# TOP NEWS OF J&K



**JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025** 

**ENTERTAINMENT** 

16

**Pulkit Samrat wraps** up Punjab shoot for Glory



**NATIONAL** 

**House needs to** deliberate on freebies: Dhankhar Daily Evening Newspaper

**INTERNATIONAL** 

**Gaza negotiations with Hamas to continue 'only** under fire': Netanyahu



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

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#### BRIEFLY

#### **J&K Govt** extends deadline for employees' Quarterly performance reports

JAMMU, Mar 19 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir General Administration Department has extended the deadline for filing the 4th Quarterly Progress Report on the Employees Performance Monitoring System (EPM) to March 25, 2025.

Initially due in the first week of January 2025, the extension was granted due to numerous employees being unable to submit their reports on time. Consequently, the deadline for reviewing these reports by controlling officers has also been pushed to March 31, 2025.

#### **Tourists** Scammed with Fake Gondola **Passes**

SRINAGAR, Mar 19 (Agencies): A fake ticket racket has been exposed in Gulmarg, raising concerns over fraudulent activities targeting unsuspecting tourists.

The Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation Ltd. which manages the Gulmarg Gondola Project, has filed a formal complaint with the police, urging strict action against those involved.

According to the complaint submitted to the Station House Officer (SHO) Gulmarg, ticketing staff at the G1 station intercepted three tourists around 10:30 AM on March 17, 2025. The tourists were carrying fake gondola tickets that did not match their original identities. Upon questioning, they disclosed that the tickets were purchased from a local guide identified as Firdous Ahmad.

The in-charge of e-ticketing, Manzoor-ul-Haq Nazki, confirmed that the tourists had been duped and obtained a written complaint from them. Authorities have now urged the police to conduct a thorough investigation to identify and apprehend those behind the racket.

The complaint calls for strict action to prevent further exploitation of tourists and uphold the integrity of the Gulmarg Gondola service. Officials have emphasized the need for stringent measures to dismantle such fraudulent operations and restore public confidence in the ticketing system.

## Over 2K kanals of land allotted to nonlocals for investment in J&K: Govt

JAMMU, Mar 19 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday said that over 2000 Kanals of land has been allotted to the non-locals for investment in Jammu and Kashmir.Jammu tourismJammu travel guide Replying to a question raised by the PDP MLA Waheed-ul-Rehman Para seeking the details of non-locals provided land for investment in Jammu and Kashmir during the last two years, the government in a written reply stated

that 2093 kanals of land

has been allotted to the

non-residents at SIDCO



Industrial Estate during the last two years from the period of January 1, 2023 to December 12,

Sharing the details, the government said that in Kathua, 275 kanans of land has been allotted to M/s RSWM Limited, 222 kanals to M/s Grew Energy Pvt Ltd (Unit-I) and 424 kansls to M/s Grew Energy Pvt Ltd (Unit-II), at Bhagthali-I.

At Bhagthali-II, 201 kanals of land has been allotted to M/s Advance Films Pvt Ltd, 201 kanals to M/s GreenquestA-

lu Foils Pvt Ltd. 201 kanals to M/s Haldiram Snacks Manufacturing Plant, 209 kanals to M/s Sintex Advances Plastic Ltd and 206 kanals to M/s Ceylon Beverages Can Pvt.

Meanwhile in Srinagar, at Medicity Semporas (gr), 30 kanals has beenallotted to M/s Megna Waves Build Tech Pvt Ltd (EMAAr Group-UAE) and 100 kanals to M/s Megna Waves Buildtech Pvt Ltd (EMAAr Group UAE).

At Exhibition Ground Jammu, 24 kanals has been allotted to he M/s Magna Waves Buildtech

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## No proposal to change retirement age of Govt **Employees: Centre**



NEW DELHI, Mar 19 (Agencies): The government is not considering any proposal to change the retirement age of its employees, Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, he also said the government has no policy to abolish vacancy created by retirement "No proposal to change

the retirement age of government employees is under consideration of the government," Singh said.

Asked whether any government employees' union or organisations had demanded changes in the retirement age, the minister said, "No formal proposal has been received from staff side of National Council (Joint Consultative machinery)." Asked to share details of the retirement age of the employees of central and various state

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## No ration halted to BPL families due to verification concerns: J&K Govt



JAMMU, Mar 19 (Aencies): The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday denied any stoppage of

ration to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families due to verification issues. Jammu and Kashmir travel guide

In response to a query by MLA Mir Saifullah, the government stated that all eligible households are receiving their entitled food grains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and at subsidised rates under the Non-Priority Household (NPHH) category.

Minister in charge, department of Food, Civil Supplies &

Turn to page 9

#### "This is a personal matter": MLA Mehraj Malik reacts to non-bailable warrant

JAMMU, Mar 19 (Agencies): AAP MLA Mehraj Malik has responded to the non-bailable warrant issued against him by a Jammu court, stating that it is a personal issue and he is focused on his duties in the assembly.

"I am an MLA; you may ask me about what is

going on in the assembly. This (non-bailable warrant) is a personal matter. You may ask about anything other than that... I don't want to speak on that matter; the people will look after it." Malik said.

He further added, "Those who taught me

politics will now also teach me the law... I don't know what the warrant is. I am busy in the assembly with people's issues... It is a non-bailable warrant. I may get arrested and get bailed. What more can happen? I have not

Turn to page 9

#### **Two IEDs** recovered, **Defused** in **Pulwama**

SRINAGAR, Mar 19 (Agencies): Security forces on Wednesday recovered two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) from Bandipora and Pulwama districts of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.The first ED was recovered near Sunset Point along the Bandipora-Srinagar national highway.

A police official said a Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) defused the device without causing any damage.

In another incident, security forces detected a pressure cooker IED on the roadside at village Ghat Tokuna in Awantipora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, the official said.

A quick action team along with BDS squad dismantled the device, the official said.

The official said the dismantled parts have been taken for further investigation.

## Legislators demand CBI probe into Budhal deaths

JAMMU, Mar 19 (Agencies): The legislators on Wednesday called for a CBI probe into the mysterious deaths in the Budhal area of Rajouri.

Raising a supplementary question, Javed Iqbal Choudhary, MLA

Budhal, said that the deaths appeared to be the result of a conspiracy, as different chemicals were traced in various samples.

"The exact cause of the deaths is still unknown. A CBI inquiry is necessary to determine the cause and rule out any conspiracy," Choudhary said

CPI(M) MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami emphasized that the issue should

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## J&K Police seize 40 Kg Poppy in Udhampur, One arrested

JAMMU. Mar 19 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday arrested a drug peddler and seized 40 kg of poppy from his possession in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, officials said. A police team intercepted a vehicle during a routine check at the



highway, they said.

During search, two Turn to page 9

#### Police Solve Kidnapping and Murder Case of South Kashmir Girl, Accused Arrested

SRINAGAR, Mar 19 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police in Anantnag have solved the case of a missing girl from Kokernag, leading to the arrest of the accused and the recovery of the victim's body.

Kokernag Police Sta-

In a statement, police said that on March 16,

tion received a report about a missing girl. An investigation was launched immediately, during which technical evidence pointed to her possible abduction by Altaf Mir, a 31-year-old resident of Lawaypora, Srinagar. An FIR was initially

registered under sec-

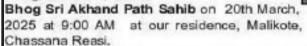
tions 87 and 49 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). "As the investigation progressed, Mir was taken into custody for questioning. During interrogation, he confessed to the crime, leading police to recover the victim's body from his residence in

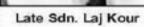
Turn to page 9

# RESTAURANT Where Hunger Meets Happiness Are you a true desi chicken connoisseur? Look no further than Gupshup Restaurant, the only restaurant in Jammu and Kashmir to serve 198% Desi chicken (Jatka) cooked to perfection on a traditional Chullah. Ban Bantalah, Old Nagrota Highway, Jammu (J&K) +91-9086207123 | +91-9086072548 ORDER NOW

#### **BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you about the sad demise of our beloved Late Sdn. Laj Kour W/o S. Punjab Singh\* R/o village Malikote Chassana Reasi, who left for heavenly abode on \*11 March, 2025\* . The Bhog and Antim Ardas will be as per the following dates: Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 18th March, 2025 at 9:00 AM at our residence, Village Malikote, Reasi.\*





Master Lekh Raj Khajuria

SMT. MOHANI

KARIHALOO SARAF

Smt. Shakuntla Devi

Prof. Dewan Chand Sharma

(Retired)

Shabad Kirtan & Antim Ardas will be performed on 20th March, 2025 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM at village Malikote Chassana,

Grief Stricken:

S. Punjab Singh Budhwal (Husband)

S. Surinder Singh (Son )

Khalsa mohalla, Reasi.

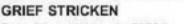
S. Durjeet Singh (Son)

Sdn. Mitranjan Kour (Daughter) S Harvinder Pal Singh (Son)

#### **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



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



With profound sorrow, we inform the sudden demise of our beloved Smt. Mohani Karihaloo Saraf, W/o Late Shri Chaman Lal Saraf resident of Baner, Pune formerly a resident of Nishat and Habba Kadal, Srinagar.

Known as Mummy to her progeny, she was Bengashee and Bhabhijee to the Karihaloo and Saraf families. She retired as a headmistress at Nishat High School. She breathed her last at home on March 12, aged 87. 10TH DAY KRIYA will be at Pimpri-Chinchwad on March 21.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Manju and Anil Bakaya Reeta and Ranjan Nehru

Sudesh and Ruby Saraf The families of Late Dr DN Saraf, Late Rupa Kaul,

Raj Dutari Koul, Late Roshantal Saraf, Late Roshantal Karihaloo

Bhushan Karihaloo, Tej Karihaloo.

Grandchildren: Dhiraj, Priyanka,

Amaranta, Amol, Kartik, Sneha, and Maegha.

Great grandchildren: Ayan, Siona, Adhira, Prazlaan, Saira, and Amaira. Contact: Ranjan Nehru 98810 64171, Amol Nehru 98500 85877

## TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

our beloved Smt Shakuntla Devi W/o Late Shi Chuni Lal Abrol, R/o Ward No. 13, House No. 14, Lambi Gali,

10TH DAY will be performed on Thursday, 20th March from 11 AM to 12 Noon at Shiv Shakti Temple, Near Government quarter, Janipur Housing Colony, Jammu.

13TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Sunday, 23rd March at HNo. 141-A, Sector 3, Colonel Colony, Near Saraswati Mata Mandir, Bohri, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

UTHALA will be performed on Monday, 24th March 2025 from 3 PM to 4 PM at Shiv Shakti Temple Near Govt Quarter, Janipur Housing Colony, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

RAVI ABROL & SUSHAM ABROL (Son & Daughter in law) PAWAN ABROL & MAYURI ABROL (Son & Daughter in law)

PURUSHOTTAM SARAF (Son in law)

RAM PRAKASH SURI (Son in law)

ADITYA, AARYE, ADITI, ATULYA, ARUN, VARUN, SAURABH, BHARTI, DEEKSHA, RIDDHIMA URVASHI (Grand Children)

Contact- 9419157025, 9958008846, 9797388215

#### TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of Prof. (Retd) Dewan Chand Sharma S/o Late Sh. Mulkh Raj Sharma R/o H.No. 149-A, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu on 11-03-2025.

TENTH DAY will be performed at residence or 20-3-2025 (Thursday) at 11 am.

KRIYA will be performed at residence on 21-03-2025 (Friday) at 12 noon.

UTHALA will be performed on 21-03-2025 (Friday) at Shiv Mandir, near Government Quarters, Gandhi Nagar Jammu from 4 pm to 5 pm.

Smt. Reva Sharma - Wife Daughter & Son in law

GRIEF STRICKEN

Dr. Sameru Sharma (Principal GCET Jammu) & Er. Sanjay Sharma (OSD, PDD) Smt. Shafai Sharma (Lecturer) & Sh. Ashish Sharma (Transporter)

Sister & Brother in law Sml. Santosh & AVM GP Sharma Brother & Sister in law Sh. Sain Das Sharma & Smt. Kanta Sharma

Sh. Mohinder Pal Sharma & Smt.Rajesh Sharma

Shrt. B.D Sharma (Retired Principal) Er. Arun Sharma (Rett. Chief Engg.) & Smt. Samata Sharma Dr. Som Dutt Sharma & Dr. Promilia Sharma

Er. Vinod Sharma (Reld Xen) & Smt. Indu Sharma

Grand Children: Sidhant, Sameeha, Vrishay, Aayat Mobile no.: 9419724322, 7889543265, 9419191764, 9796702727

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Suresh Gupta S/o Lt. Sh. Kewal Krishan Gupta R/o H.No. 16, Gali Kumharan, Purani Mandi, Jammu who expired on 12/3/2025.

Tenth Day will be performed on 20/3/2025 (Thursday) at Mahajan Hall, Jammu at 11 am to

Kriya will be performed at our residence on 23/3/2025 (Sunday).

Uthala will be performed at Mahajan Hall on 24/3/2025 (Monday) 4 pm - 5 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN** Smt. Swarna Devi (Mother)

Smt. Sujata Gupta (Wife)

Mr. Paras & Mr. Prajwal Gupta (Son)

Anita Gupta & Pawan Gupta - Sister & Brother-in-law Poonam Gupta & Kavi Gupta - Sister & Brother-in-law Sourabh & Sakshi Gupta - Brother & Sister-in-law

Lt. Smt. Krishna & Dwarka Nath - Bua & Fufa Ji Smt. Darshna & Pawan Chowdhary - Bua & Fufa Ji

Smt. Santosh & Lt. Sh. Subash Gupta - Chachi & Chachu Ji

Smt. Shashi Balla & Lt. Sh. Surinder Gupta - Chachi & Chachu Ji Mob.:9018783930, 9149491413

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Bansilal Kaul, S/O Late Hari Ram Kaul, (Original Resident of Kenni Mohalla, Rainawari, Sriinagar, Kashmir On12.03.2025

Tenth day Kriya will be held at Murad Nagar, Gaziabad, UP. (Chota Haridwar) Assembly will be held on 21/03/2025 at 15/101, Eastend Apartments, New Ashok Nagar, Mayur Vihar, Extension -1, New Delhi at 11AM.

Grief Stricken... Wife.Ratna Kaul

Sanjay Kaul and Arti Kaul (Son and daughter in law) Aalok Kaul (Grandson)

Archana Bhandari and Arvind Bhandari (Daughter and son in law)

Jiya Bhandari (Grand daughter) Bharti Kaul (w/o late Girdhari Lal Kaul) Jawahar lal kaul and Anil Kaul

Rajesh Kaul S/o Late Mohanlal Kaul and Khem Lata Kaul Zalpuris Bhandaris kauls Duranis and Yatris

Contact nos. 9971419265 9906205610

+17323718620



Sh. Suresh Gupta



## TENTH DAY/KRIYA

beloved Lt. Smt. Savita Sharma Wo Lt. Sh. Raj Kumar Sharma R/o, Near Mahajan Nursery, Tali Morh, New Plots, Jammu. 10th Day will be performed on 19-03-2025 at 10 AM at our res-

Kriya will be performed on 20-03-2025 at 12 Noon at our resi

**GRIEF STRICKEN** Mr. Ashish Shama - Son

Daughters & Sons-in-law Mrs. Nitu Sharma & Mr. Rajeev Sharma Mrs. Sheetu Sherma & Mr. Sunny Devgon Mrs. Rakhi Mengi & Mr. Rahul Mengi Brothers-in-law & Sisters-in-law Mr. Dev Raj Sharma & Mrs. Raj Kumari

Mr. Kewal Krishen & Mrs. Neelam Sharma Mr. Ram Sharma & Mrs. Santosh Sharma Sisters-in-law & Brothers-in-law s. Sudesh Sharma & Mr. Jatinde Mrs. Vijay Sharma & Mr. Anil Sharma Mrs. Neelam Sharma & Mr. Surnesh Sharma

Contact Number: 9797662914, 9419116978



Lt. Smt. Savita Sharma

Mrs. Sneh Lata Gupta

Sh. Shyam Lal

**Pandita** 

#### 10TH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved Mrs. Sneh Lata Gupta W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Gupta R/o Nanak Nagar, Sector 8, Jammu left for her heavenly abode on 9th March 2025.

Tenth Day at our residence from 11 AM onwards on 18th March 2025 (Tuesday). Kirya at our residence at 12 Noon on 21st March 2025

Rasam Pagri at Ram Mandir, Sector 8, Nanak Nagar Jammu from 4 PM to 5 PM on 21st March 2025

DEEPLY LOVED AND MISSED BY: Sh. Ashok Kumar Gupta -Husband (Retd. AE PDD)

Rakesh Kumar Gupta and Rasika Gupta -Son & Daughter-in-law Monika Gupta and Bharat B. Gupta -Daughter & Son-in-law Sarika Gupta and Srikanth Regula -Daughter & Son-in-law Shreya, Raavi, Anvi and Krish -Grand Children Ashwini Kumar Gupta and Neelam Gupta -Brother & Bhabhi

Sanjeev Kumar Gupta and Pinky Gupta -Brother Bhabhi **Gupta Family** Mobile: 9469211119, 8899580141

TENTH DAY KRIYA

## With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad

demise of our beloved Father Sh. Shyam Lal Pandita S/o Late Vishnu Jee Pandita originally resident of Raghunath Mandir / Channapora, Sgr. Kashmir A/P residing at C-24/C, BG, Raj Heights Shalimar Garden Extension-II, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad on 11/3/2025. Tenth Day will be performed on 20/3/2025.

(Tuesday) at Muradnagar Ghaziabad at 9.30 am. Assembly will be held at our residence Shalimar Gardens Extension-II, Sahibabad at 11.30 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son & Daughter-in-law

Kuldeep Pandita & Dr. Saroj Pandita (7006481903, 7006728326) Daughter & Son-in-law

Meena Raina, Dr. A.K. Raina (7042153091, 9410320517)

Sushma Pandita (9818244576) - Daughter

Grand Children: Shibu, Vivek, Richa, Vikas, Ankit, Kanav

Mozas, Haks, Rainas & Kouls



Still Loved, Still Imposed, and torever loan; With profound giref we share the demise of our below ther Sh. Pushkar Nath Pandit originally resident kingam Bonpora, Ananthag, presently at Jawhar Nag dhampur on 13 Mar 2025. The Tenth Day Kriya will be held at Devita Chi-

nampur on Friday, 21 March 2025 at 08:00 AM tesidence: Jawhar Nagar, Ward No. 8, Near Trilokinati imple, Railway Road Udhampur. ing from 'Mallyun' side will also be held at ou Sh. Pushkar Nath Pandit

residence as Papa aways consident Koull as his elder son. WITH OUR DEEPEST LOVE. Smt. Bita Devi-Wife Mt. Omkar Nath Pandil-Son Mrs. Lucy Pandil-Daughter-in-law Mr. Suncel Hangion - Son in-law Mrs. Yougita Hangloo - Daughter Mrs. Anjali Pandita- Daughter-in-l

rs. Princey Pandita- Daughter-in-lar

Amit, Rockey, Shinle, Sahil, Ayushi, Komai Sankait, Aryaman, Pradhyut, Moenakshi. Contact: 9999447581 (Son), 9103039637 (Vinor ji), 9055192877 (wife), 9149445451 (Daughter)

#### 10TH DAY

The lamp of your inspiration will not extinguish, the rain of love will never get tired. With heavy hearts, we share the news of our beloved SMT. PUSHPA **DEVI W/O SH. GIRDHARI LAL (Ex.** HMT) Resident of H No 82 Chand

11/03/2025, the 10th Day will be performed on 20/03/2025 at Swaran Palace, near Fortune Hotel Jammu at 12:00 noon onwards.

GRIEF STRICKEN Smt. Rainu Kundal (Daughter) & Sh. Govinder Kundal (Son-in-law) Smt. Geeta Thappa (Daughter) & Sh. Sunil Kumar Thappa (Son-in-law) Smt. Dr. Rajni Chalotra (Daughter) & Sh. Rakesh Chalotra (Son-in-law) Smt. Isha Angural (Daughter) & Sh. Ajay Angural (Son-in-law) CONTACT: 97976 29792 | 80826 70045 | 70062 81582

#### TENTH DAY/KIRYA/UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF **SMT. VEENA GUPTA** W/O LATE RAJ KUMAR GUPTA (RAJA SHAH JI) R/O GHAROTA TEHSIL BHALEAL DISTRICT JAMMU WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY

KAVISH, NIHARIKA, TAJISH, SANNAT, SHIVANSH, SHIVANYA M/S TEJ BHAWAN RICE MILLS, MISHRIWALA. M/S MAHAJAN TRADERS. NEHRU MARKET, JAMMU. M/S BADRI NATH RAJ KUMAR, GHAROTA. PH. 94191-91774, 8492925641, 9469210314

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Karmayogni Smt.**Shobawati Pandita W/o Lt. Sh. Jialal Pandita (Bhan) originally from Sagam Dist. Ananthag A/p Lane No. 24, Block -152, Flat No. 09, Jagti Nagrota who left heave

Tenth Day Kriya will be held at Devika Ghat Udhampur on 25-03-2025. Mourning Assembly will be held at Community Hall

back side Block -152, Lane No. 24 at 11.30 am. Grief Stricken
Sh. Maharaj Krishan Pandita and Smt. Indu Pandita- Son & Daughter-in-Lav

Smt. Neha Pandita & Sh. Sandeep Kariholoo- Grand Daughter & Son-in-Law Grand Children: Vicky, Mohit, Shrawan Kumar, Bal Krishan, Reena, Anil, Amit, Sunita,

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Sm Santosh Koul (Dida Ji) W/o Shri Soom Nath Koul of Goshbugh, Pattan, Baramulla, Kashmir, presently a H No. 464/A Sector 2nd Vinayak Nagar, Muth Jammu on 15/03/2025.

24/03/2025 at Akhnoor Ghat and Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of School Education) Muthi Jammu at 11 AM.

Deeply Loved and Missed by Sh Soom Nath Koul- Husband (9622317416) Sh Akshay Koul and Harpreet Koul (Son & Daughter in law) Puja and Sandeep Bhat (Daughter & Son in law) Kanchan and Rohit Raina (Daughter & Son in law)

Sisters in law & Brothers in law Smt & Sh Raj Nath Koul Smt & Sh Vinod Koul Grand Children:

## TENTH DAY/KRIYA /UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Shri Sudesh Kumar Abrol S/o Lt. Sh. Goverdhan Das Abrol R/o Ashok Nagar, Cana oad Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu. TENTH DAY: - will be performed on 19 -03-2025 from

10:00 AM - 11: 00 AM at our Residence KRIVA on 22-03-2025 at our Residence Ashok Nag Canal Road Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu. UTHALA:-Will be performed on Saturday, 22-03-2025 rom 4.00 PM to 5.00 PM at Talli Sahaib Gurduwara Talab

Tillo Jammu, Opp. Rama Lane. Your presence and prayers will provide strength to he bereaved family in this time of remembrance. GRIEF-STRICKEN FAMILY:

Smt. Anjali Abrol (Wife) Sidherth Abrol (Son) Mrs. Meenu Dewan & Mr. Vipen Dewan (Daughter & Son-in-Law)

#### Grandchildren: Panchul, Viva, Shhrom, Shinoy TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt. Vijay Rayu W/o Sh. Girdhari Lal Rayu at Pune residence on 12th March, 2025 erstwhile Rawalpora Sanat Nagar Srinagar Kashmir. 10th Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnoor Gha on 21st March, 2025. The Assembly will be hel at our residence H.No. 3, Lane No. 20, Surya Vihar Patta Bohri, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN Sons & Daughters-in-law Sh. Amit Rayu & Meenakshi Mattoo Rayu Sh. Sumit Rayu & Anchal Dembi Rayu Brother & Bhabi

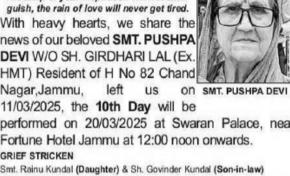
Sh. Chaman Lal Rayu & Veena Rayu Son & Daughter-in-law Sh. Binoo Rayu & Meenakshi Rayu Daughter & Son-in-law

imt. Sunaina Rayu (Koul) & Sh. Kanwal Ji Koul Sisters-in-law & Brothers-in-law

imt. Veena Mantoo Wo Lt. Jai Krishan Mantoo imt. Rajni Mattoo Wo Lt. Girdhari Lai Mattoo Jakash, Khanishka, Khyatika, Niyati & Sehaj - **Grand Children** M/s Shoba Medicate

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SMT. VEENA GUPTA

DISTRICT JAMMO WHO LET FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 10-03-2025 TENTH DAY: 19TH MARCH 2025 AT 11:00 AM. KRIYA: 22ND MARCH 2025 AT 12 NOON AT OUR RESIDENCE VILLAGE GHAROTA, UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI: 22ND MARCH 2025

OTHALDIRASAM PAGRI: 22ND MARC AT SHAGUN PALACE FROM 4 TO 5 PM. GRIEF STRICKENS SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW: VISHAL AND RUCHI GUPTA VIKAS AND ANIMA GUPTA (POOJA) ADVOCATE ROHIT AND SHIVALI GUPTA

#### OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

Ka mayogni Smt. Shobawati Pandita

Sh. Bushan Lal Pandita & Smt. Girja Pandit- Son & Daughter-in-Law Smt. Shama Pandita W/o Lt. Sh. Brij Lal Pandita- Daughter & Son-in-Law Smt. Raj Dulari W/o Sh. Omkar Nath Koul- Daughter & Son-in-Law Smt. Vijay Koul W/o Sh. Triloki Nath Koul- Daughter & Son-in-Law

Contact No.: 9796649762, 7006859846

## **OBITUARY & TENTH DAY KRIYA**

Tenth Day will be performed on Monday the

Smt Santosh Koul (Dida Ji)

(Tanishqa, Reeva, Abhiraj) & ALL KOUL, BHAT AND RAINA PARIVAR Ph, (9149488674, 6006223766, 8493035502)



Lt Sh. Sudesh Kumar Abrol

imt Sonali Abrol W/o Sahil Abrol (Sunny) (Daughter-in-Law & Son)



SMT. VIJAY RAYU



the contents on their own before acting there upon."

## **BJP's Sunil Sharma questions Speaker's** credibility over NC MLA's remarks

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU. Mar 19: Senior BJP leader and Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma on Wednesday raised doubts over the credibility of Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, alleging that the Speaker was allowing anti-national statements in the Assembly.

Sharma's remarks came after National Conference (NC) leader



Ali Mohammad Sagar allegedly mentioned Pakistan in his speech. "It seems Pakistan is in

NC's DNA. I had written a letter to Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, but NC MLAs continue to make anti-national statements, and the Speaker appears to favor them. I now have doubts over his credibility," Sharma

He urged the Speaker to prevent such statements in the House. emphasizing the need to maintain the sanctity

# told reporters.

# of the Assembly.

## **DFSS** holds protests over Nagpur violence, Aurangzeb's tomb



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 19: Amid growing tensions following the violent clashes in Nagpur, activists from Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) led by President Ashok Gupta staged a massive protest in Jammu city on Wednesday. The protesters denounced the violence in Nagpur, alleging that the attacks specifically targeted Hindu homes and businesses in a preplanned

Speaking at the rally, Ashok Gupta claimed that the violence in Nagpur was orchestrated, stating "This entire incident was preplanned. After an agitation in the morning.

things seemed normal, but later, a mob entered only Hindu houses and shops. First, all the CCTV cameras were destroyed, and then the

violence was executed

using weapons. The

police did not stand with

the Hindu citizens, and a large section of the mob came from outside. The protest also saw a renewed demand for the removal of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's tomb in Maharashtra's Sambhaji Nagar. Calling the tomb an "eye sore", Ashok Gupta demanded its immediate demolition, declaring "What is the need

for this tomb? Aurang-

zeb was a tyrant—he

jailed his father, killed

his own brothers, and

demolished countless Hindu temples. His grave in Maharashtra is like a poisonous sword hanging over Hindu sentiments. Bring in a JCB and raze it to the ground.'

The protestors also strongly condemned Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut and his editorial in Saamana, which controversially referred to Hindus as "Hindu Taliban.'

Gupta lashed out at the statement, saying, "Comparing Hindu groups to extremists is unacceptable. Balasaheb Thackeray, whom we call 'Hindu Hriday Samrat,' would have been heartbroken to see such an insult to Hindus today.'

Expressing support for Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal, Gupta backed their call for karseva to demolish Aurangzeb's tomb, saying, "Activists from Bajrang Dal and VHP have said that if the government cannot act,

## CLUJ organizes two-day 1st International **Conference on Advances in Sciences**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 19: The School of Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) organized the two-day 1st International Conference on Advances in Sciences (ICAS-2025) under the esteemed chairmanship of Vice Chancellor, Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, with the guidance of Ankur Mahajan, Registrar, and Dr. Chander Shekhar Gupta, Dean, School of Sciences.

The conference was inaugurated on Wednesday at the Auditorium of Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, by Chief Guest Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), and Guest of Honour, Prof. Sabyasachi Sarkar, IIT Kanpur.

The inaugural session commenced with the traditional lighting of the

we will carry out karseva and remove the tomb ourselves. I support this call. We all saw what happened in Ayodhya, and we know what Hindus can do when they rise for their faith."

The protest concluded with slogans demanding justice for Hindus in Nagpur and the immediate demolition of Aurangzeb's tomb.

Many party workers, including Sushil, Ram, Akshaya, Lovely, Prem, Naresh, Kalu, Sanjeev, Bantu, Rampal, and Vinay, participated in the protest, vowing to intensify their agitation if their demands were not met.



lamp, followed by a soulful Saraswati Vandana performed by a group of students.

Welcoming the dignitaries and participants, Dr. Chander Shekhar Gupta, Dean, School of Sciences, highlighted the importance of such academic events in fostering research, knowledge sharing, and scientific excellence. Dr. Satyapal Singh Rathore, Convenor of ICAS-2025, provided a brief introduction to the conference, outlining its objectives and expected outcomes.

Name of Work

The formal opening declaration was led by Chief Guest, Prof. Pragati Kumar, who emphasized the need for interdisciplinary scientific research in his presidential address and importance of science in everyday life. Following this, the abstract booklet was officially released by the esteemed digni-

taries on stage. In his Keynote address, Prof. Sabyasachi Sarkar, IIT, Kanpur shared valuable insights into cutting-edge scientific advancements, inspiring researchers

and scholars in attendance.

He deliberated upon main facts about the Big Bang theory in which elements used to create life forms in terms of Physics, how life created from outside or evolved on earth in biological terms and life created from nonliving elements. In his lecture, he also added the relevance of nanocarbon: live bio imaging and drug delivery in brain and much more.

The two-day conference featured technical paper presentations by participants on various themes related to advances in sciences. Scholars explored diverse aspects of the field and discussed future prospects, making the event a platform for global collaboration and knowledge exchange.

The conference witnessed participation from over 100 delegates, including representatives from Denmark and Germany.

Distinguished attendees included Ankur Mahajan, Registrar, CLUJ; Dr. Naveen Anand, Dean Academic Affairs; all Deans and Principals of constituent schools and colleges. faculty members and students of the university.

The conference concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Ankush K. Bedval, Convenor, followed by the National Anthem.

#### UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION JAMMU

#### FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDER

xenpwdelecdiv.jammu@gmail.com

FRESH e-NIT No.EDJ/170 of 2024-2025 Dated 15-03-2025

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:-

Name of Estima Cost of document

No		Division	ted Cost (₹in lacs)	(in₹)	Money (in₹)	Allowed for complete- on	date of opening of tender	Contract or
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Suppllying, fixing, installation of Solar Lights along-with allied work and repair of Solar Lights at 150 point of jurisdiction area of BDDA. (2nd Call)	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	12.00	Rs. 600/- in the shape of Challan through J&K Govt. Treasury Voucher No. & Date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt on etendering portal or The bidder may deposit tender fee in the shape of e-challan through Account no. 0149010200000163 Name.:- Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. Name of the Bank.:- J&K Bank, Jammu. Branch Name.:- Bakshi Nagar Jammu. Branch Code.: IFSC Code.:- JAKA0BAKSHI MICR Code.:- 180051004	24000/-	30 Days	27-03-2025 At or after (12:00 A.N).	"A" Class Electrical Contract or

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17-03-2025			
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 17-03-2025 to 26-03-2025, 4:00 P.M			
3	Bid submission Start Date	17-03-2025			
4	Bid Submission End Date	26-03-2025 up to 4:00 P.M			
5.	Pre Bid Meeting	22-03-2025 at 1:00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu.			
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	27-03-2025 at or after 12:00 A.N in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu			
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed			
	1. Position of AAA = Accorded				

2. Position of T.S Accorded 3. Position of Funds Awaited

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work and NIT No. duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favouring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. at the time of allotment.

No :- EDI/13581-89 Dated :-15-03-2024 DIP/J-11173/24

Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division

## Take action against deadwood and corrupt Harsh Dev holds Dharna outside LA against dilapidated roads of Nagrota



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 19: Agitated over the non performance of R&B Deptt and massive siphoning of funds meant for road connectivity in Nagrota Assembly constituency, Mr Harsh Dev Singh Former Minister and State President JKNPP (India) held a dharna outside legislative assembly demand

ing a high level probe into the massive irregularities, bunglings and large scale loot of funds meant for roads and bridges under various heads in the said constituency, Singh sought stern penal action against the fraudsters and delinquents besides sacking of deadwood and corrupt officers.

Describing Nagrota

constituency as amongst the most backward and neglected constituencies of J&K UT, Singh said that several dozens of villages were without connectivity especially in the blocks of Dansal. Mathwar and Nagrota. Most of the roads wherever constructed were in completely dilapidated condition with none to take cognizance.

The funds were being looted in collusion leaving the people high and dry. With deepest pot holes on Nagrota Division roads, the officers concerned have displayed the highest level of criminal apathy and needed to be taken to

task. Making a particular mention of the roads lying in dilapidated condition for the last 7-8 years, Singh said no action whatsoever had been taken even to fill the potholes or

Contract Type Works

smoothen the road surface on Dhok Wazira road, Chandi Malpur road, Surinsar- Urkhal road, Kathar- Kangryal road, Chann Farati Madeen- Makwal road, Dansal- Tarah road, Shadali- Churta road etc.

Besides there was no road connectivity in villages including Balaad, Battal Lair, Sangar, Chilla, Badga, Nali, Tarha, Jindrah Devak, Charangal, Nakhtar Nala, Loakhi, Chibba Nala, Channi Jandyal besides several other habitations.

Protesting outside the legislative assembly for complete neglect of the Nagrota constituency. Singh sought personal indulgence of Minister incharge and commissioner/ secretary PWD in view of officers having completely abdicated their responsibilities and corruption having engulfed the entire constituency with a corrupt mafia calling the shots.

## **APCCF K Ramesh Kumar relieved for**



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 19 (Agencies): In line with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India's previous order, Ramesh Kumar, IFS (AGMUT:2000), serving as Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF) in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, has been relieved from his duties with immediate effect to take up his new assignment.

#### NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE Tender Notice No.: 433-Sig-T-51-24-25 Date: 18.03.2025 Closing Date/Time: 11.04.2025 15:00 Hrs.

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tende on https://www.irege.gov.in against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-51-24-2 Closing Date/Time 11.04.2025 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit the original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowe against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignore Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tends document cost and earnest money only through online payment mode waisble on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manu payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. ar NITHEADER

Name of Work	Three (03) years.							
Tender Closing		11.04.2025	Date, Time of	18.03.2025				
Date, Time		15:00 hrs.	Uploading Tender	13:30 hrs.				
Advertised		(j) 1,37,24,453.16	Bidding Start Date	28.03.2025				
Value (Rs.)		(ii) 1,39,61,726.25	as per IREPS					
Earnes	st Money	(i) 2,18,600.00	Period of	(i) 36 Months				
(Rs.)		(ii) 2,19,800.00	Completion	(ii) 12 Months				

(i) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of HBL make

## **EDITORIAL**

## **GOOD GOVERNANCE**

lections are the heartbeat of a democracy, a time when political leaders make grand promises to the people, offering visions of prosperity, development, and social justice. However, the stark contrast between these promises and their actual implementation often leaves citizens disillusioned. While manifestos promise employment, infrastructure, better healthcare, and social welfare, the ground realities frequently tell a different story—one marked by delays, inefficiencies, and sometimes outright neglect. This editorial explores the gap between electoral commitments and governance, its implications, and the need for greater accountability in politics.

Political campaigns in India, and indeed across the world, rely heavily on ambitious pledges. Parties craft their manifestos to attract different voter groups, promising everything from farm loan waivers to free electricity, job creation, and enhanced public services. The 2024 elections in India were no different, with major parties vowing economic stability, welfare schemes, and reforms. However, history has shown that many of these assurances are either partially fulfilled or forgotten altogether once the elections are over.

For instance, the promise of two crore jobs per year has been a recurring theme in Indian elections, yet unemployment rates remain alarmingly high. Similarly, schemes for poverty alleviation and minimum wages often face delays in implementation, leaving the most vulnerable sections of society waiting endlessly. In many cases, infrastructure projects announced with great enthusiasm during election rallies take years to materialize or remain stuck due to bureaucratic inefficiencies.

Despite the optimistic outlook presented during campaigns, the actual governance record frequently falls short. Several critical areas highlight this gap:

Unemployment remains one of India's biggest challenges. While governments promise job creation, the reality is often different. Many sectors, especially manufacturing and IT, have seen slower-than-expected growth. Government initiatives such as "Make in India" and "Start-up India" have shown some success but have not fully met their ambitious targets. Additionally, the informal sector—where a majority of Indians work—continues to struggle with job security and fair wages.

From smart cities to high-speed rail networks, grand projects are regularly announced. However, many of these remain on paper or face massive delays. Roads, highways, and metro projects frequently run over budget and are delayed due to land acquisition issues and bureaucratic hurdles.

Healthcare, education, and social welfare are sectors that receive much attention during election campaigns. However, promises of free healthcare, better public schools, and financial aid for the poor often do not translate into reality. Reports show that rural healthcare infrastructure is still inadequate, with a severe shortage of doctors and medical facilities. Similarly, while educational reforms are pledged, the quality of government schools remains questionable in many states.

Farmers' protests in recent years have highlighted the unfulfilled promises made to the agricultural community. Loan waivers, minimum support price (MSP) guarantees, and irrigation projects have been pledged time and again but are often only partially implemented. While short-term relief measures are sometimes provided, long-term agricultural reforms remain a challenge.

Another recurring promise is tackling corruption, yet scams, bureaucratic inefficiency, and favoritism persist. Transparency in governance remains an issue, with public grievances often ignored. The lack of proper execution of anticorruption laws and the slow pace of judicial proceedings add to public frustration.

One of the biggest reasons for the gap between electoral promises and actual governance is the lack of accountability. Political parties face little to no consequences for failing to deliver on their manifestos. Unlike in corporate governance, where companies are answerable to shareholders, political leaders often escape scrutiny until the next election cycle.

Just as corporate bodies have to report to stakeholders, political parties should be held legally accountable for delivering on their manifestos. Independent agencies should track and publish reports on how many promises from election manifestos are actually fulfilled. Governments should face regular public questioning via citizen forums, town hall meetings, and independent review panels. Rather than focusing on short-term popularity, political leaders should prioritize sustainable policies. Journalists, activists, and watchdog organizations must play a proactive role in keeping governments accountable.

Electoral promises serve as a roadmap for development, but when they remain unfulfilled, they erode public trust in democracy. While some promises take time to implement due to economic or logistical constraints, a transparent mechanism for tracking and ensuring accountability is crucial. Voters must remain vigilant, question their leaders, and demand results beyond just rhetoric. Governance is not about making tall claims—it is about ensuring that the aspirations of the people are met with action, not just words.

## Changing 9-5 to flexible workplace



#### By- Akshita Wadhwa

magine working for a company for a fixed period of time and then switching to another as per your wish, isn't it exciting? Gig economy is known for the same. Gig is anything that provides us with an income. Gig economy is an economy system where companies hire people for a specific period of time. These people work independently to earn their livelihood. In simple terms, it is freelance work. According to certain studies, the gig economy supports 90 million nonfarm jobs, transact

over \$250 billion in work volume, and add an extra 1.25% to GDP over time.

Who are majorly included? The first most entity of the gig economy system are the employers who hire workers. It further consists of independent workers on contract basis, project based workers for a specific project and part-time workers who work less than full-time hours. These are selected by the employer out of the pool of thousands of people requiring a job that fulfills the eligibility of the position the employer is recruiting for.

Why is it in trend? Companies tend to hire

employees for short term commitments as it helps them to cut the cost which they would give to the full time employees. Gig economy also brings with itself the ease of working from anywhere in the world where the employer and employee can meet through digital platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, etc. Workplaces are getting mobile with the use of the gig economy system. Moreover, employers can select the suitable person for a particular project from a larger pool than is available in any given area. Businesses don't ing employee benefits such as sick leaves, health insurance, office space, training, etc.

Upper hand for workers?

Workers enjoy getting to work in the gig economy due to its flexible nature. The system gets workers to maintain a work life balance which is tougher to maintain in traditional 9-5 jobs. Independent workers are able to maintain their schedule according to their preference. In one week of the month, they are working hectically whereas in the other they are on a vacation to Mauritius. But just like the other side of the coin, the employers have to up-skill themselves according to the trend as no training is provided by the employer. Even basic employee benefits are ceased for the independent workers.

As the gig economy continues to grow, addressing concerns such as job security, fair compensation, and the lack of traditional employee benefits will be crucial. Striking a balance between flexibility and stability could pave the way for a more sustainable and inclusive future of work.

## Failing in a competitive exam is not the end of the world

By: Vijay GarG

ife does not adhere to a rigid template or offer a one-size-fits-all formula that could potentially offer a sure-shot route to success for everyone. Living a life free of templates is not an easy choice because we are living in an age of meritocracy. While meritocracy itself is not a flawed concept, it is essential to subject it to a more thorough examination.

A recent tweet by a social media-savvy industrialist sparked a debate about the most challenging entrance exams in the academic world. It also brought to light the fact that three of the 10 most difficult exams to crack in the world are held annually in India. According to the World Ranking Website, the IIT-JEE (Joint Entrance Exam), the UPSC Civil Services Exam, and the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) are ranked the second, third, and eighth toughest exams in the world respectively. In this article, let us focus on IIT-JEE given its popularity among students and parents and its role in creating a perennial pipeline of highly

skilled manpower.

Test composition

Each year, nearly 1-1.2 million young Indians take a crack at this exam, knowing fully well that around only 7-12% have a realistic chance of gaining admission into one of the 23 IITs. Such low odds of success make it seem more like winning a lottery than a reasonable chance to build a strong academic foundation on which future careers can be built. Further, it is not just the slim odds that should bother us, but the composition of the exams itself. While most aspirants want to become engineers of varying kinds, the test continues to check aptitude for subjects unrelated to these fields. The exams don't seem like an accurate assessment, let alone a fair gauge of a student's intelligence or potential.

Extremely competitive entrance exams like the IIT-JEE also ensure that everyone has a similar kind of coaching routine, as they shuttle between schools and institutes. Many even forgo regular schooling and dedicate three to four years of their lives to cracking the IIT-JEE. However, this is not a sustainable approach

to building careers or shaping one's life.

have the burden of provid-

Even if one is willing to look beyond the inherent flaws in IIT-JEE as a selection filter for future engineers, other pertinent issues remain. There is no room for debate over the academic excellence IITs deliver or the rigour required to finish the fouryear programme. However, it is equally important to consider alternatives. The world, and India in particular, currently offers a multitude of alternative learning platforms and programmes across diverse streams, including Robotics, AI, Semiconductors, hardware, and so on, apart from typical programmes from IITs and NITs. These often have equally strong, if not better, and more focused admission processes and can lead to equally rewarding career

outcomes.
Holistic approach

Therefore, instead of holding on to unreasonable notions like "It is either IIT or nothing", students and those who guide them in their educational pursuits may want to consider the following suggestions to help them take a more holistic and realistic approach to

higher education, careers, and life in general.

Identify potential interest areas/career opportunities; Research alternative educational platforms and edtech players that offer programmes suiting your career plans.

Take up projects and internships in your desired fields:

Network with seniors from school/coaching institutes, to understand what skills one needs to continue the learning journey;

Use the Internet to learn about trending technologies and learn from free resources/courses

Most importantly, take some time off. Failing to clear IIT-JEE or skipping it is not the end of the world. There are many ways in today's world to build successful careers. Focus on finding your individual strengths and accordingly figure out the steps to succeed using them.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal, educational columnist from Malout, Punjab)

## **India Praja Congress President Gojre criticizes Govt for** ignoring BPL category, daily wagers

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Mar 19: In a press statement, India Praja Congress Party President Abdul Hameed Gojre strongly criticized the government for failing to provide benefits to Below Poverty Line (BPL) people in Jammu and Kashmir. He alleged that despite repeated assurances from Chief Minister Omar Abdullah about extending government schemes to the poor, no tangible benefits have reached the deserving families, and poverty continues to rise in the region.

Goire also raised concerns over the plight of government department daily wagers, who, despite being called the "backbone of governance", have been continuously ignored. He pointed out that 61,000 daily wagers in various government departments have been protesting for their long-pending demands, including regularization of jobs and the implementation of the Minimum Wages



Act. However, no MLA or political party has raised their concerns in the ongoing Assembly session, leaving them in distress. Furthermore, Gojre highlighted the lack

of labor laws implementation in J&K after it became a Union Territory. He compared the situation to Ladakh, where the government recently implemented the Minimum Wages Act in favor of daily wagers. In contrast, the J&K government has failed to take similar steps, depriving thousands of workers of their rightful wages and job security. He also pointed out that the National Conference manifesto had earlier promised regularization for daily wagers, but no concrete steps

Appealing to LG Administration and CM Omar Abdullah, Gojre urged them to immediately provide BPL families access to government welfare schemes and address the demands of daily wagers by ensuring their regularization. He also announced his intention to meet the CM soon to discuss public grievances and find solutions to the pressing issues faced by the people of Jammu and

## "Partly cloudy skies, light snowfall expected in J&K's

19 (Agencies): The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has predicted partly to generally cloudy skies with light snow at isolated higher reaches in Jammu and Kashmir today.

According to the forecast, the weather is expected to remain dry with a fresh spell of light rain and snow predicted at scattered places on March 27 and 28. The weather will again turn dry from March 29 to 31.

In view of the forecast, the Meteorological Centre has issued advisories for travelers. tourists, transporters, farmers, and the general public.

Travelers and tourists are advised to follow administrative and traffic advisories while farmers are advised to continue with their farm operations.

The public is also warned to avoid sloppy and avalanche-prone

## higher reaches Today": MeT SRINAGAR, Mar

from March 20 to 26.

#### **Aryans Pharmacy** students explore cuttingedge research at NIPER **Mohali**

**Top News Report** 

Students explored the Central Instrumentation Lab (CIL) with Dr. Vikas Grover, the Pharmaceutics Block, the Natural

#### Rajbagh to M A Road, faces Oppn .2 from environmental group the project is crucial to

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR. Mar 19: The administration has proposed the construction of a 1.75-kilometer flyover connecting Rajbagh to Moulana Azad Road in Srinagar to address rising traffic congestion. However, an environmental group has raised strong objections to the project, citing ecological concerns.

A senior official said that the proposed flyover will be built over the Jhelum River and Polo Ground from Rajbagh to Moulana Azad Road near Sangarmal, with the aim of easing traffic flow in the city.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary confirmed the development, stating that managing Srinagar's increasing vehicular

**Govt proposes flyover from** 

Kashmir has witnessed a significant surge in traffic over the past seven years. This has led to severe congestion, prompting the government to explore infrastructural solutions.

However, the Environmental Policy Group (EPG) has voiced strong opposition to the plan, warning of its detrimental impact on Srinagar's green spaces.

In a statement, the group argued that Polo Ground, a key recreational space for young athletes and community members, would suffer irreversible damage.

"Polo Ground is more than just a recreational

JK Montessorie School celebrates

**Graduation Ceremony** 

venue; it is a community hub where hundreds of boys and girls gather to engage in sports, indoor games, and physical activities," EPG stated.

The group also highlighted concerns over the planned felling of Chinar trees, warning that such actions would harm biodiversity and alter the city's natural landscape.

Additionally, EPG cautioned that increased impermeable surfaces from the new flyover and bridge could elevate flood risks. "It is alarming that more parks and green spaces are being vandalized and converted into construction sites and parking lots," the group added, urging the government to seek alternative solutions to traffic congestion.

#### **SSP Kishtwar holds PCPG meetings** to address public concerns, sensitize on New Criminal Laws



#### **Top News Report**

KISHTWAR, Mar 19: In a significant step towards strengthening public outreach and addressing local issues, SSP Kishtwar, Javaid Iqbal Mir, visited the remote Warwan region, where he was accorded a warm welcome by SHO Police Station Warwan, Insp. Sam Pal Gill, along with enthusiastic community

During the visit, SSP Kishtwar chaired two Police-Community Partnership Group (PCPG) Meetings, one at Inshan and another at Afti, where he engaged directly with the public to understand their griev-

The locals highlighted cruciai concerns such as mobile connectivity, road infrastructure, and the availability of essential commodities, especially in light of the

ongoing holy month of Ramzan. Assuring prompt action, SSP Kishtwar committed to forwarding their issues to the concerned authorities for swift redressal. As part of a broader

awareness initiative. the SSP also sensitized the public on the newly implemented criminal laws, which include the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for strengthening the justice system, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) for enhancing citizen security, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023, which modernizes procedures related to evi-

Additionally, he briefed attendees about various digital policing initiatives such as eSakshya, eSummons, and MedLeaPR, aimed at increasing transparency and efficiency in law enforcement.

Emphasizing the need for collective vigilance, SSP Kishtwar made a strong appeal to combat drug abuse, urging the public to protect their children and society from this growing

He encouraged community members to cooperate with the police by providing any information related to drug peddling, stressing that joint efforts are crucial in eradicating the threat.

Beyond the community meetings, SSP Kishtwar also reviewed the overall security scenario in Warwan. He interacted with police officers and iawans, commending their dedication to maintaining peace despite the region's challenging geographical conditions. He urged them to remain vigilant and proactive in their policing efforts to ensure the continued safety and

security of the public.

JAMMU, Mar 19: Forty-two students from Aryans College of Pharmacy, led by Pardeep Kaur, Dr. Jagpreet, and Diwanshi, visited National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPER Mohali) for an educational tour.

Products Lab, and the Pharmaceutical Heritage Centre. They also gained hands-on experience with advanced analytical instruments like NMR, HPLC, GC, XRD, and MS, enhancing their knowledge of pharmaceutical

The visit provided valuable industry exposure, bridging theory with real-world applications and inspiring future pharmaceutical professionals.

## **Top News Report**

JAMMU. Mar 19: JK Montessorie School celebrated the Graduation Ceremony of the students of Senior KG with great enthusiasm and grandeur. The event was graced by the presence of esteemed digni-

Sanjeev Gupta, Chairman of the School, Director Rajni Gupta, Dean Academics, Apurv Gupta and parents of elementary wing.

The event commenced with a formal welcome note delivered by the Coordinator Elementary Wing, Sonia Kapoor who extended her heartfelt greetings to all guests, students, and parents.

The ceremony featured vibrant cultural performances by students from emerging wings to ready to fly showcasing their talent and creativity through dance, music, and drama.

A highlight of the event was the felicitation of the graduating students, who were presented with certificates by the distinguished guests, recognizing their achievements and growth

Additionally, parents and students shared their experiences on stage about their day-today learning in school expressing their gratitude towards the institution for its nurturing and enriching environment.

Sanjeev Gupta, chairman of the school, motivated the students and their parents and emphasised that Montessorie Education is based on learning by doing, and our students have truly embodied this philosophy.

Director, Rajni Gupta, added, "Today, we celebrate not just the academic achievements of our students, but also their growth into compassionate, curious, and confident individuals. JKMS is proud of each and every one of them.

The event also featured a Zumba performance by parents, which added a fun and lively touch to the ceremony. Preeti Gupta proposed the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the school management, faculty, and parents for their support and guidance throughout the year.

The ceremony marked an important milestone in the academic journey of the students, inspiring them to move forward with confidence and determination.

#### JKLFC organizes Loan Mela-cum-Awareness **Camp on NMDFC Loan schemes Top News Report**

#### KISHTWAR, Mar 19: In a concerted effort to promote the empowerment of minorities and stimulate economic growth. Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation (JKLFC) in collaboration with National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) orga-

nized a Loan Melacum-Awareness Camp focused on the Minority Loan Scheme. The event was held today at the Conference Hall in Kishtwar.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan, as the Chief Guest. The event commenced with the lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest, symbolizing the start of the awareness Camp.

A significant number of over 100 participants,

including local youth, the general public, and entrepreneurs, attended the event.

Ahzaz Ahmed Shah, District Manager, JKLFC (Doda/Udhampur), welcomed the participants and provided an overview of the various loan schemes offered by the Corporation.

Chouhan, Vinod District Coordinator, JKLFC, further elaborated on the eligibility criteria for availing the loan facilities, ensuring that all participants were well-informed of the procedures and benefits of these schemes.

DC Kishtwar, emphasized the importance of such schemes in driving economic growth, especially for start-ups, and supporting sustainable development within the community.

He underscored the vital role these loan schemes play in empowering the minority sections of society, providing them with the opportunity to secure a livelihood through lowinterest loans.

He assured the participants of his full support and encouraged them to reach out for any assistance needed in accessing these schemes. The DC also urged the

youth especially girls to take advantage of various Flagship Centrally Sponsored Schemes in diverse sectors such as Mission Yuva, Agriculture. KVIB Horticulture, Fisheries, Handicrafts, and more, to explore avenues for entrepreneurship and career development.

The event concluded with a Question and Answer session, where Ahzaz Ahmed Shah, District Manager, JKLFC, addressed various queries and provided further clarification regarding the loan schemes.

#### initiative at Amar Singh College **Top News Report**

SRINAGAR, Mar 19: In a magnanimous demonstration of environmental stewardship, Kashmir Concern—a distinguished NGO with two decades of impactful service—successfully orchestrated a comprehensive Plantation and Cleanliness Drive at the historic Amar Singh College.

The meticulously planned initiative brought together students, faculty, and community volunteers in a collaborative effort to enhance the ecological footprint of one of Kashmir's premier educational institutions.

The event, executed through strategic partnerships with the Forestry Division and Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), exemplifies the multi-stakeholder approach necessary for meaningful environmental action in the region.

These governmental bodies provided crucial logistical support and resources, underscoring the importance of publicprivate collaboration in addressing climate challenges.

Under the guidance of Dr. Touseef Bhat, Chairman of Kashmir Concern, the organization reaffirmed its ambitious commitment to plant 500,000 trees across the region.

"This initiative represents just one facet of our comprehensive environmental strategy," noted Dr. Bhat during his address. "The partnership with Amar Singh College's administration and Botany Department has been instrumental in advancing our vision for a sustainable Kashmir."

Dr. Touseef thanked the Forestry Division SMC. Commissioner SMC, and Urban Forestry Division Srinagar for their support, stating that their collaboration was "instrumental in making this plantation drive a great success" and emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in creating a greener environment. With the support of Forestry Division SMC and Urban Forestry Division Srinagar it has been possible for us to make the Amar Singh College Green and its easy for us to adopt this college and make it Green .

The event was further

strengthened by the organizational expertise of Azhar Hussain, the NGO's Organizing Secretary, who coordinated the diverse participating groups.

Kashmir Concern leads transformative green

"Environmental restoration requires synchronized effort across institutional boundaries," Hussain explained. "Today's success demonstrates what we can accomplish through unified purpose." Distinguished community

leaders Peer Imtiyaz-ul-Hassan and Sheikh Rashid lent their support as special invitees, elevating the event's significance within the broader social context of Kashmir. The drive featured

remarkable student participation, with Amar Singh College's youth taking ownership of the plantation process across designated campus zones.

Fahad Amin, Media Secretary for Kashmir Concern. highlighted this aspect saying "The enthusiasm displayed by these students transcends simple participation—it signals a generational shift toward environmental consciousness that will drive lasting change."

Special invitee Peer Imtiyaz-ul-Hassan & Sheikh Rashid praised the initiative, stating, "Environmental conservation is not just the responsibility of a few but of the entire society. Every tree we plant today is an investment in the future. Lurge the youth to take an active role in preserving our natural heritage.

The innovative "Adopt a Tree" initiative introduced by Kashmir Concern encouraged personal accountability, with students pledging to monitor and nurture specific plantings. This approach transforms one-time participants into long-term environmental stakeholders

Owaise, heading the volunteer coordination, effectively managed the substantial turnout, ensuring maximum efficiency throughout the day's activi-

The Principal of Amar Singh College praised the collaborative nature of the initiative: "Educational institutions must serve as living laboratories for environmental solutions. Our partnership with Kashmir Concern aligns perfectly

with our institutional commitment to sustainability education and responsible citizenship.'

The event culminated in a collective commitment ceremony, where participants pledged continued vigilance in protecting and nurturing the newly planted saplings. Kashmir Concern representatives expressed profound gratitude to all contributing entities, particularly acknowledging the technical expertise provided by the Forestry Division and the operational support from SMC. Founded in 2005, Kash-

mir Concern has established itself as a cornerstone organization in regional development, with specialized focus on environmental conservation, community welfare, and sustainable practices. Through strategic initiatives and grassroots mobilization, the organization continues to advance its mission of creating lasting positive impact across

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## My father would be proud that this is Dharma Production's first Punjabi film: Karan Johar on 'Akaal'

'Akaal' is written and directed by Punjabi cinema star Gippy Grewal, who also plays the lead role in the movie

Filmmaker Karan Johar said he is honouring his late father and producer Yash Johar's Punjabi roots by launching "Akaal", the first Punjabi film under his home banner Dharma Produc-

"Akaal" is written and directed by Punjabi cinema star Gippy Grewal, who also plays the lead role in the movie. It also stars Nimrat Khaira, Gurpreet Ghuggi, and Nikitin Dheer.

Johar said releasing the trailer of the upcoming movie on his mother Hiroo Johar and Dharma Productions CEO and his friend Apoorva Mehta's birthday was the perfect occasion.

"My father was a Punjabi and has lived in Punjab, Delhi, Shimla and Lahore, his roots are deeply Punjabi. I've heard him talk in Punjabi. There was a time when everyone was Punjabi in the industry. He was very much attached to his roots, culture, and his Puniabi traditions. He wanted me to talk with him in Punjabi but my mother is a Sindhi, so we would talk in Hindi or English.

"Wherever he is in the world,



"I had thought whenever I had

money, I would make this film,

but we didn't have the money

back then. We started with a

small film titled 'Ardaas'. That's

when we started the production

house Humble Motion Pictures.

I'm sure our film will be much

bigger now that you're with

us on this," the actor-director

Johar said as soon as he

heard that Grewal was part of

"Akaal", he knew he wanted to

produce the movie.

added.

he would be proud that this is Dharma Production's first Punjabi film. I couldn't have chosen a better and stronger and amazing collaborator than Gippy Grewal, he is a strong force. He is so humble, talented, and has attained so much. I'm very excited about this film. This collaboration will always be special," the producer told reporters here.

Grewal, known for Punjabi film franchises "Ardaas" and "Carry On Jatta", said he is grateful to Johar for backing "Akaal".

enough... This is our very first (Punjabi film), and there couldn't have been a better beginning." Ghuggi, who made his acting

"Gippy Grewal. That name was

debut with the 2002 film "Jee Aayan Nu", said he has witnessed the rise of Punjabi cinema over the years.

"'Jee Aayan Nu' was released on 15 to 20 screens in Punjab. At the time, we felt we achieved something. We then dreamt that our industry would be recognised. So, it's an emotional moment for me, to have our film, 'Akaal' produced by Dharma Productions. We are blessed."

Dheer said he was waiting for a good Punjabi film to come his way but nothing excited me.

"I got a call from Gippy Grewal paaji, my father (actor Pankaj Dheer) had worked with him, and when he called me, it was a no-brainer."

"I'm thankful to everyone. It's a big thing for me to be part of this film. I'm proud to be acting alongside these actors in the movie," added Khaira.

"Akaal" will hit the screens on April 10.

## Pulkit Samrat wraps up **Punjab shoot for Glory**



Pulkit Samrat, who just wrapped up his shooting in Punjab for his upcoming film Glory, shared a sneak peek into his time on the sets. From intense training to enjoying local Punjabi food, the actor

gave fans a look at both his hard work and fun moments behind the scenes.

The Fukrey actor took to Instagram to drop a compilation of pictures and videos. The first few images and videos showed the actor doing a rigorous training regimen, showcasing his dedication to getting into peak physical condition for the role. Other pictures captured him enjoying traditional Punjabi food at a roadside dhaba. He also shared a picture of himself posing outside his vanity van and another one with his costars Divyenndu and Suvinder Vicky.

Last week, Pulkit announced that the Punjab schedule of Glory had wrapped up. Sharing his experience, he wrote a caption that read, "That's a glorious schedule wrap on #Glory!! Memories made, jokes shared, and one incredible team that made it all happen!! #Punjab, you've been kind. I'll miss my mornings here."

Producers Mohit Shah and Karan Anshuman of Atomic Films described the project as a deeply personal story, as per a press note. They said, "Glory is a story close to our hearts. At its core, it's a gripping murder mystery intricately woven against the backdrop of the highstakes world of sports, bringing together two electrifying genres. With its propulsive action and relentless twists, Glory promises to keep audiences hooked. Partnering with Netflix has given us the platform to bring this bold vision to life for a global audience."

## Will Smith returns to music after 20 years, new album to drop on March 28

Hollywood star Will Smith has announced the release date of his upcoming music album "Based On A True Story", which is slated to be out on March 28. Smith, known for his

work in projects like "The Pursuit of Happyness", "King Richard" and "Men in Black" franchise, has stayed away from the music albums for almost 20 years following his last "Lost and Found" in 2005.

The 56-year-old rapper shared the news on his Instagram

"It's OFFICIAL!! My new album 'Based On A True Story' drops March 28. TWO WEEKS!! Hit that presave. Been working on this project for a minute and I'm itchin' to get it out to v'all." read the caption.

The album will consist of 14 tracks also featuring the previously released singles includ-



ing "Beautiful Scars", "First Love", "TAN-TRUM", "You Can Make It" and "Work of Art". Smith began his music

career in the late 1980s

and was a part of the duo DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince. He started his solo career in music in 1997 with the theme song of "Men in Black".

## Hollywood director arrested on charges of swindling Netflix out of USD 11M for a show that never aired

Carl Erik Rinsch — perhaps best known for directing film "47 Ronin" — has been charged with wire fraud and money laundering

A Hollywood writerdirector was arrested on charges that he swindled USD 11 million from Netflix for a sci-fi show that never aired, instead steering the cash toward cryptocurrency investments and a series of lavish purchases that included a fleet of Rolls-Royces and a Ferrari.

Carl Erik Rinsch perhaps best known for directing the film "47 Ronin" — has been charged with wire fraud and money laundering over what federal prosecutors allege was a scheme to defraud the streaming giant.

Prosecutors on Tuesday said Netflix had initially paid about USD 44 million to purchase an unfinished show called "White Horse" from Rinsch, but eventually doled out another USD 11 million after he said he needed the additional cash to complete the



show.

Rather than using the extra money to wrap up production, Rinsch quietly transferred the money to a personal brokerage account, where he made a series of failed investments that lost about half of the USD 11 million in two months, according to prosecutors.

The filmmaker then dumped the rest of the money into the cryptocurrency market, which proved to be a profitable

move, with Rinsch eventually transferring the earnings into a personal bank account, according to an indictment.

From there, Rinsch spent about USD 10 million on personal expenses and luxury items in a spending spree that, according to prosecutors, included about USD 1.8 million on credit card bills; USD 1 million on lawyers to sue Netflix for more money; USD 3.8 million on furniture and antiques; USD 2.4

million for five Rolls-Royces and one Ferrari: and USD 652.000 on watches and clothes.

Rinsch, 47, was arrested in West Hollywood, California, and had an initial court hearing on Tuesday.

He appeared in a federal courtroom in Los Angeles in a turtleneck sweater and jeans with shackles on his arms and legs. He did not enter a plea and spoke only to answer a judge's questions.

When asked if he'd read the indictment against him, he said "not cover to cover" but told the judge he understood the charges.

US Magistrate Judge Pedro V Castillo ordered that he be released later Tuesday after he agreed to post a USD 100,000 bond to assure he'll appear in court in New York, where his indictment was filed.

His newly appointed attorney, Annie Carney, declined to comment outside court. She said during the hearing that she had not yet seen the prosecution's evidence against Rinsch. When discussing the terms of his release, she said, "the allegations in this case are purely financial." Rinsch's New York court date had not yet been set.

Netflix declined to comment.

## Chiranjeevi, R Madhavan and others hail Sunita Williams' return to Earth after nine months in space

Williams and her fellow astronaut Butch Wilmore returned to Earth on Tuesday, hitching different ride home to close out saga that began with bungled test flight more than nine months ago

"Welcome back home", actors Chiranjeevi and R Madhavan said on Wednesday as NASA astronaut Sunita Williams returned to Earth after a ninemonth space exploration mis-

Williams and her fellow astronaut Butch Wilmore returned to Earth on Tuesday, hitching a different ride home to close out a saga that began with a bungled test flight more than nine months ago.

Their SpaceX capsule parachuted into the Gulf of Mexico in the early evening, just hours after departing the International Space Station. Splashdown occurred off the coast of Tallahassee in the Florida Panhandle, bringing their unplanned odyssey to an end.

In a post on social media platform X, Chiranjeevi hailed the duo's return to Earth as both "historic" and "heroic".

"WELCOME BACK TO



EARTH. Sunita Williams & Butch Wilmore!! HISTORIC & HEROIC 'HOME' COMING!!! Went for 8 Days to Space & Returned after 286 Days, after an Astonishing 4577 orbits around earth!"

"Your Story is Unmatchably Dramatic, Utterly Nerve - Wracking , Unbelievably Nail Baiting Thriller & The Greatest Adventure Ever. A True Blue Blockbuster!! More Power To You!!! @Astro Suni. Kudos to #SpaceXDragon #Crew9 for

bringing them back! #SunitaWilliams (sic)," he wrote.

Madhavan shared a video of Williams coming out of the SpaceX capsule and said the prayers of the whole world have been answered.

"Welcome back to Earth our Dear Dear Sunita Williams. #sunitawilliams ..Our prayers have been answered... so wonderful to see you safe and smiling. After more than 260 uncertain days in space this is all Gods grace and millions

of praying souls prayers being answered .. Great Job all at #spacexfalcon9 #nasa AND the entire crew. God bless you," he

Actor and former Miss World Manushi Chhillar said that she has always admired women like Williams.

"Moments like these define humanity! While we make attempts to advance our research and technology, our resilience during difficult times defines us... Welcome back!!" she wrote on X.

"#splashdown," wrote actor Trisha Krishan on her Instagram

A former US Navy captain, Williams, 59, was born to a Gujarati father, Deepak Pandya, hailing from Jhulasan in Mehsana district, and a Slovenian mother, Ursuline Bonnie Pandya, on September 19, 1965 in Euclid, Ohio.

## **Singer Mariah Carey reacts to** bad lighting at iHeart Radio **Music Awards 2025**



American singer-songwriter Mariah Carey received the Icon Award at the 2025 iHeart Radio Music Awards in a ceremony held in Los Angeles.

The Vision of Love singer, known for her diva persona, hilariously reacted to the bad lighting at the event as she went on the stage to collect her award, giving fans a classical Mariah Carey

moment. "Is the lighting OK, cause I don't like bad lighting," Carey asked, giving production time to get it together. She also asked her fans if they liked her ensemble and twirled for everyone in

the theatre as they cheered for her.

In her acceptance speech, the singer also expressed her love for radio and how it feels to listen to her songs through such broadcasting platforms.

"As a kid, I used to listen to my favourite artistes on the radio and dream of being on the airwaves myself. Now, for those of you who may not know what airwaves are, think of it as the non-WiFi of streaming. Even now I get excited when I hear one of my songs playing on the radio. It never stops being magical.' said Mariah.

At the event, the singer and actor Lady Gaga was also recognised with the Innovator Award. In her beautiful red dress, the singer thanked many people that made her the artiste that she is today, including her two Italian-American grandmothers

"They didn't invent technology or art, they invented possibility, shaping the future with nothing more than their minds," Gaga said, accepting her award. "Those women, my ancestors, they're the greatest innovators that I've ever known." said Lady Gag.

She also expressed her solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community in her acceptance speech.

## House needs to deliberate on freebies: Dhankhar

NEW DELHI, Mar 19 (Agencies): Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday opined that there should be a structured discussion on freebies and subsidies in the House as there is an urgent need for a national policy to help put all government investments to the larger good.

Responding to the demand made by Samajwadi Party's Ram Gopal Yadav for increasing the funds, which Members of Parliament have at their disposal for developmental projects and schemes in their respective constituencies to Rs 20 crore a year from the current Rs 5 crore during the zero hour, Dhankhar said he would be open to a structured discussion on the issue if the government and the opposition agree.

Electoral freebies, such as free electricity and water, subsidised cooking gas, and cash handouts to certain groups like farmers and women, have often been criticised as something that may lead to unsustainable financial burdens on the government, distort public resources, and undermine long-term development goals.

"On placatory mechanisms, on appeasement, which is often known as freebies, this House needs to deliberate. I will be open to a structured discussion after consulting the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition," he said.

The country can grow only if money is available for capital expenditure, he said.



Capital expenditure or capex is expenditure for creating assets such as infrastructure that yield long-term returns for the economy. In contrast, freebies are revenue expenditures that do not contribute to the creation or acquisition of fixed assets.

"Electoral process is such that these have become electoral allurements and thereafter the governments that came in the saddle, found themselves very uncomfortable, so uncomfortable that they wanted to revisit their thoughts," he said.

"There is an urgent need for a national policy so that all investments of the government in any form are used in a structured manner for the larger good." If the leaders of both sides agree, there can be a discussion, he said adding this is a very serious issue. The comments assume significance as many states faced challenges in funding electoral freebies, particularly due to the financial strain they place on state budgets.

States like Punjab have faced financial constraints in meeting poll promises.

Dhankhar then touched upon the issue of subsidies.

"Subsidies, if required in areas like the farm sector, should be direct. That is the practice in developed countries. I checked with the US mechanism. The US has 1/5th of farm households as our country but the average income of a US farm household is more than the general income of a US household, and that is because the subsidy to the farmer is direct, transparent, without intermediary," he said.

This issue can also be discussed subject to the two sides agreeing, he said.

In his zero hour submission, Yadav said MLAs in Uttar Pradesh get Rs 5 crore for constituency development and those in Delhi have Rs 10 crore at their disposal.

Five assembly constituencies make for one Lok Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh

which makes it a cumulative of Rs 25 crore available with the MLAs annually for their constituencies in comparison to Rs 5 crore provision in the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD), he said and went on to site how the cost of construction has risen in the last two decades, making the MPLAD funds inadequate to nurture constituencies.

He demanded that MPLAD fund amount be raised to Rs 20 crore, it be exempt from GST and a technical cell be created for estimates and quality inspection of work done. "If this is not possible, then MPLADs should be abolished," he said.

Dhankhar remarked that the constitution does not provide for a uniform mechanism for pay and perks of MPs and MLAs.

Some assemblies give members perks and salaries that are much more than what Members of Parliament (MPs) get.

"Even the pension variation for a former member of the assembly is on a scale of 1 to 10. If in one state, one is getting one rupee, in the other state the pension will be 10 times," he said.

He said in the Constituent Assembly debates, one of the distinguished members, Sidhwa, reflecting on the power of Parliament to remove the judges, said, "It is very good to arrogate power without examining other elements. But trust me, he reflected, the number of judges will grow, we will not be able to fructify even one."

## Earth missed you: PM Modi as Sunita Williams, others return after nine months in space



NEW DELHI, Mar 19 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday welcomed NASA astronaut Sunita Williams and her fellow Crew-9 members as they returned to Earth after a prolonged mission to the International Space Station, saying their unwavering determination will forever inspire millions.

"Welcome back, Crew9! The Earth missed you," Modi said in a post on X.

NASA astronauts Williams, Nick Hague and Butch Wilmore, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, returned to Earth early Wednesday onboard SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft, which splashed down in the sea off the coast of Tallahassee, Florida.

For Williams and Wilmore, test pilots for Boeing's new Starliner capsule, an eight-day mission stretched to more than nine months as a series of helium leaks and thruster failures deemed their spacecraft unsafe. The spacecraft returned without them in September.

"Theirs has been a test of grit, courage and the boundless human spirit. Sunita Williams and the #Crew9 astronauts have once again shown us what perseverance truly means. Their unwavering determination in the face of the vast unknown will forever inspire millions," Modi said.

He said space exploration is about pushing the limits of human potential, daring to dream and having the courage to turn those dreams into reality.

"Sunita Williams, a trailblazer and an icon, has exemplified this spirit throughout her career," the prime minister said.

"We are incredibly proud of all those who worked tirelessly to ensure their safe return. They have demonstrated what happens when precision meets passion and technology meets tenacity," Modi said.

# Significant improvement in tackling online gambling, betting activities: Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI, Mar 19 (Agencies): The government on Wednesday said there has been a significant improvement in tackling online gambling and betting activities, with more than 1,000 betting and gambling websites banned in 2024.

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, told the Lok Sabha that both state governments and the Centre have to work together to deal with such activities.

Responding to supplementaries during the Question Hour, the minister asserted that whenever any instances of violations come to the notice of the central government, action is taken within the Constitutional framework.

Various members raised concerns about online gambling activities and violent online games adversely impacting young people.



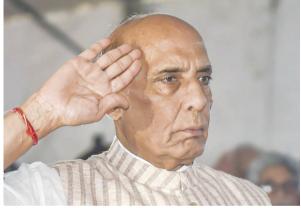
According to Vaishnaw, 1,097 betting and gambling websites were banned in 2024 and with coordination among various agencies handling cyber-related crimes, there has been a significant improvement in dealing with such activities.

Overall, a good legal framework is being made, he added.

# Sunita Williams, fellow crew have rewritten history of human endurance in space: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, Mar 19 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday expressed delight over the return of NASA astronaut Sunita Williams and her fellow Crew-9 members and said they have rewritten the history of human endurance and perseverance in space.

Williams and fellow NASA astronauts Nick Hague and Butch Wilmore, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, returned to Earth onboard SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft, which splashed down in the sea off the coast of Tallahassee, Florida in the US.



"Delighted at the safe return of NASA's #Crew9 on earth! The crew comprising of India's daughter Sunita Williams and other astronauts have rewritten the history of human endurance and perseverance in Space. Sunita Williams' incred-

ible journey, unwavering dedication, fortitude and fighting spirit will inspire millions across the globe," Singh wrote in a post on X.

Her safe return is a moment of celebration for space enthusiasts and the entire world, he said.

"Her courage and achievements make us all proud. Congratulations and a big thank you to all stakeholders for bringing them back safely on earth," Singh further said in his post.

For Williams and Wilmore, test pilots for Boeing's new Starliner capsule, an eight-day mission stretched to more than nine months as a series of helium leaks and thruster failures deemed their spacecraft unsafe. The spacecraft returned without them in September.

Williams and Wilmore bid farewell to the International Space Station, their home since last June, departing aboard a SpaceX capsule alongside two other astronauts.

The capsule undocked from the space station on Tuesday and splashed down off the Florida coast on Wednesday morning, after clocking 286 days in space. This was Williams' third space flight and she has clocked a cumulative 608 days in

A former US Navy captain, Williams, 59, was born to a Gujarati father Deepak Pandya hailing from Jhulasan in Mehsana district and Slovenian mother Ursuline Bonnie Pandya, on September 19, 1965 in Euclid, Ohio.

# Under Modi govt, terrorists will either go to 'jail Or jahannum': Minister Nityanand Rai in RS

NEW DELHI, Mar 19 (Agencies): There has been a 71 per cent reduction in incidents of terror in the country under the Modi government and terrorists will now either go to jail or "jahannum" (hell), Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Replying to queries from members during Question Hour, the minister said unlike in the past when terrorists were glorified and served "good food", the Modi government has a "zero tolerance" policy towards terrorism that has helped bring down the cases of terror to zero in the hinterland.

He listed several steps being taken to deal with cases of terror and claimed that after an amendment in the Act governing the National Investigative Agency, it is now investigating cases on foreign land including attacks on the Indian High Commissions in London and Ottawa and the consulate in San Francisco.

"Earlier, terrorists were glorified and they were served good food. Today, the Modi government is working with the policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism, which has resulted in no terror incidents in the hinterland. There has been a 71 per cent decline in terror activities in the country.

"This is the Modi government which will work with a firm determination to end terrorism. Terrorists will either go to jail or to 'jahannum' (hell)," Rai told the members. The minister also dismissed complaints against the NIA, terming them baseless.

"I do not agree with the charge that there are complaints against NIA. If at all there are complaints, these are concocted and baseless made by such people who are having problems with stern action being taken against terrorists," he said after CPI MP Sandosh Kumar raised the issue of alleged complaints against

the federal agency.

The Minister of State for Home informed the members



that the NIA has also spoken to some illegal immigrants who were deported by the United States and cases of human trafficking have also come out and serious investigation is being carried out in such cases after registration of FIRs.

On terror-related cases, he said special courts have been set up in Jammu and Ranchi, and 23 such courts are elsewhere in the country that exclusively deal with such matters.

On the number of undertrials and convicts charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act or other terror cases, the minister said, "So far 157 cases have been decided by courts, which is 95.544 per cent of total cases. In cases of terror financing, there is 100 per cent success." Rai also took a dig at Congress member Digvijaya Singh who raised the issue of bomb blast cases since 2011 which are still pending.

"The incidents referred by the member, it is important to mention the timeline of such incidents which was during their tenure.

"There are zero incidents taking place now in the hinterland," he asserted.

"The Modi government adopts the policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and work is seriously being carried out and the government is working to deal with terrorism sternly which has helped reduce cases of terror

He said that 57 individuals have also been "declared terrorists and since 2014 as many as nine organisations have been designated as terror organisations under the UAPA".

So far, 23 organisations have been named as unlawful, he informed the house.

Nityanand Rai said that during investigation in some cases where the accused had their presence outside the boundaries of India, the need to amend the NIA Act in 2019 was felt and the same was done to deal with cases of terror and use of cyber technology.

Agencies were given powers to investigate outside the country in cases related to terror and human trafficking, he said.

"After the 2019 amendment, the NIA is currently investigating six cases including attacks on India High Commissions in London and Ottawa and the Indian consulate in San Francisco, where terror activities were given final shape on foreign land.

"Similarly, 23 cases of human trafficking and 30 bomb attacks and one case of cyber crimes are being investigated, which is helping in curbing terror activities," the minister informed the house.

In his written reply to a starred question, Rai listed out several achievements of the NIA.

"As on 12.03.2025, the NIA has registered 652 cases since its inception and 516 cases have been charge-sheeted; 4232 accused have been arrested so far by the NIA and 625 have been convicted.

"Out of a total of 157 decided cases, 150 have resulted in conviction. The conviction rate of the NIA investigated cases is 95.54 per cent. The NIA has seized/ attached a total of 551 (movable and immovable) properties under UA(P) Act, worth 116.27 crore rupees," the minister said.

## 4 office-goers killed as vehicle carrying them catches fire near Pune

PUNE, Mar 19 (Agencies): Four employees of a private firm were killed after their company vehicle carrying a group of staffers caught fire near Pune on Wednesday morning, police said.

The incident occurred at Hinjewadi in the Pimpri Chinchwad area, an official said.

A tempo traveller was ferrying some employees of the company to their office. When the vehicle was nearing Dassault Systemes, it suddenly caught fire, prompting the driver to slow down, said Deputy Commissioner of Police Vishal Gaikwad of Hinjewadi.

"While some employees managed to come out, four of them could not and died. The work to remove the bodies from the vehicle is under way," he added.

## Man ends life in Hyderabad, mother accuses wife of harassment

HYDERABAD, Mar 19 (Agencies): A 35-year-old man allegedly died by suicide at his house here due to "harassment" by his wife, police said on Wednesday.

The man's mother, in a complaint to police, accused her daughter-in-law of harassing her son regularly, following which he took the extreme step, they said.

The man was found hanging in his room on Monday, a police official at Jubilee Hills Police Station said, adding no suicide note was found.

Asked on the accusations of harassment by the man's mother, the official said investigation is underway to ascertain whether it (death) is due to harassment or due to family disputes between the couple.

The couple had married in 2020. The woman had earlier filed several police complaints against her husband of harassing her and they were given counselling, the official said.

## **Gaza negotiations with Hamas to continue** 'only under fire': Netanyahu

JERUSALEM, Mar 19 (Agencies): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said "negotiations will continue only under fire," with Hamas, while defending the resumption of airstrikes in Gaza. He reiterated that military pressure remains a "critical condition" for the release of hostages,

In a briefing, Netanyahu said, "Nothing will stop us from achieving all our war aims". He also affirmed that Israel would act with "increasing pressure" until Hamas "no longer posed a threat"

He further added, "Hamas refused offer after offer to release our hostages. In the past two weeks, Israel did not initiate any military action in



the hope that Hamas would change course. While that didn't happen, while Israel accepted the offer of President Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff, Hamas flatly refused to do so.

This is why I authorised yesterday the renewal of military action against Hamas... I thank President Trump for his unwavering support for Israel. Our alliance with the United States has never been stronger."

This statement comes from Netanyahu after the Israeli airstrike on Gaza on Tuesday which led to the death of more than 400 people. The attacks struck multiple locations, including Gaza City, Deir al-Balah, Khan Younis, and Rafah, marking the most intense Israeli bombardment attacks so far, since the truce took effect.

The strikes come after weeks of failed negotiations between Israel and Hamas over the fate of the remaining 59 hostages still held in Gaza. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office accused Hamas of "repeated refusal to release our hostages" despite mediation efforts led by Egypt and Qatar, with US backing.

## in Mediterranean migrant shipwreck: UN ROME, Mar 19 (Agencies): Six

Six dead, 40 missing

people died and 40 are missing after a migrant shipwreck in the Mediterranean, the United Nations said Wednesday, with Italian media reporting the boat went down off the island of Lampedusa.

"Still too many dead in a new shipwreck in the Mediterranean," UNHCR's Italy representative Chiara Cardoletti said on X, adding that the inflatable dinghy had left Tunisia on Monday carrying 56 people. "After a few hours of sailing, the dinghy began to deflate and take on water. Six bodies (were) recovered. 40 missing," she said.

Italy's coastguard and financial police pulled 10 people to safety -- six men and four women -- off the tiny rocky outcrop of Lampione, according to Italian media reports.

Those rescued said there had been 56 people on board when it left but only

six bodies -- all male -- were recovered from the area, the reports said.

Survivors said some of the missing had fallen overboard in rough seas,

according to the AGI news agency. The migrants were from the Ivory Coast, Mali, Gambia and Cameroon,

it said. After the migrants were rescued, a separate group of 40 migrants landed on Lampedusa after travelling from Sfax in Tunisia in metal boats, ANSA

news agency reported. There were five landings in Lampedusa Tuesday with a total of 213 migrants, bringing the total number of people in the island's reception centre to 230, it said.

Some 8,743 migrants have arrived in Italy so far this year, slightly more than the number who arrived in the same period last year, according to Italy's interior ministry.

#### Turkish police arrest Istanbul mayor, a key Erdogan rival, over graft and terror charges

ISTANBUL, Mar 19 (Agencies): Turkish police on Wednesday arrested Istanbul's mayor—a popular opposition leader and key rival of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan—as part of an investigation into alleged corruption and terror links. It was a dramatic escalation in an ongoing government crackdown on the opposition and dissenting voices in Turkey.

The state-run Anadolu Agency said prosecutors issued detention warrants for the mayor, Ekrem Imamoglu, and some 100 other people. Among those detained was Imamoglu's close aid, Murat Ongun.

Authorities also closed several roads around Istanbul and banned demonstrations in the city for four days in an apparent effort to prevent protests following the arrest.

Critics say the crackdown follows significant losses by Erdogan's ruling party in local elections in March amid growing calls for early national elections. Government officials insist that the courts operate independently and reject claims that legal actions against opposition figures are politically motivated.

The arrest came during a search of Imamoglu's home, but it was not immediately clear if police confiscated anything at the site.

The mayor's wife, Dilek Imamoglu, told the private Now television station that police arrived at their residence before dawn and that the mayor was taken at

A day earlier, a university invalidated Imamoglu's diploma, effectively disqualifying the popular opposition figure from running in the next presidential race. Having a university degree is a requisite for running in elections under Turkish law.

The mayor's party—the main opposition Republican People's Party, or CHP—was to hold a primary on Sunday where Imamoglu was expected to be chosen ndidate in future presidential elections. Turkey's next presidential vote is scheduled for 2028, but early elections are likely.

With all the arrests on Wednesday, it was unlikely that vote would be held.

"We are facing great tyranny, but I want you to know that I will not be discouraged," Imamoglu said earlier in he day in a video message posted on social media. He accused the government of "usurping the will" of the people.

CHP's chairman, Ozgur Ozel, denounced Imamoglu's detention as a "coup."

"Currently, there is a power in place to prevent the nation from determining the next president," he said. "We are facing an attempted coup against our next president."

As he was being arrested, Ongun, Imamoglu's aide, posted on X about his detention, though he at the time did not appear to know that the mayor was also being taken into custody.

"They think they can silence us and prevent us from defending and supporting Ekrem Imamoglu," Ongun said. "I entrust Ekrem Imamoglu to the Turkish nation. Protect, watch over and support him. They cannot be defeat the nation."

Separately, police also detained a prominent investigative journalist. Ismail Saymaz, for questioning, the opposition-aligned Halk TV reported.

Meanwhile, internet-access advocacy group netblocks.org reported on Wednesday that access has been restricted in Turkey to popular social media plat-

In nullifying Imamoglu's diploma, Istanbul University cited alleged irregularities in his 1990 transfer from a private university in northern Cyprus to its Faculty of Business Administration. Imamoglu said he would challenge the decision.

The opposition leader faces multiple lawsuits, including allegations of trying to influence a judicial expert investigating opposition-led municipalities. The cases could result in prison sentences and a political ban.

Imamoglu is also appealing a 2022 conviction of insulting members of Turkey's Supreme Electoral Council, a case that could result in a political ban. He was elected mayor of Turkey's largest city in March 2019 in a historic blow to Erdogan and the president's Justice and Development Party, which had controlled Istanbul for a quarter-century.

The party pushed to void the municipal election results in the city of 16 million, alleging irregularities. The challenge resulted in a repeat of the election a few months later, which Imamoglu also won.

The mayor retained his seat following local elections last year, during which his party made significant gains against Erdogan's governing party.

## XI struggles to rein in China's Military establishment

HONG KONG, Mar 19 (Agencies): As well as splashing out ever-increasing amounts of cash on the People's Liberation Army (PLA), Chairman Xi Jinping is hauling on its reins to keep China's military -which has a history of doing things its own way - in check. However, even after more than twelve years in control, his efforts are proving only partially successful.

China announced its defense budget for 2025. The sum of CNY1.784665 trillion - or USD249 billion - rose 7.2% compared to the year before. China's defense expenditure has been pegged to single-digit percentage increases for the past decade.

As much as rising funds are welcome to the PLA, Xi is more concerned about the rot of corruption and the PLA's political loyalty to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Joel Wuthnow, Senior Research Fellow at the USA's National Defense University, assessed: "Xi Jinping still looms large in the PLA, but his power is finite." Yes, there have been results "in terms of greater confidence in regional disputes, new capabilities and stronger preparations for war against Taiwan and the United States," but Wuthnow believes "Xi's success in cleaning up the PLA has been partial at best".

Wuthnow added: "While the purges indicate that Xi was eventually able to uncover and correct problems that might have previously gone unnoticed, the fact that they occurred more than a decade into his tenure and implicated his own appointees signaled that the system remained flawed: senior leaders were not intimidated, control mechanisms did not prevent scandals from affecting key departments...

Xi's perceptions of the parlous state of the PLA's obedience were evident at the Two Sessions of the National People's Congress (NPC) held in Beijing from 5-10 March. Xi attended an associated plenary meeting of the PLA and People's Armed Police (PAP), as he has done every year since 2013, but the 2025 edition was notable for a couple of reasons.

This time, Xi discussed for the first time the major round of criminal investigations that occurred in July 2023, which resulted in many PLA and defense industry figureheads being dismissed. Furthermore, fewer PLA and PAP delegates attended the meeting this year. The military delegation numbered 267, which was 14 fewer than the 281 members appointed in 2023. This is because they were stood down because of corruption, or what the CCP calls "discipline violations".

Ten were removed before 2024's Two Sessions, while four more had bitten the dust since then. These included: former defense minister Li Shangfu, former PLA deputy commander Deng Zhiping, the latter's predecessor You Haitao, and Li Pengcheng, former naval commander in the Southern Theater Command.

The military delegation has suffered more severe attrition than any other provincial, industry or government segment at the Two Sessions. It compares unfavorably with the overall 1.8% rate of NPC members appointed in 2023 who have now been sacked. Furthermore, this ratio of 5% of toppled military delegates will definitely grow larger, for Miao Hua's demise has not been formally announced yet. Others to have recently disappeared from public view are Li Qiaoming, commander of the PLA ground force; Wang Chunning, commander of the PAP; and Yuan Huazhi, the PLA Navy's political commissar.

The diminishing size of the delegation underscores the emphasis Xi places upon "cleansing" the PLA, as his longterm anti-graft campaign weeds out those unfit for service.

This plenary session, according to a



government press release, discussed how to enhance military efficiency, strengthen cross-unit coordination, improve the management system and further develop military-civil fusion. K. Tristan Tang, a research associate at the Research Project on China's Defense Affairs, noted thus: "While this is a common topic for Xi's speeches, the degree of focus it received and the level of urgency with which Xi delivered his message were not. This suggests that Xi's efforts to reform the military system still face stubborn challenges that thus far he has failed to resolve."

Writing in an article for The Jamestown Foundation think-tank in the USA, Tang said that this year there were strong similarities with Xi's speech in 2019. He identified recurring phrases such as cross-departmental, cross-disciplinary, cross-military-civilian, bottlenecks, funding, auditing and corruption. "These all ate that Xi wants to prioritize the integration of the military and civilian domains to simultaneously advance military modernization, while increasing efficiency and reducing corruption."

However, Xi's 2025 speech contained a lot more urgency. If he is still largely urging the same things, this indicates Xi has not made significant headway in the past six years. He warned that bottlenecks and obstacles need to be resolved, mimicking what Xi said in his 2019 presentation. Tang highlighted one reason why policy coordination is so difficult in communist China. "This is in part due to the tiaokuai system in which authority extends vertically and horizontally at every level of government, and each group has its own interests and obligations.

Xi's push for an 'integrated national strategic system and capabilities' aims to break down these barriers." Xi called for modern management concepts and methods to help enhance systematization and coherence in the overhaul. Tang added, "A responsibility system, along with appropriate supervision, is also key to encouraging large-scale, cross-unit and cross-regional policies. This is especially true given the inefficiencies of the tiaokuai system and endemic corruption in the military." Xi exhorted officials to double down on supervision so that corruption and malpractice can be rooted out.

Tang explained, "This speaks to Xi's overriding concern regarding corruption. While such malfeasance may indicate a lack of loyalty and attendant loss of power and stability for Xi, the negative impact corruption has on military modernization is at least as big a concern." The Chinese leader reiterated the need for frugality, improving fund usage, costeffectiveness and scientifically allocating national defense resources.

Another difference in this year's military plenary meeting was that the complete process of military development from research and development through to frontline capability - was highlighted. This was exemplified by the roster of presenters: Li Dong, political commissar of the School of System Engineering at the National University of Defense

Technology; Feng Yan, representative of the Logistics Support

Department; Liu Shuwei, commander of the PLA Air Force's 95861 weapons and tactics testing unit; Cui Daohu, an engineer sergeant in the PLA Rocket Force; Zhou Gang, chief engineer of the PLA's 63650 technical research unit; and Zheng Yuanlin, deputy commander of the PLA Air Force.

Such a line-up eclipsed anything a plenary session had previously gathered. Furthermore, their range of military ranks provided a sharp departure compared to preceding plenary sessions. Back in 2019, speakers were high-ranking officials, but fast forward to 2025 and most were frontline personnel.

Parsing this change of presenters, Tang remarked, "This shift suggests that Xi may be suspicious of information provided by the upper echelons of the military. This may be because previous information has been incomp biased - a speculative interpretation, but one that accords with analysis Xi has become less trusting of information submitted to him by those at the top of the military." Perhaps by bypassing sycophantic or self-serving upper cadres, Xi can listen directly to those involved in the nuts and bolts of military development and thus gain a more accurate picture. Tang concluded: "Intractable problems in the PRC system tend to be caused by stubborn vested interests and protectionism. This appears to be the case for the military-industrial sector and related military equipment departments, and would explain Xi's difficulties in implementing his desired reforms."

However, the analyst also assessed, "Xi's reforms will not necessarily be more successful than those announced in 2019. At the Two Sessions meeting in 2023, Xi also declared the need to promote the development of the 'integrated national strategic system and capabilities'. However, within a few months, numerous PLA generals and senior officials in the military-industrial sector were investigated or removed from their positions." This even included Rao Wenmin of the Equipment Development Department, who had spoken at that very meeting!

"The crucial question in 2025 is whether Xi has been able to break entrenched practices and networks within the PLA and the military-industrial sector. If not, barriers to improving coordination, military-civil fusion and efficiency are likely to persist, as is the ongoing anticorruption drive," Tang concluded.

Many of the same sentiments were reflected in Premier Li Qiang's government work report delivered at the Two Sessions. Lyle Morris, Senior Fellow for Foreign Policy and National Security at the Asia Society Policy Institute, noted, "First, and perhaps most noteworthy, was Li's dire assessment of the global security landscape. He began with 'changes unseen in a century are unfolding across the world at a faster pace,' a phrase frequently used during Xi Jinping's meetings with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin. Li further judges that China faces 'an increasingly

complex and severe external environment' that 'may exert a greater impact on China in areas such as trade, science and technology."

"Second, on national defense, Li repeats, almost verbatim, language from the 2024 report on the need to enhance China's new combat capabilities to meet Xi's 2027 centenary modernization goal for the PLA. Two new phrases in this year's report are noteworthy. First, he calls for the PLA to 'establish a framework of modern military theories with Chinese characteristics'; and second, he highlights the need to 'move faster to develop the network information system."

The first phrase referring to theories is a proposal for China to carve out a distinct contribution to military theory internationally. Xi is encouraging Chinese military strategists to mark their mark by contributing novel military doctrines consistent with Chinese heritage and that diverge from Western theories. The second phrase relating to a "network information system" urged the PLA to better integrate information technology into its training and military modernization goals.

This is part of the ongoing "intelligentization" effort by the PLA. Morris continued, "Third, Li's language about Taiwan did not include any shifts in Beijing's policy toward Taipei. It repeated the CCP's 'overall policy for the new era on resolving the Taiwan question,' including 'staying committed to the one-China principle and the 1992 Consensus' and that China 'resolutely opposes separatist activities aimed at 'Taiwan independence' and external interference to promote the peaceful development of cross-strait relations."

In a press conference, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi was relatively fiery in pushing back against President Donald Trump's policies. Amidst the chaos Trump is inducing worldwide, Wang cast China as a "source of stability" to "anchor the world". The foreign minister also said, "No country should expect to suppress and contain China on one hand, while developing a good relationship with it on the other.

Such a two-faced approach not only undermines the stability of bilateral relations, but also fails to build mutual trust."

Returning to the issue of Xi's incomplete control over the PLA, Wuthnow highlighted three implications. "First is the possibility, but not the certainty, of diminished readiness due to corruption." Next "is a continued lack of trust between Xi and the PLA," particularly low levels of civil-military trust. The third implication, according to Wuthnow, is that "further complications might be in store for Xi and his successor".

As civilian leaders, they cannot fully exert control over the PLA, and this will have an ongoing impact.

Wuthnow contended that all Chinese leaders, including Xi, have been historically bedeviled by PLA top brass pursuing their own agendas. "Nothing Xi has done to control the bureaucracy, including purging and rotating officers, handpicking trusted agents or reforming control mechanisms, has resolved this problem. Xi can only go so far in coercing the bureaucracy before he reaches a tipping point, and he has judiciously refrained from stepping close to the edge." The American academic concluded, "The result, however, is that he cannot be fully confident in what the PLA tells him about its state of readiness or internal deficiencies, whether created by corruption, poor or ineffective leadership, or advantages of foreign adversaries. Such uncertainties might well impact his confidence in ordering the PLA into battle."

One hopes this is the case, as China continues to browbeat Taiwan.

## **Chairman of JKEJCC appeals Govt for release salaries of** employees before Eid-ul-Fitr

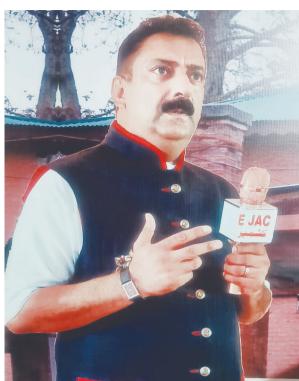
**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Mar 19: The Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir **Employees Joint Con**sultative Committee, Ejaz Ahmad Khan, has made a strong appeal to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir to ensure the timely release of March salaries and wages for all employees, including daily wagers, casual laborers, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, AAYAs, Cook cum Helpers and employees of all categories, before Eid-ul-Fitr.

He emphasized that Ramadan is a sacred month that teaches us compassion, generosity, and unity, yet thousands of employees and workers are facing severe financial difficulties

With rising expenses for Iftar, Eid preparations, and household necessities, any delay in salaries and wages would further burden these employees and

their families. Ejaz Ahmad Khan



urged the UT administration to release the salaries and wages on a priority basis, stating that such a step would strengthen employees' trust in the government's pro-worker poli-

He highlighted that employees are the backbone of any society's development, and their welfare must remain a top priority. He further appealed

to the government to ensure that employees of all categories receive their salaries on time so they can celebrate Eid without financial stress. He expressed hope that the authorities would take this crucial issue seriously and take necessary action at the earliest.

## JKCCC Chairman Jeelani Purza urges J&K Govt to clear long-pending payments

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Mar 19: The Jammu and Kashmir Contractors Coordination Committee (JKCCC) has raised serious concerns over the non-payment of pending liabilities, highlighting a disparity in fund disbursement between Kashmir and Jammu-based contrac-

In a statement issued here, JKCCC Chairman Ghulam Jeelani Purza urged the government to take immediate action to clear long-overdue payments, particularly those pending since 2014. He pointed out that liabilities dating back to previous governments, including those led by Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, remain unresolved.

"The government appears indecisive on this issue. Despite repeated assurances, a significant portion of payments for works executed under previous governments remains unpaid. While liabilities in Jammu have been largely cleared, Kashmiri contractors are still awaiting their dues. This is a clear case of injus-



tice." Purza stated.

He revealed that the outstanding liability stood at 500 crore in 2019, equally divided between Kashmir and Jammu. However, while most of Jammu's dues have been cleared, Kashmiri contractors continue to struggle for their rightful payments.

"If we are part of the same region and the government aims for equal development, why is there such discrimination against Kashmiri contractors? We do not oppose the genuine payments of Jammubased contractors, but why has Kashmir been ignored?" Purza questioned.

Jeelani Purza further pointed out that while the Jammu division's outstanding liability now stands at merely 17 crore, Kashmiri contractors are still awaiting the

clearance of 250 crore in dues, raising serious concerns over discrimi-

natory treatment.

"We have all the allotment papers and various verifications have been conducted over time for these projects that remain unpaid. We had taken huge loans and now we are burdened with financial liabilities due to government inaction," he added.

cerns about the delayed release of the fourthquarter allocation from the current budget. "The government has so far released only three quarters of the allocated budget, while the fourth quarter remains withheld. With just a few days left in March, there is a high risk that these funds will lapse, just like crores of payments that lapsed last year," he

He also raised con-

warned.

Furthermore, Purza highlighted a significant backlog in treasury payments, stating that while payments for ongoing projects have been processed, pending payments remain stuck, further exacerbating the financial distress faced by contractors.

In addition to financial concerns, Purza criticized the government's inaction in filling crucial vacancies in the Public Works Department (PWD) and other engineering divisions.

"More than 21 Superintending Engineer (SE) posts and multiple Executive Engineer positions remain vacant, severely impacting project execution and developmental progress across Kashmir. These critical positions should have been filled in advance to prevent delays in project completion," he emphasized.

He pointed out that under previous governments, engineering and administrative posts were filled proactively, ensuring smooth project execution. However, in recent years, a lack of attention to these vacancies has led to

inefficiencies and bottlenecks in the development process.

In light of these pressing concerns, Purza made a humble appeal to J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and top financial and administrative secretaries to intervene and resolve the crisis.

"We urge the J&K CM and Deputy CM to personally look into this matter and ensure fairness in fund allocation. Contractors are the backbone of J&K's infrastructure development. If their dues are not cleared, it will not only halt ongoing projects but also discourage future investments. We need urgent action to prevent another financial setback," he emphasized.

The Contractors Coordination Committee has urged J&K legislators to take up this matter in the ongoing Assembly session."We hope that these issues will be prioritized and that all MLAs will ensure these liabilities are addressed so that contractors can finally breathe a sigh of relief," Purza urged.

## Farmers sensitized on Operational Agromet **Advisory Services**



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 19: Farmers of village Sawari of Kotranka block, Rajouri has been sensitized about Agromet Advisory Services by Regional Agricultural Research Station, Rajouri of SKUAST - Jammu on Wednesday under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) scheme rendered by India Metrological Department (IMD).

The programme was conducted under the aegis of Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu, Dr. B. N. Tripathi and guidance of Dr. Sushil Kumar Gupta, Director

of the programme was to help our farmers to manage weather related uncertainties in day to day agricultural activi-

Chief Scientist & In charge, RARS, Rajouri sensitize the farmers about the importance of Agromet Advisory Services as agriculture is dependent on weather patterns.

of farming in the con-He advised farmers on

Research, SKUAST-The main objective

ties.

Dr. Vikas Sharma,

He also stressed on the need to upgrade the conventional way text of climate change.

adoption of climate resilient crops and economically beneficial crops for farmers. He focused on use of natural resources for better management of crops in the area.

Dr. Rohit Sharma. Technical Officer, **GKMS** advised farmers to make more and more utilization of GKMS services and motivated the farmers to take maximum benefit from this programme.

He added that this service's prime objective is to reduce farming's input cost to get more benefits. Farmers are also imparted about 'Meghdoot' a mobile app launched by

MoES, New Delhi that crop and livestock- specific weather based agro advisories to farmers in local languages. This app has been installed in the android mobile phones of the farmers on this occasion.

Dr. Suraj Parkash, Chief Scientist, KVK-Rajouri interacted with the farmers and provided the information regarding scientific research and new knowledge in agricultural practices

On this occasion, video message of Nodal Officer, GKMS, Dr. Mahender Singh also shared with farmers.

He briefed about the usefulness of Agromet Advisory Bulletins and MEGHDOOT App.

As a part of the programme, a farmersscientist interaction session was held where issues and problems faced by farmers were raised and the experts suggested relevant solutions for these prob-

lems as well. Farmer's feedback has also been collected to improve the advisory services according to the farmer's requirements.

Lokesh Sharma, Agromet Observer presented the vote of thanks to the farmers.

## JKTF appeals for early salary disbursement, GP Fund clearance & promotions

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 19: The Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF), affiliated with the All India Secondary Teachers Federation (AISTF), has urged the authorities to ensure the timely release of the salary budget for March 2025, along with the pending GP Fund and gratuity dues, ahead of Eidul-Fitr. The forum also called for the immediate filling of vacant DDO positions to streamline administrative function-

JKTF State President Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh emphasized that releasing salaries before Eid-ul-Fitr, preferably before Shabe-Qadr, will enable employees to fulfill their religious and financial obligations, make necessary purchases, and contribute to charitable causes without financial

distress. "The government must ensure that employees receive their salaries



before Eid. Timely payments will allow them to celebrate the festival with dignity and provide for their families," said Ashraf Sheikh.

He further pointed out that since the February salary had income tax deductions, many employees were left with a reduced salary, adding to their financial burden.

In light of this, M. Ashraf Sheikh appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to ensure the immediate release of salaries.

Moreover, the JKTF President urged authorities to clear pending GP Fund and gratuity dues of employees, providing them with much-needed

financial relief during this significant period. Meanwhile, UT Gener-

al Secretary Mir Bashir Ah has demanded the timely release of the promotion list of Headmasters to fill the remaining DDO vacancies across Jammu & Kashmir. He also praised the Education Department and the government for approving promotions in various cadres and urged them to expedite the clearance of One-Time Exemption files.

"While we appreciate the recent promotions, it is crucial to promote more Masters as Headmasters to ensure the smooth functioning of schools and the timely drawl of salaries," said Mir Bashir.

Furthermore, he called for the immediate filling of vacant Lecturer positions through the promotion quota and stressed the promotion of Teachers as Masters, ensuring career progression for the teaching fraternity across Jammu and Kashmir.

## FromPage No:1

#### **Over 2K kanals** of land allotted to non-locals for investment in J&K: Govt

Pvt Ltd.

In reply to another question about the details of total area of land transferred to multiple Industrial Estates, other Public and private authorities during the last two years, the government said, in Jammu Division, 6014 kanals and 10 marlas and in Kashmir Division. 5532 kanals and 19 marlas has been allotted.

The government also replied that no land area or patch has been transferred to Public and Private Authorities other than for establishment of Industrial Estates (Public Purpose) during the last two years.

#### No proposal to change retirement age of Govt **Employees: Centre**

governments and the reasons for non-uniformity in their retirement age, Singh said, "No such data is centrally maintained in the government as the subject matter falls in the State List."

#### No ration halted to **BPL** families due to verification concerns: J&K Govt

Consumer Affairs said that no ration has been halted due to verification-related concerns

"All eligible households/beneficiaries are getting food grains as per their entitlement/approved scales, free of cost under NFSA and at highly subsidized rates under the NPHH group," he said.

#### "This is a personal matter": **MLA Mehrai Malik** reacts to nonbailable warrant

killed anyone... There may be some minor issue; I don't know about it.

Despite the legal proceedings, Malik emphasized the larger issue at hand, focusing on the state's governance

"The main issue is that a government has been formed in J&K and what it is doing in the House... Are

they fulfilling the promises made to the people during the elections?" he questioned.

#### Legislators demand CBI probe into Budhal deaths

concern the entire House. He said that the Health Department had provided all possible assistance to the victims.

"But it is crucial to identify the exact cause of these deaths and investigate whether an invisible hand was behind them. If so, it must be exposed," Tarigami said.

Participating in the discussion, Choudhary Akram, MLA Surankote, also demanded a CBI inquiry.

Meanwhile, Sakina Itoo, Minister for Health and Medical Education, informed the House that an enquiry by the Home Department was already underway.

"We will decide on the next course of action once the department submits its report," she said. Notably, 16 people died in Budhal between November and January due to a mysterious illness. Later, neurotoxins were found in the samples of the deceased.

#### **J&K Police seize 40 Kg Poppy in Udhampur, One** arrested

plastic gunny bags were found concealed inside empty vegetable crates in the back of the vehicle, police said. Upon inspection, police found 40 kg of poppy hidden in the bags, they added.

The driver of the vehicle, identified as Haseen, was arrested from the spot, police said, adding that

a case has been registered at the Udhampur police station and further probe is underway.

#### **Police Solve Kidnapping and Murder Case of South Kashmir Girl. Accused Arrested**

Lawaypora," he said.

Following this, additional charges under sections 64 and 103 of the BNS were added to the FIR. The police have sent the body for postmortem and forensic examination to gather further evidence.

Officials assured that all aspects of the case will be thoroughly examined, and the strictest punishment will be ensured against the accused and any other individuals involved.

# Senior NC, Congress, PDP leaders from Kashmir, social activist join BJP

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 19: Senior leaders of NC, Congress, and PDP from Kashmir region including ex-leader of opposition, and ex chief whip in SMC, state office bearers of these parties joined BJP at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization) and Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister welcomed the senior leaders into party fold.

BJP Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan, Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Nakul Mattoo Ex Corporator, Aatif Jahangir office Incharge and Sandeep Razdan were also present on the occasion.

Haji Pervez Ahmed Bhat, Ex-Vice Chairman, JKSRTC, Ex-District President, Srinagar, PDP & Ex-State Convenor, Basharat Bin Qadir, Ex-Corporator, Chattabal, Srinagar, Ex-Leader Of Opposition in S.M.C



Council, & State Secretary, J&K Congress, Aijaz Rasool Bhat, Ex-Corporator, Budshah Nagar, Srinagar and Ex-Chief Whip, SMC Council, Congress Party, and Faizul Firdous Mallik, NC Youth Leader/Political Activist joined BJP on the occasion.

Bhupinder Singh, senior social activist and retired government official also joined BJP. While welcoming the new entrants into the BJP, Sat Sharma said that people have

full faith on the Sabka

Sath, Sabka Vikas,

Sabka Vishwas policy

of Modi government at

the Centre.

"Countless Welfare Schemes and initiatives by BJP like Digital India, Make in India, Ujjwala Yojana, PM Kisan Yojana have resulted in socio-economic growth of people in the region. People are seeing BJP as a party with a strong anti-corruption stand and committed to the security of people and the nation's borders", said Sat Sharma.

The commitment to its policies and report-card of BJP's previous years has attracted the prominent social personalities and political leaders hailing to differ-

BJP, the party is confident that it will secure a good number of seats in upcoming ULB and Panchayat polls in Kashmir. He congratulated all the senior leaders of other political parties, who along with their supporters have joined the party.

Kavinder Gupta also

Kashmir are joining the

Kavinder Gupta also welcomed the new entrants on the occasion and said that the family of BJP is getting bigger and stronger with every passing day as it has kept itself committed to the public welfare in a consistent manner.

While joining the party, new entrants acknowledged the peace initiatives by the Modi government after they have suffered for 70 years. They expressed confidence in the BJP's governance for the welfare of Kashmir and its people. They also attacked the NC government for ditching J&K people by taking a U-turn on its poll prom-

## BJP committed to uphold constitutional rights of SCs, STs: Balbir



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 19: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is firm on its commitment to protecting the constitutional rights of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), said Balbir Ram Rattan.

He also reiterated that the party will not allow any tinkering with the reservation policy for SCs and STs as enshrined in the Constitution.

Balbir Ram Rattan, Spokesperson, Jammu and Kashmir BJP & former Vice Chairperson, said this while discussing the constitutional rights of the SC and ST communities, with a group of party leaders.

Balbir emphasized that BJP has always been a strong advocate for social justice and empowerment. "The reservation provided to SCs and STs is a constitutional safeguard meant to ensure their socio-economic upliftment and any attempt to dilute or alter this provision will be firmly

He also charged Kashmir-based political parties of attempting to create divisions along regional and caste lines for their political gains. These parties have a history of playing divisive politics.

opposed by our party,"

he said.

Their aim is to create a wedge between communities and regions to serve their own vested interests. BJP, on the other hand, stands for unity, equality, and the holistic development of all communities, Balbir asserted.

Reaffirming BJP's stance on reservation in promotions, Balbir said that the party has been

consistently demanding the restoration of this policy. Reservation in promotions is essential to ensure that SC and ST employees get due representation at higher levels in government services.

Balbir further stated that the party has always worked towards ensuring that marginalized communities receive their due rights and benefits without discrimination.

He assured that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government is committed to the welfare of SCs and STs through various initiatives aimed at their education, employment, and social upliftment.

He urged people of these communities to stay vigilant against political parties that mislead them for electoral gains.

Balbir was discussing this issue with BJP SC Morcha Vice President Vijay Anand Gill, Morcha Office Secretary Hans Raj Loria, Secretary Girdhari Lal Dogra, Waryam Singh, Sardeesh Rana, Rishu Langeh.

## **Army organises Youth Career Counselling at Bhart**



#### **Top News Report**

DODA, Mar 19: The youth of our nation when nurtured and channelized effectively can become capable future leaders who build a bright and better future.

Confirming to this adage, the Indian Army organised a 'Youth Career Counselling' at HSS Marwar, Bhart. The counselling camp was aimed at spreading awareness amongst youth from far-flung

areas about opportunities available in the Indian Armed Forces for enrolling as a soldier or commissioning as an Officer and in civil jobs. A total of 50 x boys, 40 x girls & 15 x teachers' persons attended the

The army has always been at the forefront of guiding the youth and empowering them to grab more employment opportunities and channelizing their energy positively.

positively. The Army representative answered the student's queries satisfy-

ingly.
The knowledge gained by the students will certainly empower them towards making an informed decision for a successful career ahead. The students were highly motivated after the lecture.

Such noble initiatives of the Army will go a long way in empowering the youth and will further strengthen the existing bond between Indian Army and Awam.

## Attempt to destroy Bhaderkashi's religious and ecological heritage- a call for action: Manoj Padha

**Top News Report** 

ent parties. He said that

the people are hopeful

of a better and a pros-

perous society with BJP

and hence are commit-

ting themselves to the

ideology and policies of

expressed confidence

that the new entrants

will work with full dedi-

cation for the welfare

of the people in accor-

dance with the policies

Ashok Koul, said that

policies of BJP are

being hailed and adopt-

ed by everybody includ-

ing in Kashmir region.

The way senior and

prominent persons from

and ideology of BJP.

also

the party.

Sharma

JAMMU. Mar 19: In a grave violation of both our religious beliefs and the fragile ecosystem, the Government of J&K, under the influence of mining mafias, is once again attempting to destroy the sacred heritage of Bhaderkashi.

Their latest initiative involves the construction of a road leading to the revered Kablaas (Kailash Kund), the holy abode of Prabhu Shri Vasuki Naag Ji Maharaj.

This move, which directly contradicts a case currently under trial in the National Green Tribunal (NGT), is a direct assault on our faith and the very essence of our environment

Previously, the people of Bhaderkashi suc-



cessfully halted such destructive plans, but now, they have returned with a changed route, which only aims to further instigate the religious sentiments of Naag followers worldwide. This is not just an affront to our spiritual heritage but also a disaster in the making for the fragile ecosystem of the area.

The NGT has already made it clear that constructing a road to Kablaas Kund would be disastrous. The road construction poses severe threats to the flora, fauna, water resources, and the very geological integrity of this sacred place. Additionally, it would lead to irreversible changes

in the water courses of

the Neeru, Tawi, Uj, and

Seva rivers, which origi-

nate from this region.
Kailash Kund is a habitat for several endangered species, including the Himalayan Tahr (Hemitragus jemlatius),

ened by the IUCN Red List, and the Musk Deer (Moschus mosciferus), both of which are at risk due to habitat loss and hunting pressures. The construction of this road would further endanger these species by disrupting their natural habitats and migration corridors.

listed as near threat-

Moreover, this area is home to several rare and sacred plants, such as Mycohizza kutki, Bish aconite, Sanjeevani booti, and many others. The road construction would destroy these invaluable flora, which hold immense medicinal and spiritual significance for the people of Bhaderkashi and beyond.

We, the people of Bhaderkashi, cannot and will not stand by while our sacred heritage and the environment are destroyed. I urge every resident of Bhaderkashi to come out in full force and join the agitation against this ill-conceived project. This is our last chance to protect our heritage and prevent future ecological and spiritual disasters. Together, we must ensure that such disastrous projects never see the light of day again.

This project poses a significant threat to the delicate balance of the ecosystem, and the people of Bhaderkashi will not allow it to succeed. The time has come for us to stand united and give a proper lesson to those behind this reckless destruction of our land, faith, and environment.

# GGM Science College Jammu organises yoga session & demonstration as part of youth outreach program

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 19: Startup Committee (IIC) and Heritage Club along with NCC and NSS Unit of GGM Science College Jammu organized Yoga session & demonstration as part of Youth Outreach program in collaboration with Yogatvam, Jammu under the guidance of Principal Prof. (Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta) on Wednesday.

The yoga session was conducted by Sahil Mehra, Professional Yoga instructor and cofounder of yogatvam along with his team members including Ms. Riya Gupta and five little yogis and yoginis. Mr. Sahil Mehra deliberated upon the role of yoga in holistic well-being and its importance in the stress management especially in youth.

He demonstrated the various types of asanas starting with sukshama vyayama and its role in bringing body, mind, and applicit together.

and spirit together.
The event started with a welcome address by Dr. Balwinder Kaur, Convener, Startup Committee.

The session was attended by more than hundred students including NSS volunteers and NCC cadets along with the principal and faculty members namely Prof. Vandana Khajuria, Dr. Jatinder Kaur, Dr. Rahul Kait, Prof. Neha, Prof. Surind-

er, Prof. Varun and Dr. Ramesh Sachdeva of the college. They performed various Aasan's under the supervision of team members of Yogatvam.

The participation of more than a hundred students and faculty members in the yoga

session demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting health and holistic development.

The role of young yogis, including Simardeep Kour, Uma Bogia, Tejveer Singh, Uttam Bogia, and Praguni Sanotra, added a unique and inspiring touch to the session by demonstrating advanced Asanas, showing how yoga can be practiced at any age.

at any age.

The principal of the college emphasized the significance of yoga for the holistic development of human personality and encouraged the students to make yoga a part of their daily routine and appreciated the efforts of the organizing committees. The event was concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Ajay Singh Dadwal, Convener, Heritage

Club.

#### CRC Jammu, Tiger Division empower Divyangjan in Border Area



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 19: CRC Jammu and Indian Army's Tiger Division Empower Divyangjan in R.S. Pura Border Area Jammu, [Date]: In a remarkable effort to support and uplift Divyangjan (persons with disabilities) in the R.S. Pura Border Area of Jammu, Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Jammu, under DEPWD, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MOSJE), in collaboration with the Mahar Regiment under Tiger Division of the Indian Army, organized a special aids and appliances distribution pro-

gramme.
With a commitment to

improving the quality of life for Divyangjan, CRC Jammu played a pivotal role in facilitating this initiative by providing essential assistive devices worth approximately 11 lakh. The distributed aids aim to enhance mobility, independence, and overall well-being of over 80 identified beneficiaries. The identification process was meticulously carried out by Tiger Division jawans through an extensive door-to-door survey, ensuring that support reached those who needed it the most.

To further educate and empower the beneficiaries, Dr. Rohnika Sharma, Director, CRC Jammu, delivered an insightful guest lecture on various welfare schemes of MOSJE, highlighting opportunities available for persons with disabilities. Additionally, Dr. Hasnain Khan, Incharge, PMDK, CRC Jammu, conducted a demonstration session to guide beneficiaries on the proper operation and maintenance of the distributed aids and appliances.

This initiative underscores CRC Jammu's unwavering dedication to the holistic development and rehabilitation of Divyangjan in the region. Through continuous outreach programs, assistive support, and awareness initiatives, CRC Jammu remains at the forefront of empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring their seamless integration into society.

The Tiger Division of the Indian Army and CRC Jammu together reaffirm their commitment to community welfare, extending their support to those in need and fostering an inclusive and self-reliant society.

## Savita Punia reflects on Hockey India Awards and the support behind her success

MUMBAI, Mar 19 (Agencies): Former Indian Women's Hockey Team captain and seasoned goalkeeper Savita Punia was honoured with the prestigious Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year (Women) and the Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year at the Hockey India 7th Annual Awards 2024, held in New Delhi last week.

The accolades mark another milestone in her illustrious career, but she sees these awards as recognition of the people in her life who have made this possible.

Speaking on winning the Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year for the third time, Savita said, as quoted by the Hockey India press release, "It feels very good. There have been so many strong performances this year that I was not expecting to win. All athletes like to be recognized for their efforts, and I am grateful for the award."

While receiving the honour, Savita credited her team for their support. "Within the team, we all support each other and root for each other's success. None of us can achieve anything without the support of the team, so without them, this would not be possible," the goalkeeper said.

Savita was unable to attend



the awards in person this year. She tuned in from Toronto, Canada, and watched the proceedings live with her in-laws. She dedicated the award to them, acknowledging their encouragement.

"My husband and his family have been so supportive of hockey. A lot of athletes feel pressure to stop playing once they are married, but they have encouraged and enabled me to keep giving my best for the Indian team. I think I am fortunate to have their support," the

34-year-old player said. Reflecting on the Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year, Savita highlighted the dedication required to excel in her role.

"A lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes. Behind every stop, there are hours of training on footwork, agility, reflexes, and positioning. The coaches have worked very hard as well to help with my game," she added.

The past year has been particularly significant for Savita, with one of the highlights being the Hero Hockey India League, where she led Soorma Hockey Club. "Hockey India fulfilled their promise of hosting the Hero Hockey India League for women, and we are all so grateful. We truly enjoyed the tournament, and it helped us improve our individual skill sets as well."

Savita's awards also came

with substantial cash prizes-

-INR 25,00,000 for the Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year (Women) and INR 5,00,000 for the Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year. She underscored the importance of these rewards, saying, "In the early years, we could not believe that we could receive such huge amounts of money. Yes, it is about recognition, but it also empowers us to look after our family and loved ones and do things for them. I don't think there are many sports in India where women have these kinds of opportunities.'

Looking ahead, Savita's focus is on next year's World Cup and the upcoming round of the FIH Women's Pro League.

"When the country does so much to recognise and reward us, we owe it to them and the country to give our best. There is a sense of responsibility that comes with the awards," the player stated.

She further reflected on India's recent performances. "I think we had some strong performances in the recent round of the FIH Women's Pro League in Bhubaneswar. Defeating the Netherlands in a shootout was a big win for us, and I consider it my best performance of the year. So hopefully, we can do even better going forward," Savita concluded.

#### **Kolkata Knight Riders unveil** eco-friendly biodegradable jersey as 'Runs To Roots' campaign returns



KOLKATA, Mar 19 (Agencies): The Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) announced the launch of their new jersey made of biodegradable materials. This jersey, along with their innovative environmental initiative, 'Runs to Roots,' reinforces the team's commitment to sustainability and environmental conservation, as per a KKR press release.

The new KKR jersey, unveiled earlier in March, is designed to be 100% biodegradable in a compost state, setting a standard for sustainable sportswear in cricket. The jersey showcases the team's three championship stars, commemorating their victories since the inception of the premier T20 League.

This is in addition to the representation of the three stars that they have purchased in the Gemini constellation to celebrate their three Indian Premier League (IPL) trophies.

In addition to the ecofriendly jersey, KKR has introduced sustainable packaging that transforms into plants when sown in soil with water. This innovative approach eliminates waste while contributing positively to the environment.

Alongside the jersey launch, KKR will continue with the 'Runs to Roots' campaign during the 2025 season, building on the success that the team had at the end of the 2024 season.

The biodegradable jerseys and sustainable packaging are already available to the fans, allowing them to participate in KKR's environmental mission with every purchase.

The Knight Riders will kick off their campaign against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on March 22 at the iconic Eden Gardens. They aim to defend their title and add another glorious chapter to their legacy. KKR squad for IPL 2025:

-Batters: Rinku Singh (retained), Rovman Powell, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Manish Pandey, Luvnith Sisodia, Ajinkya Rahane.

-Wicketkeepers: Quinton de Kock, Rahmanullah Gurbaz.

-Allrounders: Venkatesh lyer (pace), Andre Russell (pace: retained), Sunil Narine (spin; retained), Ramandeep Singh (pace; retained), Anukul Roy (spin), Moeen Ali (spin).

-Spinners: Varun Chakravarthy (retained), Mayank Markande.

-Fast bowlers: Harshit Rana (retained), Vaibhav Arora, Anrich Nortje, Spencer Johnson, Chetan Sakariya.

#### Not having Bumrah is a challenge: MI coach Jayawardene

MUMBAI, Mar 19 (Agencies): Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene did not give a time frame for Jasprit Bumrah's return to competitive cricket, and said the pace spearhead's absence will be a massive "challenge" for his side in the IPL 2025.

Bumrah will miss a few initial games of the tournament as he is currently recuperating from a back injury at the BCCI Centre of Excellence at Bengaluru.

"Jasprit Bumrah is at the NCA. We have to wait and see their feedback on him. At the moment it is going well, the progress is on a day to day basis," said Jayawardene during MI's pre-season press meet here on Wednesday.

"He is in good spirits, and not having him is a challenge. He is the best bowler in the world," he added.



Bumrah has been sidelined since the final Test against Australia at Sydney in early January, when he could not bowl in the second innings as the hosts chased down 162 to seal a 3-1 series victory.

Bumrah's return is shrouded in uncertainty but MI skipper Hardik Pandva said having an experienced campaigner like the 30-year-old in the dressing room will

help him. Bumrah is expected to link with Mumbai colleagues in the first week of April and could con-

tinue his rehabilitation

with the team.

"I am lucky that I have three captains playing with me — Rohit, Surya and Bumrah. They always place an arm around my shoulder and are there when I need any help," said Pandya.

## "I also feel Virat has taken unnecessary criticism": AB de Villiers on Virat Kohli

NEW DELHI, Mar 19 (Agencies): Former Royal Challengers Bengaluru player AB de Villiers shared his thoughts on Virat Kohli's form and his role for RCB this season. He said Virat looked very calm while batting last year, and I don't think he needs to change it much; AB de Villiers is on Jio Hotstar.

He also praised Phil Salt and his hitting ability, calling him one of the most attacking players in the IPL. He said Virat should play and control the game as he has been doing for years. He admired his instincts and thinks he should be the captain of RCB's batting department.

"I do feel RCB has what it takes to go all the way. Virat looked very calm and composed in the last IPL. He seems to be enjoying his cricket, especially in the Champions Trophy, where I can clearly see



his joy while batting. I don't think he needs to change much. Batting with Phil Salt, one of the most attacking players we've seen in IPL and other tournaments, will take a lot of pressure off him," AB de Villiers on Jio Hotstar.

"All Virat needs to do is what he's been doing for years: control the

game. He has the best

instincts of any player, and he knows when to accelerate and when to hold back. I believe he should be the 'captain of the batting department' this season, keeping the team steady and playing smart cricket. Given the constant travel and venue changes, preventing batting collapses will be crucial, and Virat will play a key role in ensuring that," he added. De Villiers also felt that

Kohli had received a lot of unnecessary criticism over the years. He is batting very well, but outside noise has influenced him. He also said that he felt the same way in his playing days. "I also feel Virat has

taken unnecessary criticism over the past few seasons. He's batting incredibly well. Of course, outside noise might have influenced nim--it nappens to all of us. I experienced it in my playing days, too. Not necessarily in my performance, but you do think about it--we're all human.'

He also spoke about Kohli's T-20 cricket; he said when it is about the team, he always crosses the line, keeping everything aside. He mentioned his focus on

the Champions Trophy 2025 and felt that Kohli still has plenty of T-20 cricket left in him.

"But the one thing about Virat is that when he crosses that line for his team, he blocks everything out--it's business time. You could see the focus in his eyes during the Champions Trophy. And yes, he might have announced his retirement from international T20 cricket, but I believe there's plenty left in the tank for him. With RCB's current batting lineup, I don't think ne il feel too much pres sure. He just needs to go out there, play what's in front of him, and that's when he's at his absolute best." he added.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru will take on the defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders in the season opener on Saturday, March 22, at Eden Gardens, Kolkata.

## Sophie Devine, Melie Kerr, Lea Tahuhu return as New Zealand Women announce squad for T20I series against Australia

WELLINGTON, Mar 19 (Agencies): Several big names like Sophie Devine, Melie Kerr, and Lea Tahuhu rejoined the squad as New Zealand Women on Wednesday announced their T20I squad for the upcoming three-match series against Australia.

Sophie Devine makes her comeback following a well-being break, which had kept her out of the Super Smash, Women's Premier League, and New Zealand's recent series against Sri Lanka. ICC Women's Crick-

eter of the Year Melie Kerr also returned after a successful stint in the Women's Premier League, where she claimed her second title.

The all-rounder's last T20I appearance for

New Zealand was in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup final, where the 24-year-old was named Player of the Match in a title-winning performance. The reigning T20

World Cup champions will face their counterparts Down Under. alongside the Black Caps and Pakistan, in T20I double-headers across Auckland, Tauranga, and Wellington.

Recently, the side played a three-match ODI and T20I series against Sri Lanka at home. New Zealand won the ODI series 2-0 and drew the T20I series 1-1, with a game being washed out in both for-

Suzie Bates was the pick among the sides as she scored 99 runs

at an average of 33 and a strike rate of 112.50 in the T20I series. She was the top scorer. Bates will continue to lead the side as interim captain following Devine's decision to step down after the Women's T20 World Cup last year.

White Ferns Head Coach Ben Sawyer expressed his delight in welcoming back three key players to his side. "We're thrilled to have

Soph, Melie, and Lea back for this series, they bring invaluable experience and leadership to the team," he said as quoted by the ICC official website.

Devine, speaking on her return, said, "It's been nice to have some time to reset and refocus. I'm really looking forward to getting back

out there with the girls." New Zealand take on Australia in their first game on March 21 at Eden Park in Auckland.

The first match of the T20I series will be played on Friday, March 21, at Eden Park in Auckland, followed by the second T20I at Bay Oval, Tauranga, on Sunday, March 23. The third and final encounter of the series will be played at Sky Stadium in Wellington on Wednesday, March 26.

Squad:

Suzie Bates (c), Eden Carson, Sophie Devine, Maddy Green, Brooke Halliday, Polly Inglis, Bella James, Fran Jonas, Jess Kerr, Melie Kerr, Rosemary Mair, Georgia Plimmer, Lea Tahuhu.

## Sukant Kadam rises to World No. 2 after stellar performance at Spanish Para Badminton International 2025

NEW DELHI, Mar 19 (Agencies): India's parabadminton star Sukant Kadam has climbed to World No. 2 in the SL4 category in the latest **BWF** Para-Badminton World Rankings, following a string of impressive performances at the recently concluded Spanish Para-Badminton International 2025.

Sukant now stands at 53,650 points, just behind Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan (56,680 points), with France's Lucas Mazur in third place at 48,400 points. as per the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) press release.

The ranking surge comes after a strong showing across two Grade 2 tournaments



and one Grade 1 tournament in Spain. Sukant was in sublime form during the Grade 2 event, where he clinched gold in the SL4 category, defeating fellow Indian Tarun in a dominant final with a scoreline of 21-13,

21-10. In the Grade 1 tournament, Sukant fought a spirited battle but narrowly missed the top spot, going down to compatriot Naveen Sivakumar in a close contest (14-21, 21-14,

14-21). Speaking on his achievement, Sukant Kadam said as quoted by the PCI press

release, "It's a great start to 2025, and I'm happy with how I've been playing. Reaching World No. 2 is a proud moment, but the focus is now on maintaining this momentum. With major tournaments lined up, including the Asian Para Games and the World Championships next year, the goal is to stay consistent and keep improving."

Sukant's rise reflected not just individual excellence but also India's growing dominance in para badminton on the global stage. With a busy international calendar ahead, all eyes will be on him as he aims to scale even greater heights.

# Movement Kalki condemns Assembly silence on cow protection amidst salary hike approval

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 19: Movement Kalki held a powerful press conference at Amphala Chowk, Jammu, criticizing the government for its failure to address cow protection laws despite its unanimous approval of salary hikes for assembly members.

The event highlighted the ongoing 150-day protest demanding the declaration of Mother Cow as the National Mother, the implementation of strict cow protection laws, the construction of Gaushalas (cow shelters), and strong action against cow smuggling.

Speaking at the press conference, Movement Kalki's Organizational Secretary, Karnail Chand, directly accused the government, stating, "Today, our leaders in the assembly stand united when it comes to increasing their own salaries, yet they remain completely silent on enacting strict laws for the protection of Mother Cow. In the time of kings, the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) was in force, and harming a cow was pun



ishable under Section 302. But after the abrogation of Article 370, both the police and the judiciary have been rendered powerless. Smugglers operate freely, knowing they can escape justice with mere bribes."

"Does a real government even exist in this country anymore? Will we have to make extreme sacrifices, or stage mass protests like 'Bam Bam Bhole' before they finally take notice?"

Movement Kalki's Legal Advisor, Advocate Someshwar Kohli, criticized the government for allegedly suppressing Sanatani voices while allowing protests

from other groups:

"In Delhi, all four Shankaracharyas planned to gather at Jantar Mantar to demand the declaration of Mother Cow as the National Mother. Instead, the government imposed Section 144, sealed the borders, and stopped the protest. Meanwhile, other communities are openly allowed to protest against Waqf Board amendments. This is a direct insult to crores of Sanatanis who voted for this government. Why is there no discussion in the Assembly or Parliament on this crucial issue?"

ment on this crucial issue?"

Movement Kalki Board

Member Vikram Mahajan made an emotional appeal to all Sanatanis "We have been protesting at Amphala Chowk for 150 days. We urge every cow devotee and nationalist to join this sacred movement. This is not just a protest anymore; it is a holy mission to cleanse society of its growing evils. We will not stop until Mother Cow is officially declared as Rashtra Mata and strong laws are passed to ensure her protection."

Movement Kalki has vowed to persist with its agitation until the government fulfills its demands. The organization remains steadfast in its mission to protect Mother Cow, establish a Sanatan Board, and push for stricter enforcement of cow protection laws across the country.

The conference concluded with an urgent call for unity among Sanatanis and nationalist groups, urging them to come forward and support the movement for the restoration of traditional values and legal protection for cows.

## Dimple leads protest for Restoration of J&K Statehood, demands return of Article 370



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 19: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, led a strong protest rally demanding the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir princely Dogra state and the reinstatement of Article 370. Addressing the gathering, Dimple asserted that after the abrogation of Article 370, the people and youth of Jammu and Kashmir have been severely affected, struggling with poverty, unemployment, and deteriorating living conditions

Dimple made a direct appeal to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, urging him not to compromise or dilute the statehood and special status demands outlined in the election manifesto. He emphasized that Mission Statehood has already declared its intent to operate a parallel assembly on the streets until their demands are fulfilled. He reiterated that today's protest was a clear call for the restoration of J&K's Dogra state along with Article 370 and special status.

Warning the government of continued protests, Dimple declared that Jammu's Dogras will never compromise on their rightful statehood, the Instru ment of Accession conditions, or Article 370 and 35-A, which were granted by Maharaja Hari Singh Ji. He further alleged that the elected alliance government is unable to function independently, as the Chief Minister and Cabinet Ministers are forced to seek approval from the Union Government for every deci-

Dimple strongly criticized BJP MLAs, accusing them of playing an irresponsible role by failing to demand the restoration of the Dogra state. He described their behavior in the assembly as childish and lacking seriousness.

sion due to the absence of

full statehood

As part of his demands, Dimple called for the immediate restoration of J&K statehood, a waiver on electricity bills, 200 units of free electricity, 12 LPG cylinders per family, and double ration supplies for all citizens. He also urged the government to resume the Darbar Move from April 1, a long-standing tradition that has been discontinued.

Dimple further alleged that after the abrogation of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir has been placed on a "grand sale," with lakhs of kanals of land being allotted to over 200 outside investors for

3 Sessions

SCAN OR CODE TO RAY

STUDY KOSHI

shudukosh595@Ybl

business purposes. He accused the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) and the Housing Department of illegally selling flats to non-residents, which he believes poses a serious threat to the demography of the Dogra state.

Dimple went on to accuse

the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of deliberately withholding Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, comparing its actions to the East India Company by looting the region's resources. He claimed that after downgrading J&K to a Union Territory, the government allowed outsiders to take over liquor and mining businesses, halted the Darbar Move, and sold off vital power projects.

Dimple demanded that LG Manoj Sinha and CM Omar Abdullah restart the Darbar Move this April. He also criticized the BJP, Prime Minister, and Home Minister, accusing them of being non-committal on the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

The protest was attended by several senior leaders, including Sunny, Narender Chowdhury, Raja, Ram Kumar, Mohinder Kumar, Raju, Sudesh Kumar, and Bishan Das, among others.

#### MLA Mohan Lal honours BJP Mandal Sohal-Sungal's new team, calls for Panchayat Election readiness

**Top News Report** 

AKHNOOR, Mar 19: A felicitation ceremony was organized for the newly formed Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Mandal Sohal-Sungal team at Panchayat Sungal Lower B on Wednesday.

The event was presided over by Mandal President Shamsher Dass, with former Sarpanchs Rampal Sharma and Anju Sharma playing key roles in ensuring the program's smooth execution.

MLA Mohan Lal attended as the chief guest. Several prominent figures, including senior leader Jugal Dogra, Surinder Singh, Ganesh Sharma, former Sarpanch Mahesh Chandra, former Sarpanch Ashwani Sharma, former Sarpanch Kuldeep Singh, former Sarpanch Prabhdayal, Sanjay Sharma,

and Suman Singh, also graced the occasion.

Honoring the newly formed team, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat stated that this team would become the backbone of the party in the region, strengthening the organization while playing a crucial role in delivering the central government's welfare schemes to every household.

He urged all members to gear up for the upcoming Panchayat elections and spread the party's ideology among the people.

Mohan Lal shared that several projects worth crores of rupees have been initiated in the region under the Jal Jeevan Mission. He reaffirmed his commitment to the holistic development of the area and encouraged party workers to actively implement the Modi government's schemes on the ground.

Shiv Sena demands reconsideration,

Aim of rulers should not be their own happiness: Sahni

planning of unemployment allowance

During the event, Mohan Lal honoured President Shamsher Das, Vice Presidents Kishori Lal, Sandesh Kumar, Sheela Kumari, Sardari Lal, General Secretaries Captain Sham Lal and Jagdish Singh, Secretaries Sonia Sharma, Babu Ram, Arundeep, Amit Sharma, Media Secretary Anchal Singh, Treasurer Mahesh Chander, and Executive Members Asha Rani, Tilak Raj, Pardeep Kumar, Sukhdev Sharma, Satpal, Rampal, Jagdish Raj, Ashok Singh, Madan Lal, Satveer Kaur, Radha Devi, Jyoti Devi, Inderjit Singh, Surya Sharma, Dev Raj, Jagdish Singh, Prabhu dayal, Anita Devi, Swarna Devi, Neela Devi, Sunita Devi, Anju Devi, Bandu Sharma, Sudesh Kumar, Anjali Devi, Keval Kumar, Balwant Raj, Ved Pal, Kai-

lash Kumar, Jeeta Ram,

and Kulwant Rai.

#### We are proud of Sunita Williams, say Kaith, others

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 19: Social and political activists: R.L.Kaith, Hans Raj Loria, Krishan Lal, Jagdish Raj, Girdhari Lal Dogra and many others prayed for Astronaut Sunita Williams' safe return journey to Earth, yesterday and said, we are now glad that she homed safely after spending over nine months aboard

the International Space Station (ISS).

R.L.Kaith said, taking a Ganesh idol with her to space, keeping it by her side throughout her mission, and capturing an iconic view of the Kumbh Mela from space, shows Williams' deep connection to India.

We're so proud of
Williams who is doing
great things, said all.

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#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 19: It is unfortunate that the government does not have any scheme or money to give allowance to the educated unemployed, but the consensus on increasing their salary, pension, development fund in a jiffy forces one to think that the aim of the people in power is 'only their own happiness', stated by Manish Sahni, President, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that the growing unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir is a matter of deep concern, the young generation disappointed by not getting employment is getting trapped in depression and is rapidly moving towards the web of drug addiction and crime.

Despite more than four months having passed since the formation of the government, no concrete steps have been taken to provide relief to the youth from unemployment.

The youth hoping for unemployment allowance have also been shocked by the attitude of the government. According to the data presented by the government, 3.70 lakh unemployed are registered in the state.

although the ground figures are much higher than this.

In December 2024, more than 5.5 lakh candidates participated in the written examination for 4,002 posts of constables in Jammu and Kashmir Police.

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In 2023-24, the unemployment rate of Jammu and Kashmir among the age group of 15-29 was 17.4%. At the same time, the post-graduate unemployment rate was 23.9%, which is twice the national average rate

Sahni has demanded from the Omar Abdullah government to give allowance to educated unemployed youth.