

TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

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Saiyami Kher: A lot of times, female characters still feel like an afterthought



Nadda asks MPs to ensure health check-up for all citizens in their constituencies every year

Trump says people sabotaging Teslas may go to jail for "up to twenty years"



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BRIEFLY

Truck runs over 3 year old girl in Kulgam

KULGAM, Mar 21 (Agencies): A three-year-old girl died after a truck ran over her in South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday. Jammu and Kashmir travel guide An official told that the accident took place at Peerbal village in Frisal. The truck bearing No: JK05AB-9876 hit the victim identified as Zainab Junaid (3), daughter of Junaid Ahmad Sofi of Frisal she died on the spot. The official said that the truck driver was arrested, and a case has been registered.

Youth found dead under mysterious conditions in Samba

JAMMU, Mar 21 (Agencies): A youth was found dead under mysterious conditions in Samba district of Jammu division on Friday. An official told that a 25 years old youth from Rajouri was found dead under mysterious circumstances near railway line in Sarore area of Bari Brahmana, Jammu. He has been identified as Raja Ibrar Khan son of Abdul Rehman Khan resident of Sarola, Manjakote, Rajouri. Meanwhile police have reached the spot and started investigation in this regard.

Raghav Langer appointed Secretary, National Medical Commission

JAMMU, Mar 21 (Agencies): The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Raghav Langer, IAS (UD:2009), as Secretary, National Medical Commission (NMC) at the Joint Secretary level under the Department of Health & Family Welfare. As per an order, Langer will serve in this role from the date of assuming charge for a combined tenure of seven years, up to October 3, 2025, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Sushma Chauhan appointed Joint Secretary in MHA

JAMMU, Mar 21 (Agencies): Senior IAS officer Sushma Chauhan from the J&K-AGMUT

Jammu IIM secures rank 22nd in IIRF rankings

JAMMU, Mar 21 (Agencies): Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu has once again marked its growing presence on the national stage by securing the 22nd position in the Best B-Schools (Government) overall category in the prestigious IIRF (Indian Institutional Ranking Framework) Rankings 2025.

As per the handout issued here, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, with an overall index score of 906.42, IIM Jammu has been ranked on various critical parameters such as Placement Performance; Teaching,



Learning Resources & Pedagogy; Research, Industry Income and Integration; Placement Strategy and Support; Future Orientation; External Perception and International Outlook (EPIO).

The rankings were released based on a

comprehensive evaluation of parameters crucial to higher management education.

Prof Sahay extended gratitude to the Ministry of Education, Government of India, for its continuous support and guidance, and conveyed his acknowledgment to

Dr. Milind P Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu, and the Board of Governors for their visionary leadership and encouragement in steering the institute towards excellence.

He stated that this recognition in the IIRF Rankings 2025 is a proud moment for the IIM Jammu community and reflects the institute's collective commitment to building an institution of national importance that not only imparts quality education but also shapes responsible leaders of tomorrow.

He emphasized that IIM Jammu has

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SC agrees to an in-house enquiry on allegations of cash pile at Delhi HC judge's residence

NEW DELHI, Mar 21 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday (March 21, 2025) unanimously agreed to initiate an in-house enquiry into allegations against Delhi High Court judge, Justice Yashwant Varma, following reports of unaccounted cash found in his official residence.

Senior judges of the Supreme Court had met in the morning to discuss the issue. Twelve Benches of the top court did not assemble at the usual court hours.

Media reports said the cash was found by fire



tenders when a blaze broke out in the judge's residence on March 14, during the night of Holi festival. The judge was not present at his house. His family had called emergency services.

The information about the cash was passed on to the police. It travelled through the government

echelons and was finally

conveyed to the Chief Justice of India.

"Recovery of cash" from residence of judge: Issue raised in Rajya Sabha

"The issue of corruption within the judiciary is a very serious issue. This is not something that has been articulated by senior counsils and lawyers in the country for the first time. It has been going on for years."

Kapil Sibal Senior advocate and President, Supreme Court Bar Association

The Supreme Court

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Minister Sakeena Itoo visits Anantnag fire victims, assures full support



ANANTNAG, Mar 21 (Agencies): Cabinet Minister Sakina Itoo on

Friday visited the fire victims of Gajinag, Kadi-pora in south Kashmir's

Anantnag, and assured them of full government support.

"We have been sent here by the CM Omar Abdullah himself, and all possible help from the government will be provided," she assured the victims.

Itoo also promised to consult with the district administration to create a concrete relief plan.

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Saurabh Bharadwaj appointed Delhi AAP Chief, Mehraj Malik to head J&K Unit

NEW DELHI, Mar 21 (Agencies): After losing its home turf Delhi in the Assembly elections held last month, the Aam Aadmi Party on Friday announced a major organisational rejig by appointing former minister Saurabh Bharadwaj as the new president of its Delhi unit and Mehraj Malik has been named



the new chief of the party's Jammu and Kashmir unit.



While Bharadwaj replaces Gopal Rai, Sisodia takes charge of

Punjab, the only state in the country where the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is in power at present.

The decisions were taken during a meeting of the AAP's political affairs committee (PAC) at the residence of party supremo Arvind Kejriwal.

Announcing the

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Criminals involved in narco-terrorism will be dealt with sternly: DGP Prabhat

PULWAMA, Mar 21 (Agencies): Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Friday reaffirmed the commitment of law enforcement agencies to intensify the crack-down on criminals involved in narco-terrorism in Jammu and

Kashmir. Talking to reporters after addressing a public darbar here in South Kashmir, DGP Prabhat, aid, "Criminals involved in narco-terrorism will be dealt with sternly."

The DGP refused to comment on whether

there is any possibility of infiltration witnessing a rise in coming days as snow has started melting.

Replying to a query he said, "Lets not make predictions like meteorological department." He said that more public darbars will be held in the coming days.

HC rejects bail for J&K resident in alleged JeM recce plot

NAGPUR, Mar 21 (Agencies): The Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court on Friday denied bail to a Jammu and Kashmir resident, accused of being a Jaish-e-Mohammed operative and conducting a recce of the memorial of RSS founder Dr K B Hedgewar here. Jammu travel packages Raees Ahmed Sheikh Asadulla Sheikh was arrested in 2022 for

allegedly conducting a reconnaissance of Dr Hedgewar Smruti Mandir, the memorial of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) founder, located in the city's Reshimbag area, on September 15, 2021. He had moved the HC earlier this month seeking bail citing lack of evidence.

A division bench of Justices Nitin Suryawanshi and Pravin Patil rejected

the bail plea. A detailed copy of the order will be available later.

Sheikh is currently lodged in Nagpur Central Jail.

As per prosecution, Sheikh had also allegedly planned to conduct a recce of the RSS headquarters located in the Mahal area of the city but couldn't do so.

It is alleged that Sheikh passed on information,

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Security breach in Kathua Jail: Two mobile phones recovered, Probe ordered

SRINAGAR, Mar 21 (Agencies): Two mobile phones were recovered by Kathua Jail authorities during a routine search operation, raising questions of security negligence in the high-security jail. Sources told that the

recovered phones are basic mobile phones. An investigation has been ordered to find out how the phones entered the jail and who brought them in.

Kathua Jail has a few hard-core criminals, including gangsters and

terrorists, on its rolls. The detection of these phones has raised questions about possible contact by prisoners with external networks.

The authorities have promised a proper probe into the case, and stern action will be taken against the culprits.



STOP...!
MOSQUITO BREEDING
PREVENT MALARIA, DENGUE & CHIKUNGUNYA

- Do not allow water to stagnate in and around your surroundings.
- Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.
- Get your Blood tested from Govt. Hospital/ Health Worker in case of Fever with chills, rigors and headache.
- Empty water coolers once in a week.
- Discard/destroy Junk items like old tyres etc.
- Empty air coolers, drums, flower pots and birds bath weekly.
- Use Mosquito repellent creams and Bed nets while sleeping.
- Use netted screens on doors and windows.
- Wear full body clothes to prevent mosquito bites.
- Improve basic sanitation.

Symptoms

- Dengue** : High fever, frontal headache, pain behind the eyes worsening with eye movement, muscle & joint pains, rash on the body, pain abdomen, nausea, vomiting, bleeding and low BP in severe cases.
- Chikungunya** : Fever, joint pains, muscle pain, fatigue, headache, rash.
- Malaria** : High grade fever with chills, sweating, headache, vomiting convulsions, weakness.

Visit nearby Health Institution if any of above diseases is suspected. Investigations & Treatment are free of cost in Govt. Institutions



ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY :
STATE PROGRAMME OFFICER/STATE MALARIOLOGIST, J&K
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES JAMMU

DIP/J-11258/24

Ritika Trehan meets Union Minister Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Mar 21: Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT Ritika Trehan today met with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari to discuss pressing issues in Jammu and Kashmir that fall under his ministry's purview especially infrastructure development, which is crucial for J&K's economic growth and connectivity.



in the loss of precious lives demanding enhancing safety measures, such as installing crash barriers, improving road lighting, and enforcing traffic regulations. Ritika sought to ensure that the government takes concrete steps to prevent road accidents and save lives in Jammu and Kashmir.

and cities, making it easier for people to access amenities, services and opportunities, added Ritika.

Ritika appreciated Gadkari for playing significant role in strengthening India's road network, including the construction of flyovers and national highways across the country, including Jammu and Kashmir.

improved road connectivity but also boosted economic growth, tourism and job opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir, added Ritika.

Ritika said Nitin Gadkari's tenure as the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways from 2014 to 2025 has been marked by significant achievements and transformative initiatives.

Ritika further said that Gadkari has introduced various measures to improve road safety, such as the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, and the implementation of intelligent transportation systems.

Mehbooba Mufti offers condolences to ex-MLA Faqeer Mohammad Khan's family in Kangan

KANGAN, Mar 21 (Agencies): Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday visited the Kangan area in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district to offer condolences

to the family of former MLA Gurez and BJP leader Faqeer Mohammad Khan.

Khan had allegedly died by suicide at his official residence in the Tulsibagh locality of Srinagar on Thursday.

Mufti met the family members and relatives

of Khan in Kangan and expressed her condolences. She was accompanied by senior party leader Bashir Ahmad Mir and others. Earlier, thousands of people attended the funeral prayers of Faqeer Khan in Kangan, where he was later laid to rest.

Health Supplements donated to Shelter Home for Urban Homeless Boria Basti



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 21: In a commendable initiative aimed at promoting health and well-being, Social Reform Charitable Organisation (SRCO), Kishtwar, in collaboration with Vichar Kranti Manch International, donated essential health supplements to the Shelter Home for Urban Homeless and Jagriti Mahila Udyog Kendra, Bahu.

was graced by Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, who served as the Chief Guest.

The supplements were distributed by his esteemed hands with the assistance of Narinder Wadhwa, Treasurer of the Senior Citizens Joy Society.

During the event, Dr. Jain interacted with the staff and inmates, including Veena Bakshi,

Incharge Manager of the Shelter Home, and Sham Lal, former Municipal Corporation, JMC. He also shared valuable health tips to help maintain the well-being of the residents and graciously offered his continued support and assistance to the shelter's inmates.

"This effort underscores our commitment to enhancing the health of marginalized communities and ensuring they receive essential nutritional support," said Dr. Jain.

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Sham Lal, acknowledging the collective efforts of all those who contributed to this noble cause.

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

Yudhvir Sethi holds Janata Darbar

Says BJP committed to address people's day-to-day problems

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 21: MLA Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi on Friday held a public grievance camp at Purani Mandi Jammu and listened to the issues faced by the public.

The camp witnessed a huge rush of people including Taxi Union, OBC community people, bus stand hawkers, transporters, member of Sain Samaj and people from all sections of society from across Jammu city who came to the party office to discuss

their issues with senior BJP leader.

Various deputations, including individual persons visited the camp to present their grievances on issues such as ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, and other development-related topics, as well as personal issues.

Yudhvir Sethi gave a patient hearing to the deputations and assured to resolve their issues by taking up the authorities concerned. Sethi said that the



BJP is committed to addressing the day-to-day problems being faced by the people in general and Jammu City in particular and that the

party is making a sincere attempt to lessen the gap between administration and people.

The senior BJP leader also stated that only BJP

can fulfill the dreams and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and address their issues on a priority basis.

Mohalla wine shops in Hindu dominated areas, conspiracy, demand for investigation: Shiv Sena

95.4% liquor shops in Jammu division while 4.6% in Kashmir

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 21: The allegation on Hindu community that they consume more alcohol is completely baseless and unfounded. Out of the total 305 liquor shops in Jammu and Kashmir, 95.6% (291) shops are in Hindu dominated Jammu division, which is a sign of a well-planned conspiracy and brings back memories of Mohamad Rafi's famous song 'Peeta Nahi Pilai Gayi Hai', stated by Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit.



Reacting strongly to a controversial statement made yesterday by AAP MLA Mehraj Malik on Hindus and drinking alcohol, Shiv Sena (UBT) state chief Manish Sahni said that Jammu division (Hindu dominated area) of Jammu and Kashmir is full of liquor shops and wine bars.

The government is concerned about public health by opening Mohalla clinics, while in Jammu division (Hindu dominated areas) Mohalla wine

shops (liquor shops) are seen attracting people to drink at every step. Out of the total 305 liquor shops in Jammu and Kashmir, 291 i.e. 95.4% shops are in the Hindu-dominated Jammu division. It is a matter of great concern that the number of liquor shops is being continuously increased ignoring religious faith. The city of temples, Jammu, has today been transformed into a city of liquor in a conspiracy.

Sahni, describing liquor shops as the first step of addiction, said that under a well-planned conspiracy, the number of liquor shops is continuously increasing in Hindu-dominated areas, for which the BJP is equally guilty along with the Kashmiri rulers. The process of

increasing liquor shops in Jammu city and its surrounding areas started in 2014 with the coming of the Mufti Mohammad Sayeed-led PDP-BJP government, which continues even after the reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir and its becoming a Union Territory. There should be a thorough investigation of this matter. Sahni demanded that the BJP leaders who claim to be well-wishers of Hindus should raise their voice openly in favor of liquor ban.

Along with this, he demanded an investigation as to at whose behest and whose pockets are being filled by the illegal earnings and the reckless charging above the MRP by liquor most sellers.

Shrimad Bhagwat Katha concludes in R S Pura, devotees participate in Bhandara

Top News Report

R S PURA, Mar 21: The week-long Shrimad Bhagwat Katha in Badayal Brahmin village, R.S. Pura, concluded on Friday with a grand Bhandara (community feast), where a large number of devotees received prasad.

On the final day, renowned spiritual speaker Shri Rakesh Shastri Ji Maharaj mesmerized the devotees with his divine discourse. He emphasized the importance of Prabhru Simran (remembrance of God) and good deeds in his sermons.

The closing ceremony was graced by MLA Prof. Garu Ram Bhagat and Sarpanch Binny Sharma as chief guests. They paid their respects to the Katha Vyas and prayed for peace, prosperity, and happiness in Jammu & Kashmir.

Devotees experienced spiritual bliss through the recitation of the Bhagwat Katha and later participated in the Bhandara, making the event a grand success. The villagers expressed special gratitude to the family of former Sarpanch Bihari Lal Sharma for their contributions to the event's success.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (M) G.W.D. DIVISION JAMMU SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER E -NIT NO GWD/248 OF 2024-25 DATED 18.03.2025

EDITORIAL

IMPROVE NATURAL FARMING

In the face of pressing environmental challenges, dwindling natural resources, and the growing burden of unsustainable farming practices, natural farming has emerged as a transformative approach. This holistic farming method emphasizes harmony with nature, utilizing indigenous resources and eco-friendly techniques to cultivate crops without relying on synthetic chemicals, fertilizers, or genetically modified organisms. The push for natural farming is not only necessary but urgent, as it offers a sustainable path forward for agriculture, benefiting farmers, consumers, and the planet.

Modern agricultural practices, particularly those introduced during the Green Revolution, have undoubtedly increased food production. However, they have also led to significant environmental and social costs, including soil degradation, water contamination, loss of biodiversity, and health risks due to excessive chemical usage. Farmers, especially in developing countries, are grappling with rising input costs, shrinking profits, and vulnerability to climate change.

Natural farming provides a sustainable alternative by focusing on the use of natural resources and traditional techniques to revitalize soil health, conserve water, and promote biodiversity. It aligns agriculture with ecological principles, ensuring long-term sustainability and resilience against climate-induced challenges.

Natural farming is built on the foundation of working with nature rather than against it. One of its core approaches, Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), advocates for minimal or zero reliance on external inputs. Farmers are encouraged to use locally available resources, such as cow dung, cow urine, and plant biomass, to prepare natural fertilizers and pest repellents.

Additionally, natural farming emphasizes biodiversity through intercropping, crop rotation, and the use of cover crops, which naturally enhance soil fertility and pest resistance. Practices like minimal soil disturbance, mulching, and water-efficient techniques further contribute to conserving natural resources while improving agricultural productivity.

Natural farming rejuvenates degraded soils by increasing organic matter and fostering microbial diversity. It prevents water pollution by eliminating chemical runoff and promotes water conservation through efficient irrigation techniques. Furthermore, practices like agroforestry and organic mulching contribute to carbon sequestration, aiding in climate change mitigation.

One of the most significant advantages of natural farming is the reduction in input costs. Farmers save money by avoiding expensive chemical fertilizers and pesticides, relying instead on natural alternatives. The resilient nature of crops grown under natural farming reduces losses due to pests, diseases, and extreme weather events. Additionally, the growing demand for organic and chemical-free produce allows farmers to fetch premium prices for their products.

Natural farming eliminates the risk of harmful chemical residues in food, providing healthier and safer options for consumers. The nutrient-rich produce derived from these methods improves dietary quality and reduces the likelihood of chronic illnesses associated with chemical exposure.

By promoting traditional agricultural practices and local knowledge, natural farming helps revive cultural heritage and fosters a sense of pride among farming communities. It also strengthens social bonds by encouraging community participation in sustainable agricultural initiatives.

Despite its potential, the widespread adoption of natural farming is hindered by several challenges. Farmers may lack awareness about natural farming techniques or hesitate to transition due to concerns about initial yield drops. Additionally, inadequate policy support, market access, and certification systems pose barriers to scaling up natural farming practices.

To address these challenges, governments and organizations must play a proactive role. Training programs, workshops, and field demonstrations can help educate farmers about the benefits and methods of natural farming. Financial incentives, such as subsidies and low-interest loans, can ease the burden of transition. Moreover, robust market linkages and branding initiatives can ensure that farmers receive fair compensation for their natural produce.

Several countries and states have already taken significant steps to promote natural farming. In India, initiatives like the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) aim to encourage organic and natural farming practices. States such as Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh are implementing Zero Budget Natural Farming on a large scale, setting examples for others to follow.

Globally, movements advocating for agroecology and regenerative agriculture are gaining momentum, aligning with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to address food security, poverty alleviation, and climate resilience.

By: Vijay Garg

Humanities is often seen as a "last resort" for students with lower scores

Science and commerce enrolments are 1.5 times higher than humanities. Parents and society prioritise science and commerce for better job prospects.

When I chose Arts in Class 11, the air at home thickened with unspoken dismay. My parents exchanged glances, my relatives whispered behind my back, and the verdict was swift—Must have scored low in the 10th board exams. What job will she end up with? A teacher, at best? Or maybe just a housewife? The disappointment in their voices was louder than their words.

It wasn't just my home. This was a sentiment woven into the fabric of society, an unspoken rule that had dictated choices for generations. In Tier-1 cities, it was a quiet bias, but in Tier-2 and Tier-3 towns, it was a blatant decree. Science was for the intelligent, commerce for the practical, and arts—well, arts was for those who had no other choice.

PERCEPTION OF LOWER CAREER PROSPECTS

Humanities are generally linked with teaching, journalism, social work, and public administration careers, which are regarded as lower-paying than those of engineering, medicine, or finance. In 2022, a study conducted by the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE) concluded that humanities graduates had higher unemployment rates at 12% than STEM graduates at 7%.

Another reason behind the poor perception of the arts or humanities stream is poor awareness among people about the variety of career options on offer. A 2019 survey on

Is Humanity still Lagging Behind Science

career awareness among Indian students found that 93% of those aged 14 to 21 knew only about seven career options across different streams, despite India offering over 250 different job roles at the time. The number of available career options has only grown since then.

ACADEMIC HIERARCHY AND PRESSURE FROM PARENTS

Those who score lower academically tend to be steered towards humanities, confirming that it is an "easier" stream. As per a survey conducted by NCERT in 2021, 78% of Indian parents wanted their children to study science or commerce, as they are deemed more "prestigious".

SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES OF HUMANITIES IN INDIA

Sociologists have found the humanities to be stereotypically considered as a low performing student's option for their education. According to Deepti Singh, Sociologist, "In Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, humanities is often looked down upon due to societal bias, job market concerns, and lack of awareness."

"STEM and professional courses are seen as more stable career options, while humanities is wrongly perceived as a last resort for academically weaker students. Parental pressure, limited role models, and fewer local job opportunities further reinforce this stigma."

"The education system also prioritises science and commerce, sidelining humanities. However, with globalisation, digital careers, and growing awareness, perceptions are gradually changing, offering new opportunities in media, policy-making, and creative industries."

ENROLMENT TRENDS ACROSS VARIOUS CITY TIERS

Enrolment patterns in humanities in India's city tiers indicate varied

trends shaped by accessibility, societal attitudes, and the changing environment of online learning.

Tier 1 cities (metropolitan areas): In major metropolitan centres like Delhi, female enrolment into higher education shows a significant increment. GER has almost doubled from five years, with female students becoming more than double that of their male counterparts during 2021-22.

Female students currently outnumber males in arts or humanities courses. For example, in undergraduate courses, for the year 2021-22, while the number for females was 197,718, their male counterparts were 179,180 only.

More than anything, with growing interest from people in these cities - including Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru - coming from interdisciplinary programmes combining humanities disciplines with other majors, NEP 2020 will look into integration for comprehensive education.

Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities: In smaller towns and cities, more conventional perceptions tend to dominate, with greater stress on science and commerce streams. Limited exposure to varied educational materials and career prospects in humanities-related areas further deters students from studying these subjects.

Science vs. Humanities: Which Drives Progress More?

CHALLENGES FACING HUMANITIES EDUCATION

Funding disparities: Governmental funding is highly biased in favour of STEM disciplines. For example, during 2006-2010, the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) got just 2.3% of the grants that were provided to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Policy inhibitions: The policies of

regulatory bodies such as the University Grants Commission (UGC) at times work in opposition to the growth of humanities education.

Job market perception: There is a general notion that humanities graduates have fewer job opportunities and lesser pay scales as compared to STEM graduates. Such a perception deters students from choosing humanities, particularly in areas where immediate employability is the first priority.

SCHOOL REGISTRATION DATA

There is limited comprehensive national data on school registrations in humanities subjects. But reports indicate that fewer than 0.4% of undergraduate students seek a PhD, and most are in science courses. This reflects a lower tendency towards advanced studies in humanities.

The perception of humanity as an inferior stream in India is a multifaceted issue rooted in societal biases, funding inequalities, and policy constraints. It is necessary to collectively work towards promoting the value of humanities education, ensuring equitable funding, and reforming policies to support interdisciplinary and liberal arts programmes.

Such initiatives are crucial for fostering critical thinking, cultural awareness, and ethical reasoning amongst students, which are essential for a well-rounded society.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational columnist street Kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab)

'Your and my dreams' fall prey to divorce

By: Priyanka Saurabh

(When dreams shatter, divorces increase in love marriages)

Nowadays, the increasing cases of divorce have given rise to a new concern in society. Be it an arranged marriage or a love marriage, marital life is becoming unstable due to increasing distance in relationships. Divorce affects not only two people but also their families, children, and society. Therefore, some concrete steps are necessary to prevent this. Divorce is not a solution, but it should be the last option. Mutual respect, communication, patience, and love are necessary to make the relationship strong and happy. If the husband and wife try to understand each other and maintain balance in the relationship, the divorce rate can be reduced. The reasons for the high divorce rate in love marriages are wrong expectations, low tolerance, lack of family support, and lack of communication. But with the right understanding and maturity, this can be prevented. Marriage is successful not only with love but also with trust, patience, and mutual cooperation.

In today's era, the trend of love marriage has increased rapidly, but along with it, the rate of divorce is also increasing. While love marriage was considered a symbol of love, freedom, and mutual understanding, the increasing cases of divorce have raised questions about this

notion. Marriage is not just a union of two people but a confluence of their dreams, hopes, and emotions. When two people marry for love, they weave many golden dreams of the future—of living together, sharing happiness, and traveling a beautiful journey. But when this journey reaches the brink of divorce, the first to be crushed are 'tere mere sapne' (my dreams of yours). The zeal, enthusiasm, and closeness before marriage gradually start to fade due to many reasons. Small misunderstandings, walls of ego, and changing priorities start to erase those dreams that both of them had once cherished together.

The dreams that are seen for each other before marriage start getting crushed under the burden of responsibilities of reality. When the direction of dreams becomes different, the relationship starts weakening. In love relationships, people often see their partner in an ideal form, but when the reality comes after marriage, dissatisfaction may arise. Communication is very important for a successful marriage. If the spouses are unable to understand and listen to each other, then there can be a rift in the relationship. Many times after marriage, financial pressure and difficulties in fulfilling responsibilities start coming, due to which differences can increase. In love marriage, many times one has to face opposition from family and society. If the couple is not mentally strong, then this tension can affect their relationship. If the behavior of one of the partners is suspicious or distrust starts arising, then it can lead to divorce. After marriage, when the priorities of both the per-

sons start changing and if their thinking does not match, then there can be tension in the relationship. In modern times, giving priority to a career can affect marital life. Many times partners start restricting each other's personal freedom, which increases differences. A battle of self-respect and ego begins. "Who is more right?" This question starts hollowing out the relationship from within, and dreams start breaking.

Choose your life partner not only by keeping in mind love but also by keeping in mind similar ideology, family background, career goals, and lifestyle. Talk openly about every problem and try to understand your partner's feelings. Have practical expectations from each other before and after marriage and try to fulfill them. The foundation of any relationship is trust. Be loyal to your partner and maintain transparency. Every relationship has ups and downs. Do not solve any problem in a hurry, but think patiently. Sometimes taking advice from family and close friends can also help in strengthening the relationship. If problems are increasing in the relationship, then taking guidance from a marriage expert or counselor can be a good option. Even after marriage, understand each other's dreams and try to fulfill them together. Discuss every small and big thing, understand your partner's feelings, and put your point forward in the right way. Responsibilities increase after marriage, but this does not mean that dreams should be abandoned. Support each other so that personal desires can be fulfilled. When ego enters the relationship, love starts diminishing. So

give priority to love in every situation. If you start feeling that the relationship is becoming a burden, then spend some time together, go for a walk, refresh old memories, and try to start the relationship afresh.

The increasing rate of divorce in love marriages is worrying, but it can be stopped if the couple maintains mutual understanding, trust, and patience. Marriage should not be based only on love, but it also needs respect, responsibility, and maturity. By adopting the right thinking and behavior, love marriages can be made successful and happy. Divorce is not just a legal separation; it is also the death of those dreams that two people had once seen together. To save relationships, it is important to maintain love, trust, and understanding. Because if 'Tere Mere Sapne' is shattered, not only two hearts will break, but two lives will also remain incomplete. The reason for the high rate of divorce in love marriages is wrong expectations, low tolerance, lack of family support, and lack of communication. But it can be stopped with the right understanding and maturity. Marriage is successful not only with love but also with trust, patience, and mutual cooperation.

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Social Forestry Deptt organizes plantation drive to celebrate International Day of Forests at JNV School Budgam

Top News Report

BUDGAM, Mar 21: The Social Forestry Department, Range Budgam, celebrated the International Day of Forests with great enthusiasm by organizing a grand plantation drive at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) School Budgam. The event was conducted under the directions of Dr. Mumtaz Majeed, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Srinagar and supervised by Bilal Ahmed Madoo, Range Forest Officer, Social Forestry Range Budgam.

The plantation drive witnessed the participation of several dignitaries, including Private Schools Association J&K (PSAJK) President G.N. Var was as the chief guest and D.K. Singh, Principal of JNV Budgam, as the guest of honor. Other notable attendees included Jammu & Kashmir Trade Union Council President Abdul Majeed Parray, Block Officer of the Social Forestry Department Mohd Lateef Shagoo, Zahoor Ahmad and several other prominent personalities. Students also actively participated in the event.

A total of 500 saplings were planted within the school premises to promote ecological balance and raise awareness about the importance of forests.

Speaking at the event, PSAJK President G.N. Var, emphasized the need to involve students in environmental initiatives. He stated, "A significant portion of our population consists of students in schools and colleges they are the future of our planet. If children develop awareness about the environment and understand the importance of



trees, we secure our future. The celebration of the International Day of Forests serves as a reminder that forests exist in various forms, each playing a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance. If we fail to protect our environment and recognize the significance of trees, we ultimately put human lives at risk. It is commendable that today's program has engaged students, as environmental education should be an integral part of project-based learning."

He further stressed that human survival depends entirely on a healthy environment, making its protection and preservation imperative. Programs like these play a vital role in educating both children and the public about the importance of planting trees and conserving nature.

He also expressed gratitude, saying, "I am deeply thankful to the Social Forestry Department and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) Budgam for their visionary efforts in organizing this meaningful program on World Forest Day."

D.K. Singh, Principal of JNV

Budgam, expressed his gratitude to the Social Forestry Department for selecting their institution for the plantation drive. "I sincerely appreciate this initiative, which encourages environmental responsibility among students. Hosting such programs cultivates awareness, enhances green cover and contributes to pollution control and biodiversity conservation. We look forward to more collaborations that inspire young minds to protect nature," he stated.

Jammu & Kashmir Trade Union Council President Abdul Majeed Parray underlined the crucial role of afforestation in combating climate change. "Trees are not just a source of oxygen but also play a fundamental role in maintaining ecological stability. They act as natural air filters, reduce carbon footprints and help prevent soil erosion. The importance of afforestation cannot be overstated, as it directly contributes to tackling climate change, improving air quality and preserving biodiversity. Every tree we plant today is an investment in a healthier future for coming

generations," he remarked.

The participating students also shared their insights on the importance of tree plantation and the dangers of deforestation.

"Planting trees is not just about adding greenery; it is about securing our planet's future. Trees provide us with oxygen, reduce air pollution and support biodiversity. Without forests, we face severe environmental challenges, including climate change, rising temperatures and habitat destruction for countless species," said one of the students.

Another student highlighted the negative impacts of deforestation, saying, "When we cut down trees without replacing them, we disrupt ecosystems, contribute to global warming and increase the risk of natural disasters like floods and landslides. It is our responsibility to protect and nurture our environment."

Experts at the event emphasized the numerous benefits of afforestation, including Improved Air Quality: Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, making the air cleaner, Climate Regulation: Forests play a key role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Biodiversity Conservation: Trees provide habitat and food for wildlife, Water Conservation: Forests help maintain groundwater levels and reduce soil erosion.

The event concluded with a collective pledge to protect and nurture the environment, reinforcing the commitment of the Social Forestry Department and local stakeholders toward sustainable development.

How Godrej's Food and Microbiology Lab drives consumer-centric innovation



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 21: The Appliances business of Godrej & Boyce, part of the Godrej Enterprises Group, has reinforced its commitment to consumer-driven innovation with the introduction of its Food and Microbiology Lab. This dedicated facility allows Godrej to scientifically study food behaviour, preservation techniques, and hygiene factors, ensuring that its appliances are designed to truly serve the needs of Indian consumers.

Equipped to assess a wide range of scientific parameters like pH levels, ripening stages, humidity control, and microbial activity to hedonic factors like taste, texture, and appearance, the lab plays a vital role in enhancing product capabilities.

Trusted by millions of Indians, Godrej is committed to insight-driven innovation. This facility stands as a testament to that legacy, seamlessly blending scientific research with real-world consumer needs to develop appliances that cater to modern life-

styles, evolving dietary habits, and health-conscious choices. Managed by a team of food scientist and microbiologist, and overseen by the Head of Innovation for the Appliances Business, the lab is dedicated to pioneering solutions that enhance everyday living.

The Food & Microbiology Lab supports categories like Refrigerators and Microwave Ovens with extension plans to support microbiology based research across categories - from cooling led domains like Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration to Cleaning categories like Washing Machines.

Kamal Nandi, Business Head and Executive Vice President at Appliances Business, Godrej Enterprises Group, said "Our new Food and Microbiology Lab is a testament to our consumer-centric approach, driving innovations that solve real problems, and unlock value for consumers. By prioritizing tangible benefits like food preservation, indoor air quality, and more, we design appliances that thoughtfully make a difference

in our consumers' daily lives."

Burzin Wadia, Head of Research & Development at Appliances Business, Godrej Enterprises Group, said, "We launched our Food and Microbiology Lab to analyse how food, air, and fabric interact with our appliances. From monitoring food freshness parameters to air and cloth quality, this facility will allow us to engineer appliances that deliver tangible benefits to our consumers. Our focus remains on creating solutions that seamlessly integrate into our consumers' lives."

The Food and Microbiology Lab is housed within the Appliances business of Godrej Enterprises Group's expansive R&D facility in Pirangut, Pune—a close to Rs 100 crore facility with NABL-accredited in-house labs and cutting-edge infrastructure. This advanced setup empowers the brand to accelerate product development timelines and bring innovative, consumer-centric appliances to market.

CCI thanks CM for extension of Amnesty Scheme for Domestic Consumers



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 21: Arun Gupta, President Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) on Friday expressed thanks to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for extension of Amnesty Scheme for Domestic Consumers of Power Development Department which is a welcome step and will help the domestic consumers to clear their power dues.

He further said that we had time and again requested the government to announce power amnesty scheme for the commercial consumers which is still awaiting. We request that power amnesty for commercial users should also be announced at the earliest.

Arun Gupta also said that we had a number of times discussed with the government the

issue relating to expiry of lease deeds in respect of the properties of Jammu Development Authority Housing Board and state properties including the properties of the Horticulture Department but the decision in this regard is still awaited. We request the government to constitute a special committee for framing the policy to finalize the lease deed issue.

Field of Union Ministry of MSME Ladakh organizes awareness program on PM Vishwakarma at Kargil

Top News Report

KARGIL Mar 21: MSME-Development Nucleus Cell, Ladakh the field office of Union Ministry of MSME in collaboration with District Administration Kargil and District Industries Centre, Kargil organized a seminar on the PM Vishwakarma Scheme at Conference Hall, DC Office Kargil.

The program aimed to spread awareness about the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, targeting less-registered trades and artisans in the region. The Chief Guest, Abdul Hadi, CPO Kargil, on behalf of Deputy Commissioner Kargil, expressed his gratitude to the organizers and highlighted the importance of taking advantage of such programs for the benefit of local artisans.

The event was attend-



ed by G. Velladurai IEDS, Joint Director, MSME DFO Jammu; Rajesh Kumar, IEDS AD, MSME DFO Jammu; Abdul Hadi, CPO Kargil; Rahmatullah-Batt, General Manager DIC Kargil; Mudassir Rahowf, FM DIC; Abdi Ali, Superintendent ITI Kargil; Gulzar Ahmad, Lead District Manager; Zeeshan, Representative Cluster J&K Bank; CSCs Managers, and Nodal Officers for PM Vishwakarma and local

artisans. Rajesh Kumar, IEDS AD MSME DFO Jammu, welcomed the guests with a traditional Kharpa and bouquets. He delivered a detailed presentation on PM Vishwakarma Scheme, explaining the role of MSMEs, benefits of Udyamregistration, process to avail financial assistance through PMEGP, and how to enroll for exhibition stalls via 'MY MSME' website. The Lead District

Manager presented an insightful overview of the role of banks in supporting the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, focusing on financial access and assistance.

Superintendent ITI Kargil shared details about the training programs offered by their department, which include 120 hours of advanced training for interested beneficiaries in various skills, as well as financial and digital literacy initiatives.

G. Velladurai IEDS Joint Director from MSME DFO Jammu gave detailed reply to the queries raised by the participants regarding training, Delivery of tool kits among other things.

JD MSME DFO, G. Velladurai, reassured the participants of the department's commitment to resolving the issues faced by artisans

or MSMEs in the UT of Ladakh.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme is a Central Sector scheme was launched to provide end to end support to artisans and craft people who work with their hands and tools. The scheme covers artisans and crafts people engaged in 18 trades, viz. Carpenter (Suthar/Badhari), Boat Maker, Armourer, Blacksmith (Lohar), Hammer and Tool Kit Maker, Locksmith, Goldsmith (Sonar), Potter (Kumhaar), Sculptor (Moortikar), Stone carver, Stone breaker, Cobbler, Mason (Rajmistri), Basket Maker/Mat/Broom Maker, Doll & Toy Maker, Barber (Naai), Garland Maker (Malakaar), Washerman (Dhobi), Tailor (Darzi) and Fishnet maker.

Airtel introduces affordable international roaming packs starting at Rs 133/Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 21: With the travel season in full swing, Airtel has launched its most affordable International Roaming Packs, offering seamless connectivity across more than 180 countries. Starting at just Rs. 133 per day, these packs are designed to provide cost-effective solutions for travelers, ensuring uninter-

rupted communication and high-speed data connectivity without the burden of high roaming charges.

Airtel's International Roaming Packs come with a host of features, including unlimited data, voice benefits, and in-flight connectivity. The service is automated, activating as soon as customers arrive at their destination. Additionally, Airtel offers 24/7 global customer

support, free of cost, ensuring peace of mind and assistance anywhere in the world. The simplified packs eliminate the need for travelers to purchase multiple destination-specific plans, allowing them to choose a single package based on the duration of their trip.

For frequent flyers, Airtel has introduced an auto-renewal feature that ensures seamless connectivity with-

out the need for manual reactivation. Customers on long-term plans of more than 30 days can also enjoy supplementary in-flight connectivity.

Moreover, Airtel's user-friendly Thanks app allows travelers to manage their usage, change plans, and receive billing updates, giving them full control at their fingertips.

To guarantee seamless

connectivity in key destinations such as the USA, UAE, UK, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Australia, Thailand, and Singapore, Airtel has formed strategic partnerships with leading telecommunications providers. This ensures high-speed data, clear voice calls, and uninterrupted streaming, empowering users to stay connected with loved ones, share updates, and navigate

their travels smoothly.

Customers can easily activate the International Roaming Packs through the Airtel Thanks app, by visiting Airtel's official website (<https://www.airtel.in/ir-packs/>), at local Airtel stores, or even at airport kiosks. These affordable and feature-rich roaming packs are positioned to be the perfect travel companion for adventurers heading to far-reaching cor-

ners of the globe.

With these innovative International Roaming Packs, Airtel aims to redefine how travelers stay connected during their journeys. By offering simplicity, affordability, and advanced features, Airtel is set to become a reliable partner for global travelers, ensuring that staying connected is never a concern, no matter where their travels take them.

In Chandigarh for the Cinevesture International Film Festival, Nandita Das and Randeep Hooda showcase their wit

Nandita Das is a reluctant actor and a reluctant director. So challenging is the industry that with each project, she vows not to do it again. But then comes an idea, a story follows and there she is back in the spotlight, living the character or shaping up the narrative that touches her deepest core. Speaking at the second edition of the Cinevesture International Film Festival, Nandita opens up about her journey.

A 'bold woman story' initiated her into the acting world with Deepa Mehta's *Fire* back in 1996. As many as 40 films on, in 10 different languages, she has stayed on, breaking another taboo, pushing another envelope. How's it working in a language not your own? "Very difficult. I usually have the entire script written in Hindi; phonetically it works well. But with each such film, I'm like it's my last. I recently did a Telugu film, but I have sworn not to do another film in an unfamiliar language again."

Three films down as a director, now she's easing into the role. "I have now made peace that this is what I enjoy," she shares. Her first film, *Firaaq*, in 2008, originated as her response to all that transpired in Gujarat. "Incidentally, the film was released today, which marks 17 years of *Firaaq*. It talks about what happens after violence — the feelings of anger, guilt and listlessness." The film is available free on YouTube and Das urges the audience to see it.

Manto, 10 years on, was her way to raise current issues by setting the story in the past. So difficult was the prep for the film on the most controversial writers of his times that the night before receiving the first funding for the film, she wanted to give it up all together. "I felt I bit more than I could chew. It was so difficult to make what I envisaged, but now I'm happy that I did what I did."

The pandemic gave her the next story. Gig economy in



tough times; what started as a short story for an anthology, developed into a script for a feature film, *Zwigato*, starring Kapil Sharma in the lead role. "I hadn't seen his show but saw him host one with Karan Johar, which gave me the idea to cast him." Despite being warned that Kapil was a wrong choice, Nandita stuck to her call and the journey was enjoyable. "Both Shahana (Goswami) and Kapil are very generous actors. Rooted and real, they are a fun team to work with."

Nandita has often spoken about stereotypes in the film industry and how being a woman boss, when she started, was an exception back then. "While the mainstream cinema is still in the grip of stereotypes, OTT has opened up a different space." As for women leading, she feels things haven't changed much but we are marching in the right direction. "We see a lot more women at the helm now. When women lead a project, it brings a different and a significant voice," says Nandita, who ensures at least three to four women head different departments in her films.

Not fair! Nandita stand against discrimination on the basis of colour isn't new, but she insists it's one discussion that must be kept alive as things are still far from fair. "Once I was asked by a girl how I was so confident despite my complexion and that hit me really hard." The phrase *rang maila hai* exists and ramifica-

tions are rampant. "Even today when there is a scene of a rich man's party, fair folks are lined up, but for a scene on the road they have brown people like me! That's how deep the bias is and it must be addressed."

A masterclass in self-love! When Randeep Hooda walks into the hall, the energy shifts. Not that he's big or bulky, but there is sincerity, an energy hard to miss. Talking at Cinevesture International Film Festival, Randeep, during an unbridled talk, summed up his introduction to films and becoming an actor, director and producer.

Dressed in a fancy white and greyish blue suit with white sneakers, shades in place, he gave the audience some hearty laughs and a masterclass in self-love! He talked about how his nani took him to see Chandigarh in theatres for the first time. "My nani was an ardent fan. She didn't know English but would watch *Bold and Beautiful* in English twice, everyday."

The actor, who burst on the scene with *Monsoon Wedding*, has since then wowed audience with remarkable body transformations. While he sure was enjoying being the actor, circumstances forced him to becoming a director. He explains, "Being an actor is being a *jamai*, everybody is asking you *juice lo ji*, *sab theek hai ji*, *phooha ji naraaz to nahi ho jayenge*. The director, on the other hand, is *ladki ka pita*." Not than being in the latter's position made him change his stance!

"When I started *Swatantra* Veer Savarkar, for the first four hours my unit did their things, saying the new director doesn't know. They were shooting scenes that were not even in the film." But soon, he came into his form, barking instructions and that's how the film was made! "Not a man to go and see himself on the big screen, he did watch *Savarkar*! "People stood up in applause as they do in a play, which was remarkable."

However, life has not been a bed of roses. He admitted how he let go of films like *Rang De Basanti* and is candid enough to share his reasons. "I was launched in D and my mentor then said, 'Tu Aamir Khan ke peeche poster main ayega' and my Haryanvi buddhi let go of a project like that. There are many others examples."

Randeep's toughest times have been when he prepped for *Saragarhi*. For three years he kept his kesh, trained 20 others in horse-riding and sword-fighting, but the film was shelved, robbing him of his dreams. "The film didn't see the light of the day due to *chhal kapat* and that is going to be my biggest regret." His next is an action film, which he's writing and will produce and direct. "In want of a good actor, I have decided to cast myself," he flashes his infectious smile, winning another round of applause.

ACING all challenges Filmmaker Honey Trehan opened up on his struggle with the release of *Punjab '95*. Through the title change, over 120 cuts and then problems in international release, Trehan shared on Thursday, "Give me a reason for not letting it release; it is acknowledged by law. Threats to my producer by higher authorities is no way. Where is the freedom of expression?"

But not the one to succumb to challenges, Trehan says, "I have made the film for people and will make sure everybody gets to watch this."

I really do hope that it happens soon, says Jacqueline Fernandez on 'Kick 2'



Actor Jacqueline Fernandez says she hopes to be a part of the second installment of 2014 blockbuster movie "Kick", a movie that changed her life.

Headlined by superstar Salman Khan, the movie was an official remake of Telugu star Ravi Teja's 2009 film of the same title. It also featured Randeep Hooda and Nawazuddin Siddiqui.

Salman and filmmaker Sajid Nadiadwala, who directed the movie, officially announced its sequel last year. "I'm so excited for the franchise, but I really feel that this would be something that Sajid Nadiadwala or Salman can confirm. But I really do hope that it happens

soon because there has been so much love given to the 'Kick' brand by fans and it changed my life."

"I really do hope that it comes through and fingers crossed it will," Fernandez, 39, told reporters here at the press conference of Zee Cine awards.

"Kick" was one of the biggest blockbusters of 2014. It was also Khan's first film to enter the Rs 200 crore club.

Fernandez, known for films like "Murder 2", "Race 2", and "Dishoom", shared her excitement for 2025 as she has multiple releases lined up. She will be seen in the upcoming installments of the "Welcome" and "Housefull" franchises.

"It's an exciting year for me because there will be a lot of releases and it's exciting to be back on 'Housefull'. We're on 'Housefull 5' right now, so teaming up with that amazing cast and crew is always so much fun," she said.

The fifth part of the popular comedy franchise is helmed by Tarun Mansukhani of "Dostana" fame and produced by Nadiadwala's production banner Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment.

Besides Fernandez, "Housefull 5" also features Akshay Kumar, Ritesh Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, Fardeen Khan, Sonam Bajwa, Nargis Fakhri, Sanjay Dutt, Jackie Shroff, Nana Patekar, Chunky Pandey, Johnny Lever, Shreyas Talpade, Dino Morea, Chitrangada Singh, Ranjeet, Soundarya Sharma and Nikitin Dheer.

Similarly, the latest installment of "Welcome" franchise, titled "Welcome To The Jungle", also features an ensemble cast that includes Shroff, Kumar, Suniel Shetty, Paresh Rawal, Arshad Warsi, Tusshar Kapoor, Talpade, Aftab Shivdasani, Raveena Tandon, Lara Dutta, Disha Patani, Lever and Rajpal Yadav.

Fernandez called "Welcome To The Jungle", which is being directed by Ahmed Khan, a "crazy comedy". "It is something new for me. And we've really been having a great time shooting it, so the fans are going to love it," she said, adding that she is also excited for her maiden web series, which will be released in April.

Vijay Deverkonda, Prakash Raj, Rana Daggubati among others booked for promoting betting apps



A case was registered against six Telugu film actors, including Rana Daggubati, Prakash Raj, Vijay Deverkonda and 19 social media influencers, for allegedly promoting betting apps, police said.

Actors Lakshmi Manchu, Praneetha and Nidhi Agarwal were also booked in the case, a police official at Miyapur Police Station said.

The complainant, a businessman, accused the celebrities and influencers of promoting the betting apps on social media through pop-up ads among others.

Based on the complaint, a case was registered under relevant Sections of the BNS, Gaming Act and IT Act on March 19, the official said.

The police official added that they were planning to issue notices to those named in the FIR and further investigation was underway.

According to the complainant, while he was interacting with youths in his colony recently, most of them were discussing about investing money in betting, gambling and casino apps which are being promoted by celebrities and influencers on social media.

He was also influenced by such applications and was about to deposit in one such betting/gambling/casino website. But due to his family's word of caution, he did not do so, the complainant said.

The FIR said the complainant, while using his social media, came across several celebrities and influencers who are actively promoting several of the "illegal" betting apps, websites and other platforms.

The complainant alleged that those who are promoting these apps and websites are doing so by accepting huge sums of money as

commission and remuneration.

These platforms are encouraging public, especially people who are in dire need of money, to invest their hard-earned money in those apps/websites. Slowly, they get addicted to these apps, leading to financial distress, he claimed.

These platforms are actively promoting their apps/websites through social media advertisements with the help of celebrities and influencers, thereby reaching the target audience automatically without even the users actually searching for it, he said. Thousands of lakhs of rupees are involved in these illegal platforms, he alleged.

He requested the police to take necessary action on the management of such platforms as well as on the individuals who were illegally promoting these.

Saiyami Kher: A lot of times, female characters still feel like an afterthought

Saiyami Kher talks about taking *Ghoomer* to Uzbekistan, condition of women representation in Bollywood and women-led films still being considered a 'risk'

The Embassy of India in Tashkent, Uzbekistan hosted a Film Festival recently, in honor of the month of celebrating International Women's Day, by showcasing acclaimed women-centric films. Amongst them was Saiyami Kher's 2023 release *Ghoomer*, for which the actor even went to Uzbekistan.

Talking about the achievement, Saiyami Kher says, "It's overwhelming to see the film continue to get recognition even after so much time. As an actor, you make choices based on instinct, passion, and belief in a story, but you never know how it will be received. So, when your film keeps resonating with audiences, it reinforces my belief that the kind of cinema I want to be part of has value. For me, that's the biggest validation," adding, "The love the people of Uzbekistan showered on us was very special."

With the festival promoting women empowerment, Saiyami talks about the role of cinema in doing that, saying, "Cinema is a reflection of society, but it also has the power to influence it. We are moving beyond just 'strong female characters' to real, flawed, layered women who



don't always have to be perfect. That's how cinema truly promotes empowerment—by showing women in all their depth and complexity."

But is Hindi cinema doing a good job in female representation? "We've made progress, but there are still gaps. One of the biggest issues is writing. A lot of times, female characters still feel like an afterthought—they exist to support the male lead's journey rather than having their own arcs. Even when a film is centred on a woman, there's often a tendency to make her either too strong or too victimized, instead of just letting her be a real person with flaws, contradictions, and depth," the 32-year-old responds, adding, "We also need to break away from the mindset that a female-led film has to be about social issues or empowerment. Women don't have to be just one thing on screen. We also need more representation behind the camera, because they will naturally bring more authenticity to women's stories."

Saiyami believes that to truly empower women through cinema, what's needed the most is "nor-

mization". "We need to stop treating female-led films as different or special. We should have strong, well-written female characters in all kinds of genres, not just in social dramas. And we need to break the perception that a film with a female lead is a risk, and the audience plays a huge role in this change," she says.

However, while it is needed, the actor admits that unfortunately, the challenge to get someone to back a female-led film still exists. "There's still hesitation from many producers and studios when it comes to investing in stories with women at the center. The perception is that such films don't make as much money as male-led films. And that's where the audience also plays a role because box office numbers matter in the industry. When a big-ticket male-led film releases, people rush to watch it. But when a female-led film comes out, there's often a hesitation. That mindset has to change. The more commercially successful female-led films become, the easier it will be to get them made without questioning their viability," she ends.

Army conducts medical camp at Army Goodwill School Potha

Top News Report

POONCH, Mar 21: Indian Army conducted a medical camp at Army Goodwill School (AGS), Potha on Friday.

The camp was aimed to provide essential primary healthcare services to the students of AGS Potha.

The primary focus was to offer comprehensive health check-ups, preventive care and consultation with medical experts.

The initiative is designed to promote the health and well-being of the students, especially those from underserved



backgrounds.

Services provided at the camp will include free medical check-ups, Guidance on Mental Health and wellness, vision, dental screenings and Nutritional advice were conducted and free medicines

were distributed to the students.

This initiative sought to ensure the health and well-being of the local population by making healthcare more accessible. The students/staff expressed heartfelt gratitude for the

care and attention they received.

The presence of a Lady Nursing Officer was particularly appreciated by the female attendees, who felt more comfortable discussing their health concerns. Previously

hesitant to share their issues with male doctors, girl students were able to address core healthcare issues.

This effort highlights the Indian Army's commitment to community welfare and was widely appreciated by those in attendance, further strengthening the Army's image as of a nation-building force.

A total of 174 students, 06 teachers to include (97 male & 77 Female students) benefitted from this event.

The overwhelming turnout of locals was a testament to the success of this campaign.

Medical Patrol conducted for Gujjar and Bakarwals



Top News Report

POONCH, Mar 21: In a humanitarian initiative, the Indian Army conducted an extensive medical patrol for the benefit of Gujjar and Bakarwal communities in multiple villages, including Chungra Batsiyala, Lam, Mathiyaniyala, Sangiot, Gulair, Bafiaz in Poonch, Rajouri, and Reasi Districts on Friday.

The medical patrol, comprising army medical personnel, provided essential medical care and treatment to the local population, addressing various health issues and concerns.

The team also distributed medicines and provided health advice to the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, who often face challenges in accessing basic medical facilities due to their nomadic lifestyle.

The Indian Army's medical patrol initiative demonstrates its commitment to serving the nation and supporting local communities, particularly in remote and inaccessible areas.

By providing medical aid and support, the Army aims to improve the health and well-being of the local population and foster a sense of trust and cooperation.

The success of the medical patrol reinforces the Indian Army's dedication to promoting health awareness and supporting the well-being of local communities.

The event has helped to create a positive impact on the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities encouraging them to prioritize their health and seek medical attention when needed.

Tree plantation drive organised at Lam

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Mar 21: The Indian Army organised a tree plantation drive at Lam on Friday. The campaign was aimed at promoting tree plantation, environmental conservation, improve air quality and support biodiversity.

With a vision to create a greener and healthier nation, the campaign engaged local volunteers and government entities to work collectively towards safeguarding the environment for future generations. The locals paid keen interest and actively participated in the tree plantation event.

This campaign is a call to action for every individual to become a custodian of our environment.

By planting trees today, we are securing a vibrant and sustainable future for generations to come and sowings the seeds of change for better tomorrow.

As we embark on this journey towards



a greener and healthier future, the tree plantation campaign invites everyone to come together and take ownership of our environment.

During the campaign a total of 24 saplings were planted by the Indian Army with an aim to increase the Green Cover in the region and persuade people to curb deforestation and promote a clean and green future. A total of 18 students and 03 teachers actively participated in the event.

Stitching and Tailoring Course, distribution of sewing machine for women organized at Marha

Top News Report

POONCH, Mar 21: Stitching and Tailoring Course and Distribution of Sewing Machines was organised by Indian Army at Marha with effect from February 17 to March 20, 2025 under Operation Sadbhavana, with an aim to enhance the socio-economic fabric of the region by equipping local women with valuable skills and opportunities.

In a continuous and inspiring effort to promote skill development and empower the women of Marha and nearby areas, the Indian Army conducted a Stitching and Tailoring Course and Distribution of Sewing Machines as part of Operation Sadbhavana.

Twenty enthusiastic and determined ladies from the local community participated in this transformative course.

They embarked on a journey of creativity and self-reliance, guided by an expert instructor in the art of stitching and tailoring.



Each participant's progress is a testament to the dedication and perseverance of these remarkable women. As a token of recognition, certificates for participation and Sewing Machines were awarded to all participants.

Operation Sadbhavana, with its mission to foster goodwill, development, and positive change in the region, continues to be a beacon of hope for the people of Marha and nearby areas.

The Indian Army remains committed to empowering local communities through such initiatives, believing that a stronger, more self-reliant society is a testament to a brighter and more prosperous future for all.

The event also serves as a platform to strengthen the bond between the Army and the people of this region. It showcases the Army's commitment towards service to the nation. This gesture and effort by the Army was highly appreciated by Awam.

This endeavour by the Army to reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between Jawan and Awam.

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

Students of Mother India School attend plasma exhibition and scientific exploration at IIT Jammu

Top News Report

R S PURA, Mar 21: A group of Class 11th students of Mother India Sr. Sec. School, R S Pura, went on an enlightening educational tour to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jammu, where they witnessed a motivating Plasma Exhibition and interacted with distinguished scientists and researchers. The tour gave students a first-hand experience of the latest scientific developments and lab demonstrations.

Narinder Singh Chib, Lecturer Physics at Mother India Senior Secondary School, R.S. Pura, was also awarded for his excellent contribution towards the educational field in the ceremony. Dr. Shikha Kapoor, Lecturer Biology, and Ankush Gupta, Lecturer Mathematics, also accompanied the students on the excursion.

The conference was a series of lectures pre-



sented by renowned researchers from top academic institutions around the globe, providing the students with in-depth understanding of plasma science and its numerous applications.

The lectures included "Basics of Plasmas" by Harsha Machchhar, Scientist "F", IPR Gandhi Nagar; "Applications of Plasma" by Chetan Jariwala, Scientist "G", IPR Gandhi Nagar; "Lasers and Plasmas" by Dr. Deepa Verma, IIT Jammu; "An Overview of the Research Domain of Plasmas" by Dr. Sanat Tiwari; and "Plasmas and Fusion

by Kartik Mohan, Scientist F Level, ITER, IPR Gandhi Nagar.

They received the opportunity to interact with scientists and gain pertinent information regarding plasma physics, plasma technology applications and fusion energy.

After the lectures and the exhibition, students toured various advanced labs and departments of IIT Jammu and engaged in hands-on learning and discussions with the experts.

In the Mechanical Engineering Workshop - Students engaged with working engineers

to learn about actual applications of mechanical concepts.

In the Physics lab, Dr. Arjun Singh and his team conducted real-world demonstrations of complex physical phenomena in a simplified manner that was so captivating. In the Chemistry Laboratory - Experts gave interesting chemical demonstrations and in the Biology Laboratory - Students learned about biological experiments and engaged with experts.

Physics Research Lab - Ph.D. students showcased their current research work. The trip was a precious

learning opportunity for the students, providing them with an opportunity to observe scientific exploration and creativity outside the confines of traditional classroom settings.

Mother India Sr. Sec. School staff expressed their sincere appreciation to Dr. Arjun Singh of IIT Jammu for his generous assistance in allowing access to several departments, thereby increasing the academic value of the trip. The school trip provided students with a unique perspective on scientific research and engineering applications, encouraging them to pursue careers in the science and technology fields.

The school administration expressed its commitment to fostering scientific interest among students through these hands-on field trips and interactive learning experiences.

Dr. Manyal attends Satsang at Shri Guru Ravidas Mandir



Top News Report

RAMGARH, Mar 21: Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Ramgarh on Friday participated in a Satsang organized at Shri Guru Ravidas Mandir in Village Keso, Ramgarh.

The event brought together the local community to engage in spiritual discourse and seek blessings from Shri Guru Ravidas Ji.

The occasion was also attended by former MLA Yaspal Kundal, Mandal

Pradhan Ramgarh Nancy Choudhary, General Secretary Sunil Choudhary, Prem Paul Choudhary Former Sarpanch, Anil Gupta Former Vice Chairman Municipal Committee Ramgarh, Soudhagar Mal, Trilok Singh, Tilak Raj Thappa, Satish Sharma, Dheeraj Kumar, along with members of the Shri Guru Ravidas Committee.

Dr. Manyal highlighted importance of religious unity, peace, and the

values of service to humanity as taught by Shri Guru Ravidas Ji. He emphasized the need for continued efforts towards the welfare and upliftment of the community, urging all present to follow the teachings of the Guru ji in their daily lives.

The event was marked by a spirit of harmony and devotion, with local residents and dignitaries coming together to celebrate the teachings of Guru Ravidas ji.

Yoga Camp organised for youth at Green Model Higher Secondary School Doda

Top News Report

DODA, Mar 21: Yoga has emerged as one of the most trusted means to boost physical and mental well-being.

To promote Yoga, the Indian Army organized a Yoga Camp for youth at Green Model Higher Secondary School, Doda on 20 Mar 25. Stu-

dents eagerly participated in the event and performed yoga exercises, asana and pranayama. 07 x Media Persons, 148 x students & 20 x teachers took part in the said event.

The Yoga Camp featured sessions designed to cater to both beginners and seasoned practitioners.

Attendees had the opportunity to engage in a variety of yoga practices aimed at improving flexibility, strength, mental clarity and relaxation.

The session was later followed by an interaction between the participants and representatives of the Indian Army in which various health



benefits of yoga were discussed.

The Yoga instructors shared with the gathering that Yoga embodies unity of mind, body, thought, action and not only creates a harmony between men and nature but also inculcates holistic approach to health and well-being. Regular practice of yoga

can also alleviate chronic pain and improve posture.

Local residents thanked the Indian Army for organizing such an event which will go a long way in stimulating a healthy lifestyle and inner peace amongst the locals and young students.

YCET students visit “Sewage Treatment Plant and E-BUS Yard, Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 21: The Visit was organized by the Yogananda College of Engineering & Technology (YCET) to “Sewage treatment plant and E-BUS Yard, Jammu,” for 6th, 4th and 2nd semesters students of Civil Engg, Electrical Engg, Mechanical Engg and Computer Science & Engineering.

During the visit Vinod Kumar, Plant Incharge, along with his team interacted with the faculty and students and described the working of Sewage treatment plant processes and also the functioning of various units like Preliminary Treatment etc. The capacity of plant is 30 MLD.

The complexities and challenges of managing water resources and wastewater, helping them make informed career choices.

After visiting and understanding the working of sewage treatment plant students were further taken to Electric vehicle Bus yard which is established by TATA Motors.

Sanjeev Kumar Depot Manager, Tata Motors gave detailed knowledge regarding two types of E-buses currently serving in state one is of 9m i.e is for local routes and other is of 12 m i.e is inter district buses.

He also explained the charging procedure of E-buses and the various safety measure and precautions taken during the process, he further elaborated e-buses washing process, maintenance checks, inventory management etc. Vinayak Sharma, Service Incharge also

provided inputs regarding routes of buses, distance travelled by each bus per day and the environment friendly technology they are adopting.

A special Thanks to Vinod Kumar, JSCL, Jammu for co-ordinating to make these visits possible.

The aim of organizing such visit is to acquaint students to the real world of work. The students were accompanied by Er. Rajnish Magotra, H.O.D (Civil Engg), Er.Loveneesh Talwar, Head (Electrical Engg), Er.Anupreet, Head(CSE), and Er. Inderdeep Singh, Head (Mechanical Engg.).

The Management appreciated the steps being taken by the college regarding exposure to the students at various project Sites. Er Dinesh Gupta, Dean Academics and Er B R Verma, Chief Coordinator also appreciated the visit and such initiatives.

Week-long campaign on Citizenship Skills, Constitutional Values, and Knowledge of India concluded at Jindrah

Top News Report

JINDRAH, Mar 21: In a remarkable initiative under the PM SHRI (Prime Minister Schools for Rising India) scheme, the PM Shri Govt Girls Middle School Jindrah successfully conducted a week-long campaign on Citizenship Skills, Constitutional Values, and Knowledge of India. The campaign aimed to inculcate a strong sense of civic responsibility, constitutional awareness, and national pride among students.

Key Activities of the Campaign include

A special session was conducted by Dr. Shakoor Ahmed Dar, who provided in-depth insights into the Fundamental Rights and Duties enshrined in the Indian Constitution. He emphasized the importance of democratic participation, equality, and social justice, encouraging students to become responsible citizens.

A seminar on constitutional values was orga-



nized, highlighting the core principles of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. The session focused on how these values shape India's governance and impact the daily lives of citizens. Students participated in a Preamble Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to uphold the ideals of the Indian Constitution. This event aimed to instill a deep respect for the nation's democratic ethos.

As part of the campaign, General Knowl-

edge books were distributed among students to enhance their understanding of India's history, governance, and global position. The initiative aimed to develop their critical thinking and awareness of national affairs.

A series of debate competitions were held, allowing students to express their perspectives on citizenship, governance, and democracy. Additionally, an awareness camp was conducted where stu-

dents learned about the role of youth in nation-building and the significance of constitutional literacy.

The PM SHRI (Prime Minister Schools for Rising India) scheme, launched by the Government of India, aims to transform schools into model institutions by integrating innovative education practices, values-based learning, and national development goals.

The week-long campaign at PM Shri Govt Girls Middle School Jindrah aligns with the scheme's objectives in which Students were educated about their constitutional rights and responsibilities, preparing them to become active participants in democracy.

The initiative combined academic knowledge with experiential learning, ensuring a well-rounded educational approach. The programmes empha-

sized the principles of the Indian Constitution, the program nurtured respect for diversity, equality, and social justice.

The week-long campaign at PM Shri Govt Girls Middle School Jindrah successfully instilled a sense of national pride, democratic responsibility, and civic consciousness among students. The efforts of Shamash Din (Incharge), Sadaket Ali, Lakshmi Devi, and Bindya Rani were instrumental in making this initiative a success.

The school administration expressed gratitude to all participants, experts, and students for their enthusiasm and commitment to the program. This initiative marks a significant step towards empowering young minds with constitutional knowledge and fostering a generation of informed and responsible citizens, in line with the PM SHRI vision.

Kaith among many participate in Bhandara at Khwaja Garib Nawaj's shrine

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 21: On annual Bhandara, Social and Political Activist R.L.Kaith accompanied by many others, paid obeisance to Khwaja Garib Nawaj at his shrine near Poonch

House, today. Kaith said that Khwaja Garib Nawaj was a Persian Islamic scholar and mystic from Sistan, who eventually ended up settling in Indian sub-continent in the early 13th century, where he promulgated the Chishti-

yya order of Sunni mysticism.

This particular Tariqa became the dominant Islamic spiritual order in medieval India.

Kaith further said that people from every religion, caste, creed come here to seek blessings

of great Sufi saint to show their devotion and offer prayers. More often their wishes do come true and the wish fulfillment is usually followed by devotees offering services such as presenting flowers, gilaf, attar and sandal wood powder

at the great shrine. Besides these offerings, they also recite Quran, Nafal Namaz, Milad and Aayat-e-Karima and Khatam-E-Khawajgan. All those paid obeisance at the shrine, partook parsad from the Langar.

FTII delegation led by Dr Sanjay Bansal meets Delhi CM, discusses Business Community issues

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 31: A delegation led by Dr. Sanjay Bansal, National President of the Federation of Trade and Industry of India (FTII), met with Smt. Rekha Gupta, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, to discuss pressing issues faced by the business community in Delhi.

The meeting also served as an opportunity to extend an invitation to the FTII Traders Conclave, scheduled to take place in Delhi on April 20, 2025.

Dr. Bansal briefed the Chief Minister on the activities of the FTII, highlighting its efforts to promote trade and industry in India. The Chief Minister assured Dr. Bansal that her government would address the problems faced by the Delhi business community as soon as possible.



The delegation included Ghanahyam Dass Goyal, Patron of FTII, and Shri Rajesh Jain, Delhi FTII Chairman. The meeting was a significant step towards strengthening the partnership between the FTII and the Delhi government, with the aim of promoting economic growth and development in the region.

The FTII Traders Conclave, scheduled for April 20, 2025, aims to bring together traders, industrialists, and policymakers to discuss key

issues and opportunities in the trade and industry sector. The event is expected to provide a platform for stakeholders to share their experiences, discuss challenges, and explore solutions to promote economic growth and development.

The FTII is committed to working closely with the government and other stakeholders to address the challenges faced by the business community and to promote a favorable business environment in Delhi and across India.

CB books proprietor of private security agency for gaining illegal entry in Govt tenders

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 21: Crime Branch (CB) on Friday booked proprietor of a private security agency then operating in Jammu division under the name & style of Unique Sanitation and Outsourcing Services for gaining illegal entry in government tenders by using forged PSARA certificate. "The accused owner of Unique Sanitation and Outsourcing Services namely Ram Sharma, son of Amar Nath Sharma, resident of Jeevan Nagar, Gadigarh, Jammu has gained illegal entry in government tenders held at Government College of Engineering and Technology (GCET) Jammu, Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri and other departments by modifying, forging and using PSARA certificate issued to some other agency under Private Security Agencies

Regulation Act 2005." CB official said. "Crime Branch has received a written complaint from Imran Khan, son of John Mohd, resident of Bathindi, Jammu against Ram Sharma wherein it is alleged that the accused has modified/forged PSARA certificate submitted by some other agency and gained illegal entry in government tenders thereby committing fraud and forgery punishable under law," official said.

As confirmed by Senior Superintendent of Police Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh a case FIR No. 18/2025 has been registered on the basis of the contents of the complaint and preliminary verification report submitted by the enquiry officer and investigation has been entrusted to a senior investigating officer of the rank of Deputy SP for thorough probe under law.



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