

TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

ENTERTAINMENT

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NATIONAL

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INTERNATIONAL

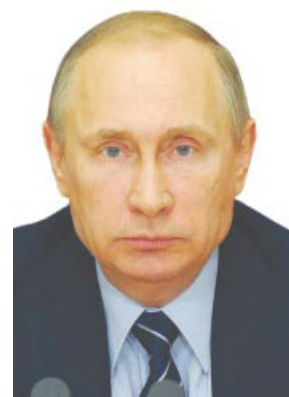
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Radhika Apte to make her directorial debut with action-fantasy film Kotya



BJP has weakened India economically, socially: Akhilesh Yadav

Putin orders army to eject last Ukrainian troops from Russian territory



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BRIEFLY

J&K Govt directs timely filing of APRs for gazetted officers on SPARROW

JAMMU, Mar 13 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir General Administration Department has directed all departments to ensure the timely filing of Annual Performance Appraisal Reports (APRs) for Gazetted Officers (except IAS, IPS, IFoS, and JKAS officers) for the financial year 2024-25 through the SPARROW platform.

Three pony walas injured in landslide incident in Pahalgam

SRINAGAR, Mar 13 (Agencies): Three persons were injured in a landslide incident occurred in Pahalgam area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Thursday. Jammu and Kashmir travel guide

An official told news agency JKNS that three pony walas were injured after a landslide occurred near the Pahalgam main market on Thursday.

The injured were shifted to GMC Anantnag for further treatment, he said. Police and civil administration are on the job to rescue people and assess the situation, the official said.

Three BSF personnel injured in Rajouri road accident

RAJOURI, Mar 13 (Agencies): Three BSF personnel were injured in a road accident in Rajouri district of Jammu division on Thursday.

A bus of BSF Convoy going from Jammu to Poonch overturned due to tyre burst in Phaliyana under the jurisdiction of Police Station Rajouri, news agency JKNS reported.

In the incident three BSF personnel got minor injuries due to the fall of the bus, apart from this there was no loss of life.

The injured have been shifted to the hospital while investigation has been taken up.

Authorities order closure of schools in Gurez till March 15 due to heavy snowfall

SRINAGAR, Mar 13 (Agencies): Authorities have ordered the

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Finalization of JKAS departmental examination syllabus in final stages: CM Omar Abdullah

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 13: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today informed the J&K Legislative Assembly that the finalization of the syllabus for the 2018-24 batches of J&K Administrative Services is in its final stages, and the examinations will be conducted soon thereafter. Responding to a supplementary question from Member Aijaz Ahmad Jan, the Chief Minister acknowledged the delays but assured that the process is now nearing completion.

"The government has gradually streamlined these processes, which had been delayed for some time. However, the complexity of the



revision caused an unavoidable delay. This is the first syllabus revision since 2000—after nearly 25 years—which required significant changes," he said.

He further explained that the administration conducted a compara-

tive analysis of J&K's syllabus with those of other States and Union Territories to ensure alignment with national standards.

"Necessary modifications have been incorporated, and relevant departments, includ-

ing Revenue, Law and Information Technology, have contributed to the process," he added.

The Chief Minister also mentioned that senior IAS officers were consulted in drafting the final syllabus.

"The final draft is now ready, and I assure this House that we will complete the process within a month," he said.

Addressing the query regarding the 2018 and 2019 batches of Junior JKAS officers, the Chief Minister clarified that existing operative rules do not provide for the declaration of Junior Scale JKAS officers as quasi-permanent.

Instead, the confirmation of their probation is

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Over Rs 18,000 cr state land under encroachment in J&K: Govt



JAMMU, Mar 13 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday said state land valued at over Rs 18,000 crore is under illegal encroachment in the union territory, with eviction processes initiated to reclaim it. Jammu and Kashmir travel guide Health Minister Sakina Itoo, who was replying on behalf of the Revenue Minister, stated this in reply to a question from BJP MLA Rajiv Jas-

rotia during the Question Hour in the Assembly.

"The total state land illegally occupied by encroachers in J-K measures to 17, 27,241 kanals and 8 marlas (2,15,905 acres). A total of 15,39,662 kanals and 15 marlas (1,92,457 acres) have been reclaimed from encroachers," Itoo said.

She further said 13,645 kanals and 12 marlas (39,205 acres) are yet to be retrieved. "The ten-

tative value of the land under encroachment is Rs 18,049.6 crores (3,13,645 kanals and 12 marlas)," the minister added, noting that eviction processes have been initiated.

Several members, including BJP members Narinder Singh Raina, Rajiv Jasrotia, and R S Pathania, posed supplementary questions seeking fixing of the timeframe for removing extensive encroachments on state land.

They expressed serious concern over the massive encroachments of government lands in Jammu and Kashmir.

The minister assured them that actions have already been initiated. Regarding land use

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Div Com, IGP review arrangements for Holi, Eid and Navratra Festivals in Jammu Division



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 13: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, alongside Inspector General of Police (IGP) Bhim Sen Tuti, today chaired a high level meeting to review

the arrangements of district administration for upcoming festival season, including Holi, Eid and Navratras. Jammu travel packages

The meeting, attended by DIGs, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs, held detailed discussion

on district wise preparations for smooth celebrations of the festivals.

The Div Com sought the details from the District Administrations regarding arrangements related to supply of and stock position of essential commodities, besides status of power, water supply and sanitation around religious places and major junctions in the districts.

Directions were issued to designate nodal officers and magistrates to facilitate the smooth celebrations by ensuring clear roads for

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Two terrorist associates arrested in Bandipora; Arms & ammunition recovered: Police

SRINAGAR, Mar 13 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police along with security forces have arrested 02 terrorist associates from Hajin area of Bandipora district and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession.

A Spokesperson said that Police in Bandipora along with Army (13 RR) and CRPF (45 Bn)

at a checkpoint established at Gandbal-Hajin Road, arrested two terrorist associates. They have been identified as Naseer Ahmad Parray son of Bashir Ahmad Parray resident of Kathpura Hajin and Mudasir Ahmad Parray son of Mohd Ramzan Parray resident of Gandbal Hajin.

"During search, arms

ammunition including 02 Chinese grenades, 18 live rounds of AK-47, 01 AK-47 magazine, 01 pistol, 08 pistol rounds, 01 pistol magazine and 02 mobile phones", he said.

Regarding the incident, a Case vide FIR NO. 20/2025 under relevant sections of law have been registered in PS Hajin and investigation

■ Turn to page 9

Pitting Hindus, Muslims against each other to have dangerous consequences: Mehbooba Mufti

SRINAGAR, Mar 13 (Agencies): People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday said pitting Hindus and Muslims against each other will have dangerous consequences for the country. She was reacting to controversies over Holi celebrations and Friday prayers coinciding on Friday during Ramadhan.

"The atmosphere

across the country is being vitiated. Earlier Holi was celebrated together by Hindus and Muslims like Eid," Mufti told reporters in the Shopian district of south Kashmir.

The PDP president alleged that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has "vitiating the atmosphere" in the state.

"The attitude towards Muslim is totally wrong.

Hindus and Muslims in the country used to live happily but these people are spreading poison," she said.

Mufti said the consequences of vitiating the atmosphere would be dangerous.

"Pakistan's former president Zia ul Haq had created a similar atmosphere in the country and it (Pakistan) is yet to overcome that. They are sowing the same

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KRIYA / RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Swarn Singh Slathia** S/o Late Hans Raj R/o Machine Domana, near Tube Well, Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 2nd March, 2025.

KRIYA will be performed on 14-03-2025 (Friday) at 12:00 Noon at our residence.

RASAM PAGRI will be performed on the same date 14-03-2025 at 2:00 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt Sakandya Devi (Wife)

(Sons & Daughters in Law)

Sh. Vishal Salathia & Smt Surbhi Bharti

Sh Vijay Salathia & Smt Sangeet Manhas

Smt Nisha Rani & Sh Raghubir Singh (Daughter & Son in Law)

SLATHIA AGENCIES

SLATHIA ENTERPRISES (DAYAL HOUSE), Machine Domana, Jammu

Contact No: 9419136774, 9419132608



**Sh. Swarn Singh
Slathia**

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.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Puran Devi (Wife) 8492055436

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



**SH CHAMAN LAL
PANDITA**

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Sh. A. K. Jalali** S/o Lt. Sh. Nand Lal Jalali resident of Budgair Alikadal Srinagar Ap/ 100-A Old Gurah Bakshi Nagar, Jammu.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 17-03-2025 (Monday) at Akhnor Ghat and Mourning Assembly will be held at our residence (H.No. 100-A, Old Gurah Bakshi Nagar at 11.30 am.

Grief Stricken

Sons & Daughter-in-Laws

Dr. Rakesh Jalali & Dr. Beenu Jalali

Dr. Arvind Jalali & Mrs. Seema Jalali

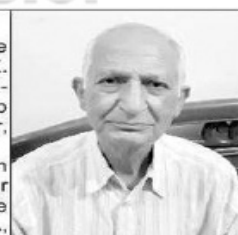
Smt. Jaya Dhar - Sister

Smt. Kunti Raina - Sister

Grand Children: Rakshan, Ritwik, Saksham & Harshita

Jalali's, Warikoo's, Dhar's, Trissal's, Raina's, Moza's & Pandita's

Contact: 9717808508, 9419706771, 9419802090



**Sh. Avtar Krishan
Jalali**

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

The Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on Friday 14th March, 2025 at Akhnor. **The Assembly** will be held at our residence Dina Nagar, Sec-2, Lane No.2, Barnai, Jammu at 9:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Shri Som Nath Raina - Father

Smt. Babi Raina - Wife

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Shri Rohit Raina & Smt. Jyoti Raina

Shri Amit Raina & Smt. Shilpi Raina

Brothers & Bhabis

Shri M.K. Raina & Smt. Veena Raina

Shri Deepak Raina & Smt. Sugeena Raina

Shri Vimal Raina & Smt. Nirdosh Raina

Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Kalpana Koul & Shri Ashish Koul

Grand Children: Ihta Raina, Pearl Raina, Uddeshya Raina

Mob.No: 7889853125, 9149762924, 8551842204, 8800790948



SH. MOTI LAL RAINA

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of Late **Sh. Vidya Sagar Dutta** S/o Late. Sh. Anant Ram Dutta R/o 402 Jaulika Mohalla Jammu. **10th Day** will be performed on 8 March (Saturday) 2025 at 11:00 AM to 12 Noon at Bohrin Sabha Parade Ground Jammu.

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughter-in-law

Sh. Sanjay Dutta & Smt. Preeti Dutta

Sh. Raman Dutta & Smt. Nimal Dutta

Sh. Deepak Dutta

Grand Children : Indar Dutta, Aadhya Dutta

Mobile No. : 8803620241, 7889799323, 9419129730



**Late Sh. Vidya Sagar
Dutta**

(D.O.D. 27-02-2025)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we hereby inform about the sudden demise of **Mr. Manoj Dhar** S/o Late Prof. Kashi Nath Dhar and Smt. Rattan Rani Dhar resident of 305, Bhagwati Apartment, Sector 56, Gurugram on 8th March 2025.

The TENTH DAY will be performed on 16.03.2025 at Kashmiri Shiv Mandir, Sector 109, Gurugram.

DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY:

Dhars, Dembis, Kitroos, Handoos, Trikhas, Bhans, Thusoos,

Wanchoos.

MOB: 9501734411, 9418085940



Mr. Manoj Dhar

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we deeply regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved mother **SMT PRABHAWATI BHAT** W/o Late Sh. Baiji Bhat originally resident of Chinrad (Khushal Pura) Baramulla (ex-TRT Q.No. B/24 Muthi Camp Phase 2 (Ekta Bhawan Hall).

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 15 March 2025 at Akhnor Ghat. **Assembly** will be held at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of Education) Muthi Jammu at 11 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Pyari Bhat

Son and Daughter in law

Smt. Madhu and Sh. Chuni Lal Bhat

Son and Daughter in law

Smt. Suman and Sh. Rajender Kumar Bhat

Veena Bhat (Daughter)

SAMAST BHAT PARIVAR OF CHINAD BARAMULLA



**SMT PRABHAWATI
BHAT**

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved Late **S. Ishar Singh Ji (Goraiya)** S/o Late S. Anir Singh Ji R/o 71, B.C. Road, Rehari left for his heavenly abode on 9th March, 2025.

The Antim Ardas will be performed as per the below given programme:

14th March 2025 (Friday)

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence - 10 AM.

16th March 2025 (Sunday)

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence - 10 AM.

Kirtan & Ardas at our residence - 10 AM to 11.30 AM.

Antim Ardas at Gurdwara Kalghat Sahib, Rehari - 4 PM to 5.30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKENS

S. Swarn Singh & Sdn. Manjeet Kour - Son & Daughter-in-law

(Ranjit Travels)

S. Rangit Singh - Son

Sdn. Gurcharan Kour W/o Late Dr. Kuldeep Singh (AVM) Retd. - Daughter

Sdn. Darshan Kour & Dr. Kulwant Singh - Daughter & Son-in-law

Sdm. Daljit Kour & S. Surinder Singh - Daughter & Son-in-law

Sdn. Swarn Kour W/o Late S. Indrajeet Singh - Bhabhi

Sdn. Supreet Kour & S. Jasmeet Singh (USA) - Grand Daughter & Son-in-law

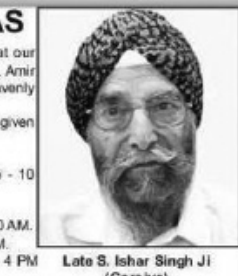
S. Rajpreet Singh & Sdn. Gurnaj Kour - Grand Son & Daughter-in-law

Jagmeet Singh - Grand Son

Jasneet Kour & Ragne Kour - Great Grand Daughters

Jasraj Singh & Jalegh Singh - Great Grand Sons

Mobile: 9419142101, 9419180403



**Late S. Ishar Singh Ji
(Goraiya)**

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Lt. Col. M.R. Uppal** S/O Late Shri Kali Das Uppal resident of 339 Shastri Nagar Jammu, who left for his heavenly abode on 5th March 2025.

TENTH DAY will be performed at our residence H/No 339 Shastri Nagar Jammu on Friday, 14th March 2025 from 11AM to 12 Noon

KRIYA will be performed at our residence on Monday, 17th March 2025 from 11 AM onwards.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons and Daughter-in-law

Er/Naveen Uppal & Anjali Rana

Er/Raman Uppal & Veena Uppal

Daughter and Son-in-law

Late Renu Arora & T.K. Arora

Grand Son and Daughter-in-law

Abhishek Uppal & Vishal Uppal

Grand Daughter's and Son-in-law

Shweta Arora & Jerry Pushpaj

Shruti Arora & Saurabh Gupta

Grand Daughters

Anchita, Akanksha & Anika

Great Grandchildren: Hanvika, Sita, Evan, Ray

PH.NO. 9419285453, 9419631006 9906996010, 9018139333



LT. COL. M.R. UPPAL

DISCLAIMER

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OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Master Lekh Raj Khajuria** (Ex President, All J and K Employees Federation) R/o Ajit Nagar Jammu on 10-03-2025.

Fourth Day will be performed on 13-03-2025 at Shastri Nagar Cremation Ground

Eighth Day will be performed on 17-03-2025 and **Thirteen Day** will be performed on 22-03-2025 at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Urmal Khajuria (Wife)

Son and Daughter-in-law

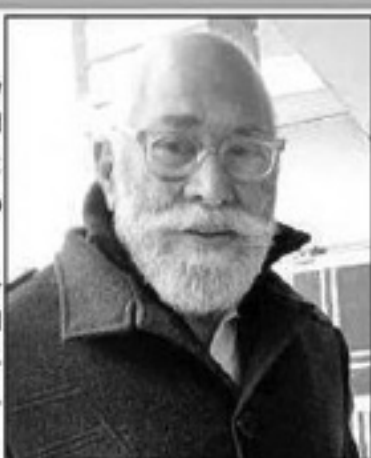
Sh. Manav Khajuria and Smt Anjali Sharma

Daughters and Sons-in-law

Smt. Rakhee Khajuria and Sh. Ashok Sharma

Smt. Shilpi Khajuria and Sh. Rakesh Sharma

Mob. 9149713847



Master Lekh Raj Khajuria

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Radha Krishan Shah** S/o Late Sh. Dina Nath Shah, originally resident of Nazuk Mohalla, Anantnag on 7th March 2025 at his present residence, 106-Rashmi Tower, J B Nagar, Andheri (E), Mumbai.

The TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 16th March 10AM at Gaimukh Chowpatty, Ghodhunder Road Thane West, Mumbai and later on assemble at present address as above at 11.30 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Sheela Shah (Wife)

Sh. Brj Krishan Shah and Smt. Nancy Shah (Brother and Sister in Law)

Sh. Ramesh Kumar Shah and Smt. Lalita Koul (Brother and Sister in Law)

Smt. Mohini Shah and Sh. Ashok Kumar Bhat (Sister and Brother-in-Law)

Sh. Rajinder Bhat and Sh. Vinod Bhat (S/o Late Smt. Arundhati and Late Sh. Motilal Bhat)

Sh. Rajesh Shah and Smt. Sunita Shah (Son and Daughter-in-Law)

Sh. Suneel Shah and Smt. Shalini Shah (Son and Daughter-in-Law)

Sh. Nitish Shah and Smt. Taruna Bhat (Son and Daughter-in-Law)

Smt. Dimpri Razdan and Sh. Sweendra Razdan (Daughter and Son-in-Law)

Smt. Sunita Raina and Sh. Ravinder Raina (Daughter and Son-in-Law)

Grand Children: Pannag, Harshul, Shael, Sehaj, Neil, Inaya

Deeply remembered by: Shahs, Kachroos, Bhats, Rainas, Panditas, Razdans, Kauls

Mobile: 7738385798, 9990599629, 9119180801



Sh. Radha Krishan Shah

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of Lt. **Smt. Kamla Devi** W/o Sh. C.R. Mansotra R/o H.No. 22/A, Extn. Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

10th Day will be performed on 14th March (Friday), 2025 from 10 AM - 11 AM at Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Jammu (Backside).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. C.R. Mansotra - Husband

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Mr. Virinder Kumar Mansotra & Anuradha

Mr. Rajesh Kumar Mansotra & Shushma

Mr. Rajinder Kumar Mansotra & Manju

Grand Children

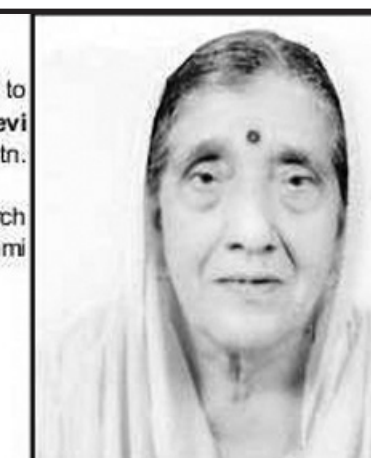
Mr. Manav Mansotra & Mrs. Monali

Mr. Sahil Mansotra & Mrs. Manvi

Miss Nikita Mansotra

Mr. Karan Mansotra

Mr. Maanay Mansotra



LT. SMT. KAMLA DEVI

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.

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



BEHARI LAL

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sadly demise of our beloved **Rattan Lal Misri**, a great theater artist, producer, actor and great educationist basically from Zahindar Mohallah, Dearest Daddy we really miss you. Presently settled at H No. 227, Lane H, Kailash Vihar Dehradun.

Tenth Day Kriya will be held on 16th March 2025 at Haridwar.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Rupali Misri (Daughter)

Rakha Misri (Wife)

Dr Darakhshan visits Peer Baba Budan Ali Shah shrine

Our Sufi Shrines are centers of Harmony & spirituality: Andrabi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 13: Chairperson J&K Waqf Board Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Thursday paid obeisance at the shrine of Peer Baba Budan Ali Shah near Jammu Airport.

CEO of J&K Waqf Board Zaheer Ahmed Kaifi, Administrator Waqf Board Jammu Abid Hussain also accompanied Dr Darakhshan during the visit.

Waqf Chairperson took stock of the Eid preparation at the shrine. She led the process of Laying of Carpet & Mats at Baba Budhan Ali Shah Satwari in the shrine and in the mosque in the shrine complex.

Dr Andrabi said that the upgradation of facilities at the shrines is a continuous process and Waqf Board is committed to provide required facilities to the pilgrims at all sufi shrines in J&K.



Andrabi took stock of the Eid preparations at the shrine and asked the management to provide all facilities to the people which are required during special Ramazan congregations and on Eid day.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi led the Carpet Laying at the shrine and in the

Mosque in the shrine complex.

Imam of the shrine Hafiz Mohd Azam Ali was also present. Speaking to media. Dr Andrabi said that a few months back Waqf Board upgraded infrastructural facilities here and now on the public demand, the new mat-laying process had been completed today.

"We have resolved to transform our Sufi shrines into very tidy and beautiful places so that the visitors feel good. We are fulfilling our duty towards these pious places.

Our Sufi Shrines are centers of Harmony & spirituality", said Andrabi. She assured that such upgradations will continue in future too.

Contractual system of appointments in Education Deptt marred career of thousands of educated youths: Rao

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 13: Strongly assailing the contractual system of appointment in Higher Secondary Schools in Education Department during the year 2019 when thousands of highly educated youth's opted for adjustments getting frustrated & dejected remaining unemployed & feeling themselves as a burden on the parents, a social & Political activist, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, in a press statement issued here have termed it as a clear bankruptcy of mind of those at the helm of affairs responsible for framing contractual policy of employment of Hr. Secondary School Lecturers as also in Colleges as contractual Assistant Professors & worst of it the policy was abandoned when thousands of them attained upper age of limit prescribed by the government.

Rao further expressed great surprise & dismay that has now again revived the policy remaining mum over those who attained

upper age limit in the previous spell to the annoyance thousands of affected families across J&K, thanks to the non-seriousness of the policy makers.

He further observed that if the contractual policy is being revived keeping an eye on elections in 2029, then ruling dispensation is badly mistaken because first bleeding the wounds of thousands of needy & deserving families who have been rendered hopeless attaining upper age of limit terming the attempt as putting the cart a head of horse.

Rao further said that the promise of providing 2 crore jobs annually to the youths of the country in 2014 and 50,000 jobs to the youths of J&K after abrogation of Art. 370 still haunts the minds of young people here, which never saw the light of the day.

Adding fuel to the fire, several thousands of youths engaged on contractual basis, ad-hoc basis, daily wagers or need based arrangements in all departments be it Home



guard, Education, PDD, PHE, Health, Food & civil supplies, he said that previous leaders of successive state governments are squarely responsible for the present mess who, without any planning & application of mind, adjusted the youths simply to create vote banks & appease their kith & kins. He maintained that Educational Institutions were opened with political considerations without proper infrastructure in place, Health Institutions sanctioned without availability of staff & buildings.

Rao further said that with the abrogation of Art. 370, the highly educated ignored & neglected unemployed youth, had pinned high hopes that really (Achhe Din) will come and concrete educational

policy shall mitigate their suffering through proper absorption but unfortunately that did not happen even after waiting for about long 5 years' in the current dispensation and adhicism is still prevailing in practice.

It is strongly felt that the most important Education sector is deliberately being ignored so as to keep the masses illiterate which could be easy to rule. It is appealed before the Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah & Education Minister J&K-UT, to take cognizance of the deteriorating plight of highly educated unemployed youths & also student community across Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir due to non-availability of teaching staff and to take immediate necessary steps so that filling up of all vacant posts of Teachers in Schools & all the vacant posts in Govt. Degree colleges and Govt. Hr. Sec. Schools is taken up on fast track basis, and future of students is saved to some extent.

Dr. Vikas hails CM for Committee to regularise daily wagers

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 13: National Conference leader welcomed the announcement of Hon'ble Chief Minister, J&K for the constitution of High Power Committee headed by Chief Secretary, J&K to regularise Daily Wagers clamouring since pretty long time.

In a press statement issued by Dr. Vikas Sharma, Coordinator Jammu District and Secretary Central Zone JKNC, he welcomed the step of Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah Sb to prepare the roadmap within six months for regularisation of daily wagers to address their long pending demand



of regularising daily wagers, adhoc workers and casual labourers across Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Vikas said PDP and BJP Government and then LG Government did not pay heed to the burning demand of daily wagers and kept it pending for all these years of their

governance ignoring the problems of thousands of families associated with Daily Wagers in these days of skyrocketing inflations. It is the high time to give priority to the grave concern of daily wagers to take constructive action to search some concrete solution to solve the regularisation demand of large numbers of daily wagers, he said adding the announced

Committee is the right step to pave way for early redressal of their problem.


Dr. Vikas Sharma said that promises made by previous Governments and bureaucrats since 2014 have turned out to be a big flop to ruin the career of these daily wagers and spoil the future of their families and children in terms of their financial needs, he bemoaned.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E- Auction Notice
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.

Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of Work
EA/ZR-SLR25-41	27/03/25 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 12408/F1 & 22706/F1.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 792/25



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION JAMMU EAST
E-MAIL: eastdivisionjammu@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. 108 of 2024-2025/Jammu East Dated 11-03-2025

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

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of an additional classroom at Govt. Primary School THATHRIAN. (District Jammu)	PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East	10.42	600	2% of Advertised Cost	2 ½ Months	(1200 Hrs) on or after 18-03-2025	A, B, C & D

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


1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting
4	Bid submission Start Date
5	Bid Submission End Date
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East at the time of allotment.

No :- 10944-54
Dated :- 11-03-2025 DIP/J-11000/24

Sd/-
(Er. Rahat Gupta)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Jammu East

jammutourism.gov.in
e-mail dirtsmjmu@gmail.com



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, TRC RESIDENCY ROAD, JAMMU

Ph.0191-2520409
Fax. 0191-2548358

PUBLIC NOTICE

- Section 7 of Foreigners Act 1946, outlines thatonline Form C is a mandatory form that needs to be filled up for all foreigners by Hotel keepers, Home stays, Guest Houses and others, on government site indianfro.gov.in/ boi.gov.in. Moreover, non-conformity to the above directions can attract imprisonment for a term which may extend to 5 years and shall also be liable to fine- under section 14 of Foreigner's Act 1946.
- Hotels/Lodges/Home stays/individual houses/ universities/Hospital/Hostels/institutions and others who provide accommodation to foreigners must submit the details of the residing foreigner in Form C to the Registration authorities within 24 hours of the arrival of the foreigner at their premises. This will help the registration authorities in locating and tracking the foreigners.
- Form-C must include the following details of the visiting foreigner guests:
 - a) Arrival and departure date.
 - b) Photo ID proof of all the foreigners.
 - c) Detail of Valid travel documents which includes valid Passport and Visa.
 - d) Purpose of visit (to be added under remarks column).
 - e) Name of Indian reference with mobile number.
 - f) Further tour programme with next destinations to be visited.
- Any person hosting a foreign guest for monetary consideration is required to submit form C. This also includes Foreigners on Tourist visa, Business visa, Visiting visa, Employment visa, Medical visa, conference visa, project visa, intern visa, research visa, Journalist visa etc.
- The Host shall maintain separate Visitors Registers mentioning correct arrival/departure dates and timing of the foreigner.
- In case of any suspicion or default on the part of Foreigners checked in to your respective Hotels, Lodges, Home Stays and Guest Houses etc. inform immediately to CID SB Jammu Control Roomon telephone Nos. 0191-2584375, 0191-2582621, 6005504514, 8825097826.

No:-DTJ/Reg/12077-80
Dated 12.03.2025

DIP/J-11016/24

sd/-
Deputy Director Tourism,
Jammu

EDITORIAL

Tourism Promotion:
A Catalyst for
Economic Growth

Tourism is one of the most powerful engines of economic development, cultural exchange, and global connectivity. With millions of people traveling across the world every year, tourism has become a crucial sector for countries looking to boost their economies, create jobs, and promote their cultural heritage. However, successful tourism promotion requires strategic planning, investment in infrastructure, and innovative marketing strategies.

Tourism is not just about leisure and recreation; it plays a pivotal role in economic growth, employment, and cultural development. The industry significantly contributes to a country's GDP by generating revenue through accommodation, transportation, food services, and entertainment. Many countries, including Thailand, Italy, and the Maldives, heavily rely on tourism for their economic prosperity.

Beyond the economic impact, tourism creates millions of jobs worldwide, from hospitality and transport to local artisans and tour guides. It also facilitates cultural exchange, allowing people to experience different traditions, cuisines, and lifestyles. Moreover, popular tourist destinations often see improved infrastructure, such as better roads, airports, and public services, which benefit both visitors and local communities. Sustainable tourism further promotes environmental conservation, ensuring that natural landscapes and heritage sites are preserved for future generations.

In the digital era, social media and online platforms play a crucial role in influencing travel decisions. Governments and private companies must leverage digital marketing, travel blogs, and influencer collaborations to promote destinations. Platforms like Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and TripAdvisor help showcase attractions, local experiences, and travel packages.

For example, the "Incredible India" campaign utilized digital platforms to highlight India's diverse landscapes and heritage, significantly increasing tourist footfall. Similarly, countries like New Zealand and Iceland have successfully used social media to attract adventure travelers.

A well-developed infrastructure is essential for a thriving tourism industry. Tourists expect efficient transportation systems, quality accommodation, clean public spaces, and easy access to healthcare services. Countries that invest in tourism-friendly infrastructure see higher visitor satisfaction and repeat tourism.

Cultural tourism is a growing trend, as travelers seek authentic experiences that connect them to a destination's history and traditions. Countries can promote their cultural heritage by showcasing festivals, handicrafts, traditional music, and historic sites.

Modern travelers are increasingly interested in eco-tourism and adventure sports. Governments should promote activities such as trekking, wildlife safaris, scuba diving, and rural tourism to cater to different traveler segments. Sustainable tourism initiatives help protect the environment while providing unique travel experiences.

Tourism boards must partner with airlines, travel agencies, and online booking platforms to offer discounted travel packages, group tours, and easy access to visas. Affordable airfare, well-structured tour packages, and simplified visa processes encourage more tourists to visit a destination.

Sustainability has become a major concern for travelers. Countries must promote eco-friendly accommodations, conservation programs, and responsible tourism practices to attract visitors who prioritize sustainability. Encouraging the use of renewable energy, reducing plastic waste, and supporting local communities can make tourism more sustainable.

Effective tourism promotion requires a joint effort between the government and the private sector. Governments must invest in infrastructure, provide subsidies to tourism businesses, offer tax incentives for hospitality investments, and simplify visa policies. At the same time, private businesses must focus on creating unique travel experiences, improving customer service, and partnering with local communities for authentic tourism.

Public-private partnerships can drive tourism growth by combining government resources with private-sector innovation. Collaborative efforts can enhance marketing strategies, develop better facilities, and create policies that benefit both tourists and local communities.

The tourism industry is continuously evolving, especially in the post-pandemic world. New trends are shaping the future of travel, including:

Technology will also play a crucial role in shaping the future of tourism, with artificial intelligence, augmented reality, and smart tourism applications enhancing the travel experience.

Tourism is an essential pillar of economic growth, cultural exchange, and international cooperation. With strategic promotion, sustainable practices, and modern marketing techniques, countries can tap into the immense potential of tourism and position themselves as top global destinations. Investing in infrastructure, digital outreach, and eco-friendly initiatives will ensure that the future of tourism is both prosperous and sustainable.

By embracing innovation and responsible tourism practices, the world can continue to benefit from the economic, social, and cultural advantages of a thriving tourism industry.

Old Nature & behavior of America does not change

By: Omkar Dattatray

US has seen many presidential faces as the presidents in Washington change after every five years. But the nature ,behavior and stand of the America does not change. It has remained and is today also the consistent stand of America to produce weapons for sale to its allies and thereby earn much foreign exchange. Thus she is interested in conflicts and wars in the world only to maintain its superiority and at the same time market and sell its weapons to allies. The Russian war on Ukraine has entered third year and now the latter wants to end the war and have ceasefire with Russia. But then there is no guarantee that after the ceasefire ,Russia will not again in future indulge in war on Ukraine. The moot question arises why does America want that the war between Russia and Ukraine should not come to end but continue. No doubt America today talks of peace but she knows well how to push her allies into war and extract money from them. As said at the outset that Russia's war on Ukraine has entered into third year and different story's are famous why at the first instance war between Russia and Ukraine had begun and why does not it end. Recently there were talks in the White House between President Donald Trump and Ukrainian president Voldhimer Zelensky about the ceasefire as well as regarding the sale of minerals. But there were heated exchange between the two leaders and in fact Trump even rebuked and insulted Zelensky which was viewed by the whole world in TV .It was unprecedented diplomatic disaster and nothing came out from the failed

talks. As a consequence US decided to cut financial and military aid to Ukraine. A official of the White House said that America will review if there is any positive impact upon the conflict between Russia and Ukraine so as to know has the cut of financial and military aid to Ukraine resulted in the solution to the war. All alternatives had been closed to Ukraine and now America is asking Ukraine to do what US likes. If this does not happen, then the European countries should have to pay for the defense of Kevy. For this very reason the heads of the governments of European countries have met in London and they pledged to substantially enhance defense expenditure. It is obvious that these countries fear Russia. Ukraine also wants that this war should end, but wants the guarantee of security for itself as well as the assurance of its freedom. However Donald Trump is unlikely to give such a guarantee. Ukraine understands it that even if Russia agrees to ceasefire ,it can in near future indulge in war and occupy Ukraine. Therefore without any guarantee regarding the security and freedom of Ukraine, Russia can occupy it by again starting war. People know it well that production of weapons and marketing these to allies is the old business of America. Everyone knows it how in Iraq America has pushed gulf nations in war and it sells its weapons and earns huge money. And the small economies are paying its debts to US even today. America knows how to push its allies in war and extract maximum money from them. In fact it is America has pushed Russia in war with Ukraine. With the fear of Russia, many countries are becoming NATO members. Let us see why America wants to keep this war to

go so long? America is a defense industrial estate and she wants wars in the world to sell its weapons to various countries and its allies to earn pound of flesh. After the world war, America's impact throughout world is there for the wars for freedom in various countries thereby marketing its weapons and earning money and it is the reason for conflicts in the world. Russia has time and again tried to solve misunderstandings with America on such terms and conditions which were favorable to US and benefited it. Even Russia has offered to US which she wants. In this regard Russia played its role in making new countries as members of NATO and thus ensuring America of selecting arms brokers who sell arms and ammunition to various NATO countries. It was marketing weapons to the value of dollar 113 million to these countries. This huge amount is sufficient to provide houses to all American's. America has two months before this resolved to make additional investment of dollar 24 million. Earlier Biden while the war is continuing, is seeking dollar 60 million aid to Ukraine so that all the things destroyed in war are constructed again so that everything is rehabilitated. If America can spend 10-13 million dollars and when this question was put to a politician, he said that America can expend this amount as it goes to the coffers of its arms brokers. If you are of the view that this debt will not be repaid, you are living in a fools world. You should raise your hands, debts will be repaid and the questin arises why they call it debt. It is because there are some terms and conditions attached with the debt which will be used against the allies of Russia. One thing which

is unwritten is that if you support Ukraine, you remain poor forever. It is important to understand that Ukraine has to spend all its resources on selling its multinational corporations and in this comes all its farm land which is Europe's biggest immovable property and store of food grains for the world. American president Biden has thrust prohibition on the sale of properties in Ukraine. It implies we have to hate one another. The credit for this goes to Republicans and Democrats of America that against whites,blacks are fighting and create all these divisions. Donald Trump calls Ukrainian President Zeleskey as dictator and with him the ill behavior of Trump is a warning to India as well. This is the instinct and behavior of America that if its friend does not fall in line with it, she does not only leave its allies ,but also overlooks regional attack & Russia who is at war with Ukraine. Tomorrow if on deteriorating relations with India ,China intervenes in Leh Ladakh ,America will perhaps overlook it also and there is no strangeness in it .Does India know in future how will be its relations with America? On the second term of president Trump, the behavior of America has not been good. India needs to remain vigilant .It is said that there is no permanent friend to America. To America its own interests are supreme and she changes its friends so often to suit its interests.

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

“Happy Holi” messages have replaced heartfelt relationships... Holi is becoming dull

By: Priyanka Saurabh

The Holi we celebrate today is quite different from the Holi of the past. Earlier, this festival brought immense joy and unity among people. There was a genuine feeling of love, and animosity was nowhere to be seen. Families and friends would come together to celebrate with colors and laughter. As times have changed, the warmth of relationships seems to have faded. Nowadays Holi greetings often begin and end with a “Happy Holi” sent via mobile or the internet. The same enthusiasm and celebration are no longer there. Earlier, children would form groups in every neighborhood to collect Holi donations and happily throw colors on anyone they could find. Even when they were teased or scolded, they would laugh. Now it seems that people are more interested in arguing rather than having fun.

Holi is a festival celebrated by people of all backgrounds, forgetting enmity and embracing each other. Yet, this festival of unity and love is changing. The joys of Phalgun now seem like distant memories. The colors of Holi have faded over the years. Elders lament that there is no longer the laughter, merriment, and lively spirit that once characterized the festival. The sound of water splashes and the vibrancy of Holi have taken a quiet turn after a few hours of celebration. The joyous chants of “Aao Radhe khele phaag, Holi aayi” and the

merriment surrounding the festival are getting subdued with time.

As soon as Phalgun arrived, the excitement of Holi started to fill the air. The sound of Phaag started resonating in the temples, and Holi folk songs were heard everywhere. As the evening fell, traditional dances with dhap-chang spread the colors of Holi all around. People happily splashed water on each other, and there was no bitterness, only happiness. Holi preparations began from Vasant Panchami itself, and the courtyards and temples of the community came alive with the beats of Chang. At night, dancing to the beats of Chang attracted everyone. People singing Phalgun songs and Rasiya from a distance joined the dance and enjoyed Holi under the shadow of the stars. However, as time has changed, the warmth of relationships seems to have faded. Nowadays Holi greetings often begin and end with “Happy Holi” sent through mobile or internet. The atmosphere of enthusiasm and celebration is no longer the same as before. Earlier, children used to form groups for Holi in every locality and collect Holi donations and happily throw colors on anyone. Even when they were teased or scolded, they would laugh. Now it seems that people are more interested in arguing than having fun.

In earlier times, the daughters-in-law of neighbors were treated like family. Homes were filled with the aroma of delicious

delicacies, and guests were welcomed with open arms. Today, celebrations are mostly confined to one's own home, and the sense of community is diminishing. A simple “Holi Mubarak” over the phone has replaced the earlier heartfelt relationships, making relationships seem less cordial. This change has led to families being hesitant to let their daughters-in-law meet friends or relatives. Earlier, girls would roam around in the open air, laughing and having fun during Holi, but now if a girl stays at a relative's house for too long, her family becomes anxious.

The Holi festival used to be a season of joy, starting with the planting of Holi plants. Little girls would make waludiya from cow dung and make beautiful garlands with jewelry, coconuts, anklets, and toe rings. Sadly, these traditions have now ended. Earlier, colors were made at home by grinding tesu and palash flowers, and women would sing Holi songs. On the day of Holi, everyone would celebrate by dancing to the beats of Chang. The tunes of Faag would start resonating from Basant Panchami itself, but now Holi songs are heard only at a few places. Traditionally, people from different communities would gather to play Holi with the beats of dholak and chang. Where has that lively spirit gone now?

Today, Holi seems like a mere tradition. In recent years, social anger and divisions have grown so much that many families

prefer to stay indoors on this festival day. Though people have been celebrating Holi with enthusiasm for years, the real purpose of this festival, which is to promote brotherhood and remove negativity, is now lost somewhere. Society is facing many challenges, and social inequality is eroding the values of love, brotherhood, and humanity. There was a time when Holi was an important occasion when families would gather to witness the Holika Dahan, and on the same day they would happily apply colors and throw abir on each other. Groups would visit each other's houses to share the joy of Holi and sing Fagua songs while immersed in the spirit of Bhaang. Now, the reality is that few people prefer to stay out of the house on Holi. Every month and every season brings a new festival, which reminds us of the happiness they can bring. These celebrations cheer us up, fill our hearts with hope, and remove feelings of loneliness, even if only for a little while. We must treasure this festive spirit.

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KDP Wing of DPAP submits demands for restoration of constitutional rights

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 13: In a joint statement, the Kashmiri Displaced People (KDP) Wing of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), led by President Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita, General Secretary Raj Kumar Ticku, Youth President Naveen Gosien, and other members, has submitted a comprehensive set of demands for the restoration of constitutional and fundamental rights of displaced Kashmiri Hindus. These demands focus on addressing the long-standing issues faced by the community, which has been living in exile for the past 35 years.

The Chief Minister of J&K UT must take responsibility for formulating a concrete return and rehabilitation policy in coordination with the Central Government and the Lieutenant Governor. The recent

statement suggesting that displaced people should return on their own choice is unacceptable, as it is the duty of the government to facilitate their safe and dignified resettlement.

The Central Government, the Lieutenant Governor, and the UT Chief Minister must ensure that the two reserved Assembly seats for displaced Kashmiri Hindus are filled through elections rather than nominations. Previous nominations have failed to provide meaningful representation for the community.

The special supernumerary status of PM Package employees should be abolished, and their status should be merged with that of regular UT Government employees. They currently face discrimination despite working under the same conditions as other state employees.

Although transit accommodation quar-

ters were allotted last year, they remain unfinished and uninhabitable. The government must expedite the necessary work to enable PM Package employees to take possession.

The financial relief provided to displaced families has not been revised since 2018. The current relief of Rs. 108 per person per day is inadequate, even for basic medical expenses. This must be increased to Rs. 300 per person per day, along with the restoration of flour (Atta) distribution, which has been halted for the past two years, affecting diabetic patients and other vulnerable groups.

The abolishment of the engineering wing of the Relief Organization has led to poor maintenance of camp buildings, parks, lanes, and drains, creating hazardous living conditions. The government must establish a dedicated committee

comprising concerned departments, the Relief Organization, and civil society members to oversee repairs and ensure proper water and power supply.

Given the vast area and population of approximately 25,000 residents in Jagti Camp, the deployment of only four police personnel is insufficient. The government must deploy at least 10 armed personnel to safeguard the camp and its residents.

The Municipal Commissioner of Jammu is urged to take immediate steps to remove stray cattle and horses from Jagti Camp, which pose a serious threat to residents' safety and hygiene. The Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrant) and the SHO of Nagrota must also take this matter seriously.

The Chief Minister and Lieutenant Governor should create four special police battalions

specifically for Kashmiri Displaced Hindu youth, with relaxed eligibility norms. Additionally, 10,000 educated youth from the displaced community should be absorbed into government jobs under a compensatory scheme. Special provisions must be made to address the employment needs of over-aged educated youth. Providing employment opportunities will encourage resettlement in the Valley by ensuring financial stability for displaced families.

The KDP Wing of DPAP urged the concerned authorities to take immediate action on these demands to restore justice, dignity, and rightful citizenship to the displaced Kashmiri Hindu community. The party remains committed to advocating for the rights and welfare of the displaced people until concrete measures are implemented.

MSME DFO Jammu conducts campaign on TB elimination



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 13: MSME-Development & Facilitation Office, field office of Union Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSME Sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

The activities including Entrepreneurship Awareness Program, Intellectual Property Rights Awareness Program, Procurement Marketing Support Scheme Awareness Program, PM-Vishwakarma Seminar, PM-Vishwakarma Awareness Workshop, Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Program, Management

Development Program, Reimbursement of Barcode Expenditure, Reimbursement of Stall Charges, To and From Charges, Advertising Expenditure for participating in various exhibitions conducted in all parts of the Country.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has launched intensified campaign on TB (Tuberculosis) elimination.

This intensified campaign aims to cover high priority districts across states /UTs and will involve a comprehensive strategy to mobilize resources, raise awareness and intensify actions against TB across all prioritized

States/Districts. In the above context, MSME DFO Jammu in association with ESIC Dispensary, Digiana Jammu to support the campaign engaged all officers, in the Campaign and organized Ni-kshay Shapath (Pledge) in Digiana Industrial Estate, Jammu.

The pledge was administered by G.Velladurai IEDS Joint Director. A dust bin also granted to support the initiative for ESIC Jammu. Surjeet Singh, Vipul, Narindra Kumari and other officers including the staff and employees of the industrial cluster participated in the program.

BJP Leader Anil Gaur calls for unity at Holi Milan event

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 13: Senior BJP leader and former Seelampur assembly candidate Anil Sharma Gaur organized a grand Holi Milan function, attended by people from all communities, including Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians. The event aimed to promote unity, harmony, and the spirit of brotherhood.

Addressing the gathering, Anil Sharma Gaur emphasized that Holi is a festival of mutual brotherhood, which should be celebrated together. He spoke about India's deep-rooted Sanatan Dharma, stating that many people have historically followed it in Akhand Bharat. He reiterated that Sanatan Dharma welcomes anyone who wishes to return voluntarily, emphasizing that no one is forced into conversion.

BJP senior leader Guruji Raju Chandel highlighted the long-standing har-



mony among communities in Seelampur but expressed concern over the disruptive activities of certain radical elements. He called for strict action similar to the Yogi government's approach in Uttar Pradesh to restore peace in the region.

He further assured that the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi are committed to making Delhi crime and corruption-free, ensuring safety and unity among all communities.

The event was attended by several dignitaries,

including regional MLA Ajay Mahawar, District President Poonam Chauhan, Municipal Councilor Preeti Gupta, BJP SC Front Senior Vice President Deepika Chandel, Dhaniram Goyal, Dwarka Prakash Chandel, Ravikant Harsh, Ramchandra Jaiswal, Suresh Sarpanch Satish Garg, Moolchand Jain, Mukesh Kumar, and Ram Shikhar Gupta.

The celebration concluded with natural gullal, flower petals, and festive joy, spreading the message of brotherhood and unity across society.

Dogri Language Awareness Campaign launched amidst Census 2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 13: The Census, which was originally scheduled for 2021 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is now being conducted this year.

"Our Matri Bhasha (mother tongue) is Dogri, a language we inherit from our forefathers and learn from our mothers. It must be accurately reflected in the census report, as this data forms the foundation for future planning and policy decisions. Dogras are not only residents of Jammu and Kashmir but are also spread across Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Pakistan, and other states such as Delhi, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand. Regardless of where we live, we must ensure that our mother tongue is correctly recorded in the census, as it is an essential part of our identity," Hari Chand Jalmeria said in the press conference here on Thursday.

In previous census reports, Jalmeria said, Dogras were somewhat negligent in recording their mother tongue, result-



ing in an underreported number of Dogri speakers.

Notably, Dogri was not included among the 16 languages through which the Census 2011 was conducted. For the 2021 Census as well, only 16 languages have been prioritized, and Dogri may again be excluded despite being part of the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, Jalmeria said.

Historically, there have been instances where sections of the population were misled into recording their Matri Bhasha as a different language, such as in Punjab. This has led to identity

crises later on.

To prevent a similar situation, Jalmeria said, Dogras must remain vigilant and ensure that Dogri is accurately recorded in the ongoing census. Recognizing the need for awareness, several Dogri language activists have decided to launch a widespread campaign.

A recent meeting held in Jammu, convened by HC Jalmeria, Advocate, and attended by prominent Dogri activists including Raman Kesar, Shiv Dev Singh Sushil, Ravinder Nath Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Dr. Taran Singh, Ajay Pal

Singh Andotra, Sahil Badyal, Roshan Bral, Ramankant Singh Manhas, Jaswant Singh Bhalwal, and Tarsem Lal, resolved to carry out an extensive awareness campaign across India.

The campaign will focus particularly on the Jammu region, urging Dogras to ensure their mother tongue is correctly recorded in the census.

The Dogra Welfare Forum in Delhi has also resolved to carry forward this awareness campaign in the national capital. Efforts are being made to expand the campaign to other cities and regions such as Mumbai, Pune, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand.

We appeal to all Dogras, including writers, farmers, workers, employees, teachers, students, lawyers, businessmen, and professionals from all walks of life, to ensure that they record Dogri as their mother tongue. Additionally, we request Bradari Associations, Business Associations, Lawyers' Associations, and Employees' Associations to encourage their members to do the same.

7 day Training on Scientific Beekeeping concludes with felicitation of trainees

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 13: The seven-day training program on Scientific Beekeeping, organized by the Apiculture Development Scheme, Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department Jammu, under the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) concluded on Thursday with an impressive felicitation function held in the Conference Hall, Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan. The event was attended by 50 beekeepers, farmers, and young entrepreneurs from Doda, Kishtwar, Jammu, Udhampur, Rajouri, Reasi, and Poonch districts of the Jammu Division.

The training conducted from March 7 to March 13, 2025 aimed at raising awareness and enhancing the skills of prospective beekeepers. Participants were trained in bee hive operations, colony management, and received hands-on experience

and practical insights at the DCTC, Apiculture Development Scheme Jammu.

The ceremony was presided over by Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, who felicitated the participants. Beekeepers were presented with tool kits, bee flora saplings, and certificates of participation, in recognition of their dedication to advancing scientific beekeeping practices.

In his address, the Director assured the beekeepers that the department would extend support in the marketing and branding of honey products. He encouraged the beekeepers to work together in clusters or form Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to strengthen the marketing and sales of honey. Additionally, he committed the department's technical and financial assistance to support the migration of bee colonies and optimize honey production. He emphasized the economic potential of hive products, such

as royal jelly, bee venom, propolis, and pollen, which could provide valuable alternative sources of income for beekeepers.

The Director also highlighted the immense potential for beekeeping in Jammu & Kashmir due to the region's diverse agro-climatic conditions, rich biodiversity, and the growing demand for honey, which is valued for its medicinal and nutritional benefits. He encouraged the unemployed youth to consider beekeeping as a profession and take advantage of the growing industry.

Furthermore, Director Agriculture highlighted that the Department of Agriculture is providing an 80% subsidy for the establishment of one unit comprising 35 bee colonies, worth Rs. 1.40 lakh. He reiterated the department's commitment to offering technical and financial support to optimize honey production and facilitate colony migration.

The session also featured an

interactive feedback segment, led by Assistant Entomologist Rajesh Verma, where participants shared their positive experiences and expressed satisfaction with the quality and relevance of the training. Beekeepers praised the comprehensive lectures and hands-on training that equipped them with essential skills for enhancing their beekeeping practices.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Director (Central) Jammu and Liaison Officer for the Apiculture Development Scheme, Dr. Ashwani Sharma, Divisional Soil Survey Officer Suresh Kumar Khajuria, Agronomist (VIS) Jammu Vikas Padha, Agriculture Chemist Dr. Aman Jyoti Sharma, Assistant Entomologist Rajesh Verma, ASCO (I&P) Rajinder Singh Salathia and other officers and staff. The event was organized and conducted by the dedicated team of the Apiculture Development Scheme Jammu.

Traffic Police Office Rural Jammu issues traffic advisory for Holi festival

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 13: Traffic Police Rural on Thursday issued traffic advisory for the Holi festival being celebrated tomorrow.

"Festival will lead to increased movement of persons/vehicles on the road. Through this medium, people are requested to take precautionary measures to prevent interruption in the flow of traffic in their respective areas" a hand out stated.

The office has advised the general public of districts (Samba, Kathua, Rajouri, and Poonch)

to avoid wrong parking, rash driving and follow M.V/rules while celebrating the Holi festival to prevent traffic jamming and congestion; Stunt driving which usually causes injuries and often proves to be fatal should be avoided to ensure safety; Organizers of Holi events and Holi processions/DJ owners have been advised to desist from plying vulgar/Provocative songs/slogans using loudspeakers; People have been advised to desist from drunken driving during the festival to avert the apprehension of any

mishap; maintaining lane discipline during religious processions have been stressed upon to minimise the inconvenience to the general public.

If any person is found violating the MV Act, causing danger to the human life, people can share the information with Traffic Police Control Room Jammu (0191-2459048, 2740550, 9419147732, 103); Traffic Police Rural Jammu- (94984321021); Traffic Helpline Samba-Kathua: (8899041447) and Traffic Helpline Rajouri-Poonch: (9419324490)

Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna's Thama to be wrapped by May

Rashmika Mandanna and Ayushmann Khurrana are gearing up for the grand release of their much-anticipated film, Thama, this Diwali. The film, which has been making headlines since it was announced, is now in its final leg of production and is expected to be wrapped up by the end of May.

A source close to the production revealed, "The team is working at a rapid pace to ensure the film wraps up on schedule."

The makers are planning extensive post-production work, and they want to ensure the film is visually stunning. Rashmika and Ayushmann have been giving their best to bring their characters to life. Currently, the shoot is going on in full swing in Mumbai."

Another insider added, "This film is very special for Rashmika, as she has worked on horror comedy sequences like never before."



The chemistry between her and Ayushmann is also something to watch out for. The team is confident that the film will offer something fresh to audiences."

Interestingly, Thama is slated to clash with Kartik Aaryan's yet-to-be-titled film, which is also set for a Diwali release.

The film, which will also mark Sreeleela's Bollywood debut, was announced last month with a teaser. Kartik,

who has a strong track record of delivering festive blockbusters, is expected to give stiff competition at the box office. With two exciting films eyeing audience attention, this Diwali is shaping up to be a thrilling showdown at the movies.

The insider shared, "Kartik's film with Anurag Basu is also highly anticipated, and both projects have strong potential. It will be interesting to see how the audience

responds to the clash. The Diwali box office has always been a lucrative period, and this year will be no different."

A source close to the production added, "Diwali is one of the biggest windows for Bollywood films, and when two major films release together, it only adds to the excitement. Thama has an edge with its unique pairing, while Kartik's film carries strong mass appeal. This will be a battle

worth watching."

The makers of Thama are leaving no stone unturned in ensuring a high-octane cinematic experience.

The film's production team is working tirelessly to wrap up the shoot by May-end, allowing ample time for post-production, VFX, and promotional activities.

The source concluded by saying, "The film will feature high-quality visual effects and the team is putting in extensive hours to perfect every frame."

Directed by Aditya Sarpotdar, Thama promises to be a horror comedy with intense drama and power-packed performances by its lead stars. Rashmika, who has been making significant strides in Bollywood, will be seen in a unique avatar. At the same time, Ayushmann, known for his versatility, is expected to bring his signature charm to the film.

Radhika Apte to make her directorial debut with action-fantasy film Kotya



Actor Radhika Apte is all set to make her directorial debut with the action-fantasy film, Kotya. The announcement was disclosed during the CineV-CHD Market lineup. The said lineup also features at least 22 projects by a

diverse group of filmmakers.

Variety reported that Kotya is a "Hindi/Marathi action-fantasy following a young migrant sugarcane cutter who gains superpowers after a forced medical procedure and uses them

to free her family from debt." It will reportedly be bankrolled by filmmaker Vikramaditya Motwane.

Radhika Apte is known for her work in films such as PadMan, Andhadhun, Vikram Vedha, A Call to Spy, Kabali, and Lust Stories, among others. She was last seen in the BAFTA-nominated film, Sister Midnight.

Sister Midnight had earlier premiered at the Cannes Film Festival and bagged a BAFTA nomination in the Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer category.

Besides her many professional achievements, Apte has much to celebrate on the personal front. The actor recently welcomed a baby with husband Benedict Taylor. The actor had shared the happy news on her social media handle, where she was seen breastfeeding the child.

Playing intense character on screen is therapeutic, says Esha Deol

Working on "Tumko Meri Kasam" felt like homecoming, says actor Esha Deol, who returns to the big screen after a gap of almost a decade.

Directed by Vikram Bhatt and also starring Ishwak Singh, is loosely based on the life of Dr. Ajay Murdia, the founder of Indira IVF, a chain of fertility clinics.

"It's a wonderful feeling returning to the big screen. I enjoyed doing web series and everything in the past couple of years and this is different and special because it is like homecoming," Deol told agency.

The 43-year-old actor, known for her 2000 films like "Dhoom", "Yuva", "No Entry", "Just Married", said it was therapeutic to play an intense character of a defence lawyer in her new film.

"It is thrilling and therapeutic when you are able to do things with that intensity because you are doing it with a purpose... She is a defense lawyer and responsibly taking up a case which is very complex. I enjoyed doing it," Deol told agency.

After starring opposite Ajay Devgn in "Rudra:



The Edge Of Darkness" and with Suniel Shetty in "Hunter: Tootega Nahi, Todega", both web series, Deol is returning to the big screen after her 2015 film "Kill Them Young".

The daughter of veteran actors Dharmendra and Hema Malini, Deol began her acting career in films with 2002 romantic film "Koi Mere Dil Se Poochhe".

Despite coming from a film family and being an actor, Deol said she is "terrible at socialising".

"I am terrible at putting myself out there and going to parties and socialising. I never was

able to do that and I still cannot do that. I have known certain people from back in the day who have kept in touch with me. They know I am interested in working again. So, they have me in their mind and when they feel that something interesting is there, they let me know. So, that is how I function," she added.

"Tumko Meri Kasam" also stars Anupam Kher and Adah Sharma. Presented by Mahesh Bhatt & Indira Entertainment, the film is scheduled to be released in theatres on March 21.

Millie Bobby Brown says jibes on body 'got to her', she tried 'changing herself'

British actress Millie Bobby Brown has said she is "disgusted" by remarks made about her and other women's appearances. Earlier this month, the Stranger Things star, 21, hit out at what she called "bullying" comments and the media "dissecting my face, my body, my choices" because they think she should be "frozen in time" as a child actor.

Brown told the latest episode of the podcast Call Her Daddy that "the press love to go in on me sometimes with certain things", pointing to her growing older and her accent changing as she lives in the US.

She said: "A thing that I get a lot is like, 'Oh my God, she looks like 40'. 'And I'm like, you did meet me when I was 10, so I understand. Now I'm 21, it's been 10 years. She grows. My face, like, grew. What do you want me to do about that?"

"I don't want that for anybody growing up in the industry, but it really actually doesn't bother me. I wish I could be like, 'You know what, it does get to me'. It used to get to me, it did... It got to me, and I remember trying to change myself to please the masses."

"And actually, now,



I'm in a place where, yeah, my accent does change. My face does grow. I do wear a lot of make-up. It's just the kind of person I am, I like that... you're not going to tell me how to be a girl." She also said "it should never be OK, I feel like, when stuff

comes out about me, or about other women, other young girls in the industry, I'm disgusted, like I can't believe it still happens".

"If I had a genie wish, I really would wish that no one ever had to go through that kind of scrutiny because it changes

the kind of person you are, it changes the way you perceive the world," Brown added. "You see the bad in everyone, you don't see the good. You're like, 'What are your intentions, what are you going to say about me?' "And I think the press need to be taught manners again, I think they need to go back to school and learn how to speak to people, be kind and just understand that we're all growing people, we all make mistakes, and ultimately, the standards and... stigmas against girls, it's ridiculous, especially, I feel, in Hollywood."

Earlier this month, comedian Matt Lucas apologised to Brown for writing the phrase "no but yeah but" — used by delinquent teenager Vicky Pollard in his comedy show Little Britain — above pictures of the actress, in reference to her earrings. Lucas wrote on social media: "I thought you looked terrific and I was mortified when the press wrote that I 'slammed' you, firstly because that's not my style, and secondly because I think you're brilliant. I would not have posted it if I had thought it would have upset you but I realise it has and for that I apologise."

In an Instagram post this month, Brown quoted headlines from articles, including references to Lucas's X comments, which she said were "amplifying an insult rather than questioning why a grown man is mocking a young woman's appearance".

She also wrote: "Disillusioned people can't handle seeing a girl become a woman on her terms, not theirs. I refuse to apologise for growing up. I refuse to make myself smaller to fit the unrealistic expectations of people who can't handle seeing a girl become a woman." Brown, who married Jake Bongiovi, the son of rock star Jon Bon Jovi, last year, has been promoting new Netflix film The Electric State, in which she stars alongside Chris Pratt. She has also recently finished filming the fifth series of hit Netflix science fiction series Stranger Things, which has seen her play superpowered teenager Eleven since 2016, with the final season due out this year. Since her breakout role, Brown landed the title part as mystery-solving sleuth Sherlock Holmes's sister Enola Holmes in the 2020 Netflix film and its sequel two years later.

Remo D'Souza on Be Happy, being tagged as someone who 'only makes dance films': Dance is not my comfort zone

Remo D'Souza talks about his new film, Be Happy, and why directing Abhishek Bachchan is better than choreographing him.

Remo D'Souza began his career in films as a dancer and choreographer with films like Dil Pe Mat Le Yaar and Saathiya. A decade later, he turned director with Faltu. Now, as he makes his OTT debut with Be Happy, a sweet father-daughter story set against the backdrop of dance, the artist sits down with HT to talk about the film and his journey so far.

Remo D'Souza on choreography vs direction

Even though he began his directorial journey

with Faltu and made actioners like A Flying Jatt and Race 3, Remo is associated more with dance films like the ABCD series. But he admits that dance was never a comfort zone for him. "Had dance been my comfort zone, my first film would have been a dance film. But I made Faltu, an educational film that had nothing to do with dance. I love making films that have a nice story and emotional core. Dance just happened because I did a dance reality

show, and I thought I should make a dance film because that genre did not exist in India," he says.

But Remo understands that once his dance-based films worked, the success and his image of being a choreographer worked against him. "I made that, and it became a huge success. Then, I made the second one (ABCD 2), which became a big hit. And here, you get tagged pretty quickly. So, I got that tag that he makes dance films. But



I made a superhero film and action film too," he explains.

Remo wears many hats now. He is a choreographer, reality show judge, and director. Ask him to choose, and the answer is simple: "Whenever people ask me what I prefer, directing or choreography, I always say direction because then I can even do choreography the way I want, not through someone else's vision." He adds that Be Happy allowed him that. "That's

why in this film, I could choreograph (Abhishek Bachchan) the way I wanted. It's much more liberating."

How Be Happy is personal

Be Happy is the story of a father who learns to dance reluctantly to help his daughter live her dream. Remo says that the story is about emotions, and dance 'just happens to be there'. "It's a cute father-daughter story for me," he says, "The dance could have been anything,

but it fit the story here." The story also sees the daughter (Inaayat Verma) not thinking that her dad (Abhishek) is anything cool. Remo laughs when asked if that's relatable, adding, "In the house, you are just the father. You are not the guy who comes on TV and has people asking for autographs. It is a great reality check."

Be Happy also stars Nora Fatehi and Nassar. It releases on Amazon Prime Video on March 14.

Six hospitals coming up in Gandhinagar LS seat to provide affordable healthcare to people: Shah

AHMEDABAD, Mar 13 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that six hospitals being set up in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency in Gujarat will provide affordable healthcare services to local people closer to their homes.

While a 500-bed hospital is coming up in Sanand town near Ahmedabad, one government-run hospital each will be constructed in Kalol town of Gandhinagar and on the border of his constituency, he said.

Shah, who represents the Gandhinagar parliamentary seat, said this while virtually addressing a gathering after launching a host of projects for his constituency.

The Union minister inaugurated a newly constructed railway overbridge on Sanand-



Kadi road via video link, and also performed the ground-breaking ceremony for two flyovers coming up on Sarkhej-Gandhinagar Highway connecting Ahmedabad with the state capital.

Several parts of Ahmedabad

ing areas, our government decided to extend its benefit to every citizen living in Sanand and Bavla talukas," Shah said in his virtual address.

A new civil hospital, coming up on the border of Gandhinagar constituency, will be as large as the existing civil hospital in Ahmedabad city, he added.

In addition, a 300-bed government hospital is also coming up in Kalol town of Gandhinagar, Shah said.

"Kalol will also get a 500-bed private hospital soon. Moreover, two trust-run hospitals are also coming up in Bavla and Gandhinagar. Once these hospitals become operational, people of this constituency will not have to go to Ahmedabad, as they will get affordable healthcare within 20 km of their homes," Shah said.

Future of 85 lakh children in 6 states at risk: Rahul slams BJP over exam paper leaks



NEW DELHI, Mar 13 (Agencies): Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said examination paper leaks were a "systematic failure" and asserted that the "serious problem" would be eradicated only when all political parties and governments forget their differences to take strict steps together.

The former Congress chief said the future of 85 lakh children in six states is at risk as paper leak has become the most dangerous "padmavyuh" for our youth.

"Paper leaks put hardworking students

Gandhi asserted.

It will be eradicated only when all political parties and governments forget their differences and take strict steps together, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

"The dignity of these exams is the right of our children and it has to be protected at all costs," Gandhi asserted.

Using the 'chakravayuh' metaphor as a leitmotif, Gandhi had last year claimed that an atmosphere of fear prevails all around with a group of six trapping the entire country in a 'chakravayuh' he promised would be broken by the INDIA bloc.

Chakravayuh' refers to a multi-layered military formation aimed at trapping a warrior by opponents placed strategically in an alignment resembling a lotus-shaped labyrinth.

Gandhi had said the 'chakravayuh' is also called a 'padmavyuh' for its resemblance to a lotus (BJP's election symbol) formation.

Partnerships orchestrated by PM to buy goodwill with Trump: Congress on Airtel, Jio deals with Starlink

NEW DELHI, Mar 13 (Agencies): With both Airtel and Jio announcing partnerships with Starlink, the Congress on Thursday alleged that these have been orchestrated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi "to buy goodwill" with US President Donald Trump through Starlink's owner Elon Musk.

The opposition party also said many questions remain and the most important one relates to national security.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said that within literally 12 hours both Airtel and Jio have announced partnerships with Starlink, seemingly overcoming all their objections to its entry

into India – which they have been voicing for quite some time.

"It is abundantly clear that these partnerships have been orchestrated by none other than the PM himself to buy goodwill with President Trump through Starlink's owner Mr. Elon Musk," Ramesh alleged.

"But many questions remain. Perhaps the most important one relates to national security. Who will have the power to switch connectivity on or off when national security demands it? Will it be Starlink or its Indian partners? Will other satellite-based connectivity providers also be permitted and on what basis?" the Congress leader said on X.

And, of course, the

much larger question of Tesla manufacturing in India remains, he added.

Is there some commitment to it now that Starlink's entry into India has been facilitated, Ramesh asked.

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Jio Platforms struck a deal with SpaceX, the aerospace company led by Musk, to bring Starlink's broadband internet services to India, a surprise move that follows months of bickering over how Musk's venture should be granted spectrum rights.

The deal with Musk – considered the right-hand-man of US President Trump – came after telecom tycoon Sunil Bharti Mittal's Bharti Airtel signed a similar



partnership deal with SpaceX.

Over the past few months, rivals Jio and Airtel had come together to demand an auction for awarding spectrum for satellite services in India as they feared an administrative allocation would give Musk airwaves at a price lower than what they had paid via auctions in the past.

Starlink is the world's largest low-earth-orbit (LEO) constellation operated by SpaceX.

On Tuesday, Bharti Airtel announced that it is entering into an agreement with SpaceX to bring Starlink's high-speed Internet service to India on a non-exclusive basis. Bharti already partners with Eutelsat OneWeb, the second-largest LEO constellation.

7 killed, 3 injured as gas tanker hits 2 vehicles in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar

DHAR, Mar 13 (Agencies): Seven persons were killed and three injured after a gas tanker collided with two four-wheelers in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place around 11 pm on Wednesday when the gas tanker was heading from the wrong side on a road near Bamansuta village on Badnawar-Ujjain highway. It hit a car and a jeep coming from the opposite direction, Dhar SP Manoj Kumar Singh said.

Four persons died on the spot, while three others succumbed to injuries later in hospital, he said.

After receiving information, senior officials reached the spot to launch the rescue operation.

Local residents helped in the operation during which trapped persons were pulled out of the vehicles using a crane, the SP said.

The injured persons were admitted to a hospital in neighbouring Ratlam district, he said.

The victims belong to Ratlam, Mand-saur (in MP) and Jodhpur (Rajasthan) districts, the SP said.

The truck driver fled the spot after the accident.

Four killed, two injured as speeding Mercedes SUV mows down pedestrians in Dehradun

DEHRADUN, Mar 13 (Agencies): Four people were killed and two were injured after being hit by a speeding luxurious car in Uttarakhand's Dehradun.

The incident occurred on Wednesday night at around 8 pm near Sai Mandir located on Rajpur Road in Dehradun.

Acting swiftly on the incident, the police has recovered the vehicle involved in the accident. Under the supervision of SSP Dehradun, the police conducted an intensive investigation campaign throughout the night and collected important clues in the

case. The driver had fled from the scene after the incident.

According to the police, during the investigation, the police came to know that the vehicle that caused the accident was purchased from Delhi. Based on this information, a team of Dehradun Police left for Delhi at night and collected detailed information related to the vehicle. Also, a special police team has reached Chandigarh and is interrogating the vehicle owner.

The car was bearing a registration number of Chandigarh.

Speaking to agency,

SSP Dehradun Ajay Singh said that the person was with a child while driving the car with which he met with the accident last night. "The person who was driving the car which met with an accident last night had a 10-year-old child in the car as well," he said.

Earlier, SSP Ajay Singh said, "This incident happened around 8 in the evening at the Old Mussoorie road. A speeding vehicle hit a few people, in which four people died...We have tracked down 11-12 cars in this incident. We are hoping to track down the driver of the vehicle soon..."

BJP has weakened India economically, socially: Akhilesh Yadav

LUCKNOW, Mar 13 (Agencies): Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday accused the ruling BJP of weakening the nation both economically and socially.

"The country has become weak due to the spread of hatred in society. Their (BJP's) conduct, language, and behaviour are weakening society and creating a rift," Yadav said at a press conference.

He further criticised the BJP for its handling of the market, saying, "They are weakening the entire market by handing it over to others. When the market is no longer in your hands, who will do business? Others are coming to our country and taking



over our entire market."

"The BJP has weakened the country economically as well as socially," he said.

Yadav also took a jibe at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's recent statements, calling him a "tees mar khan" (someone who boasts of their actions without substance).

"Our chief minister

is Tees Mar Khan. I'm saying this because he loves the number 30. How many died, 30; how much business was done, 30 crores. This kind of 'Tees Mar Khan' type of accounting can be given by no one except our CM," he said.

Yadav, the former UP CM was referring to the recent claim made by the state government that 30 people had died

in a stampede during the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj. Additionally, during the recent assembly session, CM Adityanath claimed that a boatman in Prayagraj earned a net profit of 30 crores during the grand event.

The SP chief also questioned Adityanath's statement that lakhs of students in Prayagraj earned money by ferrying devotees on the motorcycle during the Kumbh.

"The CM says that he has provided employment to lakhs of youth preparing for government jobs in Allahabad. Someone please explain to me when did the government decide that private vehicles can be used as commercial ones? And does this

Holi celebrated at Sambhal's Kartikeya Mahadev, a first in 46 years

SAMBHAL, Mar 13 (Agencies): Amid tight security, devotees on Thursday celebrated Holi at Kartikeya Mahadev in Khaggu Sarai for the first time in 46 years.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from social and Hindu organisations at the temple, which was reopened last December after it was shut following riots in 1978.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Shreesh Chandra said ample police forces have been deployed to ensure a smooth celebration.

"Holi is being celebrated peacefully at the Kartikeya Mahadev Temple in Khaggu Sarai. There is no need for anyone to worry. People are enjoying the festival in a secure environment," he said.

The temple is located close to Shahi Jama



Masjid, a site which has been at the centre of controversy following communal violence on November 24, 2024, that led to the death of four people. The violence had broken out after a group of people held a protest during a court-ordered survey of the mosque.

Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) district presi-

dent Anand Agrawal expressed his joy over the occasion. "After 46 years, we have had the fortune of playing Holi at the Kartikeya Mahadev Temple. People from various social organisations have gathered here, celebrating (Holi) with flowers and colours," he said.

Participants also shared their excitement and thanked the police for the security arrangements.

"The police have done a great job in maintaining security, and everyone is immersed in the festive spirit," said Priyanshu Jain.

The temple, also known as Bhasma Shankar temple, was reopened on December 13 last year after the authorities said they stumbled upon the covered structure during an anti-encroachment drive. The temple housed an idol of Lord Hanuman and a Shivaling.

Telangana: 4-year-old boy dies after getting stuck in lift gate in Hyderabad



HYDERABAD, Mar 13 (Agencies): A four-year-old boy, the son of a watchman, lost his life after getting trapped in a lift gate at Muktaba Apartments in Hyderabad, said the police on Thursday.

According to the Asif Nagar police, the incident took place around 10 pm when the child, identified as Narender,

was playing near the elevator.

"While he was inside the lift gate, someone pressed the lift button, causing the elevator to ascend with Narender stuck in the gate.

The child suffered severe injuries and was rushed to a hospital, where he was declared dead," said police.

Authorities have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the circumstances leading to the accident.

Further details are awaited.

Putin orders army to eject last Ukrainian troops from Russian territory

Makes surprise visit to Kursk

MOSCOW, Mar 13 (Agencies): President Vladimir Putin donned military fatigues for a surprise visit to troops in Russia's western Kursk region where he ordered them to press their lightning advance and swiftly retake the rest of the area from Ukrainian forces.

Putin made his visit after Washington asked him to consider a 30-day ceasefire proposal backed by Ukraine, and after Russian forces retook a swath of territory in Kursk, forcing Ukrainian troops to fall back and cede control of the town of Sudzha.

Ukraine sprang one of the biggest shocks of the war on August 6 last year by storming across the border and grabbing a chunk of land inside Russia, boosting citizens' morale and gaining a potential bargaining chip.

But after clinging for more than seven months to a gradually shrinking area, Ukraine has seen its position worsen sharply in Kursk in the past week after its main supply lines were severed.

Putin make it clear he was considering setting up a new buffer zone inside Ukraine's Sumy region, which is adjacent to Kursk, to guard against any



future potential Ukrainian incursions.

He also said foreign citizens fighting with Ukrainian forces captured in Kursk were not entitled to enjoy the protection of the Geneva Conventions, and that Ukrainian soldiers captured in Kursk should be treated as "terrorists."

"Our task in the near future, in the shortest possible timeframe, is to decisively defeat the enemy entrenched in the Kursk region and still fighting here, to completely liberate the territory of the Kursk region, and to restore the situation along the line of the state border," Putin said.

"And of course, we need to think about creating a security zone along the state border."

Valery Gerasimov, the chief

of Russia's General Staff, was shown telling Putin that Russian forces had pushed Ukrainian forces out of over 86% of the territory they had once held in Kursk, the equivalent to 1,100 square kilometres (425 square miles) of land.

Ukraine's plans to use Kursk as a bargaining chip in possible future negotiations with Russia had failed, he added.

Kyiv's gambit that its Kursk operation would force Russia to divert troops from its advance in eastern Ukraine had also not worked.

Gerasimov said Russian forces had retaken 24 settlements and 259 square kilometres of land from Ukrainian forces in the last five days along with over 400 prisoners.

Russian units had also crossed into Ukraine's Sumy region where he said they were expanding "a security zone." Reuters could not independently verify his assertions.

Reuters was however able to verify video published by Russian bloggers and state media showing troops standing with a Russian tricolour flag on a square in the centre of Sudzha, a town near the Ukrainian border on a highway used by Ukraine as a supply route.

Deep State, an authoritative Ukrainian site that charts the frontlines of the war, updated its battlefield map to show Ukrainian forces were no longer in control of Sudzha. However, it said fighting was continuing on the outskirts.

Ukraine's top army commander said on Wednesday that Kyiv's troops will keep operating in Russia's Kursk region as long as needed and that fighting continued in and around the town of Sudzha.

Skadovskyi Defender, a Ukrainian military blogger, posted on Telegram: "Ukraine's Armed Forces are leaving Kursk. There will be no Ukrainian soldier there by Friday." The same channel said, however, that Ukraine was continuing to conduct heavy strikes on Sudzha.

Child rape victim dies in Bangladesh; police bans protests



DHAKA, Mar 13 (Agencies): Police in Bangladesh on Thursday have indefinitely banned protests at key locations in the capital Dhaka amid the growing movement on women's security began after the rape of an 8 year old child was reported.

"In the interest of maintaining public order, any kind of meeting, rallies, mass gathering, processions, etc., are prohibited in the Bangladesh Secretariate and the Honourable Chief Advisor's residence in Jamuna and surrounding areas (Hotel Inter-continental intersec-

tion, Shahbagh intersection, Kakrail intersection, Minto Road) from today, Thursday, March 13, 2025, until further orders, pursuant to the powers conferred under section 29 of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Ordinance", Dhaka Metropolitan Police said in a statement.

Bangladesh has been protesting against rape, violence against women since an eight-year-old girl was raped on March 8. the rape victim died on Thursday.

"It is with a heavy heart that we inform you that the child who was abused in

Magura breathed her last today, March 13, 2025, at 01:00 PM at the Combined Military Hospital, Dhaka", Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

"The child had three cardiac arrests this morning, two of which were stabilized, but the third time her heart rate did not return. It is worth noting that the child was admitted to Dhaka CHM in Critical condition on March 8", the statement said.

Bangladesh Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus expressed deep grief over the child's death and ordered that the accused be brought to justice quickly.

Meanwhile, the largest minority group in Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council issued a press release, stating that 92 incidents of violence targeting minorities and indigenous peoples occurred in the first two months of this year, January and February.

"Baloch freedom fighters getting stronger," says Baloch Human rights council as Pakistan Train standoff ends

LONDON, Mar 13 (Agencies): Baloch Human Rights Council Information Secretary Khurshid Ahmed on Thursday said that the Jaffar Express hijacking had shown that the Baloch freedom fighters were getting stronger.

"This incident shows that Pakistan is getting weaker. Whereas the Baloch freedom fighters are getting stronger in Balochistan. Even in such harsh conditions, the Baloch freedom fighters followed the human rights standards and let the elderly women and families go back to Quetta. They took many Army personnel hostage and demanded the release of Baloch people who had disappeared. We think that such incidents will not stop in the future. We have been seeing the Baloch freedom fighters, particularly BLA, has been attacking Pakistan-China projects in Balochistan. BLA is defending its motherland. The situation in Balochistan demands that India and Western powers should support Baloch's national struggle," he said.

Earlier, ISPR Pakistan DG Lt Gen Sharif Chaudhry has said that the Jaffar Express clearance operation, launched after the train's hijacking in Balochistan, was complete. He added that all rebels, 33 in total, at the site of the attack had been killed.

"On March 11 in Bolan, terrorists targeted a railroad track around 1pm and blew it up and stopped the Jaffar Express. According to railway officials, the train had 440 passengers," he said while speaking in an interview on Dunya News.

Chaudhry said the army, air force, Frontier Corps (FC) and the Special Services Group had taken part and recovered the hostages.

He added that no passenger was hurt

in the final clearance operation, but before that, "the number of passengers who fell victim to the barbarism of the terrorists is 21."

Earlier PTV citing security officials had said that at least 190 passengers had been freed after terrorists hijacked the Jaffar Express. The hostage situation began on Tuesday near the Mashkaf Tunnel, about 157 kilometres from Quetta, when BLA rebels attacked the Jaffar Express and took more than 400 passengers hostage, including numerous security personnel.

There was no confirmation of the total number of casualties, but officials told Dawn News that at least 30 people -- including the driver of the locomotive and eight security personnel -- had lost their lives as the forces engaged in a gun battle.

Meanwhile, Naseem Baloch, chairman of the Baloch National Movement (BNM), criticized the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad for what he described as its failure to acknowledge serious human rights violations in Balochistan, reported the Balochistan Post.

The BNM chairman's scathing remarks came after a social media statement that the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad posted on their X account condemning the Baloch Liberation Army's (BLA) seizure of the Quetta-bound Jaffar Express train.

Expressing deep concern over the U.S. Embassy's stance, Naseem Baloch accused Washington of endorsing Pakistan's "fabricated narratives" while ignoring the worsening human rights situation in Balochistan. He alleged that despite presenting itself as a democracy, Pakistan is engaged in enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and war crimes in the region.

"Genocidal acts": UN slams Israel's attacks on Gaza reproductive centres

GENEVA, Mar 13 (Agencies): A United Nations investigation concluded Thursday that Israel carried out "genocidal" acts in Gaza through the systematic destruction of sexual and reproductive healthcare facilities.

The UN Commission of Inquiry said Israel had "intentionally attacked and destroyed" the Palestinian territory's main fertility centre, and had simultaneously imposed a siege and blocked aid including medication for ensuring safe pregnancies, deliveries and neonatal care.

"Israel categorically rejects the unfounded allegations," its mission in Geneva said in a statement.

The commission found that Israeli authorities "have destroyed in part the reproductive capacity of Palestinians in Gaza as a group through the systematic destruction of sexual and reproductive healthcare", it said in a statement.

It said this amounted to "two categories of genocidal acts" during Israel's offensive in Gaza, launched after the attacks by Hamas militants on Israel on October 7, 2023.

The United Nations' genocide convention defines that crime as acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.

Of its five categories, the inquiry said the two implicating Israel were "deliberately inflicting on



the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction" and "imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group".

"These violations have not only caused severe immediate physical and mental harm and suffering to women and girls, but irreversible long-term effects on the mental health and reproductive and fertility prospects of Palestinians as a group," the commission's chair Navi Pillay said in a statement.

The three-person Independent International Commission of Inquiry was established by the UN Human Rights Council in May 2021 to investigate alleged international law violations in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Pillay, a former UN rights chief, served as a judge on the International Criminal Court and presided over the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Israel accused the commission of advancing a "predetermined

and biased political agenda... in a shameless attempt to incriminate the Israel Defence Forces".

Destruction of IVF clinic

The report said maternity hospitals and wards had been systematically destroyed in Gaza, along with the Al-Basma IVF Centre, the territory's main in-vitro fertility clinic.

It said Al-Basma was shelled in December 2023, reportedly destroying around 4,000 embryos at a clinic that served 2,000 to 3,000 patients a month.

The commission found that the Israeli Security Forces intentionally attacked and destroyed the clinic, including all the reproductive material stored for the future conception of Palestinians.

The commission found no credible evidence that the building was used for military purposes.

It concluded that the destruction "was a measure intended to prevent births among Palestinians in Gaza, which is a genocidal act".

Furthermore, the report said the wider harm to pregnant, lactating and new mothers in Gaza was on an "unprecedented scale", with an irreversible impact on the reproductive prospects of Gazans.

Such underlying acts "amount to crimes against humanity" and deliberately trying to destroy the Palestinians as a group, the commission concluded.

'Extermination'

The report came after the commission conducted public hearings in Geneva on Tuesday and Wednesday, hearing from victims and witnesses of sexual violence.

It concluded that Israel had targeted civilian women and girls directly, "acts that constitute the crime against humanity of murder and the war crime of wilful killing".

Women and girls have also died from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth due to the conditions imposed by the Israeli authorities impacting access to reproductive health care, "acts that amount to the crime against humanity of extermination", it added.

The commission added that forced public stripping and nudity, sexual harassment including threats of rape, as well as sexual assault, comprise part of the Israeli Security Forces' "standard operating procedures" toward Palestinians.

Mark Carney to take oath as Canada's 24th Prime Minister on Friday

OTTAWA, Mar 13 (Agencies): Mark Carney will be sworn in as Canada's next prime minister on Friday morning, marking the final day of Justin Trudeau's more than nine years in power.

Governor General Mary Simon will preside over the swearing-in of Carney and his cabinet ministers on Friday at 11 am, her office said in a statement.

Carney, a former central banker who led the Bank of Canada and



Bank of England, was elected leader of the Liberal Party of Canada on Sunday. He will become

Canada's 24th prime minister.

Carney will take over at a tumultuous time in

Canada, which is in the midst of a trade war with longtime ally the United States under President Donald Trump and must hold a general election soon.

Carney's new cabinet may be about half the size of Trudeau's executive, Bloomberg reported.

The cabinet is expected to have between 15 and 20 ministers, down from 37 currently including the prime minister, the report added, citing a source.

Australian state bans 'hazardous' machete knives in attempt to stop crimes

SYDNEY, Mar 13 (Agencies): The Australian state of Victoria will outlaw machetes to try stem an outbreak of "knife crime", its premier said on Thursday, making it the country's first state to impose such a ban.

Broad machete blades -- more commonly used to cut crops or slash through jungle -- will be declared a "prohibited weapon", Jacinta Allan said.

"There's no place for machetes... on



our streets," she said in a post on platform X. "That's why I've announced Australia's first machete ban here in Victoria".

Allan said the ban was

part of a government push to "crack down on knife crime".

The Victorian government does not publish dedicated knife crime statistics, but hospitals

in state capital Melbourne have in recent years reported a rise in stabbing victims.

Those caught carrying machetes without an exemption face up to two years in jail or a US\$30,000 fine.

Most Australian states impose some kind of restriction on the sale and possession of machetes.

The United Kingdom recently introduced new laws making it harder for young people to purchase knives online.

NABARD signs MoU with J&K Grameen Bank to finance JLGs

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 13: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the promotion and financing of 2000 Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) was today signed and exchanged between NABARD, J&K Regional Office, Jammu, and J&K Grameen Bank.

Deputy General Manager, NABARD Des Raj and Chairman, J&K Grameen Bank Sanjay Gupta signed the MoU on behalf of NABARD

and J&K Grameen Bank, respectively.

The MoU signing ceremony was presided over by Chief General Manager NABARD Bhallamudi Sridhar who emphasized that the primary objective of the MoU is to enhance the flow of credit to tenant farmers, oral lessees, sharecroppers, landless farmers, and others who may not have formal title to their land holdings. The initiative also aims to meet the credit requirements

of the economically weaker sections of society by forming and credit-linking JLGs.

Bhallamudi Sridhar applauded J&K Grameen Bank for successfully financing more than 2500 JLGs under previous MoUs and encouraged the Bank to continue its efforts in financial inclusion. He further stressed the need to focus on financing individual JLG members to strengthen their economic activities. Additionally, he

emphasized that the renewal of JLG loans should be completed in a timely manner to ensure the smooth flow of credit operations.

Sanjay Gupta, Chairman, J&K Grameen Bank, appreciated NABARD's initiatives for promoting financial inclusion in the Union Territory and expressed gratitude for its continuous support to the Bank. He reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to playing a significant role in socio-econom-

ic development and ensuring that initiatives like social security schemes, SHG and JLG credit linkages reach even the remotest areas.

Under this MoU, J&K Grameen Bank will form and finance 2000 JLGs across UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh. NABARD will provide a promotional grant support of ₹4000 per JLG to J&K Grameen Bank, further strengthening financial empowerment in the region.

“Didi Ki Rasoi” Canteen inaugurated at GDCW Kathua

Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 13:: The “Didi Ki Rasoi” canteen was inaugurated today at Government Degree College for Women (GDCW) marking another key step by District Administration Kathua towards empowering women and fostering their self-sufficiency.

The inauguration was held in the presence of Project Officer DUDA Jaffar Abass, and Vice Principal of the College. The canteen, managed by Women Self-Help Group (SHG) PRANVI under the Deendayal

Antyodaya Yojana National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), offers a range of home-cooked meals at affordable prices.

This initiative serves two major purposes: providing a stable income for women SHG members and delivering nutritious, budget-friendly meals to college staff, students, visitors, and the public, promoting better health and well-being in the district.

The Project Officer expressed gratitude to the administration for their steadfast support

and acknowledged the College for providing space to the Self-Help Group members. He noted that this marks the first installment of the “Didi Ki Rasoi” canteen initiative in Kathua under DAY-NULM and emphasized its potential to create lasting economic opportunities for women.

Aligned with the objectives of DAY-NULM, this initiative aims to uplift urban poor communities through sustainable livelihoods and empower women to achieve financial independence.

Dairy, Poultry Sector flourishing in Reasi with effective implementation of Govt schemes

Top News Report

REASI, Mar 13: The implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS) and Integrated Poultry Development Programme (IPDP) has set the stage for sustained growth of Dairy and Poultry sectors in Reasi District.

Once lagging behind other districts of Jammu Division, Reasi is now progressing rapidly in livestock farming, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik and with the efforts of Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO) Dr. Ravi Kumar Kaith and his team.

As per Dr. Kaith, Heifer Units, Automatic Milk Collection Units (AMCUs) and Free Range Poultry Units have been established across multiple blocks in the District. These units, established

under HADP, IDDS and IPDP, aim to enhance livestock productivity, ensure fair returns for dairy farmers, and improve poultry farming practices.

“The Dairy sector, in particular, has received a shot in arm with the sanctioning and establishment of Heifer Units under HADP, promoting the breeding of high-yield milch animals” the DAHO said adding that high-quality milch cows and buffaloes have also been imported under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS) from outside the Union Territory to improve milk production.

To streamline milk collection and quality maintenance, Automatic Milk Collection Units (AMCUs) have been set up in different blocks of the district. These units provide dairy farmers with fair and transparent pricing while ensuring high standards in milk production and supply.

In addition to dairy farming, Dr Kaith said the Department has also focused on boosting the poultry industry. “Under the Integrated Poultry Development Programme (IPDP), big broiler farms, with capacities ranging from 1,000 to 5,000 birds, have been established. Furthermore, 20 Free Range Units under HADP have been set up to promote local egg production and encourage backyard poultry farming,” he informed.

Dr. Kaith said the teams are actively interacting with livestock farmers, guiding them on the benefits of various state and central government schemes.

Through supervision of Deputy Commissioner and efforts of the Animal Husbandry Department, the District Reasi is now emerging as a model for dairy and poultry farming in Jammu Division, ensuring increased incomes and better livelihoods for livestock farmers.

Centre committed to providing ‘Har Ghar Nal Se Jal’ under JJM: Arvind

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 13: The Centre is steadfast in its mission to provide Har Ghar Nal Se Jal under the prestigious Jal Jeevan Mission, a flagship initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide tap water connections to every household across the country.

This was stated by Arvind Gupta, senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West after inaugurating the laying of a 675-meter PHE water GI pipeline in Amar Colony Extension, Ward 32, a significant step towards strengthening the water supply infrastructure in Jammu West. On the occasion, former Deputy Mayor Dharamveer Singh Jammwal, BJP Mandal President Anil Angral, Mandal President Kaushant Daffara, Arun Dubey, Rajesh Saini, Gurucharan Singh, Geeta Sodhi and Harvinder Singh

were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Arvind highlighted that this project in Amar Colony Extension is part of the larger vision of ensuring access to safe and potable water for all. This initiative aims to ensure a consistent and clean water supply to the residents, reinforcing the commitment of the government to fulfilling the basic needs of the people, he added.

The senior BJP leader stated that under the leadership of PM Modi, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed unprecedented infrastructural development, and the Jal Jeevan Mission has been instrumental in transforming the lives of the people by addressing long-standing water scarcity issues. “The BJP-led government is committed to ensuring that every household gets access to clean drinking water, and today's initiative is another step in that direc-

tion,” he said.

Arvind Gupta also appreciated the efforts of the local administration and the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department for expediting the project and assured the people that the government remains dedicated to resolving civic issues at the grassroots level. He urged the residents to actively participate in water conservation efforts and make judicious use of resources.

The MLA reaffirmed that the BJP government will continue to work tirelessly for the welfare of the people and urged citizens to support developmental initiatives aimed at making Jammu a model region for growth and prosperity.

Local residents expressed their gratitude for the timely intervention and lauded the efforts of the BJP leadership in addressing their long-pending demand for a reliable water supply.

Bali Bhagat seeks intervention of CM Omar Abdullah, demands immediate revocation of anti-employee order

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 13 : Senior BJP leader and former Health Minister, Bali Bhagat has strongly condemned the recent directive issued by the Administrator of Associated Hospitals, GMC Jammu, to halt the salaries of employees engaged under academic arrangement in GMC and its associated hospitals under SRO 364.

In a press statement issued today, Bali Bhagat expressed deep concern over the fate of nearly 1,200 such employees who have been working tirelessly in GMC Jammu and its associated hospitals for years. He reminded the administration that these healthcare workers stood as frontline warriors during the

COVID-19 pandemic, risking their lives to treat hundreds of infected patients. “During the Corona period, these brave warriors put their lives on the line to serve humanity. They expected the new government to recognize and honor their dedication, but instead, they are being shown the door. Is this how the administration rewards those who served in the most difficult times?” he questioned.

Bali Bhagat further lambasted the Omar Abdullah-led administration for its failure to address the acute shortage of healthcare workers in Jammu and Kashmir. “On one hand, the government has not filled the thousands of vacant posts in the health sector despite being in power for over five months. On the other hand,

it is now attempting to jeopardize the healthcare system by sacking experienced professionals who have been diligently serving the people,” he said.

Calling for the immediate revocation of the circular, the former Health Minister asserted that stopping the salaries of these employees was unjust and inhumane. “You cannot stop the salaries of those who have been working for years and have dedicated their lives to public service. These employees are engaged against sanctioned posts and are paid through an approved budget. Regularizing them will not create any financial burden on the UT exchequer,” he explained.

The senior BJP leader also highlighted that most of these

employees have served for over 6-10 years and have now become overage for other job opportunities. “They are a trained and skilled workforce. Their issue should not be treated at par with daily wagers or casual laborers but instead be dealt with on humanitarian grounds,” he stressed.

Bali Bhagat asked the Omar government to intervene immediately and revoke the unjust order, ensuring that these employees continue to serve without financial or job insecurity. “The administration must recognize their service, safeguard their employment, and restore their dignity instead of playing with their livelihoods,” he asserted.

Facilities created at Sports Stadium, GDC Akhnoor : YS&S Minister

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 13: Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, on Thursday informed the House that various sports related facilities have been created for the local youth in Akhnoor Constituency.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Mohan Lal in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that Indoor Stadium Akhnoor is in good condition and functional. Similarly, the sports ground

of Degree College, Akhnoor, has been upgraded recently by way of construction of various courts and VIP Pavilion and seating tiers. However, the super structure of the pavilion building in the play field of Palwan has been damaged, the Minister stated.

The Minister informed that various up-gradation and development works of sports infrastructure at GDC Akhnoor have been completed and handed over to the college authorities. These

included construction of a Pavilion for VIPs, sitting tiers, courts for Basketball, Volleyball, Handball, Kho-Kho, and development of Cricket and Football ground, he added.

Moreover, the Minister said that the Sports Council had executed these works while the budgeting was done by the Higher Education Department.

The Minister said that he will conduct on the spot inspection of all the upgradation works and enquiry shall be initiated in case any lacuna was found.

FromPage No:1

Finalization of JKAS departmental examination syllabus in final stages: CM Omar Abdullah

contingent upon passing the Departmental Examination, as mandated by the following service rules:

Rule 22(1)(a) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956

Rule 4 of the Jammu and Kashmir Combined Competitive Service (Probation & Examination) Rules, 2000

Rule 16(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service Rules, 2008

As per Rule 16 of SRO 386, probationers must pass the Departmental Examination within two years of their appointment to be confirmed in service.

However, the Chief Minister highlighted that the examination could not be conducted due to major administrative changes brought about by the Jammu and Kashmir Re-organization Act, 2019, which restructured the erstwhile state into

two Union Territories.

This reorganization necessitated a comprehensive revision of laws, statutes, and regulations, including those governing the Departmental Examination.

“As a result, the syllabus had to be thoroughly revised to align with the new administrative framework and updated legal provisions introduced by the Re-organization Act,” he said. He further informed the House that Government Order No. 1514-JK(GAD) of 2023, dated 30.11.2023, had constituted a committee to finalize the syllabus for the JKAS Probationers' Departmental Examination.

“We are making every effort to expedite the finalization process. Once the syllabus is approved, steps will be taken immediately to conduct the examination. The confirmation of probation for these officers, which depends on successfully passing the examination, will be processed without delay in accordance with the relevant service rules,” the Chief Minister assured.

Over Rs 18,000 cr state land under encroachment in

J&K: Govt

conversions, she said the total conversion of agricultural land for industrial purposes in Kathua and Jaserota amounts to 4,729 kanals and 19.33 marlas. For commercial purposes, it totals 559 kanals and 18 marlas.

In Samba, she said agricultural land conversions amount to 156 kanals and 7 marlas for industrial use, and 654 kanals and 10 marlas for commercial purposes.

She said the Revenue Department has not transferred state land to private individuals for setting up industrial estates.

“However, based on requests from the Industries and Commerce Department, 12,260 kanals and 3 marla of land have been transferred to them across various districts in the past two years”, she said.

The minister said the land retrieved from the encroachers is being allotted to landless people with five marlas now as per the policy.

Div Com, IGP review arrangements for Holi, Eid and Navra-

tra Festivals in Jammu Division

processions and religious gathering while devising meticulous timing and proper planning.

IGP Jammu directed the SSP to keep a strict check on traffic violation and ensure adherence to road safety rules, especially by youngsters riding two wheelers.

The stakeholder departments were asked to make available all necessary arrangements and take precautions to make the celebrations convenient and smooth.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioners and SSPs apprised the meeting on the advance arrangements made regarding route finalisations, market regulations including check on overpricing, profiteering and black-marketing, besides awareness drives for obeying traffic rules in their respective districts.

IGP Jammu directed the police officials to remain present on ground during the festivals. Directions were also issued for adequate deployment of security forces to maintain law and order across the division.

Two terrorist associates

arrested in Bandipora; Arms & ammunition recovered: Police

has been initiated.

Pitting Hindus, Muslims against each other to have dangerous consequences: Mehbooba Mufti

poison here and its consequences will be dangerous for the country in the times to come,” she added.

Mufti expressed the hope that better sense prevails.

“I pray to God that good sense prevails and they do not pit Hindus and Muslims against each other. Holi is a good festival and everybody enjoys it. Let Hindus play Holi and Muslims offer prayers on Friday,” she said.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J-K accused the BJP leadership of “trying to keep

the pot simmering as they cannot give anything to the people in UP”. Jammu and Kashmir travel guide “They want to make them happy by unleashing atrocities on the Muslim community,” she added.

Authorities order closure of schools in Gurez till March 15 due to heavy snowfall

closure of schools in Gurez till March 15 due to heavy snowfall.

The Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Gurez has ordered the closure of all schools in Gurez Subdivision in view of heavy snowfall and the accompanying avalanche threats.

The order said that due to the prevailing weather conditions the movement of students and staff could be hampered and keeping in view the safety concerns the schools should remain shut.

“Considering the safety and well-being of all concerned, it is hereby ordered that all schools of Gurez Subdivision shall remain closed up to 15th March 2025,” the order read.

The heads of institutions have been directed to ensure compliance of the order.

GD Goenka Public School Toddler House celebrates Annual Day & Graduation Ceremony

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Mar 13: GD Goenka Public School Toddler House, Akhnoor, celebrated its Annual Day and Graduation Ceremony with great enthusiasm and joy today.

The event was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including Nitish Rajora, IAS, Director Information, J&K, as the Chief Guest, and Sahil Kishore Sharma, Techno-Legal Consultant, Social Thinker, and Educationist of Jammu, as the Guest of Honor.

The event was marked by a series of vibrant cultural performances, including mesmerizing dance and song performances by young students, showcasing



their talent and confidence. The much-awaited award distribution ceremony recognized the hard work and achievements of students, further encouraging them towards excellence.

In his inspiring address, Chief Guest Nitish Rajora, com-

mended the efforts of students and teachers, emphasizing the importance of staying updated with the latest developments in education. He motivated educators to be more sensitive and future-ready to shape young minds effectively.

The Guest of Honor, Sahil Kishore Sharma, also delivered an insightful speech, encouraging students to strive for knowledge and innovation while highlighting the role of holistic education in shaping future leaders.

The Managing Director of GD Goenka Public School Akhnoor, Prashant Sharma, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the dignitaries, staff, and parents for their continuous support. He congratulated the graduating students, wishing them success in their future endeavors.

The celebration concluded on a high note, leaving students, parents, and faculty with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Ayush Deptt Ramban organizes Medical Checkup cum Awareness Programme at IRP Camp Parnote



Top News Report

RAMBAN, Mar 13: In line with directives of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudhary, the Ayush Department organized a Medical Checkup cum Awareness Camp at the IRP Camp Parnote, where screening for diabetes and hypertension was conducted along with an awareness session for police personnel.

The camp was inaugurated by Commandant IRP-16, Sukh Dev in the pres-

ence of medical experts and officials. Senior Medical Officer and District Yoga Coordinator Dr. Masood Iqbal, led the awareness session, educating attendees on preventive healthcare and lifestyle modifications.

A team of medical professionals, including Dr. Showkat Ahmad Mir (District Hospital Ramban), Dr. Shazad (AHWC Gool), Senior Pharmacist Shashi Kant Sharma, and Head Pharmacist Ajay Kumar, actively participated in the camp. Volunteer Huzaifa Bin Masood, along with Sanjeet Singh and Parwaah Singh also contributed to the initiative.

During the camp, about 250 police personnel underwent medical checkups, including blood pressure monitoring and diabetes screening. Free medicines were distributed among the attendees to promote health and wellness.

SMVDU Professor presents research on Role of Metro Rail in Creating Smart Cities at Int'l Conference

Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 13: Ar. Vinod Kumar, Assistant Professor at the School of Architecture & Landscape Design, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), recently presented his research on smart cities at the prestigious conference "Smart Sustainable Cities 2025: Pioneering Novel Frontiers for Green Urban Living."

The conference, organized virtually by MDPI, one of the largest publishers of scientific journals, brought together esteemed thought leaders, researchers, and professionals from around the world, including Erasmus University, Rotterdam; State University of New York; University of



Strathclyde, UK; Florida International University; and University of Salerno, Italy, among others.

Ar. Vinod Kumar's research paper, "Place-Making and City Boosterism with Metro Rail in Indian Metro Cities from a Smart City Perspective," explores the transformative impact of metro rail systems on urban environments in India. The study highlights the role of metro infrastructure in fostering place-making, promoting city boosterism, and aligning with the broader goals of the

Smart City initiative.

The presentation sparked engaging discussions on integrating transport innovation with green living principles, offering valuable insights for policymakers and urban planners striving to shape future-ready cities.

By contributing to the global dialogue on smart and sustainable cities, Ar. Vinod Kumar reinforces SMVDU's reputation as a hub for pioneering research and academic excellence. The conference provided a platform for experts to share their research and insights, fostering a collaborative environment to address the challenges of urbanization and promote sustainable urban development.

Didi Ki Rasoi Canteen inaugurated at GDC for Women Kathua by DDC Kathua

Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 13: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas on Thursday inaugurated the "Didi Ki Rasoi" canteen at Government Degree College for women, Kathua in the presence of Project Officer DUDA, Jaffar Abass Batt.

The ceremony was marked by an impressive Guard of Honour presented by the NCC cadets of the college, adding a ceremonial touch to the occasion.

The canteen provides an assortment of home-cooked meals at reasonable prices and is managed by women Self-Help Groups constituted under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana



National Urban Livelihoods Mission. This initiative serves two key objectives: providing a steady source of income for women Self-Help Groups and offering affordable, nutritious meals to college students.

The canteen, established under DAY-NULM, serves as a plat-

form for Self-Help Group members to showcase their culinary skills and entrepreneurial spirit. By providing a sustainable income stream, the canteen empowers women to take charge of their financial lives.

In his address, DDC Kathua emphasized the importance of such initiatives in bridging the

gap between socio-economic divides and also to create opportunities for women to engage in self-sustaining activities, thereby contributing to their financial independence and well-being.

He also praised the Women's College Kathua for taking a proactive role in supporting

the local community.

The event saw participation from various stakeholders, including students, faculty, and local community members.

The college has pledged to ensure the smooth functioning of Didi Ki Rasoi and intends to continue its efforts to uplift the women community.

Following the inauguration, the DDC Kathua, along with the other dignitaries, toured the newly established facility, taking a close look at the kitchen operations and the meal preparation process, underscoring the importance of transparency and quality control in such programs.

Tangdhar-Chowkibal Road closed again after heavy snowfall, restoration work underway

Top News Report

TANGDHAR, Mar 13: The crucial Tangdhar-Chowkibal road has once again been closed due to 8-10 feet of fresh snow accumulation along stretches of the NC Pass, following an intense spell of bad weather.

The closure has severely impacted connectivity, leaving residents stranded and affecting essential supplies in the region.

This marks yet another disruption after the road remained closed from February 26 to March 8 due to extremely heavy snowfall. After a gap of nine days, the route was reopened, allowing vehicles to ply for three days before

another heavy spell hit the region on March 10, once again blocking the road.

Amid extreme weather conditions and heightened avalanche threats, personnel from Project Beacon and the Indian Army are engaged in relentless snow-clearance operations. Despite their tireless efforts, the heavy accumulation and continuous snowfall have made the task increasingly challenging.

Local authorities have advised people to avoid unnecessary travel and stay updated with official advisories. The administration is closely monitoring the situation, ensuring that stranded individuals receive necessary assistance.



Residents of Tangdhar, Keran, and Machil continue to face difficulties due to frequent road closures during winter months.

The strategic highway remains a lifeline for these remote areas, and its prolonged closure disrupts essential services, including medical emergencies and food

supplies.

Officials have assured that all possible resources are being deployed to reopen the road at the earliest, but safety remains a top priority due to the risk of avalanches.

Meanwhile, locals have urged the government to explore long-term solutions for winter

connectivity, such as tunnel projects or alternative routes, to mitigate such disruptions in the future.

With Ramzan underway, residents are facing additional challenges, but authorities have reassured that everything is under control as efforts continue to restore connectivity.

Humanity Public School celebrates Holi

Top News Report

SAMBA: The most colourful and vibrant festival of India- Holi was celebrated with splash of colours at Humanity Public School, Bassi Kalan, Bari Brahmana.

The atmosphere in the school was marked with fun and fervour as the students as well as the staff of the school celebrated this vibrant festival. The school following the green and global practices had arranged for safe organic herbal holi colours.

During the celebration, the Principal of the school, Gaurav Charak and Vice-Principal, Anku Charak along with the Administrative Officer, Ravinder Sadhu, Senior Incharge,

Akashdeep Raina, Hr. Sec. Incharge, Prashidh Singh, High Wing Incharge, Namrta Sharma, Primary Wing Incharge, Vandana Sharma, Pre-Primary Incharge, Aparna Billoowria, IT Incharge, Er. Varinder Kumar and Sports Incharge, Mahan Singh were also present during the celebration.

They applied gulal and put tilak on each other's forehead. With the string of poems and topics, the day was celebrated on a high note.

The programme was followed by topics presented by Subhaan and Adhyan of class 1st.

The poems were recited by Sanchi (UKG), Aidhika (1st), Ashish (1st), Avni (2nd) and Avneet (2nd).

Shivati (TGT, S.St.) also delivered her speech on the significance of Holi in Hindu religion. The presenter of the programme was Nirmal Kour, Coordinator Primary Wing.

Principal of the School, Gaurav Charak stated that Holi is a festival of new hope, new beginning and new opportunity. He conveyed the message that Holi signifies the importance of colours in our lives in the form of happiness, prosperity, harmony and peace.

Vice Principal, Anku Charak earnestly wished for the best days ahead for all and gave a message of environment conservation by marking eco-friendly Holi.

J&K Bank REWA organizes health checkup camp

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 13: The J&K Bank Retired Employees Welfare Association organized a free full-body health checkup camp at the unit office of JK Bank Retired Employees Welfare Association, Udhampur in collaboration with Atulaya Diagnostic Lab.

Over 60 members availed themselves of comprehensive screenings, including 58 vital parameters and a PSA test, conducted by a proficient medical team.

The camp was held under the leadership of Iqbal Singh (Working President), V.D. Dogra (Vice President), Ved Gupta (Cashier), and Secretaries Jag Bhushan and Pawan Mahajan. Their

efforts ensured the smooth execution of the camp, continuing the association's commitment to members' well-being.

To support fasting requirements, refreshments were provided post-examination, and all costs were fully covered by the association as a welfare initiative. Iqbal Singh, Working President, expressed gratitude to all participants and the medical professionals for their dedication.

The association remains steadfast in its mission to safeguard the health of retired employees and contribute to the well-being of society through such meaningful initiatives as such camps were held in Jammu and Kathua units in the past too.

SMVDU inaugurates e-Yantra Robotics Lab in collaboration with IIT Bombay's eLSI

Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 13: The School of Electronics & Communication Engineering (SoECE) at SMVDU, in collaboration with IIT Bombay's e-Yantra Lab Setup Initiative (eLSI), inaugurated its e-Yantra Robotics Lab. Established within the 5G-IoT Lab, the facility aims to enhance AI, ML, and robotics education, equipping students with hands-on experience and industry-relevant skills



to improve employability and entrepreneurship.

Prof. Shubha Pandit (Advisor, e-Yantra) emphasized the impor-

tance of robotics in engineering education. Dr. Shashi Bhushan Kotwal (Assistant Professor, SoECE) showcased

IoT and robotics-related projects, demonstrating real-world applications.

Students from various engineering branches are engaged in interdisciplinary robotics projects, reflecting the lab's broad impact.

The event was attended by faculty members, including Dr. Yatheshth Anand (HoD, SoME), Swastik Gupta (SoECE), Dr. Varun Dutta (SoME), and Manoj Kumar Verma (SoCSE), alongside students and Laboratory staff members

Gaurav Kumar, Deepankur Gupta and e-Yantra Lab Setup Initiative (eLSI) representatives from IIT Bombay.

The Robotics Club at SMVDU displayed innovative projects. Dr. Yatheshth Anand also informed the audience about robotics-related courses such as Industrial Robotics and Kinematics and Dynamics of Robotics. This initiative strengthens SMVDU's commitment to preparing students for a technology-driven future.

Rohit has no reason to retire, will be among best ODI captains: AB de Villiers

Speculations were rife about Rohit's retirement from ODIs after Champions Trophy, but the 37-year-old put them to rest after leading India to an unprecedented third title

NEW DELHI, Mar 13 (Agencies): Rohit Sharma has no reason to retire, says South African batting great AB de Villiers, who believes the India skipper could go down as one of the greatest ODI captains of all time.

Speculations were rife about Rohit's retirement from ODIs after the Champions Trophy, but the 37-year-old put them to rest after leading India to an unprecedented third title.

"Compared to other captains, look at Rohit's win percentage -- it's almost 74 per cent, which is substantially more than any other captain of the past," de Villiers said in his YouTube channel.

"If he keeps going, he will go down as one of the best ODI captains of all time. Rohit has also said he is not retiring and



has requested that rumours be stopped spreading."

Rohit smashed an 83-ball 76, playing a pivotal role in India's tricky 252-run chase in the final against New Zealand in Dubai to win the player-of-the-match.

"Why would he retire? With that kind of record not only as

captain but also as a batter. That 76 in the final, giving India a fantastic start, laying the foundation for success and leading from the front when the pressure was at its peak," de Villiers said.

Hailing Rohit's record as both a batter and captain, de Villiers was effusive in his praise for

how the India captain transformed his batting in the ODI format over the last three years to win the T20 World Cup and the Champions Trophy in a span of nine months.

"Rohit Sharma has got no reason to retire. No reason to take any criticism whatsoever. His record speaks for himself. Not only that, but he has also sort of transformed his game," he said.

"If we have a look at his strike rate in the Powerplay it was quite low for an opening batter but since 2022 his strike rate has risen to 115 in the first powerplay and that's the difference between good and great.

"It's transforming your own game and it never stops. You have always something to learn and something to do better," he added.

Former Australian spinner Stuart MacGill convicted in cocaine case



SYDNEY, Mar 13 (Agencies): Former Australian spinner Stuart MacGill was found guilty of involvement in a cocaine deal on Thurs-

day, but cleared of participating in large-scale drug supply.

A Sydney District Court jury acquitted the 54-year-old leg-spinner

of facilitating a one-kg cocaine deal worth AUD 3,30,000 in April 2021.

However, he was convicted of the charge of taking part in drug supply.

MacGill, who played 44 Tests for Australia, "showed little emotion" as the verdict was read, according to a reports in Australian media.

Hearing of his sentence was adjourned for eight weeks.

The court heard that MacGill introduced his regular drug dealer to his brother-in-law, Marino Sotiropoulos, at a meeting under his restaurant on Sydney's north shore.

While he denied knowledge of the transaction, prosecutors argued the deal could not have taken place without his involvement.

BCCI mourns the passing of Syed Abid Ali Saheb

MUMBAI, Mar 13 (Agencies): The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) expressed condolences on the passing of former Indian all-rounder Syed Abid Ali, who breathed his last on March 12, as per a press release.

A celebrated cricketer, Syed Abid Ali was a pivotal figure in Indian cricket during the 1960s and 70s, renowned for his versatile skills.

He represented India in 29 Test matches and 5 One Day Internationals, leaving a mark with his all-round capabilities. His contributions were instrumental in India's historic Test series victories in England and the West Indies in 1971, where his fielding, bowling, and batting proved invaluable. His lion-hearted approach and dedication made him a respected figure in the Indian cricketing fraternity.

Roger Binny, BCCI President, said as quoted by a press release, "Shri Syed Abid Ali was a true all-rounder, a cricketer who



embodied the spirit of the game. His contributions to India's historic victories in the 1970s will always be remembered. His dedication and versatility made him stand out. My deepest condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time."

Devajit Saikia, BCCI Secretary, said, "Shri Syed Abid Ali's all-round skills and his contribution to Indian cricket are quite valued. He was a true gentleman of the game. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones."

Former India skipper Mohammed Azharuddin took to his official social media handle and expressed his thoughts on the death of former India all-rounder Syed

Abid Ali.

"Deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Syed Abid Ali Saheb. His contributions to the game and his unwavering passion for cricket will always be remembered," Mohammed Azharuddin wrote in a post on X.

Further, commentator Harsha Bhogle also reacted on demise of former Indian cricketer Syed Abid Ali.

"My first cricket hero. Rejoiced as a child when he had a great debut against Australia, was overjoyed when he scored the winning runs against England in 1971. Great trier, big hearted man. Khudahafiz Abid Chicha," Harsha Bhogle wrote in a post on X.

Olympics star Manu Bhaker receives thunderous applause

CHANDIGARH, Mar 13 (Agencies): Paris Olympics double bronze medallist shooter Manu Bhaker received the loudest applause as stepped onto the stage at the 72nd convocation of the Panjab University.

It was an unforgettable moment for the young shooter as President Droupadi Murmu gave her a special mention from the dais, congratulating her for not just her academic feat but also for being a role models for the nation's budding sportspersons.

Bhaker, who scored 1,484 marks of 2000 (74.2 per cent), received her master's degree in public administration. A student of the DAV College, Sector 10, she was at centre of attention as she also bagged the Panjab University Khel Rattan.

While talking to news agency, the ace shooter maintained that education was as important as "breathing" and key for overall growth. Bhaker



revealed that she had no immediate plans to pursue further education, but the avid learner did not deny having an interest in pursuing a PhD at some point.

"I had set a bar for myself for attaining a master's degree, which I have achieved. And, I

think every sportsperson should follow the same path to have an overall growth in life," said the shooter, who was accompanied by her mother.

"Everyone should have zeal to learn-- be it in education or sports. Many people win

medals and many sometimes face failures and I have experienced both. There's no guarantee that I will win medals at upcoming tournaments, but I will keep on challenging myself to give my best. We must keep learning from everything and should have a broad mindset beyond sports as well," she added, stressing on the importance of having multiple interests and hobbies.

Shifting her focus to the sporting culture in India, Bhaker said the nation was no longer a "new entrant" on the world stage.

"There are different phases of achieving laurels. India is no longer a new entrant. We as a nation have already witnessed a vast change in the mindset towards sports. We have won medals at the Olympics, improved our stature in javelin, boxing, shooting and other disciplines. We have had many fourth place finishes too. There are several

leagues spread across sports. We have come a long way and continue to improve day by day," said the ace shooter.

"In short, we are no longer a 'cricket-loving nation'," she said on a lighter note.

On facing pressure while carrying the "Olympic medallist" tag at national or international competitions, the youngster said, "During competitions, my opponents are national winners, international medallists and other achievers. All our achievements are at par at the shooting range, and there's no such pressure of carrying a medallist tag... it ceases to matter," she said, congratulating all degree holders and medal winners during the convocation.

"It feels so good to be back amid the home crowd. The dignitaries present today are masters of their own fields, and for me it's a real honour to be among them," she signed off.

Mumbai Indians #PlayLikeMumbai - A celebration of the city's grit, swag & gully cricket spirit

MUMBAI, Mar 13 (Agencies): Mumbai Indians (MI) has dropped the first leg of its all-new season campaign, #PlayLikeMumbai--a tribute to the city's resilience, fearless attitude, and street-smart cricket culture that define both Mumbai and its iconic team Mumbai Indians (MI), as per the Reliance Foundation press release.

Inspired by Mumbai's gully culture and street-smart spirit, #PlayLikeMumbai showcases Mumbai Indians' core squad--from Bhai (Hardik Pandya) and Bhidu (Rohit Sharma) of the gullies to Dada (Suryakumar Yadav), Boss (Jasprit Bumrah), and Bantai (Tilak Varma)--who embody the city's hustle and hunger to win.

Just like Mumbai, MI plays with flair, grit, and the ability to bounce back from any challenge - Beause game ho ya life, we #PlayLikeMumbai, as per the Reliance

Foundation press release.

Jackie Shroff joined as MI's 'Spirit Coach' - Bhidu, Yeh Toh Ek dum Alag Level Ka Move Hai! In a first-of-its-kind move, Bollywood's OG Bhidu, Jackie Shroff, steps into the role of 'Spirit Coach' for the Mumbai Indians.

Bringing his legendary Bambaiya swag and iconic dialogues, Jackie will fire up the MI Paltan, channeling the true essence of #PlayLikeMumbai throughout the season.

Rap Anthem with Pure Bambaiya Swag - koi shakk?- The campaign comes to life with a hard-hitting rap anthem featuring Mumbai's very own voices--Srushti Tawade, Sambata, and Kaam Bhari.

This high-energy track captures the raw pulse of the gullies, merging street cricket's spirit with the MI universe--because in Mumbai, cricket is not played; it's lived.

From Jackie's heavy-



hitting dialogues to street-cricket stories and behind-the-scenes masti, #PlayLikeMumbai is more than just a campaign--it's a movement, bringing Mumbai's raw, fearless energy straight to the Paltan. Game ho ya life, we #PlayLikeMumbai!

The five-time IPL champions retained their 'Fab Four' by shelling out a hefty amount. Along with

Hardik Pandya, Rohit Sharma, Tilak Varma, and Suryakumar Yadav, Bumrah was among the five players retained by the Mumbai-based franchise ahead of IPL 2025.

MI finished at the bottom in the last season, where they could only manage four wins and 10 losses under the captaincy of a returning star, Hardik Pandya.

Global Indian Pravasi Kabaddi League to kick off on April 18 in Gurugram

GURUGRAM, Mar 13 (Agencies): The Global Indian Pravasi Kabaddi League is set to make its grand debut on April 18 in Gurugram. The league will witness participation from countries such as Egypt, Kenya, Argentina, Germany, England, Norway, and Poland, amongst others. As per the GI-Panchkula press release, this will showcase the growing global reach of Kabaddi in the quest to promote the sport globally.

Holistic International Pravasi Sports Association (HIPSA), the league's Administrator, has revealed the kick-off date (April 18) as players gear up for the much-awaited tournament.

The inaugural season, which will be broadcast Live on Sony Sports Network will feature 12 teams--six women's teams and six corresponding men's teams--each embodying the cultural and linguistic richness of India. The teams have been strategically named to reflect their regional identities:

Women's Teams: Marathi Falcons, Bhojpuri Leopardess, Telugu Cheetahs, Tamil Lioness, Punjabi Tigress, and Haryanvi Eagles.

Men's Teams: Marathi Vultures, Bhojpuri Leopards, Telugu Panthers, Tamil Lions, Punjabi Tigers, and Haryanvi Sharks.

Speaking about GI-PKL, Ms. Kanthi D. Suresh, President of

HIPSA, said, Season 1 of GI-Panchkula is the culmination of all the efforts that have been put in over more than an year where the focus has been to spread the sport of Kabaddi globally, and inspire the World to recognise the Sport as a potential Olympic Sport. We are committed to making GI-Panchkula a premier global Kabaddi tournament and ensuring increased participation from players across continents in each season for the next 10 years. GI-Panchkula has also unveiled the captains of the franchise. While Shiv Prashad has been handed the captain duties for Bhojpuri Leopards, Vikash Dahiya will lead the Haryanvi Eagles, and Meena Kadyan will captain the Bhojpuri Leopardess. Marathi Falcons and Punjabi Tigress have named Tanu Sharma and Meera as captains, respectively. While Julie Bhati will lead the Telugu Cheetahs, Suman will oversee the captain's duties for the Tamil Lioness.

Players have already begun rigorous training for the League and are leaving no stone unturned in their training. Sawin Narwal,

Sandeep Kandola, Ajay Kumar, and Kapil Narwal are among the players who have started practicing. National gold medalists like M Anitha, Indra Rohini, Arul Santhiya, and Selvarebiksha have also commenced training sessions in their respective states.

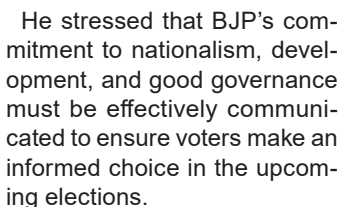
The GI-Panchkula Championship trophy will be unveiled in an event shortly wherein the Schedule of the League will also be announced

HIPSA's past initiatives underline its commitment to Kabaddi's global growth. In March 2024, HIPSA ensured the Sport of Kabaddi was included in the Guinness World Record in an event held in Panchkula's Tau Devial Stadium, which was graced by the Hon'ble Governor of Haryana, Shree Bandaru Dattatreya.

Men's Teams and Captains: Marathi Vultures - Kapil Narwal Bhojpuri Leopards - Shiv Prashad Telugu Panthers - Sandeep Kandola Tamil Lions - Sunil Narwal Punjabi Tigers - Sawin Narwal Haryanvi Sharks - Vikash Dahiya Women's Teams and Captains: Marathi Falcons - Tanu Sharma Bhojpuri Leopardess - Meena Kadyan Telugu Cheetahs - Julie Bhati Tamil Lioness - Suman Punjabi Tigress - Meera Haryanvi Eagles - Pushpa Rana.

Says BJP's strength lies in its dedicated cadre

Kavinder Gupta asked party cadre to counter the misleading propaganda of opposition



The education sector has seen significant reforms, ensuring better facilities and opportunities for youth. Similarly, health services have improved drastically, providing modern medical care to all sections of society. With employment generation at the forefront, various government schemes have empow-

Kavinder Gupta concluded by stating that BJP's strength lies in its dedicated workers, and with their hard work, discipline, and unwavering commitment, the party will continue to serve the nation and lead Jammu and Kashmir towards a brighter future.

While briefing the media persons at party's state central office today, Manish Sahni said that the crisis of water supply is deepening in most of the areas of Jammu. People of Hindu majority Jammu division are eager to play Holi but their enthusiasm has turned into disappointment due to lack of water supply.

Bantaiab, Mutthi, Bhalwal, Akhnoor, Mathwar, Bathindi, Chauadi, Sainik Colony, Greater Kailash, Trikuta Nagar, Fawwara Chowk, Purmandal, Veerpur, where the water supply situa-

Sahni said that the enthusiasm of playing Holi has cooled down due to the lack of water, even if we play dry Holi, water is needed for bathing. Sahni has demanded from the Omar government to ensure uninterrupted supply of water and electricity on the festival of Holi.

Sahni said that the need of the hour is to take strong legal action against anti-national, separatist and fundamentalist ideology. Banning in the name of the organization is like throwing dust in the eyes.

The deceased has been identified as Riyaz

Locals found the body on today morning near Veshow Nallah at Mah in Kulgam and immediately called the police. The body was

Notably, Three nomadic labourers, including two brothers, had been missing from the Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district for the past one month.

Other leaders present were Mohinder Kumar, Shivpal Singh, Sudesh Kumar, Ibrahim Khan, Mohmad Ali, Akbar Khan, Shafi Khan and Rakesh.

cance of cleanliness. The programme officer thanked all the volunteers for their active participation in making the drive successful and she also spoke about the various aspects of cleanliness in our lives.



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