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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-12 Issue-79 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Minister assures rehabilitation of Kadipora fire victims

JAMMU, Mar 22 (Agencies): Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakina Itoo on Saturday informed the House that the government is actively working to rehabilitate the fire victims of Kadipora, Anantnag. She said that on the directions of the Chief Minister, she, along with MLA Anantnag and MLA Pahalgam, visited the affected area to assess the situation.

The Minister further stated that relief from the CM's relief fund had already been released, and additional measures were being taken to ensure the rehabilitation of the victims'.

Govt completes all development works on Abhinav Theatre, Makes it fully functional: Dy CM

JAMMU, Mar 22: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that all development works on Abhinav Theatre, Jammu have been completed and the theatre is fully functional. Jammu travel packages

The Dy CM was replying to a question on behalf of the Chief Minister raised by Arvind Gupta in the Legislative Assembly.

Giving details of budget allocations made for various development works in the Abhinav theatre, he informed that Rs. 5.69 lakh had been allotted for repair of the rooftop during the current financial year under CAPEX and 100 percent work has been completed.

Regarding construction of the compound wall of the Theatre, he said that Rs. 37.41 lakh had been allotted during the current financial year under CAPEX and 90 percent of the work has been completed. He added that Rs. 41.60 lakh have been spent on upgradation/repair works during the current financial year under CAPEX.

The Dy CM further stated that upgradation of sound system, light system and curtains has been completed by the PW(R&B) department. An estimated expenditure of Rs. 101.93 lakh is being booked under the Grant in Aid for the J&K

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Dissatisfied with govt's reply, BJP MLA stages walkout from J&K assembly

JAMMU, Mar 22 (Agencies): BJP MLA Sham Lal Sharma on Saturday staged a walkout from the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, accusing the government of non-serious attitude after not getting "satisfied reply" to his question related to scientific disposal of solid waste in his constituency.

Sharma had raised a question about the dumping of solid waste at Kot Bhalwal village in his Jammu North constituency and asked for steps to shift the same to any alternate place. "Kot Bhalwal is the



site of our scientific solid waste management. The site is being developed for scientific processing of waste through the NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India),"

Health Minister Sakina Itoo told the House in the absence of the minister. She replied in negative to two related questions, including the health risk to the local residents and the steps taken for framing a Detailed

Project Report (DPR) in respect of waste disposal management and the physical or financial progress achieved in this regard.

Sharma said that he was not satisfied with the government's response to his question.

"What I have asked and what they have replied... the smart city project rules gives emphasis on scientific solid waste management, but this dumping site is posing a health risk to the locals and the government is saying there is no such issue," he said and

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Omar Abdullah-led Govt introduces its first legislation in J&K Assembly

SRINAGAR, Mar 22 (Agencies): The Jammu & Kashmir's elected government introduced its first bill in the Legislative Assembly on Saturday. Kashmir travel guide After the Question Hour, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, on behalf of Finance Minister Omar Abdullah, introduced the Jammu & Kashmir Goods and Service Tax (Amendment) Bill-2025



in the House. The bill seeks to align J&K's GST law with the amendments carried out

in the Central Goods and Services Tax law. The amendments are

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SKIMS continues to be autonomous body: J&K Govt



JAMMU, Mar 22 (Agencies): The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Saturday informed the Legislative Assembly that SKIMS Soura continues to be an autonomous institution and there has been no change regarding it in the pre and post-reorganization business rules of J&K Government. Kashmir travel guide

It also claimed that capital expenditure funds ranging from Rs 21 crore to Rs 34 crore were lapsed in SKIMS Soura during the last three financial years.

In its reply to a question of MLA Tangmarg Farooq Ahmad Shah, Minister in-charge Health and Medical Education Sakina Masood Itoo informed the House

that SKIMS continues to be an autonomous institution.

"SKIMS Soura was established in the year 1976. SKIMS continues to be an autonomous institution. This is true for both SKIMS as a tertiary care hospital and as a deemed university. It continues to grant degrees as per SKIMS (Grant of Degrees Act), 1983. Further the Budget allocation for SKIMS continues to be on the grants of the Health Department, as was previously," the minister said.

The government said that there has been no change in business rules of the J & K Government vis-à-vis SKIMS.

"As per the First

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Faqir Khan's death 'suspicious', says BJP spokesman, demands high-level probe

KANGAN, Mar 22 (Agencies): A high-level delegation of BJP leaders visited Woodeer

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"There is Peace, No one has fear": LoP Sunil Sharma lauds Centre's efforts to end terrorism

JAMMU, Mar 22 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Leader of the Opposition Sunil Sharma praised the central government's efforts to end terrorism in the Union territory, saying, "There is peace and no one has any fear."

Sharma said, "This is being felt by the people across the country, across Jammu and Kashmir. This is a result of steps taken against terrorism, especially



after the abrogation of Article 370, and the structure behind terrorism was hit resulting in terrorists being unable to recruit locally, there are no stone pelters

on streets and tourists are moving around freely. There is peace and nobody has any fear. The situation will improve with time."

His remarks came after, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that the BJP-led government, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has maintained a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism since coming to power in 2014.

Congress to "Intensify" J&K Statehood demand, To organise marches from Monday

JAMMU, Mar 22 (Agencies): Congress will "intensify" the demand for Jammu and Kashmir's statehood from March 24 and will organise a march that will continue for next 10 to 15 days, JK Congress President Tariq Hameed Karra said on Saturday. Karra clarified that the party will only hold a march, "not a protest"

Karra said, "We have



said that we would intensify (our demand for statehood) if needed... To reiterate our statehood demand and to

remind the government of India, the PM and the Home Minister, we will intensify our demand from March 24. It will only be a march, not a protest... and it will continue for 10-15 days daily."

Congress along with their allies, the ruling National Conference has been vocal about their demand for J-K's statehood from centre.

Authorities demolish house belonging to alleged terrorist handler in Anantnag

SRINAGAR, Mar 22 (Agencies): Authorities demolished an "illegally" constructed house allegedly linked to a Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist handler in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday, police said. Jammu tourism

Anantnag Police, in coordination with the District administra-

tion, razed the illegally constructed house and plinth at Rekha Hasnpora, reclaiming encroached state land, a police spokesperson said.

He said the property belonged to Haroon Rashid Ganie — a "known terrorist handler" allegedly associated with the banned terror outfit LeT.

Ganie, operating from Pakistan since 2018, has been accused of orchestrating terror activities aimed at undermining national security and sovereignty, the spokesperson said.

The operation is part of an ongoing campaign to dismantle terror networks and eradicate their support structures.

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EDITORIAL

BLOCKCHAIN
TECHNOLOGY

Blockchain technology is a revolutionary advancement that has changed the way we think about digital transactions and data management. At its core, blockchain is a decentralized, secure, and transparent ledger that records transactions across a distributed network of computers. Unlike traditional centralized systems, blockchain operates without the need for a central authority, providing greater security, transparency, and trust. While it is most famously associated with cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, blockchain's applications extend far beyond digital currencies and are making a significant impact across various industries.

The blockchain system operates through a series of interconnected blocks, each containing a set of transactions, a timestamp, and a cryptographic hash that links it to the previous block. Transactions on the blockchain are validated using consensus mechanisms such as Proof of Work (PoW) or Proof of Stake (PoS), ensuring accuracy and trustworthiness. This decentralized structure means that no single entity has control over the data, making it tamper-proof and highly secure. Smart contracts, another feature of blockchain, enable automated execution of agreements, further enhancing efficiency and reducing the need for intermediaries.

Blockchain has found applications in numerous sectors, transforming the way businesses operate. In finance, it facilitates faster and more secure transactions, eliminating the need for intermediaries like banks. Supply chain management benefits from blockchain by enabling transparent tracking of goods from origin to destination, ensuring authenticity and reducing fraud. In healthcare, blockchain secures patient records and enables seamless data sharing between providers, while in real estate, it simplifies property transactions by digitizing records and ensuring transparency. Even voting systems are leveraging blockchain to enhance security and trust in electoral processes.

The benefits of blockchain technology are vast and transformative. Transparency is a key advantage, as all transactions are visible to participants, fostering accountability. Security is another critical feature, with blockchain's cryptographic design making it resistant to hacking and fraud. Decentralization eliminates single points of failure, making the system more resilient. Blockchain also enhances efficiency by automating processes and reducing costs associated with intermediaries. Lastly, its immutability builds trust, as users can independently verify the accuracy of transactions.

Despite its potential, blockchain technology faces several challenges. Scalability is a major concern, as current systems can struggle to handle a high volume of transactions efficiently. The energy consumption of blockchain networks, particularly those using Proof of Work, raises environmental concerns. Regulatory uncertainty is another hurdle, as governments worldwide are still figuring out how to regulate blockchain-based systems. Additionally, the complexity of blockchain technology requires specialized knowledge, which can slow adoption. Lastly, balancing transparency with privacy remains a challenge, especially in sensitive industries like healthcare.

The future of blockchain is filled with promise and potential. As the foundation of Web3, blockchain is enabling the creation of decentralized applications (DApps) that are reshaping industries like finance, gaming, and social media. Integrating blockchain with emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) is unlocking new possibilities, from smart cities to autonomous systems. Efforts to develop green blockchain solutions, such as energy-efficient consensus mechanisms like Proof of Stake, are addressing environmental concerns. Tokenization of real-world assets, such as real estate and art, is making investments more accessible and liquid, further expanding blockchain's reach.

Blockchain technology is more than just a technological innovation—it is a paradigm shift in how we think about trust, transparency, and efficiency. By enabling secure, decentralized, and transparent transactions, blockchain is transforming industries and creating new opportunities for innovation. While challenges like scalability, regulation, and complexity remain, advancements in the field are paving the way for a future where blockchain plays a central role in the digital economy. From cryptocurrencies to smart contracts and beyond, blockchain is a transformative force shaping the way we interact, transact, and build trust in the modern world.

Building Artificial intelligence Literacy: Preparing India's workforce for the future

By: Vijay Garg

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a disruptor that is restructuring every sector, from agriculture to health, banking, manufacturing, and almost everything else. Since India stands at the forefront of being one of the fastest-growing economies and among the largest globally, making AI a basis for literacy is no longer an option but a necessity.

The commonly held belief that AI is only for tech sectors has limited people's understanding of how it affects almost every sector in society. In agriculture, AI-driven analytics help in better prediction of crop yields, pest control, and management of resources, which in turn leads to increased production and conservation. It is, therefore, possible for farmers to make decision analyses on probable events, hence minimising losses and maximizing gains.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a significant disruptor reshaping every sector, including agriculture, healthcare, banking, manufacturing, and many others. As India emerges as one of the fastest-growing economies and ranks among the largest in the world, integrating AI into education is not just an option but a necessity. Here is everything you need to know from Nagesh Singh, Chairman of the Edunet Foundation.

AI's Expanding Role Beyond the Tech Sector

The commonly held belief that AI is only for tech sectors has limited people's understanding of how it affects almost every sector in society.

AI in Agriculture: Smarter Decision-Making for Farmers

In agriculture, AI-driven analytics help in better prediction of crop yields, pest control, and management of resources, which in turn leads to increased production and

conservation. It is, therefore, possible for farmers to make decision analyses on probable events, minimizing losses and maximizing gains.

AI in Healthcare: Transforming Patient Care

Similarly, in healthcare, the impact of AI is no less transformative. With AI-powered diagnosis and personalised care, healthcare professionals can provide better patient outcomes. Already, algorithms are helping physicians analyse huge amounts of data quickly, allowing doctors to make quicker, more accurate diagnoses.

AI in Finance and Banking: Strengthening Security and Efficiency

The finance and banking industries are also reaping the benefits of AI advancements. AI-based applications identify fraud, automate risk management, and provide customer service automation, significantly improving business efficiency and customer satisfaction.

AI in Manufacturing: Enhancing Productivity and Quality

Manufacturing sectors are becoming more reliant on AI for automating quality checks, optimising supply chains, and improving processes. AI literacy goes beyond the conventional tech borders, highlighting the need for thorough AI training in all professional fields.

Integrating AI into School and College Curriculums

To attain mass AI literacy, India will have to integrate AI basics into school and college curriculums. Schools need to expose students to introductory AI concepts at a young age so that they develop a strong foundation for lifelong learning. Curriculum planners will have to go beyond elementary programming and focus on the experiential, ethical, and societal aspects of AI technologies.

The Need for AI in Higher Education

Tertiary education must also shift focus at the earliest. The curricula of colleges and universities must be re-engineered with interdisciplinary modules that combine AI learning with social sciences, business, and humanities. This will equip students with technical acumen as well as ethical sensitivity and the ability to cope with society-related challenges in AI applications.

Promoting Critical Thinking for AI Leadership

AI literacy has emerged as an essential capability for empowering next-generation leaders across various professional spheres. Promoting critical thinking will equip students to be responsible creators and well-informed users of AI-powered systems.

Upskilling the Workforce for a Competitive Edge

Formal education alone will not close the skills gap that India is grappling with. India's current workforce of millions of employees in industry segments needs to be trained immediately with specialized vocational training, certification, and experiential AI boot camps.

Flexible Learning Opportunities for AI Skill Development

Professional upskilling courses should provide flexible, convenient learning mechanisms for new AI skills acquisition without affecting current jobs. Industry-specific AI certification courses and boot camps will greatly enhance unskilled and employability, making the Indian workforce globally competitive.

Addressing the Rural-Urban Divide in AI Education

Crossing the rural-urban divide is perhaps the greatest challenge to India's pursuit of AI literacy. The availability of good AI education remains disproportionately urban, with rural and semi-urban areas lagging dramatically in such developments.

Innovative Solutions for AI Democ-

ratiation

Education democratisation for AI needs out-of-the-box thinking—mobile-first learning platforms, digital learning programs through community centres, and vernacular-language content to reach truly disadvantaged groups. Initiatives like Digital India must position AI literacy as a central pillar to strengthen inclusive technological advancement and prevent the exacerbation of digital divides.

Industry and Government Collaboration for AI Growth

In addition, industry engagement and policymaking are paramount for accelerating AI literacy drives. The government needs to encourage AI training and adoption through tax credits, grants, and open regulatory policy.

Encouraging AI Research and Academic Partnerships

Policies need to be directed towards encouraging AI research investments as well as promoting collaboration between education institutions and industry leaders. Industry-academic partnerships can lead to innovation centres where students and professionals can experience cutting-edge AI technology.

AI Literacy: The Key to India's Global Leadership

Overall, AI literacy as a fundamental ability must become part of India's long-term growth and international competitiveness. Efforts towards the overall integration of AI with education, ongoing upskilling of professionals, democratic access to AI education, and facilitating frameworks within government and industry can empower India to become future-ready.

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

Welcome home 'Bharat ki Beti' Sunita Williams

By: Shobha De

Hey Bhagwan... so many contradictions and mixed signals about the dramatic space adventure featuring a stellar star cast. Hero kaun? And heroine kaun? The villain is known (two guesses). No vamp. No item girl. But an Oscar-worthy script strewn with what are called well-timed "hooks" in showbiz. Suspense, black comedy, stunts... sab kuch hai, to make a masala space series, with Elon Musk playing Elon Musk.

Seriously, one of the most detested men on Planet Earth right now pulled off a near impossible feat to rescue stranded astronauts floating about aimlessly in space for nine unending months. The botched-up mission had far too many red faces by the end of the saga, which dented the image of Boeing Starliner, and yes -- the Biden administration, too! Enter swashbuckling Elon Musk and trumpet blowing Donald Trump. With awe-inspiring derring-do and impeccable technical expertise, an audacious attempt to bring back Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore was announced, while the watching world held its breath. Would the much-reviled duo pull it off, even as irate protesters burnt Tesla cars and cried blue murder. Tesla lost over \$800 billion in market cap?

Err... the main man Elon didn't blink. And Trump's bluster was as belligerent as ever. In all this, I reserve my admiration for Sunita's mother, Slovene-American Ursuline Bonnie Williams, who remained unfazed while waiting for her daughter to get home

safely. "This is her job! She's a professional astronaut," she declared, adding: "I miss her... she's my best friend." Sunita ("Suni") won over the world with her relaxed, cheerful smile after making her splashy touchdown off Florida's coast, surrounded by a pod of curious dolphins. Little is known and even less seen of Sunita's husband of 20 years, Michael J. Williams, who is said to have embraced Hinduism. Reportedly, Sunita took copies of the Bhagwat Gita and the Upanishads into space with her, along with a Ganesh murti for good luck. Faith is what saw her through the ordeal.

Faith, hope, discipline and a deep commitment to her mission. Yes, she has been an astronaut for two decades and knows what goes with the territory. But the bizarre turn of events and the weird scenario of being a "space cadet" (literally!) would have seriously unhinged a lesser person. Just the uncertainty of getting back to earth, home and loved ones with months and months going by... horror! God was on the side of Butch and Sunita for sure. But... what if Trump had lost the election? What if Elon Musk had not been elevated overnight to the most powerful man alive? What if his braggadocio had let him down and the experiment with the SpaceX Dragon had failed? Logic and reason are never enough to explain these events. In India, we look beyond.

Our emotional relationship with time and space is radically different from the cold and calibrated thinking of the West. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invited "Bharat ki Beti" Sunita Williams to India, describing her as "the most illustrious daughter", which she indeed

is. Sunita's ancestral village Jhulasan, in Gujarat's Mehsana district, erupted in joy when she came back to earth. Let's hope she gets her hard-earned rest and is left alone by the hungry press. I have to add my own two bits' worth here. Have we not done enough damage to our long-suffering planet? Why inflict that and worse on an unsuspecting Mars, the moon, Venus? What are these space missions all about, besides greedy humans looking to exploit unknown resources in space? Despotism, ambitious heads of state sanctioning billions of dollars to send probes to distant astral bodies -- for what? How selfish are we? The claim that we are doing all this "for the good of humanity" is completely bogus! We are doing this for our own greed and selfish motives... to avariciously enrich ourselves, now that we are done with stripping and raping our own beloved planet. "Tesla is doomed! We can't survive!" the Great Egotist Elon Musk has admitted. So are we, Sirji. So are we. Closer to home, it's business as usual -- violence, rioting, arson, looting, rapes and deaths. When even that is not enough, we decide to go after the dead. Even those who have been resting in peace for centuries. A recent "Mumbai Meri Jaan by Manjul" cartoon in Mid-Day provided the best perspective. It showed a tomb with the caption: "Aurangzeb (1618-1707). Ruled from 1658 to 1707. Returned to politics in 2014. Still ruling in spirit!" Maharashtra has declared Aurangzeb's tomb as a "no drone zone", amid growing protests. Described as the "most disputed Mughal emperor in Indian history", his tomb stands in comparatively unknown Khuldabad in

Maharashtra, even though he died in Ahmednagar. A man of contradictions, he had asked for a simple grave, saying: "The rich may well build domes of gold and silver on their graves. For the poor like me, the sky is enough." Three hundred years after his death, over 65 people have been arrested in Nagpur's Mahal area, with cars being set on fire and dozens of people suffering injuries. Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis believes that these protests were "pre-meditated". With the heat in Nagpur steadily going up, what's needed is a cooling down of passions about an emperor whose own life ended as an anti-climax after what is dubbed as Aurangzeb's "Deccan Folly". To demand that his bones be interred and shifted out of the state sounds like an even bigger folly. What purpose will it serve? What exactly is being avenged after three centuries? Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis has introduced the role played by Chhava, a recent hit movie with Vicky Kaushal playing Sambhaji, into the protests. "I am not blaming the movie..." he clarified. "... But people's sentiments have been ignited, leading to a lot of anger towards Aurangzeb", he added. Hmm... I was at a multiplex watching The Brutalist when a special screening of Chhava had been arranged for the CM and his party colleagues. The multiplex was converted into a fortress, sealed and secured like one of Shivaji Maharaj's impregnable forts. The ones that defeated Aurangzeb eventually. Political games pyrrhic victories... as RSS leader Sunil Ambekar says that Aurangzeb is "not relevant" today. Make up your mind, guys!!!

On Day 2 of the Cinevesture International Film Festival, Hansal Mehta and Pratik Gandhi delight with their acumen

Acclaimed director Hansal Mehta's cinema has all the gravitas needed to make thought-provoking content. Only on Day 2 of the Cinevesture International Film Festival in Chandigarh, we see his delectable sense of humour as much as his deep insight into what goes behind the scenes.

In a session, he and his current muse, the talented actor Pratik Gandhi, talked about director actor-relationship and what it takes to crack the code. Mehta joked how its 'lazy casting', which brings him to his Scam 1992 actor once more. On a serious note, he shares how Applause Entertainment, which has produced the much-anticipated series on Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, actually roped-in Pratik first and came to him later. But then who else but Pratik, who has been playing Gandhi on stage for years would have been a better fit for the part of the Father of the Nation.

Pratik had been visualising and aspiring to play the Mahatma on screen for the last 10 years and can relate to so many qualities of his. But what strikes him the most about Gandhi is how one could be so stubborn, yet so morally right. Was it ego...a question Pratik often asks himself? Gandhi's simplicity too, according to him, was a very strong tool and something we need to pay heed to in today's time.

Both Mehta and Pratik insist



that Gandhi is more relevant than ever and would be in all political climates. Mehta adds, "Non-violence (ahimsa) is a principle that is not only significant in public domain but even in households." While Pratik shares the Gandhi we will see in Mehta's series will be more of a human being and less of a Mahatma, Mehta refuses to divulge any tangible details. He would rather let time and the series itself tell the tale. Yes, the series is very much based on eminent historian Ramchandra Guha's books and, yes, long form of series, he observes, "Is the ideal format to tell the story of the man who said, My life is my message."

Being a Gujarati himself, Gandhi was not an automatic role model for Mehta, "We have different ideals at different points of time." Besides, he quips, "I don't revere anyone blindly." For someone who has given us many real stories, be it Harshad Mehta, Telgi and now Gandhi,

he would not be drawn into the debate of the challenge of biopics either. To those who feel history is right now the flavour of the season, Mehta begs to differ. "Just one Chhaava does not prove a point."

On the murmurs that Bollywood, a term, he feels ought to be demolished, is not working, he does admit, "We all are working under pressure, of box-office numbers, of views on OTT and more." But if you think his last theatrical outing, The Buckingham Murders, fared badly, he divulges how it was a profitable proposition. Actually, but for Simran where he did not apply 'minimising the risk' formula, all his films, from Shahid to Citylights to recent ones like Faraz, have made money.

Risks on OTT too have to be accounted for and he takes immense pride in creating the watershed Scam 1992 with low budgets. Will Gandhi be India's answer to The Crown, well, he feels, "India should have its

own moment. If anything, I am waiting for us to make something like the web series Adolescence." As OTT too is falling in the formulaic trap, he does sense another disruption around the corner. Only the disruptor, he insists, won't be any new platform, for "disruption comes from the artistic community." Thus he thinks companies like Applause Entertainment and RSVP are the real disruptors, who will put their money where their conviction lies and numbers follow.

His own conviction has led him to back a Punjabi film Hanere De Panchhi. Interestingly, he considers it a privilege to be part of this stunning vision. He may have talked about how he is in search of 'egoless actors', but clearly his ego takes a backseat in the larger interest of good cinema.

Thus, he has no hesitation in sharing how Gurbinder Singh's Anhe Ghode Da Daan guided the sensibilities of his own film Aligarh and he even borrowed Singh's Chauthi Koot's cinematographer Satya Nagpaul. If he views himself as a chronicler of his times, recording history as truthfully as possible, Pratik shares how Mehta would never colour his vision or see his characters through the prism of his personal ideology. But then these are not men who proclaim to know it all, but are forever learning!

Amaal Mallik requests media sensitivity amid his battle with depression



In a heartfelt revelation, singer and music producer Amaal Mallik, opened up on the personal challenges he is facing, including his battle with clinical depression and strained family relations.

The 29-year-old, who gained fame for composing hits such as Kar Gayi Chull and Jab Tak, took to social media to express his vulnerability and seek

privacy. Amaal's candid Instagram post, which he later deleted, began by acknowledging the emotional toll that years of professional dedication and familial discord have taken on him.

"I have reached a point where I can no longer stay silent about the pain I've endured," he wrote, noting how his efforts to create a successful life for his family were met with criticism

rather than appreciation. He also blamed his parents for the growing divide between him and his brother, and singer Armaan Malik. According to Amaal, despite his tireless efforts to help his family and shape his own identity, actions from his parents led to an emotional rift between him and his sibling.

"My self-worth has been diminished countless times by the actions of those closest to me," Amaal revealed.

He also noted that these familial struggles had contributed significantly to his mental health struggles, resulting in clinical depression. "I am clinically depressed because of these happenings," Amaal shared, marking a significant moment of openness about his mental health.

In the follow-up post, Amaal requested that the media respect his privacy and avoid sensationalising his personal turmoil. "Please don't sensationalise and give negative headlines to my vulnerability," he urged, expressing how difficult it had been for him to open up publicly. "It's a very tough time for me," he added.

Anup Sony, of Crime Patrol fame, is back

Sony Entertainment Television is set to revive one of its most iconic crime-based shows, Crime Patrol. This new season will keep viewers on the edge of their seats by showcasing 26 most complex and captivating murder mysteries. Anup Sony, whose compelling narration has become synonymous with the show, returns as the host to navigate viewers through each intense case, bringing his signature gravitas and credibility.

As each case unfolds layer by layer, the latest season of Crime Patrol prompts the question at every turn — Akhir khooon kisne kiya? The real-life-inspired cases will delve into intricate investigations, uncovering the shocking truths and culprits behind some of the most chilling crimes.

Shared Anup, "Crime Patrol has been audiences' favourite for its



engaging narrative. The latest season promises to keep the viewers glued as the suspense intensifies. Inspired by real life cases, each episode solves most complex murder mysteries to unveil the real culprit. I am extremely elated to

come back as the host, who plays a key role in guiding viewers through these gripping investigations.

The latest promo is already capturing viewers' attention and I am sure they will enjoy watching the show."

Jasbir's heart beats for Heer



Jasbir Jassi on stage, be it for a concert or a talk about his journey, and the Dil Le Gayi Kudi singer always has us hooked. On Day 2 of Cinevesture International Film Festival (CIFF), the singer-lyricist was all wit and humour.

As he shared his journey from the childhood

days —when he discovered his love for music, but had to hide his tumbi from his father who didn't approve — to his phenomenal success with Dil Le Gayi Kudi, he cracked jokes about serious arty filmmakers and took a dig at Bollywood's shallow portrayal of Punjabis. "Punjabis

do have depth," said the singer, who takes pride in his association with stalwarts like Hans Raj Hans, Puran Shah Koti and late Surjit Patar. "I can't say I studied much literature, but being in their company enriched me and my music. Even my theatrical association with Harpal Tiwana and Gursharan paaji helped me shape myself post the success of Dil Le Gayi, while dealing with MTV and Channel V crowds. Theatre helped me get my body language and diction right."

Well, Dil Le Gayi... might have been career defining song for him, but the dil of this dashing Punjabi munda still beats for Heer!

I had big dreams, was willing to pay the price: Rapper Parmish Verma on music and life

His songs top the charts, he has some 12 million social media followers and loves his Lamborghini and Mercedes G Wagon. But Punjabi singer-rapper Parmish Verma says he is still the middle class boy who would save up the Rs 10 he got twice a month so he could have a burger and cold drink together.

The 34-year-old "Gaal Ni Kadni" singer, who will soon be seen as an actor in the series "Kanneda", is still the schoolboy whose dreams were bigger than his everyday reality.

"I have sacrificed my whole life for my dreams and I will do that going forward too but the right way... It's not hard work, it's consistency that gets you there. You have to show up every single day, look your goal in the eye, and say 'See, I'm shameless and I am back again'," Verma told agency during a visit to the news agency's headquarters.

The rapper, who has over 8.6 million followers on Instagram and 3.32 million on YouTube, said he has always been a driven guy with big dreams.

"I used to get Rs 10 twice a month as a schoolboy and I would save it the first time so that when I got Rs 10 next, I'd buy both cold drink and burger. I count myself middle class in that context. I saw the world because I went to a nice school... (But) there were international trips and I would say I'm unwell because I didn't have money for those trips," Verma said.

Known for hits like "Rubicon Drill", "Aam Jaha Munde", "Le Chak Main Aa Gya" and "No Reasons", Verma grew up in Patiala and now spends his time shuttling



between Canada and India, including Mohali. Both his parents were professors and he knew from a young age that there was a world out there he knew nothing about.

When he was 19, Verma moved to Australia in a well-paying office job. The showbiz bug had bitten hard but he didn't want to burden his parents.

"I knew how to make money. I was making over AUD 100,000 in Australia. I had that option but I wanted to act. No matter how much time it took, I was ready for it. I say you can buy a jet by doing hard work but getting even a scooter by troubling your father is wrong," he said.

"I knew my family's condition. I always knew how much money my parents had. What else does a middle-class person have if not patience?" Describing his childhood, Verma said he was not good in studies. Through his father, who is also a writer and a play-

wright, he was exposed to stage, dance and poetry and that's where his acting dreams took shape.

Like any middle-class boy he chose practicality over dreams and enrolled in a hotel management course.

"Even though I was relatively young and naive, I knew what I could ask for at home and what I couldn't. I didn't tell my father that I wanted to become an actor because I knew that it was not possible. Perhaps my father would have sent me by borrowing money, I felt I was 18 and it was high time to be independent." After one semester, Verma said he confessed to his father that his heart was not in it and he wanted to go abroad. Australia, Verma said, felt like an escape from responsibilities and problems.

"He (my father) knew that I wanted to become an actor but I never said this to him. It wouldn't have been fair on my dad because I had seen him work so hard his

whole life. I think he needed a break." Verma finally had a good job and financial security. He had almost given up on his aspirations when his father called him back.

"So I came back to India and I went to Bombay. I struggled and got a TV serial, a very good opportunity at the time. But I missed Punjab. I was like... I spent so many years in Australia and now that I am back, I am still away from home, parents and friends and my roots. I was unhappy. I decided that I cannot be in Mumbai, it has to be either Australia or Punjab." The Punjabi film industry was not very big at the time and he realised that he would have to hustle further. According to Verma, the next big thing was the music industry, which was growing at the time.

"I started getting cameos in music videos. I became a video director... I continued to knock on that door for 10 years and it finally opened. It has been a long journey." Somewhere along this road, he met his Indian origin Canadian wife Guneet Grewal, a politician.

Though Verma's songs are chartbusters, he has his own label Parmish Verma Films and has acted in Punjabi films, Verma realised that he had finally made it when he stepped onto the set of the JioHotstar show "Kanneda".

From the first videos I did, I had sported a beard, which became my identity of sorts. But the makers of 'Kanneda' asked me to shave my beard. I told the director, 'Sir, I have this many followers and people identify me by my beard'. He said they chose me because of my audition.

Verma has now built a writer's room in his home in Mohali and is focused on acting and backing character-driven stories from his land. He has already directed and starred in the 2024 Punjabi film "Tabaah" with Wamiqa Gabbi.

The first car Verma drove was his father's Santro. He has moved a long way since and has splurged on luxury cars, including a much photographed lime green Lamborghini and his "dream car" Mercedes G Wagon.

A streetcar named desire!

GLTF welcomes new DEPO, advocates for key educational reforms

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: The Jammu and Kashmir General Line Teachers' Forum (GLTF), under the leadership of its President Neeraj Sharma, welcomed the newly appointed District Education Planning Officer (DEPO), B.D. Sharma, in an event marked with goodwill and optimism.

The forum presented a bouquet to the DEPO, symbolizing their support and anticipation of progressive developments in the education sector.

Neeraj Sharma, addressing the gathering, lauded the appointment of B.D. Sharma, calling it a step in the right direction for education reform in the region. "The appointment of a dedicated officer like B.D. Sharma reflects the government's commitment to uplifting the education sector," he remarked.



Following the welcome ceremony, a pivotal meeting was held with Chief Education Officer (CEO) Jammu, Jagdeep Padha, where the GLTF raised several pressing concerns affecting teaching and non-teaching staff across the region. Key issues discussed included Regularisation of In-charge Teachers (2018 Batch), Departmental Promotion Com-

mittee (DPC) for MTS to Junior Assistant, Regularisation of Laboratory Assistants (Pending since 2014), General Promotion of MTS to Higher Grade, Transparent and Timely Transfers of Teachers, and Release of Promotion List for Masters.

The discussions were marked by a collaborative spirit, with both CEO Jagdeep Padha and DEPO B.D. Sharma assuring

the forum of prompt action. The officials pledged to fix a date for the DPC and expedite necessary consultations with higher authorities to resolve the pending issues.

CEO Jammu, Jagdeep Padha, commended the GLTF for their proactive approach and commitment to addressing the challenges within the education department. He acknowledged the forum's role in representing the voices of staff across districts and working tirelessly for their welfare.

The meeting saw active participation from prominent GLTF members, including Tajinder Singh (Advisor), Digvijay Singh (Vice President), Ramneesh Khajuria (Secretary), Himmat Sharma (Media Secretary), Sanjeev Rakwal (District Secretary Jammu), Waseem Choudhary (Zonal President Dansal), Amit (Zonal President Jammu), and others.

Delegation of various social activists meets with JKHCBAJ members



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: A delegation of various social activists from Jammu visited the office of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Jammu, on Saturday to discuss and deliberate upon the growing drug menace in the region.

The delegation

expressed deep concern over the increasing number of drug related incidents in Jammu and called for immediate collective action. During the discussions, various preventive measures, including stricter enforcement of laws, awareness campaigns, and rehabilitation programs, were suggested.

President of the Asso-

ciation, K. Nirmal Kotwal assured full cooperation and support of the organization for making Jammu a drug free city and appraised the delegation that a first of its kind seminar is being organised by the Bar Association on the topic of increasing drug abuse menace.

Office bearers including Vice President Baldev Singh, General Secretary Pardeep Majotra, Joint Secretary Anshu Mahajan and Treasurer Rahul Aggarwal further emphasized on the role of education and employment, recognizing their crucial role in preventing youth from falling prey to drug abuse.

JU team inspects GDC Sunderbani

Top News Report

SUNDERBANI, Mar 22: A team of members from University of Jammu conducted an official inspection at GDC Sunderbani on Saturday to assess the institution's infrastructure, academic standards, and other essential parameters for the renewal of its affiliation for one more year.

During the inspection, the university officials meticulously reviewed various aspects, including faculty qualifications, student facilities, library resources, laboratory conditions, and adherence to academic guidelines.

The team interacted with the college administration, faculty members, and students to gain comprehensive insights into the overall academic environment. Speaking on the occa-



sion, Dr. Ashu Vashisht, Principal of the college, expressed confidence in the institution's compliance with all necessary norms and highlighted the continuous efforts made to maintain educational excellence.

The visiting team appreciated the college's commitment to quality education and assured that their observations and rec-

ommendations would be forwarded to the university for further processing.

The final decision regarding the affiliation renewal will be communicated by Jammu University after a detailed review of the inspection report. The college remains optimistic about a positive outcome and reaffirms its dedication to providing quality education to students.

GCW Parade hosts 17th National Youth Parliament Competition 2024-25

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: Govt. College for Women, Parade Ground, Jammu, successfully organized the 17th National Youth Parliament Competition 2024-25 under the aegis of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India.

A total of 70 students participated in this prestigious event, showcasing their understanding of parliamentary procedures and honing their debating skills.

The event was graced by Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament, as the Chief Guest. His presence served as a great source of motivation for the young participants. In his address, he appreciated the efforts of the students and faculty in organizing the event and remarked that the



session reminded him of the real Parliament.

Also present on the occasion was Prof. Dinesh Chahal, Professor at Central University, Haryana, and Group Coordinator of the Youth Parliament, who shared his feedback and motivated the students with his inspiring words. Dr. S. P. Sarswat, former Nodal Principal, Jammu Division Colleges, congratulated the college and students for their commendable efforts in making the event a success.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo, Principal of the College.

The proceedings of the program were efficiently conducted by Prof. Jasneet Kaur, while Dr. Gurpreet Kour, National Youth Parliament Coordinator, delivered the Vote of Thanks.

Several distinguished faculty members attended the event, including Dr. Sushma Chib, Dr. Ritu Magotra, Dr. Rajesh Kant, Prof. Surinder Singh Parihar,

Dr. Mamta Sharma, Dr. Atiya Syed, Prof. Anuradha Kalsi, and Dr. Arif Ahmad, among others. Their presence emphasized the significance of shaping academic and extracurricular engagements within educational institutions.

A special appreciation was extended to the budding parliamentarians by the Chief Guest whose dedication and enthusiasm were evident throughout the session. The students presented the proceedings of the house with full

decorum, engaging in discussions and debate on the topic 'One Nation One Election'. Their performances reflected the democratic spirit of the nation, reinforcing the importance of debate, discussion, and leadership skills in shaping future policymakers.

The top three participants adjudged winners of the competition were Aseesabjot Kour, first, Sehrish Altaf, second and Ufra Tanveer, third.

The National Youth Parliament Competition serves as a transformative platform, enabling students to engage with parliamentary procedures and develop a sense of leadership and responsibility. The event was a resounding success, with students and faculty actively participating, ensuring an enlightening and stimulating experience for all.

Martyrdom anniversary of Hazrat Imam Ali (A.S) commemorated

Top News Report

KARGIL, Mar 22: The martyrdom anniversary of Hazrat Imam Ali (A.S), observed on the 21st of Ramadan, was solemnly commemorated at the Imam Zaman Educational Centre in Lankerchey Sankoo.

A grand religious procession took place, organized by the Imam Zaman Educational Centre, with hundreds of mourners participating. Dressed in black attire, they gathered to remember the great sacrifice of Imam Ali (A.S).

The procession was filled with heartfelt lam-



entations and chants, as participants reflected on the life and martyrdom of the revered Imam.

Sheikh Sadiq Shahidi addressed the gathering, delivering a profound speech about the life and values of Imam Ali (A.S), emphasizing his dedication to justice, equality, and his unwav-

ering loyalty to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Distinguished religious figures, including Hujatul Islam Wal-muslimen Sheikh Kazim Alam-ul-Huda and Sheikh Mohammed Murtaza Ansari, were also present at the occasion, offering

prayers and supporting the observance of this sacred event.

The event provided a moment of reflection for the community, reaffirming the legacy of Imam Ali (A.S) as a symbol of strength, wisdom, and sacrifice in the face of adversity.

From Page No:1

Dissatisfied with govt's reply, BJP MLA stages walk-out from J&K assembly

staged a walkout. While leaving the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, the BJP MLA said this government is "non-serious" and "this is unfortunate for this House".

Earlier on February 13, 2021, the Administrative Council (AC) headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had approved the establishment of an Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) project by the NAFED at Kot Bhalwal at an estimated project cost of Rs 74.41 crore and set a timeline of two years.

The NAFED — an apex organization under the Union Agriculture Ministry having substantial experience in the management of bio-waste — will manage the entire solid waste of Jammu city through

the proposed ISWM project for a period of 25 years.

Omar Abdullah-led Govt introduces its first legislation in J&K Assembly

regulatory in nature i.e. to regulate tax and as such the bill doesn't involve recurring and non-recurring expenditure.

After the imposition of central rule in J&K in 2018, the legislative powers of the J & K assembly were vested with the Parliament.

SKIMS continues to be autonomous body: J&K Govt

Schedule of Government Business Rules of erstwhile State of J&K, the subject of SKIMS was assigned to Health of Medical Education and post re-organisation the same continued via Transation of

Business Rules-2019 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs via notification GSR-534(e), dated 27.08.2020. So there is no change vis-à-vis transaction of business rules of SKIMS, "the government said.

The government claimed that recruitment of gazetted and non-gazetted staff of SKIMS Soura was transferred to the Public Service Commission and Services Selection Board, in the interest of patient-care and to make the recruitment process transparent, time-bound and merit-based.

"With respect to appointments and promotions, it was observed that vaccines in both gazetted (including faculty) and non-gazetted positions had got piled up over the years. In order to support and strengthen the institution, in the interest of patient care and to make the recruitment process and promotion processes transparent, time bound and merit-based, the services and expertise of two dedicated recruitment agencies, Jammu and Kashmir Public service Commission and Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board

have been provided to SKIMS for recruitment of gazetted (including faculty) and non-gazetted posts," it said.

"JKPSC is a constitutional body and JKSSB is an expert recruitment body known to have delivered in a very transparent and expeditious manner," the government added.

The government claimed that services of Jammu & Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation were extended to SKIMS Soura as its internal purchase mechanisms were insufficient and extremely sluggish to meet its requirements. It claimed Rs 34.16 crore capital expenditure lapsed in 2021-22, Rs 21.72 crore in 2022-23 and Rs 34.22 crore in 2023-24.

Faqir Khan's death 'suspicious', says BJP spokesman, demands high-level probe

Kangan in central Kashmir's

Ganderbal district to offer their condolences to the family of its leader and Ex MLA Gurez Faqir Mohd Khan who died by alleged suicide at his official residence in Tulsibagh Srinagar on Thursday. Jammu and Kashmir travel guide BJP leaders Altaf Thakur, Ali Mohammed, Sajid Yousuf, Ghulam Hassan Rather besides others were part of the delegation who visited the bereaved family in Kangan.

Talking to the media persons, BJP spokesperson Altaf Thakur demanded a high-level investigation into the circumstances surrounding Faqir Mohammad Khan's alleged suicide.

"This is a suspicious death and the police and other investigation authorities should properly investigate and probe this incident," Thakur said.

"I met him a day before and he was doing well and doesn't look like he will have taken this extreme step," he said, adding that though police is investigating the matter but it seems that it has happened under a conspiracy which needs to be investigated.

Authorities demol-

ish house belonging to alleged terrorist handler in Anantnag

"Anantnag Police remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding law and order and ensuring that no individual or group misuses government land for unlawful activities," the spokesperson said.

"Anantnag Police will persist with strict measures against terror operatives and their facilitators, reaffirming its uncompromising stance against terrorism in the south Kashmir district," he said.

Govt completes all development works on Abhinav Theatre, Makes it fully functional: Dy CM

Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL), he added.

7-day NSS special camp concludes with valedictory function at GDC Samba

Top News Report

SAMBA, Mar 22: The valedictory function of the NSS 7-Day Special Camp at SPPND Government Degree College Samba, concluded, leaving a lasting impact on the volunteers and the students.

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by the NSS Programme Officer, Assistant Professor Kamlesh Bala, who expressed her appreciation for the volunteers' dedication throughout the camp.

Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri was the Chief Guest on the occasion. She moti-



vated the students and NSS volunteers to continue the spirit of social welfare throughout life.

Following this, the camp's activity report was presented detailing the various commu-

nity service initiatives undertaken by the NSS volunteers. These initiatives included cleanliness drives, health awareness programs, visit to school of specially-abled children,

middle school as a part of adopted village initiative.

The volunteers visited the adopted villages, Diani and Balore wherein stationery items, refreshment were dis-

tributed to students and they were also made aware of varied aspects of health and hygiene.

The event also featured vibrant cultural performances, adding a festive touch to the ceremony. In addition, NSS volunteers took the stage to deliver inspiring speeches, sharing their personal experiences and the lessons learnt during their week of service.

The ceremony concluded with the distribution of mementos and certificates to all the participants, recognizing their hard work, dedication, and contributions.

GDC Kishtwar observes World Water Day in collaboration with District Administration



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 22: The NCC SW unit and Environmental Department of Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar, in collaboration with the District Administration Kishtwar, organized a special event to mark World Water Day at GDC Kishtwar today on 22/3/2024.

The event was graced by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Shri Rajesh Kumar Shavan, as the Chief Guest, while Prof. Umar Din Rather attended as the Guest of Honour. Other distinguished officials present at the event included ADC Kishtwar Shri Pawan Kotwal, ACD Kishtwar Shri Fulai Singh, XEN Jal Shakti Shri Sunil Sharma,

BDO Kishtwar Shri Sanjeev, Dr. Yasar Ahmed, Prof. Waseem Rasheed, Prof. Prithvi Raj, Prof. Jaideep, Prof. Ajeet Kumar, Prof. Omraj, Prof. Sanjay, along with officials from various departments. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Tabassum Saleem, ensuring a smooth and impactful event. The guest speaker, Shri Riaz Ahmed Bhat, District Coordinator JJM, delivered an insightful address on the significance of water conservation and sustainable management practices.

Seven students from Middle Schools, Higher Secondary Schools, and Colleges presented their speeches, shedding light on different aspects of water conservation. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation, with around 300 students attending and engaging in the discussions.

To recognize and encourage the efforts of the students, mementos were presented to the participants. Additionally, all esteemed guests were also felicitated with mementos as a token of appreciation.

The event concluded on a high note with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants, guests, and organizers for making the event a success.

GDC Marh organizes online National Awareness Webinar on Financial Education

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: The Department of Commerce and Economics of Government Degree College Marh, in collaboration with National Stock Exchange and G Institutions and Consultancy, Mumbai under SEBI, organized two days online three simultaneous national awareness webinar on Financial Education.

The workshop was coordinated by Prof. Surbhi Gupta (HOD Commerce), Dr. Priya Sharma (HOD Economics), Dr. Younus Bhat (AA Commerce) and Gulzar Ahmad Mir (AA Commerce) under the supervision of college Principal Dr. Rakesh

Kumar Koul who inaugurated the proceedings of the program. He emphasized the need of awareness of financial education among students and faculty for benefit of society in the long term.

He explained briefly how financial education is vital skill in today's world, where managing finances effectively can greatly influence our present and future by understanding how to handle money, make smart investment and plan. He also congratulated the coordinators for their initiative and go getter attitude.

The resource person were Dr. Svetlana Tatuskar (Program- I), Soniya (Program - II),



Dr. Hiral Pathuk (Program III) who presented a detailed power point presentation of the subject.

They described in detail various aspects of Financial Education like Financial Planning, Retirement Planning, Power of compounding, Savings, Investment in Mutual Funds, Capital Market, Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme, Exchange Traded Funds, Financial prod-

ucts, SCORES 2.0, ODR, SEBI investor certification Examination, along with its implications and procedure for registration. They also handled queries of Principal, Faculty and Students in efficient manner. Feedback form was also circulated and filled by students.

More than 110 students participated in three rich batches. Their satisfaction and happiness after culmi-

nation of programme and thanked the college in enlightening them as to how to become rich. The vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Priya Sharma.

E-Certificates of appreciation shall be issued to all the participants of the college from G Institution and Consultancy, Mumbai. The technical support was extended by Mohit Kalotra (MTS) and Rachhpal Lal.

Plogging Run-cum-Debate Competition organized on Fit India Moment at GDC Bani



Top News Report

BANI, Mar 22: As a sequel to the Fit India Moment launched by Prime Minister of India, a 2 Km Plogging Run was organized by the Department of Physical Education and Sports, Government Degree College (GDC) Bani. The Fitness Run was organized on the eve of National Sports Day in commemoration of the Birth Anniversary of our Hockey Legend Major Dhyan Chand.

The theme of the run was 'Healthy India and Fit India'. The Fitness Run was flagged off by the Chief Guest, Prof. Dr Manohar Lal, Principal GDC Bani.

The elite sportspersons and Physical Education students participated in this Plogging Run. The students raised slogan marking the importance of health

and fitness in day to day life.

Later, a debate competition on the topic "The Role of Sports for Healthy Society" was also organized. The students participated in this debate and enthralled the audience by their motivating views on fitness and healthy lifestyle in the society.

The programme was conducted by Dr. J S Soodan, Physical Director, GDC Bani. The debate competition was judged by Dr Resham Singh HOD Punjabi, Dr Narinder Kumar, HOD Dogri and Prof. Vishav Thapa, HOD English.

Munisha Sharma secured first position, Keshiv Singh secured second position, and Sheetal Devi, secured third position. Manju Devi was given the consolation prize.

The prizes were distributed among the win-

ners of the debate Competition.

Elite sportspersons representing different sports disciplines, who represented the college were also felicitated by the Principal of the college. The Principal apprised the students for adopting fitness protocols and to follow the formula of sound mind in the sound body. A vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Akash Zutshi, HOD History.

The programme was conducted by the faculty members including Dr Resham Singh, Prof. Akash Zutshi, Dr Nisha Devi, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Prof. Neezraeel Islam, Naseem Ah Bhat, Sajad Hussain, Prof. Anil Singh, Dr Janu Kumar, Prof. Komal Mehta, Prof. Seema Kotwal, Prof. Vishal Sharma, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Kumar, Neena Sondhi and Rachhpal Sharma.

GDC Ramgarh celebrates World Water Day

Top News Report

RAMGARH, Mar 22: Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh celebrated World Water Day, emphasizing the importance of water conservation and the role each individual plays in safeguarding this precious resource.

The event organized by the Department of Environmental Science in collaboration with the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, Swankha aimed to raise awareness about the growing global water crisis and the need for collective action to conserve water. The program was organized under



the guidance and supervision of the College Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra.

The theme for this year's World Water Day, "Glacier Preservation", was highlighted during the event.

The program focused on how glaciers, which provide

vital freshwater resources, are rapidly melting due to climate change and the resulting threat this poses to water availability.

Dr. Shivali Panjgotra, Head of the Department of Environmental Science, addressed the gathering with a message: "Glaciers are not just ice; they

are life-sustaining resources for many communities worldwide.

As part of the event, students, faculty members including Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Dr. Snobar, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Prof. Brham Dutt, Mr. Ashok Kumar, Dr. Neeraj Balgotra, Dr. Susheel Kumar, Darpan, Anjali and Priya Sharma and officials from the PHE Department took a pledge to conserve water in their daily lives and promote water-saving practices within their communities.

The pledge also encouraged participants to spread awareness about glacier preservation and the importance of protecting freshwater resources.

GDC Ramnagar organizes Tug of War match under Fit India Initiative



Top News Report

RAMNAGAR, Mar 22: Government Degree College (GDC) Ramnagar organized an exciting Tug of War match between female students and female staff under the Fit India Initiative.

The event was held under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Bhavnai Chand Anthal, Principal, GDC Ramnagar, with the objective of promoting physical fitness and fostering a spirit of

sportsmanship among students and faculty members.

The match witnessed enthusiastic participation, with both teams displaying strength, coordination and determination.

The female staff team emerged victorious by winning two out of the three rounds. The event not only encouraged physical activity but also strengthened the bond between students and faculty through healthy competition.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Prof. (Dr.) Bhavnai Chand Anthal emphasized the significance of fitness and the importance of engaging in sports for overall well-being.

He appreciated the participants for their energetic involvement and encouraged everyone to incorporate fitness activities into their daily routines.

Faculty members and students cheered for the teams, making

the event a lively and memorable experience. The initiative aligns with the Fit India Movement, launched by the Government of India to inspire citizens toward a healthier lifestyle.

The match was efficiently organized by the Sports Committee of the college, comprising Dr. Pankaj Sharma (Convener), Dr. Kewal Kumar (Co-Convener), Dr. Dinesh Kumar (Physical Director), Prof. Sumita Rao, Prof. Manmohan Singh, Prof. Eisha Gohil, and Prof. Nazakit Husain.

The event concluded with appreciation for all participants, reinforcing the college's commitment to holistic development through sports and fitness activities.

GDC Mahanpur celebrates World Water Day



Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Mar 22: Department of Environmental Sciences at GDC Mahanpur in collaboration with Eco Club of the College celebrated 'World Water Day' on the theme "Glacier Preservation" on Saturday.

It was organized by Dr. Nishu (HOD Department of EVS) and Dr. Sapna Devi Convener of the Eco

Club under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Sangeeta Sudan Principal of the College.

On the occasion of World Water Day, students and staff came together to clean and maintain the college's water resources, including Sintex tanks and cement tanks.

As part of the event, Dr. Nishu, Head of the Environmental Science Department, delivered an

insightful lecture on glacier preservation. She highlighted how global warming and climate change are accelerating glacier melting and emphasized the critical importance of their conservation.

Glaciers serve as a vital source of freshwater, and their depletion poses a serious threat to water availability for future generations.

The event successfully raised awareness about water conservation and the urgent need to protect our planet's natural water reservoirs. 50 students were participated in this event.

The faculty members present on the occasion were Dr. Mohinder Nath Sharma, Nisha Kumari, Dr. Hilal Ahmed Bhat, Dr. Yog Raj Sharma, Dr. Babil, Dr. Namita Trogia, Dr. Suhail Dar, S. Mango Ram, Kishori, Romesh Lal and Kuldeep Kumar.

SKJVST to organize 'Jammu-Kashmir Cultural Festival' on March 25: Mahant Rohit Shastri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust (SKJVST), Raipur Thather, Bantalab, is organizing a grand "Jammu-Kashmir Cultural Festival."

The announcement was made by the Trust's President, Mahant Rohit Shastri, during a press conference held at Jammu Press Club.

He stated that this festival will serve as a symbol of our rich cultural heritage, religious traditions, and social unity.

Mahant Rohit Shastri mentioned that the objective of this festival is to present Jammu and Kashmir's glorious cultural heritage, folk art, music, and historical traditions in a new light. Through this event, the aim is to promote mutual harmony and cultural integration among different communities.

He further informed that the festival will showcase Jammu and Kashmir's traditional folk dances, music, a documentary film on the life of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the release of a tribute book on Manoj Sinha by Mahant Rohit Shastri, an exhibition of ancient weapons, Kud dance, handicrafts, and



local cuisines.

These elements will provide the festival with a unique cultural identity. He invited all lovers of religion and culture to attend the festival with their families and enjoy this cultural celebration.

The presence of distinguished personalities and honored guests from across the country will enhance the prestige of this event.

The grand festival will be inaugurated by Swami Kailashanand Giri Ji Maharaj (Acharya Mahamandaleshwar, Niranjani Akhara), Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir), Sham Lal Sharma (MLA, Jammu North Assembly Constituency), Prof. B.N. Tripathi (Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST,

Jammu), and Anil Gupta (President, Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission Charitable Hospital, Ambphalla, Jammu).

The event will take place on March 25, 2025 (Tuesday), at 3:00 PM at Baba Jitto Auditorium, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Jammu. The exhibition will be open from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

During the festival, the vibrant colors of Jammu and Kashmir's traditional art, crafts, and music will be presented. Local artisans and artists will exhibit handicrafts, textiles, jewelry, and traditional cuisines, providing visitors with an opportunity to experience the rich

cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir up close.

Mahant Rohit Shastri stated that the festival aims to connect the youth with their cultural roots and preserve ancient traditions. He urged all local residents, social organizations, and culture lovers to participate in large numbers and make this festival a success.

"The Jammu-Kashmir Cultural Festival will be a platform where we will not only preserve our culture and traditions but also present them as an inspiring legacy for future generations."

Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust is committed to giving Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage a new identity on the global stage through this grand event. Mahant Rohit Shastri has appealed to all local residents and culture lovers to grace the event with their presence.

Members of the Trust present at the press conference included R.K. Chhibber, Deepak Gupta, Nigam Gupta, Uttam Chand Sharma, Dil Bahadur Singh, Naresh Raina, Dr. Vivek Arya, Ankush Sharma, Lucky Sharma, and Aditya Abhiraj Sharma.

HREF awards 558 scholarships on 28th Annual Day Function



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: The Harbans Roshan Bhalla Educational Foundation (HREF) on Saturday celebrated its 28th Annual Day by awarding 558 scholarships to meritorious students from rural and financially weak backgrounds.

The event was attended by guests, dignitaries, students, parents, teachers, donors, and supporters.

The Chief Guest Dr. Ashutosh Gupta and Dr. Shelly Gupta accompanied by other dignitaries, presented scholarship certificates and medals of merit to the students.

Notably, 80% of the beneficiaries were girls from rural areas, underscoring the Foundation's commitment to empowering women through education.

The Guests and dignitaries interacted with the children and their families, encouraging them to make the most of the opportunities provided by the Foundation. They emphasized the importance of education in shaping their future.

HREF provides comprehensive educational support, including online tuition classes, evaluation tests, academic camps and counseling sessions.

Additionally, the Foundation organizes free medical check-ups and treatments in collaboration with Bee Enn General Hospital (NABH) to children and their families.

Students and their families travelled from distant villages, including Hiranagar, Chak, Rattian, Doomi, Gajansoo, Arnia, RS Pura, Birpur, Rehian, Jourian, Dansal, Kangrail, Gurah Slathia, Ghou Manhasan, and Saruinsar to participate in the event.

The function featured a vibrant cultural program including traditional dances, songs, and poems performed by the children.

The event concluded within a traditional Dogri meal called "Preeti Bhoj".

Managing Trustee, Kuni Bhalla, highlighted the Foundation's activities, history, and future vision.

He announced that every year, 100-150 new students are added to the scholarship program.

Managing Trustee also encouraged parents of bright and needy children who cannot afford but want to pursue education should apply to HREF for scholarships, emphasizing the Foundation's commitment to supporting education.

Shiv Sena demands name of Mughal Road to Maharaja Gulab Singh road, Mughal Garden to Maharishi Kashyap Garden

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) Jammu-Kashmir unit has demanded to change the name of "Mughal Road" connecting Poonch-Rajouri of Jammu division to Kashmir to the name of "Gulab Singh", the founder of Dogra dynasty and the first Maharaja of Jammu-Kashmir state and to name the Mughal Garden of Kashmir after Kashyap Rishi.

Shiviks Sain gathered on Jammu-Pathankot National Highway near Bari Brahmana under the leadership of party state chief Manish Sahni and protested by holding placards with the words "Mughal stamp is



not acceptable on prestigious places", Party state chief Manish Sahni said adding that Jammu Kashmir was never a slave of the British. The dreaded Mahmud Ghaznavi, who dreamed of capturing India, had to return after swallow-

ing humiliation during his attack on Kashmir.

"There are no descendants of the Mughals here, then why is the history of the Mughals being forcibly imposed on us. According to mythological beliefs, the credit for settling Kash-

mir goes to Maharishi Kashyap and he was

the first to rule over it. It was named Kashyap after him, which has now become Kashmir, but it is unfortunate that his memories have been almost erased while his descendants Kashmiri Pandits are still in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Dogra people behave similarly the name of the Mughal Garden of the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the capital Delhi has been changed to "Amrit Garden".

Sahni has demanded from the Lieutenant

Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha to immediately change the name of "Mughal Road" to "Maharaja Gulab Singh" and the Mughal Garden of Kashmir to "Maharishi Kashyap Garden".

On this occasion many leaders and workers including Vikas Bakshi, Raj Singh, Shashipal, Deep Kumar, Shamlal, Neeti Devi, Sunita Kumari, Uttam Kumar, Rohit, Om Prakash, Jatindra Sharma, Bishan Dasr were present.

EJAC appeals to Govt for release of salaries before Eid-ul-Fitr

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 22: Mohammed Ashraf Sheikh State President JKTF & Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) Jammu, has made a strong appeal to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the timely release of March salaries and wages for all employees before Eid-ul-Fitr.

Ashraf emphasized that Ramadan is a sacred month that teaches 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.

The appeal seeks to ensure that employees of all categories, including NRHM Employees, daily wagers, casual laborers, Asha workers, Anganwari workers, AAYA, cook-cum-help-ers, and others, receive their salaries on time. This would enable them to celebrate Eid without financial stress.

Ashraf urged the UT Administration to

release the salaries and wages on a priority basis, stating that such a step would strengthen employee trust in the government's pro-worker policies. He highlighted that employees are the backbone of any society's development, and their welfare must remain a top priority.

Provincial General Secretary Tarun Gupta, Provincial Sr. Vice President Amar Mooman, Provincial Vice President Anchal Bakshi, Provincial Chief Organizer Kumar Din, Secretary Mehmood Ryaz Bhat also appealed to the government to take necessary action at the earliest.

GDC Katra organises Intra-College Kho-Kho matches

Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 22: As part of the Fit India Initiative, Government Degree College (GDC) Katra organized intra-college sports activities in the college premises to promote fitness and sportsmanship among students.

The event included two thrilling Kho-Kho matches, in which students from all the semesters participated with great fervor. In the boys' category a match was played between B.A. Semester IV and B.A. Semester II, where

B.A. Sem. IV emerged victorious. In the girls' category B.A. Semester VI competed against B.A. Semester IV in which B.A. Sem. IV won the match.

The activities were conducted under the patronage of Dr. Rajni Bhagat, Principal, GDC Katra, who encouraged students to actively engage in sports and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

She also appreciated the efforts of the faculty in organizing such events that contribute to the overall development

of students. Prof. Mohd Younus Saleem, Convener, Sports Club, GDC Katra, coordinated the event, ensuring its smooth execution. Dr. Abdul Hafiz (Deptt. of Economics) and Somalya Dogra (Deptt. of EVS) served as scorers.

The event received strong support from faculty members, who played a key role in making it a grand success. Such initiatives reinforce the importance of physical fitness and teamwork, aligning with the objectives of the Fit India Initiatives.



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