# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025

**ENTERTAINMENT** 

16

**Anup Sony, of Crime** Patrol fame, is back



**NATIONAL** 

**Important to protect** water for future generations: PM Modi Daily Evening Newspaper

**INTERNATIONAL** 

SRINAGAR, Mar 22

(Agencies): The Jammu

& Kashmir's elected

government introduced its first bill in the Legisla-

tive Assembly on Satur-

day.Kashmir travel guide

After the Question

Hour, Deputy Chief Min-

ister Surinder Choud-

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

**US President Trump says** he will pay out of his pocket to the astronauts who got back from space



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# BRIEFLY

## **Minister** assures rehabilitation **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

■Turn to page 9

# 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 nonserious 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

in respect of waste disposal management and the physical or financial progress achieved in this regard.

Project Report (DPR)

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

Turn to page 9

#### hary, on behalf of Finance Minister Omar Abdullah, introduced in the House. the Jammu & Kashmir The bill seeks to align Goods and Service Tax J&K's GST law with the (Amendment) Bill-2025

amendments carried out

"There is Peace, No one has fear":

LoP Sunil Sharma lauds Centre's

**Omar Abdullah-led Govt introduces** 

its first legislation in J&K Assembly

in the Central Goods and Services Tax law.

The amendments are Turn to page 9

# 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 Ittoo informed the House that SKIMS continues to be an autonomous insti-

"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 Turn to page 9

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

KANGAN, Mar 22 (Agencies): A high-level delegation of BJP lead-

ers visited Wooder

Turn to page 9

#### 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

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 BJPled 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 Tarig 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

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 Pakistanbased 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-

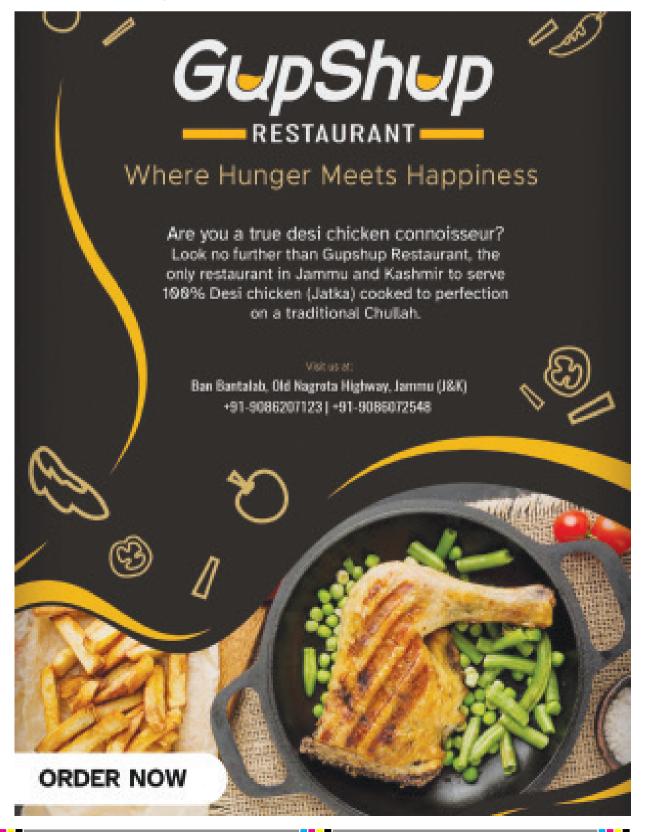
tion, razed the illegally constructed house and plinth at Rekha Hassanpora, reclaiming encroached state land, a police spokesperson

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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# TENTH DAY KRIYA

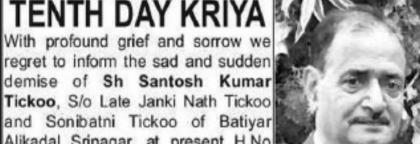
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Son Namely Sahil Koul S/o Sh. Jawahir Lal Koul R/o Waqoora Baramulla Kashmir who left for heavenly abode on 17-03-2025 at Barazulla Bagat Srinagar at 10 AM.

The TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on 26-03-2025 at Wagoora Baramulla Kashmir at 11 AM and Assembly will be held at our residence Wagoora Baramulla 12:30 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN** 

SAMAST KOUL, PANDITA, BHAT, CHANDAIL FRIENDS RELATIVES AND WELL WISHERS

CONTACT: 8803832153, 7006887629, 9797632272, 7780849390



and Sonibatni Tickoo of Batiyar Alikadal Srinagar, at present H.No. 126, Dina Nagar, Bamai, Jammu. Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on

29th of march at Akhnoor Ghat and Assembly will be held at Muthi (Near Directorate of School Education) at 11

Sh Santosh Kumar Tickoo

SAHIL KOUL

**GRIEF STRICKEN** 

Smt Savitry Tickoo (Wife)

(Son and Daughter in law)

Sahil and Prajikta Tickoo

Smt Vijay and Late Maharaj K Tickoo (Bro & Babi)

Smt Babli and Late Ravinder Tickoo (Bro and Babi) Smt Vijay and Ramesh Kumar Fotedar (Sister & Brother in Law)

# I10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALAI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Mohit Sadotra (PHE Deptt.) S/o Surinder Kumar R/o House No.94, Sector-1, Laxmi Nagar, Muthi.

Tenth Day will be performed on 22nd March (Saturday) at 11.00 AM at our residence.

Kriya will be performed on 23rd March, (Sunday) at 12.00 Noon at our residence. Uthala will be performed on 24th March'

(Monday) at 2.00 PM at our residence.

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY:-

All Family Members & Friends

Mobile No: 9149496587, 9469258514, 9149876452



MOHIT SADOTRA (PHE DEPTT.)

#### TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA our beloved Smt Shakuntla Devi W/o Late Shri Chuni Lal Abrol, R/o Ward No. 13, House No. 14, Lambi Gali, 10TH DAY will be performed on Thursday, 20th March from 11 AM to 12 Noon at Shiv Shakti Temple, Near Government quarter, Janipur Housing Colony, Jammu. 13TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Sunday, 23rd March at HNo. 141-A, Sector 3, Colonel Colony, Near Saraswati

Smt. Shakuntla Devi

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

UTHALA will be performed on Monday, 24th March 2025 from

3 PM to 4 PM at Shiv Shakti Temple Near Govt Quarter,

PURUSHOTTAM SARAF (Son in law) RAM PRAKASH SURI (Son in law)

Mata Mandir, Bohri, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

Janipur Housing Colony, Jammu.

ADITYA, AARYE, ADITI, ATULYA, ARUN, VARUN, SAURABH, BHARTI, DEEKSHA, RIDDHIMA

URVASHI (Grand Children)

Contact- 9419157025, 9958008846, 9797388215

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we inform the untimely demise of our beloved Smt Vijay Dhar (Nich/Didh) W/o Lt Sh Satish Kumar Dhar, originally resident of Y K PORA, QAZIGUND (ANANTNAG) A/p BLOCK 102, FLAT 15, LANE 19 Jagti Nagrota expired on

TENTH DAY will be performed on 28-03-2025, Friday at 9.00 AM Trt Gath Nagrota DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY

Sons & Daughter Akash Dhar, Ankit Dhar, Anisha Dhar Brothers & Bhabhi

Sh B.K Dhar & Smt Reeta Dhar Sh Manoj Dhar & Smt Seema Dhar

Sister and Brother-in-law Smt Tosha ji Bhat W/o Lt Sh Moti Lal Bhat Smt Meena Tickoo W/o Sh Vinod ji Tickoo Smt Shyama ji Raina W/o Lt Sh B.L Raina

Smt Bunty Dhar W/o Sh Sanjay Dhar ALL NEAR AND DEARS MOB NO . 9906386781, 8492901029, 9018518998



Smt Vijay Dhar (Nich/Didh)

# TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

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

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

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

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN** 

Smt. Swarna Devi (Mother)

Smt. Sujata Gupta (Wife) Mr. Paras & Mr. Prajwal Gupta (Son)

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

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

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

Smt. Shashi Balla & Lt. Sh. Surinder Gupta - Chachi & Chachu Ji

Mob.:9018783930, 9149491413

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Father Shri Mohan Lal Bhan (Papa Ji) S/o Late Shri Krishan Bhan (Original Resident of Ladnun Tulmulla Kashmir). Tenth Day Kriya will be held on 23-03-2025 at Akhnoor. The Mourning Assembly will be Held at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education at 11.30 am. GRIEF STRICKEN

(Sons & Daughters in law)

Sh. Narinder Bhan & Smt. Anjali Bhan

Sh. Rajinder Bhan & Smt. Vijay Bhan Sh. Romesh Bhan & Smt. Sarla Bhan

Sh. Sunil Bhan & Smt. Brij Balla Bhan (Daughter & Son-in-Law)

Smt. Asha Khosa & Sh. Deepak Khosa

(Sister's & Brothers in Law) Late Smt. Prabhawati Kaul & Late Shri Radhakrishan Kaul

Late Smt Santosh Waza Wio Sh Kidar Nath Waza Smt Sarla Bazaz W/o Late Shri Kuldeep Bazaz

Bhabhis and Brothers

Late Smt Suman Bhan W/o Late Sh Arjun Dev Bhan Late Smt Prem Lata Bhan Wo Late Sh Bansi Lal Bhan

Grand Childem - Akshit, Ankita, Isha, Ankit, Vishal, Vinesh, Khushboo, Kishmish, Harsh, Rohit, Rahul.

M.No.: 9906064315, 9796290706, 9796000757, 7006298828, +917006232175

Present Address: H.No 37 Ashok Nagar Canal Road Jammu

Permanent Address: H.No -80, Sec B1, Lane No 1, Laxmipuram, Chinore, Bantalab, Jammu

# TENTH DAY KRIYA

We informed the sad and untimely demise of our beloved mother Rani Pandita W/o Late Kanaya Lal Pandita R/o Hardu Chanam Rafiabad Baramulla Kashmir A/p Lane No. 1 Swarn Colony Trilokpura, who left for heavenly abode on 18/03/2025 at 03:35 pm.

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed on 27th March 2025 at Akhnoor Ghats and assembly

will be held at our Residence at 11:00 am. DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY

Smt. Shoki & Sh. Sunil Kumar Pandita - Daughter in Law & Son Smt. Sunita & Sh. Raj Kumar Pandita - Daughter & Son in Law

Smt. Sushma & Sh. Vicky Bhat - Daughter & Son in Law Bhawani, Gautam, Yashika, Vidhya, Prabhat & Pratik Pandita & Bhat Parivaar

7006134919. 9622176438

# TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Purnima Koul (Bablee ji) W/O Sh. Anil Koul (Pupu Ji) on 16-03-2025. TENTH DAY KRIYA will be held at Kashmiri Hindu

Ashram, Haridwar on 25th March 2025. **GRIEF STRICKEN** 

Sh. Anil Koul (Husband) Chetan Koul (Son)

Brother-in-Law and Sister-in-law

Sh. Jawahar Lai Koul and Smt. Meena Koul Sh. RajaJi Koul and Smt. Usha Koul

Sh. Vinod Koul and Smt. Rajni Koul Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law

Smt. Phoola Tiku and Sh. Rattan Lal Tiku

Smt. Sarla Razdan and Sh. Maharaj Krishan Razdan. Smt. Veena Kaul and Sh. Ramesh Kumar Kaul.

Contact Number: 6396023286, 9419010525, 9419139482

# TENTH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Babu Ram Gupta S/o Late Sh. Munshi Ram Gupta R/o Vikram Nagar Sarwal Near Govt Hospital Jammu who expired on Wednesday March 12, 2025,

10TH DAY will be performed on Friday March 21, 2025 from 10,00 to 11,00AM at Kotli Bhawan Rehari Colony Jammu.

UTHALA will be performed on Monday 24th March, 2025 from 4.00 to 5.00 PM at Shree Gita Mandir Simrili Bhawan Bakshi Nagar (Behind Karan Hotel)

GRIEF STRICKEN:-Smt Sushma Gupta (Wife)

Nidhi and Akhii Gupta (Daughter in law & Son) Shikha and Nikhil Gupta (Daughter in law & Son)

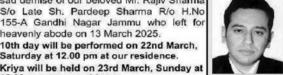
Bhabhi & Brothers Neelam & Durga Datt Jandial Ashu & Naresh Kumar Gupta Nidhi & Ashwani Gupta

SEHAJ ENTERPRISES Transport Nagar Narwal Jammu DURGA DATT JANDIAL & SONS Ware House Jammu SHIV LAL & BROTHERS Bankey Bihari Market Jammu

NIDHI TEXTILES City Chowk Jammu 9419186901, 7780909193



With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mr. Rajiv Sharma S/o Late Sh. Pardeep Sharma R/o H.No 155-A Gandhi Nagar Jammu who left fo heavenly abode on 13 March 2025. 10th day will be performed on 22nd March, Saturday at 12.00 pm at our residence.



12.00 pm at our residence. Uthala will be performed on 24th March, Monday from 3.00 pm-4.00 pm at Laxmi Narayan Temple, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Deepali Puri & Devam Puri (Sister & Brother in law) Praanya Puri (Pihu) (Niece) Sharma & Dogra Family

Phone No 9419135530 / 9419131158

# **10TH DAY KRIYA**

Surishta Sharma (Mother)

Sh. Suresh Gupta

Shri Mohan Lal Bhan

(Papa Ji)

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform you about the sad demise of our dearest Smt. Asha Raina W/o Sh. Autar Krishan Rain Erstwhile resident of Akura Mattan A/P Flat no 204, Plot No: A-17 Shalimar Garden(2), Nea Budh Bazaar Road adjacent to Hindu Raksh

Tenth Day Kriya will be held at Murad Naga Ganga Ghat on Sunday 23rd March 2025 fol lowed by Assembly at our Shalimar Gardei GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Autar Krishan Raina (Husband) (Dewar & Dewrani) Smt. Jeeta and Sh. Inder Krishan Raina Son & Daughter in laws Smt. Sushma & Sh. Pawan Raina Smt. Preeti & Sh. Deepak Raina Smt. Neeru & Sh. Pankaj Raina

Daughter & Son in laws Smt. Minoo & Sh. Suni Raina Smt. Anjoo & Dr. Vijay Pandita



Mayank, Manvi, Chahat, Maira, Mohan, Arushi, Dyanu, Arihant, Yuvin & Riyan

### KRIYA /UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt. Sanjog Rallan Wo Late Sh. Surinder Kumar Rallan R/o 164, Ram Mandir Lane, Shastri Nagar, Jammu left for her

Mandir, Shastri Nagar, Jammu from 4.00 PM to 5.00 PM on 24th Mar 2025(Monday)

Vohra, Handa, Tandon, Gupta & Salaria



Smt. Sanjog Rallan

#### OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

Block -152, Flat No. 09, Jagti Nagrota who left heave

Tenth Day Kriya wil be held at Devika Ghat Udhampur on 25-03-2025. Mourning Assembly will he held at Community Hall back side Block -152, Lane No. 24 at 11.30 am.

#### Contact No.: 9796649762, 7006859846

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

Jammu on 15/03/2025 Tenth Day will be performed on Monday the 24/03/2025 at Akhnoor Ghat and Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of School Education) Muthi Jammu at 11 AM.

Deeply Loved and Missed by Sh Soom Nath Koul- Husband (9622317416) Sh Akshay Koul and Harpreet Koul (Son & Daughter in law)

Puja and Sandeep Bhat (Daughter & Son In law) Kanchan and Rohit Raina (Daughter & Son in law) Sisters in law & Brothers in law Smt & Sh Raj Nath Koul Smt & Sh Vinod Koul

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

# TENTH DAY KRIYA

ad demise of Sh. Tej Krishan Ganjoo R/o Sirnoo Pulwama A/o Lane No. 12, Block 68, Flat No. 06, Jagti, Jammu on 19-03-2025. The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held on 28-03-2025 at Sainik

School Nagrota at 7:30 AM. ASSEMBLY will be held at 10:30 AM at Lane No. 12 Block 68

Smt. Nimni Ganjoo (Wife)
Mr Ash'an Ganjoo (Son)
Smt Ruchi Bhat & Deepak Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Smt Baby W/o Ajeet Kurnar (Niece & Son in Law) Smt Sheela Koul W/o Late Omkar Nath Koul (Sister in law) Smt. Phoola W/o Late Krishan Lal Koul (Sister)

Smt Girja & Tej Krishan (Sister & Brother-in-law) Smt. Noetu W/o Shubham Lal Ganjoo (Brother & Sister-in-law) Smt Sangeeta Koul W/O Ashok Kumar Koul (Sister & Brother in Law) Smt Isha Koul W/o Rakesh Koul (Nephew & Daughter in Law) Sahii Ganjoo (Nephew) Contact: 8082547044 / 7889959608



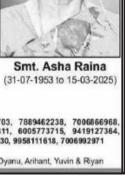
With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father Karamyogi Late Sh. Chand Jee S/o Dina Nath Original resident of Sheetal Nath Sathu Barbarshah, Srinagar presently at H No. A-1619,

Haryana who left for his heavenly abode on 16-March-2025. The 10TH DAY KRIYA will be held at

Chota Haridwar, Muradnagar on 25- KARAMYOGI LATE March-2025 around 9 am followed by ASSEMBLY at our Faridabad residence at 1 PM. **GRIEF STRICKEN** 

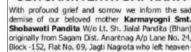
Smt. Susheela Raina - Wife Sh. Arvind Raina & Smt.Deepshikha Ganju (Son & Daughter-In-law) Sh. Anupam Raina & Smt.Rachna Kaul (Son & Daughter-In-law) Anaya Raina, Aarav Raina & Asmee Raina - Grandchildren (BabaJittu : U will be always in our heart & will be missed) 8588828109.8800867156

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not



heavenly abode on 13th Mar 2025. KRIYA will be performed at our residence at 12 Noor on 23rd Mar 2025(Sunday). UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI will be performed. at Ran

GRIEF-STRICKEN
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Ravinder & Neelam Rallan
Rajvinder & Ekta Rallan
Rahul & Mehak Rallan
Daughters & Sons-in-law



Grief Stricken

Sh. Maharaj Krishan Pandita and Smt. Indu Pandita- Son & Daughter-in-Law
Sh. Bushan Lal Pandita & Smt. Girja Pandit- Son & Daughter-in-Law
Smt. Shame Pandita Wyo Lt. Sh. Brij Lal Pandita- Daughter & Son-in-Law
Smt. Napan Pandita Wyo Lt. Sh. Brij Lal Pandita- Daughter & Son-in-Law
Smt. Vijay Koul Wyo Sh. Omkar Nath Koul- Daughter & Son-in-Law
Smt. Vijay Roul Wyo Sh. Triloki Nath Koul- Daughter & Son-in-Law
Smt. Neba Pandita & Sh. Sandeen Karilpoton, Grand Daughter & Son-in-Law

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



Ka mayogni Smt. Shobawati Pandita

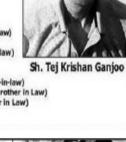


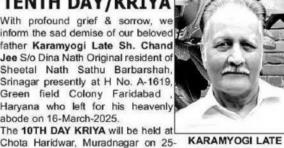
(Dida Ji)











#### **DISCLAIMER**

endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."



SMT. PURNIMA KOUL

(BABLEE JI)



# **Budget Session 2025**

#### Deputy Chief Minister Tables Bill to Amend J&K GST Act, 2017

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 22: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary on Saturday tabled the Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (L.A. Bill No. 1 of 2025) in the Legislative Assembly. The Bill, stands already published in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette.

The Bill was introduced on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

# 15 Km ' VijaypurRamgarh to SM Pura' road to be completed by June 2025: Dy CM

JAMMU, Mar 22: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudary, on Saturday informed the House that upgradation of 15 Km road from Vijaypur-Ramgarh to SM Pura, taken up under CRIF, has been targeted to be completed by June, 2025.

The Deputy Chief Minister, while replying to a question raised by Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal in the Legislative Assembly, informed that 65 percent progress has been achieved on this road and remaining work is in progress on war footing.

He said that three routes lead from NH44 to the Shrine of Baba Chambyal in Ramgarh constituency and the first road starts from Vijaypur NH to Chambyal via Ramgarh and SM Pura having length of 16.70 Km. He added that the second road starts from Swankha Morh NH to Chambyal via Swankha having length of 16.50 Km, 4 Km is being maintained by BRO and remaining 12.50 Km is with the PWD. "PWD has completed upgradation/ improvement of 12.50 Km road in 2023-24 under CRIF having intermediate lane of width 5.5 m. This road merges with the above mentioned first road 2 Km ahead of the Shrine", he informed.

Further, he also informed that the third road starts from Jakh Morh NH to Chambyal via Nandpur with a length of 15 Km. Out of this, 13 Km is with the BRO (double lane with 7 mtr width BT) and 2 Km patch is being maintained by PWD which is in good condition (single lane with width of 3 m BT) and traffic worthy.

Surject Singh Salathia raised the supplementary to the question.

### J&K has 18000 MW estimated hydro power potential: Javed RanaSolar Power plants installed on 5463 households, 4648 govt buildings

JAMMU, Mar 22: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, said that J&K has an estimated hydro power potential of 18,000 MegaWatt (MW), of which, 14867 MW has been identified.

The Minister was replying on behalf of the Chief Minister to a question raised by Mubarak Gul on Saturday.

The Minister informed the House that the identified potential comprises 11283 MW in Chenab basin, 3084 MW in Jhelum basin and 500 MW in Ravi basin. He said that out of the identified potential, 3540.15 MW (23.81%) has been harnessed

till date including 1197.4 MW in UT sector (JKSPDC), 2250 MW in Central sector (NHPC) and 92.75 MW in IPP mode under 31 projects.

Regarding the Solar Power Projects, the Minister said that solar power plants with capacity of 41367 and 34300 have been installed in a total of 4648 government buildings and 5463 residential households respectively.

The Minister said that UT of J&K has an estimated solar potential of 111 GW, most of which is restricted to the UT of Ladakh. He added that the mega size solar power projects have not been developed in J&K till date as identification of feasible land banks (500 acres for 100 MW solar park) at a single location for its development is difficult because of the topography of the UT.

The Minister informed that, however, a cumulative capacity of 75 MW of Rooftop Solar Power Plants has been installed in the UT of J&K across all sectors under various schemes and projects mostly sponsored by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Gol.

He added that, presently, the Rooftop Solar Power plants are being installed on residential households by DISCOMS under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna in which 1 kWp Rs 55,000 with subsidy of Rs 36,000, 2 kWp Rs 1,10,000 with subsidy of Rs 72,000 and 3 kWp Rs 1,59,500 with subsidy of Rs 94,800 have been finalized.

The Minister also informed that Purchase of electric/utility poles, HT/LT wires and transformers is being made through the Procurement wing.

MY Tarigami, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Nizam-ud-Din Bhat, Tanveer Sadiq, Shakti Raj Parihar and Mehraj Malik raised the supplementaries.

# Health institution Batamaloo upgraded to PHC: Sakeena Itoo

JAMMUm Mar 22: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today informed the House that Health institution Batamaloo has been upgraded to PHC and is functional with sufficient infrastructure.

The Minister said this while replying to a question by Tariq Hameed Karra.

The Minister said that the PHC Batamaloo is functioning with 12 sanctioned posts. She added that out of 12, 9 are inposition including two Medical Officers and two Dental Surgeons from the regular side, besides 16 sanctioned posts from NHM side are also in place

The Minister further informed that PHC Batamaloo has sufficient infrastructure as a four storied structure required for smooth functioning of a UPHC and its bed strength had been raised to 56 during Covid time.

The Minister further said that the catchment area of PHC Batamaloo is approximately 50,000 as reported by the Director Health Services Kashmir. She added that PHC Batamaloo does not qualify for up-gradation to the level of Sub

District Hospital (SDH).

She also informed that PHC
Batamaloo is being served by
the higher and tertiary level
health institutions like GMC
Srinagar, Super Specialty Hospital Srinagar, SKIMS Srinagar,
SKIMS (JVC) Medical College,
SMHS Hospital Srinagar, L.D
Hospital Srinagar, NTPHC
Lachmanpora Batmaloo and
UPHC Bemina.

SDH Kokernag gets 24\*7 power

# supply through dedicated feeder

JAMMU, Mar 22: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Saturday said that a proposal regarding construction of a receiving station at Nowbugh Larnoo in Kokernag is under technical evaluation, including the survey and feasibility check.

The Minister, on behalf of the Chief Minister, was replying to a question raised by Zafar Ali Khatana.

He informed the House that based on the outcome of the evaluation, an appropriate decision will be taken soon. He added that Sub-District Hospital Kokernag is presently being fed round the clock power supply, through a dedicated 11 KV feeder emanating from Receiving Station Kokernag.

He said that regarding power supply to its adjoining areas, the power is being provided 22 hours for metered and 20 hours for unmetered consumers per day as per schedule.

#### Sopore Town receives 24x7 power supply under PMDP, RDSS schemes: Javed Rana

JAMMU, Mar 22: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, on Saturday said that Watlab Receiving Station has been upgraded from 1x6.3 MVA to 2x6.3 MVA under PMDP and completed in 2019.

The Minister was replying on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to a question raised by Irshad Rasool Kar.

He said that the upgraded Watlab Receiving Station has been supplying power to the Warpora area through the 11KV Warpora feeder, however, with increasing load demand, the feeder load reaches 460 Amps during the peak hours. He added that to address this, the department has initiated a fresh technical feasibility survey to assess the need for a new Receiving Station at Warpora and a decision on the new Receiving Station will be taken based on the survey outcome.

He said that the 10MVA 33/11KV Receiving Station at Warpora was initially proposed as part of a prospective plan.

The Minister said that Electrical infrastructure development is underway under various centrally sponsored schemes like PMDP/RDSS. He said that some areas of Sopore Town (Model Town, Court Road, Galabad) have been completed and 24x7 power supply is being provided there. He said that there has been an appreciable improvement in power supply hours, quality of supply in completed areas and work is in progress for the remaining feeders and planned shutdowns are being availed for execution of works safely, with prior information to the public.

He said that once the project works are completed and the loss level of feeders decreases to the desired level, the feeders will qualify for 24x7 power supply.

The Minister said that the work on shifting/re-aligning the entire 33 KV line is not being covered under any existing projects. However, a separate tap line was taken up from Substation Sopore-1 to River crossing under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme R-APDRP Part-B to partly shift the line.

14956 Kanal transferred for establishment of Industrial Estate

#### in Jammu, 6745 in Kashmir: Dy CM

JAMMU, Mar 22: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudary, on Saturday said that 14956 Kanal and 15 Marla land in Jammu division and 6745 Kanal and 19 Marla land in Kashmir division has been transferred for establishment of Industrial Estates in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Ali Mohammad Dar.

He informed the House that the intends have also been placed for 9661.05 kanal of land and 5000.13 kanal for establishment of Industrial Estates in Jammu and Kashmir respectively.

He said that among others, Education and Skill Development, figures in the Focus Sector List of J&K Industrial policy 2021-30 which is also part of Service Sector Positive List of New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS) 2021, issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

He added that 596 applicants have been registered under the Jammu and Kashmir Start-Up Policy notified vide Government Order No. 29- JK(IND) of 2024 dated 23.02.2024,, of which, 436 applicants have been recognized as Startups. Besides, 26 of these applicants are in the Skill Development and Education Sector.

The Minister asserted that the Industrial Estates have been designated as Sector Specific Industrial Estates in sectors like Education and Skill Development, Health and Medical education in Jammu division and H&ME, Technical Education and Information Technology and Information Technology in Service (IT/ITeS) sectors comprising more than 3628 kanal of land in both the divisions.

# IPD, OPD, immunization facilities available at all Healthcare Centers of Chanapora Constituency: Sakeena Itoo

JAMMU, Mar 22: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Saturday said that all the dispensaries including PHCs, NTPHCs and Sub Centers in Chanapora Constituency are functioning properly with IPD, OPD as well as immunization facilities.

The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Mushtag Ahmad Guroo.

He informed the house that the Chanapora Constituency has different healthcare facilities at various locations like PHC Chanapora, PHC Laloo, PHC Nowgam, UHC Natipora, NTPHC Rawalpora, Sub Centre Rawalpora, Sub Centre Gungbugh, Sub Centre Hyderpora, Sub Centre Nadirgund, Sub Centre Peerbagh and Sub Centre Sanatnagar. She added that apart from OPD, IPD, immunization facilities for the Children and Pregnant Mothers, some PHCs/UHCs/ NTPHCs are also providing USG, X-RAY, lab services, TB tests, eye test (Optho.) facili-

The Minister further informed that the department is presently working on consolidation of existing healthcare facilities and no future creations and upgrades have been planned, as of now.

She also informed that the department aims to strengthen the existing healthcare facilities strictly as per IPHS norms and extend support to common

man seeking medical attention by developing robust e-Sanjeevani/Tele-medicine facilities through a well-designed hub and spoke model to fill the critical gaps.

# Standing orders issued to include left out eligible beneficiaries, households into PDS: Satish Sharma

Government to include children born after 2011 till 2016

JAMMU, Mar 22: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma, on Saturday informed the House that the government has issued standing orders to include left out eligible beneficiaries/households under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Choudhary Mohammad Akram.

He informed the House that norms for inclusion and exclusion have been laid down for identifying the beneficiaries which form the basis for change of group under NFSA.

The Minister also informed that the government has ordered inclusion of the children born after 2011 upto 2016.

"In case the department is left with available targets, assigned by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, thereafter, further inclusion of children born after the year 2016 shall also be considered, the Minister added.

The Minister said that, however, bifurcation of ration cards has been stopped for adhering to targets assigned for coverage of families under PDS, particularly AAY households, by the Department of Food and Public Distribution (Gol), where the entitlement is at the scale of 35Kg per household.

He said that the process of bifurcating ration cards through issuance of fresh Ration Cards will lead to implications of arranging additional food grains for such new households, increasing the burden on the department under other schemes being run by the FCS&CA department and other schemes, where the Public Distribution System database is utilized and household is the unit of entitlement.

The Minister said that the department is contemplating opening of new Fair Price Shops as per framework in vogue, which is part of Jammu and Kashmir Targeted Public Distribution System (Control).

The Minister informed that it has been thought prudent to rope in elected members also to firm up requirements of new Fair Price Shops across J&K, which necessitates relook into the existing framework.

#### JKPDC to initiate, conclude promotion of eligible employees under recruitment rules shortly: Javed Rana

JAMMU, Mar 22: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, on Saturday said that the Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC) has made departmental promotions of JKSPDC employees since 2010.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Muzaffar

lgbal Khan.

He said that the promotions/ release of higher grades have been granted to categories, other than Engineering and AGM (Finance), which included Chief Geologist, Company Secretary, Geological Assistants, Technicians, Finance Assistants and Computer Operators.

The Minister said that no category of employees working as computer operators, Junior Assistants, Senior Assistants and Finance Assistants have been ignored in promotions by the Corporation. He said that the agenda for promotion of Finance Assistants to the level of Assistant Accounts Officer (AAO) was considered in the DPC meeting held on 5th/9th August, 2024, but because of mismatch between the Finance Department rules adopted by the JKSPDC for such promotions and eligibility of the candidates, it was deemed appropriate to seek Board of Directors (BoDs) approval to dispense with the requirement of passing SAC-I and SAC-II exams stipulated in the Finance Department rules for their promotion.

The Minister said that the matter is being placed before the BoDs for appropriate decisions facilitating their promotion.

The Minister said that in case of Computer Operators (currently at Pay level L-4), there is no higher post available in consecutive pay level of L-5 in the sanctioned strength issued by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir vide Government Order No: 56- JK(PDD) of 2023 dated 02.05.2023.

The Minister said that having regard to the fact that the functioning of the Corporation, a distinct corporate entity under Companies law, does not conform to the functioning of a government department and requires different skill sets, job profiles and hierarchical pattern, the Corporation is in the advanced stage of finalizing stage recruitment rules.

These recruitment rules once notified shall provide a clear career progression for all those cadres including computer operators. Promotions for other cadres including Junior Assistants and Senior Assistants, will however, be initiated shortly against vacant promotion quota posts after following relevant recruitment rules currently in vogue i.e. J&K Subordinate Service Recruitment Rules, SRO-381 of 1981 Dated. 26.08.1981.

The Minister said that as it is evident from this information that no discrimination with nongazetted employees has ever been made in past nor shall be made in future while as promotions against vacant promotion quota posts of all cadres, where the employees are eligible under relevant Government recruitment rules in vogue, shall be initiated and concluded shortly.

#### Kot Bhalwal village site being developed into Scientific Solid Waste Management plant: Sakeena Itoo

JAMMU, Mar 22: The Kot Bhalwal village site in Jammu North Constituency is being developed into a Scientific Solid Waste Management plant through NAFED for scientific processing of waste.

Minister for Health, Sakeena Itoo, stated this while replying on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to a question raised by Sham Lal Sharma on Saturday.

The Minister further said that the government is keen to resolve the issues of solid waste and steps are being taken to address those expeditiously particularly in urban areas.

# **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

rtificial 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 maximising 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-

ratisation

Education democratisation for AI needs out-of-the-box thinkingmobile-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: Shobhaa De

ey 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? Despotic, 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. Hmmm... 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!!!

#### **Top News Report**

POONCH, Mar 22: Indian Army has been embarking upon accelerated Afforestation Drive to ensure preservation of Earth and counter rapid deforestation and promote ecological balance in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Recognising importance of preserving natural resources and ensuring a cleaner, greener future, Indian Army organised Afforestation Drives at Samote, Mastandhara, Batsiyala, Loran, on the occasion of World Forest Day.

The initiative aimed to raise awareness about the critical role forests play in sustaining life



mitigating the adverse effects of deforestation and climate change.

The 'Afforestation Drives' witnessed overwhelming participation from 26 service personnel and 71 local

residents, 77 Students, reflecting the shared commitment towards environmental preservation.

A total of 120 saplings of various tree species including Bamboo, Acacia Glauca, Sen

egalia Catechu (Khair), were carefully planted

across the region.

The species were chosen for their ecological benefits, such as preventing soil erosion, improving air quality and enhancing biodiversity.

as an opportunity to educate the local population on the long-term advantages of afforestation, emphasizing the need for sustained efforts to protect and expand green cover.

'Afforestation Drives' were a grand successful event since it not only created a mass awareness amongst the local populace but also laid emphasis on conservation of nature and natural resources.

The Awam appreciated the noble initiative undertaken by the Indian Army for nature preservation and pledged to take care of each sapling by adopting it and caring it in future till it bears result

# GDC Bishanh celebrates **World Water Day**



**Top News Report** 

BISHNAH, Mar 22: GDC Bishnah observed World Water Conservation Day by conducting a series of events, including an interactive session, a plantation drive on the college campus, and an awareness lecture on avoiding polythene use, saving water, and conserving water bodies under the theme "Glacier Preservation."

Kewal Krishna Wadhera, a social activist was the resource person. While interacting with students, he advised them to use paper bag or cloth bags to carry things. At the end, plantation drive was also done in the college in which students planted those saplings which were gifted to them by K.K Wadhera.

In addition, an awareness program on water conservation was conducted at Government Higher Secondary School for Girls, Bish-

During the program, students expressed their opinions on conserving portable water. The principal of the higher secondary school also addressed the students, motivating them to save water.

The entire event was organized by Dr. Koushal Kiran, Nodal Officer, in collaboration with the Eco Club, the Department of Environmental Science (EVS), and the National Service Scheme (NSS) Wing of the college, under the guidance of Dr. Shallu Samyal, the college principal. Dr. Geeta Lakhotra, NSS Program Officer, coordinated the program.

# Governor asks students to become job creators rather than job seekers

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU / SOLAN, Mar 22: Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, today asked students to become job creators rather than job seekers. He also asked them to become responsible citizens and contribute to the development of the country.

The Governor, who was the chief guest at the 8th convocation of Shoolini University on Saturday, said the New Education Policy (NEP) is deeply inspired by ancient learning traditions of Takshila and Nalanda, which placed emphasis "on a wellrounded education

system.' Shukla praised the university's pioneering steps in adopting the NEP and commended its dedication to holistic and multidisciplinary education. He remarked, "India is approaching the fifth anniversary of the NEP, and I am pleased to note that Shoolini University was among the first institutions to implement its curricula"

The Governor praised the university's focus on innovation and skill development. He stated, "During my visit to the innovation centres, particularly the newly launched Arti-

ficial Intelligence and Futures Centre, I was highly impressed by how these hubs are nurturing future leaders, innovators, and job creators who will drive the eco-

nomic growth of India

and Himachal Pradesh."

Commending the university's commitment to social responsibility, he acknowledged Shoolini's efforts in advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He noted the exceptional contributions of student volunteers in regular blood donation drives and their dedicated work with YouWeCan Foundation, the cancer awareness initiative founded by cricket legend Yuvraj Singh. He added, "It is heartening to know that Yuvraj Singh himself visits the campus to recognize and appreciate the remarkable efforts of these young volun-

The Governor also administered an oath to

students to stay away from drugs and act as responsible citizens. He emphasized that, "Drug abuse is a serious menace that diminishes potential, disrupts families, and weakens our nation. As educated individuals, you must resist this threat, raise awareness, and lead by example. Let us work together to ensure that ambition triumphs over

addiction. Dr. Monika Kannedy, Head of the Australian Trade and Investment Commission, New Delhi, who was the guest of honour, congratulated the students who were conferred degrees and appreciated Shoolini University's commitment to academic excellence and global collaboration.

Chancellor Prof. Prem Kumar Khosla congratulated the graduates and extended his blessings

for their bright future. Prof Khosla advised students, "Success is not measured by wealth

or power but by the posi-

tive impact you create

on others.

Pro-Chancellor Vishal Anand, welcomed the Governor and other guests. He congratulated the students and asked them to embrace challenges and use their knowledge to make meaningful contributions to society. He urged them to "build something with passion, and you will witness a cascading effect". Vice Chancellor Prof.

Atul Khosla, in his address, highlighted the university's commitment to promote innovation, research, and global collaborations. He emphasized the importance of research and pointed out that the 15 year old university has made great strides in the field He pointed out that the university has made a mark among all top global ratings agencies and said that the university would continue to maintain high standards of research.

A total of 1,254 undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, along with 105 Ph.D. degrees were conferred at the convocation. Recognizing academic distinction, the university awarded 34 Gold Medals to outstanding students and 20 Merit Certificates for exceptional performance.

On the occasion other dignitaries who were present Saroj Khosla, Vice President of the Foundation for Life Sciences and Business Management President and trustees Ashok Anand, Satish Anand. Nishtha Shukla Anand, President Innovation and Learning Ashish Khosla, Chief Learning Officer Prof Ashoo Khosla, Prof RC Sobti, Former Vice Chancellor Punjab University and Members of the Governing Body and the Trust.

Earlier the governor inaugurated the Cente for inauguration of iHub Centre, a state-of-the-art incubation center established under the flagship Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog.

# **GDC Sidhra organises activities** under "Fit India" Campaign

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 22: Department of Physical Education and Sports of GDC Sidhra under the guidance of Principal of the College, Dr. G.S Rakwal organised a Tug of War Competition of men for showcasing the components of physical fitness (strength, speed, endurance, flexibility and agility) to commemorate "Fit India" initiative with an endeavour to educate the students about healthy lifestyle.

The program was organised as per the directions received from Director Colleges, Higher Education Department, UT of J&K. The event witnessed

active participation from students of B.A/B. Com Semester II, IV and VI with total 30 participants.

The event was inaugurated by the Principal of the College, Dr. G.S Rakwal. The competition was organized under the guidance of Prof. Deepak Kumar,

Physical Director of the College.

The event was graced by the presence of faculty members including Dr. Sunil Kumar Bhat, Dr. Harpreet Kour, Dr. Mehmood Ahmed, Dr. Anu Sharma, Dr Shonima Malhotra, Dr. Mansoor Ali and other faculty Members.

# Three-day workshop on Water **Conservation organised at Akhnoor**



#### **Top News Report**

AKHNOOR, Mar 22: In a significant step towards promoting water conservation and sustainability, the Indian Army, in collaboration with the Irrigation & Public Health Engineering Department, Akhnoor, organized a three-day workshop from March 20 to 22.

The initiative aimed at sensitizing the local populace about the importance of water conservation and the optimal use of water resources for a sustain

able future

The workshop, conducted as a lead-up to World Water Day (22 Mar 25), focused on raising awareness about the pressing need to preserve water resources amid growing environmental challenges.

Experts from the Irrigation & PHE Department, along with Army representatives, engaged with community members, farmers, students, and local authorities through interactive sessions, demonstrations. and discussions on sustainable water management practices.

Speaking on the occasion, officials emphasized the importance of vesting, efficient irrigation techniques, wastewater recycling, and community-driven water conservation efforts.

Special awareness campaigns were conducted in schools and villages to encourage responsible water usage and reduce wastage.

Local residents and participants expressed gratitude for the initiative, highlighting how the workshop provided valuable insights into water conservation techniques.

The event concluded with a pledge by attendees to actively contribute towards water preservation and adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives.

The Indian Army remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering environmental awareness and sustainable development, ensuring a better future for all.

#### Devika, Udhampur. The programme was organised under the able guidance of Principal (Dr.) Nalini Pathania. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sanjeet Kaur, HOD Zoology highlighted the importance of the theme in day-to-day life and the role of students as a reformer in different spheres of life through sustainable practices and lifestyle changes for the betterment of the fresh

**GCW Udhampur organizes** 

awareness programme on

**Fresh Water Resources** 

**Sustainable Management of** 

**Top News Report** 

UDHAMPUR, Mar 22: To Mark the World Water Day, the

Department of Zoology, Government College for Women

(GCW) under the aegis of IQAC organized an awareness

programme on the topic "Sustainable Management of Fresh

Water Resources" here today, in which the students of 2nd

semester along with faculty members visited the holy river

water resources. Dr. Neha Antal, Assistant professor in Zoology, emphasized on the need for the water conservation and management through community participation and innovative strategies.

This was followed by Pledge taking by the students as well as faculty members on the judicious and sustainable use of fresh water. Students displayed and expressed their views on the theme-"Sustainable management of fresh water resources" in the form of posters and slogans. Later the students observed the Devika river water which was polluted with biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste thus degrading its water quality

Dr Anita, Assistant Professor in Zoology focused attention and created awareness among the students on the importance of fresh water and need to preserve the available resource. Subsequently a cleanliness drive was conducted under the supervision of Munaza Mehraj, Lecturer in zoology, in which the students participated enthusiastically.

Overall, the goal of the visit was well received by the students as it raised awareness about the global water crisis and different actions needed for its conservation and sus-

### **KC International School organises** superkids graduation ceremony

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Mar 22: Graduation is an exciting time. It is both the completion and commencement. Kindergarten Graduation is an exciting milestone for Pre-Primary Children as it's their first step towards a future full of hopes and possibilities

To celebrate progression and development KCIS Superkids celebrated Graduation Day on Saturday. To bless the students and encourage them to be great learners, the Chief Guest, Ramesh Chander Kotwal (SSP JK Police), Guest of Honour, Dr. Yashpal Sharma (Dean faculty of life sciences), Chaitanya Chowdhary (President KC International School), Special Guest Randhir Singh Slathia (Vice President of Rashtriya Rajput Kerni), Anupama Sinha (Principal KCIS) graced the occasion.

The programme commenced with lamp lighting ceremony followed by singing and welcome dance. Skit and Martial Art perfor



mances

The children shared their heart out about the experiences of the whole year. Parents of Superkids also shared their thoughts. The tiny tots all dressed up in graduation gowns and caps proudly receives their graduation scrolls and trophies from the dignitaries.

Arti Raina Superkids Group Leader administered the oath ceremony of Superkids, where they took the pledge to be successful and responsible citizen of the country with their hard

work and dedication. Ramesh Chander Kotwal. guest of honour and special guests complimented the

graduates on their achievement and also congratulated the KC International School for its dedication towards imparting quality education to its students.

It was indeed a iovous and memorable day for the little ones and proud moment for the parents and teachers as they witnessed their children receiving their graduation scrolls and getting promoted to Primary Wing

Principal KCIS, Anupama Sinha presented vote of thanks and congratulated the graduated students and their parents. The ceremony concluded with National

# **GDC Akhnoor students shine in Inter**collegiate Annual Athletics Meet

#### **Top News Report**

AKHNOOR, Mar 22: Government Degree College (GDC) Akhnoor has once again made its mark in the field of Sports. Two students of the College, Sumit Sharma and Aman Sharma, have brought laurels to the institution by winning gold medal in 1500 mtrs and silver medal in 200mtrs in the Intercollegiate Annual Athletics Meet 2024-25. In the college, the winners were felicitated by Dr. Romilla Malla Bhat, Principal of the college. She congratulated them and also blessed them for their future and also acknowledged Sonu, Physical Director and the entire Sports Committee for their strenuous efforts.

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e-mail: topnewsjk@gmail.com, editortopnewsjk@gmail.com

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# **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 thoughtprovoking 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 muchanticipated 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

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 Gurvinder 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 Soni, 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 — Aakhir khoon 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 auiding viewers through these gripping investigations.

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

do have depth," said the

# 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 Puniabi 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 Jeha 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 fam-

ily's condition. I always knew how much money my parents had. What else does a middleclass 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.

I realised they believed in my acting skills and didn't want what I had already achieved." In "Kanneda", Verma essays the role of Nimma, who gets drawn into the world of gangs in Canada where his family settles after the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. He could identify with the character due to his experience as an immigrant in Australia.

"I have seen migration and I knew that people who get uprooted at such a young age, it is not a happy environment for them. And the show is based in late 80s, Nimma moves to Canada after the 1984 genocide."

"Now I have not felt or seen that emotion first hand but my mother was in Delhi when this happened. She comes from a Sikh family so I know how painful and traumatic the experience was," he said.

The show uses the emerging Punjabi rap scene in Canada at the time to further the narrative through songs such as "Assin Munde Aan Punjab De", "Desiya Da Daur", "Je Dar Kolon Daronge", "Saah" and "Gori Police".

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!

### 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

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

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

# **Important to protect water for future generations: PM Modi**

NEW DELHI. Mar 22 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday underlined his government's commitment to conserve water and promote sustainable development to mark the World Water Day.

"Water has been the lifeline of civilisations and thus it is more important to protect it for the future generations,"



he said on X. The UN observes the World Water Day

annually to highlight the importance of fresh water

#### NAGPUR, Mar 22 (Agencies): The cost of properties damaged during Nagpur violence will be recovered from rioters and the failure to pay up would lead to the seizure and selling of their properties, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Saturday.

Addressing a press conference, Fadnavis said 104 rioters have been identified after analysing videos and footage from CCTV cameras so far and action has been taken against 92 people, including 12 minors, areas.



Cost of damage in Nagpur violence will be

recovered from rioters: Maharashtra CM

losses

Fadnavis said the scheduled visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not be impacted due

to the violence that occurred on Monday in central Nagpur

"The cost of properties damaged during Nagpur violence will be recovered from rioters and the failure to pay up would lead to the seizure and selling of their properties to recover

"Strict action will be taken against rioters who attacked police personnel. My government will not rest until elements who attacked the police are found out and dealt with sternly," said Fadnavis, who heads the Home Ministry.

He said it was too early to

comment on a foreign or Bangladeshi hand in the riots as the probe is underway.

Fadnavis said the incident cannot be termed "intelligence failure", but the intelligence (gathering) could have been

better. He said rioters threw stones at female police constables. "They were not molested," he added.

Speaking on the investigations, he said no foreign hand or Bangladeshi link has surfaced.

"There is no political angle to the violence," he added.

# RSS passes resolution on solidarity with **Bangladeshi Hindus**

NEW DELHI, Mar 22 (Agencies): All India Pratinidhi Sabha, the highest decision-making body of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, on Saturday passed a resolution expressing solidarity with the Hindus of Bangladesh and said global forces, including Pakistan and the US deep state, were engaged in fomenting distrust in the region.

The resolution titled "A call to stand in solidarity with the Hindu society of Bangladesh" calls upon international agencies like the UN to take a serious note of the inhumane treatment being meted out to Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh and take every possible step to ensure dignity for the victimised segments.

The RSS, which is the

parent body of the ruling BJP, noted the "institutional support of Bangladesh government to the ongoing persecution of Hindus" and said the minorities in the neighbouring country were

facing existential crisis. Speaking on the resolution today, RSS joint general secretary Arun Kumar said it would be foolhardy to say that this violence does not have a religious angle.

"The percentage of Hindus in Bangladesh has declined from 22 in 1951 to 7.95 today," he said, adding that international forces were engaged in fomenting "distrust and mistrust among countries of the region which have a shared culture and history and a common civilisational journey." Expressing satisfac-



tion at the efforts put in by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government in engaging the interim Bangladesh dispensation on the issue, Arun Kumar said the RSS resolution urged the Union Government, the UN and other global agencies, Hindus of the world to take every possible step to secure the dignity of Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh.

"This violence is not political alone. It has a clear religious angle because all those being targetted are Hindus and other minorities," Kumar said.

The RSS resolution "Governmental and institutional support for the violence and hatred during last year towards Hindus and other minorities of

Bangladesh is a serious cause for concern. The persistent anti-Bharat rhetoric in Bangladesh can severely damage the relationship between the two countries."

This was the first resolution passed by the Pratinidhi Sabha which gathered in Bengaluru on Friday for a three-day meeting.

Top RSS brass, including chief Mohan Bhagwat, Sangh general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale and presidents of 32 RSS affiliates, including JP Nadda of the BJP are attending the meeting which was expected to pass two resolutions -- one on Bangladesh and the other on centenary of the RSS, founded by Keshav Baliram Hedgewar in Nagpur in

# If Bangladesh can excel in readymade garment exports, why can't India: Adityanath



LUCKNOW, Mar 22 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday questioned why India, with its vast population, lags behind Bangladesh in readymade garment exports.

He was speaking at an investor meet for the establishment of a textile park under the PM MITRA scheme here.

"If Bangladesh, with a population of 16 crore, can excel in readymade garment exports, why can't India, with 140 crore people, achieve similar success?" Adityanath stated.

He stressed the immense opportunity for India to create a globally recognised textile brand, highlighting the potential within the readymade garment sector.

"There are great possibilities in readymade garments. We have possibilities to reach there by mapping the world market," he said.

The chief minister stressed the need to provide direction and opportunities to India's large workforce.

"There is a large population that needs work, but there should be someone to show them the way," he added.

He also highlighted Uttar Pradesh's significance as a major consumer market.

"The biggest consumer market is Uttar Pradesh, and it is in Uttar Pradesh," he asserted.

He further explained that the state caters to the needs of a large population, not just within the state but also from neighbouring regions like Nepal, Bhutan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand. Adityanath underscored the importance of establishing comprehensive facilities within the PM MITRA Park, encompassing sewing, dyeing, print-

ing, packaging, and designing, to meet

market demands.

## Time has come when Bihar has to play its role in protecting democracy, **Constitution: Kharge**

NEW DELHI, Mar 22 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday greeted people on 'Bihar Diwas' and said the time has come when the state has to play its role in protecting democracy and the Constitution In a post on X, the Congress president said the birthplace of democracy, Bihar is the land of knowledge.

"It was from Bihar that Gandhi ji strengthened the voice of Indians against the British rule. Hearty wishes and congratulations to all people of the state on Bihar Day," Kharge said in his

"The chapter of social justice, equality and inclusive development is going to begin soon in Bihar. Now the time has come when Bihar has to play its role to protect democracy and the Constitution," he said in his post in Hindi

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi also greeted people of Bihar



on their state formation day.

Bihar's rich culture, civilization, knowledge and art have enhanced the prestige of India and shown direction for centuries. Gandhi said in his post on X. Heartiest greetings of Bihar Day to all

the residents of the state, he said. The state was carved out of the then Bengal presidency in 1912 on this day. Bihar goes to polls later this year.

# SC judge Justice Gavai urges people of Manipur to work together for restoring peace, harmony

CHURACHANDPUR/ IMPHAL, Mar 22 (Agencies): Justice B R Gavai. who led a delegation of Supreme Court judges that visited Manipur on Saturday, called upon people of the ethnic strife-torn state to work together to restore peace and harmony.

Gavai, along with Supreme Court judges Vikram Nath, M M Sundresh and K V Vishwanathan, visited a relief camp in Churachandpur district and met internally displaced persons.

officials said. They also virtually inaugurated a legal services camp, a medical camp and a legal aid clinic from the Mini Sec-



retariat at Lamka in the district, they said.

Chief Justice of Manipur High Court, Justice D Krishnakumar, and Justice Golmei Gaiphulshilu were also pres-

Addressing the gathering, Justice Gavai said, "The Constitution of India quarantees equal rights to all citizens of

the country.' He also urged the people of the state to restore peace and normalcy.

He said that the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), of which he is the executive chairman, has sanctioned Rs 2.5 crore for providing relief materials to internally displaced persons, besides the Rs 1.5 crore given earlier.

He said that 109 medical camps have been set up across the state to provide basic healthcare services.

Justice Gavai also stressed the need for readmission of students who had to drop out of school due to the conflict.

He called upon the educational institutions and the public to ensure all students complete their education.

Earlier in the day, the top court delegation was accorded a warm welcome by the lawyers' fraternity of the state at Imphal airport.

Later, they visited the Sadbhavana Mandap relief centre and interacted with the internally displaced persons.

Several health officials were also facilitated by the judges.

'Sanad' was distributed among 41 newly enrolled advocates and stationery was distributed among IDP students.

More than 250 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hillsbased Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023.

## One killed in fire at seven-storey residential building in Vadodara

VADODARA, Mar 22 (Agencies): A 43-year-old man was charred to death after a fire broke out in a sevenstorey residential building in Gujarat's Vadodara city on Saturday morning, police said.

The blaze erupted around 9.30 am in a flat on the

fifth floor of the Vinayak Society building in the Sayaji-

pura locality, likely due to a short circuit, inspector MR Sangada of Bapod police station said. He said that the charred body of the victim, Kiran Rana, was recovered from the room where the fire

The body was found on a bed, suggesting that the victim might have died in his sleep, Sangada said. He said the deceased worked at a private firm and

was alone in the flat when the blaze broke out, as his

wife had left for work. Prima facie, it appears that a short circuit might have caused the fire, the official said, adding that a forensic team was working to ascertain the exact cause of the

The Bapod police have registered a case of accidental death, and a probe is underway.

preventing it from spreading any further, an official

People in the neighbourhood alerted the fire department and police, and a team from the fire brigade reached the spot and brought the blaze under control,

# Tanishq showroom robbery accused Chunmun Jha killed in encounter with STF in Bihar

PATNA, Mar 22 (Agencies): Chunmun Jha, a notorious criminal wanted for day-light robberies at jewellery shops in Purnea and Ara (Bhojpur), was killed in an encounter with the special task force (STF) and the district police in Bihar's Araria district early on Saturday.

Five police personnel were injured in the exchange of fire and have been admitted to Sadar Hospital for treatment. Their condition is reported to be out of

danger. Police said that a joint team of the STF and the district police descended at Thalha village under Narpatganj police station limits following a tip off that Chunmun was hiding there.



Upon seeing the police, Chunmun opened fire, attempting to escape, however, he received bullet injuries as the the police returned fire. He are from the STF. was rushed to a nearby primary health centre from where he was referred to Araria Sadar Hospital where he suc-

during treatment. Police sources reported that Chunmun's

cumbed to his injuries

associate took advantage of the topography in the area and escaped from the site. Two of the five injured policemen

Anjani Kumar, Superintendent of Police, Araria said that Chunmun Jha was involved in a series of robberies in jewellery shops and banks. Also he was involved in the murderous attack on the

PACS chairman San-

tosh Mandal

The cops injured in the incident have been identified as Mohammad Mustag, Kumar (inspector), Vikas (SHO of Narpatgani PS), Nagesh (driver), Shahabuddin and Deepak Kumar, both constables.

Police said Chunmun had been evading arrest in connection with a robbery at a jewellery showroom in Ara, Bhojpur district, in which criminals escaped with jewellery worth over Rs 25 crore.

Ram Pukar Singh, Additional SP of Purnea said that cases of murder, kidnapping and extortion were pending against him in Purnea and its adjoining districts.

### NIT Silchar's assistant professor arrested for 'molestation' of student

SILCHAR, Mar 22 (Agencies): An assistant professor of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Silchar has been arrested for allegedly molesting a female student in Assam's Cachar district, police said on Saturday.

The student registered a complaint with the institute on Thursday, alleging that the professor called her to his chamber after class on the pretext of discussing

her marks and asked her to lock the door. The professor was accused of "molesting the student

and sexually harassing her", a senior officer said. The assistant professor was taken into custody, and after extensive questioning at the Ghungoor Police Outpost, he was arrested and transferred to the Silchar Sadar Police Station on Friday evening, Cachar Superintendent of Police Numal Mahatta said.

"The matter was immediately referred to the internal complaints committee of the institute to enquire into it. The chamber where the alleged incident occurred has been sealed," a spokesperson of the institute said. Students launched a protest, demanding immediate action against the assistant professor who has been teaching in the institute since 2018, and termination of his services.

The institute suspended the accused with immediate effect and the police recorded the statement of the student and registered a case.

# Israeli forces push deeper into Gaza, destroy its only cancer hospital

Around 600 Palestinians have been killed since Israel relaunched the war with a wave of predawn airstrikes across Gaza

JERUSALEM, Mar 22 (Agencies): Israeli forces have advanced deeper into the Gaza Strip and blew up the only specialised cancer hospital in the war-torn territory, as Israeli leaders vowed to capture more land until Hamas releases its remaining hostages.

The hospital was located in the Netzarim Corridor, a band that splits Gaza in two and was controlled by Israeli troops for most of the 17-month-long war. Israel moved to retake the corridor this week shortly after breaking the ceasefire with Hamas. The truce had delivered relative calm to Gaza since late January and facilitated the release of more than two dozen hostages.

The Israeli military said it struck the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital, which was inaccessible to doctors and patients during the war, because Hamas militants were operating in the site. Turkey, which helped build and fund the hospital, said Israeli troops at one point used it as a base.

Dr. Zaki Al-Zaqzouq, head of the hospital's oncology department, said a medical team visited the facility during the ceasefire and found that, while it had suffered damage, some facilities remained in good condition.

"I cannot fathom what could be gained from bombing a hospital that served as a lifeline for so many patients," he said in a statement issued by the aid group Medical Aid for Palestinians.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry condemned the hospital's destruction and accused Israel of deliberately "rendering Gaza uninhabitable and forcibly displacing the Palestinian people."

Hospitals can lose their protected status under international law if they are used for military purposes, but any operations against them must be proportional. Human rights groups and UN-backed experts have accused Israel of systematically destroying Gaza's health care system.

Israel warns it will escalate

military operations
Israel's renewed military offen-



sive in the Gaza Strip threatens to be even deadlier and more destructive than the last, as it pursues wider aims with far fewer constraints.

Defence Minister Israel Katz said Friday that his country would carry out operations in Gaza "with increasing intensity" until Hamas frees the 59 hostages it holds — 24 of whom are believed alive.

"The more Hamas continues its refusal to release the kidnapped, the more territory it will lose to Israel." Katz said.

The Israeli military said Friday its forces were planning fresh assaults into three neighbourhoods west of Gaza City, and issued warnings on social media for Palestinians to evacuate the areas.

The warnings came shortly after the military said it intercepted two rockets fired from northern Gaza that set off sirens in the Israeli coastal city of Ashkelon. Hamas had also fired three rockets the previous day, causing no casualties, in its first attack since Israel ended the ceasefire.

Israeli forces advance in Gaza's north and south

Israeli troops had moved Thursday toward the northern town of Beit Lahiya and the southern border city of Rafah, and resumed blocking Palestinians from entering northern Gaza, including Gaza City.

Displaced Palestinians fled northern Gaza along a coastal road Friday carrying their belongings, firewood and other

items on horse-drawn carts.

A strike east of Gaza City on Friday killed a couple and their two children, plus two additional children who weren't related to them, according to witnesses and a local hospital. The Israeli army said it struck a militant in a Gaza City building and took steps to minimize civilian harm. It was not immediately clear if the army was referring to the same strike.

And in the southern city of Rafah, Palestinian municipal officials said Israeli bombardments forced residents to move outdoors in rainy weather, deepening their suffering.

Court delays Netanyahu's firing of Israeli security official

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu 's push to fire the country's domestic security chief has deepened a power struggle focused largely over who bears responsibility for the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack that sparked the war in Gaza. It also could set the stage for a crisis over the country's division of powers.

Hours after Netanyahu's Cabinet unanimously approved the firing Ronen Bar, head of the Shin Bet security service, the Supreme Court ordered a temporary halt to his dismissal until an appeal can be heard no later than April 8. Netanyahu's office had said Bar's dismissal was effective April 10, but that it could come earlier.

Israel's attorney general has

ruled that the Cabinet has no legal basis to dismiss Bar. However, Netanyahu sounded defiant in a social media post Friday evening, saying: "The State of Israel is a state of law and according to the law, the Israeli government decides who will be the head of the Shin Bet."

Critics say the move is a power grab by the prime minister against an independent-minded civil servant, and tens of thousands of Israelis have demonstrated in support of Bar, including outside Netanyahu's residence on Friday.

A Shin Bet report into the October 2023 attack acknowledged failures by the security agency. But it also said policies by Netanyahu's government created the conditions for the attack

Netanyahu has resisted calls for an official state commission of inquiry into the attack and has tried to blame the failures on the army and security agencies.

Hundreds killed in Gaza since ceasefire collapsed

Around 600 Palestinians have been killed since Israel relaunched the war with a wave of predawn airstrikes across Gaza on Tuesday, which came as many families slept or prepared to start the daily fast for the holy month of Ramadan.

Israel had already cut off the supply of food, fuel and humanitarian aid to Gaza's roughly 2 million Palestinians, aiming to pressure Hamas over the ceasefire negotiations.

The attack by Hamas-led militants on October 7, 2023, killed some 1,200 people and took 251 hostages. Most of the hostages have been freed in ceasefire agreements or other deals. Israeli forces have rescued eight living hostages and recovered the bodies of dozens more.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 49,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. It does not say how many were militants, but says more than half of those killed were women and children. Israel says it has killed around 20,000 militants, without providing evidence.

# US convicts two men for assassination attempt on Iranian-American journalist Masih Alinejad



WASHINGTON DC, Mar 22 (Agencies): US Secretary of State Marco Rubio shared on Saturday the decision by a federal jury which convicted two crime leaders who had been hired to murder Iranian-American journalist Masih Alinejad on behalf of the Iranian government.

According to the US Department of Justice, the Iranian government hired Polad Omarov and Rafat Amirov to kill Masih Alinejad in exchange for USD 5,00,000.

In a post on X, Rubio said that the court's decision shows that lethal plots against Americans will be met with "swift justice and accountability."

He also said that under the leadership of US President Donald Trump, Iranian proxies and front groups will be "investigated, disrupted and prosecuted."

"Yesterday's court decision shows Iran's attempts at lethal plotting against Americans like @AlinejadMasih will be met with swift justice & accountability. Under @POTUS, Iran's front groups and proxies trying to operate in the U.S. will be investigated, disrupted, and prosecuted", Rubio wrote on X.

Masih Alinjead is an Iranian-American journalist and women's rights activist. As the American Congress has described her, she has been one of the leading figures critical of Iran.

"In July 2022, law enforcement agents arrested a member of an East European criminal gang armed with an AK47 outside her house. That arrest came a year after the FBI foiled a plot by Iranian intelligence agents to kidnap Alinejad from Brooklyn and take her to Venezuela and onward to Iran," the statement observed.

Born and raised in Iran, Alinejad started her professional career as a parliamentary journalist in Tehran, who was eventually forced to leave Iran in 2009 after the crackdown on the protests against the disputed presidential elections.

Responding to the comments made by Marco Rubio, Alinejad thanked him for supporting her and standing up against Iran's "acts of terror on US soil." Slamming the Biden administration for failing to hold Iran accountable, she said, "Instead of enforcing sanctions, they handed over billions of dollars, emboldening the regime to continue its deadly operations with their proxies and even targeting @POTUS."

"It's time to use strength and resolve to make them pay for their actions. Thank you for your leadership, for standing up for freedom, and for supporting the Iranian people who want to see an end to the dictatorship," she wrote in a post on X.

According to a statement issued by the US Department of Justice (DOJ), a federal jury returned guilty verdicts on all five counts in the indictment against Rafat Amirov of Iran and Polad Omarov of Georgia, who were convicted of murder-for-hire and attempted murder in aid of racketeering charges, in a trial before the US District Judge Colleen McMahon.

The statement said that Amirov and Omarov are scheduled to be sentenced on September 17.

"The defendants participated in a brazen plot to kill an Iranian American dissident in New York who criticised the regime in Iran," said Acting Assistant Director Roman Rozhavsky of the FBI's Counterintelligence Division.

Referring to the court documents, the DOJ said that Amirov and Omarov were high-ranking members of an Eastern European organised crime group who worked with other people to attempt to kill Masih Alinejad on instructions from high-ranking members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

DOJ noted that attempts had also been made in 2020 and 2021, wherein Iranian intelligence officials and assets plotted to kidnap Alinejad from within the US for rendition to Iran in an effort to silence her criticism of the Iranian regime.

Amirov and Omarov were convicted on five counts, namely murder-for-hire, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison; conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison; conspiracy to commit money laundering, which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison; attempted murder in aid of racketeering, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison; and possession and use of a firearm in connection with the attempted murder, which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison and a mandatory minimum penalty of five years in prison.

# US President Trump says he will pay out of his pocket to the astronauts who got back from space

WASHINGTON DC, Mar 22 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump said that he would pay the astronauts for their overtime stay in space out of his own pocket after learning that astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore got USD 5 per day for their extra time spent in space.

During an interaction with media persons in the Oval Office, Fox News Journalist Peter Doocy brought to attention that the two astronauts "Didn't get any overtime pay for all that extra time. They got USD 5 a day per day. For 286 days, that is USD 1,430 in extra pay." He asked what the administration could do for them, to which Trump responded, "Well, nobody's ever mentioned this to me. If I have to, I'll pay it out of my own pocket...That's not a lot for what they had to go through."

Trump then thanked Elon Musk for bringing the astronauts back.

"I want to thank Elon Musk... and if we didn't have Elon, they could have been up there a long time."

"While in space, NASA astronauts are on official travel orders as federal



employees," reported the New York Times, citing Jimi Russell, a spokesman for NASA's Space Operations Mission Directorate, said via email. He added that the astronauts aboard the International Space Station receive no overtime, holiday or weekend pay.

Russell said that while their transportation, meals, and lodging are covered, they receive a daily "incidentals" allowance, which is a per diem payment in lieu of reimbursements for travel expenses, like other federal employees on work trips.

The incidental allowance for travel to any location is USD 5 per day, Russell added.

In his remarks, Donald Trump reiterated the fire Musk is under and (Musk) gone through a lot, what they're doing to him. And these people are going to be caught, and they're going to be prosecuted...I'll tell you, there's going to be no leniency, and there'll be no pardons".

US President Donald Trump earlier said on Friday that people who are caught sabotaging Tesla cars may stand a chance to go to jail for up to twenty years. He made the announcement in a post on Truth Social.

Since Tesla CEO Elon Musk started serving as head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), Tesla vehicles, dealerships and charging stations have been vandalised and faced protests in recent weeks.

# North Korean leader Kim Jong Un backs Russia's war in Ukraine in talks with top official

North Korea has supplied a large quantity of conventional weapons to Russia and, last fall, sent approximately 10,000 to 12,000 troops.

SEOUL, Mar 22 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un expressed his unwavering support for Russia's war in Ukraine during a meeting with a top Russian security official in Pyongyang, North Korean state media said Saturday.

Friday's meeting between Kim and Sergei Shoigu, Russia's Security Council secretary, followed a South Korean intelligence assessment in late February that North Korea had likely sent additional troops to Russia after its forces suffered heavy casualties fighting in the Russian-Ukraine war.

Ukraine and Russia agreed in principle Wednesday to a limited ceasefire after US President Donald Trump spoke with the two countries' leaders, though it remains to be seen when it might take effect and what targets would be off-limits.

North Korean and Russian state media said Kim and Shoigu discussed various issues, including Russia's war in Ukraine, Moscow's dialogues with the Trump administration and the security situation on the Korean Penincula

They reaffirmed the willingness of the two countries leaders to unconditionally uphold a major mutual defense treaty reached at a summit last year in Pyongyang, which pledges mutual assistance if either country faces aggression, according to the reports.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Kim during the meeting said his government will invariably support Russia in the struggle for defending national sovereignty, territorial integrity and security interests.

Shoigu conveyed a message from Russian President Vladimir Putin, who extended his greetings to Kim and vowed to give utmost attention to implementing agreements



reached in their recent summits.

He expressed gratitude for North Korea's solidarity with Russia's position on all critical geopolitical issues, particularly on the Ukrainian issue, according to his televised comments.

North Korean and Russia media didn't say whether any new agreements were reached before Shoigu departed Pyongyang later on Friday.

North Korea has been supplying a vast amount of conventional weapons to Russia, and last fall it sent about 10,000 to 12,000 troops to Russia as well, according to US, South Korean and Ukraine intelligence officials

In its February 27 statement, South Korea's National Intelligence Service said it was trying to determine exactly how many more troops North Korea has deployed to Russia. South Korean media put the number of

newly deployed North Korean soldiers at about 1,000 to 3,000 South Korea, the US and others suspect North Korea is receiving economic and military assistance from Russia in return for providing weapons and troops.

Many experts say North Korea will likely

ramp up its support of Russia to win as many benefits as possible from Russia before the war ends.

Shoigu's trip could be related to preparations for Kim to visit Russia, some observers say.

Putin invited Kim to visit Moscow when he visited Pyongyang last year for the summit. In 2023, when Shoigu, then a defense minister, traveled to North Korea, Kim gave him a personal tour of a North Korean arms exhibition in what outside critics likened to a sales pitch.

In September 2024, Shoigu, then in the new security council post, went to North Korea again for a meeting with Kim, and the two discussed expanding cooperation, according to North Korea's state media.

Earlier Friday, KCNA said Kim oversaw the test-launches of new anti-aircraft missiles the previous day.

It cited Kim as calling the missiles another major defense weapons system for North

The missile launches, North Korea's sixth weapons testing activity this year, occurred on the same day that the US and South Korean militaries concluded their annual training that North Korea views as an invasion rehearsal.

The 11-day Freedom Shield exercise was the allies' first major joint military training since Trump's inauguration in January.

North Korea often responds to major US-South Korean military drills with its own weapons tests and fiery rhetoric.

Hours after this year's Freedom Shield training began on March 10, North Korea fired several ballistic missiles into the sea.

# 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 Incharge 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-

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, rec-

ognizing their crucial

role in preventing youth

from falling prey to drug

abuse.

ciation, K. Nirmal Kotwal

assured full coopera-

tion and support of the

organization for making

Jammu a drug free

city and appraised the

delegation that a first

of its kind seminar is

# JU team insects 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 quidelines.

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 sucThe 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 Walmuslimeen 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.

#### Dissatisfied with govt's reply, BJP MLA stages walkout 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 biowaste — will manage the entire solid waste of Jammu city through

the proposed ISWM project for a period of 25 years.

## Omar Abdullahled 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

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 highlevel 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 spe-

cially-abled children,

middle school as a part of adopted village initia-

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 Fulial Singh, XEN Jal Shakti Shri Sunil Sharma,

BDO Kishtwar Shri Sanieev. 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 quest 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 suc-

# **GDC Marh organizes online National Awareness Webinar on Financial Education**

**Top News Report** 

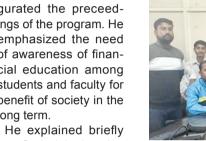
JAMMU, Mar 22: The Department of Commerce and Economics of Government Degree College Marh, in collaboration with National Stock Exchange and G Institutions and Consultancy, Mumbai under SEBI, organized two days online three simultaneous national awareness webinar on Financial Education.

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 preceedings of the program. He emphasized the need of awareness of financial education among students and faculty for benefit of society in the long term.

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 subiect.

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 culmination 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

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. Maniu Devi was given the consolation prize.

The prizes were distributed among the winners of the debate Competition.

Elite sportspersons

representing different

sports disciplines, who represented the college were also felicitated by the Principal of the col-The Principal lege. 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. Neezrateel 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 Racchpal 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 communi-

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.) Bhavnaish 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.) Bhavnaish Chand Anthal emphasized the significance of fitness and the importance of engaging in sports for

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

overall well-being.

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 (Convenor), Dr. Kewal Kumar (Co-Convenor), Dr. Dinesh Kumar (Physical Director), Prof. Sumita Rao, Prof. Manmohan Singh, Prof. Eisha Gohil, and Prof. Nazakit Hus-

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 par-

ticipated 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. Babli, Dr. Namita Trogia, Dr. Suhail Dar, S

Mango Ram, Kishori, Romesh Lal and Kuldeep Kumar.

# IPL 18th season kicks off with defending champions KKR taking on Royal Challengers

KOLKATA, Mar 22 (Agencies): The 18th Indian Premier League kicks off here on Saturday with defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders taking on perennial underachievers Royal Challengers Bengaluru amid a looming threat of rain.

The season opener at Eden Gardens revives an iconic rivalry. Seventeen years ago, Brendon McCullum's blistering 158 in the inaugural IPL match set the tone for the league's legacy. But much water has flown under the nearby Hooghly since then as KKR have won three titles, while RCB are still in search of the elusive crown.

This time, KKR, often known to slump after a championship win, will look to defy history under Ajinkya Rahane's leadership.

Focus will be on Varun Chakravarthy, the architect of India's Champions Trophy victory, when he takes on Virat Kohli, who has worked intensely against spin in the nets. Chakravarthy remains cautious about carrying over past success. "Confidence is very subjective. Every new tournament, even if you win the last tournament, you have to start from scratch,"



Chakravarthy said.

"You have to start from zero. As they say, if you score a hundred in the previous match, you have to start from zero. Similarly, yes I did well in the last tournament but still, IPL is a different ball game and it's a different beast. I very well know what's coming my way and I have to be on my toes."

Asked about how he maintains his mystery despite advances in technology and video analysis, Chakaravarthy offered a thoughtful insight into his approach. "The ball can deviate only in three ways — it can go left, right or straight. It just

depends on how I'm going to choose the sequencing. That's where the tactical side of the game comes in, and that's where I'm trying to improve."

Meanwhile, Sunil Narine, still a force at 36, will look to complement Chakravarthy while also firing at the top to compensate for Phil Salt's departure to RCB.

For RCB, the firepower of Salt and Kohli at the top, complemented by finishers like Jitesh Sharma and Liam Livingstone, looks formidable. However, their bowling, weakened by the absence of Mohammed Siraj (now with Gujarat Titans), will lean on veterans Bhuvneshwar

Kumar and Josh Hazlewood to make an impact on Eden's spinfriendly conditions.

Rajat Patidar might have been a surprise choice to lead the star-studded RCB but head coach Andy Flower said the whole team is "right behind" the skipper.

"A lot of these guys have captained state sides, IPL teams and international teams. So, we're very pleased with that, regardless of who was actually captaining our team this year," said Flower. "I think having influential people in your squad, guys that have performed at the top level gives him a level of confidence. You get that confidence from the evidence of you succeeding at the top level in the past. There are a lot of our guys that have done that in, obviously, performance terms, but also leadership terms," he

The tournament will begin with a glitzy opening ceremony featuring Shreya Ghoshal, Karan Aujla and Disha Patani. However, all the excitement might quite literally be dampened as there is a forecast of thunderstorms and rain on match day.

# End of saliva ban game changer for bowlers: Harbhajan



CHANDIGARH, Mar 22 (Agencies): Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh joked that the spinners can survive in the batsman-dominated IPL only by hiding the bats. On a serious note, though, Harbhajan said that the spinners should act like spinners instead of medium pacers, adding that they must bowl with the intent of taking wickets.

"The spinners should focus on taking wickets. The likes of Rashid Khan and Sunil Narine have proved their worth. I think the spinners should also focus on spinning the ball," said Harbhajan, while talking to the Tribune ahead of the 18th edition of TATA IPL.

He also welcomed the rule change by the BCCI, especially allowing the use of saliva to shine the ball. "It's a great decision from a bowler's perspective. This was stopped during the Covid pandemic. It will help the bowlers to get swing and drift. This will be a game changer for the bowlers. I mean, the conditions will be different at all the venues, and the teams have to adapt to things quickly. Also, the majority of the matches will be played during the evening hours, and the teams will be

playing after sunset as well," he said. While appreciating the IPL platform for lifting Indian cricket's standard, Harbhajan said that youngsters such as Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill and Abhishek Sharma will be the players to watch out for this season. He also picked Riyan Parag as a surprise package. Parag will captain Rajasthan Royals in the first three matches in place of regular skipper Sanju Samson, who is recovering from a finger injury.

"Everyone knows how he captained the Assam team in domestic circuit. A couple of matches as a leader could bring the best out of him. There's no question about his capabilities," he said.

"Similarly, Abhishek, Shubman and Yashasvi will be the trump cards for their respective sides. They have done a brilliant job in the last eight or nine months, and play up in the order. If they click, their teams will surely win matches. Similarly, Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana, these youngsters are also my picks among the Indians," he added.

Punjab Kings spent over Rs 100 crore at the mega auction last year. The revamped team, with only two retained players, has appointed Aussie stalwart Ricky Ponting as its coach and Shreyas lyer as its skipper in search of a maiden title

"I just pray they win the IPL title this time. They are a good side, they have included many Australian players, their coach is also from Australia, and on top of it, they have good Indian players as well," Harbhajan said.

While talking about IPL's role in shaping Indian cricketing culture, Harbhajan said: "The IPL has given a lot to Indian cricket. I mean, we have so many talented players coming up from this platform, it's giving job opportunities to so many people."

# Chennai Super Kings lean on spin strength against depleted Mumbai Indians in their IPL opener

CHENNAI, Mar 22 (Agencies): Chennai Super Kings will lean on their formidable spin strength under favourable conditions at the Chepauk as well as recent record against Mumbai Indians sans Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya, when the two sides face each other in their Indian Premier League (IPL) campaign opener here on Sunday.

Five-time winners CSK augmented their spin attack in the IPL mega auction last year by including Ravichandran Ashwin, Noor Ahmad Shreyas Gopal and Deepak Hooda, with India veteran Ravindra Jadeia also in the mix.

CSK's pre-season moves indicate how the spin-friendly conditions at the MA Chidambaram Stadium here could be a major factor in their game plan. Starting their season against an equally formidable opponent in Mumbai Indians, this strategy could well deliver the goods right from the beginning.

For CSK, MS Dhoni will be the cynosure of all eyes once again, having remained with the team since the inception of

the IPL in 2008.

On the other hand, the absence of India bowling spearhead Bumrah could be acutely felt in the MI ranks as the rightarm pacer remains on a comeback trail from a back-related issue which has kept him sidelined so far this year.

Bumrah is expected to miss the initial stages of this IPL and his absence will leave MI without their lethal weapon in the death overs, presenting the management with a headache to work with other options and stratogics.

MI will also be without regular skipper Pandya for this clash as the India all-rounder serves a one-match ban for the team's slow over-rate in their final league match last year.

But for a team which has no dearth of leadership options, MI will have India T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav leading them in their tournament opener and important away clash.

CSK face a healthy selection conundrum for the opening slot with one among the two Kiwis, Rachin Ravindra and Devon Conway, set to partner skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad at the top.

The middle order is set to feature the likes of Rahul Tripathi, Shivam Dube, Hooda and Vijay Shankar, followed by Dhoni and Jadeja.

Among the favourable factors is CSK's recent record of four wins in their last five matches over Mumbai Indians including three victories in last as many games.

Pandya's appointment as MI skipper, replacing Rohit Sharma, heavily marred the five-time IPL winners' campaign last season where they had finished at the bottom. The squad looks well settled now after the turmoils of last season.

Even though Ishan Kishan's exit has left a void at the top, the explosive South African wicketkeeper Ryan Rickelton can be expected to match Rohit's firepower at the top, followed by India batting mainstays Suryakumar and Tilak Varma in the middle.

While MI will have to wait to field their desired fast bowling attack which comprises a mix of veterans in Trent Boult, Deepak Chahar and Reece Topley and Bumrah, the presence of Corbin Bosch makes things interesting as to how their think tank



is able to use their resources optimally.

Former CSK frontman Mitchell Santner's experience and knowledge of conditions at Chepauk is likely to come in handy along with Karn Sharma and Mujeeb Ur Rahman.

Sunday's contest between CSK and MI could also give some impressions of how the ball-change rule in the second innings plays

Teams (from):

Chennai Super Kings: Ruturaj Gaikwad ©, MS Dhoni (wk), Devon Conway, Rahul Tripathi, Shaik Rasheed, Vansh Bedi (wk), C Andre Siddharth, Rachin Ravindra, Ravichandran Ashwin, Vijay Shankar, Sam Curran, Anshul Kamboj, Deepak Hooda,

Jamie Overton, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Ramakrishna Ghosh, Ravindra Jadeja, Shivam Dube, Khaleel Ahmed, Noor Ahmad, Mukesh Choudhary, Gurjapneet Singh, Nathan Ellis, Shreyas Gopal, Matheesha Pathirana.

Mumbai Indians: Hardik Pandya ©, Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Robin Minz, Ryan Rickelton (wk), Shrijith Krishnan (wk), Bevon Jacobs, Tilak Varma, Naman Dhir, Will Jacks, Mitchell Santner, Raj Angad Bawa, Vignesh Puthur, Corbin Bosch, Trent Boult, Karn Sharma, Deepak Chahar, Ashwani Kumar, Reece Topley, VS Penmetsa, Arjun Tendulkar, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Jasprit Bumrah.

# We are going to become greatest Punjab Kings side, says Ponting

NEW DELHI, Mar 22 (Agencies): The immediate target is to end their title draught in the Indian Premier League (IPL), but head coach Ricky Ponting has also set the goal of becoming the best-ever Punjab Kings team.

With Ponting taking over as the head coach and last year's IPL winning captain Shreyas lyer becoming the skipper, Punjab Kings hope for a strong turnaround in their fortunes as they hunt for a maiden title win.

Punjab Kings will take on Gujarat Titans in their opening match on March 25 in Ahmedabad.

"The overall vision for this team is to win the IPL. I told the guys on the very first day when I joined the camp in Dharamshala that we were going to create and become the greatest Punjab Kings team that's played," Ponting was quoted as saying in a release from the

"That's the journey that we're on and that doesn't happen overnight. You've got to create that," he said.

The Australian batting legend emphasised on developing a winning attitude, adding that he doesn't want the opposition to take anything away from his side.

"Winning is really an attitude thing. If we turn up to play, the opposition turns up to play, if they want to beat us, then it feels like they're taking something away and I don't want to let anyone take anything away from me or take anything away from my team," he said.

Ponting tipped uncapped Indian play-

ers in Delhi's Priyansh Arya and Mumbai duo of Suryansh Shedge and Musheer Khan to come good this season.

"Priyansh Arya, I think is a very special potential opening batsman for us going forward in the tournament. Depending on which way we go with our overseas make-up, he's very exciting. Suryansh Shedge is also someone who has been very impressive in our training so far," he said.

"When I talk about energy and fun, another player that I am impressed with, is Musheer Khan. He's brought a lot to the group already. He has got an infectious attitude, and around the training ground and around the team so far, he's been someone that I've really enjoyed working with." Ponting also emphasised on the senior players setting the right example for youngsters.

"I put a lot of the bait on them to ensure that they're setting the right example," he said.

"Because a lot of the young domestic Indian players look up to the overseas boys and if the overseas boys aren't doing the right thing, then it's easy for the young Indian guys to not do the right thing either. So I empower the overseas guys to be the leaders and lead the way," added the former Australia

# Formidable Sunrisers Hyderabad to start favourite against Rajasthan Royals

#### Sunrisers have some of most explosive batters in their line-up in Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Heinrich Klaasen

HYDERABAD, Mar 22 (Agencies): Equipped with a balanced squad that features a formidable batting line-up and experienced bowlers, last edition's runners-up Sunrisers Hyderabad will start as favourites in their opening Indian Premier League (IPL) match against Rajasthan Royals here on Sunday.

Sunday.
Sunrisers have some of the most explosive batters in their line-up in Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Heinrich Klaasen, and with a belter of a track likely to offer at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, they would fancy a massive

total in the afternoon match of the double-header day.

In fact, if any team can get to the much talked about 300-run total after batting first, it is Sunrisers that is expected to achieve the feat with the firepower they have.

The return of India all-

rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy after an injury is also expected to add to the arsenal of the Sunrisers. With the kind of form Abhishek and Head have been having recently, the Sunrisers supporters can expect to see impressive strokes. In the last T201 he

In the last T201 he played, Abhishek scored 135 off just 54 balls with a strike rate of 250

against England during the home series in February.

With few established names in the bowling department of the Royals, except England pacer Jofra Archer, there is every possibility that the Sunrisers can eye another 250-plus total if they bat first on Sunday.

Sunrisers posted 250-plus totals three times last season, including 287 against Royal Challengers Bangaluru in an away match and 277 against Mumbai Indians at home. The explosive duo of Abhishek and Head scored the highest IPL power play total of 125 against Delhi Capitals in the third instance



when they posted 266.

The experienced pace duo of captain Pat Cummins and Mohammed Shami will man the bowling department along with spinner Adam Zampa—another seasoned campaigner.

The 2016 winners Sunrisers look far batter placed than Royals, who will miss skipper Sanju Samson due to his finger injury. Samson cannot keep wickets and field and can only bat with protection on his finger. It won't be a surprise if he comes as an Impact

Player. Batter Riyan Parag will be the interim captain for the 2008 champions Royals in their first three IPL matches.

With the release of Englishman Jos Buttler, the Royals' batting line-up has dwindled though they still have the likes of Shimron Hetmyer, Dhruv Jurel, Nitish Rana and Yashasvi Jaiswal.

Sunrisers and Royals played two games against each other last season. Sunrisers won both the games and will be confident of maintaining their supremacy over the Rajasthan-based outfit.

The first meeting was in the league stage when the Sunrisers prevailed by just one run.

finished at the second and third positions respectively after the league stage and they faced against each other once again in the qualifier 2.

Sunrisers and Rovals

Sunrisers won that game with ease, beating the Royals by 36 runs to qualify for the final which they lost to Kolkata Knight Riders.

The Teams (From):
Sunrisers Hyderabad:
Pat Cummins ©, Travis
Head, Ishan Kishan,
Heinrich Klaasen,
Abhishek Sharma,
Sachin Baby, Mohammed Shami, Adam
Zampa, Aniket Verma,
Abhinav Manohar, Rahul
Chahar, Eshan Malinga,

Harshal Patel, Kamindu Mendis, Wiaan Mulder, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Atharva Taide, Brydon Carse, Simarjeet Singh, Jaydev Unadkat, Zeeshan Ansari. Rajasthan Royals:

Riyan Parag ©, Sanju Samson, Shubham Dubey, Shimron Hetmyer, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel, Nitish Rana, Kunal Singh Rathore, Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Wanindu Hasaranga, Jofra Archer, Ashok Sharma, Tushar Deshpande, Fazalhaq Faroogi, Kumar Kartikeya, Akash Madhwal, Kwena Maphaka, Sandeep Sharma, Maheesh Theekshana, Yudhvir Singh.

# 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.

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

On this occasion many

leaders and workers

including Vikas Bakshi,

Raj Singh, Shashipal,

Dasr were present.

Garden".

# 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.

tion 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, Kunil 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

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 22:

Mohammed Ashraf

Sheikh State President

JKTF & Provincial Presi-

dent 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 sala-

ries and wages for all

employees before Eid-

Ashraf emphasized

that Ramadan is a

sacred month that

teaches compassion,

generosity, and unity, yet

thousands of employees

and workers are facing

ul-Fitr.



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-

EJAC appeals to Govt for release of

severe financial difficul-

ties. With rising expens-

es for Iftar, Eid prepara-

tions, and household

necessities, any delay

in salaries and wages

would further burden

these employees and

The appeal seeks to

ensure that employees

of all categories, includ-

ing 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

Ashraf urged the

UT Administration to

financial stress.

their families.

salaries before Eid-ul-Fitr

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-

release the salaries

and wages on a priority

basis, stating that such

a step would strengthen

employee trust in the

government's pro-work-

er policies. He high-

lighted that employees

are the backbone of any

society's development,

and their welfare must

Provincial General

Secretary Tarun Gupta,

Provincial Sr.Vice Pres-

ident Amar Mooman,

Provincial Vice Presi-

dent Anchal Bakshi,

Provincial Chief Orga-

nizer Qumar Din, Sec-

retary Mehmood Ryaz

Bhat also appealed to

the government to take

necessary action at the

remain a top priority.

the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the capital Delhi has been changed to "Amrit

Kashvap and he was

he said.

Dogra people behave similarly the name of the Mughal Garden of the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the capital Delhi has

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 Kash-

miri Pandits are still in

Jammu and Kashmir,"

Sahni has demanded from the Lieutenant

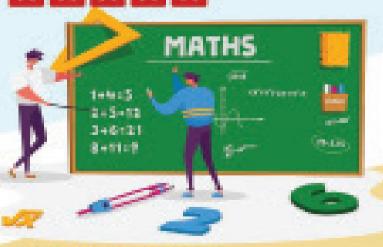
Garden".

Deep Kumar, Shamlal,
Neeti Devi, Sunita
Kumari, Uttam Kumar,
Rohit, Om Prakash,
Jatindra Sharma, Bishan

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# 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 intracollege 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 of st victorious. In the girls' P category B.A. Semester VI competed against Spo

ter 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

Sports Club, G
coordinated t
ensuring its sn
cution. Dr. At
(Deptt. of Ec
and Somaly
(Deptt. of EV)
as scorers.

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 students

earliest.

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

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.