister, said that a single election cycle would ensure better utilization of resources for national security and law enforcement. She said that a single election across the country will encourage higher voter participation, leading to a more representative democracy.



She said that our country is almost always in election mode. With 28 states, eight union territories and nearly a billion eligible voters, polls are a constant feature of the nation's political landscape. One Nation, One election would bring down campaign costs, ease the strain on administrative resources and streamline governance.

The key speaker, Rajeev Gupta CA, also Convenor, 'One Nation, One Election' campaign, said that a single election would prove to be a path to stability and development and the people should understand that

repeated elections are not healthy for a country with population of 140 crore people. He said that with elections taking place every few months, governments often hesitate to make bold policy decisions due to the fear of electoral backlash. A synchronized election cycle will allow leaders to focus on governance rather than being in continuous campaign mode.

Vivek Patyal, Vice President, Saryara Biradadi presented vote of thanks.

Ex-corporators Sharda Kumari and Hardeep Mankotia, Gorkha Biradadi President Karuna Chhetri, Shahi Masjid Committee Bahu Fort Vice President Shah Mohammed, Chairman Rameshwar Mandir, Bahu Fort Kuldeep Raj Gupta, Khajuria Biradadi Secretary Ankush Khajuria, Saryara Biradadi Vice President Vivek Patyal, Sunny Sangotra, Capt. Moti Lal, Savitri Devi, Bharti Sangotra, Subash Chander, Sumit Kumar and others were prominent among those who attended this programme.

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BJP welcomes River Cruise MOU between IWAI & JK-UT: GL Raina



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 7: River cruising in India may be a new concept, but it is gaining popularity particularly after Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off MV Ganga Vilas on the world's longest river cruise in 2023. It underscored the growing fascination with river cruises in India. River cruise is a unique way of travel to experience life surrounded by nature and exploring riverside towns and cities. Aware of the potential of River Cruises in further developing tourism sector in Jammu Kashmir, Bharatiya Janata Party welcomes signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and the J&K government to introduce luxurious river

cruise tourism in the region.

This ambitious project if executed without politics and narrow economic interest can establish Jammu Kashmir as a premier cruise destination for both domestic and international tourists. This was stated by Girdhari Lal Raina, former MLC & spokesperson, J&K BJP.

In a statement issued from Jammu, GL Raina appreciated the constant guidance and push from the union government to expand economy in diverse directions. He added that promotion of Jammu Kashmir as River Cruising destination will have other benefits for the people of UT also like rejuvenation of rivers and making them worth navigation once again.

He however cautioned against complacency by the UT government and highlighted the need to do the ground work in a manner to ensure seamless operation of cruise services.

GL Raina hoped that the UT government will to facilitate required land acquisition, clear all statutory necessities, and also extend desired co-operation to IWAI in completing their part of the obligation. Once project is completed the need to appoint cruise operators to oversee smooth operations across these iconic waterways will have to be ensured for nonexploitative experience of the tourists.

Daily-rated workers call on LG Brig Mishra



Top News Report

LEH, Mar 7: A delegation comprising daily-rated workers from Leh and Kargil led by Phuntsog Angchuk called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, and Director, Finance, Dr Safdar Ali, IRS, were present in the meeting.

Phuntsog Angchuk, representing 1900 daily-rated workers working in different departments of UT Administration, for whom benefits of consolidated guidelines on causal workers of DoPT was recently extended

and various benefits such as enhancement in salaries along with dearness allowances leaves among other benefits announced, expressed their gratitude for the LG's intervention in helping them achieve their long-pending demand.

He informed the LG that extending the benefits, particularly enhancing their salaries, would immensely help the families of all the 1900 employees.

The LG congratulated them and informed them about efforts being made by the Administration to extend benefits to left-out employees from the list of 1900 daily-rated workers who are

working in various government departments.

He stated that a committee has been constituted to include all the employees excluded from the list of 1900 daily-rated employees to look into their issues and to provide minimum wages to them to ensure that they don't face any inconvenience in their lives.

He also asked the daily-rated and casual employees to perform their duties diligently and help the citizens of Ladakh.

The LG also apprised the delegates of various welfare schemes introduced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi for the poor and needy, such as Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)-Urban and Grameen, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), etc.

He also informed them about steps taken by the Government of India for the representation of women through one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies, etc.

NHM Employees Association Kishtwar mourns demise of Abdul Aziz Ganai

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 7: The NHM Employees Association, Kishtwar, has expressed deep sorrow over the passing of Abdul Aziz Ganai, father of MMPHW Block Mandi Poonch, Raza Ganai. Aged 65, he breathed his last at his residence in Mandi, Poonch, after a prolonged illness.

Extending heartfelt condolences, the NHM

family stands in solidarity with Raza Ganai and his bereaved family during this difficult time. "We share their grief and offer our unwavering support," said the President of NHM Employees Association, Kishtwar.

The association prays for the departed soul's eternal peace and strength for the family to bear this irreparable loss.

"Modi government reduced unemployment in J&K"

Massive investments, fair employment policies boost economic growth: Raman Suri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 7: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Executive Member Raman Suri has lauded the BJP-led government at the Centre, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for its relentless efforts in reducing unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir.

He attributed this positive transformation to massive investments, transparent employment policies, and economic reforms that have revitalized various sectors.

Highlighting the findings of the latest Economic Survey Report, Suri emphasized that J&K is witnessing an era of unprecedented economic growth.

He noted that the unemployment rate, which stood at 6.7% in 2019-20, has now declined to 6.1% in 2023-24, demonstrating a significant improvement in job opportunities across the region.

"The government's policies have created an environment where both the private and government sectors are flourishing. The rise in the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) to 64.3% and the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) to 60.4% in 2023-24 is proof that employment opportunities are expanding," said Suri.

He further highlighted that 40,778 self-employment

ment units have been established, generating jobs for nearly 1.16 lakh youth, and that 35.28 lakh unorganized workers have been registered on the e-Shram portal in the current financial year.

Suri expressed his satisfaction over the fact that women and youth in J&K are now opting for self-employment instead of solely relying on government jobs. "The government's economic policies are empowering people, leading to a self-reliant society," he stated.

The BJP leader also praised the Union government for boosting the per capita income in J&K, which has now surpassed Rs 1.5 lakh, outpacing neighboring states such as Punjab, Delhi, and Himachal Pradesh. He further highlighted the remarkable progress in the agriculture sector, with food production growing by over 7%, signifying self-sufficiency in the region.

"The Modi government's vision for Viksit Bharat is clearly visible in Jammu and Kashmir. Be it education, healthcare, tourism, industry, or communication, every sector is witnessing remarkable growth. These efforts will continue to ensure a prosperous future for the people of J&K," Raman Suri said.

IIM Jammu hosts ISYEP and IIT Jammu E-SDP participants for educational visit



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 7: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, hosted participants from the Inter State Youth Exchange Program (ISYEP), organized under Nehru Yuva Sangathan, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Government of India, along with participants from the IIT Jammu Advanced Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (E-SDP) for an educational visit.

The initiative aimed to provide participants with insights into management education, career opportunities, and the entrepreneurial ecosystem at IIM Jammu.

The ISYEP participants represented five districts of Haryana—Mahendragarh, Rewari, Gurugram, Sonapat, and Jhajjar—bringing together a diverse group of young minds eager to explore opportunities in management education and entrepreneurship.

A total of 25 ISYEP participants in the first half, followed by 25 par

ticipants from IIT Jammu's E-SDP program, embarked on a comprehensive campus tour, beginning at the Grand Reception Area.

They explored key landmarks such as the Clock Tower, Courtyard, Nalanda Library, Smart Classrooms, Mandapam Auditorium, and the Vedanta MDP Block, gaining firsthand exposure to IIM Jammu's world-class infrastructure and academic excellence.

There was an interactive career counselling session, where participants received valuable insights into future career opportunities, admission pathways to IIMs and IITs, and strategic career planning.

The session witnessed enthusiastic engagement, with students actively participating and posing insightful questions about their aspirations and academic prospects.

A special session on Entrepreneurship offerings at DST iTBI IIM Jammu was conducted by Chief Innovation Officer, IIM Jammu for participants from the IIT Jammu Advanced

Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (E-SDP) and Chief Innovation Officer, Srinagar for the participants from the Inter State Youth Exchange Program (ISYEP), organized under Nehru Yuva Sangathan, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Government of India.

The session provided participants with key insights into the startup ecosystem, innovation, and entrepreneurship, encouraging them to explore opportunities in the evolving business landscape.

By engaging with young minds through such initiatives, IIM Jammu reaffirms its commitment to nurturing future leaders and entrepreneurs.

The institute continues to play a pivotal role in fostering skill development, innovation, and career aspirations among youth across India.

The visit was coordinated and executed by the PR team and the Centre for Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Skill Development, IIM Jammu.

Awareness Lecture on "Viksit Bharat" organized at GDC Thathri

Top News Report

THATHRI, Feb 7: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Thathri organized an awareness lecture on Viksit Bharat under the guidance of Principal Dr. Javed Iqbal.

The event aimed to educate students about India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047 and inspire them to contribute actively to nation-building.

The lecture highlighted the importance of education, innovation, sustainability, and social responsibility in achieving this ambitious goal.

Faculty members, NSS volunteers, and students participated



enthusiastically, engaging in meaningful discussions about the nation's growth trajectory.

The session covered key aspects of Viksit Bharat, including government policies, the role of youth in driving progress, and focus areas such as self-reliance, science and technology, environmental sustainability, and research.

An interactive segment allowed students to share their perspectives and seek guidance on career opportunities and government schemes.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the faculty, who appreciated the insightful discussions and encouraged students to play an active role in shaping a prosperous and self-reliant India by 2047.

SDM Paddar reviews progress of developmental works, essential supplies in Sub Division Paddar



Top News Report

PADDAR, Mar 7: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SMD) Paddar, Dr. Amit Kumar, conducted a series of meetings with all departments and public representatives today to assess the progress of developmental work and

ensure the availability of essential supplies in the aftermath of the recent snowfall.

During the meetings, it was confirmed that the Patheraki point is now safe for traffic movement from Paddar to Kishtwar. The concerned departments have been

instructed to be alert and promptly carry out restoration work, including ensuring water and electricity supplies, and restoring road connectivity immediately and report on daily basis.

Additionally, all ongoing schemes for the current financial year must be completed as per schedule. The SDM emphasized the importance of prioritizing the needs of the residents and ensuring their well-being in the wake of the recent snowfall.

Public at large has been requested to cooperate with the authorities and report any issues or concerns promptly.

Actor-singer Paresh Pahuja says acting has not eclipsed his musical innings

Enjoying his moment under the sun, talented actor-singer Paresh Pahuja is hitting just the right notes. Be it on the musical scene, where his songs Dooron Dooron and Botalaan are striking a chord with gen next, or his ace part as Mahi, a no holds barred fusion musician in Bandish Bandits Season 2, the new star on the block sure is climbing the popularity charts.

In Chandigarh to kick-start his nationwide tour, Paresh, however, is nowhere like the angst(y) Mahi. As gentle as his musical compositions, he has no hesitation in admitting that indeed Bandish Bandits 2, has given him the right push. And he is forever grateful to the director, Anand Tiwari, for the role, which has many shades and is so beautifully developed and equally ably etched by him.

Donning many hats No, he doesn't think Mahi has eclipsed his musical innings. Rather, since he plays a musician in the series, it made viewers not only notice him as an actor but also impelled them to discover his music. Any wonder Dooron...which he composed two years ago is suddenly a rage!

Between acting and music, he would not choose one over the other. If the Indian film industry is known for actor-singers like Kishore Kumar and now Diljit Dosanjh and Ayushmann Khurrana, in Hollywood he reminds, "Right from a Meryl Streep to a Ryan Gosling sing and act." He too has been acting for a while and made his debut in 2017 with Tiger Zinda Hai. If the big break in a dream production, no less than YRF (Yash Raj Films) was about being in the right place at the right time, it has also been



a roller coaster, yet challenging, ride since then.

If in Bandish Bandits 2 he mentors lead protagonist Radhe's band, one person who has mentored him is the successful filmmaker Ali Abbas Zafar. Seen in three of Zafar's directorial ventures, including Tandav and Jogi, apart from Tiger Zinda Hai, in moments of doubt and uncertainty, Paresh always turns to him for advice. He avers, "If you are surrounded by the right kind of storytellers, the energy you receive is very vital." Having rubbed shoulders with the likes of Pankaj Tripathi and Salman Khan, he has learnt another important lesson on 'how not to hold, rather give back'.

Special connect with Punjab One of the reasons why he began his tour from Chandigarh is he found so much love and support from this part of

the country. A Sindhi by birth, he has this special connect with Punjab and Punjabi, 'a beautiful language with even more beautiful sound', and also courtesy his friend and lyricist Shiv Tandan. If Paresh's songs have a fair smattering of Punjabi words, they are infused with Sufi mystic Bulle Shah's poetry too. And one Bulle Shah couplet he lives by is Zeher vekh ke peeta te ki peeta, Ishq soch ke keeta te ki keeta, Dil de ke dil lain di aas rakhi, Pyar eho jeha keeta te ki keeta. (If you drink poison with premeditation or love before thinking, it is of no use. If you give your heart with expectations of reciprocation, it's no love at all.)

Interestingly, the name of his concert Voice Notes too stems from a love story of sorts; his love for voice, 'which has a certain truth and authenticity that

can't be replicated and is as unique as your finger prints'. Besides, he is very much a 'voice notes person' and invariably communicates with his friends, family, music collaborators and more through them. If for him, 'all love stories are personal and universal at the same time', he also professes, 'every art form must have that emotional truth'. In Bandish Bandits, he might have famously uttered the lines, 'There is music for the soul and there is music for the kitchen', he believes, 'Music is all soul'.

Confident take

As the scene of independent music is right now thriving 'thanks to digital distribution and collaborations across the world easily possible' as well as teaming with more and more talent, competition does not bother him. "There are 8 billion people on this planet. If you make your music dil se, it will cut through and find its listeners," he says.

Ki main karaan ke main aavan nazar tenu (what should I do so you can see me)... right now the artiste in him is certainly more than visible to many art enthusiasts!

Classical music must reach more audiences

As Mahi in Bandish Bandits Season 2, Paresh Pahuja utters many home truths on fusion music, gharanas, making classical music accessible and more.

For someone not trained in classical parampara, he would not like to make any grand statements except that classical music must reach more and more audiences. Learning sitar especially for the part was no mean task. But for him, the beauty of every new part is the new learning that comes along.

Nora Fatehi to feature as a rapper in the film Be Happy



The makers of Be Happy unveiled the first track of Sultana, sung by Sunidhi Chauhan and Mika Singh, along with a powerful rap by Nora Fatehi, who says it is the right move in her musical career.

About rapping and performing in the music video, Nora said, "This song is pure fire! After the success of my international single Snake, it's the right move in my musical career to feature as a rapper on the

new track Sultana."

Nora loves pushing boundaries. "And getting to rap on this track was an incredibly exciting experience. It exudes fierce, confident energy — the kind that makes you want to be unapologetically you! The kind that makes you want to own your femininity while burning the dance floor. That's exactly the vibe we brought to the music video as well."

"With my initiative

#DanceWithNora, I've always encouraged people to be confident and express themselves through dance."

Sultana is composed by Harsh Upadhyay, with lyrics by Pranav Vatsa, Harsh Upadhyay and Sukriti Bhardwaj. Reflecting on the song, Sunidhi Chauhan shared that there are songs that make you tap your feet, and then there are songs that make you want to get up and dance like no one's watching. "This one is definitely the latter! The moment I heard the track, I knew it had that perfect blend of attitude, groove and infectious energy. Recording it was an absolute blast," she said.

Mika Singh tagged the track as a total banger. "The beats hit hard, the vocals bring insane power, and the energy is simply contagious. It's got that perfect mix of desi swag and groove—one that makes you want to dance the moment it starts playing."

Be Happy stars Abhishek Bachchan, Nora Fatehi and Inayat Verma, with Nassar, Johnny Lever and Harleen Sethi in pivotal roles. Produced under the banner of Remo D'Souza Entertainment by Lizelle Remo D'Souza and directed by Remo D'Souza, Be Happy will stream on Prime Video on March 14.

Never compromised on my ethics to make it big, says Kritika Kamra

Actress Kritika Kamra has opened up about the philosophy that has followed through her journey in the world of acting and said she has never sold her soul or compromised her ethics to make it big. "I have always believed that staying true to myself is the key to long-term success," said Kritika. "I never sold my soul or compromised my ethics to make it big. For me, the journey has always been about being proud of the choices I make."

It's not just about fame for Kritika. "It's not just about the fame or the spotlight; it's about being able to sleep peacefully at night knowing I haven't betrayed my values. That's what keeps me grounded, no matter how challenging or glamorous the industry might be. I don't want to chase trends or conform to the pressures of the industry. I want



my body of work to reflect my beliefs, my taste, and my growth. The roles I pick are an extension of who I am.

For me, it's about telling stories that resonate with people and leave a lasting impression," she added.

“You can’t stop falling in love with the people and the place”, says Neha

Bollywood actress Neha Sharma took to social media to share her love for Punjab, describing her shooting experience in the state as something truly unique.

In a heartfelt post, she mentioned that shooting in Punjab hits her differently, and therefore she can't stop falling in love with the people and place. Sharing her video, Neha wrote, "Shooting in Punjab hits different. you can't stop falling in love with the people and the place... #sanjog."

In the video, the 'Youngistaan' actress is seen sipping a tea as she says, "When you are a coffee person, but when you are in Punjab, you are a tea person. Cheers."

Neha has been making the most of her time in



Punjab, not only shooting for her upcoming film "Sanjog" but also immersing herself in the local culture. The video also showed the actress making rotis and posing in the picturesque fields of Punjab. Sharma is seen striking a pose amid the lush green fields.

"Sanjog," directed by Harish Gargi, will see Neha alongside Bollywood actors Jassi Gill, Happy Raikoti, and many other known faces.

The 'Crook' actress had earlier featured in the Punjabi film "Ik Sandhu Hunda Si." Directed by Rakesh Mehta, the action thriller, starred Gippy Grewal and Vikramjeet Virk.

Additionally, the actress will star in the highly anticipated Hindi drama "De De Pyaar

De 2," the sequel to the 2019 hit film "De De Pyaar De." Helmed by Anshul Sharma, the film brings back the beloved cast with Ajay Devgn, Rakul Preet Singh, and R. Madhavan in key roles.

Rakul will reprise her character of Ayesha Khurana, while Ajay returns as Ashish Mehra. R. Madhavan will play the role of Ayesha's father, Dev Khurana.

Alongside the lead trio, the film will feature an ensemble cast, including Tabu, Jimmy Shergill, Alok Nath, and Inayat Sood in significant roles.

Neha, who made her film debut in 2007 with a Telugu movie, has appeared in Hindi films including "Kyaa Super Kool Hain Hum," "Yamla Pagla Deewana 2," and "Tanhaji."

Richa and Ali announce the second edition of Undercurrent Lab 2025, a platform to empower women in cinema

Ahead of Women's Day, Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal have announced the second edition of Undercurrent Lab 2025 to empower more women in cinema. The initial workshop was a first-of-its-kind, hands-on training programme that selected 10 talented women through a rigorous interview process to master the art of lighting for cinema.

Over the week-long crash course, these women received direct mentorship from experienced cinematographers, gaining invaluable on-field experience

by working as trainees on active film sets.

Richa shared, "The success of the first edition of Undercurrent Lab has been nothing short of inspiring. We witnessed incredible talent and passion as these women not only learned the technical intricacies of lighting but also embraced the creative spirit of cinema."

"Their achievements, especially with some joining the nearly all-women crew of Girls Will Be Girls, affirm our commitment to nurturing female talent in every facet of filmmaking."



With Undercurrent Lab 2025, Richa said they

were taking a bold step forward. "We are intro-

ducing a new department that will offer comprehensive training in various aspects of film production, ensuring that more women get the chance to break into this competitive industry."

"This initiative is about creating opportunities, building confidence, and providing a platform for aspiring women professionals to thrive. I am incredibly excited about this next chapter and I believe it will be a catalyst for more inclusive and innovative storytelling in cinema."

Abhishek Bachchan nominated for Best Actor at the 7th edition of the Critics' Choice Awards



Actor Abhishek Bachchan, who has been nominated for Best Actor for I Want To Talk

at the 7th edition of the Critics' Choice Awards, has described the film as an 'incredibly special

journey'.

Abhishek shared, "I am truly honoured to be nominated for Best Actor for I Want To Talk by the Film Critics Guild. To have my performance recognised by such a respected panel of critics means a great deal to me. My gratitude to the Film Critics Guild for this recognition."

Konkona Sen Sharma, who has been nominated for Best Actress for Killer Soup, shared, "It is always an honour and to be nominated."

Benefits of development should reach disadvantaged and marginalised: Murmu

NEW DELHI, Mar 7 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Friday said the benefits of development should reach all sections of society, especially the disadvantaged and marginalised.

Addressing a group of state civil services officers who called on her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here, Murmu also urged them to uphold the principles of sustainability and inclusiveness in their functioning.

The President advised the officers to adopt a national and inclusive approach in administrative functioning and implementation of government policies and programmes.

She said the essence of governance lies in responsiveness and sensitivity towards



the needs of the people.

"At the same time, the benefits of development should reach all sections of society, especially the disadvantaged and marginalised," she said.

The officers are attending the 126th induction training programme at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

The President congratulated the officers on their promotion and induction into the Indian Administrative Service and said that they should inspire

and lead by example in their new role, motivating those around them to strive for excellence in public service.

A citizen-centric administration prioritises the welfare of people, focusing on the poor and deprived, she said.

Murmu advised them to ensure that policies and programmes are implemented in a way that addresses people's concerns effectively.

She said that the decisions that they take and the policies they implement should contribute to the development of the country and the people.

The President said when the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation are tackled, it is essential to promote eco-friendly initiatives.

PM Modi dedicates 'Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados' award to 1.4 billion Indians



NEW DELHI, Mar 7 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday expressed gratitude to the government and people of Barbados for conferring him with the 'Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados' award. He dedicated the award to 1.4 billion Indians and the close ties between India and Barbados.

The award was conferred on the prime minister by the Barbados government for his exemplary work during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed his gratitude to the Government and the people of Barbados for the 'Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados' Award. Modi has dedicated this honour to the 1.4 billion Indians and to the close relations between India and Barbados."

In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Grateful to the Government and the people of Barbados for this honour."

He made the statement on X in response to a post shared by Union Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita on Thursday, where he mentioned that he received 'Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados' award on behalf of PM Modi from Barbados President Dame Sandra Mason.

Adityanath lauds Janaushadi initiative for ensuring healthcare security for common people

LUCKNOW, Mar 7 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday hailed the 'Janaushadhi' initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as one further strengthening the resolve of 'Swasth Bharat, Samarth Bharat'.

He took to social media platforms to hail the affordable healthcare initiative for generic drugs on the 'Janaushadhi Diwas', celebrated on March 7.

"Heartfelt greetings to the people of the state on the transformative initiative 'Jan Aushadhi Diwas,' which aims to provide affordable, high-quality, and accessible medicines to the public!" the CM said.

"Under the leadership



of the esteemed Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the establishment of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janau-shadhi Pariyojana is further strengthening the resolve of 'Swasth Bharat, Samarth Bharat' (Healthy India, Capable India)," Adityanath said.

"These centres provide life-saving and other essential medicines at prices lower

Amit Shah targets Stalin on language issue, asks CM to impart med, engg education in Tamil

RANIPET, Mar 7 (Agencies): Amid the language row in Tamil Nadu involving the ruling DMK and the BJP-led Centre, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday asked Chief Minister M K Stalin to impart engineering and medical education in Tamil in the state and also paid rich tributes to the Tamil language.

Targeting the chief minister on the language issue, especially given Stalin's opposition to 'imposition' of Hindi, Shah said the Narendra Modi government has effected changes and now ensured that the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) aspirants could write the exam in their respective regional languages.

"Now the PM Narendra Modi government has ensured that the exam



can be written in Tamil too," the home minister said, speaking at the 56th Raising Day of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at RTC Thakkolam in this district, about 70 km from Chennai.

He further said, "I appeal to the Tamil Nadu chief minister to start the engineering and medical education in Tamil in the state for the benefit of students." Shah's comments targeted at the

CM come in the wake of an intense language row in the state, where the ruling DMK has been claiming the imposition of Hindi through the National Education Policy (NEP 2020), a charge which the Centre has denied. The state government has maintained it will only follow the 2-language policy, i.e. Tamil and English.

Further, praising Tamil Nadu, Shah said the southern state's culture played a vital role in strengthening India's cultural stream.

"Be it administrative reforms, attaining spiritual heights, education or the unity and integrity of the nation, Tamil Nadu has reinforced Indian culture in every sphere," Shah said at the event, which was marked by a spectacular march-past of contingents, yoga display and commando operations.

The Tamil language, culture, and traditions are priceless jewels of India's heritage, which the entire nation proudly embraces today, Shah said.

Further, it was a matter of pride that the CISF Thakkolam Training Center, the Rajadithya Chozhan RTC has been named in honor of the great warrior and valiant Tamil king of the Chola

dynasty, Aditya Chola.

King Aditya Chola carved tales of bravery and sacrifice on this very land of Tamil Nadu and attained martyrdom, further strengthening the glorious traditions of the Chola empire, he said.

Talking about CISF, he said the force' contribution is very important in achieving Prime Minister Modi's resolve of making India the third largest economy of the world and also a developed nation by 2047.

"Whether it is the industrial development of the country, business or research institutes, their security cannot be imagined without CISF soldiers. It is the result of CISF's unwavering loyalty and dedication that today the country is moving ahead safely in all these areas," Shah said.

PM Modi only interested in 'tareef' not tariffs, must stand up to US threats: Ramesh

NEW DELHI, Mar 7 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi is only interested in 'tareef' and not concerned with tariffs, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on Friday and wondered where is the PM's "56 inch chest" in dealing with US threats on the the reciprocal tariff issue.

In an interview with PTI, Ramesh said the Congress will raise the issue of US President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariff threats during the upcoming second half of the Budget session and called for a bipartisan collective resolve to deal with the threats.

The Congress leader also alleged that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has been speaking like an American envoy and a spokesperson for that country.

"Our prime minister wants to hear only 'tareef (praise)', he is not concerned about tariffs. 'Tareef kum, aur tariff pe baat kijiye (talk about the tariffs issue and less about your praise)," Ramesh said.

He said Trump is redoing the entire rules of international trade and asserted that the US President's whole idea of reciprocal tariffs is "bizarre".

"We have negoti-

ated a tariff schedule. About 170 countries have negotiated a trade agreement which became the World Trade Organisation in 1995. It took about 10 years to negotiate. Now, Mr Trump comes up with his own bizarre notion of what constitutes international trade," Ramesh said.

"You tariff, I tariff", that is not the way international trade functions. These rules have been negotiated. The WTO is World Trade Organisation not World Trump Organisation," he said.

Hitting out at the government over the manner in which illegal Indian immigrants were deported from the US, Ramesh said even small countries are raising their voice but the prime minister stays mum.

"He should speak frankly... Trump is threatening a country like India. The prime minister talks about having a '56-inch chest', where is his '56-inch chest' now. Remember what Indira Gandhi had told President (Richard) Nixon in November 1971. President Nixon and Henry Kissinger had tried to defame India but Indira Gandhi stood up and said 'I will do what is in the interest of India'," Ramesh recalled.

"It is a question of



India's interest. But our PM is doing 'Namaste Trump', 'my good friend Trump', he is busy hugging him. So this question (on tariffs) will be raised (in Parliament). We have raised the issue of Indian citizens," he said.

The manner in which President Trump is targeting India it is a "serious issue" and a matter of our sovereignty, Ramesh asserted.

He further claimed that the prime minister doesn't break his silence in Parliament and sends External Affairs minister "who is like a spokesperson of the US".

"The US does not have an ambassador and the external affairs minister talks like a US envoy," Ramesh said.

He asserted that there is a need to show a collective resolve to the US threats on reciprocal tariffs.

Slamming the government, the Congress leader said it never calls an all-party meeting and when it does, the exter-

nal affairs minister and home minister just give a sermon.

"In the first half of the Budget session, we raised the issue of the humiliating and demeaning manner in which the Indian citizens were deported from the US, handcuffed and chained," Ramesh said.

"Many of these migrants were from Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat and even the migrants from Gujarat were asked to land in Amritsar, to score a political point. We raised the issue of the manner of deportation very forcefully," he said.

The first half of the Budget Session was held from January 31 to February 13. The second half starts on Monday and will conclude on April 4.

Trump has repeatedly talked about India's tariffs recently. In his address to the joint session of Congress on Tuesday, the first of his second term in the White House, Trump criticised

Up man kills mother with spear after she intervenes in his fight with wife

SHAHJAHANPUR, Mar 7 (Agencies): A 25-year old man allegedly killed his mother with a spear when she intervened in a fight between him and his wife here, police said on Friday. He has been arrested.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Rajesh S told agency that the incident took place in Ganpatpur village under Nigohi police station limits on Thursday evening.

"Vinod Kumar, who often got into fights at home after consuming alcohol, was beating his wife on Thursday

evening. When his mother Naina Devi (60) intervened, he attacked her with a spear, leading to her death," the SP said.

After receiving information about the incident, police reached the spot, took custody of the body and arrested the accused, the officer said.

A case of murder has been registered in the matter and the body has been sent for post-mortem examination, police said.

In another incident, the body of a 55-year-old man, who was identified as Asaram, was found

lying on the roadside outside Kajjar Bojhi village in the Jalalabad police station area late Thursday night, police said.

"The man was shot dead," Superintendent of Police (Rural) Manoj Kumar Awasthi said.

According to the investigation and the victim's family, two men -- Sumer and Kallu -- went to Asaram's house and took him with them on the pretext of smoking and then shot him on the road, the SP said.

The accused have been booked for murder and the body has been sent for post-mortem, police said.

IFS officer jumps from building in Delhi's Chanakyapuri



NEW DELHI, Mar 7 (Agencies): An Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer allegedly died by suicide by jumping off a

building in Chanakyapuri area of the national capital, a senior police officer said here on Friday.

Jitendra Rawat was under depression and receiving treatment.

According to the police, no suicide note was found at the place. "Our teams are at the spot and probing the matter. Prime facie, no foul play is suspected," the officer said.

Forensic teams are scanning the flat from where the IFS officer jumped off the balcony.

Trump delays tariffs on Mexico and Canada, says “big one” on April 2

Explaining the modifications, Trump said, ‘During this interim period, between now and April 2nd, this makes it much more favourable for our American car manufacturers.’

WASHINGTON DC, Mar 7 (Agencies): President Donald Trump delayed tariffs on Mexico and Canada for a short-term period for certain products before the “big one” from April 2. He said he agreed after having “fruitful conversations” with Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum while he slammed Canada for being a “high tariff nation”.

As per an official, the modifications in tariffs against Canada and Mexico are being brought in to “protect American car manufacturers and American farmers”.

It was noted that this will thus exclude the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)-eligible goods from existing tariffs. As per CNN, the USMCA was negotiated by Trump during his first term, which makes the three North American countries a free trade zone.

Explaining the modifications, Trump said, “During this interim period, between now and April 2nd, this makes it much more favourable for our American car manufacturers.”

Speaking about his conver-



sation with the President of Mexico, Claudia Sheinbaum, he said, “I spoke to the president of Mexico, a wonderful woman, today, and we helped them out with a problem they were having to do with the short-term tariffs. We had a very good conversation. Also, we discussed drugs, and they’ve been working much harder lately. We’ve made tremendous progress on both.”

Trump also shared the details of the conversation in a post on Truth Social.

He wrote, “After speaking with President Claudia Sheinbaum of Mexico, I have agreed that Mexico will not be required to pay Tariffs on anything that falls

under the USMCA Agreement. This Agreement is until April 2nd. I did this as an accommodation, and out of respect for, President Sheinbaum. Our relationship has been a very good one, and we are working hard, together, on the Border, both in terms of stopping Illegal Aliens from entering the United States and, likewise, stopping Fentanyl. Thank you to President Sheinbaum for your hard work and cooperation!”

Speaking about tariffs and Canada, Trump added, “Those are happening next week, and the big one will be on April 2nd. Canada is a high-tariff nation. Canada charges us 250 per

cent for our milk products and other products and a tremendous tariff on lumber and things as such. We don’t need their lumber. We have more lumber than they do. We don’t need Canada’s lumber. So what I’m doing is I’ll be signing an executive order freeing up our forests so that we’re allowed to take down trees and make a lot of money and then re-harvest trees...We don’t need trees from Canada. We don’t need cars from Canada. We don’t need energy from Canada. We don’t need anything from Canada... We can be self-sustaining, which is in most things... I’m going to be freeing that up very shortly so that we don’t have to go to other countries to buy lumber. You know, why should we be buying lumber from other countries? Paying tariffs, paying big prices, extraordinary prices. And we have lumber. We have the best lumber...”

President Donald Trump had accused Justin Trudeau of “using the tariff problem” with the US to run again for Prime Minister despite the “terrible job he has done for Canada.”

Court orders South Korean President Yoon released from jail for his criminal trial over martial law



SEOUL, Mar 7 (Agencies): A South Korean court on Friday ordered impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol to be released from jail, more than a month after he was arrested and indicted over his short-lived imposition of martial law.

The decision by the Seoul Central District Court would allow Yoon to stand his criminal trial while not being physically detained.

The hearings in his impeachment trial concluded in late February and the court is expected to rule soon on whether to uphold his impeachment

or remove him from office.

The Seoul Central District Court said it accepted Yoon’s request to be released from jail because the legal period of his formal arrest expired before he was indicted in late January. The court said the investigative agency that detained Yoon before his formal arrest didn’t have legal rights to investigate the criminal rebellion charges.

Investigators have alleged that the martial-law decree amounted to rebellion. If he’s convicted of that offense, he would face

the death penalty or life imprisonment.

Yoon’s martial law decree, which involved the dispatch of troops to the National Assembly, evoked traumatic memories of past military rules among many South Koreans.

The decree lasted only six hours as enough lawmakers managed to get into an assembly hall and voted to overturn it unanimously.

Yoon later argued his decree was only meant to inform the people of the danger of the main liberal opposition Democratic Party, which undermined his agenda and impeached top officials.

If the Constitutional Court upholds Yoon’s impeachment, he will be officially thrown out of office and a national election will be held to choose his successor within two months.

Over 70 killed in Syria clashes, worst since Bashar al-Assad’s ouster: Report

DAMASCUS, Mar 7 (Agencies): More than 70 people were killed, and several others injured after forces loyal to ousted Syrian President Bashar al-Assad clashed with government personnel in country’s coastal region. According to a UK-based war monitor, this is the worst violence in Syria since the autocratic former leader was ousted by rebels in December 2024 and the subsequent installation of an Islamist transitional government.

In an official statement on Friday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said, “More than 70 dead, dozens wounded and captured in bloody clashes and ambushes on the Syrian coast between members of the Ministries of Defence and Interior and gunmen from the army of the defunct regime.”

According to the war monitor, the victims comprised 35 government personnel, 32 Assad loyalists and four civilians.

The SOHR also confirmed that a curfew has been imposed in the port cities of Latakia, Tartous and Homs, where the deadly clashes broke out on Thursday after government forces were ambushed during



a security operation in the region.

The militants took control of military areas, especially the Istamo and Qardaha airports, and fortified themselves in the Latakia mountains, which they used as a launching pad for their operations against the Damascus forces. The Defence and Interior Ministries have sent reinforcements to Latakia,” the statement added.

Syria’s coastal region is known to be a stronghold of the Alawite minority community, to which the Assad family belongs.

In the wake of the violence, Colonel Hassan Abdul Ghani, a Defence Ministry spokesperson, issued a warning to the Assad loyalists and said, “Thousands have chosen to surrender their weapons and return to their families, while some insist on fleeing and dying in defence of murderers and criminals.”

“The choice is clear:

lay down your weapons or face your inevitable fate,” he added.

The ouster of Bashar al-Assad’s government marked the end of a nearly 54-year dynastic regime that began in 1971 under his father, Hafez al-Assad.

Bashar al-Assad assumed power in 2000 following his father’s death and struggled for 13 years to maintain control during a brutal civil war that devastated the nation.

The decade-long war has had a devastating human toll, with rights groups accusing the Syrian government of operating detention centres where torture and extrajudicial killings were widespread.

Nearly half a million people have been killed, and half of Syria’s pre-war population of 23 million has been displaced. Millions fled to neighbouring countries like Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, and Lebanon, with many seeking refuge in Europe.

Chinese Foreign Minister expresses China’s readiness to work with India on advancing ties

SEOUL, Mar 7 (Agencies): Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has expressed China’s readiness to work with India to sum up past experience, forge a path forward and advance bilateral ties on the track of sound and stable development. He noted that India and China mark 75 years of diplomatic ties this year.

While addressing a press conference on Friday, Wang Yi said, “This year marks the 75th anniversary of China-India diplomatic relations. China stands ready to work with India to sum up past experience, forge a path forward, and advance China-India relations on the track of sound and stable development.”

He noted that the ties between India and China have made positive strides over the past year and recalled the meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Russia’s Kazan in October last year.

He said, “China-India relations have made positive strides over the past year. The successful meeting between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kazan last October provided strategic guidance for



the improvement and development of the bilateral ties. Both sides have earnestly followed through on the important common understandings of our leaders, strengthened exchanges and practical cooperation at all levels, and achieved a series of positive outcomes.”

Calling India and China “each other’s largest neighbours”, Wang Yi stated, “Wang Yi said, China and India are each other’s largest neighbors. China always believes that the two should be partners that contribute to each other’s success. A cooperative pas de deux of the dragon and the elephant is the only right choice for both sides.”

He stated that China and India have a shared task to accelerate the development and revitalization of the two nations and stressed that there is every reason that two nations support each other.

“As the two largest developing countries,

China and India have a shared task to accelerate our countries’ development and revitalization. There is every reason for us to support each other rather than undercut each other, work with each other rather than guard against each other. This is the path that truly serves the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples,” Wang Yi said.

He noted that India and China have enough wisdom to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas pending a fair and reasonable solution. Calling India and China “important members” of the Global South, Wang said that the two nations have responsibility to take lead in opposing “hegemonism and power politics.”

Wang Yi said, “As two ancient civilizations, we have enough wisdom and capability to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas pending a fair and

reasonable solution. We should never allow bilateral relations to be defined by the boundary question, or let specific differences affect the overall picture of our bilateral ties.”

“As important members of the Global South, we have the responsibility to take the lead in opposing hegemonism and power politics. We must not only safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of our countries, but also uphold the basic norms governing international relations. When China and India join hands, the prospects for greater democracy in international relations and a stronger Global South will improve greatly,” he added.

Earlier on February 21, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Friday expressed satisfaction over meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa.

“I am glad that we could meet today on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Johannesburg. Such gatherings have provided an opportunity for our interaction even when our ties were going through a difficult phase,” EAM said in his opening remarks during

a meeting with Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi.

Jaishankar expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to engage in dialogue, highlighting the importance of international cooperation in a polarised global landscape. He acknowledged the efforts made by both countries to preserve the G20 as a vital institution, demonstrating their commitment to collaborative governance.

“We should also recognize that in a polarised global situation, our two countries have worked hard to preserve and protect the G20 as an institution. This in itself testifies to the importance of international cooperation,” he added.

This meeting marked a crucial step in strengthening India-China relations, which have experienced a challenging phase in recent times. Since their last meeting in Rio during the G20 Summit in November 2024, there have been notable developments in India - China relations.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri have visited China and engaged in discussions on various aspects of their relationship, including border management and other key areas.

Boy with loaded shotgun boards plane in Australia, is tackled by former boxer

MELBOURNE, Mar 7 (Agencies): A 17-year-old boy with a loaded shotgun boarded a plane at an Australian airport before being restrained by a pilot and two passengers, police said on Friday.

The boy was disarmed and detained before police arrived on the scene on Thursday at Avalon Airport in Victoria state.

Barry Clark, a passenger who tackled the suspect, said the boy had posed as a maintenance

worker and became agitated when questioned by a flight attendant at the plane’s entrance.

“I looked up and then within a second I saw the barrel of a shotgun and I thought to myself that ain’t a tool that should be on a plane,” Clark told Network 10 television.

“When I saw the complete gun I said: we’re in trouble here,” Clark said.

“Then I saw it (move) towards her chest and so I thought, well, I’ve got to do something —

this is all happening in a matter of seconds,” Clark added.

Passenger takes on suspect

Clark, a former professional boxer and sheep shearer, said he snuck up behind the boy then pushed the gun and the flight attendant away in different directions so that she would not be hit if the gun discharged.

“I then proceeded to do what I had to do and just put him in a bit of a lock, got his hand and twisted it and put it up

in his back, threw him to the floor and then put my knee in his back and held him in a position where he couldn’t get out,” Clark said.

Victoria Police Superintendent Michael Reid told reporters the boy from Ballarat in regional Victoria had climbed through a hole in the airport’s security fence before making his way to the plane’s stairs.

Reid credited Clark, the pilot and another passenger with restraining the boy.

“This would have been a very terrifying incident for the passengers of that plane and Victoria Police really commend the bravery of those passengers who were able to overpower that male,” Reid said.

Sydney-bound Jetstar Airways Flight 610 was carrying about 150 people and no one was hurt, police said. The flight was cancelled.

Counter-terrorism police not involved in investigation

An investigation was

being carried out by crime squad detectives with no involvement from the police force’s counter-terrorism unit.

The boy has been charged with multiple offences including unlawfully taking control of an aircraft, orchestrating a bomb hoax and possessing a firearm, a police statement said. He was remanded in custody to appear in a children’s court on a date to be determined.

Prime Minister Anthony

Albanese said Australian airports had robust security.

“This incident is concerning for members of the public. I commend the work of police and aviation officials in responding to it quickly,” Albanese told reporters.

Avalon Airport’s chief executive Ari Suss said his organisation was working with Victoria Police in response to the emergency.

“As part of our ongoing commitment to security,

we have implemented further measures across the airport, including within the terminal and surrounding areas,” Suss said in a statement.

“We continue to work closely with authorities to maintain a safe and secure environment for all travellers,” he added.

Jetstar, a budget subsidiary of Sydney-based Qantas Airways, said it was working with police and the airport to understand what happened.

HDFC Bank, Army & CSC Academy expand Project NAMAN to 26 new locations to support Army Veterans, their families

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 7: HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector Bank, India Army and CSC e-Governance have renewed the MoU to expand Project NAMAN – A Tribute to Veterans to 26 Directorate of Indian Army Veterans (DIAV) locations. Project NAMAN is designed to provide support and services to Army Veterans, their families and next of kins.

These CSC Centres, which will be operated

by Army Veterans or their families or next of kins are dedicated to offer pension related services, Government to Citizen (G2C) services and Business to Consumer (B2C) services at their doorsteps within defence establishments itself.

A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was renewed between HDFC Bank Limited (under Parivartan programme), Indian Army's Directorate of Indian Army Veterans (DIAV) and CSC Acad-

emy.

The MoU was signed by Satyen Modi, Executive Vice President and Business Head, Alternate Banking Channels & Partnerships - HDFC Bank, Pravin Chandekar, CEO-CSC Academy and Brigadier, Directorate of Indian Army Veterans in the presence of Smita Bhagat, Group Head – HDFC Bank, Sanjay Rakesh, Chairman – CSC Academy, Lieutenant General, DG (DC&W) - Indian Army and esteemed dignitaries from the Indian

Army, HDFC Bank and other senior officials.

In the second phase, the project will be expanded to 26 DIAV locations across Rajasthan, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya, Bihar, Odisha and New Delhi. The first phase of the project was flagged off in September 2023 with the establishment of Common Service Centres (CSCs) at 14 DIAV locations.

HDFC Bank under its Parivartan programme, supports in building economic inclusiveness for defence service veterans and their next of kin. Similar to the 14 DIAV locations, the new centres will also provide skill development and training across financial products and services, helping the veterans and their next of kin to be financially independent. The individuals managing the CSCs will be paid a monthly monetary grant for initial 12 months.

CLUJ unveils Honour Board of Vice Chancellors, Registrars



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 7: Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) unveiled the Honour Board of Vice Chancellors and Registrars who have served the University, in a ceremony held today.

The Honour Board recognizes the significant contributions of these distinguished individuals in the growth and development of the

institution.

The unveiling ceremony was graced by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu, who did the honours along with Prof. Anju Bhasin, former Vice Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu, and Dr. Jatinder Khajuria, former Registrar of Cluster University of Jammu.

They were joined by Prof. K S Chandrasekar,

the current Vice Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu.

The occasion was attended by Ankur Mahajan, Registrar, along with various Deans of Cluster University and Principals of the Constituent Colleges.

The function highlighted the pivotal role played by the Vice Chancellors and Registrars in shaping the University's journey and legacy.

The Honour Board will stand as a testament to the leadership and commitment of these esteemed individuals who have dedicated their efforts.

Blood Donation Camp for Thalassemia patients organised at SMVDU

Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 7: NCC and NSS units of SMVDU, Katra, in collaboration with the J&K Thalassemia Welfare Society, organized a blood donation camp at the SMVDU campus.

This event united community members in support of a life-saving cause.



individuals combating Thalassemia, a genetic blood disorder.

Furthermore, LG Electronics, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, supported this Mega Blood Donation Drive in collaboration with Saksham Bharti Foundation and J&K Thalassemia Welfare Society.

The event was spearheaded by Mukteesh Sharma and Tejas Thussu from LG Electronics, along with Sudhir Sethi from J&K Thalassemia Welfare Society.

Er. Sudhir Sethi, President of J&K Thalassemia Welfare Society, Jammu, emphasized the vital role of regular blood donation camps for Thalassemia

patients, highlighting the growing need for blood due to frequent transfusions required by many patients. He urged the community to actively participate in mitigating the sufferings of Thalassemia children and preventing the birth of such children through genetic counseling and proper antenatal advice.

Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, commended the organizing team's efforts, emphasizing that blood donation is not merely an act of kindness but a lifeline for those in need.

He underscored the profound impact of collective action, illustrating how each donation represents a ray of hope for individuals bravely facing Thalassemia.

CLUJ hosts free health camp with Ramakrishna Mission

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 7: The Department of Student Welfare, Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), in collaboration with Ramakrishna Mission, successfully organized a Free Health Camp, Book exhibition and Awareness Talks at PSPS Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.



This initiative was held under the esteemed patronage of Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar and under the overall supervision of Prof. Raj Shree Dhar, Dean, Student's Welfare.

The event aimed to promote health awareness and well-being among students and faculty members by providing free medical check-ups and expert consultations.

A team of qualified medical professionals conducted health assessments, including general check-ups, blood pressure monitoring,

and skin disease screening.

The camp provided an excellent opportunity for students and faculty to assess their health and receive guidance on maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

In addition to the health camp, awareness talks were conducted by experts from Ramakrishna Mission, including Swami Sarvalokananda, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission

New Delhi, and Swami Jaynadarhananda, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Jammu.

These sessions focused on mental well-being, stress management, and the importance of a balanced lifestyle. The informative talks encouraged students to adopt healthier habits for a better future.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar commended the collaborative efforts

of the Department of Student Welfare and Ramakrishna Mission in fostering a culture of health consciousness among students.

He highlighted the significance of such initiatives in ensuring the holistic development of students.

Towards the end Prof. Raj Shree Dhar expressed gratitude to Ramakrishna Mission for their valuable support and reiterated the

university's commitment to student welfare.

She emphasized the importance of such programs in promoting overall well-being and encouraged students to take proactive steps toward a healthier future.

Apart from Deans and Associate Deans of Cluster University, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, NCC cadets, NSS volunteers, and faculty members, making it a resounding success.

The Department of Student Welfare, CLUJ, remains dedicated to organizing impactful programs that contribute to the well-being and holistic development of students.

The proceedings of the program were carried out in a coherent way by Prof. Sugandha Mahajan of GCW Gandhi Nagar whereas vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Meenakshi Bandral.

FromPage No:1

J&K Assembly Budget | Omar Abdullah allocates Rs 815 Crore for Agriculture, Rs 390 Crore for Tourism Development

and develop Sonmarg as a winter sports destination. Jammu will see a new water park in Sidhra, and Basholi will be developed as an adventure destination.

The JK CM stressed the importance of transparency in welfare measures and stated that the government is focused on empowering sectors like agriculture, tourism, and local industries.Jammu tourism

Additionally, the government plans to operationalize a new film policy, aiming to make JK a prime destination for film production and eco-tourism. The state will also focus on constructing 500 new Panchayat Ghars to improve local infrastructure.

The budget reveals that 70 percent of the funds are being allocated towards salaries, which is putting a significant strain on the state's finances. Additionally, there are high ATNC (Administrative, Technical, and Non-Commercial) losses, and the state's debt has increased. However, all borrowing has been kept within the prescribed limits to maintain financial discipline.

The budget also includes provisions for grants worth Rs 5,000 crore, aimed at boosting the region's development.

buses

from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000. Omar Abdullah further stated that 200 more e-buses will be introduced in Srinagar and Jammu this year to improve public transport.

No proposal in place to impose blanket ban on private practice of Doctors across J&K: Minister

public sector and compromise with the quality of care or undermining the public trust is not tolerated." the minister said.

She further said that the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura operates under a unique model, similar to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. "From its inception, SKIMS has functioned as a non-practicing institution, meaning that its medical and paramedical staff are strictly prohibited from engaging in private practice. This policy is clearly stipulated in the employment contracts of all staff members," she said.

The minister added that inline with this policy, SKIMS regularly updates and publishes the details of its medical and paramedical personnel, explicitly stating that they are non-practicing.

"Any staff member found engaging in private practice would be in violation of the institutions rules. Such violations are considered serious misconduct and are subject to stringent penalties, includ-

BJP MLA raises issue in J&K Assembly

had begun and suggested the question be taken up afterwards.

Schools reopen in Kashmir after three-month winter break

Afreen, said while the vacations were needed and staying at home was fun, the school has a charm of its own.

Irfan Ahmad, a teacher at a government higher secondary schools, said it felt good to be back among the students and colleagues.

"Winter vacations also give the students a huge time to study and we hope they have used it productively. We are now looking forward to the new session," he said.

Meanwhile, the authorities in Gurez valley, in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, have extended winter vacation for all schools till March 8 in wake of heavy snowfall and weather conditions there.

The winter vacations in the schools in Kashmir division and the winter zones of Jammu division were announced by the government on December 6 last year.

The vacations were announced in two phases starting from December 10. The vacations for classes up to 5 were observed from December 10, and the higher classes from December 16.

The schools in Kashmir remain shut for around three months as the temperatures in the valley fall below freezing point and vast stretches remain covered in snow.

Dimple hails J&K Budget, criticizes BJP on key issues

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 7: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, while addressing the media on the recently passed J&K budget, described it as the best budget since 2014, particularly after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 and the transition of Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory. He stated that despite financial constraints and the absence of full statehood, this budget is better than the Modi government's Union Budget, which reduced Jammu and Kashmir's funds by 12,000 crores. However, he reaffirmed that the struggle for the restoration of statehood will continue.

Dimple highlighted that the budget opens new opportunities for all sections of society, particularly for the youth and traders.

He emphasized that special attention has been given to addressing unemployment, with several posts being referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for recruitment. He also welcomed initiatives aimed at improving infrastructure and public services, including road and tunnel projects, as well as subsidized chopper services for Chenab Valley, Pir Panjal, Poonch, and Rajouri.

One of the key announcements in the budget, according to Dimple, is the provision of free travel for women and female children in government and e-buses. Additionally, 200 units of free electricity have been allocated to the public, along with 0% stamp duty on gifted land and other properties.

The budget has also increased pension



amounts for senior citizens and women, which he praised as a significant relief for the people.

Dimple further noted that the budget has prioritized improvements in the healthcare sector, with plans to enhance the condition of government medical colleges and hospitals, ensuring better medical facilities for the people. He also welcomed the commitment to holding elections for urban local bodies and panchayats

soon, which he said would promote accountability and transparency in governance.

Moreover, the budget has addressed the concerns of various employment groups, including vocational trainers, cluster resource coordinators, Kissan Khidmat Ghars (KKG), SPOs, Rehbar-e-Khel, physical teachers, Rehbar-e-Taleem, Sehat workers, National Youth Corps, seasonal teachers, SRO-43 beneficiaries, CPWs, land donors,

Anganwadi workers, Ayushman Bharat Gold Card beneficiaries, striking daily wagers, and paramedical staff. Dimple asserted that the inclusion of these groups reflects the government's effort to provide financial and social security to its workforce.

However, while acknowledging the positive aspects of the budget, Dimple strongly criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for failing to address key economic issues. He alleged that the BJP-led government has not been able to resolve the growing unemployment crisis and has neglected the rising prices of essential commodities, including petrol, diesel, and LPG gas. He accused the party of failing to bring meaningful economic relief to the people despite making repeated promises.

RPP JK condemns derogatory remarks against Maharaja Hari Singh by Dy CM



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 7: The Rashtriya Parshuram Parishad (RPP) today vehemently condemned the derogatory remarks made by the Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, who referred to the late Maharaja Hari Singh as a "dictator."

The RPP, a prominent national organization, expressed deep outrage over these comments, calling them not only an affront to the legacy of the nationalist and secular Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir but also an insult to all those who have fought for the dignity and honor of the country.

President of the RPP, Pt Jeevanand Sharma, led the strong condemnation, stating, "Such statements are deeply disrespectful, not just to Maharaja Hari Singh, who is revered as the true crown of Jammu and Kashmir, but to every nationalist force that has contributed to the freedom struggle of our great nation. Maharaja Hari Singh was a visionary leader, and his contributions to India's freedom movement are undeniable. In 1931, he was one of the

first leaders to actively participate in the Round Table Conference, symbolizing his commitment to the nation's future and his role in shaping the course of Indian history."

Pt Sharma further emphasized that the Maharaja's legacy is one of pride for every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Maharaja Hari Singh was not just a king; he was the soul of Jammu and Kashmir, a secular ruler who stood for unity and progress in a time of division. His leadership transcended boundaries of caste, creed, and religion, and such comments serve only to disrupt the harmony that our state holds dear," he remarked.

The RPP President also criticized the Deputy Chief Minister's remark as not only a personal affront but as an unfortunate and irresponsible statement coming from a leader, particularly one belonging to Jammu province.

"It is beyond comprehension that such words have been spoken by a leader from Jammu, a region where people hold Maharaja Hari Singh in the highest regard. His vision for a

united and progressive Jammu and Kashmir is something that every proud citizen of this region cherishes."

Pt Chandan Dutta, the Pardesh Mantri of RPP, also strongly echoed these sentiments, calling for unity in defending the legacy of Maharaja Hari Singh.

"Every member of the legislative assembly, who claims to represent the true aspirations of the people, must rise above party lines and speak in defense of Maharaja Hari Singh's honor. He was not only a secular and nationalist leader but also a symbol of integrity and resilience for Jammu and Kashmir," Dutta said.

In a collective call to action, the RPP appealed to all patriotic citizens and political representatives to stand against any attempts to tarnish the memory of Maharaja Hari Singh, a leader whose contributions to the nation's unity and sovereignty are immeasurable.

"We will not tolerate any insult to Maharaja Hari Singh's legacy," the RPP stated firmly.

The Rashtriya Parshuram Parishad, reaffirming its commitment to preserving the integrity and honor of Jammu and Kashmir's history, urged the government and the people of the region to rise above divisive politics and recognize the importance of respecting the contributions of such great leaders in shaping the identity of the state and the nation.

Bahu Fort Higher Secondary School releases annual Magazine 'Kalika'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 7: Bahu Fort Higher Secondary School released its annual magazine, Kalika, at a grand ceremony held on Wednesday.

The event was graced by the presence of esteemed guests, including Ch. Vikram Singh Randhawa, MLA of the Bahu constituency, Jagdeep Padha, Chief Education Officer, Jammu and District Youth Services and Sports Officer Sukhdev Raj Sharma.

Other Officers from School Education included Adersh Bala, Principal Boys HSS Gandhi Nagar and Ex ZEO

Gandhi Nagar, and Present ZEO Gandhi Nagar Madhu Sudha. Moreover Prominent Citizens from Bahu Fort, Shilpa Magotra, Trustee Kali Mandir, Smt Sharda Devi, Ex Corporator, Social Activists Sumit, Baldev Raj and other citizens were also present.

The event also saw participation from the School Management Committee Members Rajeev Charak, Vivek Patyal, Karuna Chettri. Parents and Students were also the part of ceremony.

The magazine, Kalika, showcases the talent and creativity of the students and staff members of Bahu Fort Higher Sec-



ondary School.

The event was a grand success, with everyone enjoying the program. The ceremony began with the welcome salute by the school girls band troop thereafter lighting of the lamp and prayers to Goddess Saras-

wati, followed by the release of the magazine, and concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

Anuradha Principal of the School presented vote of thanks for all the participants and organisers.

Army organizes awareness lecture on Women Empowerment at Salani



Top News Report

POONCH, Mar 7: The Indian Army organized an insightful lecture on women empowerment at Govt. Higher Secondary School, Salani, Poonch, aimed at raising awareness about various women empowerment schemes in rural Jammu and Kashmir.

The session emphasized that the empowerment of women is crucial for building a better future. When women are empowered, society as a whole is empow-

ered, paving the way for progress and prosperity.

The lecture highlighted several government initiatives aimed at achieving this goal, including the National Policy of Education, the National Commission for Women, Balika Samridhi Yojana, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the National Programme for Education of Girls at the Elementary Level, the Swayam, Sidha Women Empowerment Programme.

A special focus was

also placed on encouraging women's participation in the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces and CAPF via various schemes.

The girls in attendance expressed their appreciation for the Indian Army's efforts to educate them about these vital programs, recognizing that knowledge gained will significantly improve their outlook on life and contribute to a higher standard of living in the long run.

Youth Talent Search celebrates Women's Day with honour

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 7: Youth Talent Search (YTS), a prestigious forum of renowned schools in Jammu, celebrated Women's Day and its Annual Award Ceremony with great pomp and grandeur at Polytechnic College, Bikram Chowk. The event witnessed an inspiring gathering of educators, students, and esteemed dignitaries, marking a tribute to the invaluable contributions of women in education and society.

The ceremony commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp, invoking the blessings of Goddess Saraswati. Ms. Prabha Jain, Chairperson of New Era Environmental High School, extended a warm welcome to all the distinguished guests.

The event was graced by Indu Kanwal Chib, Chairperson of JKSSB, as the Chief Guest, while Ms. Shagun Manchanda, District Mission Coordinator, Mission Shakti (Social Welfare



Department), attended as the Guest of Honor.

Continuing the tradition of hospitality, Vasudha (MD, Elite Public High School), Mala Sharma (Chairperson, Elite Public High School), Anku Charak (Vice Principal, Humanity Public School), Anita Ambaradar (Principal, Play Way House School), and Usha Jamwal (Principal, BHMP) welcomed the guests with floral bouquets.

Principals, teachers, and students from reputed schools such as JK Montessorie School, New Era Environmental High School, Alexander Memorial

School, Bikram Memorial School, S.D. Tarapuri School, Elite Public High School, Humanity Public School, Playway House, BHMP School, and Lawrence Public School actively participated in the function.

The event was filled with mesmerizing performances by talented teachers, who showcased their artistic flair through scintillating dance performances, folk songs, and engaging skits.

Their exceptional talent captivated the audience, making the celebration truly memorable.

The Annual Report of

YTS was presented by Esther William, Principal of Alexander Memorial School.

Chief Guest Indu Kanwal Chib lauded YTS for providing a dynamic platform for young minds to explore and exhibit their hidden talents.

She expressed her appreciation for the dedicated efforts of skilled teachers in nurturing students and preparing them to excel in various fields.

She further emphasized that YTS is doing commendable work and should be highlighted at the national level.

A significant high-

light of the event was the Rolling Trophy in memory of Late Geeta Dixit, presented by Ashok Dixit to Anku Charak, Vice Principal of Humanity Public School.

Additionally, the Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred upon Rajni Gupta (Director, JKMS), Neeru Puri (Principal, S.D. Tarapuri School), Usha Jamwal (Principal, BHMP), and Shivani Joshi (Principal, Lawrence Public School, Sidhra), in recognition of their outstanding contributions to education.

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Rajni Gupta, Coordinator of YTS and Director of JK Montessorie School, Talab Tillo.

The celebration culminated with the singing of the National Anthem, leaving behind an aura of inspiration and celebration of women's achievements in the field of education.

Army conducts Medical and Veterinary Camp at Thanalla

Top News Report

DODA, Mar 7: A part of ongoing outreach and helping local population, the army located at Bhaderwah has taken an initiative to conduct a Medical and Veterinary Camp at Thanalla, Doda.

The camp was inaugurated by army, who assured the locals of unconditional and ever-

lasting support of Indian Army to the local residents. A medical team of army provided the much needed medical cover to the gents, ladies, children and elderly people during the camp.

A large number of patients turned up for the medical check-up from the nearby villages.

This medical camp was organised by making necessary



arrangements including various types of medicines, medical equipment and facilities for examination of patients.

Wide publicity was given to ensure that maximum people avail this opportunity to attend the camp.

During the camp a total of 276 Patients various animals were treated including Gujar & Bakkarwal community.

The local population were grateful to the Indian Army for their concentrated efforts and assistance in providing medical aid at their door step.

The Indian Army also gave information about Health, Nutrition and Child Care to the parents in order to spread medical awareness amongst the general populace.

India in top form ahead of Champions Trophy 2025 final in Dubai

India enters the Champions Trophy 2025 Final in Dubai on Sunday in excellent form, having secured four wins in the tournament, as per the official website of ICC.

DUBAI, Mar 7 (Agencies): India enters the Champions Trophy 2025 Final in Dubai on Sunday in excellent form, having secured four wins in the tournament, as per the official website of ICC.

India's tournament opener saw them prevail in a tight contest against Bangladesh in Dubai, registering a sizzling six-wicket victory to begin their campaign on a winning note.

Pacer Mohammed Shami's impressive 5/53, combined with three scalps from Harshit Rana and two from Axar Patel, restricted Bangladesh to 228. Shubman Gill's unbeaten 101*, combined with stylish knocks from Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul, ensured smooth sailing for India as they reached the Tigers' total with 21 balls to spare.

In their high-voltage clash against arch-rivals Pakistan, India displayed their all-round prowess by chasing down 241 runs with six wickets in hand.



Kuldeep Yadav weaved his magic for the Indian side by taking three crucial wickets to bundle out Pakistan for 241 in 49.4 overs.

Shubman Gill (46) and Shreyas Iyer (56) came up with some crucial knocks, but the age-old rivalry was marked primarily by a Virat Kohli masterclass that saw him score an unbeaten 100 to steer India to victory.

A different challenge for Rohit Sharma's side in the form of New Zealand, with the winner

staying unbeaten at the tournament and earning the top spot in Group A. Though when these two sides met, they had both already qualified for the semi-final stage.

New Zealand's bowlers did well to restrict India's batting line-up, with Shreyas Iyer (79) and Hardik Pandya (45) leading the way as the Asian side posted a competitive total of 249/9 after they were sent in to bat first.

It was the Varun Chakravarthy

show in reply, with the spinner claiming an impressive five-wicket haul to help bowl New Zealand out for just 205, as India progressed through to the final four with their unbeaten record intact.

India qualified for the Champions Trophy final by taking down another of their top rivals, Australia.

The bowlers applied pressure throughout the Aussies' batting innings, restricting them to 264 all out in the 50th over, consistently finding key wickets throughout. Mohammed Shami chipped in with three big wickets, while spinners Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja grabbed a couple.

Once again, it was Kohli who anchored the bulk of India's successful chase, with a poised 84 off 98 balls. The crisp hitting of Axar Patel, KL Rahul and Hardik Pandya saw them home safely, reaching their target with 11 deliveries to spare.

Harmanpreet fined for Code of Conduct breach in WPL



LUCKNOW, Mar 7 (Agencies): Mumbai Indians captain Harmanpreet Kaur was on Friday fined 10 per cent of her match fee for showing dissent at the umpire's decision during her team's match against UP Warriorz at the Ekana Cricket Stadium here.

The incident occurred at the end of the 19th over of UPW innings when umpire Ajitesh Argal informed Har-

manpreet that only three fielders could be outside the circle in the final over due to a slow over rate.

Seemingly unhappy with the ruling, she was seen engaged in a brief argument with the umpire, with teammate Amelia Kerr also joining the discussion.

"Harmanpreet Kaur admitted to the Level 1 offence under Article 2.8 which relates to showing dissent at an

umpire's decision during a match," WPL said in a release.

"For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding." Harmanpreet also had a spat with UP Warriorz's Sophie Ecclestone during the match, when the English cricketer, standing at the non-striker's end, walked toward the umpire to explain something.

Harmanpreet appeared to respond sharply, seemingly asking Ecclestone to stay out of the conversation.

The exchange prompted intervention from square-leg umpire N Janani and UP Warriorz captain Deepti Sharma, who stepped in to defuse the tension.

UP Warriorz went on to post a total of 150/9, a target that Mumbai Indians chased down in 18.3 overs.

John Davison appointed Italy's T20I coach as they target 2026 World Cup spot

NEW DELHI, Mar 7 (Agencies): Former Canada captain and Australian state cricketer John Davison has been appointed as Italy's T20I coach, leading their push for a place in the 2026 T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.

Italy will compete in the European Regional Finals of the T20 World Cup qualifiers in the Netherlands in late June, where two teams will earn a spot in the main tournament. They will face strong competition from the Netherlands, Scotland, Guernsey, and Jersey.

"I am excited and honoured to be appointed head coach of the Italian T20 men's program," Davison said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

"I didn't take much convincing once I heard about the players and people involved," he said.

"I have experienced the thrill of qualifying for World Cups as a player for Canada, and I look forward to repeating that thrill with a diverse and dedicated group of players and staff representing Italy," he added.

Davison is best remembered for his stunning 111 off 76 balls against West Indies in the 2003 World Cup. Since retiring, he has served as a spin-bowling coach and consultant, working closely with Australia and players like Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Swepson, and Matt Kuhnemann.

He will work alongside Italy's newly appointed captain, former Queensland and Australia opener Joe Burns, who became eligible to play for Italy last year through his mother's heritage.



Italy's squad also includes Ben and Harry Manenti, while Tasmania duo Jake Doran and Tim Ward are awaiting approval to represent the team based on their Italian roots. Former Victoria pacer Matthew Folia and ex-Australia U-19 player Jason Ralston are also in contention for the qualifiers.

"I am honoured to take on this role and represent Italy on the international stage," Burns said when named captain, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

"For me, it is a return to my family's roots. Italian cricket has enormous potential and I am excited to contribute to its growth. Together with my teammates, we are working to achieve ambitious goals and make our fans proud," he added.

"My dream is to help India win World Cup": India all-rounder Sayali Satghare

LUCKNOW, Mar 7 (Agencies): India all-rounder Sayali Satghare, currently playing for Gujarat Giants in the Women's Premier League (WPL), has set her sights on making the national squad for the upcoming ICC Women's Cricket World Cup. With the tournament set to be hosted in India this year, Satghare is determined to contribute to India's dream of lifting the trophy.

"First, the goal is to win the WPL trophy. Looking ahead, we have a home World Cup, and my dream is to be a part of that team and help India win," Satghare told agency.

"Playing a World Cup at home will be an incredible experience," she added.

Satghare's rise in Indian cricket has been a story of perseverance. Reflecting on her journey, she recalled how she was initially picked as a replacement for Gujarat Giants last season but did not get a chance to play.

"After that, my focus was on working hard



and improving in all aspects of my game. I spent the next three to four months pushing myself to get better," she explained.

"Later, we had a camp at the National Cricket Academy (NCA), which led to my selection for India A's tour of Australia. I performed well there and followed it up with a strong domestic season. It has been a journey of ups and downs, but staying consistent and believing in myself has helped me. Playing for India has been a dream come true since childhood," she added.

Playing for Gujarat Giants has been a valuable experience for

Satghare, who spoke highly of the environment within the team.

"For the past two seasons, the franchise has taken great care of us. Being part of the WPL is a massive opportunity, especially playing alongside overseas players. You get to learn so much from them," she said.

"Our foreign players have been incredibly supportive, always sharing their experiences. The coaching staff has also placed a lot of trust in us," she noted.

The all-rounder praised Gujarat Giants' captain Ashleigh Gardner, highlighting her calm demeanour on the field. "She's very composed, which helps us in tough

situations. On the field, she constantly communicates with us about our game plans, making sure everything is clear," Satghare noted.

She also spoke about wicketkeeper-batter Beth Mooney's influence.

"Beth Mooney is in exceptional form. From the time I have seen her play for Australia, I don't think I've ever seen a match where she hasn't scored. So, actually, we always talk to her about how she's consistent in any situation or any condition whether she's playing in Australia or India. When she's playing elsewhere, she's always scoring runs. So, we try to pick her mindset," she said.

Among her teammates, Satghare mentioned the West Indies cricketer Deandra Dottin as someone she looks up to.

"Her self-belief is incredible. No matter the situation, she backs herself completely. That's something we can all learn from," she added. As an all-rounder, Sat-

ghare draws inspiration from Australian cricketing stars.

"Ellyse Perry has always been an inspiration, but currently, the all-rounder I admire most is Annabel Sutherland. She is young but makes significant contributions with both bat and ball. I really like how she approaches the game," she said.

Gujarat Giants had an inconsistent start to the tournament but bounced back strongly. Satghare emphasized the team's focus on process over results.

"The key message in our dressing room is to stick to our plans rather than worry about outcomes. Even in the matches we lost, our bowling unit performed well. We knew that if we built strong partnerships in batting, the results would have been different," she explained.

"No one dwelled on losses. Instead, we focused on the positives, which helped us regain momentum and win our last two matches," she said.

Maddy Green's century, Hannah Rowe's four-wicket haul seal series for New Zealand

NELSON, Mar 7 (Agencies): Maddy Green's superb century and Hannah Rowe's impressive four-wicket haul guided New Zealand to a commanding 78-run victory over Sri Lanka in the second ODI in Nelson. With this win, the White Ferns secured an unassailable 1-0 lead in the three-match series, with one game remaining, as per ESPNcricinfo.

After the rain-marred first ODI in Napier ended in a no-result, the two teams met under better conditions at Saxton Oval. New Zealand captain Suzie Bates opted to bat first after winning the toss, but the hosts found themselves in early trouble. Bates was run out for just five in the fourth over, followed by quick dismissals of Emma McLeod and Brooke Halliday, courtesy of Achini Kulasuriya and Chamari Athapaththu. Georgia Plimmer's departure for 28 left New Zealand struggling at 59/4 in 18 overs.

Green, however, anchored the innings brilliantly. She built a



crucial 51-run partnership with Isabella Gaze (19) for the sixth wicket, stabilizing the innings. Contributions from the lower-middle order further strengthened New Zealand's total--Jess Kerr scored 38 off 44 balls, while wicketkeeper Polly Inglis struck a brisk 34 off 21 balls not out, including five boundaries.

Green remained the backbone of the innings, bringing up her century off 109 balls. She had been in outstanding form in the domestic One-Day Cup, scoring 125 and 126 in two of her last three matches, and carried

that confidence into this game. New Zealand finished strongly, adding 84 runs in the final ten overs to post 245/7. Green was run out on the last ball while attempting an extra run, but her knock had already laid a strong foundation.

Sri Lanka's chase got off to a shaky start as Bree Inling removed captain Athapaththu for 11 in the fifth over. Rowe then struck in the eighth over, dismissing opener Vishmi Gunaratne to put New Zealand firmly in control.

Harshitha Samarawickrama,

continuing her fine form from the first ODI where she scored an unbeaten 66, fought back with another half-century. Her 68-run stand with Kavisha Dilhari (25) offered Sri Lanka a glimmer of hope. However, back-to-back wickets from Eden Carson and Illing in the 22nd and 23rd overs halted their momentum.

At 101/4, Sri Lanka needed Samarawickrama to anchor the chase, but she fell for 58, giving Rowe her second wicket. From there, the innings unraveled quickly. Nilakshika Silva was trapped lbw by Bates, and Anushka Sanjeevani was run out by Kerr. Rowe returned to claim two more wickets, finishing with outstanding figures of 4 for 31. Carson wrapped up the innings in the 47th over, sealing a comprehensive victory for New Zealand.

With the series already in the bag, the White Ferns will look to complete a clean sweep in the final ODI, scheduled for Sunday at the same venue.

N Thangaraja pulls ahead into imposing five-shot lead in round three

AHMEDABAD, Mar 7 (Agencies): Sri Lanka's N Thangaraja found his way back to the top of the leaderboard and made his good putting form count as he pulled ahead into an imposing five-shot lead in round three of the INR 1 crore Ahmedabad Open 2025 being played at the Kensville Golf & Country Club near Ahmedabad, as per a release by Ahmedabad Open.

The 43-year-old Thangaraja (65-73-69), the round one leader who had slipped to second place, one behind the lead on day two, struck a solid three-under 69 on Thursday to regain his lead and move his total to nine-under 207 thus opening up a huge gap over the rest of the field. Thangaraja, now the hot favourite, will be searching for his fifth PGTI title and his first win since 2023 come Friday.

Chandigarh's Harendra Gupta (70-67-75), the halfway leader, carded a 75 in the penultimate round to drop down to tied second place at four-under 212.

Mysuru's Yashas Chandra (72-70-70), the only player to have not returned an over-par score in the tournament so far, came up with a second straight 70 to gain one spot and join Gupta in tied second position.

Ahmedabad's Varun Parikh (69) was in tied fifth place at one-under 215.


Former PGTI Order of Merit winner Manu Gandas of Gurugram carded the day's best score of 67 to be placed tied 10th at two-over 218.

N Thangaraja, who had a poor day with the putter in round two, produced a contrasting third round having turned around his putting form. Thanga made four birdies all of which came as a result of conversions from six feet. He dropped a lone bogey.


Thangaraja said, "I made 16 greens in regulation today, landed it close consistently and sank most putts. I'm glad I was able to regain my putting form just before the all-important final round," as quoted from a release by Ahmedabad Open.

"My ability to play the low shot well helped me a lot in the windy conditions here at Kensville. The low shot always gives an advantage of about five to six yards when playing in windy conditions. I'm now keen to get back to winning ways," he added.


Yashas Chandra made three birdies and a bogey during his round of 70 while Harendra Gupta conceded three bogeys during his 75.



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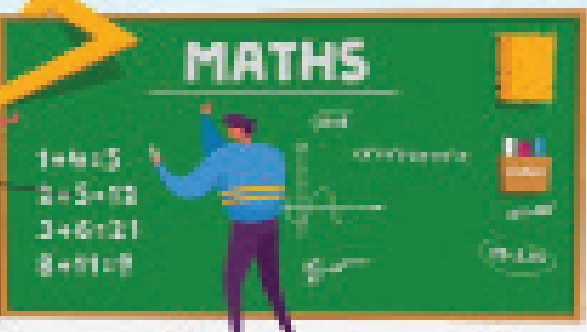
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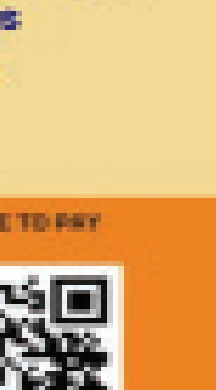
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