

TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

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Women have to prove themselves again and again, says Madhuri Dixit Nene



Vaishnav rebuts Kerala Congress allegations over power generation

"Strengthening New Zealand's relationship with India is a key priority," NZ PM says



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BRIEFLY

Home Ministry monitoring situation: J&K LoP on recovery of three bodies in Kathua

JAMMU, Mar 10 (Agencies): Sunil Sharma, the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K raised concerns over the growing incidents of crime, particularly referring to the recovery of three dead bodies from Kathua and said that such incidents of crime won't be tolerated at any cost.

Speaking to IANS, the J&K LoP said that the Home Ministry has taken cognizance of the matter and also sought to assure people that security forces will be unsparing in their bid to neutralize wicked designs of terrorists.

"Home Secretary and the DIB (Directorate of Intelligence Bureau) were sent to the location. There has been increase in crime activity in recent times, and security agencies have been directed to respond accordingly. We will not tolerate any crime at any cost," he said.

Notably, three people namely Yogesh Singh, Darshan Singh and Varun Singh went missing on March 5 and their bodies were discovered in Kathua's Ishu Nallah on March 8, triggering widespread outrage in the area. All three went missing while on way to a marriage function in Lohai Malhar.

After the missing complaint was lodged, the security forces launched a massive search operation, led by Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP). It was after a marathon 6-hour operation that their bodies were recovered.

This also raised suspicion of terrorists' role behind their disappearance. Union Minister Jitendra Singh claimed they were killed by terrorists and also announced construction of a memorial to honour the victims.

Teen found dead under mysterious conditions in Pampore

SRINAGAR, Mar 10 (Agencies): A teenager was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Khrew hamlet of

Supreme Court slams J&K govt for ignoring court order on regularization of daily wagers for 16 years

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (Agencies): The Supreme Court has censured Jammu and Kashmir officials for not complying with a high court order over the regularisation of daily wagers and called it as a "glaring and textbook example of obstination".

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said instead of complying with the 2007 order of the high court for regularisation of daily wagers, who worked between 14-19 years in the rural development depart



ment, the state authorities kept on passing "cryptic orders" to harass them. "We are constrained to observe that the present case is a glaring and textbook example of

obstination exhibited by the state officials/authorities, who consider themselves to be above and beyond the reach of law," the bench said in an order on March 7.

The court said the "inaction" of the officials, who took about 16 years to comply with a "simpliciter high court order" dated May 3, 2007, was "shocking and prima facie contemptuous".

The bench, therefore, refused to interfere with the Rs 25,000 cost imposed by a high court division bench and observed the officials ought to be "strictly" dealt with.

"However, what concerns us is not the delay of decades alone, but also the incontrovertible

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PM Modi, Defence Minister greet J&K CM Omar Abdullah on 54th birthday

JAMMU, Mar 10 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday sent birthday greetings to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah.

Taking to social media platform X, PM Modi wished CM Omar a healthy and long life.

The PM posted on X, "Birthday wishes to Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Ji. Praying for his long and healthy life."

Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh also wished CM Omar on his

54th birthday.

"Warm birthday greetings to Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri @OmarAbdullah. May he lead a long and healthy life", the Defence Minister posted on X.

CM Omar was born to Dr Farooq Abdullah and his British mother, Mollie Abdullah on March 10, 1970 in Rockford, Essex in England.

He did his initial schooling in Burn Hall School in Srinagar city run by missionaries.

Omar received a business-related bachelor's degree from a college affiliated with the Univer-

sity of Mumbai and did some graduate coursework in business administration at a university in Scotland.

In 1998, at the age of 28, he was elected to the Lok Sabha as a member of the National Conference. He was re-elected one year later and became a minister in the Commerce and Industry Ministry in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government.

In 2001 he was named minister for external affairs in the NDA government, the

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Pandemonium in J&K assembly over Kathua killings, Gulmarg fashion show



JAMMU, Mar 10 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly witnessed heated exchanges between opposition and treasury benches on Monday as members raised various issues, including the kill

ing of civilians in Kathua and the Gulmarg fashion show controversy.

As the House assembled for the day, members of the National Conference, People's Democratic Party, and

two Independents stood up and raised the issue of the fashion show, terming it "obscene" and alleging that it hurt sentiments.

The MLAs demanded a probe into the facilitation of such a show during Ramzan. PDP MLA Mir Mohammad Fayaz raised the demand, and NC MLA Tanvir Sadiq also raised the issue.

The fashion show held in the winter tourist resort of Gulmarg during the fasting month of Ramzan has evoked widespread criticism, with Kashmir's chief

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J&K Speaker condemns attack on MLA in Kathua

JAMMU, Mar 10 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Monday condemned the attack on independent MLA Rameshwar Singh in Kathua after the legislator raised the issue in the House and sought action against those responsible.

As the assembly convened for the day, Singh walked to the corner of the well of the House

to raise the issue and demanded an inquiry. He was supported by members of the National Conference.

"I demand a time-bound inquiry into this attack and urge the Speaker to set an example in this regard," he said.

The Bani MLA was manhandled on Saturday night by a group of protestors when he visited the sub-district hos-

pital at Billawar to meet the families of three deceased civilians.

BJP MLA Satish Sharma, the local legislator of the area where the killings of three civilians took place in Billawar, alleged the independent MLA had come to politicise the issue.

Condemning the incident, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather said, "I received adjournment motions from member

regarding the attack on him. We condemn it. The entire House condemns it. Action should be taken against those involved." The bodies of three civilians — Varun Singh (15) and his uncles Yogesh Singh (32) and Darshan Singh (40) — were found in the Ishu nallah in the remote Malhar area in the higher reaches of Kathua district on Saturday. They went

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Gulmarg fashion show was a private event, probe ordered: J&K CM Omar Abdullah

JAMMU, Mar 10 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday clarified that the fashion show held in Gulmarg was a private event with no involvement from the government.

Speaking on the floor of the House, Abdullah criticized the organizers, saying those who hosted it "did not apply their brains."

He said that the administration had not granted permission for



the show. "Some people say the event should not have been organized in the holy month of Ramadhan, but I say it should not have been orga-

nized in any month," he asserted.

Despite the government's non-involvement, Abdullah said an inquiry had been ordered, and if

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Over 3.70 lakh unemployed youth registered in J&K: Govt

JAMMU, Mar 10 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday said that they facilitated employment opportunities for 4,893 skilled and unskilled youth through job fairs conducted across the Union Territory in the past two years, while as of January 2025, over 3.70 lakh unemployed youth have been registered on the employment portal.

Government data reveals from 2022-23 to February 2025, 246 job fairs were conducted, 2,760 companies participated, and 1,36,200 job seekers registered themselves during these events. "Out of them, 39,782 candidates were shortlisted for second-round counseling, while



4,893 youth secured on-spot employment."

In 2022-23, the department organised 84 job fairs with the participation of 878 companies and 45,447 job seekers. "As a result, 14,014 candidates were shortlisted, while 1,761 job seekers got on-spot placements, and 2,978 youth were recommended for skill training."

In the subsequent year, the government

increased the outreach, conducting 106 job fairs, engaging 1,412 companies and 72,175 job seekers. "This resulted in 20,754 candidates being shortlisted, 1,902 getting on-spot placements, and 2,807 being recommended for skill training".

For the ongoing fiscal year 2024-25 (up to February 2025), 56 job fairs were held, 470

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Delhi court rejects custody parole plea of J&K MP Er Rashid

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (Agencies): A Delhi court on Monday rejected the plea of jailed Jammu and Kashmir MP Engineer Rashid seeking custody parole to attend the upcoming Parliament session. Jammu and Kashmir travel guide

Additional sessions judge Chander Jit Singh dismissed the plea and posted the order on Rashid's regular bail plea on March 19.

A detailed order is awaited.

On March 3, the court asked the NIA to respond to the plea, following which it reserved

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The Shri Ram Universal School

विकसित युवा सम्मेलन under Y20 SUMMIT

📅 Date 11.03.25
 🕒 Time: 10:00
 📍 Venue: School Auditorium

Associate Partners

KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Smt. Krishna Devi** W/o Sh. Madan Singh and Mother of Kr. Naryan Singh (EX president Shri Amar Kshatriya (Rajput) Sabha and senior BJP leader) who left us for heavenly abode on 27th March.

KRIYA will be performed at 32 Fattu Chowgan Patel Bazar Jammu on 11 March (Tuesday) at 12 pm. **Rasam Pagri/UTHALA** will be performed at Brahman Sabha Prade Jammu on 12 March (Wednesday) from 4.00pm to 5.00pm.

Grief Stricken
Madan Singh Jammwal- Husband
Brothers and Bhabis
Late Sh. Gurdial Singh and Smt. Satya Devi
Sh. Bachan Singh Jammwal and Smt. Kamis Devi
Son & Daughter-in-Law
Kr. Naryan Singh Jammwal & Smt. Nisha Jammwal
Daughters & Son-in-Law
Smt. Chandar Kanta & Sh. Balbir Singh
Smt. Neeru Bandral & Late Sh. Ramesh Singh Bandral
Smt. Sushma Devi & Sh. Surinder Singh Slathia
Smt. Susheela Manhas & Sh. Naryan Singh Manhas
Mr. Bhavishyat Jammwal- Grandson
Granddaughters and Grand Son in law
Dr. Natasha Jammwal & Mr. Kanav Balloria
Mrs. Yashvi Jammwal & Mr. Aditya Rana
Mob.: 9419193937



Smt. Krishna Devi

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh Chaman Lal Pandita** S/o Late Prem Nath Pandita erstwhile resident of Turigam Devbug, Kulgam Kashmir, presently residing at H No. 875, Lane No. 6, Bhawani Nagar (Bhagwati Nagar), Tallab Tillo, Jammu. **The 10th Day Kriya** will be performed on Sunday (16th) of March, 2025, 7 am at Thalwal, Jammu. **The Assembly** will be held at our residence at 10:30 am.



SH CHAMAN LAL PANDITA

GRIEF STRICKEN :
Puran Devi (Wife) 8-492055436
Sh Prithvoo Nath Pandita (Brother)
Smt and Sh Vinod Pandita (Niece in law and Nephew)
Smt and Sh Munish Pandita (-do-)
Smt and Sh Sunil Pandita (-do-)
Smt and Sh Karwal Pandita (-do-)
Sh Anil Pandita (Nephew)
Smt and Sh Bansil Lal Pandita (Sister & Brother in law)
7006091692
Smt and Sh Krishan Kumar Dhar (-do- 9412053234)
Smt and Sh Kewal Krishan Ganjoo (-do- 9419207244)
and
SAMAST PANDITA PARIVAR OF TURIGAM

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).



Smt. Jeeta Pandita Miya
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, Aadhyaa, Aagya, Akarsh & Lakshya (Grand Children)
Mob : 9818199753, 9999644660

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you the sad demise of **Sh. Moti Lal Raina** son of Shri Sohan 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, Barnal, Jammu.



SH. MOTI LAL RAINA

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, Barnal, Jammu at 9.00 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Shri Soom Nath Raina - Father
Smt. Babi Raina - Wife
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Shri Rohit Raina & Smt. Jyoti Raina
Shri Anil Raina & Smt. Stelja Raina
Brothers & Bhabis
Shri M.K. Raina & Smt. Veena Raina
Shri Deepak Raina & Smt. Sugeena Raina
Shri Vinay Raina & Smt. Nirdosh Raina
Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt. Kalpana Koul & Shri Ashish Koul
Grand Children: Ihta Raina, Pearl Raina, Uddeshya Raina
Mob No: 788953125, 9149762924, 8551842204, 8600790948

TENTH DAY KRIYA
27th January 1943 - 3rd March 2025

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sh. P.L. Razdan Ji**, affectionately known as Bajana Ji by one and all on 3rd March 2025, originally from 25 - Batyar Alikadal, Srinagar. He leaves behind a legacy of Sewa Bhav, compassion, love and humour



Sh. Peary Lal Razdan

10th Day Kriya will be performed on Wednesday 12th March, 2025 at 7.30 am, at Chota Haridwar Upper Ganga Muradnagar UP. **Fondly Remembered By:**
Samast Razdan, Wali, Wafa, Chaman, Handoo, Bhatt Parivar
102, Gyatri Apartments Plot No Gh 06 Sector 45 Faridabad
9990466505, 9810994556, 9871200058

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.



Shri Pran Nath Pandita

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

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.



SMT. NANCY DHAR

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/Prabhjigri (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

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 Krandigam, Bijbehara, at present B-28 Vasant Vihar Talab Tillo Jammu.



Sh. Dina Nath Saproo

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 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Phoola Saproo - Bhabhi
Girija 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

MOURNING FROM MALUN SIDE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved (Jija Ji) **Sh Jawahar Lal Koul** H/o Smt Veena Koul D/o Late Sh Janki Nath Bhat, R/o Chattabandi Aragam, Bandipora Kashmir at present R/o House No. 113, Shiv Lane, Muthi, Jammu on 04-03-2025.

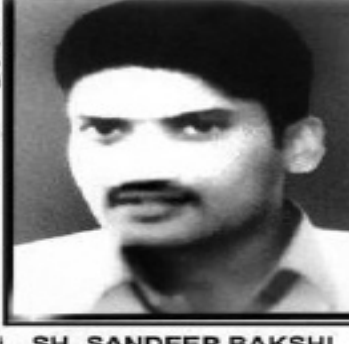


Sh Jawahar Lal Koul (Jija Ji)

MOURNING FROM MALUN SIDE is at House No. 48-A Lane No. 4-A, Sub Lane No. 2, Lakmi Vihar, Tomal, Anand Nagar, Bohri, Jammu. The **10TH DAY** will be performed on 13-03-2025 (Thursday) at Akhnoor and **ASSEMBLY** will be held at Muthi Ghat (Near Education Office Jammu) at 11:30 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN (IN LAW'S)
Roshan Lal Bhat & Babli Bhat
Amit Bhat & Rakhi Bhat
Ashish Bhat & Sarika Bhat
Rahul Bhat & Kajal Bhat
Karan Bhat
D.N.Koul & Manmohani Koul
A.K.Bhat & Doora Bhat
C.L.Bhat & Chandra Bhat
Nana Ji Raina & Kaki Raina
Contact No :- 9622433894, 9622030545
Bhat's, Raina's, Koul's.

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Sandeep Bakshi** S/o Late Sh. Gian Parkash Bakshi R/o H.No. 48, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu.



SH. SANDEEP BAKSHI

10th Day on 10-03-2025 at 10 AM at our residence. **Kriya** will be performed on 11-03-2025 (Tuesday) at 11 AM at our residence. **Uthala** will be held on 13-03-2025 at Shiv Temple, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu from 4 PM to 5 PM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Sushma Bakshi - Wife
Simanti Bakshi - Son
Smt. Kamlesh Bakshi - Mother
Smt. Shakuntla Bai - Mother-in-law
Smt. Kirri & Sh. Jogeel Bakshi - Brother & Bhabhi
Smt. Ekta Bakshi - Bhabhi
Smt. Sangeeta & Sh. Naresh Sharma - Sister & Jija Ji
Smt. Sakshi & Sh. Vikas Sharma - Sister & Jija Ji
Smt. Minakshi Dutta - Sister
Smt. & Sh. Pawan Balli
Smt. Priyanka & Sh. Rakesh Balli - Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law
Smt. Anju & Sanjay Sharma - Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law
Smt. Renu & Sh. Varinder Bakshi - Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law
Smt. Kiran & Sh. Rajesh Sharma - Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law
Smt. & Sh. Naresh Bakshi - Chacha Ji
Smt. & Sh. Kapil Bakshi - Chacha Ji
Smt. Promila Dutta - Bhus Ji
Smt. Rani & R.K. Dutta - Bhus Ji
Smt. & Sh. R.K. Dutta - Mama Ji & Mami Ji
Mob: 6006322557

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Behari Lal** S/o Paras Ram R/o Ward No.1, Near Hotel M.L. Palace Jammu Road Katra.



BEHARI LAL

10TH DAY will be performed on dated 11-03-2025 at Shiv Temple Tea Garden Katra at 11.00am
KRIYA will be performed on dated 14 -03-2025 at our residence near Hotel M.L. Palace Jammu Road Katra
GRIEF STRICKEN
CHANYAIL FAMILY
PH. NO. 9797327596

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Harmesh Lal (Shastri Ji)** R/o H.No. 106/2A, Trikuta Nagar Extension, Jammu on 28-02-2025.

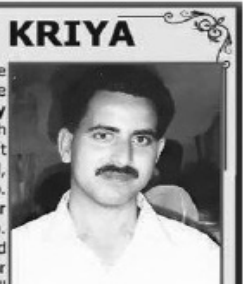


Sh. Harmesh Lal (Shastri Ji)

10TH DAY will be performed on 9th March, 2025 (Sunday) 10 AM at residence H.No. 106/2A, Trikuta Nagar Extension, Jammu. **KRIYA** will be performed on 10th March, 2025 (Monday) 11 AM at residence. **UTHALA** will be performed on 14th March, 2025 (Friday) from 3 PM to 5 PM at Shiv Mandir, Sector 3, Trikuta Nagar Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Anju Raina - Wife
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Sakshi Raina & Sh. Sidharth Sharma
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Shubam Raina & Driiti Chandan
Abhishek Raina & Anjali Sharma
Ashutosh Raina
Grand Children: Richi, Sidhi, Chiku, Gopi & Shubh.
Mob: 9176270005, 7006392040, 8899130285

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sudden and untimely demise of our youngest brother **Sh. Sanjay Kumar Bhan**, S/o Late Sh. Dwarka Nath Bhan on 03/03/2025 originally resident of Ladwuna, Tulamulla, Ganderbal, Kashmir at present Lane No.1, Ward No. 73, Baba Zorawarsingh Enclave, Upper Garhigarh, Jammu (near Gajraj Marbles).

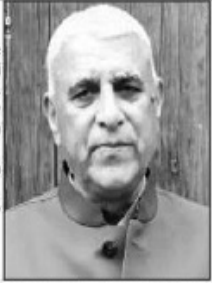


Sh. Sanjay Kumar Bhan
(Senior Accounts Officer, IAF)
23 Wing, POCA (NC) Jammu

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 11/03/2025 (Tuesday) at Akhnoor ghat and **MOURNING ASSEMBLY** will be held at Muthi Ghat (near Director Education Office) at 11:30 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN :
Bharti Bhan (Wife) - 6005793906
Sakshi Bhan, Sarthik Bhan (Sons) - 6006716163
Satish Bhan, Usha Bhan - (Brother and Bhabhi) - 7889636660
Vinod Bhan, Sunita Bhan - (Brother and Bhabhi) - 9419148532
Sh. J.L. Saraf, Umila Saraf - (Jija Ji and Sister) - 7006495451
Sh. A.K. Bhat, Neelam Bhat - (Jija Ji and Sister) - 9682640165
Sh. Anil Waza, Neena Waza - (Jija Ji and Sister) - 7889734059
Sh. Kanya Lal Koul, Late Krishna Koul - (Father-in-law) - 9868963251
Sh. Rajni Koul, Suman Koul - (Brother-in-law, Sister-in-law) - 982342485

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you that the sad demise of **Sh. Roshan Lal Bhat**, Son of Late Shri Kanth Bhat, Originally from Village Chamed, Basmla. He departed for his heavenly abode on 28th February 2025 at his residence House No. 15, Lane No. 2, Sharda Vihar, Sangratabagh, Jammu.



SH. ROSHAN LAL BHAT

The TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Sunday, 9th March 2025, at Akhnoor, Thalwal. **The assembly** will take place at House No. 15, Sharda Vihar, Sangratabagh, Jammu at 11:00 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Basant Bhat and Shri Chaman Lal Bhat (Bhauji and Bhabhi)
SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW
Smt. Jyoti Bhat and Shri. Rakesh Bhat
Smt. Neha Bhat and Shri. Rajesh Bhat
Smt. Neeraj Bhat and Shri. Anil Kumar Bhat
DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW
Smt. Sakshi Prind and Shri Anil Pandit
GRAND CHILDREN: Hika, Karish, Jaha, Agya, Akshay, Manik, Parthivi
MOBILE NO: 7006316005, 9419920624, 9313156414, 981990743

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UPI Transactions and Credit Card Spending Reach Record Highs: Khatana

Top News Report

JAMMU/ NEW DELHI, Mar 10: Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha Member Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana highlighted the significant growth in UPI transactions and credit card spending, marking an all-time high. He stated that in January 2025, UPI transactions surpassed 16.99

billion, with a total transaction value of Rs.23.48 trillion. The cumulative UPI transactions for the financial year 2023-24 exceeded 131 billion, with the total transaction value crossing Rs.200 trillion.

He further noted that 62.35% of UPI transactions in January 2025 were person-to-mer



chant, while 37.65% were person-to-person.

80% of retail payments are now facilitated through UPI.

Over 641 banks and 80+ apps are integrated into the UPI ecosystem.

80% of UPI transactions were for amounts below Rs.500, highlighting its role in everyday payments.

Additionally, credit card spending reached

a record Rs.1.86 trillion in January 2025, with key investment segments witnessing a 69% growth over the past two years.

Er. Khatana emphasized that these figures reflect India's rapid digital financial transformation, reinforcing its position as a global leader in digital transactions.

JKHCBA Jammu condemns tragic demise of three lives at Kathua

Top News Report

JAMMU: The J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, in a meeting held in the office of J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, ON Monday under the Chairmanship of K. Nirmal Kotwal, (Advocate) President, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu along with all the office bearers namely Vice President Baldev Singh, General Secretary Pardeep Majotra, Joint Secretary Anshu Majahan and Treasurer Rahul Aggarwal strongly condemned the tragic loss of three lives at Tehsil Lohai Malhar, Billawar, District Kathua and unanimously expressed grief and condolences to the bereaved family members.

Taking serious note on

said horrific incident, K. Nirmal Kotwal (President) urged upon the UT administration and police authorities to take immediate action against those involved in the said incident and further urged that thorough probe be done in the said incident. K. Nirmal Kotwal (President) stated that such senseless acts of targeting innocent lives is an attack on the democratic values of society and deserve to be universally condemned. They must be met with determination and collective action. I call upon the U.T Government and all concerned agencies to ensure that the guilty are brought to justice and law and order is maintained in the UT of J&K.

The members of J&K High Court Bar Associa-

tion, Jammu pray to the almighty to grant peace to the departed soul and the Association has shown full support to the bereaved families of demised persons.

The team of Young Lawyers Association, including President Amandeep Sharma, Vice President Bhagirath, General Secretary Saksham Gupta, Joint Secretary Hitesh Koul and Treasurer Susheel Thappa were also present in the condolence meeting.

K. Nirmal Kotwal (Advocate) President, JKHCBAJ urged upon the U.T. Government to grant ex-gratia relief to the bereaved families of the victims/ demised persons. Two minutes silence was also observed in memory of the demise souls.

Army distributes solar lights at Seoj, Triangle Ghat



Top News Report

DODA, Mar 10: As part of ongoing outreach and helping local population, the Indian Army unit located at Baderwah has taken an initiative to conduct 'Distribution of Solar Lights for Gujjar & Bakkanwals at Seoj / Triangle Ghat' wef 08 Mar to 09 Mar 2025. Seoj, Triangle Ghat, and Marmat are located in the foothills of the Himalayas at an altitude of 1650 meters. The region is known as mini Kashmir due to its pristine beauty and rich cultural heritage.

The region witnessed an insurgency during the peak of militancy, however, the situation has been peaceful and normal for more than a decade now.

Due to the presence of large number of Educational Institutes to pursue higher education and the literacy rate of the area, it is also termed as Kerala of J&K.

The region has also been accorded status of additional district considering its vast area, prevailing peace and separate identity. Good communal harmony exists between both the communities who are in almost equal ratio.

A popular demand for provision of Solar Lights had come from the people of both communities from villages of the remotest area of Seoj, Triangle Ghat, Baderwah & Marmat. A total of 40 solar lights were distributed to the civil population by the Indian Army.

JPS conducts its midterm CME, elects new office bearers



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: The Jammu Psychiatric Society (JPS), affiliated with the Indian Psychiatric Society, conducted its midterm (CME) program on at Hari Niwas Palace, Jammu.

The event focused on the theme "Sleep Disorders" and witnessed an overwhelming participation of psychiatrists including postgraduates.

Psychiatrists from across the Jammu division convened in large numbers to engage in in-depth deliberations on sleep disorders and their management.

The CME was followed by a General Body Meeting, graced by senior psychiatrists, including Dr. U.K. Mehta, Dr. Jagdish Raj Thappa, Dr. Manu Arora (HOD, Psychiatric Diseases Hospital, GMC, Jammu), and Dr. Abhishek Chowhan (Asst. Prof, Psychiatric Diseases Hospital, GMC, Jammu).

A event highlight was the election of the Jammu Psychiatric Society (affiliated with the Indian Psychiatric Society), wherein the new executive body was elected under the patronage of Dr. U.K. Mehta and Dr. Jagdish Raj Thapa.

The newly elected office bearers include Dr. Rakesh Banal (President), Dr. Rajesh Chandel (Vice President), Dr. Nikhil Gupta (General Secretary), Dr. Preeti Kour and Dr. Roopika Jandial (Joint Secretaries), and Dr. Akhil Menia (Treasurer).

The event concluded with the Jammu Psychiatric Society members reaffirming their commitment to advancing mental health initiatives, with a dedicated focus on combating sleep disorders and addressing the growing challenges in Jammu.

GDC Chatroo organises awareness campaign three new Criminal Laws

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 10: Government Degree College (GDC) Chatroo organised an awareness campaign regarding three new criminal laws passed by Indian Parliament on Dec. 2023.

The programme started with the introductory address delivered by Assistant Professor, Chander Parkash (NSS Coordinator) GDC Chatroo and followed by a detailed lecture by Assistant Professor Ram Krishan (Political Science) highlighting the important provisions and associated sections of these three criminal laws.

Krishan provided a detailed explanation of some important sections related to rape, murder and kidnapping etc contained in these laws.

The programme was held in the presence of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Ved Kumar of GDC Chatroo. The other notable figures present on the occasion were: Associate Prof. Athar Hussain and Tariq Tamkeen along with Assistant Prof. Gazenfur Ali, Vikram Rathore, Chander Parkash, and Sunil Kumar were also present during the programme.

Finally, the programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Assistant Prof. Chander Parkash.

KDP Wing of DPAP calls for united front to restore 36 years of lost rights

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: The Kashmiri Displaced People (KDP) Wing of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) has issued a strong appeal for unity among displaced Kashmiri communities, urging all social, political, and retired bureaucratic groups to come together on a joint platform to fight for the restoration of their lost constitutional, citizenship, cultural, and harmonial rights.

In a joint statement, KDPW President Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita, General Secretary Raj Kumar Ticku, and other leaders emphasized the need for Jammu-based displaced Kashmiri people, social and religious organizations, youth groups, and political activists to rise above organizational divisions and work towards a common goal. They stressed that unity is the key to reclaiming the 36 years of lost rights and ensuring a dignified and permanent settlement for the displaced community.

The leaders urged veteran intellectuals, educationists, legal experts, and socio-political activists to put aside their individual differences and contribute

towards the formation of a Joint United Front. They emphasized the necessity of a one-time settlement policy that would permanently address the community's displacement, ensuring their resettlement without a repeat of past exodus experiences.

As part of the initiative, the leaders announced that a campaign will be launched from Jagti Camp, gradually expanding to all other camps and non-camp areas. The goal is to hold community meetings, build a consensus, and draft a concrete proposal for submission to the Government of India, J&K Union Territory administration, and other relevant authorities.

Expressing optimism, the KDPW leaders believe that through collective struggle, the formation of a result-oriented United Front will lead to a permanent and dignified resettlement of the displaced community, along with the full restoration of their constitutional and fundamental rights.

They appealed to all dignitaries, community elders, and volunteers to step forward as front-line warriors in this movement, emphasizing that only through unity and dedicated efforts can they achieve a long-awaited justice and resolution for the exiled community.

Budget Session 2025, Question Hour in LA

Tourism in border areas has revived: CM Omar Abdullah

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday stated that the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) and international border has led to a revival of tourism activities in frontier areas. Replying to a supplementary question raised by Member Sajad Shafi regarding his Uri constituency, the Chief Minister, who also holds the Tourism portfolio, informed the House that as the border areas are slowly opening after the ceasefire along the LoC and border, tourism is witnessing a positive trend due to the prevailing peace in the region.

"It is true that Uri has huge border tourism potential. Tourists have started visiting areas like Uri and are eager to explore places such as Aman Setu and other scenic locations. Our priority is to enhance tourism infrastructure in these regions," Omar Abdullah said.

In response to a starred question from the member, he stated that the feasibility of establishing a Zipline or Cable Car project from Lagama to Baba Farred Garkote in Uri Constituency would be assessed by the Tourism Department. However, he clarified that no such proposal is currently under consideration.

The Chief Minister further said that the development of locations such as Rustom and Nambla Waterfalls, with their inclusion under the Border Tourism Programme, would be considered in the future, subject to feasibility and availability of resources.

Highlighting the potential of adventure tourism, he noted that Bijham and Limber Waterfall/ Limber Wildlife Sanctuary are well known for attracting adventure enthusiasts.

The Tourism Department has undertaken several initiatives for the holistic development of these

areas, he said.

The Chief Minister said that while the department does not directly operate paragliding activities, it facilitates them through private adventure tourism operators.

Additionally, capacity-building programs are conducted for aspiring trainers, and permissions for paragliding are granted after a feasibility survey.

Regarding camping facilities, the Chief Minister informed that the Tourism Department facilitates and grants permission for setting up of camping colonies at the Gantamulla reservoir on the banks of River Jehlum.

The government has already developed key tourism assets to facilitate visitors traveling from Baramulla to Salamabad, Uri.

These, he said, include the development of Khadinyar Park, a tourist cafeteria and TIC at Boniyar, a tourist cafeteria at Salamabad in Uri, and a Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) at Salamabad. Additionally, the gutted cafeteria at Eco-Park Khadinyar has been reconstructed.

Work on Shopian-Aglar road project to resume as weather improves: Dy CM

JAMMU, Mar 10: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Monday informed the House that the work on the Shopian-Aglar road project would resume once the weather improves.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by Advocate Shabir Ahmad Kullay.

He informed that the Shopian-Pinjora road under nomenclature of "Shopian to Aglar road" was approved under PMGSY Incentive Fund during 2024-2025 and the allotment has been issued in October 2024. He apprised that 3.50 Km road length has been completed before the winter season while the remaining work will be resumed with improvement in the prevailing weather conditions.

The Deputy Chief Minister fur-

ther informed the house that the Shopian to Keegam (9 km) is being maintained by the PWD as part of NH-444. While as Keegam-Daramdora and Daramdora-Mazhama-Gaberpora-Yedpora roads were taken up and completed under NABARD RIDF XXVI in the year 2021-22. Both the roads are in good condition and also in DLP, stated the Minister.

He said that the Keegam-Hajichack-Marheng road was taken up under NABARD RIDF XXVII and completed in the year 2022-23 and the road is in good condition and also in DLP.

The Deputy Chief Minister further said that the Chowan-Batfojan road was constructed under PGMSY and is in good condition and renewal coat on the road was laid during 2021-2022.

Strengthening healthcare facilities, filling vacancies being undertaken: Health Minister

31 healthcare facilities upgraded in Rajpora Constituency

JAMMU, Mar 10: Minister for Health, Sakeena Itoo, on Monday affirmed Government's commitment towards strengthening the existing health infrastructure and filling up of all vacancies in the health sector.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Mir in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed that J&K is one of the top runners among the large States/UTs (with population more than 1 crore) in health institution density in the country. She informed that the report published in 2023 by MoHFW, GoI, indicates that J&K has health institution on every 3500 souls against an average 6000 souls at national level. Moreover, the feasibility for up-gradation and establishment of

new ones are examined in terms of IPHS-2022 norms.

Referring to the healthcare services in Rajpora Constituency, the Minister informed that out of a total of 34 health facilities 31 have been upgraded to Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) to provide improved packages of services to the local population.

She said that the CHC Rajpora, which is in proximity to District Hospital Pulwama (11 km), is already catering to secondary-level healthcare services to the residents of the area.

Regarding the manpower, the Minister informed that the CHC Rajpora has sanctioned strength of 07 specialists, 12 Medical Officers, and 54 paramedical staff.

The Minister maintained that the upcoming Tertiary Care facility AIIMS, Awantipora, Kashmir, is also strategically located at a distance of 25 Km. So, it would be improper to say that the healthcare facilities in Rajpora Constituency have not been upgraded to next level in so many years, she maintained.

The Minister informed that, as of now, J&K is working on consolidation of existing healthcare facilities as around 4000 health institutions at various levels (Primary, Secondary and Tertiary) exists.

365 Medical Officers appointed in November 2024, 181 more in process: Sakeena Itoo

Additional 100 bedded hospital under construction in Kishtwar

JAMMU, Mar 10: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Monday informed the House that the government is upgrading the existing health-

care infrastructure and facilities to strengthen the medical facilities at the grassroots level.

The Minister said this while replying to a starred question raised by Shagun Parihar in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister said that, at present, the District Hospital Kishtwar is functioning as 100 bedded Hospital and an additional 100 bedded Hospital building is under construction adjoining to the existing IPD Block of the DH Kishtwar.

While speaking on Traumatic Centre facility in DH Kashmir, the Minister said that a Designated Trauma Care Centre nearest to Kishtwar is situated at Thathri at a distance of 30 Km. She informed that all the trauma cases are being handled by the Emergency Room of DH Kishtwar where all specialist Doctors like Surgeons, Ortho, Anaesthetists and Physician and ample number of Medical Officers and Para-medics are posted for handling the emergencies 24x7.

The Minister further informed the house that currently DH Kishtwar has 11 consultants, 8 medical officers and 2 dental surgeons for the patients besides other paramedical staff.

The Minister remarked that the department has fast tracked the recruitment process of doctor and medical professionals. She highlighted that in the month of November 2024, 365 selectees were appointed as Medical Officers in the J&K Health & Family Welfare (Gazetted) Services, who have been posted in the far-flung/ peripheral healthcare facilities to strengthen the medical facilities at the grassroots level.

She also informed that the department is also in the process of operating a waitlist in respect of 91 selected Medical Officers, whose services will also be utilized in the under-served areas across the UT of J&K.

Moreover, the Minister informed that 181 posts of Medical Officers are still to be received from Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission and upon receiving these selections, the selected doctors will be posted in the health institu-

tions experiencing staff shortages.

196 Govt Educational institutes functional in four zones of Baramulla: Sakeena Itoo

Rationalization of staff initiated, expected soon

JAMMU, Mar 10: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Monday said that there are 196 Government Educational Institutions functional in the four educational zones of Baramulla district including Higher Secondary, High, Middle and Primary Schools in educational zones of Baramulla, Chandoosa, Fatehgarh, Singhpora-Kalan catering to educational needs in the district.

The Minister informed that only three Principal and five Headmaster posts falling in Zone Baramulla, Chandoosa and Fatehgarh are vacant.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Javed Hassan Beig in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed that as many as 22 buildings have been declared as unsafe in education zones of Baramulla District. She said that about 29 construction works were initiated under Earthquake Reconstruction Programme 2005 and SSA to facilitate better educational infrastructure facilities to students in Baramulla.

The Minister further informed that the construction of new buildings for abandoned ones and completion of incomplete buildings are being proposed under SAMAGRA SHIKSHA, Capex and District Capex UT. Besides, the process for rationalisation of teaching staff in district Baramulla like other districts has been initiated and is expected to take effect soon.

She said that about 90 lower rung teaching and non-teaching staff has also been promoted to the next higher level through DPCs in district Baramulla during the last two years.

EDITORIAL

POLLUTION

CONTROL MEASURES

Pollution is one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. It affects air, water, soil, and even sound quality, leading to serious health issues, climate change, and ecosystem damage. Rapid industrialization, urban expansion, and the reckless exploitation of natural resources have intensified pollution levels. However, by adopting effective pollution control measures, we can work towards a cleaner and healthier environment.

Air pollution is a major concern that leads to respiratory illnesses, environmental degradation, and global warming. The main contributors to air pollution include vehicle emissions, industrial discharges, and deforestation. To tackle this issue, governments and individuals must take proactive steps. Reducing vehicle emissions through the promotion of electric vehicles, carpooling, and the use of public transport can significantly cut down air pollution. Additionally, industries should install advanced filtration systems such as scrubbers and electrostatic precipitators to trap pollutants before they are released into the atmosphere. Afforestation programs, green spaces in urban areas, and strict environmental regulations on industrial emissions also play a crucial role in improving air quality.

Water pollution poses a serious threat to aquatic life, agriculture, and human health. Industrial waste, untreated sewage, and plastic pollution are the primary causes of water contamination. One of the most effective ways to control water pollution is by ensuring that industries and municipalities treat wastewater before discharging it into rivers and oceans. Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) should be made mandatory in urban and industrial areas. Additionally, reducing the use of single-use plastics, promoting biodegradable alternatives, and implementing strict waste disposal regulations can help keep water bodies clean. Rainwater harvesting, sustainable agricultural practices, and public awareness campaigns about water conservation further contribute to pollution control efforts.

Soil pollution affects food security, biodiversity, and agricultural productivity. It is primarily caused by chemical fertilizers, pesticide overuse, industrial dumping, and deforestation. To combat soil pollution, organic farming should be encouraged, minimizing the use of synthetic fertilizers and harmful pesticides. Sustainable agricultural practices such as crop rotation, agroforestry, and conservation tillage help maintain soil fertility and prevent erosion. Proper waste disposal and recycling methods must be implemented to prevent hazardous materials from seeping into the soil. Additionally, industries should adopt environmentally friendly waste management techniques and avoid dumping harmful chemicals into the land. Strengthening laws against illegal dumping and promoting corporate responsibility in waste management can further help in preserving soil health.

Noise pollution, though often overlooked, has a significant impact on human well-being, causing stress, hearing loss, and sleep disturbances. Traffic congestion, construction activities, and industrial machinery are major contributors to excessive noise. To control noise pollution, urban planning should include designated silent zones near hospitals, schools, and residential areas. Using soundproofing materials in buildings, restricting construction activities to daytime hours, and implementing noise barriers around highways and industrial zones can help reduce noise levels. Awareness campaigns and strict enforcement of noise regulations are necessary to ensure compliance with sound pollution control measures.

Governments worldwide have taken various steps to combat pollution. The Paris Agreement (2015) aims to reduce global carbon emissions and address climate change. India's National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) focuses on improving air quality in major cities, while the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan promotes cleanliness and waste management. Additionally, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies hold industries accountable for proper waste disposal and recycling. Strict pollution control laws and incentives for sustainable practices are essential for long-term environmental protection.

While government policies play a crucial role, individuals also have a significant responsibility in pollution control. Simple habits such as reducing plastic use, conserving water, and practicing waste segregation can make a big difference. Choosing energy-efficient appliances, using public transport, and supporting eco-friendly businesses contribute to reducing pollution. Community-driven initiatives, such as tree-planting drives and cleanliness campaigns, can help create awareness and encourage responsible environmental behavior.

Pollution control is a collective responsibility that requires coordinated efforts from governments, industries, and individuals. By implementing strict regulations, adopting sustainable practices, and raising awareness, we can effectively combat pollution and create a healthier planet for future generations. The time to act is now—every small effort counts in the fight against environmental degradation.

Omarnomics in full swing in JK Budget 2025-26

By: O.N.KOUL

Budgeting is basically and essentially an economic tool of planning and controlling. But it is immensely influenced by the politics and political system and therefore it is apt to call it also as a tool and weapon of political economy. The present budget which was tabled in the legislative assembly by the chief minister Omar Abdullah on 7th of March 2025 Friday who also holds the portfolio of finance ministry is a people and growth oriented exercise through what can be called Omarnomics where growth meets welfare and it is the blend of economics, politics, the vision and acumen of the chief minister. It is in fact a pro people and pro poor budget which underlines the blueprint for the socio-economic development of Jammu and Kashmir. At the outset it should be noted that the current budget is the very first budget of an elected government in seven years and also the maiden budget of the UT presented and tabled by the elected government and chief minister. The total budget outlay is of Rs 1.12 lakh crore. People of Jammu and Kashmir have high hopes on the democratically elected government and they expect that the new government which is in place in J&K will deliver on the promises made with the electorate during the recently concluded election to the legislative assembly. However Omar Abdullah deserves a pat at his back for making commitment in the legislative assembly on the eve of tabling his budget proposals that his government is going to fulfill all the promises made with the people and now it is to be seen how will the new government pursue the job of meeting the promises with the people. The budget is more or less a balanced one as it caters to the needs and aspirations of all most all sectors and sections of the people. The main thrust of the budget is on agriculture, infrastructure development, industry, tourism

,healthcare, Skill development and creation of 1.37 lakh enterprises which will ensure 4.25 lakh jobs to meet the unemployment and joblessness in Jammu and Kashmir. Besides the main focus is on the poorest of poor such as AAY category which will get 200 units of electricity free, 10 kg of free ration as well as Rs marriage assistance of Rs 75, up from the previous budget of Rs 50000. In the budget there is provision of free travel for women in government transport and electronic buses and it is major relief to the women who constitute more than half of the UT's population. The new budget focuses on growth, inclusivity and stability. The chief minister reiterated that the J & K should not solely bank on the financial assistance from New Delhi and this budget will dart the path for self-reliance and self-dependence. At the same time Omar Abdullah thanked the PM, HM and FM for the generous financial support. One more significant thing of the budget is that the pension has been enhanced for over 10 lakh vulnerable persons. Moreover stamp duty has been removed on the transfer of property to blood relations. Chief minister described this budget as historical one as the concerns of all legislators and other stakeholders have been taken due care of in the budget for the first time. He also assured the people that all manifesto promises will be fulfilled. So far as the provision of free electricity up to 200 units is concerned, the CM said that other people will also be added in freebie when the financial position of the J&K improves. He said that this budget is more than a financial statement—it is a roadmap for a new and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir. The budget is the reflection of the aspirations of the people and lays the solid and strong foundation for economic growth, social progress and sustainable development. These are the very noble ideas and a dream vision and the moot question is how will the

budget exercise and implementation fulfill all these ideas and promises as well as the noble vision of the chief minister? The budget focuses on social welfare, infrastructure development and financial stability. It is good that J&K economy is projected to grow at 9.5% in 2025-26 with major investments in infrastructure, tourism, agriculture, and industry. To maintain fiscal discipline enough stress has been laid in the budget so that unproductive expenditure of the government is reduced and a push to growth is ensured in the year. Priorities in the budget have been outlined to lessen dependence on the central financial support and stress has been given to improve revenue collection and ensure financial stability. In the budget fiscal reforms were unveiled to give strength to the J&K economy. The government will introduce new hydropower policy to attract private investment and will give boost to electricity production and for this required provision has been made in this year's budget. Moreover series of welfare and development initiatives for 2025-26 have been unveiled. For 2025-26 power sector has been allocated a handsome amount of Rs 2,021 crore under capital expenditure marking an increase of 762.80 crore from the revised allocation of 2024-25. Food security will be strengthened with a robust PDS and smart PDS will be implemented in 2025-26 and this is no mean development by any standard. It is worth noting that 46 new industrial estates will be developed with Rs 310 crore and the existing ones will be upgraded. Besides, Rs 15 crore have been earmarked for the promotion of film production in Jammu and Kashmir. Two new universities namely National Law and Skill & Entrepreneurship are proposed in the budget. Rs 5000 crore will be spent for strengthening power infrastructure during the year. For Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrimage up gradation and improvement of infrastructure, Rs 80 crore provi-

sion has been made in the budget. Omar Abdullah announced a slew of welfare majors for the poorer people including ration of 10 kg's for every member of the AAY family. The CM proposed an enhancement in pension amounts for old age persons, widows, divorcees, and specially able persons benefitting more than 10 lakh people. CM also announced support to 40,000 women under Lakhpati Didi Scheme in launching micro-startups, ensuring sustainable annual income of Rs one lakh. However there will be increase in the price of petrol by Rs 1 and diesel by Rs 2. This increase will not make much impact upon the people. To conclude it can be said that the J&K budget is pro poor, pro people and growth as well as stability oriented. It is inclusive financial statement with focus on welfare schemes for the poor. It will satisfy the aspirations of the various sections of the society and will cater to the needs of different stakeholders. It can be said to be a balanced budget with focus on economic development and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir. It is Omarnomics in full swing and when implemented in totality will benefit the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Let me end this write up with the Persian couplet mentioned by Omar while starting his 97 minute speech which reads—“Tan Hama Daag Daag Shud—Pumba Kuja Kuja Neham...” which roughly translates in English as my entire body is covered with bruises where should I apply the balm. He has perhaps said it in context of the failing economy of the J&K and now it is interesting to see how will his budget bring the UT back on health and rails.

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

Why is menstruation still stigmatized in Indian society?

By: Priyanka Saurabh

India has an opportunity to respect cultural views while promoting a more inclusive and forward-looking approach to menstrual health. What are your thoughts—should the government take the responsibility, or should grassroots organizations take the lead in bringing about change? Menstrual stigma exists across many cultures, driven by cultural taboos, misinformation, and systemic gender inequality. This results in serious issues such as limited access to menstrual products, inadequate education, and even social exclusion in some communities. To end this stigma, we need to encourage open discussions, provide holistic education about menstruation, and implement policy changes that promote menstrual equity.

Menstruation remains a taboo subject in many cultures, primarily due to long-held cultural beliefs, insufficient open communication, and gender inequality. This results in feelings of shame, secrecy, and limited access to essential resources and education about menstrual health. In India, menstruation is often associated with significant cultural taboos, which can lead to exclusion, misinformation, and adverse health effects. Although progressive policies are being introduced, combining these with cultural sensitivities is important for successful implementation.

Women often face restrictions in places like temples, kitchens, and social gatherings, which promote discrimination. The Supreme Court's Sabarimala verdict in 2018 lifted the ban on women's entry into the temple, but it faced considerable opposition rooted in cultural beliefs.

The lack of open discussion about menstruation promotes myths and neglect in health matters. Only 58% of young girls in rural India know about menstruation before experiencing their first menstruation. Women also struggle with inadequate access to toilets, hygiene products, and proper disposal methods. While the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan launched in 2014 has made progress in sanitation, menstrual waste disposal remains a significant issue. The high cost of hygiene products forces many to resort to unsafe alternatives. The Rajasthan Free Sanitary Pad Scheme launched in 2022 aims to provide free pads to tackle menstrual poverty. However, menstrual health is not prioritized in political agendas, which hinders comprehensive reforms. The Menstrual Hygiene Policy (Draft 2022) is yet to be fully implemented nationwide.

Incorporating menstrual awareness into state curriculums can help normalize conversations on the topic. The Menstrual Hygiene Management Guidelines advocate menstrual education from the primary school level. We can promote greater acceptance by training Anganwadi workers, teachers, and community leaders. The Menstrual Health Alliance India (2020) collaborates with grassroots organizations to raise awareness. Public figures and the media can play a key role in combating stigma through positive messaging. The “Chuppi Todo” campaign (2021, UNICEF India) effectively used digital platforms to spread awareness. To enhance menstrual health infrastructure, it is essential to ensure (water, sanitation, and hygiene) facilities in schools and workplaces, including more gender-friendly toilets with disposal options. Government

subsidies and GST exemptions on menstrual products can significantly improve access. The removal of 12% GST on sanitary pads in 2018 made them more affordable. Promoting biodegradable pads and menstrual cups addresses both environmental and cultural concerns. The Sakhi Sanitary Napkin Initiative (Odisha, 2021) supports local production of biodegradable pads.

Menstrual health should be recognized under the right to health (Article 21) and incorporated into labor laws. The Menstrual Benefits Bill (2018, private member bill) proposed paid menstrual leave but did not receive government support. Companies should pay menstrual leave and ensure workplace hygiene support. Zomato set a precedent in the private sector by introducing menstrual leave in 2020. Implementing extended producer responsibility norms for sanitary product manufacturers can help reduce waste. Develop community-based initiatives that involve local leaders, elders, and religious figures to change the conversation about menstruation. Use culturally appropriate messaging in educational settings and the media to make discussions about menstrual health more common. Involve men and boys in awareness efforts to create a more inclusive dialogue. Promote menstrual health policies by eliminating taxes on sanitary products and ensuring they are readily available in schools, workplaces, and rural communities.

Implement workplace policies that accommodate persons who menstruate, such as providing menstrual leave and access to clean toilets. Incorporate menstrual education into school programs in a manner that respects cultural values.

Expand government efforts, such as the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram, to provide free or subsidized sanitary pads, especially in rural areas. Advocate for the use of sustainable and cost-effective menstrual products, such as reusable cloth pads and menstrual cups, while considering environmental and financial aspects. Use Bollywood, social media influencers and television shows to dispel harmful menstrual myths. Films such as PadMan have sparked important discussions—more initiatives like this are needed. Encourage local storytelling and traditional narratives to weave positive menstrual messages into cultural contexts. Provide training to health professionals to provide culturally sensitive advice on menstrual health. Support research on menstrual disorders and their effects on women's health, ensuring that healthcare policies address these issues.

Menstrual health must be recognized as a fundamental human right and a public health concern, not a stigma. A comprehensive strategy that combines education, infrastructure improvements, and legal reforms can promote dignity and equality, making menstruation a recognized and supported aspect of women's health.

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Jammu is being forced to be separate: Shiv Sena

Remained empty handed in industry, employment, health, education, religious, other tourism

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: All the claims made in the recently presented budget about the betterment of Jammu division and boosting the economy have once again proven to be hollow. Like Ladakh, Jammu division is also being forced to demand a separate state for its rights, stated by Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that discriminatory attitude towards Jammu division remains the same. In the recently presented budget by the Omar government, no special package was announced



for the development of tourism, religious places and boosting the economy of Jammu. At the same time, no special amount was announced for the maintenance of Ranbir Canal and Dogra heritage sites, the life line of farmers. The BJP MLAs

along with the government remained silent on the promotion of Dogri language and culture.

The hue and cry over the liquor ban in the temple city of Jammu did not go beyond the politics of pressure on the vendors. Sahni

said that the time has come that all the well wisher organizations of Jammu should raise their voices in unity for the rights of Jammu division. Sahni said that as soon as the budget session is over, Shiv Sena and Sainik Samaj Party will jointly launch the "Jammu ko do Apna Haq" campaign, know the public sentiment on the demand of making Jammu the permanent capital and the status of a separate state.

Sahni said that if the Omar government wants to keep Jammu with Kashmir, then Jammu should be declared the permanent capital. Otherwise, like Leh Ladakh, the Jammu division will be forced to raise the demand of creating a separate state for its rights.

GDC Doda organises plantation drive on International Women's Day

Top News Report

DODA, Mar 10: On the occasion of International Women's Day, Women Development Cell GDC Doda and NSS unit in collaboration with Ummied Charitable Trust organized a mega Plantation Drive on Monday. The drive was organised to celebrate the achievements of women and promote environmental sustainability. The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of women in the society while encouraging eco-friendly initiatives.

The event commenced with an inspiring speech by Prof Falak, Convener Women Development Cell highlighting the significance of International Women's Day and the need for environmental conservation. Faculty members, students, and staff actively participated in the drive by planting saplings across the campus and in Bagh-I



Iram Botanical Garden.

The entire event was organised under the supervision of Dr Javid Iqbal Principal of the College who in his speech lauded the efforts of the college and Ummeid Charitable Trust and assured them of full support and mentorship. He further informed that more initiatives would be taken by the institution where in students shall participate and develop a sense of environmental sustainability.

Dr Javed Iqbal Trambo, Dr Tanveer Hussain, Prof Sudesh Kumar, Prof Sandesh

Kumar, Prof Purnima Manhas, Prof Upma Kumari and Prof Majid Gani graced the occasion. Ummied Charitable Trust as represented by Mr Farhan Rather Chairman, Mr Khalid Mattoo Vice Chairman, Er Tanzeel Rather Cashier and Mr Touseef Ahmed Gen Secretary.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Jamsheed Ahmad who thanked the principal and staff, participants, Umeed Charitable Trust Doda and encouraged them to continue their support in such meaningful initiatives.

GDC Mahanpur organises awareness program on 'Women Rights'



economic growth, and peace.

The staff members who were present in the programme were Dr. Mohinder Nath Sharma, Dr. Sudesh Kumar, Dr. Jobbinder Singh Soodan, Prof. Rupalee Jasrotia, Dr. Babli, Dr. Anju Bala, Dr. Yograj, Dr. Nishu, Prof. Namita Trogia, Dr. Hilal, Prof. Divya Rajput, Dr. Suhail Ahmed Dar, Prof. Sameeksha Sharma, Prof. Monika devi, Prof. Anuradha, Prof. Pooja Sambyal, Prof. Shivani Panooch. More than 30 students participated in the programme. The entire program was hosted by Dr. Sapna and the formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Bably. Everyone participated in the Programme with enthusiasm.

Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Mar 10: Women Empowerment Committee of GDC Mahanpur in collaboration with Dr. Radha Krishnan Library (GDC Mahanpur) organised an Awareness program on the topic "Women Rights" on Monday in connection with celebration of International Women's Day across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

It was organised by Dr. Sapna (Convener Women Empowerment Committee and Dr. Nisha (Librarian) under the guidance of Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, Principal of the College. Through a video Dr. Nisha elaborated the women rights.

Women's rights are human rights that are essential for a free and equal society. They are also critical to sustainable development,

RBSK Team conducts deworming awareness program in Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 10: The Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) team of Block Kishtwar organized a deworming awareness program at Upper Primary School Kundhali Poochal, Zone Kishtwar, on National Deworming Day. The initiative, aimed at improving child health and preventing intestinal worm infections, was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Rajinder Kumar, Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Kishtwar, and Dr. Anil Kumar Sharma, Block Medical Officer (BMO), Kishtwar.

Led by Dr. Nazir Hussain, Medical Officer, and Mr. Ashiq Hussain Malik, the team educated students on the harmful effects of worm infestations, which can cause anemia, malnutrition, weakness, and fatigue. As part of the nationwide campaign, Albendazole tablets were distributed free of cost to children aged 1-19 years. Dr. Nazir Hussain highlighted the importance of deworming, stating, "Intestinal worms are a silent threat to children's health, leading to malnutrition and stunted growth. Regular deworming helps improve overall well-being, ensuring better physical and cognitive development."

Sanjay Kumar Parihar, In-Charge Headmaster of Upper Primary School Kundhali Poochal, welcomed the RBSK team and emphasized the importance of maintaining hygiene to pre-

vent infections. Dr. Nazir Hussain reinforced this message, urging students to adopt good hygiene habits such as washing hands, keeping nails short, and avoiding open defecation to minimize the risk of reinfection.

The team outlined key preventive measures, including maintaining cleanliness in surroundings, washing hands with soap before meals and after using the toilet, wearing shoes to prevent soil-transmitted infections, and always using a toilet instead of open defecation. Additionally, they advised washing fruits and vegetables thoroughly, covering food, trimming nails, and drinking clean water to further reduce the risk of infections.

To ensure that every child receives the necessary treatment, a Mop-Up Day has been scheduled for March 17, 2025, to cover those who missed the initial deworming session. This initiative, carried out under the Health Education Bureau, Directorate of Health Services Jammu, is aligned with the Anemia Mukt Bharat campaign, aiming to reduce the prevalence of parasitic infections among children.

By raising awareness and providing essential treatment, the RBSK team is making a significant contribution to safeguarding children's health and ensuring a healthier future for the young population of Kishtwar.

Coffee Table Book "Facets of Art" and Duggarsansar.com launched



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: In a significant event celebrating the rich art and cultural heritage of the Dogra community, the coffee table book Facets of Art and the digital platform Duggarsansar.com were launched today at the Jammu Press Club. The event marked a tribute to the vibrant artistic legacy of the region and was attended by prominent personalities and cultural advocates.

In a remarkable event held at the Press Club Jammu, the coffee table book "Facets of Art" by Master Sansar Chand Baru was released amidst an audience of prominent citizens and art enthusiasts from Delhi, Jammu, and Himachal Pradesh. The event was graced by senior journalist Mahesh Baru, who compiled and published the book, alongside notable personalities such as Sunny Dua, Shakti Singh, Dr. Naseeb Singh Manhas, Surinder Singh Dogra,

and renowned cartoonist Chander Shekhar.

Speaking at the event, Mahesh Baru expressed his excitement and pride in presenting the book to the art community. "We are happy to present here our new pictorial coffee table book 'Facets of Art,' available in both hardbound and Kindle versions. This book explores the timeless connection between man's creative spirit and the portrayal of life and nature. From the cave murals to the sculptures that adorn palaces and temples, art has been a reflection of human thought and emotion."

"Facets of Art" delves into various dimensions of art, highlighting aestheticism, landscapes, sketches, war, portraits, and the portrayal of women, among other themes. Through its simple and accessible language, the book guides readers to appreciate the love, emotions, and beauty that reside in

the mind of an art lover. The detailed illustrations add further depth to the book's content, making it an enriching visual and intellectual experience.

The book also presents a comprehensive overview of the history and growth of fine art, introducing readers to the proponents and pioneers of the art world across the ages. It explains the techniques, tools, nuances, and processes involved in painting, making it a valuable resource for both art students and enthusiasts alike.

Shakti Singh and Dr. Naseeb Singh Manhas lauded the efforts of Mahesh Baru in compiling such an exhaustive and beautifully illustrated book, which serves as a tribute to the rich legacy of fine art. Chander Shekhar, while expressing his admiration for the book, emphasized the importance of preserving and promoting the diverse facets of art in today's fast-paced world.

"Facets of Art" is now available on major platforms, including Amazon and Flipkart, in both hardbound and Kindle versions. The audience was encouraged to explore and experience the essence of fine art in its purest form through this thoughtfully curated collection.

GDC Kakryal organises singing competition

Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 10: Govt. Degree College (GDC) Kakryal organized a singing competition on Monday to celebrate International Women's Day 2025. The event aimed to honor the achievements, strength, and resilience of women across the globe by showcasing the talent of women in music.

Participants from various semesters competed in the event, performing songs that celebrated womanhood, empowerment, and equality. The event was organized by IQAC in collaboration with CASH committee of the college. The objective was to provide a platform for students to showcase their talents and to foster a sense of community in celebrating Women's Day.



Day. The judging panel included Prof Shikha Bhasin and Dr. Manisha Kumari.

The competition featured outstanding performances, with participants pouring their emotions into songs that resonated with the audience. At the conclusion of the competition, winners were announced, and Sonika, Mehak and Madhu bagged 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize.

The performances echoed the spirit of International Women's Day, highlighting how music can be a powerful medium for change and celebration.

Dr. Rajni Bhagat, principal of the college expressed her gratitude and encouraged all participants and the audience for making the event memorable. All the staff members were present during the event.

Bollywood International Film Festival concludes in Mumbai with grand celebrations

Top News Report

JAMMU /MUMBAI, Mar 10: The two-day Bollywood International Film Festival (BIFF) concluded late last night at Veda Kunba in Mumbai, marking another successful edition of this prestigious cinematic event. Organized jointly by Stage App and the Om Puri Foundation, the festival was founded by Bollywood actor Yashpal Sharma and Pratibha Sharma, who have been hosting it for the past four years.

The festival, held over Saturday and Sunday, showcased a diverse array of films, including national, international, and regional works. Renowned Bollywood personalities such as Poonam Dhillon, Padmini Kolhapure, Lilliput, Upasana Singh, Nandita Puri, Eshaan Puri, Aseem Bajaj, Manoj Joshi,

Seema Pahwa, Deepak Parashar, Avinash Das, Santosh Jha, Dharmendra Nath Ojha, and Ravi Yadav graced the event with their presence.

Following the screenings, awards were distributed across multiple categories. Among the winners, Chaudhary Sahab by Amit Pahal won Best Short Film (India), while Bloom from Hungary, directed by Zolt Wenzel, won Best Short Film (Foreign). Vignesh Nadar bagged Best Director (India) for PTSD, and Mansi Nayanesh Mehta was awarded Best Director (Foreign) for ICK (Australia). The Best Actor (India) award went to Chetan Sharma for Nachar, and the Best Actress (India) award was shared by Zarina Wahab and Parul Chauhan.

In the Long Short Film category, Bhookh won Best Long Short Film (India), while From-



crony Heart from Australia took the foreign equivalent. Saikat Bagban won Best Director (India) in this category, and Mikey Altaf won Best Director (Foreign) for The Silver Lining (UK). Standout performances included Shishir Sharma's role in Bhookh, earning him Best Actor (India - Long Short Film), and

Ali Altuneli's performance in In Hindsight (Turkey), which won him Best Actor (Foreign - Long Short Film).

The festival also recognized excellence in documentaries. Fight for Right by Bani Prakash Das and Pradeep Gogoi won Best Short Documentary (India), while Water of Conductor of Life

by Anna Bolmark won Best Short Documentary (Foreign). The Best Long Documentary (India) award went to Ramanami: The Search of Lord Ram by Balendu D Kaushik, while Charak Puja (France) by Thierry Pomier won Best Long Documentary (Foreign). In the feature film category,

Leer by Nalin Kulshreshtha won Best Feature Film (India), and Spotlight from Japan, directed by Kaomui, won Best Feature Film (Foreign). The Best Director (India) award went to Mahesh Bansode for Chal Halla Bol, while Thierry Obedia won Best Director (Foreign) for On My Way (France). The Best Actor (India) award was secured by Mohit Nain for Dhadam, while Firmine Richard won Best Actor (Foreign) for On My Way. Best Actress (India) was awarded to Chetna Sarsar for Kaand 2010, and Anna Ko Tiny won Best Actress (Foreign) for Little Voices.

Special recognitions included the Founder's Choice Award, which went to Rajesh Amarial Babbar and Vaishali Bhagirath Pillewan for Sangharsh Aamcha Astitvacha. The prestigious Om Puri Best Actor Award was

presented to Manoj Joshi, and Seema Pahwa was honored with the Outstanding Contribution to Cinema Award.

The grand closing ceremony began with a soulful Ganesh Vandana by Laxmi Rajesh, followed by a mesmerizing performance by Akash Sharma. The audience was also captivated by an energetic performance from Haryanvi dancer Sonia Sartaj. The award ceremony was expertly hosted by Dr. Alpna Suhasini and Mona Shah, who also took the opportunity to honor the festival team for their dedication.

The festival concluded on a high note, celebrating cinematic brilliance and honoring remarkable talent from across India and the globe, solidifying BIFF's position as a major international film platform.

They've forgotten their roots: Aamir Khan on why Hindi filmmakers are struggling

Aamir and Javed Akhtar are collaborating on the actor's upcoming film production "Lahore 1947", headlined by Sunny Deol.

Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan said the reason behind the success of South cinema lies in its directors tapping into strong emotions in their stories, something filmmakers up north have forgotten.

The actor was speaking at the press conference of PVR-INOX's 'Aamir Khan: Cinema Ka Jadugar' — a special film festival commemorating Khan's contribution to Indian cinema.

Veteran lyricist-screenwriter Javed Akhtar, who moderated the session with Aamir, asked the actor why South Indian films were working in theatres, while Hindi films were struggling.

"One of the reasons is that Bollywood writers or directors, perhaps, have been trying to entertain an audience which is slightly finer. They've forgotten their roots. There are finer emotions, then there are base emotions. Revenge is a strong emotion. But doubt is a light emotion, it's a less attractive emotion.



Bollywood is choosing to talk about different aspects of life.

We're not sticking to the broader strokes," Khan told reporters.

The actor believes that South is giving more space to massy films through single screens, whereas Hindi filmmakers are catering to multiplex-going audiences, which represent a smaller section of viewers.

"When multiplexes came, there was a talk in the film industry that the audience is changing and its (multiplex) audience is different. The conversation had started growing very strongly. And then there was a certain genre of films that were being made which were called multiplex films. The South films are what we typically used to call single-screen films — massy, very hard hitting, very broad strokes. I think maybe the Hindi filmmakers tried to go more towards multiplex films," he added.

Aamir and Javed Akhtar are collaborating on the actor's upcoming film production "Lahore 1947", headlined by Sunny Deol.

Women have to prove themselves again and again, says Madhuri Dixit Nene



It's 2025, but women across several indus-

tries are still grappling with pay dispar-

ity. Lately, we have seen many renowned actresses addressing this issue publicly. Recently, at a special session hosted by the International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) 2025 in Jaipur, Madhuri Dixit Nene shared her take on it, accepting that pay disparity has long existed.

"Well, I think for the women, they have to prove themselves time and again and to say that we're equal, we can draw an audience, we can do that, but we have to prove it every single time. And yes, there is still a disparity. I think we have a long way to go and we have to kind of work every day towards that," Madhuri said. Madhuri shared her views during an insightful conversation with IIFA's vice president, Noreen Khan.

Producer Guneet Monga talks about Anuja's Oscar disappointment

Producer Guneet Monga expressed gratitude for the recognition Anuja received at the Oscars despite not winning. Priyanka Chopra and Guneet Monga-backed Anuja, a short film set in New Delhi, was nominated in the Live Action Short Category at the Oscars 2025, but lost the prestigious award to the Dutch language film 'I'm Not a Robot'.

However, Guneet shared that getting nominated is also a 'big thing'. Directed by Adam J. Graves, Anuja had secured a nomination for Best Live Action Short Film at the 97th Academy Awards, putting it in the race against other notable contenders such as 'Alien', 'I'm Not a Robot', 'The Last Ranger', and 'A Man Who Would Not Remain Silent'.

Monga shared, "It is a beautiful film by Adam J. Graves and Suchitra Mattai... Adam is the director and Suchitra is the producer. I joined their journey to be able to celebrate the film. We are very happy to get nominated."

It is also a big thing to be in the top five in the world." She continued, "The journey was beautiful and the team was beautiful. We were able to bring the girls to America..."

It was surreal, magical. I was there for seven days and part of the celebration. We



really enjoyed a lot. Everything is not about the win, it is also about the effort that you put in and it is great to be nominated." For Monga, Anuja marks her third Oscar nomination. Her previous projects, 'The Elephant Whisperers' and 'Period: End of Sentence', have both won

Academy Awards.

Being a woman producer, she said there were a lot more opportunities in India and the US now.

"It is a time to think how far I can go and explore. It's the beginning of a new chapter and time to fulfill all the dreams I have seen."

Amar Singh Chamkila, Panchayat 3 among big winners at IIFA Digital Awards 2025

Filmmaker Imtiaz Ali's Amar Singh Chamkila and the third season of web series Panchayat emerged as the top winners at the IIFA Digital Awards 2025 here.

The grand Silver Jubilee celebrations, being held in Jaipur this year, began with the inaugural IIFA Digital Awards.

The star-studded evening, which featured electrifying performances by Nora Fatehi, Sachin-Jigar, Shreya Ghoshal, and Mika Singh, was hosted by Aparshakti Khurana, Vijay Varma, and Abhishek Banerjee.

Netflix's Amar Singh Chamkila, the biopic on the titular Punjabi singer featuring Diljit Dosanjh, won the Best Film award, while Ali was named Best Director.

In the acting categories, Kriti Sanon bagged Best Performance in a Leading Role (Female) for 'Do Patti', a Netflix mystery thriller that also earned Kanika Dhillon the Best Story (Original) award. Actor Vikrant Massey was adjudged the winner of the Best Performance in a Leading Role (Male) for the Netflix film 'Sector 36', while his co-star Deepak Dobriyal won the award for Best Supporting Actor (Male).

The award for Best Supporting Actor (Female) went to actor Anupriya Goenka for her performance in 'Berlin' (ZEE5).

In the web series segment, Panchayat (Prime Video) season three was the night's biggest

winner, securing the Best Series award.

Lead actor Jitendra Kumar won Best Performance in a Leading Role (Male), while Deepak Kumar Mishra went home with the trophy for Best Direction.

Faisal Malik, who plays the fan-favourite character Prahlad Cha in Panchayat, was awarded in the Best Supporting Performance (Male) category.

Bandish Bandits star Shreya Chaudhry won Best Performance in a Leading Role (Female) for the Prime Video show's second season.

Actor Sanjeeda Shaikh was honoured with Best Performance in a Supporting Role (Female) for her performance in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's maiden OTT series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar' on Netflix. The award for Best Story (Original) in the series category went to the streamer's 'Kota Factory' season three, which also features Jitendra.

In the non-scripted category, Netflix's 'Fabulous Lives Vs. Bollywood Wives' won Best Reality or Non-Scripted Series, while the documentary 'Yo Yo Honey Singh: Famous secured the Best Docuseries award.'

The Best Title Track award went to composer Anurag Saikia for 'Ishq Hai' from 'Mismatched' season three (Netflix).

The event was also attended by prominent Bollywood stars like Shahid Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Karan

Johar, Madhuri Dixit, Bobby Deol, Pratik Gandhi, Jaideep Ahlawat, Ali Fazal, Richa Chadha, Nimrit Kaur, Karishma Tanna, Nushratt Bharuccha and Ravi Kishan.

Kareena stuns in red and gold

Kareena Kapoor Khan turned heads at the IIFA Digital Awards in a stunning deep red and gold outfit.

The event, part of the 25th edition of IIFA, saw the actress gracing the green carpet in an elegant ensemble.

Kareena looked stunning, dressed in a richly embroidered deep outfit with gold detailing. Her look featured a gold-embellished blouse with delicate straps paired with a flowing draped skirt and an ornate dupatta with gold borders. She accessorised with a statement emerald choker necklace, matching earrings, and gold bangles. With her hair neatly tied in a sleek bun and minimal makeup, Kareena kept the focus on her radiant beauty.

KJo's weight loss secret

Amid speculations of him using a diabetes medication for weight loss, filmmaker Karan Johar stated that his weight loss is solely due to a healthy lifestyle, including a healthy diet and exercise.

During the media interaction on the IIFA 2025 green carpet, Karan shared his secret to weight loss, "It's being healthy, eating well,

exercising, and just doing your best to look good." Karan wittily refused to share his daily routine with the media during the interaction. He said, "My routine. If I tell you, I will give my secret away."

Richa on motherhood Richa Chadha had an eventful 2024, from starring in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Heeramandi' to producing 'Girls Will Be Girls' and welcoming her first daughter, Zuneeyra, in July.

While talking to the media at the event, Richa shared how she is adjusting to motherhood and expressed that it is still a new experience for her and something she is learning every day.

"It's still very soon. She's just a few months old now. I think it's a lifelong journey, so we'll find out how we fare, but the idea is to do our best," she said.

"What my heart desires" Bollywood actor Bobby Deol, who has seen a wave of success after his role in 'Animal', turned heads as he walked the green carpet at the IIFA Digital Awards.

While interacting with the media, Bobby revealed that while he used to take advice as a child, he now follows his own instincts when making career decisions.

"I used to take advice in my childhood. Whenever I did something, I never took advice like that. I ask once, listen, and if my heart still wants to do something, then I do what my heart

desires," he said.

'God of Dance' Bollywood icon Madhuri Dixit showered praise on Hrithik Roshan, calling him the "God of dance".

When asked who she considers the best dancer in Bollywood, she said, "I don't know. There are so many. In male dancers, my God, there are so many. There is Shahid, Tiger, Varun, Hrithik Roshan. I mean, he is God."

Jaipur: Director Ramesh Sippy poses during the special screening of film 'Sholay' at the IIFA Awards 2025, in Jaipur, Sunday, March 9, 2025. (PTI Photo) Ramesh Sippy attends Sholay screening

The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2025 commemorated 50 years of the iconic film 'Sholay' with a special screening at Jaipur's prestigious Rajmandir Cinema on Sunday.

The event attracted Bollywood legends and film industry personalities, who have gathered to celebrate the film's enduring legacy.

Veteran filmmaker Ramesh Sippy, the director of 'Sholay', also shared his thoughts on the momentous occasion.

"The 25 years of International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) are as important today as the 50 years of Sholay. Together, we had a wonderful start last night, and it will continue not just tonight but on and on," he said.

Esha Pathak to star in upcoming show Rishto Se Bandhi Gauri

Sun Neo has recently announced its upcoming show 'Rishto Se Bandhi Gauri' and the cast lineup is already creating a buzz. One of the most exciting names in the show is Esha Pathak, who will be seen in the lead role as Gauri. Known for her strong performances, Esha recently shared her thoughts on her character and why Gauri holds a special place in her heart.

Esha said, "Gauri is a very special character to me because she is full of love, patience and faith. She believes that relationships are the biggest wealth in life and no matter how difficult the situation is, having good people by her side makes her feel rich. Despite coming from a humble background, she never complains or loses hope. Her devotion to Mata Parvati is her greatest



strength and she finds a motherly presence in the goddess, which gives her the courage to face every challenge with a smile. I admire how she embraces every moment, believing that everything happens for a reason." She added, "Playing Gauri will be an emotional and inspiring journey for me. Her ability to see the good in every situation and trust in divine love will teach me so much about life."

Nayanthara does not want to be called Lady Superstar



In a heartfelt note to her fans, actress Nayanthara has requested that they stop referring to her as Lady Super-

star and instead call her by her name. She expressed her gratitude to fans for their 'unconditional love and affection', but explained that titles can sometimes create a distance between her and her work. Nayanthara took to her official X handle to share her thoughts, "My life has been an open book that has always found its adornment with your unconditional love and affection. Be it the pat on my shoulder during my success or extending your hand to lift me up during hardships, you have always been there for me." The actress acknowledged that the title 'Lady Superstar' was born out of her fans' affection, but she humbly requested that they call her by her name instead.

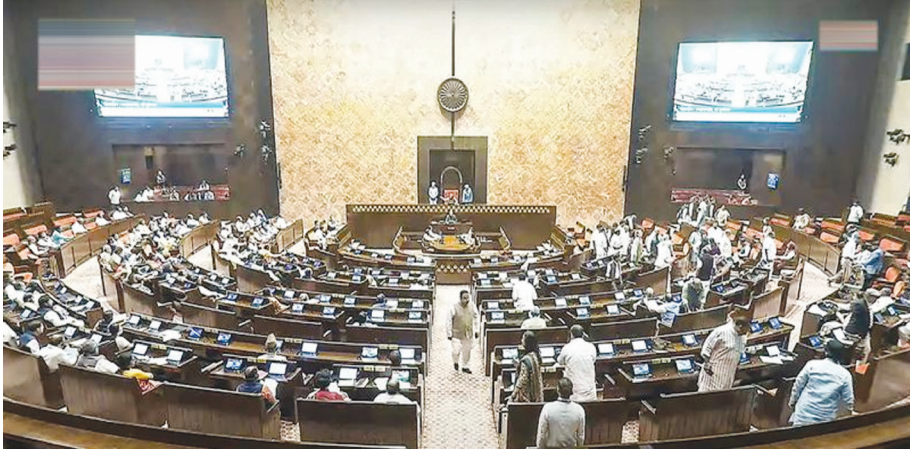
Opposition walks out of RS, Nadda says govt ready to discuss all issues

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (Agencies): Led by the Congress, the opposition parties on Monday staged a walkout from the Rajya Sabha after their notices for discussions on issues ranging from 'duplicate' voter ID cards to US funding to voter turnout were rejected, even as Union minister J P Nadda insisted that the government is ready to discuss any issue provided they are under the rules.

The opposition MPs raised slogans after the deputy chairman of the House, Harivansh, said a dozen notices under Rule 267, which calls for setting aside the business of the day to take up discussions on urgent matters, have been rejected.

Citing the rejection, Harivansh did not allow Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge to make his submission. The opposition MPs then protested for a while before staging a walkout.

Leader of the House and Union minister Nadda termed the



walkout "irresponsible behaviour" and suggested that the opposition MPs, including Congress chief Kharge, should go for a refresher course on the rules of the House.

He also termed the practice of opposition MPs giving notices under Rule 267 despite elaborate ruling by the chair a "vicious design to demean the institution of Parliament".

"They are not interested in debate. They want to give an impression that the government does not want to answer queries or enter into a debate."

"The government under Prime Minister

Narendra Modi is ready to discuss anything under this roof. But there are certain rules and regulations for debates in the House," Nadda said, adding that the MPs will get an opportunity to raise their issues during the debate on the Union Budget over the next 10 days.

"We are ready for that discussion. There is a provision for short duration discussions and there is a provision for long duration discussions. They (opposition) don't read the rules," Nadda said, as he asked the opposition MPs to first read the rules and learn to

debate.

"This is irresponsible behaviour by the opposition... In a way, it is an attempt to malign Parliament and democracy," Nadda alleged.

"They (opposition MPs) should go for a refresher course. They should understand the rules and regulations (of the House). The government is ready to discuss anything," Nadda added.

Earlier, Harivansh said 12 notices had been received under Rule 267.

Tiruchi N Siva of DMK, CPI's Santosh Kumar P, Vaiko of MDMK, CPI's P P Suneer, and P Wilson

of DMK demanded discussions on concerns regarding the upcoming delimitation exercise in the southern states.

Trinamool Congress members Saket Gokhale and Sagatika Ghose, along with Pramod Tiwari and Ajay Maken of the Congress demanded discussions over the alleged lapse by the Election Commission in issuing multiple 'duplicate' voter ID cards across states.

While Sanjay Singh of AAP demanded a discussion on the financial loss incurred by the small investors due to the continued decline in stock market indices, Ramji Lal Suman of the Samajwadi Party called for a discussion over a statement made by US President Donald Trump on American funding to increase voter turnout in India.

V Sivadasan of the CPI(M) wanted to raise issues faced by anangwadi and mid-day meal workers.

Rahul Gandhi demands Parliament discussion on alleged voter fraud



NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (Agencies): Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Monday demanded a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the issue of voter lists on which several political parties have raised certain questions. Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, Mr Gandhi said the entire opposition has been demanding a discussion on voter lists.

"We accept your remarks that the government does not make voter lists. But we demand a discussion on the issue," the

Congress leader said.

"The voter lists are being questioned across the country. Questions have been raised by the opposition in one voice in every state, including Maharashtra," he said.

Earlier, Trinamool Congress member Saugata Roy said there were some flaws in the voter lists and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has pointed out that voters with same EPIC (Electoral Photo Identity Card) numbers were present in Murshidabad and Burdwan parliamentary constitu-

encies and in Haryana.

Mr Roy said a Trinamool delegation was meeting the newly-appointed chief election commissioner to flag concerns on voter lists.

He also demanded a thorough revision of the voter lists, particularly ahead of the assembly elections in West Bengal and Assam scheduled next year.

"There are some serious flaws. This has been pointed out with respect to Maharashtra, which had inflated voter lists. This was pointed out in Haryana. They are now trying to jump into West Bengal and Assam where elections are due next year," Mr Roy claimed.

"Let the total voter lists be thoroughly revised. The Election Commission should answer to the country why some mistakes occurred in the lists," the Trinamool leader said.

Vaishnav rebuts Kerala Congress allegations over power generation

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (Agencies): Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Monday rebutted allegations of the Kerala unit of the Congress against him on share of non-fossil fuels in India's energy mix.

The Kerala unit of the Congress, in a post on X, had called Vaishnav a "liar" over his remarks that 45 per cent of India's power generation capacity was from non-fossil fuels and claimed that over 74 per cent of the country's power generation was from fossil fuels.

"If we add your 45 per cent, it will become 120 per cent. How confidently are you fooling your audience Mr. Reel Minister," the Kerala unit of the Congress said, sharing a pie graph of power generation in the country.

Vaishnav pointed out that there was a difference between energy generated and power generation capacity. "Energy generated



and power generation capacity are two different things.

For example: thermal power plant of 100 MW can generate more energy than a solar plant of similar capacity," the union minister said.

The minister also shared a pie graph that showed coal-based power plants forming 47.29 per cent of the total 466 GW installed capacity for power gen-

eration.

Non-fossil sources, including solar, hydro, wind and nuclear, form 47.25 per cent of the energy mix.

Addressing a media conclave, Vaishnav had said more than 45 per cent of India's power generation capacity was from non-fossil fuels.

He said Railways planned to achieve 100 per cent electrification of its network by this year.

Ganga water was fit for bathing during Maha Kumbh: Govt tells Parliament

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (Agencies): The Central Government on Monday cited a new report from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in Parliament and said the water in the Ganga at Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj was fit for bathing during the recently concluded Maha Kumbh.

Triveni Sangam is where the Ganga meets the Yamuna and Saraswati rivers.

The Government also said it had provided a total of Rs 7,421 crore to the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) for cleaning the river in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (until March 9).

In response to a question from Samajwadi Party MP Anand Bhaduria and Congress MP K Sudhakaran, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said that according to the CPCB report, the median values of pH, dissolved oxygen (DO),

biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and faecal coliform (FC) at all monitored locations were within the permissible limits for bathing.

DO refers to the amount of oxygen in water, BOD measures the oxygen needed to break down organic matter and FC is an indicator of sewage contamination. These are key indicators of water quality.

In a report dated February 3, the CPCB had informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that water at several locations in Prayagraj during the Maha Kumbh did not meet the primary bathing water quality standard due to high faecal coliform levels.

However, in a new report submitted to the tribunal on February 28, the CPCB said statistical analysis showed that the water quality during the Maha Kumbh was fit for bathing.

The report said that the statistical analysis was necessary due to the "variability of data" in samples collected from the same locations on different dates and even from different spots on the same day. This variability meant the samples did not fully reflect the "overall river water quality throughout the river stretch", it said.

In the case of "Kamlesh Singh vs State of Uttar Pradesh & Others", the NGT had on December 23, 2024 directed that water quality monitoring of the Ganga and Yamuna should be conducted regularly at frequent intervals during the Maha Kumbh to ensure compliance with primary water quality criteria.

Yadav said that in response to this order, the CPCB carried out water quality monitoring at seven locations twice a week, from Shringverpur Ghat (upstream of

Prayagraj) to Deehaghat (downstream), including at Sangam nose (where the Ganga and the Yamuna meet). Monitoring began on January 12 and covered auspicious bathing (Amrit Snan) days.

The CPCB submitted its initial monitoring report to the NGT on February 3, which included water quality data collected between January 12 and 26, 2025. The report also included monitoring data from 10 sewage treatment plants (STPs) installed in Prayagraj and seven geosynthetic dewatering tubes (geotubes) used for filtration, Yadav said.

Later, the CPCB increased the number of monitoring locations to 10 and began testing twice daily from February 21 to improve water quality data availability.

The minister said the Uttar Pradesh government installed 10 STPs

for the Maha Kumbh to treat wastewater, ensuring that effluents met environmental standards before being released. Also, seven geo-tubes were installed as a temporary solution to treat wastewater from 21 untapped drains.

Three prefabricated temporary STPs, each with a capacity of 500 kilolitres per day (KLD) and three faecal sludge treatment plants with a total capacity of 200 KLD were installed in the mela area.

Yadav said the UP Jal Nigam used advanced oxidation techniques to treat wastewater and prevent untreated water from entering the Ganga.

A sufficient number of toilets and urinals were set up across the mela area to accommodate the large number of pilgrims. Dustbins with liner bags were also placed strategically for waste disposal, he said.

Trafficking racket busted in Bihar, 45 minors rescued

PATNA/SASARAM, Mar 10 (Agencies): Altogether 45 children, including 42 girls, have been rescued in an anti-trafficking operation carried out recently by the Bihar Police, a senior official said on Monday.

Raids were conducted at several places in Rohtas district last week as part of 'Operation Natraj', Superintendent of Police (SP) Roshan Kumar said.

"An NGO... had provided a tip-off to Additional Director General of Police (CID), Anil Kumar Jain, about minors, mostly from outside the state, being hired by a number of so-called orchestra parties, which perform at weddings and other public functions," he said.

"It was stated that these children were made to live in appalling conditions and forced to wear revealing clothes and gyrate to the tunes of lewd songs. The tip-off was shared with us by the ADG and we launched the operation," the SP said.

He said the operation that began in the early hours of Thursday, "continued for six hours, with personnel from several police stations travelling by 19 vehicles. Three minor boys were also rescued. Five persons were arrested for involvement in the racket".

"It appears the girls were lured with the promise of jobs and marriage. The boys were promised financial

security.

All the rescued children are from extremely poor backgrounds," the officer said.

He added that the accused have been sent to jail, while steps were being taken for the rehabilitation of the rescued children.

Meanwhile, Manish Sharma, senior director of the NGO - Association for Voluntary Action - said in a statement, "Earlier, girls used to be mostly trafficked from West Bengal, but now Chhattisgarh has become a new hotspot for such networks. Influential people may be behind the interstate trafficking rings. Thorough investigation is needed to dismantle these".

Firecracker shop blaze claims five lives, including three children in Jharkhand's Garhwa

RANCHI, Mar 10 (Agencies): Five people, including three children, died after a fire broke out at a firecracker shop in Garhwa. SP Deepak Pandey has confirmed the incident.

As per the information received, a fire broke out suddenly in a firecracker shop located in Godarmana under the Ranka police station area this morning. The fire spread so fast that the people present there did not even get a chance to escape.

All the injured people were rushed to a hospital in Ramanujanji, in the neighbouring state of Chhattisgarh, where the doctors declared them dead.

This is a breaking story; more details are awaited.



Six labourers die as speeding truck loaded with sugarcane overturns in Maharashtra



CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, Mar 10 (Agencies): Six labourers were killed and 11 others injured when their speeding truck loaded with sugarcane overturned in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district early on Monday, police said.

The incident took place in Pishor ghat section at around 2.30 am when the truck was going from Kannad to Pishor, an official said.

As many as 17 labourers were travelling on the truck, he said. Its driver lost control over the wheels at the Pishor ghat and as a result, the vehicle overturned.

The labourers fell down on the road and got trapped under the heap of sugarcane, the official said.

"The truck loaded with sugarcane was passing through Kannad-Pishor ghat area and the sugarcane labourers were travelling on the vehicle. It overturned in the ghat area around 2.30 am," an official from Kannad city police station told agency.

After receiving information, the police rushed to the spot and carried out a rescue operation with the help of local people.

Four labourers were found dead under the heap of sugarcane and two succumbed during treatment, the official said.

The deceased have been identified as Kisan Rathod (30), Manoj Chavan (23), Mithun Chavan (26), Vinod Chavan (28), Krushna Rathod (30) and Dnyaneshwar Chavan (36).

They were from Satkund village and other nearby localities in Kannad, the police said.

The 11 other labourers who suffered injuries were admitted to a government hospital and other medical facilities here, they said.

North Korea fires several ballistic missiles into sea after US, South Korea began military drills

The drills' start drew the condemnation of nuclear-armed North Korea, which issued a government statement calling the exercises a "dangerous provocative act" that increases the risks of military conflict

SEOUL, Mar 10 (Agencies): North Korea fired several ballistic missiles into the sea on Monday, South Korea's military said, hours after South Korean and US troops kicked off their large annual combined drills, which the North views as an invasion rehearsal.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile firings, North Korea's fifth missile launch event this year, were detected from the North's Hwanghae province but gave no further details such as how far they flew.

Earlier Monday, the South Korean and US militaries began their annual joint military exercises, which are scheduled to last 11 days.

The Freedom Shield command post exercise began after the South Korean and US militaries paused live-fire training while Seoul investigates how two of its fighter jets mistakenly bombed a civilian area during a warm-up drill last week.

The drills' start drew the condemnation of nuclear-armed North Korea, which issued a government statement calling the exercises a "dangerous provocative act" that increases the risks of military conflict.

About 30 people were injured,



two of them seriously, when two South Korean KF-16 fighter jets mistakenly fired eight MK-82 bombs on a civilian area in Pocheon, a town near the North Korean border, on Thursday.

The bombing occurred while South Korean and US forces were engaging in a live-fire drill ahead of the larger Freedom Shield exercise.

In a background briefing to domestic reporters on Monday, the South Korean air force repeated its initial assessment last week that one of the KF-16 pilots had entered the wrong coordinates for a bombing site.

The unidentified pilot didn't recognise the error during a pre-takeoff check and, rushing to meet scheduled timing, failed to visually verify the target before proceeding with the bombing.

The second pilot had the correct coordinates but focused

only on maintaining formation with the other aircraft and dropped the bombs following the first pilot's instructions, failing to recognize they deviated from the right target, according to the content of the briefing provided to The Associated Press.

Gen. Lee Youngsu, chief of staff of the South Korean air force, bowed and apologized Monday over the injuries and property damage caused by the incident, which he said "should have never happened and must never happen again".

Both the South Korean and US militaries have halted all live-fire exercises in South Korea following the mishap. South Korean military officials say live-fire training will resume after they complete the ongoing investigation on the bombing and formulate preventative steps.

The Freedom Shield exercise

marks the first large-scale joint exercise since US President Donald Trump began his second term. It comes amid growing tensions with North Korea over its nuclear ambitions and its alignment with Russia in President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine.

Trump, who met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un three times during his first term, has expressed his willingness to reach out to Kim again to revive diplomacy, which collapsed due to disagreements over exchanging US-led sanctions against the North and the North's denuclearisation steps.

But Pyongyang has yet to respond to his overture and has continued its fiery rhetoric against Washington and Seoul over their joint military exercises, which Kim portrays as rehearsals for invasion.

In a statement issued through state media Monday, the North Korean Foreign Ministry called the Freedom Shield exercise an "aggressive and confrontational war rehearsal" that risks triggering "physical conflict" on the Korean Peninsula.

The ministry reiterated Kim's state goals for a "radical growth" of his nuclear force to counter what he claims as growing threats posed by the US and its Asian allies.

Sikyong Penpa Tsering marks 66th anniversary of Tibetan uprising with call for justice, freedom



LHASA, Mar 10 (Agencies): Tibetan President in-exile Sikyong Penpa Tsering has highlighted the 66th anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising of March 10, 1959, a pivotal moment in Tibet's history when Tibetans across all three provinces rose in defiance of China's illegal occupation.

In a post on X, Tsering stated, "This dark chapter in Tibet's history saw over a million Tibetans lose their lives and compelled the legitimate government led by His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama and 80,000 Tibetans into exile."

In his statement, Tsering mentioned that under China's current

policies, Tibetans face harsh restrictions on their language, religious practices, and freedom. The forced assimilation of Tibetan children into colonial-style boarding schools and the ongoing efforts to erase Tibetan culture through "sinicization" have led to widespread international condemnation.

He reminded the world of the enduring human cost of Chinese rule over Tibet, which has led to the deaths of over one million Tibetans. Despite these atrocities, Tsering emphasized the steadfast spirit of the Tibetan people, who continue to fight for their rights through non-violence and dialogue.

Tsering pointed out,

Despite these atrocities, guided by His Holiness's wisdom and compassion, the Tibetan people remain committed to the path of non-violence and dialogue in finding a lasting and mutually beneficial solution to resolve the Sino-Tibet Conflict through the Middle Way Approach."

He further concluded and emphasized, "We honor our brave martyrs and stand in solidarity with Tibetans inside Tibet. The rightful custodians of the Tibetan plateau since its formation, the Tibetan people embody unique religious and cultural traditions that cannot be erased, an indomitable spirit that cannot be broken, and the unparalleled leadership of His Holiness the Dalai Lama that cannot be replaced."

The Tibetan National Uprising of March 10, 1959, was a pivotal revolt against China's illegal occupation of Tibet. It resulted in the deaths of thousands of Tibetans and forced the Dalai Lama into exile. The uprising marked a significant moment in Tibet's ongoing struggle for freedom and cultural preservation.

"Strengthening New Zealand's relationship with India is a key priority," NZ PM says

WELLINGTON, Mar 10 (Agencies): New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon on Monday announced that he will be visiting India with a senior business delegation.

Luxon said that strengthening the India-New Zealand ties was a key priority for them.

"Next week, I'll be travelling to India with a senior business delegation. Strengthening New Zealand's relationship with India is a key priority for my Government," he said.

Luxon said that he wants to increase trade and business opportunities between the two countries and promote New Zealand as an investment destination.

"India is the fifth largest economy in the world and I am focused on increasing trade and business opportunities between our two countries and promoting New Zealand as an investment destination. Trade is a key part of our plan to grow the economy to reduce the cost of living and create more jobs and higher incomes for all New Zealanders," he said.

At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Luxon will pay an official visit to India from March 16-20, a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs said.

The statement said that this would be Luxon's first visit to India as the Prime



Minister of New Zealand.

"This would be the first visit to India by Prime Minister Rt Hon Luxon in his present capacity. He will visit New Delhi and Mumbai before returning to Wellington on 20 March 2025," the statement said.

The statement said that during his visit, Luxon will hold talks with PM Modi and President Droupadi Murmu.

"During his visit, Prime Minister Rt Hon Luxon will hold talks with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 17 March 2025 covering various aspects of India-New Zealand relations. Prime Minister Modi will host a lunch in honour of the visiting dignitary. A call on Hon'ble Rashtrapati Smt. Droupadi Murmu is scheduled on the same day," the statement said.

Luxon is scheduled to join the inaugural session of the 10th Raisina Dialogue 2025 on March 17 and deliver the keynote address. He will also interact with Indian business leaders during his visit.

Over 200,000 buildings without power after devastating Australia floods

GOLD COAST, Mar 10 (Agencies): Torrential rain from the remnants of Cyclone Alfred flooded swathes of Australia's east coast on Monday, as workers battled to restore power to more than 200,000 homes and businesses.

Even as the weather system weakened, authorities issued a string of flood and severe weather warnings across a 400-kilometre (250-mile) stretch of coast straddling Queensland and New South Wales.

The tropical depression dumped 30 centimetres (one foot) of rain in 24 hours over Queensland's capital city of Brisbane, the bureau of meteorology said.

Floodwaters swamped some streets in the city of 2.5 million, stranding half-submerged cars in the worst-affected areas, images published in Australian media showed.

Emergency services rescued 17 people from fast-moving waters in Queensland overnight, the state's premier, David Crisafulli said.

"Rainfall is leading to flash flooding as well as river flood-



ing in parts of the southeast," he told a news conference.

"We are urging people to stay connected because of the prospect of more intense flooding during the course of today."

Heavy rainfall, flash flooding and moderate-to-major river flooding remained a risk, bureau of meteorology forecaster Jonathan How said.

"This is all due to the remnants of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred," he told agency.

"It did cross the southeast Queensland coast on Saturday, but it has been very slow moving even as it moved over land. And,

quite importantly, it is still dragging a lot of moisture."

Mass power cuts

Utility companies said more than 210,000 homes and businesses were still blacked out in Queensland, and another 10,000 in New South Wales.

In New South Wales, Essential Energy said repairs were underway across the storm-hit region, with "significant vegetation work to remove trees from power lines, re-standing power poles, replacing electrical assets and restringing power lines".

"The weather pattern is still somewhat unpredictable. We're

expecting some increased rainfall over the next 24 hours," New South Wales Premier Chris Minns told a news conference.

Nevertheless, all but one of the evacuation notices in the state had been lifted, he said.

The wild weather has so far claimed at least one life, after a 61-year-old man's four-wheel-drive pickup was swept off a bridge Friday in northern New South Wales.

He tried in vain to cling to a tree branch in the river before disappearing into the rapid waters, police said, and his body was found the next day.

In a separate incident Saturday, 13 soldiers were injured and taken to hospital when two army trucks rolled over during a deployment to clear roads near the flood-prone northern New South Wales city of Lismore.

All but one of the troops had been released from hospital by Monday, Defence Minister Richard Marles said.

"The one person who is still in hospital is in a stable condition. Not a life-threatening injury, and is expected to recover," he told agency.

Iran says won't negotiate under 'intimidation' as Trump ramps up pressure

Since returning to the White House in January, Trump has reinstated his policy of exerting "maximum pressure" against Iran, reimposing sweeping sanctions aimed at crushing its oil industry in particular.

TEHRAN, Mar 10 (Agencies): Iran said Monday it would not negotiate under "intimidation", after US President Donald Trump sought to ratchet up pressure on Tehran by ending a sanctions waiver that had allowed Iraq to buy electricity from its Shiite neighbour.

Iran's mission to the United Nations had indicated Sunday that Tehran might be open to talks aimed at addressing US concerns about the potential militarisation of its nuclear programme -- though not to ending the program completely.

But on Monday, Iran's top diplomat seemed to

slam the door on such discussions, saying Tehran's nuclear programme was and always will be entirely peaceful and so there was "no such thing as its 'potential militarization'".

"We will NOT negotiate under pressure and intimidation. We will NOT even consider it, no matter what the subject may be," foreign minister Abbas Araghchi said on social media platform X.

Since returning to the White House in January, Trump has reinstated his policy of exerting "maximum pressure" against Iran, reimposing sweeping sanctions aimed at crushing its oil industry in particular.

The US State Department said Sunday the decision not to renew Iraq's sanctions waiver was made to "ensure we do not allow Iran any degree of economic or financial relief."

Iran supplies a third of Iraq's gas and electricity, providing Tehran with substantial income.

"Never take place" On Sunday, the Iranian mission to the United Nations had sounded a more conciliatory note, suggested Tehran might be willing to discuss certain issues.

"If the objective of negotiations is to address concerns vis-a-vis any potential militarization of Iran's nuclear



program, such discussions may be subject to consideration," said a statement from the mission.

"However, should the aim be the dismantlement of Iran's peaceful nuclear program to claim that what (President

Barack) Obama failed to achieve has now been accomplished, such negotiations will never take place," it said.

The waiver for Iraq was introduced in 2018, when Washington reimposed sanctions on Tehran after Trump

abandoned a nuclear deal with Iran negotiated under Obama.

A spokesman for the US embassy in Baghdad on Sunday urged Baghdad "to eliminate its dependence on Iranian sources of energy as soon as possible."

"The President's maximum pressure campaign is designed to end Iran's nuclear threat, curtail its ballistic missile program, and stop it from supporting terrorist groups," the spokesman said.

The landmark 2015 deal that Obama helped negotiate between Tehran and major powers promised sanctions relief in return for Iran curbing its nuclear

programme.

Tehran, which denies seeking nuclear weapons, initially adhered to the nuclear deal after Trump pulled out of it, but then rolled back commitments.

US officials estimate Iran would now need mere weeks to build a nuclear bomb if it chose to.

"All scenarios"

Trump pulled out of the agreement over the objections of European allies, instead imposing US sanctions on any other country buying Iran's oil. The waiver was extended to Iraq as a "key partner" of the United States.

Iraq, despite having

immense oil and gas reserves, remains dependent on such energy imports. But Baghdad said it had prepared "for all scenarios" regarding the waiver.

The ending of the energy waiver is expected to worsen the power shortages that affect the daily lives of 46 million Iraqis.

Gulf analyst Yesar Al-Maleki of the Middle East Economic Survey said Iraq will now face challenges in providing electricity, especially during summer.

To alleviate the impact, Iraq has several options including increasing imports from Turkey.

J&K Youth Congress stages protest, demands action over Kathua killings

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress (JKPYC) staged a massive protest in Jammu on Monday, condemning the central government for its alleged failure to prevent terrorist attacks in the Union Territory. The demonstration was organized following the recent killing of three youth in Kathua district, which has sparked outrage across the region.

Led by JKPYC General Secretary Anirudh Sawhney, the protest saw Youth Congress members raising slogans against the ruling government and burning an effigy of the Union Home Minister as a symbolic gesture of their dissatisfaction. The protesters accused the government of being incapable of ensuring the safety of civilians and claimed that terrorism, once limited to Kashmir, has now dangerously expanded into the Jammu region.

Addressing the gathering, Anirudh Sawhney stated that the rise in terrorist activities in districts like Kathua, Udhampur, and Rajouri is alarming. "The



government claims to have restored peace, but the reality is that terror attacks have only increased since 2014. More than 390 civilians have been killed in terrorist attacks, and over 1,750 terror incidents have taken place in the last decade," he said. Sawhney further criticized the administration for making "hollow claims of normalcy" while people continue to live in fear.

He also questioned the rationale behind converting J&K into a Union Territory, stating, "Was this why J&K was made a UT?

Instead of improving security, crime and terrorism have only worsened." Sawhney stressed that security lapses raise serious concerns about the government's intelligence and operational preparedness.

Other Youth Congress leaders, including Divyansh Singh, Ranjith Singh, and Amit Sial, strongly criticized the government and demanded the resignation of the Union Home Minister, holding him accountable for the deteriorating security situation. "The people of J&K deserve peace, not empty

promises," they said, adding that the immediate restoration of statehood is necessary to ensure proper governance.

Ajay Lakhotra, another Youth Congress leader, asserted that the government must stop using J&K as a "political tool" and take concrete steps to combat terrorism. He warned that the JKPYC will continue its agitation until their demands are met and real security measures are implemented.

The protest reflected growing frustration among the people of Jammu, who believe that their region is being ignored despite the worsening security crisis. The Youth Congress members accused the administration of failing to act decisively, allowing terrorism to spread into previously peaceful areas.

The demonstration was attended by several prominent Youth Congress leaders, including Surinder Kumar, Divyansh Verma, Happy Randhawa, Rahul Tandon, Sunny Parihar, Tanveer Singh, Anmol Kohli, Rishabh Kohli, Gaurav Sharma, Sardari Lal Bitti, Akhil Bogia, Raghav Khajuria, Anuj Sharma, and Nishant Sharma, among others.

GGM Science College organizes awareness program on 'IAS as career option'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: The Career Counselling and Placement Cell of GGM Science College, Jammu organized an awareness program on choosing the Indian Administrative Services (IAS) as a career option on March 10, 2025. The session aimed to guide students on the importance of civil services and equip them with the knowledge needed to pursue a career in the esteemed IAS cadre. The program was meticulously planned and executed by the career counselling cell of the college under the patronage of Principal Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta. The program was presided over by Prof. Bal Krishan, who emphasized the significance of structured preparation and perseverance in cracking the UPSC Civil Services Examination. The event featured Mr. Shoaib Fareed, MD of Wings Ek Udaan, and Mr. Shubham Sardhanja, Director of Sunya IAS, Jammu, as the esteemed resource persons. During the interactive session, Mr. Shoaib Fareed

highlighted the strategic approach required for IAS preparation, focusing on time management, subject selection, and understanding the UPSC exam pattern. Mr. Shubham Sardhanja shared key insights into the evolving nature of the civil services examination, stressing the role of current affairs, analytical skills, and the importance of self-discipline. Principal in-charge Dr. Vandana Khajuria appreciated the initiative of Career Counselling & Placement Cell for giving such platforms to the students, where they can get guidance and direction for their future.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Sharma (Convener Career & Placement Cell) stressed upon, that students should choose job oriented subjects and which have significance of right career choice based on their interest, aptitude and passion.

More than 200 students witnessed the event and actively participated in the Q&A session, seeking guidance on exam strategies, book recommendations, and

motivational insights. The session provided a roadmap for aspirants, encouraging them to set their goals and work diligently towards them. The program was graced by Dr. Brinder Kumar, Prof. Kiran Bala, Dr. Nisha, Prof. Arvind Kumar and Prof. Reetika Rani. The program concluded with vote of thanks presented by Dr. Nisha (HOD Geography).

NOTICE

I, Mukesh Sharma, S/o Tilak Raj Sharma, R/o Bhure Chak, near Govt Middle School, Bhure Chak, Jammu, have lost the Registration Certificate (RC) of my Motorcycle (Splendor Plus) having Engine Serial Number HA10EWG4D00865, Chassis Number MBL-HA10BWG4D00692 and Registration Number JK02BQ-6725. I am applying for the duplicate of the same. Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority within 7 days of publication of this notice.

Rs 1276 cr, 200 Cs water lifting scheme not taken up due to non-availability of funding agency: Javed Rana

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, on Monday said that the

proposal for lifting 200 cusecs drinking water from Chenab River for its use in Jammu city with an estimated cost of Rs. 885 crore was not

funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) in the year 2013-14.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Sham Lal

Sharma in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed that a revised estimate to the tune of Rs. 1276 crore was prepared

in August 2022. However, the same could not be taken up further because of the non-availability of funding agency, he added.

From Page No:1

Supreme Court slams J&K govt for ignoring court order on regularization of daily wagers for 16 years

fact that the poor respondents, being daily wage workers, have been repeatedly harassed by the petitioners by passing cryptic orders, thereby overlooking the true import and spirit of the order dated May 3, 2007 passed by a single judge.

The top court felt the high court imposing a "symbolic cost" did not warrant any interference.

The high court on December 4, 2024, denied the relief to the union territory against the October 16, 2024 order of the single judge in a contempt plea filed by daily wagers in 2010 saying authorities hadn't complied with the 2007 order.

The counsel for the administration said the single judge ordered the arrest of the officials concerned.

"That's good. The single judge has rightly done so," Justice Surya Kant said.

The bench observed the case was "fit for imposing exemplary costs on the delinquent officers" aside from recommending strong disciplinary action against them.

"However, we presently refrain ourselves from doing so, keeping in view the fact that the contempt proceedings are still pending before the single judge. We, consequently, request the single judge to take up the contempt proceedings on a weekly basis and ensure that majesty and sanctity of law is well maintained," it added.

The high court found the 2007 order was never challenged — neither a review was filed, nor was it ever objected to on the grounds of violating apex court's judgment — before a division bench.

"The order passed by the single judge (2007 order) clearly required the appellants to deal with the case of the respondents (daily wagers) in parity with such others who had already got the benefit of SRO 64 and were similarly placed as the respondents herein," the high court said.

SRO 64 of 1994 issued by the Jammu and Kashmir government related to the regularisation criteria for daily-wagers working with the state government.

While imposing Rs 25,000 costs on the UT administration, the high court had given it the liberty to recover the cost from the salary of the officer upon whose advice the present plea (against contempt action) was filed.

A group of daily wagers working in rural development department in 2006 moved the high court seeking regularisation of their jobs on the ground that they have worked between 14 to 19 years and were aggrieved that their services were not regularised in terms of SRO 64 of 1994 despite repeated requests.

They sought their services to be regularised from the dates they were entitled for regularisation aside from payment of wages.

PM Modi, Defence Minister greet J&K CM Omar Abdullah on 54th birthday

youngest to hold that portfolio. His tenure lasted only 17 months as he resigned from the post in December 2002 to concentrate on the NC's preparations for the state Assembly elections.

In June 2002 Omar had become president of the NC, replacing his father, and he remained in that office until 2009.

His political career at the state level started badly. In the 2002 elections, the ruling NC lost more than half of the 57 Assembly seats it had garnered in 1996.

Omar contested and lost his seat to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate, Qazi Mohammad Afzal in Ganderbal constituency and the PDP in alliance with the Congress and smaller parties formed a coalition government.

In 2004 Omar was re-elected to the Lok Sabha. In the 2008 state Assembly elections, Omar won his constituency and the NC with 28 seats and the support of the Congress, formed the new government in 2009.

At the age of 38, Omar became the youngest Chief Minister of J&K. He resigned from the presidency of NC and was replaced by his father.

In 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Omar was defeated from the

Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency by the incarcerated politician, Engineer Rashid.

Not giving up, Omar bounced back with a double victory from Ganderbal and Budgam Assembly constituencies in the legislative Assembly elections last year.

He was sworn in as the CM of J&K for the second time on October 16, 2024, but by then the state had been bifurcated into the two UTs of Ladakh and J&K.

As the CM of the UT, Omar has been relentlessly fighting for restoration of statehood to J&K.

Pandemonium in J&K assembly over Kathua killings, Gulmarg fashion show

priest Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, saying that "obscurity" in the name of tourism promotion will not be tolerated. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has ordered an inquiry into the matter.

BJP members raised the issue of killings in Kathua but strongly advocated for the continuation of the Question Hour in the House.

"The killings of civilians in Billawar have raised concerns. It should not be politicised. Instead, measures should be taken to eliminate those involved in the act," Billawar MLA Satish Sharma said.

Bodies of three civilians, who had gone missing on March 5 while they were returning home after attending a wedding in Billawar, were recovered near a waterbody in the upper reaches of Billawar in Kathua on Saturday.

Congress MLA Irfan Hafiz said was a grave human rights violation to kill a child.

There were noisy scenes and verbal duels between members of NC-Congress, PDP, and BJP for over 25 minutes.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather tried several times to bring the House to order, stating that he would give time to members after the Question Hour, but disruptions continued.

Later, the speaker informed the House that he had received two adjournment motions from members: Congress's Nizamuddin Bhat and NC MLA Rameshwar Singh over the issues of civilian killings and the attack on Bani MLA Rameshwar Singh.

He said that as per Rule 59, debates cannot be held in the House when a probe is ordered. Since the Lieutenant Governor has ordered a

probe, it cannot be debated in the House.

Similarly, concerning the Gulmarg fashion show, an inquiry has been ordered by the chief minister, therefore, it cannot be discussed in the House, he said.

After a brief Question Hour, rucks was against witnessed with MLA Sheikh Khurshheed, who sought condemnations of all the killings, being marshalled out from the House for creating noisy scenes.

Minister Sakina Itoo stated outside the assembly that a probe had been ordered by the chief minister, considering the seriousness of the Gulmarg incident.

J&K Speaker condemns attack on MLA in Kathua

missing on March 5 while en route to a wedding.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah condemned the incident in the House on Monday.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary told reporters outside the assembly, "What happened in Kathua is unfortunate. Three people were killed while on their way to a wedding in Kathua." He said the police, who are responsible for ensuring safety, should be held accountable and provide an explanation.

Speaking to reporters, the Bani MLA said some people were trying to vitiate the atmosphere, and that he was assaulted for having raised the issue of a Gujjar youth Makhan Din who had died by suicide after alleged police torture.

Delhi court rejects custody parole plea of J&K MP Er Rashid

its verdict after hearing the arguments.

The application, filed by advocate Vikhyat Oberoi for Rashid on February 27, sought the relief on the grounds that Rashid was a parliamentarian and needed to attend the upcoming session to fulfil his public duty.

Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, defeated Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Baramulla.

Rashid's regular bail application is currently pending before the court.

The second part of Parliament's Budget session would begin on March 10 and end on April 4.

The judge on September 10 granted interim bail to Rashid to enable him to campaign for the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Rashid surrendered himself before Tihar Jail on October 27. Jammu and Kashmir travel guide

Rashid has been lodged in Tihar jail since 2019 after he was arrested by the NIA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a 2017 terror funding case.

Elections to the 90-member J-K assembly were held in three phases from September 18 to October 1. The results were declared on October 8 in which the National Conference-Congress alliance attained a clear majority with 48 seats.

The Delhi High Court on February 24 directed the sessions judge to expeditiously decide the bail plea of Rashid in the case.

The high court passed the directions in view of a December 24, 2024 order, by which the sessions court requested the district judge to transfer the case to a court designated to try lawmakers.

Rashid's name cropped up during the investigation of Kashmiri businessman Zahoor Watali, who was arrested by the NIA for allegedly funding terrorist groups and separatists in the Kashmir Valley.

The NIA filed a chargesheet against several persons, including Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik, Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin, in the case. Jammu and Kashmir travel guide

Malik was sentenced to life imprisonment by a trial court in 2022 after he pleaded guilty to the charges.

Gulmarg fashion show was a private event, probe ordered: J&K CM Omar Abdullah

necessary, the matter would be referred to the police.

Expressing solidarity with the family of the Kathua victim, Abdullah acknowledged their grief and assured support.

Meanwhile, chaos erupted in the Assembly as three legislators, including AIP's Sheikh Khursheed Ahmad, were marshaled out when they attempted to storm the well of the House.

Over 3.70 lakh unemployed youth registered in J&K: Govt

companies participated, and 18,578 job seekers registered. "Among them, 5,014 were short-listed, while 1,230 candidates secured on-spot placements. Additionally, 855 youth were recommended for skill training".

Replying to a question by MLA Sham Lal Sharma, minister in charge said that it intends to devise a policy focused on job creation in the private sector through multiple schemes and initiatives designed to enhance employment opportunities for the youth.

He stated that the registration of unemployed educated youth on the Employment Portal is a voluntary process, allowing job seekers to avail of self-employment schemes and job opportunities provided by various departments.

"As of January 2025, 3,70,811 unemployed youth have been registered on portal". Additionally, as part of a baseline survey, the government said that 4.73 lakh individuals, within 18-60 age group, have reported being "not working but willing to work" across Jammu and Kashmir.

Teen found dead under mysterious conditions in Pampore

Pampore in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Monday.

An official told that the teen was found dead by some passersby in the Shar Shalun area, following which police were called who reached the spot and took the body for legal medico formalities. The deceased has been identified as Huzaifa Javid Wani (18), son of Javid Ahmad Wani from Ladhoo area of Pampore. Meanwhile police have taken cognizance and started investigation in this regard.

Delegation from Bogdang village, members of Petrol Pump Association Leh call on LG Brig Mishra

Top News Report

LEH, Mar 10: A delegation comprising ex-sarpanch and ex-panch from Bogdang called on the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the LG Secretariat. Chief Secretary, Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS, was present in the meeting.

The delegates requested the LG's intervention in issuing Actual Line of Control (ALC) certificate to Bogdang village to benefit youth from the village while seeking government jobs, etc.

The LG informed the delegates about the exercise conducted by the Chairman of Reservation Commission for Actual Line of Control (ALC), UT Ladakh, Justice Bansil Lal Bhat, who submitted the final report almost three months ago to identify areas



adjoining the actual line of control (ALC) of the Union Territory of Ladakh for reservation under the J&K Reservation Act, 2004. He stated that the recommendations made by Justice Bansil Lal Bhat would be reviewed and necessary steps would be taken thereafter.

A delegation comprising members of Petrol Pump Association

Leh led by Hon Captain Chhepal (Retd) called on the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the LG Secretariat. Chief Secretary, Dr Pawan Kotwal, and Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadave, were present in the meeting.

The delegates apprised the LG of the issues faced by the

owners of petrol pumps in Leh district due to the increasing number of petrol pumps in the district.

He informed that around 26 petrol pumps are functioning in Leh district alone which has affected their business and they are unable to pay salaries of their staff. The delegates requested the LG's intervention in conducting an assessment and consultation before issuing a no objection certificate (NOC) for establishing new petrol pumps in Leh district.

The LG asked DC Leh to write to petroleum companies such as Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Hindustan Petroleum (HP), informing them about the issues faced by the petrol pump owners in Leh due to the opening of new branches of the petroleum companies in the district.

Delegation of CPL Mazdoors of 3 DOU (Ordinance) calls on LG Brig Mishra

Top News Report

LEH, Mar 10: A delegation of CPL Mazdoors of 3 DOU (Ordinance) led by Vilayat Ali called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) at Lt Governor's Secretariat to request LG's intervention in the allotment of land to establish a housing

colony for their community.

The delegation informed the LG that CPL Mazdoors seek parity in recognition and support to other defence-related entities, such as the Army and Paramilitary forces. However, despite their long-standing contributions and diligent service, their formal appli-

cation for land allotment remains unresolved. They requested LG to prioritise their request and grant the land to establish the Housing Colony.

LG informed them that no land had been allotted to any groups for the establishment of the colony, except for the Veer Naris. LG also stated that they will be included if any such land allotment policy is made in future.

Chief Secretary UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal; Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadave, IAS and the delegation were present during the meeting.



CEO Ladakh chairs meeting with representatives of political parties

Top News Report

LEH, Mar 10: The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Ladakh, Yetindra M. Maralkar chaired a meeting at his office chamber with representatives of political parties. During the meeting, the CEO enquired about any issues and difficulties faced by the political parties with regard to the electoral rolls, engagement with BLOs, AEROs etc.

The CEO emphasized the importance of BLAs in securing a clean and healthy electorate. The latest ECI instructions regarding BLAs were also shared with the Political Parties, the Political Parties were requested to disseminate the instructions with BLAs and hold frequent meetings with BLAs as BLAs play a crucial role in the elec-



toral process, including reporting deceased voters, identifying voters who have shifted residences, to detected duplicate entries, and assisting BLOs in the Special Summary Revision.

The CEO directed the Electoral Registration Officer and District Election Officers of Leh and Kargil to hold meetings with political parties for any issues faced at the district level. He instructed that meeting notices, attendance records, and minutes should be properly doc-

umented and submitted to the CEO Ladakh office.

The meeting was attended by District Election Officer, Kargil, Shrikant Suse; Joint Chief Electoral Officer, Ladakh, Sonam Chosjor; Electoral Registration Officer, Ghulam Mohd; Deputy District Election Officer, Leh, Padma Angmo; Deputy District Election Officer, Kargil, Kaneez Fatima; and representatives of political parties. Officers stationed in Kargil joined the meeting virtually.

Dimple leads anti-Pakistan rally, questions security lapses in Jammu Region

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, led a massive anti-Pakistan rally in Jammu on Monday, strongly condemning the recent terror attacks in the region. The protest erupted following the killing of three innocent civilians in Billawar and the mysterious disappearance of two minor children.

Dimple, while addressing the protesters, lashed out at the security agencies for their alleged failure to curb rising militancy in Jammu. He also questioned why Jammu and Kashmir's Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chowdhary, was prevented from visiting Billawar, where the latest terror attack took place.

Expressing his outrage, Dimple questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah over the state of security in J&K. He raised concerns about the exclusion of the elected Chief



Minister from high-level security and Unified Headquarters meetings convened by the Union Home Minister. "If the Chief Minister is not consulted in crucial security decisions, how can normalcy be restored in J&K?" he asked.

Dimple issued a strong warning to Pakistan, vowing to avenge the deaths of innocent civilians. "Khood ka badla khoon se lenge" (We will avenge blood with blood), he declared,

demanding immediate retaliation for the killings.

He also called for a CBI and NIA probe into the killings in Basoli and Billawar, citing past militant attacks in the same area that resulted in the martyrdom of five Indian soldiers, including a captain.

Sunil Dimple urged J&K's Director General of Police (DGP) and security forces to launch an extensive "Operation All-Out" to eliminate ISI-backed

sleeper cells and militant modules operating in the region. He called for a crackdown on Pakistan-backed guides aiding terrorist infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir.

He also questioned the Modi government's strategy post-Article 370 abrogation, alleging that militancy has now spread beyond Kashmir into the previously peaceful Jammu region. He listed recent targeted killings, terror attacks, and encounters across various districts, including Kathua, Samba, Doda, Kishtwar, Baderwah, Basoli, Poonch, Rajouri, and Anra.

The protest witnessed participation from several prominent leaders, including Rajinder Gupta, Lohori Shah, Vijay Viridi, S. Kala Singh, Vikas Kumar, and many others.

The rally reflected growing frustration among the people of Jammu, who demand decisive action against rising terrorism in the region.

PUCA commemorates nine years of excellence in education

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: The Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA) celebrated its 9th Foundation Day in association with the Punjab Unaided Technical Institute Association (PUTIA).

The event was graced by the distinguished presence of Satnam Singh Sandhu, Member of Rajya Sabha, Chancellor, Chandigarh University and Patron of the Joint Association of Colleges (JAC); Ashwani Sekhri, Former MLA; Manjit Singh, Patron of PUCA & PUTIA; Dr. Gurmeet Dhaliwal, Chairman of PUCA-PUTIA; Gurvinder Singh, Chancellor of Bahra University; Sandeep Kaura, Chancellor of Lamrin Tech Skill University; Gurdayal Singh Buttar, President of the Nursing Training Institute Association (NTIA); and Dr. Guninderjit Singh Jawandha, Chairman of Punjab Infotech, among other luminaries.

The event was presided over by Dr. Anshu Kataria, President of PUCA, Co-Chairman of JAC, and Chairman of Aryans Group of Colleges. The theme for the day was "Making Punjab the Destination for Tech-



nical Education."

The ceremony began with a traditional lamp-lighting ritual, followed by Dr. Kataria's heartfelt expression of gratitude towards the steadfast support of PUCA's members over the past eight years. He also took the opportunity to highlight the association's remarkable achievements during this period and released the annual newsletter.

Satnam Singh Sandhu, Member of Rajya Sabha, congratulated Dr. Anshu Kataria and the entire PUCA team for their remarkable contributions to the educational landscape. He lauded Dr. Kataria's relentless advocacy for unaided colleges in Punjab, as well as his pivotal role in addressing national educational challenges that have affected 16-17 states. Sandhu reaffirmed his continued support for the initiatives of PUCA and PUTIA.

In his address, Sandhu assured the audience that all educational institutions in Punjab remain resolutely committed to delivering high-quality education, coupled with excellent internship and placement opportunities. He emphasized that, despite the immigration ban, Punjab's colleges and universities stand ready to welcome students, ensuring their educational and career prospects remain unhindered.

Sandhu further urged institutions to collaborate and work towards positioning Punjab as a global educational hub, attracting students from all over the world. He encouraged colleges to provide outstanding education and foster placements in reputable organizations, ensuring students need not seek opportunities abroad.

Former MLA Ashwani Sekhri expressed his gratitude to Chandigarh University for its

unwavering support of "Sanatan Dharma" and thanked S. Satnam Singh Sandhu for his steadfast backing of the "Sanatan Sabha" mission.

Gurvinder Singh, Chancellor of Bahra University, reaffirmed that all educational institutions in Punjab are united in their mission to advance both technical and non-technical education, not only within the state but throughout the country.

Sandeep Kaura, Chancellor of Lamrin Tech Skill University, emphasized Punjab's state-of-the-art infrastructure, particularly for students pursuing careers in healthcare. He underscored that students from across the globe can benefit from world-class healthcare programs offered in the state.

Prominent members of PUCA in attendance included Ashwani Garg & Ashok Garg of

SVIET Group, Mohit Mahajan of Golden Group, Gurkirat Singh of Gulzar Group, Prem Gandhi of KC Group, Gursimran Singh of Sukhjindra Group, HS Kanda of Quest Group, Monty Garg of KCT Group, Cherry Goel of Vidya Rattan Group, Vibhav Mittal of Dolphin Group, Lukesh Kumar of Sarswati Group, Dr. Naveen Dhillion of Ramgarhia Group, DJ Singh of Vidya Jyoti, Navjot Singh Dhaliwal of BIS Group, Abhishek Singla of SFC Group, Naresh Nagpal of CT Group, Parveen Garg of ISF College Moga, and Naveen Singla of GIMT.

The event also served as a poignant moment to pay tribute to four eminent figures in the educational sector: the late (Dr.) JS Dhaliwal, Former Lifetime President of PUTIA; the late Avtar Singh of Sri Sukhmani Group, Dera Bassi; the late. Sukhdev Singla of Indo Global Group, Abhipur; and the late Charanjit Wallia, President of the Nursing Colleges Association. Their unparalleled contributions to the educational landscape of Punjab were deeply honored and remembered.

Blood donation camp organized at Army Camp Doda

Top News Report

DODA, Mar 10: The Indian Army proudly in coordination with Chief Medical Officer and Red Cross, Doda organised a Blood Donation Camp at Doda COB aimed at supporting local hospitals and addressing the ongoing blood shortage in the region. The camp took place on Monday at 10 Rashtriya Rifles Camp at Doda COB.

With blood in critical demand for patients undergoing surgeries, treatment for various medical conditions and emergencies, the Indian Army is stepping forward to make a significant impact on local healthcare.

The blood donation camp offers an opportunity for the soldiers of the Indian Army to contribute to a noble cause and save lives. A total of 17 sol-

diers attended the event.

The camp was conducted under the supervision of qualified medical professionals from Army and Government Medical College, Doda ensuring the safety and well-being of all donors.

India Army is deeply committed to serving the community and this blood donation camp is one of many initiatives the Indian Army is undertaking to support the health and well-being of the people of Doda.

The Indian Army is further committed to ensuring the safety and security of the nation and its citizens. Beyond its primary defense role, the Indian Army also plays an active part in community welfare, organizing various health and social initiatives, including blood donation camps, disaster relief efforts, and medical outreach programs.

GDC Darhal hosts symposium on 'Role of Women'

Top News Report

DARHAL, Mar 10: Government Degree College (GDC) Darhal held an insightful symposium on the "Role of Women in Nation-Building" on its campus, drawing enthusiastic participation from students across all semesters. The event, which emphasized the critical contributions of women to society, was chaired by Principal Zamir Ahmed Mirza.

The symposium featured esteemed guest speakers, including Dr. Sajar Malik from GDC Koteranka and Prof. Abdul Kareem from GDC Surankote, who shared their insights on the pivotal role women play in fostering national development. They were joined by other notable scholars, including Dr. Ghulam Abbas and Dr. Saleem Wani, who contributed to enriching discussions during the event.

The program saw the participation

of several faculty members, including Dr. Taseem, Dr. Akhlaq, Dr. Anzaar, Dr. Mukhtar, Dr. Sagir, Dr. Muzammil, Dr. Shahid, Rahul Sangra, Dr. Iqbal Ahmed, and Sumina Begum, all of whom engaged with students and highlighted the importance of women's empowerment in various sectors.

Dr. Ata ur Rehman efficiently conducted the proceedings, ensuring a smooth flow of discussions and interactions throughout the program. This symposium not only provided a platform for students to express their views but also fostered a deeper understanding of the significant role women play in shaping the future of the nation.

The event concluded with a call for continued discourse and action towards empowering women and recognizing their contributions to society, as GDC Darhal remains committed to promoting inclusivity and social development.

India savour glory with Kiwi crush

Clinch trophy by four wickets; skipper Rohit slams 76 as Men in Blue chase down 252-run target

DUBAI, Mar 10 (Agencies): Rohit Sharma created a fairy tale of his own in the Arabian deserts of Dubai. You may even call it his redemption song. Reviled over a period of time for his lack of form and lack of team success recently, Rohit showcased his multiple facets to lead India to win the ICC Championship on Sunday night. There sure were bumps on the road to glory in an edge-of-the-seat thriller, but in the end India's experience and better resources for the match conditions saw them scale the summit. More than Rohit's attacking batting when fours and sixes flowed from his bat in a run chase of 252 runs, it was his mastery over the strategic nuances of the game that shaped this triumph. Asked to field first on a tricky wicket where any chase around 300 runs would have been like negotiating the desert sands barefoot, Rohit's brilliance in rotating and using his spin options to near perfection helped India cross the finish line first. Rohit's only mistake, not of his own doing, was to lose the toss and being pushed to bat second on a wicket



that appeared smooth to look at but in reality was dry and abrasive. The New Zealanders, mindful of the slow nature of the track and how difficult it would be for them to break the spin stranglehold later on, started with a flurry, hammering the opening bowlers with impunity. Despite the left handed Rachin Ravindra benefiting from two dropped catches, the run flow seemed unstoppable. A frown was replacing the smile on skipper Rohit Sharma's face. The perpetual sulk on coach Gautam Gambhir's face was getting more pronounced. The Dubai sun appeared harsh on the Indians. Not for long. The wily skipper that Rohit is, the game plan was changed. India's talisman in the earlier matches, Varun Chakravarthy, was introduced

into the attack in the first power play itself. The batsmen find the leggie's arm mystical and his turn unreadable though most of the time he is bringing the ball in (googlies). The tide started to turn. William Young misread both the line and the turn and found his pad in front of the wicket. The breakthrough achieved, Rohit turned to his second mystery man to affect a double strike. If Varun appears to flick missiles at the batsmen, the cherubic Kuldeep Yadav hangs the ball in the air as if the law of gravity does not apply to it. Ravindra was done in by a "chinaman" while Kane Williamson stretched and stretched yet couldn't reach the ball. It flew back into Yadav's stretched hands. The game had in a span of four overs

turned upside down. From 57 for no loss, New Zealand were now 75 for 3 in 13 overs. The crowd had found its voice back and Rohit his smile. The cushion of the flurry of runs in the first few overs were losing its advantage as New Zealand batsmen were struggling to adjust to the sluggishness and the turn of the rough surface. Not that they did not try. Mitchell and Phillips struck around but runs were on ration. With four spinners of different strength and qualities available on a difficult wicket to play fluent strokes, Rohit was now controlling the show like a ring master. Had Bracewell not used all the muscle power of his big frame to take his team past 250, Rohit would have been more than smug in the belief that India had

achieved its first mission of restricting Kiwis to a gettable score. The trophy had been sighted but it still had to be felt with the hands. Rohit made sure India stayed ahead of the asking rate through a surge of aggressive strokes right in the beginning of the chase, showing his intention to dominate with a trademark second ball six of the very first over. Runs flowed from his bat, the score leaped up quickly and India seemed safe and secure. New Zealanders ploughed on and once spinners came on, the game started slipping from India's hands. A stunning catch at mid-on by the one and only Glenn Phillips to get rid of Shubman Gill and a first-ball dismissal of Virat Kohli put the skids on the Indian chase. The ball was gripping the wicket and runs dried up. Rohit too succumbed in a desperate attempt to push up the scoring rate. The match as a contest had come alive. Indian batters kept their heads down but not for long enough to ensure an easy win. Shreyas Iyer lost his cool but not the unflappable K Rahul and India finally grabbed the trophy with an over to spare.

"Strange thing...": Shoaib Akhtar questions PCB's absence from award ceremony following India's win



ISLAMABAD, Mar 10 (Agencies): Former Pakistan speedster Shoaib Akhtar raised concerns over the absence of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) representatives during the trophy presentation of the Champions Trophy 2025 in Dubai. Expressing his disappointment, Akhtar questioned why no PCB official was present to hand over the trophy, despite Pakistan being the designated host nation for the tournament. Notably, Pakistan was the host country for this year's Champions Trophy. However, India refused to go to Pakistan, citing 'security concerns' following which the 'Men in Blue' played all their games in Dubai. As India also headed into the knockouts while Pakistan was eliminated in the group stage, the first semi-final and final were subsequently played in Dubai. "India has won the ICC Champions Trophy...I saw a strange thing, that no representative from the PCB was there. It is my question—why was there nobody from PCB to present or give the trophy? Pakistan was the host nation, but there was nobody there. Think about it, feeling very down to see that," Akhtar remarked in the video posted on X.

India lifted their third ICC Champions Trophy title with a commanding four-wicket win over New Zealand in the final at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday. A brilliant half-century from skipper Rohit Sharma, composed innings from Shreyas Iyer, and exceptional spells from spinners Varun Chakravarthy and Kuldeep Yadav helped India emerge victorious in the high-stakes encounter. Coming to the match, New Zealand won the toss and opted to bat first. Kiwis got off to a fine start with a 57-run stand between Will Young (15) and Rachin Ravindra (37 in 29 balls, with four boundaries and a six). However, Kuldeep Yadav (2/40) applied some breaks and reduced NZ to 75/3. A 57-run stand between Daryl Mitchell (63 in 101 balls, with three fours) and Michael Bracewell pushed Kiwis towards 150-plus runs. Bracewell played a fine hand of 53* in 40 balls, with three fours and two sixes, taking NZ to 251/7 in their 50 overs. Kuldeep Yadav (2/40) and Varun Chakravarthy (2/45) were top wicket-takers for India. Mohammed Shami also took a wicket, but conceded 74 runs in his nine overs. During the run-chase, India had a fine 105-run stand to start off things, between skipper Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill (31 in 50 balls, with a six). While Gill, Virat and eventually Rohit (76 in 83 balls, with seven fours and three sixes) lost their wickets quickly, leaving India at 122/3, Shreyas Iyer (48 in 62 balls, with two fours and two sixes) and Axar Patel (29 in 40 balls, with a four and six) stitched a 61-run stand. After India lost Axar following crossing of 200-run mark, KL Rahul (34* in 33 balls, with a four and a six) and Hardik Pandya (18) did their job of taking India to the finishing line with six wickets and an over left. Michael Bracewell (2/28) and Mitchell Santner (2/46) were top wicket-takers for NZ.

Ban direct, indirect ads related to tobacco, alcohol: Health Ministry to IPL

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (Agencies): The Health Ministry has instructed the Indian Premier League (IPL) to ban all forms of tobacco and alcohol promotions, including surrogate advertisements, during the tournament, which begins on March 22. In a letter to IPL chairman Arun Dharmal, Director General of Health Services Atul Goel said that cricket players, who are role models for the youth of India, should not be directly or indirectly connected to any form of tobacco or alcohol advertising. "IPL should strictly implement the regulations banning all forms of tobacco/alcohol advertising, including surrogate advertisements, within the stadium premises where



the games and related IPL games/events are held as well as during telecast sessions on national television," Goel wrote. "The sale of tobacco/alcohol products in all affiliated events and sports facilities should also be prohibited. "Discourage promotion of sportspersons (including commentators) who directly or indirectly endorse products direct-

ly or indirectly linked to alcohol or tobacco," the letter stated. The majority of the Indian population is glued to television sets when the IPL is on, making the tournament a darling of the advertisers. "India is experiencing a significant burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) - Cardiovascular diseases, Cancer, Chronic Lung

Disease, Diabetes, and Hypertension, which account for more than 70% deaths annually. "Tobacco and alcohol use are key risk factors for NCDs. We rank second in tobacco-related deaths worldwide; with nearly 14 lakh annual deaths, while alcohol is the most common psychoactive substance used by Indians," Goel said further. He added that cricketers have a moral obligation to promote public health. "Cricket players are role models for youngsters in promoting a healthy, active lifestyle. IPL, being the largest sports platform in the country, has a social and moral obligation to promote public health and support health initiatives of the government," Goel concluded.

I am not retiring from ODI format, don't spread rumours: Rohit Sharma



DUBAI, Mar 10 (Agencies): India skipper Rohit Sharma has dismissed the speculations about his career after winning the ICC Champions Trophy, saying that he is not quitting the ODI format anytime soon. Since the Australian tour, speculations were rife about Rohit's future in the team as well as his position as captain but a match-winning 76 in the final against New Zealand on Sunday has given him a new lease of life. "I am not going to retire from this (ODI) format. Going forward please don't spread rumours," Rohit said at the post-match press conference after India beat New Zealand by four wickets to clinch the trophy. He was expectedly quizzed about his future plans and he said that things will remain as it is. "No future plans. Jo ho raha hain, woh chalta jayega (Whatever is happening will keep continuing)," Rohit added. Rohit said his aggressive approach in the Power Play segment was a decision taken with a specific aim in mind. The Mumbai man flew off the blocks in the first 10 overs making 49 before eventually getting out for an 83-ball 76. "I haven't done anything different today as I have been doing in the last 3-4 matches. I know how important it is to make runs in Power Play because we have seen that after 10 overs, it becomes very difficult when the field spreads and spinners come." The nature of the

Dubai pitch too played its part in him adopting a quick fire approach to batting. "It becomes tough also because the pitch is already slow. So, it is very important for you to take chances from the top." "I pick the bowler and where I can charge him and where I can play the shot. In that, you may not see that many big runs. Today after that 10 overs, I changed my game a bit. I had to play for a long time," he added. However, Rohit admitted that contributing to the team's win as a batter was a very satisfying experience. "You get a lot of happiness when you win a match and you make a contribution in it, it feels even better. I made a lot of contributions in the 2019 World Cup, but we did not win." "So, there was no fun in it. Even if you make a sudden run and win the match, you get more satisfaction and happiness. So, I think it was very important for me to do something and contribute and keep the team in a winning position," he noted. The demotion of KL Rahul to No. 6 has been discussed threadbare in recent times, but Rohit said the management is delighted to see the wicketkeeper batter making consistent efforts in his new role. "It is very important for everyone to contribute in their own way. When we discussed KL's batting position, we discussed quite deeply about how calm he is when he is batting. The pressure doesn't

get to him." "We wanted that calmness in the middle order. Also, we wanted to use a left-hander (Axar Patel) in the middle. That actually worked out in both ways for us," he said. Rohit said Rahul's contributions have been important for the team despite not scoring any big knocks. "KL has been doing a lot of challenging work for the team for so many years now. I am very happy with how he managed to pull through this tournament and bat it in the pressure situation — both in the semifinals and this game as well." "The contribution may not be 70-80, but those 30-40s are very important for the team. When you are chasing, it can get tough. But with KL being there, we know that he has got that mind where he keeps himself calm and keeps the dressing room also very calm," he explained. The 37-year-old also praised Shreyas Iyer for playing significant knocks from No. 4. "He is very, very important in that middle phase for us. The partnerships with all the batters who were batting with him...That semifinal against Australia, his alliance with Virat was very important. Even against Pakistan and New Zealand, the league game that we played was important." "Even today, when I got out, our team's third wicket had fallen. And, at that time, we needed a partnership of 50 to 70 runs. Shreyas did that with Axar. So, when there are such performances, when you understand the conditions, and adapt to the conditions it feels good," he said. Rohit dedicated the Champions Trophy triumph to the country. "To the whole country because I know that our country has been so much behind us. When you win the finals of any tournament, and especially in India, we know that wherever we play, we get good support." "So, winning this trophy makes the whole team so happy that we did it for our country," he signed off.

"It's bittersweet at the end": NZ skipper Mitchell Santner on team's loss to India in Champions Trophy 2025 final

DUBAI, Mar 10 (Agencies): Following the loss in the final against India in the recently concluded Champions Trophy 2025 in Dubai on Sunday, New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner expressed his thoughts on the defeat and termed the result "bittersweet". A swift half-century from skipper Rohit Sharma, fine knocks by Shreyas Iyer and fine spells from spinners, in particular Varun Chakravarthy and Kuldeep Yadav, helped an all-round India seal their third ICC Champions Trophy title, beating New Zealand by four wickets in Dubai on Sunday. Speaking at the match press conference, the left-arm spinner lauded his team for challenging India throughout the game but also acknowledged that on several occasions, they let the game slip away. "It's bittersweet at the end. We came up against a good side in the

final. We challenged India at times throughout this game, which was pleasing. There were a couple of small moments where we let it get away from us," Santner told media as quoted by ICC. "I'm incredibly proud of this group, the way we've gone about it throughout this tournament. We've had a mix of experienced players and a few younger players in the squad. It's been an easy one to captain, different guys stepping up at different times throughout the tournament, which has been outstanding," he added. Further, the 33-year-old player also had kind words for Men in Blue skipper Rohit Sharma, who was awarded the Player of the Match for his brilliant performance in the championship game. He played an exceptional knock of 76 runs from 83 balls, which was laced with seven boundaries and

three maximums. "We came up against a very good team today. We were in the game for most of it, we probably left 20 runs out there with the bat, and the way Rohit Sharma played took it away from us," Santner remarked. Santner refused to be disheartened about another defeat in the final of a competition, pointing out: "If you make finals, you're coming up against another pretty good team who are also playing some good cricket. I was proud of the way we fought tonight. We pride ourselves on not giving up, and I don't think we did." "You always want to win one of these, and I don't know how many more chances we'll get, but this is up there for us. We were playing some good cricket leading into this. We thought we had a real sniff today, but we got beaten by a good team," he concluded.

37th Academic Council meeting held at SMVDU

Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 10: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) held its 37th Academic Council meeting. The meeting was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar, SMVDU.

The meeting was attended by eminent academicians, including Prof. Sandeep Sancheti, Vice President of Research Relations & Academic Affairs at Elsevier (India), and Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean of Academic Affairs, University of Jammu.

Other external members Prof. Majid Jamil from Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi, Prof. S.K. Verma from BITS Pilani, Prof. Rina Surana from MNIT (Jaipur), Prof. Pranavant and Prof. Madhusudan Singh (DTU, Delhi) joined the meeting in virtual mode. Registrar, Finance officer, Deans and Heads of various schools of SMVDU, Faculty Incharge Examination, CEO TBIC, Program Coordinators of DYD and B. Design were also present to deliberate on the academic reforms and



initiatives.

The meeting was focused on key academic decisions and new initiatives aimed to strengthen the university's educational framework.

The meeting started with a welcome note followed by introductory remarks by the Honourable Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU highlighting the university's achievements over the past year. Prof. Kumar emphasized the institution's commitment to academic excellence, research development, and student-cen-

tric policies.

The agenda items for discussion were presented by Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs and Dr. Shafaq Rasool, Assoc. Dean, Academic Affairs, leading to several significant decisions. The council approved the inclusion of B.Sc. Computer Science as a major under the 'Design Your Degree' program, allowing students greater flexibility in tailoring their academic pathways.

Another key development was the approval of ordinances

governing the SMVD Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME) and its associate hospital, marking an important step in strengthening medical education and healthcare services at the university.

Further, it was decided that a new postgraduate program, M.Sc. Chemistry will be introduced from the 2025-26 academic session, expanding the university's offerings in the sciences. The council also deliberated on introducing B. Tech programs in Robotics & Automation, Machine learning and Artificial Intelligence and M. Arch programs aimed at equipping students with skills to meet the demands of the 21st Century.

The 37th Academic Council meeting marked another milestone in SMVDU's pursuit of academic excellence and institutional growth. With these developments, SMVDU continues to strengthen its position as a leading institution committed to quality education, academic innovation and research-driven education.

Dean Research and Development of Sharda University released Dr. Uppal's Encyclopedia of Indian Banking Industry



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: Dr. R. K. Uppal, Principal, GGS College of Management and Technology has published his Encyclopedia on Indian Banking Industry. It was released by Dean Research and Development of Sharda University, Noida. It is very useful for Researchers, Policy Makers and Planners.

He is considered as master of professional academic work. As a matter of fact, his research fervor and academic zeal primarily

focuses upon banking and finance. He heralded a new era of globally competitive Indian banking system. He authored/edited seventy two books. Amongst his prominent books Indian Banking in the Globalized World-2013, Information Technology in Banks- A New Gateway for Success-2018, E-Age Banking - A Future Outlook-2018, Banking with Technology-A New Vision 2020 have won an array of laurels. Through his books, he envisaged the challenges and opportunities regarding the use

of e-banking particularly in public sector banks. He was instrumental in suggesting the reforms in e-technology.

Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, a distinguished Emeritus Professor and acclaimed academician, currently serves as Professor-cum-Principal at Guru Gobind College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha, Punjab, India. Dr. Uppal is recognized internationally for his profound contributions to Banking and Finance, evidenced by numerous national and international patents stemming from his research. A prolific writer and mentor, he has authored numerous scholarly works and serves as a frequent reviewer, discussant, and session chair for professional organizations. His visionary leadership and scholarly endeavors continue to inspire and shape the academic landscape in the field of Finance.

"Viksit Yuva Samelan" at TSUS Jammu : Empowering Youth in Democracy & Governance

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: The Shri Ram Universal School, in collaboration with the Nations Development Association, affiliated with MYBharat-NYK under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, is organizing 'Viksit Yuva Samelan' under the Y20 Summit with the theme "Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance." This event, set to take place on the school campus, aims to empower young minds by fostering discussions on democracy, governance, and leadership, providing a platform for youth to engage with experts, policymakers, and industry leaders.

The event will be graced by Ms. Sunaina Mehta JKAS, Principal, Revenue Training Institute, as the Chief Guest. A distinguished panel of experts will lead the discussions, including Aijaz Qaiser JKAS (Joint Director, Tourism), Anissa Nabi JKAS, (Senior Project Manager, J&K Rural Livelihood Mission), Ekshu Sharma JKAS, (District Information Officer), Dr. Akshay Parihar JKAS, (BDO Khellani), Maansi

Gupta (Director, MG Design), Jasleen Kour (Founder & CEO, Branding Elves), and Abheet Sangotra (Youth Advisory Council Member). Complementing the panel discussions, prominent speakers such as Heena Mahajan, Sannak Shrivats, Ananya Manyal, Dheeraj Sharma, Sunita, Dr. Swati Mahajan, Sahil Bharti, and Tabassum Nabi will share their insights on the role of

youth in democratic governance. The event will also host esteemed delegates, including Preeti Choudhary, Narinder Singh, Tarun Uppal, Rahul Kumar, Sahaj Sabharwal and Rakshant Balotra, who will contribute to meaningful discussions on youth-led development. By bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, and aspiring young changemakers, 'Viksit Yuva Samelan'

seeks to inspire the next generation to take an active role in governance and policy-making. Through engaging discussions and knowledge-sharing, this summit will encourage young leaders to drive positive change, shaping a more inclusive and participatory democracy for the future.

The event is supported by associate partners including Top News of J&K, FM 91.2 Dhwani

JU, ASCCONE Hospital, Reacha Foundation, State Times, State Samachar, 5 Dariya News, Khalsa News Express, Buzz Bites, PP Newslite, JK Monitor, 5 Dariya News, JK Voice, Jammu Dogra Express, JK Bishna Update, and The Nations Herald. Their collaboration highlights a shared commitment to youth empowerment and the role of young leaders in shaping a progressive society.

BJP activists hail Team India on ICC Champions Trophy title

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: BJP activists who met here today strongly hailed the TeamIndia for clinching a stunning victory in the ICC and bringing home the Champions Trophy.

They said, This victory will motivate so many youngsters and aspiring cricketers ahead.

R.L.Kaith said, The performance of

each player of TeamIndia has made a billion hearts swell with utmost pride.

Others who spoke in praise included BJP Office Secretary Hans Raj Loria, Ex Vice-Chairman Krishan Lal, Subedar Baldev Chand Sandhu (Ret), Girdhari Lal Dogra, Jagdish Raj, Naresh Kumar and many others.

May the TeamIndia always come off with flying colors, wished all present in the meet.

DSS reacts sharply to J&K Budget



Top News Report

JAMMU: The Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS) held meeting of its executive committee today, following the return of its President, Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, from his tour outside Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting focused on the recently presented Union Territory Budget by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Finance portfolio.

The DSS acknowledged some progressive initiatives in the budget, such as the establishment of Shakti Sadans, PoJK Bhawan, grid connectivity

to Shri Amarnath Shrine, and an increase in pensions across all categories. They expressed hope that the pension increase would also benefit gallantry awardees and their war widows. However, the provisions for old age homes and free bus rides for women in state-owned buses were deemed largely cosmetic rather than impactful.

A major concern raised during the meeting was the economic downturn in Jammu caused by recent infrastructure developments, particularly the direct railway and road-way connectivity to Katra

and the Kashmir Valley. The DSS highlighted that while these projects have improved accessibility, they have also severely affected the livelihood of hoteliers, transporters, traders, and small shopkeepers in Jammu, pushing them towards financial distress. The budget's allocations to mitigate these losses were deemed insufficient.

The DSS strongly criticized the budget for its apparent regional imbalance, arguing that while significant funds were allocated for the enhancement of well-developed tourist spots in Kashmir—such as Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonmarg, Doodhpathri, and Kokernag—equally promising areas in the Jammu region, including Kishtwar, Sanasar, Nathatop, Padri, and Sarthal, were largely neglected.

They pointed out that these areas could be developed into premier ski resorts and adventure tourism hubs but have been overlooked.

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