TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025

|6

ENTERTAINMENT

Honour board: Eva Longoria to receive **Platino Award**

e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

NATIONAL

if RSS takes control of education: Rahul Gandhi

India will be destroyed

Regd. No. JK-435

including Vijay Kumar,

Surjit Singh Salathia,

Devinder Kumar Manval.

and CPIM member M Y

Tarigami, raised issues

related to land compen-

sation, agricultural activi-

ties by locals before

fencing, and poor condi-

tions of border hamlets.

A heated exchange of

words also took place

between Tarigami and

BJP MLA Balwant Turn to page 9

PM Han, reinstates him as acting president

8

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369 **Farmers compensated for land acquired by BSF, says J&K CM**

BRIEFLY

Rs 155 crore spent on 2024 assembly elections: J&K Government

JAMMU, Mar 24 (Agencies): The Jammu & Kashmir Government disclosed on Monday that an expenditure of Rs 155 crore was incurred for conducting the 2024 Assembly elections in the Union Territory.

Responding to a cut motion raised by MLA Kupwara, Mir Muhammad Fayaz, Minister in-charge of the Election Department, Javaid Ahmad Dar, informed the Assembly that Rs 150 crore was spent on conducting the 2014 Assembly elections. He further stated that the release of funds to clear liabilities from the recent elections is under active consideration by the Government.

"The recently conducted Assembly elections incurred an expenditure of Rs 155 crore. The matter of releasing funds to clear liabilities is under active consideration," the Minister said. The elections were held in three phases during September and October last year. The

JAMMU, Mar 24 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday observed that border dwellers face numerous challenges and said his government will convene a meeting of MLAs from border areas in April to

address the issues faced by them. He also said that over

Rs 144 crore have been disbursed to farmers, whose lands were affected by fencing along the International Border (IB). Responding to supplementary questions from various MLAs representing different parties regarding concerns raised by border residents, Abdullah told the House, "This is a humanitarian issue. Border residents face numerous challenges." He added that following the conclusion of the session in April, a meeting with all border area

MLAs will be held. "I will convene a meeting with all MLAs representing border areas along with officials. The government will take whatever steps are necessary," he said.

Several BJP members,



Militancy cannot be finished without support of people: **CM Omar Abdullah**

JAMMU, Mar 24 (Agencies): Asserting that militancy in Jammu and Kashmir cannot be finished without the support of people, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said his government is extending support to the Union Home Ministry to ensure the security situation remains peaceful in the union territory.

"Though it (security) is directly not our responsibility, I am repeatedly saying that militancy cannot be finished without the support of the people. The elected government is making attempts and is supporting (Lt Governor) to keep situation under control and maintain peace," the chief minister told reporters outside assembly here before the start of the day's business. He was responding

to a question on the ongoing anti-terrorist operation in Sanyal near International border in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district. "Such things have happened

in the past as well and as far as my information is concerned, no contact was established (with terrorists). The search and cordon operation launched on the basis of suspicious movement is going on and let us see how the situation develops," Abdullah said. He said the operation is taking place in a border

village and it is possible that they have come from across the border. "Making any statement on this right

Turn to page 9

Cash Discovery: Judicial work withdrawn from Justice Yashwant Varma, says Delhi HC

Vol.-12 Issue-81

Daily Evening Newspaper

South Korean court

overturns impeachment of

INTERNATIONAL

17

NEW DELHI, Mar 24 (Agencies): The Delhi High Court on Monday announced that judicial work from Justice Yashwant Varma, from whose official residence a large stash of cash was allegedly discovered after a fire, has been withdrawn with "immediate effect", till further orders.

The announcement was made in a note issued by the high court. Another note attached to the cause list of the day on the high court's

website stated that the court master of division bench-III, which was headed by Justice Varma, will give dates in matters listed before today. "In view of the recent

events, the judicial work from hon'ble Mr. Justice Yashwant Varma is withdrawn with immediate effect, till further orders," the note released on the court's website under the name of registrar (listing) said.

move, the Supreme Court on March 22 uploaded on its website the inquiry report of Delhi High Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya complete with photos and videos — regarding the alleged discovery of a substantial amount of cash from Justice Varma's residence. Justice Upadhyaya's report to the CJI contains material with regard to

official communication

Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

that says In an unprecedented Turn to page 9

Pakistan has dug trench for itself: LoP Sunil Sharma on Kathua encounter

JAMMU, Mar 24 (Agencies): Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Monday strongly condemned Pakistan's continued attempts to infiltrate terrorists into India, asserting that security forces are making relentless efforts to crush terrorism

He also said that it is "unfortunate" that some legislators still propose talks with Pakistan.



His remarks followed the intense gunbattle between security forces and terrorists in J&K's Kathua on Sunday evening. The encounter began after three terrorists were spotted near Hiranagar, close to the Indo-Pak border. Speaking to news

agency, Sharma said, "On one hand, Pakistan itself is engulfed in the flames of terrorism within its own land, and on the other, it continues its efforts to send terrorists into India through

infiltration." He further stated that the security forces have been engaged in a search

Protests against Waqf Amendment Bill

National Conference emerged as the single largest party, securing 42 seats, while its ally Congress won six seats. The BJP claimed 29 seats, and the Peoples Democratic Party secured three.

Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference (PC), Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) each won one seat, while independent candidates claimed seven seats.

AK rifles, bullets, explosive recovered during CASO in Poonch village

RAJOURI, Mar 24 (Agencies): Security forces on Sunday evening recovered three rifles of AK series, more than 900 bullets and some explosive material including grenades during a Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) in a village of Poonch district.

The recovery, official sources said, has been made during a CASO launched by security forces on the basis of an information from the area of Sangla falling under Surankote police station jurisdiction. As per reports, security

forces recovered Turn to page 9 understandable: CM Omar Abdullah



JAMMU, Mar 24 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Mondav said the protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill across the country

is being "targeted". and Muslims carry out

are understandable as only a particular religion "Charitable activities are linked to all religions

When a particular religion is targeted, there will be tension," he told reporters outside the assembly.

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) on Sunday announced a nationwide agitation against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, with large sitins planned in front of the state assemblies in Patna and Vijayawada on March 26 and 29, respectively, as part of the first phase of the protest.

Parliament's joint Turn to page 9

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Are you a true desi chicken connoisseur? Look no further than Gupshup Restaurant, the only restaurant in Jammu and Kashmir to serve 108% Desi chicken (Jatka) cooked to perfection on a traditional Chullah.

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Anti-Terror Operation intensified in Kathua

these through Waqf.

JAMMU, Mar 24 (Agencies): The search operation against a group of infiltrating terrorists in the dense jungles of Kathua district of Jammu region entered the second day on

Monday, officials said. The operation led by Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat was intensified with additional deployment of commandos, drones and sniffer dogs this morning as security forces carried out searches in the dense nursery where the

terrorists are believed

hiding after infiltrating from across the border, they said.

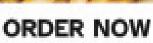
> The operation was launched following an intelligence input regarding the presence of terrorists inside a 'dhok' - a local term for an enclosure — located within the nursery in Sanyal village, approximately five km from the International Border with Pakistan.

A police team from the Special Operations Group initiated the search operation after receiving the input and

when the personnel entered the area, they came under heavy fire from the terrorists, leading to an intense gunfight which lasted for more than half-an-hour. Reinforcements were swiftly dispatched to aid in the operation, as a manhunt was launched to apprehend the terrorists, believed to have infiltrated on Saturday via either the ravine route or through a newly created tunnel.

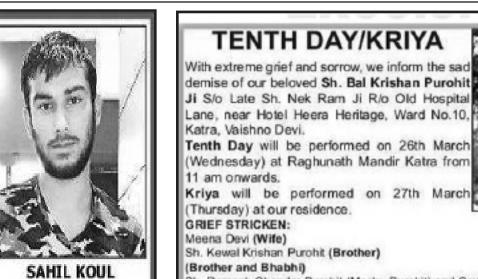
There has been no report of any casualty in

Turn to page 9



OBITUARIES/LOCAL

Top News of J&K Jammu, Monday, March 24, 2025



Son and Daughter in Law

Grand Children:

Daughters and Sons in Law

Sh. Deepak Purohit and Smt. Shwetika Purohit

Sh. Rajesh Sanmotra and Smt. Roshi Sanmotra

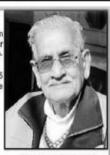
Sh. Ambrish Magotra (Ashu) and Smt. Sapna Magotra

Adhiraj, Advik Utsav Upmanyu, Aradhya, Aishwika, Rabhya, Veer

Sh. Anil Magotra and Smt. Surekha Magotra

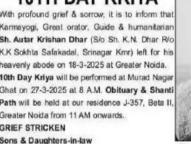
TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you the sed demise of our beloved Sh. Rajeshwar Verma S/o Late Sh. S.D Verma, who left us for heavenly abode on 17th March, 2025. Tenth Day will be performed on 25th march 2025 (Tuesday) at 11 am at our residence H.No 83 Lane No 2 Shiv Nagar Talab Tillo. GRIEF STRICKEN Son and Daughter-in-law Sh. Sanjeev Verma & Smt. Veena (9419834307, 9419160630) Daughters and Sons-in-law Smt. Ritu & Sh. Updesh Kumar (DySP JK Police) (9419138776, 9419951222) Smt. Anshu Manni & Sh. Ashok Manni (9797438727, 6006902185) Grand Children: Urvashi, Ridima, Ujjwal, Akshara, Akriti



SH. RAJESHWAR VERMA

10TH DAY KRIYA



Mr. Neeral & Mrs. Sunita Dhar

Sh. Autar Krishan Dha

Mr. Nitin & Mrs. Archana Dhar Mrs. Sonu & Mr. Adesh Dhar - Daughter & Son-In-law Sh. M.K. Dhar & Smt. Santosh Dhar - Brother & Bhabhi

Mr. Rahul & Mrs. Sonia Dhar, Mr. Anil & Bimla Dhar, Mr. Sunil & Mrs. Girja Dhar Grand Children : Himanshu, Anmol, Ankur, Kartikeya, Abhimanyu, Sheetu, Sonu, Jonu & Chungo

Panditas (Murran), Panditas (Chittragul), Kouls, Bhats, Razdans Mob.: 8447002674, 9873805081, 9818881988, 9968215127

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Pawan Kumar Verma S/o late Sh. Babu Ram Verma R/o Hari Nagar (Pacca Gharat) Talab Tillo Jammu on16th of March 2025. TENTH DAY will be performed on 25th of March, 2025 Tuesday from 10 am to 11 am at Arya Samaj Mandir near Bakshi Nagar Police station, Jammu.



KRIYA will be performed on 28th of March, CRUFA will be performed on zoth or warch, 2025 Friday at 12.00 Noon at our residence. SH. PAWAN KUMAR GRIEF STRICKEN: Smt.Viay Verma (Wife) Son & Daughter-In-law Smt. & Sh. Sidharth Verma & Rekha verma

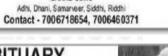
Grand Children: Shubhang, rishika, Shubhanshi, Valbhavi & Koushaki

Brother & Bhabhi ate Sh.B.B verma & Smt.Sanjogia: Verma .ate Sh.Ashok kumar Verma & Smt. Champa Verm



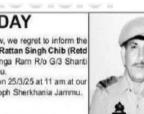
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Rattan Singh Chib (Reto SI J&K Police) S/o Lt Sh Sanga Ram R/o G/3 Shant Nagar Toph Sherkhania Jamme 10TH DAY will be performed on 25/3/25 at 11 am at ou residence G/3 Shanti Nagar Toph Sherkhania Jammu. GRIEF STRICKEN : Smt Anita Devi (Wife) Pardeep Singh & Monika Rajput (Son & Daughter-In-law) Amit Singh & Minakshi Jamwal (Son & Daughter-in-law) Anuradha & Prince Selaria (Daughter & Son-in-law) Sardar Singh & Raj Kumari (Brother & Bhabi) Chamail Singh & Naresh Kumari (Brother & Bhabi) Balwan Singh & Asha Devi (Brother & Bhabi)





OBITUARY With deep sorrow and heavy hearts, we regre to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Niranjan Nath Bhat, originally a resident of Buchoo Tral, District Pulwama, Kashmir. A present H.No. 18 Abhay Public School Lane Muthi Jammu who left for Param Dham on







Sh Rattan Singh Chib (Retd SI J&K Police)

GRAND SONS





GRIEF STRICKEN SAMAST KOUL, PANDITA, BHAT, CHANDAIL FRIENDS RELATIVES AND WELL WISHERS CONTACT : 8803832153, 7006887629, 9797632272, 7780849390

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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 heaven-

ly abode on 17-03-2025 at Barazulla Bagat

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

Srinagar at 10 AM.

Waqoora Baramulla 12:30 PM.

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and sudden demise of Sh Santosh Kumar Tickoo, S/o Late Janki Nath Tickoo and Sonibatni Tickoo of Batiyar Alikadal Srinagar, at present H.No. 126, Dina Nagar, Bamai, Jammu. Tenth Day Kriva will be performed on 29th of march at Akhnoor Ghat and Assembly will be held at Muthi (Near



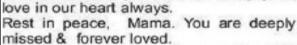
Directorate of School Education) at 11 Sh Santosh Kumar am.

Tickoo

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)

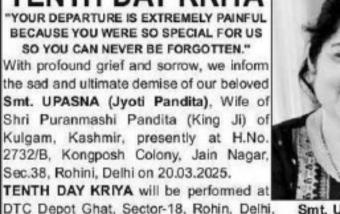
IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER

Six months have passed since you left yet not a day goes by without thoughts of you. Your love, kindness and strength continue to guide us, even in your absence. You were our 1st teacher, our biggest supporter and our safe place. We miss your voice, your warmth and the way you made everything feel better. Life feels different without you, but we carry your



Mohan Rani (Aaji/Ratni Devi)

Shadmos & Masvar of our mother Mohan Rani (Aaji/Ratn Devi) W/o Late Sh Mohan Lal Handoo of Salia, Distt Anantnao will be held on 25-26 March 2025 at Gouri Shankar Mandir Trust, T- Block, Phase 1 , Sec 109, New Palam Vihar, Gurugram-



GRIEF STRICKEN:

Puranmashi Pandita (King Ji) - Husband (7896896488) Vanshika, Ayushi, Angel - Daughters (6355507923, 9315039801) Brothers-in-law & Sisters-in-law

Smt. Sudesh Pandita Wife of Late Girdhari Lal Pandita (7889627527) Smt. Sunita (Jyoti) - Wife of Late Bal Ji Pandita (7006130814) Shri Manohar Pandita (Gasha Ji) & Smt. Dulari Pandita, Srinagar (7006379090) Shri Vinod Ji Pandita (Sahab Ji) & Smt. Sunita Pandita, Delhi (9999203478)

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

Bhawani, Gautam, Yashika, Vidhya, Prabhat & Pratik

Pandita & Bhat Parivaar

GRIEF STRICKEN

Chetan Koul (Son)

Sh. Anil Koul (Husband)

Ashram, Haridwar on 25th March 2025.

Brother-in-Law and Sister-in-law

Sh. Vinod Koul and Smt. Rajni Koul

Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law

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

Smt. Phoola Tiku and Sh. Rattan Lal Tiku

Smt. Sarla Razdan and Sh. Maharaj Krishan Razdan.

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret

to inform you that our beloved Sh. Avtar

Krishan Kadalbajoo, S/o Late N.J

Kadalbajoo, resident of Rawal Pora,

Sanatnagar, Srinagar A/P Flat No. 204

Royal Apartment, Hazuri Bagh, Jammu,

left for his heavenly abode on 17-03-2025.

The 10th Day shall be performed at

Akhnoor Ghat on Wednesday, the 26th of

March, 2025 and the Assembly shall be

held at Royal Apartment Park at 11:00 AM.

Smt. Susheela Kadalbajoo (Wife)

Smt. Nirmal & Sh. Lalit Karwani

Smt. Rita & Sh. Satish Safaya

Contact Number: 6396023286, 9419010525, 9419139482

Smt. Veena Kaul and Sh. Ramesh Kumar Kaul.

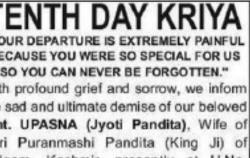
Smt. Shoki & Sh. Sunil Kumar Pandita - Daughter in Law & Son Smt. Sunita & Sh. Raj Kumar Pandita - Daughter & Son in Law 60055792904. Smt. Sushma & Sh. Vicky Bhat - Daughter & Son in Law

Sh. Bal Krishan

Purohit Ji

RANI PANDITA

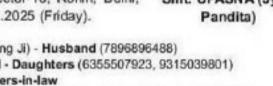




Sh. Ramesh Chander Purohit (Meshu Purohit) and Smt. Vijay Laxmi Purohit

2732/B, Kongposh Colony, Jain Nagar, Sec.38, Rohini, Delhi on 20.03.2025. TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at

DTC Depot Ghat, Sector-18, Rohin, Delhi, Smt. UPASNA (Jyoti at 10.00 am on 28.03.2025 (Friday).



122017.

Contact (9682566324, 9858551603, 7051336988)



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 19-03-2025.

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)

(Sisters & Brothers-in-law) Smt. Ameesha & Sh. Amit Kher Smt. Akriti & Sh. Mohit Singh (Daughters & Sons-in-law)

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Kadalbajoos, Khers, Singhs, Karwanis, Safayas, Kouls, Langers Friends & Relatives

Contact Details: 8875645000, 9816076617, 9419173857, 9419240170



SH. AVTAR KRISHAN **KADALBAJOO**

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



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SMT. PURNIMA KOUL (BABLEE JI)

7006134919. 9622176438

23.03.2025

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Niranjan Nath Bhat

Smt. Chand Rani Bhat ... Wife Smt. Kiran Koul W/o Lt. Ramesh C. Koul., Daughter Son & Daughter in-law Sh. Ashok Kumar Bhat & Jeeta Ji... Sh. Hira Lal Bhat & Sarita Ji ... Son & Daughter in-law Sh. Surinder Bhan & Veena ji... Son-In-law & Daughter Sh. Satesh K. Bhat & Neenu Ji .. Son & Daughter in-law

Samast Bhat parivaar Contact No... 9419146909,9419121196,9911959541

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound orief and sorrow, we rearet to inform about the ad demise of Sh. Tej Krishan Ganjoo R/o Sirnoo Pulwama A/ 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 Pat No. 06, Jagti. GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Nimmi Ganjoo (Wife) Mr Ashish Ganjoo (Son) Smt Ruchi Bhat & Deepak Bhat (Daughter & Son-In-law)

Smt Baby W/o Ajeet Kumar (Niece & Son in Law) Smt Sheela Koul W/o Late Omkar Nath Koul (Sister in law) Smt. Phoola W/o Late Krishan Lai Koul (Sister)

Sh. Tej Krishan Ganjoo

SH. CHAND JEE

Smt Girja & Tej Krishan (Sister & Brother-in-law) Smt. Neetu 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

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

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, Green field Colony Faridabad Haryana who left for his heavenly abode on 16-March-2025.



LOCAL

MLA Ramnagar raises serious concerns over shortage of doctors, paramedical staff and other facilities in Hospitals

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 24: MLA Ramnagar, Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj, today raised serious concerns in the Assembly during the Question Hour regarding the deteriorating healthcare services in his constituency.

He urged the government to take immediate steps to address the acute shortage of doctors and essential medical facilities in Ramnagar Sub-District Hospital, Basantgarh Hospital, and other PHCs and Sub-centres in the region.

Speaking in the Assembly, Dr. Bhardwaj pointed out that Ramnagar Sub-District Hospital lacks a surgeon and a child specialist, forcing patients to travel long distances for treatment. Several PHCs and CHCs do not even have a medical officer, severely impacting people in rural areas.

He also guestioned the irregularities and unequal appointments in the health department, stating that in PHC Chanunta, a dental surgeon has been appointed for the last five years but is not present at the workplace while still receiving a salary.



Dr. Bhardwaj strongly criticized the lack of basic medical facilities in Basantgarh Hospital. He pointed out that although an ultrasound machine is available, there is no radiologist, forcing patients to rely on expensive private laboratories.

He further highlighted that emergency patients do not receive timely treatment, leading to several deaths in accidents due to inadequate healthcare facilities.

Dr. Bhardwaj demanded the approval of a Rs 25 crore budget proposal for upgrading Ramnagar Hospital, which would strengthen the region's

healthcare services. He also urged the government

Protesting daily-

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 24: The

ongoing protest by daily-

wagers demanding the

regularization of their ser-

vices and the release of

pending wages escalated

further as the strike entered

its fourth day. On Sunday,

the protestors announced

an extension of their agita-

tion by another 72 hours,

citing government inac-

tion on their long-pending

wagers cane-charged in

Jammu, march foiled

to upgrade the Basantgarh PHC to a CHC, benefiting nearly 70,000 to 80,000 people with improved medical facilities.

Additionally, he stressed the urgent need for road construction leading to Basantgarh Hospital, stating that even today, patients are carried on makeshift stretchers to reach the hospital, which is highly unfortunate in the 21st century.

Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj said, "We are living in the 21st century, yet my people are still struggling for basic healthcare facilities. There is a severe shortage of doctors,

hospitals have equipment but no specialists, and in many places, there are no proper roads. I have demanded that the government immediately deploy doctors and upgrade healthcare centers. I will continue to fight for the rights of my people and will not remain silent until these issues are resolved. The Health Minister Sakina Itoo

acknowledged the shortage of doctors and stated that the government is working on resolving the issue

She informed that out of 365 newly recruited doctors, 17 have been posted, and 292 new positions have been referred to the Service Selection Board, She further assured that doctors will soon be made available in rural areas through transfers and rationalization.

However, she also admitted that due to budget constraints, upgrading all hospitals is currently not feasible.

Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj demanded a clear and firm assurance from the government that doctor appointments and hospital development projects will be implemented at the earliest to ensure that the people of Ramnagar and Basantgarh receive proper healthcare services.

Khatana raises concern in RS over Haj facilities for Indian pilgrims

cial focus on elderly

and ailing pilgrims,

urging the deployment

of mobile clinics, round-

the-clock medical sup-

port, and trained vol-

unteers to provide on-

"The journey of faith

should not be a struggle

for survival," he said,

highlighting the emo-

tional and physical toll

many pilgrims face due

to infrastructural short-

A recurring issue in

recent vears. accord-

ing to Khatana, has

been the absence of

an effective communi-

cation system between

Indian Haj officials and

pilgrims. He noted that

delays, confusion, and

lack of timely updates-

especially during flight

rescheduling or emer-

gencies—have caused

undue hardship. A real-

comings

ground assistance.

Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Mar 24: In a Special Mention admitted in the Rajya Sabha on March 18, 2025, Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana raised critical concerns regarding the arrangements for Indian Muslims undertaking the Haj pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia this year.

Haj 2025 is scheduled for the month of June, and while the Indian government-working in coordination with Saudi authorities-has made notable improvements in recent years, Khatana underscored that several challenges still persist and require urgent intervention.

Addressing the Upper House, the Jammu and Kashmir MP called for better travel logistics, affordable airfare, improved accommodation, and enhanced medical support, especially in pilgrimage sites such as Mina and Arafat. He emphasized the need for more flights at reasonable prices, smoother transportation, and dignified lodging arrangements for pilgrims. Khatana placed spetime grievance redressal and information mechanism, he suggested, is vital

Crucially, Khatana also flagged the issue of escalating airfares, which continue to be a major deterrent for many prospective pilgrims, particularly those from economically weaker sections.

"Haj must not become a privilege only for the affluent," he stated, urging the Government to take measures to make the pilgrimage more financially accessible

Furthermore, Khatana also highlighted the broader diplomatic context, noting the deepening ties between India and Saudi Arabia. He called for leveraging this relationship to further streamline the Haj mission and deliver a smoother, more dignified experience for Indian pilgrims.

As thousands prepare for this year's pilgrimage, Khatana's remarks serve as a timely reminder that while progress has been made, a comprehensive overhaul of the Haj support system is both necessary and urgent.

Dogri Santha Jammu releases Jagdeep Dubey's three books in Dogri



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 24: Dogri Santha Jammu released well known Dogri writer Jagdeep Dubey's three books in Dogri in a simple but impressive function organized at Kunwar Viyogi Auditorium, Karan Nagar, Jammu

Darshan Darshi, eminent Dogri and English author was the chief guest, special guest was Dr. Arvinder Singr 'Amn', former Additional Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages whereas Prof. Veena Gupta, prominent Dogri writer, linguist and Vice President Dogri Sanstha Jammu presided over the function. These three books namely Doun Adhe Ek Pura is a collection of short stories whereas Notice and Kaneez are theatre plays written in Dogri language. While addressing the gathering, the chief quest Darshan Darshi said that Jagdeep

Dubey is a well known name in dogri literature for short stories and

plays. His dedication for mother tongue is appreciable and his command of language is commendable. He said that with 'Sarpanch' written by Pt. Dinu Bhai Pant. our mother tongue had already had the privilege of having a classical play. With the passage

appreciable.

Prof. Veena Gupta in her presidential address congratulated Jagdeep Dubey for continuously enriching the mother tongue with his literary works. She welcomed the books saying that it will help the local theatre directors with more options for producing and directing plays based on local contents. A detailed paper on these books was presented by Dr. Adarsh, a fueled by the government's delay in addressing the workers' demands for job regularization and wage

the crowd

Leaders of the daily-



demands

Raising slogans against sive governments for fail-Lieutenant Governor Manoi ing to resolve their issues, despite repeated assurance es and pre-election promises. "For decades, governments have deceived us. They gave us false assurances. This government's committee is yet another delaying tactic. Such hollow promises cannot feed our families," a protesting leader lamented. The protest highlights the plight of daily-wagers who, despite their crucial role in ensuring public services like water supply, continue to struggle for recognition and basic rights. The of the protestors. Another protestors vowed to conprotestor, Mohan Singh, tinue their strike until their added, "We supply water demands are met, urging to people, and this is how the administration to take we are treated in return." immediate and concrete

wagers criticized succes-

DistrictTBControlSocietyobserves World TB Day in Leh address, emphasizing **Top News Report**

the challenges in TB LEH, Mar 24: The Diseradication, including trict TB Control Society, stigma, slow detection, Leh, in collaboration and latent infections. with various depart-He highlighted the need ments, observed World for active case finding, TB Day at the Conferinterdepartmental colence Hall, Abdus Hotel, laboration, and com-Leh, under the global munity awareness to theme "Yes! We Can accelerate TB elimina-End TB: Commit, Invest, tion, particularly under Deliver." The event the Pradhan Mantri featured a felicitation TB Mukt Bharat Abhiceremony for TB Mukt yan (PMTBMBA). He Panchayats and discusalso stressed the sigsions on strengthening nificance of Al-based TB elimination efforts in digital X-ray machines in improving active TB Deputy Commissiondetection.

Physician Dr. Lotus Gailson addressed the efforts of healthcare workers and the impact of door-to-door awareness campaigns. He reiterated that medication alone is not sufficient to eliminate TB and emphasized the importance of community participation in overcoming stigma and ensuring a TB-free society.

A total of 37 panchayats in Leh district were declared TB-free in 2024, compared to 36 in 2023. These panchayats were felicitated with statues, certificates, and traditional khataks in recognition of their contribution to the TB-free

clearance The protestors' march was halted, where the police had set up barricades to contain the agitation. While some barri-

cades were breached, the

cane charges to disperse

authorities resorted to mild

contributed to this genre of literature.

of more Dogri writers

plays.

contribution is also

Dr. Arvinder Singh 'Amn' also congratulated the playwright for continuously writing in Dogri and providing a with Radio plays. good literature to languages in the form of short stories and theatre

and Pawan Verma, well He further added that known theatre activthose who say that ist and Dogri poet who there are a few theatre is also the treasurer of plays available in Dogri Sanstha presented vote language should have of thanks. a thorough research A large number of liton the subject as there terateurs, literature are a number of quality lovers including family plays written in mother

members of Jagdeep tongue and Dubey's Dubey attended the book release ceremony.

well known Hindi writer. Jagdeep Dubey also ter Omar Abdullah, and shared his literary jourthe BJP, the protestors ney with the attendees breached barricades near and talked at length the MLAs' hostel, attemptabout his passion for ing to march toward the writing plays that started secretariat. However, a large deployment of police Susheel Begana, personnel stopped them in Literary Secretary of their tracks. Protesters who Dogri Sanstha conmanaged to remove the ducted the proceedings barricades and concertina wires faced lathi charges

from the police. "We are fighting for our rights, our survival. We have families to feed," said Inder Parkash. one

The demonstration was

Sukhadeve, highlighted India's significant TB critical impact of TB burden, accounting for on public health, iden-27% of global cases. He tifying it as the leading emphasized the need cause of mortality after for collective respon-COVID-19. He noted sibility in TB eliminathat one in four individution, with a particular als worldwide is affected focus on low-income by TB and emphasized groups, nutritional supthe importance of 100% port through the Nikshay diagnosis and treat-Mitra initiative, and ment to achieve a 90% enhanced case detecreduction in TB-related tion. He commended deaths by 2025. He furthe health department, ther advocated for latent frontline workers, and TB screening and early administration for their detection to curb the unwavering efforts in spread of the disease. tackling TB. District Panchayat Offi-Earlier, Chief Medicer (DPO) Leh, Junaid cal Officer (CMO) Leh Amin Bhat, acknowldelivered the welcome

the district.

er (DC) Leh, Santosh

initiative.

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by DHO Dr. Yangchen Dolma, who appreciated the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders in advancing TB elimination initiatives in the region.

The event was attended by Medical Superintendent Leh, SIO Ladakh, District TB Officer Leh, Deputy CMO, DIO Leh, Consultant Physicians, SPO NHM, State Consultant MCH, staff from the State and District TB Cell. and other concerned officials

T-10 Cricket Tournament inaugurated at GDC Bani under 'Fit India Movement'

Top News Report

BANI, Mar 24: As part of the ongoing 'Fit India Movement' launched by the Prime Minister of India on August 29, 2019, a T-10 Cricket Tournament commenced on Monday at Government Degree College (GDC), Bani. The tournament is being organized by the Department of Physical Education and Sports in collaboration with the Bharat Rattan Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sports Club, Bani Kathua.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Dr. Manohar Lal, Principal of GDC Bani, in the presence of the college faculty. More than 25 teams from rural areas of the region are set to participate in this event, fostering local talent and promoting fitness and sportsmanship.

During the event, Sudesh Rajput, Chairman of the Sports Club, addressed the players and provided insights into the various teams participating in the



tournament. The Chief Guest, Dr. Manohar Lal, conducted the ceremonial toss, which was won by Sarthali Sports Club. They elected to bat first against Sports Club Banken.

In his speech, Dr. Manohar Lal encouraged the players and congratulated the organizing team, particularly the newly appointed Physical Director/PTI, Dr. J. S. Soodan, for his efforts in organizing the tournament under the theme "Fit India and

Healthy India."

The Principal emphasized the importance of sports in the holistic development of youth and highlighted the integration of Physical Education and Sports Science as part of NEP-2020's Skill-Based and Value-Added Courses.

The Principal also praised the college's Sports Committee for its initiative in extending opportunities not only to college students but also to youth from nearby villages and clubs.

action

The tournament features various awards, including Best Batsman, Best Bowler, Best Fielder, Best Catch, Best Wicket Keeper, Man of the Match, Man of the Tournament, and Best Sportsperson.

Dr. J. S. Soodan, Physical Director of the college, announced that the Department of Physical Education and Sports would soon launch intramurals and a T-10 Cricket Tournament for women to promote inclusivity in sports.

In the opening match, Sarthali Sports Club triumphed over Sports Club Banken with an 8-wicket victory. The winning and runner-up teams were presented with trophies during the prize distribution ceremony.

This tournament not only celebrates the spirit of sportsmanship but also underscores the role of fitness and sports in building a healthier and more active community.

Weekly literary gathering organized by Anjuman-e-Farogh-e-Urdu, J&K

edged the dedicated

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 24: Anjuman-e-Farogh-e-Urdu, Jammu & Kashmir, hosted a vibrant literary session, graced by the esteemed presence of renowned scholars, poets, and writers. The session was presided over by Professor Muhammad Zaman Azurda, adding to the literary charm of the gathering.

The event saw participation from distinguished personalities, including Engineer Javed Shabbir, Abdul Quddir Kundria, Chaman Sagooch, Abdul Jabbar Butt, Bhati Masoom Kishtwari, Mumtaz Butt,

Iqbal Khalar, Manjeet Singh Kamra, Abdul Majeed Kanloo, and Fozia Mughal Zia. Each of them presented their literary works with great eloquence, enriching the atmosphere with their poetic and prose contributions. A highlight of the session was Professor Zaman Azurda's paper on renowned poet Rasa

Javedani, which he read

with remarkable depth

and finesse. Adding to

the literary essence,

Engineer Javed Shabbir

captivated the audience

with his short story, Mera

Bhai (My Brother). Their

presentations received

immense appreciation,

with attendees express-

ing their admiration for

the insightful discussion and storytelling.

In his concluding presidential address, Professor Azurda commended the gathering, describing it as a beautifully orchestrated literary session. He extended his congratulations to all participating poets and writers for their remarkable contributions.

The session was skillfully moderated by Fozia Mughal Zia, President of Anjuman-e-Farogh-e-Urdu, who ensured the smooth execution of the event. She also extended heartfelt gratitude to all esteemed guests and participants for their valuable presence, marking the conclusion of a highly engaging literary evening.

OP-ED

Caesarean sections are increasing unnecessarily in hospitals By: Priyanka Saurabh performed more than mediperformed more than medi-

EDITORIAL

A Growing Concern

India has witnessed a remarkable digital transformation in recent years, with digital payments becoming an integral part of daily life. The widespread adoption of Unified Payments Interface (UPI), mobile wallets, and other fintech solutions has made transactions faster and more convenient. However, this rapid digitization has also led to an alarming rise in financial frauds, with scammers exploiting technology and unsuspecting users to commit cybercrimes.

Digital payment fraud in India has surged significantly. According to reports, financial frauds related to digital transactions have increased by over 50% in the last few years. The ease of instant money transfers, combined with a lack of digital literacy among many users, has created opportunities for scammers to deceive individuals and businesses.

Scammers often send fake emails, SMS, or WhatsApp messages pretending to be from banks, digital payment providers, or government institutions. These messages contain malicious links that, when clicked, lead to fake websites where users unknowingly enter sensitive information like banking credentials and OTPs.

Fraudsters call users, impersonating customer service representatives from banks or payment platforms. They trick victims into revealing their OTPs, CVVs, or PINs, leading to unauthorized transactions.

With the growing use of UPI, fraudsters exploit users by sending "payment request" links instead of actual payments. When the user approves the request, money is debited from their account instead of being credited.

Scammers share fraudulent QR codes claiming to send payments. However, scanning the code allows the fraudster to withdraw money instead of depositing it.

Cybercriminals trick users into downloading remote access apps that give them control over the victim's phone or computer, leading to unauthorized financial transactions.

Many individuals fall victim to fake loan apps that promise instant credit but instead steal personal and financial data. Similarly, fraudulent investment schemes lure people with high returns and disappear after collecting substantial amounts.

India's push for a cashless economy has led to a surge in digital payments, but many users lack awareness of cybersecurity best practices.

While major banks and fintech companies follow strict security protocols, new and unregulated digital payment platforms often become aesarean sections are increasing unnecessarily in hospitals.

It is true that some private hospitals are performing unnecessary caesareans for more profits, but it would not be fair to blame everyone. The solution requires awareness among women, moral responsibility of doctors, and government regulations. There are some questions whose answers need to be found together. Has it increased according to the need of women, or has it become a source of income for hospitals? Are doctors performing unnecessary caesareans for their own convenience? Are women themselves preferring caesareans because they want to avoid pain? Are women induced to undergo caesareans without giving them proper information about their options? A cesarean is not wrong in itself, but when it is done for commercial gain or without solid medical reasons, then it becomes a matter of concern. It should be used with proper

ean delivery, or C-section, is the most commonly performed surgery in the world? The topic of caesarean section versus normal delivery is much debated, especially when it is being overused. Some consider it a "business model," while others see it as an achievement of medical sci-

awareness and responsibility.

Did you know that caesar-

performed more than medically necessary in many places, especially in private hospitals, where it is seen as a quick and convenient solution. A cesarean in itself is not wrong, but when it is done for commercial gain or without a solid medical reason, then it becomes a matter of concern. It should be used with proper awareness and responsibility. In the last few years, the rate of caesarean has increased rapidly in many countries, including India.

According to the World Health Organization, a caesarean is necessary in only 10-15% of cases, but in many countries this rate has reached 50% or more. In India, this rate has been seen to be up to 50-80% in many private hospitals. According to the report of Niti Aayog, the rate of caesarean delivery in private hospitals in India was found to be 40-50%, while in government hospitals it was about 20-25%. In schemes like the Health Insurance Scheme and Janani-Shishu Suraksha Karyakram, surgery is done on patients without need because in such schemes either incentives are given or the insurance company benefits. In these cases related to caesarean, hernia, gallbladder, appendix, etc., there are more. This is sad, because in such cases, pregnant women are exploited the most. The cost of a caesarean delivery is 2-5 times more than a normal delivery, due to which hospitals make more profit. While normal deliveries can take hours, caesareans can be completed in a fixed time, allowing hospitals and doctors to perform more deliveries in less time. Some doctors prefer to schedule deliveries in private hospitals as per their convenience. Some women are so scared of labor pain that they agree to have a caesarean themselves. Sometimes patients are scared and told that the baby is in danger, due to which they are forced to go for a caesarean.

A cesarean is necessary in many cases, such as when the position of the baby is not right, such as in a breech position. There are complications during delivery, such as placenta previa and umbilical cord entrapment. The mother has a serious health problem, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or heart disease. The baby is lacking oxygen, and immediate delivery is necessary. A cesarean has already been done, and normal delivery is not safe. But when a Caesarean is done without any solid medical reason just to earn money, it is morally wrong. Many private hospitals prefer Caesarean because it is done quickly and costs more. Due to fear and lack of awareness of women, many women choose Caesarean to avoid pain, whereas normal delivery is more beneficial. Women should be made aware of this so that they give priority to normal delivery. Doctors should work responsibly; Caesareans should be done only when necessary. Natural methods should be promoted, such as yoga during pregnancy and proper diet, so that normal delivery can be easy.

Along with all this, the government should strictly enforce rules so that unnecessary caesareans are reduced. Give priority to normal delivery unless a cesarean is necessary for medical reasons. Practice during pregnancy to increase the chances of normal delivery. Hospitals should make their caesarean and normal delivery rates public. Women should develop the habit of consulting another doctor if they are recommended for a caesarean. The government should make strict rules to prevent unnecessary caesareans in private hospitals. Women should be given correct information during pregnancy so that they can understand the doctor's decision and do not hesitate to ask questions. Hospitals should be encouraged to promote normal delivery. To curb the increasing cases of caesarean delivery, a district in Telangana has made a three-minute short film, 'Caesarean La Koo Katheredham' (Let us reduce caesarean delivery). To avoid pain, many women choose caesarean instead of normal delivery, which is wrong. A cesarean is only justified if it is necessary for the safety of the mother and the baby. Unnecessary surgery should be avoided, as it can be more challenging for the mother physically and mentally.

Priyanka Saurabh Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist, and columnist, Ubba Bhawan, Aryanagar, Hisar (Haryana) 127045 (Mob.) 7015375570

breeding grounds for fraud.

Scammers use psychological manipulation to trick individuals into voluntarily sharing sensitive data. Many victims fall prey due to a lack of awareness or fear of authority (such as calls claiming to be from police or bank officials).

Cybercriminals use AI-based deepfake technology and sophisticated malware to bypass traditional security measures.

The Indian government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have taken several steps to tackle digital fraud.

Banks and payment apps require two-step verification to authorize transactions. Aimed at preventing data theft, tokenization replaces card details with encrypted tokens. The government launched a cybercrime helpline (1930) where victims can report frauds immediately. Digital payment service providers are required to conduct Know Your Customer (KYC) verification to reduce fraud.

Public awareness programs educate citizens on secure online transactions and scam prevention.

Never share your OTP, PIN, CVV, or banking details with anyone, even if they claim to be from your bank.

Accept only verified payment requests and avoid scanning unknown QR codes.

Always use official apps downloaded from trusted sources like Google Play Store or Apple App Store.

Activate SMS and email alerts for all transactions to detect unauthorized activity immediately. Be cautious of links received via email, SMS, or social media, as they may lead to phishing websites. Use strong passwords and change them periodically.

If you suspect fraud, report it to your bank and the cybercrime helpline (1930) as soon as possible.

While digital payments have revolutionized the Indian economy, they have also given rise to cyber fraud. With scammers constantly evolving their tactics, individuals and businesses must stay vigilant. By following cybersecurity best practices and leveraging government initiatives, India can ensure a safer digital payment ecosystem for all. ence. A caesarean section is a surgical procedure that is performed when normal delivery is not possible or there is a risk to the health of the mother and baby. But nowadays it is being

(Talk + WhatsApp)

Beyond IISc, IIT Admissions: How GATE's score unlocks high-level research opportunities

By: Vijay Garg

ith the increasing trend of Indian universities and institutes now appearing in global rankings, getting admission into the institute of choice with a valid scholarship program can jump-start a student's research career.

The Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) is one of the most prestigious examinations which is conducted for admission to post-graduate programs such as Master of Engineering (ME), Master of Technology (MTech), as well as direct PhD admissions to various institutes and universities across India. The highly competitive examination is open to candidates studying in the 3rd or higher years of any undergraduate degree program or who have completed any government-approved degree program in Engineering/ Technology/ Architecture/ Science/ Commerce/ Arts/ Humanities.

Thus, candidates can select from a wide range of subjects, allowing them to focus on niche areas that align with their interests.

GATE and Higher Studies in India

The GATE exam is conducted once every year by IITs and IISc. A strong GATE score offers admission to premier institutions like IITs, IISc, and NITs as well as niche research institutes such as ISRO, DRDO, and BARC for postgraduate and doctoral programs in fields like engineering, science, and technology.

Although one may qualify, the all-India rank in the GATE exam is crucial for determining admission to top Indian universities and institutes. There is no declared cut-off for the exam but a rank below 200 is usually considered sufficient for admission to IITs. Even for those in the lower ranks, there are several opportunities to pursue higher studies with fellowships.

For instance, the Prime Min-

ister's Research Fellowship requires a minimum GATE score of 650 in the concerned subject for a Ph.D. fellowship of up to Rs 80,000 per month. GATE qualification also serves a direct opportunity to be recruited in government funded research projects which can later open opportunities for Ph.D. admission. Also, several universities conduct their own entrance examinations but GATE qualified candidates are often exempted and called for interview directly.

Qualifying the GATE examination can significantly boost research opportunities in higher studies. Particularly, since candidates with both engineering and biology-based backgrounds can appear for GATE, this has huge potential for promoting interdisciplinary research in areas such as Biomechanics, Medical devices, Biomedical imaging etc. As a result, both engineering and biology-based universities/institutes accept GATE for PhD programs. GATE-qualified candidates are also eligible for Junior Research Fellowship with stipends up to Rs 42000 per month. In addition to academics, public sector undertakings such as ONGC, BHEL, and IOCL often recruit their engineers based on the GATE score.

In conclusion, the GATE exam is more than just a test; it is a platform that bridges talent with opportunity and the latter including both top-tier institutions and financial assistance. By unlocking doors to premier institutions, scholarships, cutting-edge research, and promising careers, GATE plays a transformative role in identifying talent and ultimately shaping India's research future.

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

Top News of J&K Jammu, Monday, March 24, 2025

LOCAL

Public Talk on "War Against Narco Terrorism – A Shared Responsibility" organized

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 24: Navya Srijan Sewa Sansthan hosted a public talk to honour the martyrdom of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru. The event focused on the topic, "War Against Narco Terrorism - A Shared Responsibility", aiming to raise awareness and ignite the role of civil society in combating the growing drug menace.

The program was coordinated by Deepak Gupta, Chairman of Navya Srijan Sewa Sansthan, and presided over by distinguished personalities, including Dr. Mukund Lal Sharma (Retd. Sr. Cardiologist, AIIMS Delhi) and Behan Nirmal Didi (Convener, Brahma Kumaris Ashram Gandhi Nagar). The event's Guest of Honour was Ajay Sharma (Superintendent of Police South Jammu), while the Chief Guest was MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa.



Rameshwar Jamwal, President of the Criminology Society J&K, was the keynote speaker. Deepak Gupta welcomed the dignitaries and set the tone for the discussion, highlighting the importance of collective efforts against drug abuse. Dr. Mukund Lal Sharma formally welcomed the audience, stressing the need for active public participa-

ence. Rameshwar

Jamwal emphasized

tion Addressing the audithat drug abuse not only harms the individual but also creates a ripple effect that negatively impacts the entire community by fostering a criminal mindset. Behan Nirmal Didi

shed light on the role of families in preventing drug addiction, emphasizing that youth spend a significant portion of their time at home. She advocated for guiding children toward religious and constructive activi

"Under the visionary

leadership of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi,

yoga has gained global

recognition. It is hearten-

ing to see that our senior

citizens are actively

embracing this ancient

practice for physical and

mental rejuvenation,"

The event concluded

with a vote of thanks

ties

In his address, Randhawa stressed the shared responsibility of society and administration in tackling drug abuse. He called for organizing more such programs to spread awareness and encouraged citizens to actively report issues to authorities while creating awareness within their communities

Concluding the program, SP Ajay Sharma described the drug menace as part of a cross-border conspiracy aimed at destabilizing the nation. He assured the public that Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) is taking strong measures, including property attachment, against individuals involved in the drug trade.

The event concluded with Deepak Gupta expressing his gratitude to the dignitaries and the public for their valuable insights and active participation. He called for continued

collaboration to combat the drug menace and emphasized the importance of ongoing community efforts to protect society from this growing threat.

The public talk served as a fitting tribute to the spirit of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru, inspiring collective action against challenges that threaten societal well-being.

GGS College of Management and Technology signs MoU with NIILM University to enhance educational collaboration

collaboration as a piv-

otal milestone, empha-

sizing its potential to

open new avenues for

academic growth. The

MoU outlines various

joint initiatives, including

collaborative research

publications, seminars,

conferences, and work-

This is a Milestone for

both the Institutions in

the field of Academia

and Research, said

Principal Dr. R.K. Uppal.

"It also seeks to

establish partnerships

with foreign universi-

shops.



Top News Report

JAMMU Mar 24: GGS College of Management and Technology has formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NIILM University to enhance academic collaboration and promote educational excellence.

This strategic partnership aims to foster innovation, facilitate knowledge exchange, and create transformative learning experiences. Principal Dr. R.K. Uppal described the ties, support student development programs, provide consultancy services, implement faculty development initiatives, enhance skill development activities, and strengthen industryacademia linkages," Dr. R.K. Uppal added.

Dr. Shamin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of NIILM University, acknowledged the distinguished academic standing of GGS College of Management and Technology.

He expressed confidence that this collaboration would contribute significantly to institutional growth, fostering innovation and advancing the academic and research landscape.

Both institutions are committed to leveraging their collective expertise to drive academic excellence and support advancements in research, contributing to the broader educational ecosystem.

Rekha Mahajan emphasizes role of Yoga in holistic well-being at SCR Centre



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 24: Senior BJP leader Rekha Mahajan graced the Fourth Anniversary Celebration of the Senior Citizen Rejuvenation (SCR) Centre in Trikuta Nagar as the Chief Guest, reaffirming her commitment to promoting health and

wellness through yoga. The event, marked by a vibrant Yoga Shivir, witnessed enthusiastic participation from senior citizens who have been diligently practicing yoga for the past four years. The function was presided over by S.C. Verma, with K.S. Samyal, President of the SCR Centre, initiating the session with Ishwar Bandana and warm-up exercises

renowned instructors Ravinder and Shakti Sharma from Bhartiya Yog Sansthan, who demonstrated essential Asanas to enhance physical flexibility and mental peace.

Adding an element of joy and laughter to the session, Sansar Chand conducted Hasva Yoga. while T.R. Puri, Vice President of the Centre, guided the attendees through Pranayama and Meditation techniques. fostering inner harmony and mindfulness. In her address, Rekha Mahajan lauded the efforts of the Senior Citizen Rejuvenation Centre in promoting yoga as a way of life. She emphasized that yoga, an integral part of India's rich cultural heritage, is essential for maintaining good health, especially for We Care Welfare Society holds **Annual General Body** meeting

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 24: We Care Welfare Society (WCWS), a registered NGO dedicated to humanitarian and charitable work, held its Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) at K.C. Residency, Jammu.

Since its inception in 2018, WCWS has been tirelessly serving humanity through its diverse initiatives aimed at uplifting underprivileged communities.

Key activities of WCWS include organizing free medical camps in remote areas, providing Sunday breakfasts to approximately 600 attendants and patients in government hospitals, distributing usable clothes to the needy, and promoting "Backyard Fruit Plantation" by distributing hybrid fruit plants to BPL families in rural areas. Their medical camps cater to general health check-ups, eve care, orthopedics, gastroenterology, cardiac health, and pediatric care, offering free tests, medicines, and spectacles.

The meeting commenced with Rajinder Gupta, General Secretary, conducting the proceedings and presenting an annual review of the programs and activities undertaken during 2024-25. He also outlined the initiatives planned for the upcoming year.

JKTF expands State, **Provincial Bodies**

lighted the forum's mis-

sion to remain a strong,

united platform for educa-

He stated, "This expan-

sion is a testament to our

commitment to empower-

ing teachers, addressing

systemic issues in the edu-

cation sector, and ensuring

the academic well-being of

UT President Sheikh

Mohammad Ashraf reiter-

ated the forum's dedication

students.'

tors and students alike.



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 24: The Jammu & Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF), affiliated with the All India Secondary Teachers Federation, has taken a significant step forward by expanding its State and Provincial Bodies in Jammu.

This move is aimed at bolstering its organizational framework, advocating for teacher welfare, and

education system. State Body: Senior Vice President-Rifagat Hussain Malik, Vice Chairman-Mehmood Riyaz Bhat, State Secretary-Raman Kumar Sharma, Vice Presidents-Neetan Kalvan and Shaid Raza Qurashi, UT Chief Coordinator-Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Chief Press & Publicity Secretary-Jalil Ahmed, UT Convenor-Lokesh Sharma, Additional Spokesperson-Ranjeet Singh, UT Coordinator-Ashraf Hussain, UT Advisor-Maroof Zargar, UT Joint Secretary-Tarig Amin Naik, and UT Media Secretary-Gh. Murtaza Khan. Provincial Body (Jammu): Provincial President-San-

The gathering then engaged in various yoga practices led by

by T.C. Taggar, General Secretary of the Centre, who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and yoga instructors for making the celebration a success. Other prominent members present included Subh Chander

she stated.

(Advisor) and key office bearers of the Centre. The SCR Centre has been actively organizing voga sessions for the past four years, and its commitment to holistic well-being continues to inspire the community.

Kuldeep Uppal, Secretary Finance, presented the budget accounts for 2023-24, which were unanimously approved by the members

Dr. R.K. Gupta, President of WCWS, delivered a comprehensive review of the organization's efforts, while Vice President (Women). Sudershan Gupta elaborated on the critical role played by the women's group in implementing various programs.

Nikhil Gupta, Information Secretary, emphasized the importance of media in raising awareness about the NGO's contributions and activities.

Prof. M.S. Nargal, Chairman of WCWS, delivered the vote of thanks, recounting the society's history and achievements. He also shared insights into upcoming projects and schemes aimed at expanding the NGO's outreach.

addressing pressing educational challenges across the Union Territory.

The expansion, approved by JKTF UT Chairman Showkat Ali Beig and UT President Sheikh Mohammad Ashraf, was formalized through an order issued by UT General Secretary Mir Bashir Ahmad.

The newly inducted office bearers have been entrusted with pivotal responsibilities to amplify the forum's reach and impact.

While congratulating the new appointees, Chairman Showkat Ali Beig high

to collaborating with the administration to resolve issues such as teacher welfare, education reforms, and policy implementation. He called on the newly appointed members to uphold the forum's core values and work tirelessly for the advancement of the teaching community.

The newly appointed members of the State and Provincial Bodies will immediately assume their roles, focusing on strengthening JKTF's objectives and working toward the collective betterment of the

cial General Secretary-Amarjeet Singh, and Provincial Coordinator-Naveed Ahmed Dev. The expansion reflects JKTF's unwavering commitment to strengthening its organizational structure

ieet Sharma Provincial

Senior Vice President-

Nasir Ahmed Mir, Provin-

and solidifying its position as the leading voice of educators across Jammu & Kashmir. The forum remains dedicated to advocating for the rights of teachers while ensuring a brighter future for students.

J&K Junior Girls Handball team leaves for 47th National Championship

senior citizens.



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 24: The Jammu and Kashmir Junior Girls Handball Team has set out to participate in the prestigious 47th Junior Girls National Handball Championship. The championship

is scheduled to take place in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, from March 26 to 30, 2025.

The team, comprising talented young athletes, is determined to represent J&K with pride and showcase their skills on the national stage. Rajesh Chandan, Gen-

eral Secretary of the J&K Handball Association, wished the team success and encouraged them to give their best in the competition. The players, supported by the association and their coaches, are optimistic about their perfor-

mance and are excited to compete against the best teams from across the country.

The J&K Handball Association has expressed confidence in the team and hopes their participation will bring laurels to the Union Territory.

Abdul Gojre addresses public in Akhnoor Villages

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 24: The State President of India Praja Congress Party, Abdul Hameed Gojre, held public meetings across various villages in the Akhnoor district, addressing the concerns and grievances of the people. In a press statement issued today, the party's spokesperson highlighted key issues raised by Mr. Gojre during his interactions with the villagers.

In his address, Gojre criticized successive governments since 1991 for neglecting the genuine needs of the people in Jammu and Kashmir. He pointed out the lack of developmental work, rising unemployment, and the fail-



ure to address critical public issues. "Every government has failed to resolve the genuine demands of the people. The ongoing price hikes, unemployment, and lack of basic amenities have left people frustrated and angry," Gojre remarked

He assured the public that the India Praja Congress Party is committed to working tirelessly for the welfare of the general population. "Our leaders and workers are available 24/7 to address public grievances. We are focused on resolving issues related to unem-

ployment, development. and price hikes. My promise to the people of Jammu and Kashmir is that we will work relentlessly to bring about positive change," he added. Gojre emphasized the urgent need for the gov-

ernment to prioritize devel-

opment projects, including roads, water supply, and other essential services. He also appealed to the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. Omar Abdullah. to take immediate action to regularize daily wagers and implement the Minimum Wages Act.

Additionally, Gojre urged government department heads to ensure the provision of essential facilities such as electricity, water, and food supplies, particularly during the holy month of Ramadan. He stated that he plans to meet with the Chief Minister soon to discuss these pressing issues and push for solutions that benefit the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

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(All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu City).

ENTERTAINMENT

the panellists' names

start with Sh - Shweta

Tripathi, Shriya Pil-

gaonkar and Shashank

Arora. Hence the name."

The conversation cen-

tred on indie films and

what it meant to be an

indie actor; the young

panellists articulated

their thoughts in wise

words. For Shweta,

who has thrived in the

nurturing ecosystem of

indie film sets, an indie

actor is someone 'who

is not afraid—not afraid

of challenges, of experi-

For Shriya, being an

indie actor is a state of

mind, where the col-

lective effort is to see

a project through. For

Shashank, it means

experimentation with no

pressure to sell. Howev-

er, for Shashank a film is

a film and an actor is an

actor. Indie or commer-

cial, his job remains the

same. Shweta, who has

films like Masaan, Hara-

amkhor, Mirzapur, Made

in Heaven and more to

her credit, likes work-

ing with debut directors

because she finds the

passion of new directors

infectious. "What hap-

pens behind the camera

is a great learning expe-

Shriya, who has acted

in Mirzapur, Guilty Minds

and The Broken News,

said she valued a good

working experience on

set. "An environment

where everyone serves

the script with no selfish

agenda," she shared.

To Shashank, the actor

of Titli, Manto, Made

in Heaven and Super

Boys of Malegoan, indie

films brings him sanity.

Shweta will soon be

seen in films like Mirza-

pur and web series

Mirzapur Season 4, and

the latest season of Yeh

Kaali Kaali Ankhein,

while Shriya will be

seen in two indie films.

Shashank, who talked

about his upcoming

rience," she says.

mentation'.

CIFF: Nawazuddin Siddiqui says whether essaying real characters or fictional, the challenges remain the same

He is certainly a man of the moment. Once, gifted actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui might have been in danger of getting lost in the bheed but today he stands out. Not only in his exceptional filmography, which boasts of eight films making it to the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, but right here in City Beautiful, swarmed by admirers and a full house session.

6

Of course, at the ongoing four-day Cinevesture International Film Festival, he chooses to talk about Payal Kapadia's All We Imagine As Light, hailing the film for making India shine. On his own films, right from Gangs of Wasseypur to The Lunchbox to Photograph to Miss Lovely shining on the world map, he won't say much. Actually, talking euphemistically about his own self bores him. Praise makes him awkward. But what doesn't is sharing snapshots of his amazing life.

Thus, be at the session conducted by Siddharth Hussain GM Creative, Bhanushali Studios or in an exclusive chitchat, he is more than willing to go down memory lane. Indeed, back in time when he was getting small parts and 'mostly getting beaten up in films', his family in his village Budhana in UP was quite aghast, even somewhat embarrassed. It was only after he became the lead, Faizal Khan in Anurag Kashyap's much-feted Gangs of Wasseypur 2, that he got a hero's welcome in his village.

The journey to play these stellar parts has not been easy. He recalls those early days of struggle when he had to cook, wash clothes and scrub utensils. What's more, those were the days when all the four roommates, aspiring actors, would

ity and depth. Of course, he would not let his personal ideology cloud his selection. Thus, he had no gualms in playing both Balasaheb Thackeray and Saadat Hasan Manto almost simultaneously. Essaying real characters or fictional, challenges for an actor remain the same. He observes, "What an actor desires more than anything is to be chal-

lenged." At CIFF, he regaled audiences with passages from Girish Karnad's Tughlaq. Back in time, for Kabir Khan's New York, he just took a few minutes, if not more, to memorise the entire set of dialogues. In an industry which thrives on dialogue-baazi, he believes, "Often, the unsaid is very important and what is between the lines, which conveys through its subtexts." He would not care to make a distinction between different genres or qualify the definition of good cinema, which he insists varies from one individu-

al to another. As his mentor Anurag Kashyap has only recently expressed his disaffection with streaming platforms in the context of web series Adolescence, and how we can't create such content, does he think the industry is at an inflection point and change is a must? He answers, "Change is the only constant." Industry pundits might be going ga-ga over how conventional definitions of who fits the bill of an actor have changed dramatically, yet, he observes, "Trailblazers are only few."

blazers are only few." For someone who has battled the conventional versus unconventional looks debate for a major part of his life, time spent at NSD made him reflect and accept himself as he is. He says, "I don't really understand



the stage that he stood tall, even in the starry world of glamour he can be counted as one of our very best. Team Black Warrant shines

Two-and-half months ago, Black Warrant dropped on Netflix and it continues to be among the top 10 shows! As its lead stars Zahan Kapoor and Rahul Bhat, along with its acclaimed showrunner Vikramaditya Motwane and Sameer Nair, CEO Applause Entertainment, came calling on day three of Cinevesture International Film Festival, their synergy was more than evident.

Undeniably, the same chemistry would have prevailed on the sets. Bhat, seen as DSP Tomar in the series, in fact, shared how the days of actors dominating, kha jaunga their coactors, are long over. He added, "Those who still believe in outdoing each other are frauds and not genuine actors." Thus both he and Zahan helped bring out the best in each other. On the process of getting into the skin of a negative character, Bhat said, "Even if you are playing the making of the series from the word go, the young actor even made notes for every single scene of the seven-episode series. "Shooting for 51 days for five different directors, that too in a non-linear manner, was like a whiplash," Zahan asserted. Indeed, from the

makers' point of view, Motwane agreed, "Many directors with one showrunner is a model that truly works well and has proved its efficacy the world over." Nair chipped in with classic refrain, "It takes a village to make a film and raise a child." Of course, when the child already has a parent, the author, in this case Sunil Gupta, on whose memoirs of Tihar jail, the series is based, things could get complicated. Motwane agreed that reading a book for pleasure and for adaptation were two different beasts. "So, you often have to dramatise the proceedings." As Nair put it, "On the face, it was counterintuitive to make a series on Tihar jail with literally no strong women characters. Yet, Netflix loved it." And so did the audiences!

Dia Mirza demands apology for Rhea after CBI closure report in Sushant Rajput case

her family? You went

on a witch hunt. You

caused deep anguish

and harassment just for

TRPs. Apologise. That's

the very least you can

Her remarks come just

days after the Central

Bureau of Investigation

(CBI) officially closed

its probe into the alle-

gations surrounding

Sushant Singh Rajput's

death. On March 22, the

CBI filed two closure

do."



Bollywood actress Dia Mirza has called out the media and demanded a public apology for Rhea Chakraborty, who was subjected to intense scrutiny and a media trial following Sushant Singh Rajput's death in 2020.

Dia wrote on her Instagram story, "Who in the media will have the grace to put out a written apology to Rhea Chakraborty and reports, giving Rhea and her family a clean chit. The first report dismissed allegations made by Sushant's father against Rhea, while the second rejected claims made by Rhea against the late actor's family.

After nearly four years of investigation, the CBI found no evidence suggesting that anyone drove the actor to suicide. A forensic team from AIIMS had also concluded that Sushant's death was due to suicide and not murder.

Rhea had faced severe public backlash and was arrested in September 2020 in connection with drug-related charges linked to the case. She spent 28 days in Mumbai's Byculla Jail before being granted bail.

Sushant was found dead in his Mumbai apartment in June 2020.

If she doesn't have a problem, why do you: Salman on romancing 31 years younger Rashmika in 'Sikandar'

Bollywood star Salman Khan on Sunday took a jibe at those who talk about the 31-year age gap between him and his "Sikandar" co-star Rashmika Mandanna, asking if the heroine doesn't have a problem with it, why do social media users.

Directed by AR Murugadoss, "Sikandar" is slated to be released in theatres on March 30 on the festival of Eid.

Salman, who launched the trailer of the upcoming movie on Sunday, arrived at the event amid heavy security.

"They say there is a 31-year difference between the heroine and me. If the heroine doesn't have any problem or the heroine's father doesn't have any problem, then why do you have a problem?

"And when she (Rashmika) will get married and have a daughter and then she becomes a big star then also we will work (together). We will get the mother (Rashmika)'s permission for sure," the superstar said.

Salman, 59, also heaped praises on Rashmika, 28, saying he admires the



On a query about the expectations from a quintessential Salman Khan movie, the actor said he doesn't get bogged down by the pressure.

"With years of experience, the enthusiasm is still there and it is getting easier," he said.

The actor credited fans for making his

land at the same audition. Today, as his plate is full and he will soon be seen in the sequel of Honey Trehan's Raat Akeli Hai, and I am Not An Actor, he chooses films on the basis of not just the script but also his character's complexhow I am unconventional, for millions look like me. Rather, I would say Hrithik Roshan is unconventional."

Conventional or not, he can take a bow for turning around many known conventions of acting. So it was not only on

ntionk like empathetic; it's like you d say are representing him, nconyou are his lawyer." If Bhat, who started

his journey with television series Heena, only r turntor, Zahan goes an extra mile. Involved in Sh...indie is the buzzword!

It was the 'Sh' session that kick-started the star-studded line-up on the third day of CIFF. As senior journalist and festival director of New York Film Festival, Aseem Chhabra shared, "All film Gangster Newton, which involves plenty of physics, took a cue from Aseem's comment that Shashank is officially Kamal Hassan's favourite, and made an appeal, "I am Kamal Hassan's favourite. Please give me work!" "Pushpa" star for her determination.

"She has given her best. She used to finish shooting of 'Pushpa 2' at 7 pm and would join us at 9 pm, and would work till 6.30 in the morning and go back to work on 'Pushpa 2'. Then after breaking her leg, she continued shooting with us, and didn't cancel a single day of shoot. She reminds me a lot of younger me," he added. films commercial hits at the box office.

"Eid, Diwali, New Year, festive or non-festive (occasion), it's the love of the people (that my films do well) and whether the film is good or bad, they help my films cross at least Rs 100 or Rs 200 crore," he quipped.

"Sikandar" is produced by Sajid Nadiadwala of Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment.

Honour board: Eva Longoria to receive Platino Award

The 'Desperate Housewives' star Eva Longoria is set to receive the Platino Award at the 12th Platino Awards' ceremony at Municipal Palace in Madrid on April 27.

The Platino Award recognises the actress's outstanding audio-visual career and her representation of the Latino community in the American industry. Longoria's guest actress appearances on US television began in 2000, but it was in 2004 that she gained fame for her character of Gabrielle Solis in ABC's Desperate Housewives.

Other appearances of Longoria's include in Empire, Devious Maids, Brooklyn Nine-Nine, BoJack Horseman and Jane the Virgin, before she founded her own production company, UnbeliEVAble Entertainment.

She was involved behind the camera on



a myriad of projects, including the TV series Grand Hotel. Longoria made her directorial in 2023. It was a biopic about Richard Montanez, the janitor who claims to have invented Flamin' Hot Cheetos. It landed Searchlight Pictures' most-watched streaming release ever and an Academy Award nomination for best original song for "The Fire Inside," written by Diane Warren and performed by Becky G. The film was screened at the White House alongside President Joe Biden.

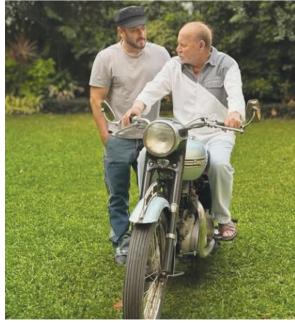
debut with Flamin' Hot

With the Platino Award, the 'Desperate Housewives' star succeeds Cecilia Roth, the last recipient of the honour, after previous editions of this recognition received by such prominent figures from the Ibero-American world as Benicio del Toro (2023), Carmen Maura (2022), Diego Luna (2021), Jose Sacristan (2020) and Raphael (2019).

'Papa, Kattappa': How Salman introduced Sathyaraj to father Salim Khan

Actor Sathyaraj, who played the fan-favourite character Kattappa in the "Baahubali" film franchise, on Sunday said meeting veteran screenwriter Salim Khan is a bigger opportunity for him than sharing screen space with his superstar son Salman Khan in "Sikandar". In the upcoming action thriller drama "Sikandar", Sathyaraj plays the

role of the main antagonist. At the trailer launch press conference of the movie, the South cinema actor expressed his enthusiasm about meeting Salim Khan in the run-up of the event. "The happiest thing that happened today for me is that I got to meet Salim ji and saab (Salman) introduced me to him, saying, 'Papa, Kattapaa'. I'm very happy because when I was studying in college, I knew that Salim-Javed sahab made so many



field for the past 47

years, and I did nearly

258 films. I started my

career as a very sarcas-

tic villain. Later, I got the

opportunity to become a

hero, and I did 100 films

"Murugadoss sir

brought me back as one

of the most sarcastic vil-

lains in this film. Earlier,

when I did that kind of

as a hero.

(actors) heroes with their scripts.

"So, this is a great opportunity. More than acting with Salman ji, it's a great opportunity to meet Salim ji," Sathyaraj said.

The actor thanked director A R Murugadoss for casting him as the antagonist in "Sikandar". "I have been in the a part, it became like a trendsetter. I enjoyed working in that style again," added Sathyaraj. "Sikandar" also features Kajal Aggarwal, Anjini Dhawan and Sharman Joshi.

"It is extremely humbling to be part of such a huge film, of a phenomenal star cast. I don't think it's the number of films you do, the excitement always remains the same," said Aggarwal of "Singham" fame.

Joshi said he is honoured to share screen space with Salman.

"I would like to thank Salman sir for all the love he had given me throughout the making of the film. I'd heard a lot of things about him and it turned out to be true. He is truly a gem of a person," added the "3 ldiots" star.

"Sikandar", produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, is set to hit theatres on March 30.

NATIONAL

Work to link Naxal-hit people to mainstream in final stage in Chhattisgarh: Murmu

RAIPUR, Mar 24 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Monday said the work to link people affected by Left Wing Extremism to the society's mainstream has reached the final stage in Chhattisgarh and expressed confidence that the state will soon get rid of the Naxal menace.

Addressing the Chhattisgarh legislative assembly as a part of its silver jubilee year celebration, Murmu said the House has set the highest standards of democratic traditions and presented a unique example of best parliamentary conduct.

She also appreciated that the 90-member state assembly has 19 women legislators and the number of female voters in the 2023 state elections was more than men.

All the MLAs should make efforts that the number of women members increases in the next assembly, Murmu said.

"The task of integrating people affected by Left Wing Extremism into the mainstream of the society has reached its final and



decisive stage. I have been told that people of the Naxal-affected areas of Chhattisgarh want to move ahead on the path of development," she said.

"I am confident that you (the state) all will soon succeed in your efforts to completely free Chhattisgarh from extremism and add a golden chapter to the history of the state," she added. There are 19 women MLAs in

this House. In the 2023 assembly elections, the number of women voters was more than that of men. Thus, this House has received special support from the mothers, sisters and daughters of Chhattisgarh, Murmu said.

"I request the women MLAs to always be ready to promote all the sisters working in every field of life. When all women promote other women working in various fields of the state, then men will also pay attention and the path will be paved for the development of women, whether she is a teacher, officer, social worker

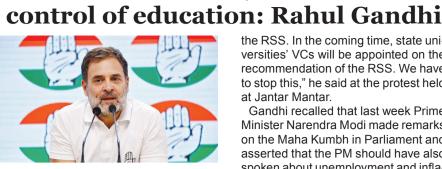
or entrepreneur, scientist or artist, labourer or farmer," she said.

"Our sisters make their place in the outside world by struggling hard while fulfilling their day-to-day domestic responsibilities. When all the sisters empower each other, our society will become even stronger and sensitive. In this House, all the MLAs, especially the women members, should try to increase the number of women members in the next assembly," she added.

Murmu also expressed happiness that in the 25 years of the Chhattisgarh assembly (since the formation of the state in 2000), marshals have never been used in the House.

Governor Ramen Deka and assembly speaker Raman Singh also addressed the MLAs.

Earlier, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Leader of Opposition Charan Das Mahant welcomed President Murmu to the House and expressed gratitude to her.



NEW DELHI, Mar 24 (Agencies): The country will be destroyed if the RSS takes full control of the education system, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said on Monday.

The former Congress chief said the INDIA bloc constituents may have some slight differences in its ideologies and policies but they can never compromise on the education system of the country.

"One organisation wants to destroy the future and the education system of the country. The name of that organisation is the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. If the education system goes into their hands, which is actually happening slowly, this country will be destroyed. No one will get jobs and the country will be finished," Gandhi said at a protest organised by affiliate student organisations of the INDIA bloc, against the National Education Policy.

"Students organisations must tell students that the vice chancellors of Indian universities are dominated by the RSS. In the coming time, state universities' VCs will be appointed on the recommendation of the RSS. We have to stop this," he said at the protest held at Jantar Mantar.

Gandhi recalled that last week Prime Minister Narendra Modi made remarks on the Maha Kumbh in Parliament and asserted that the PM should have also spoken about unemployment and inflation.

"The prime minister does not speak a word about unemployment, inflation and education system. Their model is to hand over all resources to Adani and Ambani and hand over institutions to the RSS," Gandhi said.

To the agitators, he said, "You are students of the INDIA bloc, there may be some differences in our ideologies and policies but we can never compromise on the education system of the country. We will fight this fight together and push back the RSS."

Last month, Gandhi participated in a protest against the draft University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations organised by the DMK here.

He alleged that the UGC's draft regulations on the appointment of teachers and academic staff in universities and colleges were an attempt to push the agenda of the RSS which aims to impose "one history, one tradition, one language" on the country.

Govt seems to have made up its mind to not let LS function: Priyanka Gandhi

NEW DELHI, Mar 24 (Agencies): With repeated adjournments in the Lok Sabha, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday said the government seems to have made up its mind that it does not want the House to function and finds some excuse or the other to create a ruckus.

The BJP members have been raising the issue of reservation for Muslims in government contracts in Karnataka and claiming that the state's Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar purportedly suggested changing the Constitution to accommodate a four per cent quota for Muslims. Shivakumar, has, how-



been many days now. ever, said that he never They find some excuse stated the Constitution will be amended in any manner to give religionbased reservation. "They seem to have made up their mind that they don't want the House to function. It's time during the day.



NEW DELHI, Mar 24 (Agencies): Delhi Power Minister Ashish Sood on Monday said the discoms are authorised to recover Rs 27,000 crore accumulated as regulatory assets, hinting the electricity rates may go up in the city.

AAP MLA and former minister Imran Hussain during the Question Hour sought to know whether electricity rates in Delhi are going to be raised since regulatory assets of the discoms require to be liquidated in three years.

Replying to the question. Sood said the previous AAP government in Delhi left behind Rs 27,000 of regulatory



assets of the discoms.

"The power discoms are authorised to recover this amount from people through hike in power tariff," he said. Regulatory assets of a power distribution company (discom) refer to any costs incurred by it that can be recovered from the consumers in future through tariff revi-

sions

The regulatory assets are accumulated when a power regulator (DERC in case of Delhi) defers the recovery of the amounts incurred by the discoms through future rate hike.

No hike in electricity rates took place during 10 years rule of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in

Delhi.

"During the tenure of the previous government, tariff orders were to be issued according to a High Court order and the previous government could not protect the interests of the people of Delhi in the

court," Sood claimed. "In the coming time, the rates will increase.... perhaps some people want the electricity rates to be hiked so that they can do politics over it," he said.

The minister said the BJP government is looking into the matter and it is in touch with the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC). The DERC has already

started the process for tariff revision through consultations with various stakeholders.

The Commission had in December 2024 invited suggestions from stakeholders on tariff petitions filed by the power companies, including the discoms BRPL (BSES Rajdhani Power Limited), BYPL (BSES Yamuna Power Limited) and TPDDL (Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited), for true up of expenses of 2022-23 and aggregate revenue requirement (ARR) and tariff for 2024-25. A public hearing on the petitions is scheduled to

India will be destroyed if RSS takes

Ex-Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar elected as new Kerala BJP president

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Mar 24 (Agencies): Former Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar was elected as the new president of Kerala state unit of the BJP on Monday.

The party's central observer Prahlad Joshi announced during the BJP's state council meeting held here

Chandrasekhar was the sole nominee for the top post and the leader filed two sets of nomination papers for the position at the BJP headquarters here on Sunday.

During the time of the announcement, all prominent state leaders of the BJP including outgoing president K Surendran and state in charge Prakash Javadekar, were present.

Surendran handed over the party flag to Chandrasekhar on the stage.



During his address, Surendran said the BJP has witnessed unprecedented growth in Kerala in the past 10 years.

Stating that Chandrasekhar was elected to the top post by all party leaders unanimously, he said the leader's experience and expertise in various sectors would accelerate the growth of the BJP in the state.

and Entrepreneurship, and Jal Shakti.

He served as Rajya Sabha MP from Karnataka for three terms and as the BJP's national spokesperson. He is the vicechairman of the NDA's Kerala unit.

A familiar face in Kerala, Chandrasekhar contested the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from Thiruvananthapuram as the NDA candidate but lost to Congress leader Shashi Tharoor by 16,077 votes.

Born to Keralite parents in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Chandrasekhar has family roots in Thrissur.

His father-in-law is TPG Nambiar, the founder of the BPL Group.

The election was held as K Surendran completes his fiveyear term as state president.

One killed in fire at 13-storey residential building in Mumbai's Vidyavhihar



MUMBAI, Mar 24 (Agencies): A security guard was killed and another person injured after a fire broke out at a 13-storey residential building in Mumbai's Vidyavhihar area on Monday morning, an official said.

The blaze erupted at 4.35 am in the Takshshila Co-operative Housing Society, located on

Nathani Road opposite Vidyavihar station, a fire official said.

The blaze affected electric installations, household articles, wooden furniture, AC units and clothes in five flats on the first and second floors of the building, as well as some wooden wall fittings, furniture and shoe

racks in the first and

second floor lobbies of the structure, he said. The official said 15 to 20 persons were safely rescued.

be held by the DERC on

March 27.

Two security guards were injured and sent to Rajawadi Hospital where one of them, Uday Gangan (43), was declared dead. The deceased suffered 100 per cent burn injuries, the official said.

The other person, Sabhajit Yadav (52), suffered 25 to 30 per cent burn injuries and was undergoing treatment, he said.

It was a "level-two" fire and was brought under control by 7.33 am, the official added.

The cause of the fire was not yet known.

Kerala student dies 3 months after suicide attempt, hostel warden detained

KOZHIKODE, Mar 24 (Agencies): A third-year nursing student, who attempted suicide in her hostel room in December last year, died on Sunday after being in a coma for more than three months. Chaithanya Kumari, 20, had tried to take her own life after alleged harassment by the hostel warden, officials said today

The student was a native of Kerala's Kottayam and was studying at the Manzoor Hospital and School of Nursing.

According to officials, Chaithanya had gone out and came back unwell one day - when the warden, Ranjani, scolded her.

The student was then denied food and water by the warden. She attempted to die by suicide on December 7 when she slipped into a coma.

Chaithanya, who was in a critical condition, was first treated at a private hospital in Mangaluru. Later, she was shifted to the Kasturba Medical College Hospital and then to Aster MIMS in Kannur.

She was then moved to the Kozhikode government medical college where she died.

Following the incident, massive protests erupted with the woman's mother and fellow students alleging mental harassment by the warden.

The former president also

rejected criticism from some

quarters that Chandrasekhar is

not a regular politician and said

At 60, Chandrasekhar brings

two decades of political experi-

ence to the role. He has served

as a Union Minister of State for

the departments of Electron-

ics and IT, Skill Development

he could shine in his new role.

Several students reportedly said they were subjected to harsh treatment by the warden. They also said the hostel had "prison-like" conditions.

Amid the allegations, the warden was put off duty.

However, after the student's death, police took the warden into custody. She will be questioned today, officials said.

Rajasthan man jumps before train after dispute with wife

KOTA, Mar 24 (Agencies): A 23-year-old man allegedly ended life by jumping before a moving train on Delhi-Mumbai railway line in front of his wife over an altercation, police said on Monday. The man has been identified as Dilraj Meena (23), a resident of Sawai Madhopur district.

According to Devesh Bhardwaj, Circle Inspector, Borekheda police station, Dilraj took the extreme step even as his wife rushed to stop him, as per relatives' accounts. He said the police is investigating further to ascertain the exact circumstances that led to his death, as the dead man is said to have uploaded a text on his WhatsApp status, suggesting that something untoward is going

to happen to him.

The couple, who married last year after a courtship, has been staying in Balaji Ki Bagichi in Kota and preparing for the Staff Selection Commission exam, police said. They said the couple had an altercation on

Sunday, following which

Dilraj left the room

threatening to commit

suicide.

According to some relatives, the wife ran after Dilraj to the railway track shouting at him to stop, but he jumped before the train a few metres before her, police added. The body of the dead has been handed over to the family after postmortem and a case lodged under Section 194 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, they said.

INTERNATIONAL

Top News of J&K Jammu, Monday, March 24, 2025

Gaza's Health Ministry says Israel has struck the largest hospital in the territory's south

Strike hit surgical building of Nasser Hospital in city of Khan Younis

DEIR AL-BALAH, Mar 24 (Agencies): Israel's military struck the largest hospital in southern Gaza on Sunday night, killing one person, wounding others and causing a large fire, the territory's Health Ministry said today.

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The strike hit the surgical building of Nasser Hospital in the city of Khan Younis, the ministry said, days after the facility was overwhelmed with dead and wounded when Israel resumed the war in Gaza last week with a surprise wave of airstrikes.

Israel's military confirmed the strike on the hospital, saying it hit a Hamas militant operating there. Israel blames civilian deaths on Hamas because it operates in densely populated areas

Like other medical facilities around Gaza, Nasser Hospital has been damaged by Israeli raids and strikes throughout the war.

More than 50,000 Palestinians have now been killed in the war, the Health Ministry said.

The military claimed to have "eliminated" dozens of militants since Israel ended a ceasefire Tuesday with strikes that killed hundreds of people on one of the deadliest days in the 17-month war.

Israel's unrest over Gaza and political issues grew Sunday, with anger at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as his government voted to express no confidence in the attorney general, seen by many as a check on the power of his coalition.

"I'm worried for the future of this country. And I think it has to stop. We have to change direction," said Avital Halperin, one of hundreds of protesters outside Netanyahu's office. Police said three were arrested.

Displacement under fire



Israel's military ordered thousands of Palestinians to leave the heavily destroyed Tel al-Sultan neighbourhood in the southern city of Rafah. They walked to Muwasi, a sprawling area of squalid tent camps. The war has forced most of Gaza's population of over 2 million to flee within the territory, often multiple times.

"It's displacement under fire," said Mustafa Gaber, a journalist who left with his family. He said tank and drone fire echoed nearby.

"The shells are falling among us and the bullets are (flying) above us," said Amal Nassar, also displaced. "The elderly have been thrown into the streets. An old woman was telling her son, Go and leave me to die.' Where will we go?" "Enough is enough. We are exhausted," said a fleeing Ayda Abu Shaer, as smoke rose in the distance.

The Palestinian Red Crescent emergency service said it lost contact with a 10-member team responding to the strikes in Rafah. Spokesperson Nebal Farsakh said some were wounded.

Israel's military said it had fired on advancing "suspicious vehicles" and later discovered some were ambulances and fire trucks

In Gaza City, an explosion hit next to a tent camp where people had been told to evacuate. "My husband is blind and started running barefoot, and my children were running," said witness Nidaa Hassuna.

Strikes kill Hamas leader Hamas said Salah Bardawil,

a well-known member of its political bureau, was killed in a strike in Muwasi that also killed his wife. Israel's military confirmed it.

Hospitals in southern Gaza said they received a further 24 bodies from strikes overnight, including several women and children

Gaza's Health Ministry said 50,021 Palestinians have been killed in the war, including 673 people since Israel's bombardment on Tuesday shattered the ceasefire.

Dr. Munir al-Boursh, the ministry's general director, said the dead include 15,613 children, with 872 of them under 1 year old.

The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count but says women and children make up over half the dead. Israel says it has killed around 20,000 fighters, without providing evidence.

Ceasefire in tatters

The ceasefire that took hold in January paused more than a year of fighting ignited by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack into Israel, in which militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 251 hostage. Most captives have been released in ceasefire agreements or other deals.

In the latest ceasefire's first phase, 25 Israeli hostages and the bodies of eight others were released in exchange for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners. Israeli forces allowed hundreds of thousands of people to return home. There was a surge in humanitarian aid until Israel cut off all supplies to Gaza earlier this month to pressure Hamas to change the ceasefire agreement.

The sides were supposed to begin negotiations in early February on the ceasefire's next phase, in which Hamas was to release the remaining 59 hostages — 35 of them believed to be dead — in exchange for more Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal. Those talks never began.

New settlements in the West Bank

Israel's Cabinet passed a measure creating 13 new settlements in the occupied West Bank by rezoning existing ones, according to Bezalel Smotrich, Israel's far-right finance minister, who is in charge of settlement construction. This brings the number of

settlements, considered illegal by the majority of the international community, to 140, said anti-settlement watchdog group Peace Now. They will receive independent budgets from Israel and can elect their own local governments, the group said.

Thailand's PM faces a no-confidence vote over alleged influence by her father

BANGKOK, Mar 24 (Agencies): Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra on Monday faced a no-confidence motion in parliament as the opposition alleged she was being unduly influenced by her father, a former prime minister, and is mismanaging the country.

Paetongtarn, who took office last year, is expected to survive her first no-confidence vote on Wednesday with the backing of her ruling coalition that makes up the majority of the House of Representatives.

The head of the opposition in parliament, Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut, said Paetongtarn had failed to address many of the country's chronic problems including the slumping economy, air pollution, crimes and corruption.

He said her administration was serving the interests of her family and her father, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, a popular but highly controversial political figure.

Paetongtarn heads the Pheu Thai Party, the latest in a string of populist parties affiliated with Thaksin, who was

ousted in a 2006 military coup, fled into exile and recently returned to Thailand Thaksin has been at the heart of nearly two decades of deep political divisions pitting a mostly poor, rural majority that supported him against royalists, the military and their urban backers, who accuse him of threatening their status and that of the revered monarchy.

Natthapong is the leader of the People's Party, a resurrection of the progressive, reformist Move Forward Party, which took the most seats in the general election in 2023 but failed to take power due to strong opposition from the conservative establishment, and was ordered dissolved.

Natthapong said the formation of the ruling coalition, which saw Pheu Thai partner with its former conservative rivals, was part of the political bargain to bring Thaksin home.

Paetongtarn was also accused by Prawit Wongsuwan, head of the Palang Pracharath Party, Pheu Thai's former coalition partner, of falsely declaring her assets, which she denied.

Austria says it has uncovered a Russian-steered campaign to spread disinformation

VIENNA, Mar 24 (Agencies): Austrian authorities said Monday that they uncovered a Russian-steered campaign aimed at spreading disinformation about Ukraine following the detention in December of a Bulgarian woman accused of spying for Russia

Austria's domestic intelligence agency unearthed evidence of the operation as it analyzed devices found in a search of the woman's home, the Interior Ministry said in a statement. It said the investigation showed that a few weeks after Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, a cell working for Russian intelligence was set up and planned a large-scale disinformation campaign in German-speaking countries, particularly Austria. The group was active online but also used stickers and graffiti with content such as far-right symbols and nationalist statements meant to look like pro-Ukrainian activists were responsible for them, according to the Interior Ministry.

The Bulgarian suspect, whose name

accusations against

him weren't against

the law or weren't seri-

ous enough to remove

him from office or his

impeachment motion

it passed thorough the

assembly. One justice

upheld Han's impeach-

Dismissing Han would

have needed the sup-

port of at least six court

Following his reinstate-

ment, Han told reporters

he would focus on the

"most urgent matters,"

including a fast-chang-

ing global trade envi-

ronment, in an apparent

reference to the Trump

administration's aggres-

sive trade policies. He

also called for a national

unity, saying "there's no

left or right - what mat-

ters is the advancement

The court has yet

to rule on Yoon's

impeachment. If the

court upholds Yoon's

impeachment, South

Korea must hold an

election for a new presi-

dent. If it rules for him,

Yoon will be restored

of our nation."

ment.

justices.

wasn't released, is believed to have played a significant role in the effort and acted as an intelligence contact, the ministry said, adding that she has admitted working for the cell, particularly in 2022.

A year ago, Austria's biggest espionage scandal in decades erupted with the arrest of a former Austrian intelligence officer, who was accused among other things of handing over cellphone data of former high-ranking Austrian officials to Russian intelligence and helping plot a burglary at a prominent journalist's apartment.

The ex-officer, who was later released from custody, is suspected of having provided sensitive information to Jan Marsalek, a fugitive fellow Austrian wanted on suspicion of fraud since the collapse in 2020 of German payment company Wirecard, where he was the chief operating officer. The arrest warrant said chat messages provided by British authorities link Marsalek directly to Russia's FSB intelligence agency.

Pakistan: Islamabad High Court restores biweekly meetings for Imran Khan in Adiala Jail

ISLAMABAD, Mar 24 (Agencies): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has restored biweekly meetings for Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan in Adiala Jail,

The court directed visitors to sign an undertaking ensuring that they would not make public statements following the meetings. Jail authorities defended previous measures

legal status changed from undertrial to convicted prisoner, impacting his privileges in prison. Jail authorities stated that meet-

ings should be restricted due to

South Korean court overturns impeachment of PM Han, reinstates him as acting president

SEOUL, Mar 24 (Agencies): South Korea's Constitutional Court on Monday overturned the impeachment of Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, reinstating the nation's No. 2 official as acting leader, while not yet ruling on the separate impeachment of President Yoon Suk Yeol. Many observers said Monday's ruling doesn't signal much on the upcoming verdict on Yoon, as Han wasn't a key figure in Yoon's martial law imposition. But it could still embolden Yoon's staunch supporters and ramp up their political offensive on the opposition. Han became acting president after Yoon. a conservative, was impeached by the liberal opposition-controlled National Assembly over his December 3 imposition of martial law that triggered a massive political crisis. But Han was impeached by the assembly as well in late December following political strife with opposition lawmakers. The unprecedented,



sent hundreds of troops and police officers to the assembly after declaring martial law. Yoon says he aims to maintain

The Express Tribune reported. However, the court has ordered visitors from making political statements following the meetings.

The HC order issued on Monday allows Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan to meet his family and lawyers on Tuesdays while he can meet his friends on Thursdays.

However, only those permitted by Imran Khan's coordinator, lawyer Salman Akram Raja will be able to meet Khan.

During the hearing, the court voiced concerns over visitors using jail meetings to make political statements.

The Acting Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court Sarfaraz Dogar said that visitors should "meet and leave" and emphasised that speaking to reporters was unnecessary.

citing security threats and said that they had consolidated Khan's meetings into one day instead of two to manage risks. The court rejected the argument, stressing that biweekly visits for Imran Khan were approved in a previous ruling. Meanwhile, Imran Khan's legal team claimed that scheduled meetings were being denied arbitrarily. PTI founder's lawyer, Zaheer Abbas, said a scheduled meeting on March 20 did not take place despite requesting it repeatedly, as reported by agency.

Justice Dogar directed Imran Khan's lawyers to move trial court separately if they seek permission for his children to visit him

The court's decision comes amid legal battles for Imran Khan who has been incarcerated in prison since August 2023 after being convicted in corruption cases. Khan's security reasons.

However, the court emphasised that political debates should not be held during or following meetings with Imran Khan. Imran Khan's lawyers assured the court that visitors would follow new restrictions issued by the judge.

Following the court's ruling, Imran Khan's legal team and supporters will be able to meet him twice a week. However, the media gag order breach could result in further legal action, The Express Tribune reported.

The order issued by the Islamabad High Court is being viewed as a small relief for the PTI founder and his supporters. However, restrictions imposed on making political statements show judiciary attempts to stop jail meetings from becoming a platform for political messaging.

Russian delegation arrives in Riyadh to participate in US-brokered peace talks

RIYADH, Mar 24 (Agencies): The Russian delegation arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on Monday, to participate in the peace negotiations brokered by the United States, aiming to reach a ceasefire in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war

On Sunday, the US and Ukraine delegations held talks in Saudi Arabia, which Ukraine Defence Minister Rustem Umerov termed "productive".

"We have concluded our meeting with the American team. The discussion was productive and focused -- we addressed key points, including energy. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's goal is to secure a just and lasting peace for our country and our people -- and, by extension, for all of Europe. We are working to make that goal a reality", he said.

Earlier, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a televised statement, said the delegation is working and stressed the need for Russia to stop the strikes. "Our team is working in a completely constructive manner. The conversation is quite useful; the work of the delegations is continuing," he said.

"But no matter what we say to our partners today, we need to get [Russian President Vladimir] Putin to give a real order to stop the strikes. Whoever brought this war must take it back," Zelenskyy added.

As per France24, this meeting preceded talks between the US and Russian delegations which are scheduled for Monday

This follows a series of talks held in Saudi Arabia, first between the US and Russia, and then later between the US and Ukraine, when

Notably, Ukraine has already accepted a 30-day truce proposal. Trump recently held separate discussions with Putin and Zelenskyy, aiming to broker a ceasefire.

While the talks did not result in a comprehensive 30-day truce, Putin agreed to halt attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure for the period, a condition Zelenskyy accepted.

However, despite the temporary agreement, both sides have since accused each other of targeting energy facilities, further complicating the peace process.

On Monday, seven of the court's eight justices overturned or dismissed Han's impeachment. They ruled the

to office and regain his presidential powers. Yoon was impeached about two weeks earlier than Han. Observers earlier predicted the Constitutional Court

didn't even meet a required quorum when would rule on Yoon's case in mid-March but it hasn't done so. Yoon has been sepa-

> rately arrested and charged with rebellion in connection with his martial law decree. If convicted of that charge, he would face the death penalty or a life sentence. On March 8, Yoon was released from prison, after a Seoul district court allowed him to stand his criminal trial without being detained. Massive rival rallies backing Yoon or denouncing Yoon have divided the streets of Seoul and other major cities in South Korea. Earlier surveys showed that a majority of South Koreans were critical of Yoon's martial law enactment, but those supporting or sympathizing with Yoon have later gained strength. At the centre of squab-

> > bling over Yoon is why he

order, but senior military and police officers sent there have said that Yoon ordered them to drag out lawmakers to prevent a floor vote to overturn his decree. Enough lawmakers eventually managed to enter an assembly hall and voted it down unanimously.

Han, a career diplomat who was appointed by Yoon, had attempted to reassure diplomatic partners and stabilize markets, when he served as acting president. A major trigger for the opposition's push for his impeachment was Han's refusal to fill three vacancies on the ninemember Constitutional Court bench.

Restoring the court's full membership was sensitive because a ruling upholding Yoon's impeachment requires support from at least six justices.

Han's successor, Choi Sang-mok, appointed two new justices but left the ninth seat vacant.

Both Han and Choi cited needing bipartisan consent to add justices to the court, but their critics suspected they were siding with Yoon's People Power Party, which wanted to increase Yoon's chances of returning to power. On Friday, the main liberal opposition Democratic Party and other small opposition parties submitted an impeachment motion on Choi.

successive impeachments that suspended the country's top two officials intensified a domestic division and deepened worries about the country's diplomatic and economic activities. The deputy prime minister and finance minister, Choi Sang-mok, had since serving as acting president.

LOCAL/CONTD....

Heritage School welcomes young learners, parents at Orientation Day for session 2025-2026

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 24: The school hosted an introductory orientation program to welcome new parents and students into the Heritage Family. A two-series event was held at the School's Amphitheatre on Monday to facilitate the transition into the academic session for new students and their parents, of classes I-V.

The event commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Principal- Akash Pradhan, Vice Principal- Rashmi Thakur, Founder Head Mistress-Vandana Jasrotia, Headmistress designate Hemneet Kour, Former Incharge classes 1&2 Ranjana Jamwal with the chanting of Shlokas, setting a positive and auspicious tone for the session

The Headmistress, Hemneet Kour, extended a welcome to the attendees, and shared the school's vision of holistic and experiential learning, nurtured within a dynamic learning environment.

To familiarize parents with the school's regulations, curriculum, and assessment strategies, Rachita Anand, Coordinator classes I & II, and Harpreet Kaur, Coordinator classes III - V,

elaborated on academic guidelines and expectations. They encouraged

parents to stay actively engaged in their child's educational journey, reinforcing the school's commitment to excellence in learning.

Karishma Pathania, the School Counsellor, provided valuable insights on adapting to the new educational environment. The introduction of class teach-

On this occasion, the

The overall response

The event was attend-

ed by all committee

members of CWS

Prof. Anita Sharma, Dr.

Shally Chadha, Prof.

Usha Devi, Prof. Dinesh

Jamwal, Prof Sukhvin-

der Kaur and other

faculty members of the

helping them.

college.

ers further strengthened the parent-teacher connection, providing an opportunity to interact and build a supportive rapport.

A pivotal segment of the Programme, the Open House session led by Ms Vandana Jasrotia, founder Head Mistress, was held to address any queries or concerns of the parents , reinforcing the school's commitment to transparent and collaborative education.

While the parents attended these interactive sessions, the children enjoyed watching an animated movie and some games to engage with their new peers and educators.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, delivered by the Principal, Akash Pradhan, who expressed gratitude for the enthusiastic participation of parents. He reaffirmed the school's unwavering dedication to holistic development, ensuring that each child thrives academically, emotionally, and socially. With excitement and anticipation, Heritage

School eagerly awaits the return of students in April, ready to embark on another year of growth, discovery, and excellence



GGM Science College organizes

poster making competition on

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 24: The NSS Units of GGM Science College, in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Science and the Department of Zoology, organized a Poster Making Competition on the theme "Water and Forest Conservation." The event aimed to raise awareness among students about the importance of conserving natural resources and promoting sustainable practices.

Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta addressed the gathering, emphasizing the critical role of youth in environmental conservation. He encouraged students to take proactive steps toward protecting nature and spreading awareness in their communities.

The event was coordinated by NSS Program Officers Dr. Rahul Kait and Dr. Neha Sharma

Dr. Brinder Kumar, Prof. BalKrishan, and Prof. Reetika from the Department of Zoology served as judges, evaluating the creative and insightful posters presented by the participants. A total of fifty NSS volunteers participated in the competition, showcasing their artistic skills and commitment to environmental awareness. The winners of the competition were: First position was bagged by Sana, second position by Anshika whereas third position was shared by Ansh and Yogesh. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Neha Sharma, acknowledging the efforts of the organizing team, judges, and participants in making the competition a resounding success.

GCW Parade organises National Webinar on "Food-Planet-Health

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 24: A one-day National Webinar titled 'Food -Planet-Health' was organised by the Centre for Women's Studies (CWS) GCW Parade in collaboration with the Vegan **Outreach Organisation** whereby a total of 250 participants from different states took part in the programme.

Food-Planet- Health is a campaign by Vegan Outreach that educates the youth in India about the impact of our dietary choices on animals, health, and the environment.

The event's keynote speaker was Dr. Nija Dhillon, Outreach Coordinator, Vegan Outreach India and an edu-

cator from Vadodara. safer. Dhillon explored vital programme coordinator issues, including the connections between of the webinar and conhealth, dietary choices vener of CWS thanked and environmental susall the participants and tainability and highlightthe Vegan Outreach ed the harmful effects Organisation. of meat and dairy consumptions on animal obtained was posiwelfare and the Earth. tive and encouraging She said that one can with the majority of the participants finding the stay more healthy by getting all the nutrients event very relevant and

one needs from plantbased food. Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo, Principal of the College, said that today

there is a need that people should practice to adopting a plantbased lifestyle and this will strengthen environmental protection and the future better and **Top News Report**

> SRINAGAR, Mar 24: The Asmita Khelo India Yogasana City League, an exclusive competition for women, was held at the Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex, Srinagar.

> The event was organised by Jammu and Kashmir Yogasana sports Association under the authority of Yogasana Bharat. The event saw an overwhelming response, with over 300 female participants from across the city showcasing their talent, discipline, and passion for Yogasana.

> The competition was graced by Maqsood Khan, Manager Indoor Sports Complex as the Chief Guest. The Guests of Honor included Fareeda Akhter national referee, Manager of SKISC, and Dr. Ragib Rasool, General Secretary of



Asmita Khelo India Yogasana City League witnesses

J&K Yogasana Sports Association Shabir Ahmed Dar senior Yogasana coach.

Their presence and support were instrumental in motivating the athletes and promoting Yogasana sports in the region.

The event was made possible through the dedicated efforts of key individuals in the Yogasana sports community.

Shabir Ahmad Dar (Senior Yogasana Coach), Zubida Lateef (National Yogasana Coach and Organizing Secretary of the Competition), Showkeya Qadir (General Secretary of District Ganderbal Yogasana Sports Association), and Altaf Bhat (President of J&K Yogasana Sports Association) played a crucial role in ensuring the smooth execution of the competition.

The Asmita Khelo India Yogasana City League provided a competitive platform for young female athletes to demonstrate their expertise and promote traditional sports under the Khelo India initiative.

The event not only encouraged women's participation in Yogasana but also highlighted the growing interest in yogabased sports in Jammu & Kashmir.

With a strong turnout and enthusiastic performances, the competition was a resounding success, paving the way for more such initiatives in the region. The organisers extended their gratitude to the authorities, Yogasana Bharat and all those who contributed to making this event a memorable one.

FromPage No:1

Farmers compensated for land acquired by BSF. savs J&K CM

Manokita, who alleged there is no border area in the constituency of the member, who is asking questions about a border areas of Jammu.

Tarigami countered him by saying he can raise question about any area and Jammu does not belong to him alone.

The chief minister said Rs 155.08 crore has been allocated as compensation, out of which Rs 144.12 crore has already been disbursed to landowners, with the remaining amount pending title verification.

"We are not sitting on funds. Rs 11 crore remain unspent in the disbursement process. We will instruct the department to expedite the disbursement efforts on fast track." he assured.

He said the border issue is not just one MLA's concern but is a broader concern for people living in border areas, whether in Jammu or the Kashmir Valley.

Earlier, responding to a question from Hiranagar MLA Vijay Kumar during the Question Hour, Minister for Revenue Sakina Itoo informed that the BSF has acquired 13,415 kanals of land across 113 villages in Jammu, Samba, and Kathua districts of Jammu division for border fencing along the Indo-Pak border. She said the BSF has laid fencing along a 135-feet wide strip in these border districts.

Cash Discovery: **Judicial work with**drawn from Justice

Yashwant Varma, says Delhi HC

"four to five semi-burnt sacks of Indian currency notes" were found from the judge's Lutyens' Delhi residence.

Justice Varma has strongly denounced the allegations in the currency-discovery row and said no cash was ever placed in the storeroom of his residence either by him or any of his family members.

In his response to the Delhi High Court CJ, Justice Varma has said the allegation of cash discovery from his residence clearly appears to be a "conspiracy to frame and malign him".

Militancy cannot be finished without support of people: CM Omar Abdullah

away will be premature. Let us see how the situation develops," he said

Asked about frequent targeting of Kathua and Billawar by terrorists, the chief minister said many areas of Jammu belt has seen terror activities over the past couple of years as "we have seen it in Rajouri and Poonch and several others areas" and their attempt is disturb peace".

Pakistan has dug trench for itself: **LoP Sunil Sharma** on Kathua encounter

operation in Sanyal village of

Hiranagar since last night and remain stationed there to neutralise any threats.

"I believe Pakistan has dug a trench for itself, " he remarked. Sharma reiterated that security forces remain on high alert and are committed to dismantling terrorism at its roots.

"The more Pakistan tries to send terrorists here, the stronger our security forces' response will be to bury that terrorism once and for all," he added.

Taking a swipe at some legislators, Sharma slammed the National Conference-led government for allegedly advocating talks with Pakistan despite continued terror infiltrations.

"It is unfortunate that some legislators here, especially since the National Conference government has come to power, repeatedly propose dialogue with Pakistan. Sometimes they advocate talks, and at other times, they indirectly support Pakistan in different ways. Such elements encourage Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, leading to an increase in such incidents," he asserted.

Protests against Waqf Amendment Bill understandable: CM Omar Abdullah

committee has submitted its report on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill. Though not listed yet, there is speculation that the proposed legislation could be brought for passage in Parliament during the ongoing Budget session.

The 31-member panel on the Bill, after multiple sittings and hearings, suggested several amendments to the proposed legislation even as the opposition members disagreed with the report and submitted dissent notes.

The 655-page report was submitted to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on January 30.

The joint committee adopted the report that contained changes suggested by members of the ruling BJP by a 15-11 majority vote. The move prompted the opposition to dub the exercise an attempt to destroy Waqf boards.

The Bill was referred to the joint committee on August 8 last year, following its introduction in the Lok Sabha by Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju.

Anti-Terror Operation intensified in Kathua

the initial firing and the area was kept under tight security cordon throughout the night before the security forces moved in from different directions with the first light of the day on Monday, the officials said. They said there was no fresh contact with the terrorists so far.

One of the inputs also suggested that two groups of five-six terrorists each infiltrated on Saturday.

According to the officials, some village women collecting firewood reported seeing around five terrorists who had sought refuge in the expansive nursery area.

A seven-year-old girl sustained minor injuries when a stray bullet passed close to her arm and was shifted to a local hospital.

A villager identified as Anita Devi (48) said heavily-armed terrorists caught hold of her husband when they had gone to the nursery to collect firewood.

"The terrorists were holding my

husband at gun-point and also asked me to come near. But my husband signalled me to escape and I started running away. One of the terrorists vainly tried to stop me but I started shouting, which attracted the attention of two more persons who were cutting grass," Devi said.

She said the incident occurred around 4.30 pm on Sunday and all of them returned home and informed the police. They were five in number and were wearing beards and commando dress, Devi said.

District Development Councillor Karan Kumar also said heavy gunfire was heard in the region

"An atmosphere of fear has gripped the village by the terrorist presence. We heard around 250 rounds of intense gunfire," Kumar said, adding security forces have encircled the entire area to flush out the terrorists.

Kathua has emerged as a major infiltrating route for Pakistan-based terrorists to reach the higher reaches of Udhampur, Doda and Kishtwar districts and further to Kashmir over the past year, which is evident from a series of terror incidents.

After carrying out deadly attacks in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch over the past four years, terror activities spread to six other districts in the Jammu region in 2024, leaving a total of 44 people, including 18 security personnel and 13 terrorists, dead.

Though the Pir Panjal districts of Rajouri and Poonch witnessed a considerable drop in terror activities in 2024 compared to the previous years, the series of incidents in Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua, Udhampur and Jammu from April-May onwards last year came as a concern for the security agencies.

To counter the threat and thwart the attempts of Pakistan-based

terror handlers to spread terrorism to peaceful areas, the officials said, the security forces have started relentless operations.

According to official data, Doda, Kathua and Reasi districts recorded nine killings each followed by Kishtwar (five), Udhampur (four), Jammu and Rajouri (three each) and Poonch (two) in 2024. Those killed included 18 security personnel and 13 terrorists.

This year, Kathua was also rocked by protests after the mysterious death of five people in the remote Billawar tehsil.

The bodies of 15-year-old Varun Singh, his paternal uncle Yogesh Singh (32) and maternal uncle Darshan Singh (40) were found in the Ishu nullah in the remote Malhar area in the higher reaches of Kathua on March 8. They had gone missing on March 5 while attending a wedding ceremony.

On February 16, the bodies of Shamsher (37) and Roshan (45) were found in Kohag village in Billawar. The post-mortem examination revealed that they were strangulated.

AK rifles, bullets, explosive recovered during CASO in Poonch village

arms, ammunition and explosives during this operation that include three AK 47 weapons, twenty three magazines, nine hundred and twenty two bullets, two stun grenades, three meters wire, nineteen detonators, one timer mechanism watch, one battery pack and three battery connectors, four IEDs, one cylinder, five grenades, around two hundred grams white powder, thirty 9mm ball, safety fuse, pistol rod, pistol cover, clothes, shoes and some other material.

LOCAL

Army hosts inspiring Yoga Camp in Doda

Top News Report

10

DODA, Mar 24: Yoga, a timeless practice promoting physical and mental well-being, took center stage as the Indian Army organized an enriching Yoga Camp at Green Model Higher Secondary School, Doda. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and local media, fostering a culture of health and mindfulness within the community.

The camp drew an impressive gathering, with 85 boys, 63 girls, 20 teachers, and seven



media representatives actively participating in the yoga exercises, asanas, and pranayama sessions. Designed to cater to all levels, the camp provided a plat-

form for beginners and

seasoned practitioners alike to explore the transformative benefits of yoga.

Beyond the physical aspect, the program highlighted the holistic essence of yoga,

emphasizing its ability to harmonize the mind, body, and soul. During an engaging interaction, Indian Army representatives and yoga instructors discussed the profound health benefits of yoga, including improved flexibility, strength, mental clarity, and stress relief. Participants were inspired to make yoga a part of their daily routines for long-term well-being. The event received heartfelt appreciation from locals, who acknowledged the Indian Army's initiative as a vital step toward promoting a healthy and peaceful lifestyle. Many expressed hope for more such endeavors to strengthen the bond between the Army and the community while encouraging positive change.

GDC Vijaypur organizes Fit India Run

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Mar 24: As a part of the series of program being organized Fit India Run under the banner of 'Fit India Movement' a nationwide campaign, Department of Sports and Physical Education of GDC Vijaypur on Monday organized the Fit India Run from college campus.

College athletes and students from the college and faculty (both teaching as well as nonteaching) participated in the fit India run actively with great enthusiasm and fervor.

The main aim of the



run was to encoursenior faculty memage a healthy lifestyle, bers Prof. Anita Jamwal enhance physical (HOD Political Science) well-being and raise and Prof. Mamta Gupta awareness about the (HOD Commerce). importance of regular Principal of the Colexercise among stulege while speaking on dents and faculty of the the occasion briefed the students about the The fit run was flagged healthy lifestyle contrib-

off by Principal of the uting towards fostering College, Dr. Vandana Verma, along with a culture of fitness and

college.

water bodies.

well being-among students and faculty. She further articulated that sound mind in the sound body shows that youth is on the right track to make Nation fit and healthy. The fit India run was

organized and coordinated by Dr. Manoj Heer (Sports Conve-

ner), Dr Jan Mohd Wani (PTI), Prof. Poonam Kundan, Dr. Naseem Chowdhary, Prof. Meetu Sharma and Dr. Radhika Rasyal and coordinated by Prof. Mazid Malik, Dr. Nain Singh, Dr. Sandeepa Kotwal, Prof. Madhu Bala, Prof. Manisha Rani and Prof. Sonia Devi.

GDC Bishnah celebrates World Water Day

Top News Report

BISHNAH, Mar 24: GDC Bishnah celebrated World Water Day under the patronage of Principal Dr. Shallu Samyal by organizing a series of events focused on water conservation and environmental sustainability.



GDC Mahanpur celebrates 75 years of adoption of **Constitution of India**



tive responsibility to

protect, strengthen,

and promote these

core values, ensuring

that the Constitution

remains the guiding

force for the country's

growth and unity in the

It was organised by Dr.

Sapna HOD Hindi under

the guidance of Dr. San-

geeta Sudan, Principal

of the College. Ajay of

2nd sem , Anjali of 2nd

sem, and Palavi of

6th sem. participated

in poster making on

75th years of adoption

years ahead.

Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Mar 24: Department of Hindi of GDC Mahanpur celebrated 75 Years of adoption of Constitution of India and 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (February-March, 2025) on Monday.

The 75th anniversary of the Constitution's adoption serves as a poignant reminder of India's unwavering commitment to democracy, justice, and equality. It highlights the collecof constitution of India. More than 30 students participated in the programme.

The staff members who were present in the programme were Dr. Mohinder Nath Sharma, Nisha Kumari, Dr. Babli, Dr. Anju Bala, Dr. Yograj, Dr. Nishu, Prof. Namita Trogia, Dr. Hilal, Dr. Suhail Ahmed Dar, Prof. Sameeksha Sharma, Prof. Monika Devi. Prof. Anuradha. Prof. Pooja Sambyal and Prof . Shivani Panooch.

Yoga Session under 'Fit India Initiative in colleges' organized at GDC Ramkote



well-being.

As part of this initia-

tive, a yoga session was

organized to promote

healthy living and fit-

ness through yoga prac-

tice, which is an integral

part of India's cultural

heritage. The session

aimed to create aware-

ness about numerous

health benefits of Yoga,

including improved flex-

and-answer session

was conducted, where

students actively partic-

ipated by sharing their

thoughts and seeking

guidance on ways to

The session provided

a platform for open dis-

combat drug abuse.

Top News Report

RAMKOTE, Mar 24: As a part of various activities organized under the campaign of "Fit India Initiative" a Yoga session was organized by GDC Ramkote on Monday.

The objective of the session was to encourage a healthy lifestyle, enhance physical well-being, and raise awareness about the importance of regular exercise among students, faculty, and staff. It encourages students to make fitness a way of life and promotes physical and mental well-being within the academic community. A significant number of students took part in yoga session. Students were highly engaged during the session.

They practiced the different yoga poses like vrikshasana, Tadasana, Vajrasana, and breathing techniques like Bhastrika, Kapalabhati with enthusiasm, demonstrating an eagerness to learn. The event was organized by Prof. Vasundra Raje, HOD Sociology under the supervision of Prof. Ramneek Kaur, Principal of the college. Nearly 50 students of BA Semester 2nd, 4th and 6th participated in

On the first day, Kewal Krishna Wadhera, a renowned social activist and environmentalist, was invited as the resource person. In his address, he emphasized the importance of eliminating single-

where students planted saplings gifted by K.K. Wadhera. As part of the same initiative, an awareness program on water conservation was conducted at Government

School for Girls, Bish-

nah. Students actively shared their views on conserving potable water, and the school principal motivated them to take action in Higher Secondary

their daily lives.

The events were 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. Dr. Geeta Lakhotra, NSS Program Officer, coordinated the program.

ibility, strength, stress relief, and mental clarity. The Yoga session conducted under the Fit India initiative saw active participation from both students and faculty members, reflecting a collective effort toward promoting health and

the session.

Faculty present included Prof Pankaj Nandan, Prof. Suresh Chander, Prof. Anu Sharma, Dr Shakeeb Manzer, Dr. Anu Salaria, Dr Sudhir kumar, Dr. Mohd. Rauf and Poonam Rani.

Fit India Movement: GDC Neeli Nallah **Udhampur organizes sports activities**

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Mar 24: Government Degree College (GDC) Neeli Nallah, Udhampur, organized a range of sports activities under the Fit India Movement initiative, promoting physical fitness and wellness among students and staff.

The event, held under the guidance of Dr. Seema Arora, Principal of the college, featuring various competitions, including Running: A 100 meters and 200 meters run, that saw enthusiastic participation from students for Badminton Singles (Women and Men), showcasing the skills of participants

To foster a culture of fitness, tournaments were also included on the second day of event. The event aimed to promote physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship among the participants. Principal of the col-



lege, emphasized the importance of physical fitness and wellness in daily life. Prof Shaista Yasmeen, Convenor Sports Committee highlighted that "we are committed to promoting physical fitness and wellness among our students and staff. The Fit India Movement is a great initiative, and we are proud to be a part of it."

The event was a huge success, with over 100 participants from the college and local community. The winners of each competition will be awarded prizes and

certificates after the completion of Fit India Campaign.

The Principal congratulated Prof Shaista Yasmeen (Convener Sports) and Dr. Muntazir (PTI) for their hardwork and dedication. Dr. Mubarak Mahire and Dr Zahoor Wani also cooperated for smooth functioning of the event. GDC Neeli Nallah, Udhampur, is committed to promoting physical fitness and wellness among its students and staff.

The college plans to organize more such events in the future.

GDC Sunderbani organizes awareness programme under NMBA

Top News Report

SUNDERBANI, Mar 24: Government Degree College (GDC) Sunderbani organized an awareness programme under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan to educate students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of a drug-free society.

The event aimed to create awareness and encourage youth to actively participate in the nationwide campaign against substance abuse

The programme fea-



tured insightful lectures by Prof. Davinder Kumar and Prof. Jyoti Sharma, who delivered thoughtprovoking talks on the devastating impact of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society. They empha-

sized the need for collective efforts to eradicate this menace and highlighted various government initiatives under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan.

Following the lectures, an interactive questionened the resolve of students to contribute to a drug-free society. The Whole event was organized under the

cussions and strength-

Guidance of Dr. Ashu Vashisht, Principal of the college.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, appreciating the efforts of the faculty and students in making the programme a success.

The initiative by GDC Sunderbani reflects its commitment to promoting social responsibility and spreading awareness about critical societal issues

Yoga Session held at JKAP-8th Bn

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 24: A yoga session was organized on Monday at JKAP-8th Battalion, Miran Sahib, Jammu, in collaboration with Bharatiya Yog Sansthan, Gole Gujral Jammu.

The event aimed to promote physical, mental, and spiritual well-being and was held under the overall supervision of Suram Singh, (SSP), Commandant JKAP-8th Battalion.

The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from approximately 60 police personnel. Addressing the gathering, Commandant Suram Singh highlighted the importance and benefits of yoga in daily life.

He emphasized how yoga is crucial for overall health and particularly effective in managing stress, reducing the risk of chronic diseases, and addressing various health issues. He described yoga as an ancient Indian practice that integrates spiritual, mental, and physical well-being, making it a vital step toward improving the health of jawans and officers alike.

The event also saw the active participation of Om Prakash Chib, DySP Adjutant JKAP-8th Battalion, along with other officers, who lauded the initiative and its positive impact on the participants.

SPORTS

"At 43 years old, he is still the best": Navjot Singh Sidhu feels MS Dhoni is the best wicket keeper even at 43 years

CHENNAI. Mar 24 (Agencies): Former Indian cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu shared his thoughts on MS Dhoni's lightning-quick stumping and contribution to the game, MS Dhoni did lighting fast stumping of Surya Kumar Yadav in the third match of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 where Mumbai Indians were taking on Chennai Super Kings at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. Sidhu was speaking on Jio Hotstar

Sidhu said he is still the best, and he's getting better with age like an old wine. He praised his fitness and wicketkeeping technique which he said is just remarkable. He also admired his simplicity for encouraging the young left-arm spinner of MI Vignesh. He also said he might just be the only cricketer who could still score a halfcentury for Chennai Super Kings at 50.

"At 43 years old, he is still the best. He's like old wine--getting better with time. Just look at his fitness.

A wicketkeeper's survival



down the line, Dhoni has won

hearts. He has nothing left to

prove, yet people don't want

him to leave the game. And

I'd bet my life on one thing--he

might just be the only cricketer

who could still score a half-cen-

tury for Chennai Super Kings at

50!" Navjot Singh Sidhu said

MS Dhoni maybe 43, yet he

remains at his peak, particularly

when keeping wickets. This is

the impression Matthew Hayden

got after witnessing him execute

while speaking on Jio Hostar.

depends on it, and Dhoni's technique, combined with his effortless execution, is remarkable.

The respect he has earned over the years is simply astounding. It was the sweetest and most heartwarming sight when he walked up to young Vignesh, patted him on the back, and encouraged him. That kind of motivation is like premium gasoline--it fuels a player to overcome life's toughest challenges. Somewhere

a swift stumping of Suryakumar Yadav when Noor Ahmad edged outside during the IPL 2025 game against Mumbai Indians at Chepauk.

"He [Dhoni] was on fire, I mean Noor Ahmad was firing down the leg side and it was just a movement across the ball. You know, they're difficult when you when you're sitting there sort of partially obscured by the batsman. Then the stumping was just superb, just such quick timing, great hands, good vision. He's still got it." Matthew Hayden said on ESPNcricinfo's T20 Time Out.

A spirited spell from Noor Ahmed and a gritty 65* from Rachin Ravindra steered Chennai Super Kings to a four-wicket win against Mumbai Indians at Chepauk on Sunday in the ongoing Indian Premier League. Brief Score: Mumbai Indians

155/9 (Tilak Varma 31, Survakumar Yadav 29; Noor Ahmad 4-18) vs Chennai Super Kings 158/6 (Rachin Ravindra 65*, Ruturaj Gaikwad 53; Vignesh Puthur 3-32).



Guwahati to host its first Test match

be part of the 2025-27

World Test Champion-

"The venues have

been finalised for the

upcoming two test

series involving West

Indies and South Africa.

Both these teams are

travelling to India this

year from September

to November. We have

finalised the venues for

the test series against

West Indies and South

Africa. This is very cru-

cial from the point of

view of the Northeast,"

Devajit Saikia told

"Guwahati has been

finalised as one of the

venues for hosting the

media.

ship (WTC) cvcle.

GUWAHATI, Mar 24 (Agencies): Guwahati will host the home Test match against South Africa in November this year, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary Devajit Saikia confirmed on Monday.

As part of the upcoming home season, Team India will lock horns with the West Indies in October, in a two-match Test series. Following this, the Rohit Sharma-led side will play a multiformat series against South Africa, where they will play five T20Is, three ODIs and two Tests. Both Test series will

IPL 2025: SRH stars Head, Kishan reach new career

2nd Test between India and South Africa starting from November 22-26. This will be the 1st time a test match will be hosted in any state of northeastern India, Guwahati ACA stadium is the host," he added. Futher, the BCCI Secretary stated that Guwahati will also host the matches in the ICC Women's ODI World Cup. which is been hosted by India in the month of September.

"We have also decided to fix the venues for hosting the ICC Women's ODI World Cup starting from September 24 to November 2. Guwahati is finalised as one of the five venues in India. We are going to host at least five matches in Guwahati. That will be a landmark occasion for Assam because still today, there are no World Cup matches hosted in northeastern India, including Assam," Saikia added.

Former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal hospitalised after experiencing chest pain

DHAKA, Mar 24 (Agencies): Former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal was on Monday hospitalised after experiencing chest pain during a Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League match in Dhaka.

According to a report in ESPNcricinfo, the incident occurred in the first innings of the 50-over-a-side contest between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Shinepukur Cricket Club when the 36-yearold Iqbal felt pain in his chest.

"Initially, a helicopter was arranged for Tamim's movement to the hospital, but he could not be flown from the BKSP ground in Savar. He was later



report quoted match referee Debabrata Paul as saying.

lqbal had announced Minister Sheikh Hasina. lgbal, who last featured his retirement from international cricket for the for the national team in second time in January 2023, has played 70 Tests and 243 ODIs, this year. Earlier, in July 2023, he had made a scoring 5,134 runs and 8.357 runs respectively similar announcement during an emotional for Bangladesh. He has press conference but reversed his decision

milestones during high-scoring clash with RR HYDERABAD, Mar 24 (Agencies): Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) batters Travis Head and Ishan Kishan reached

their 4,000 and 5,000 runs in T20 cricket on Sunday.

Kishan and Head reached new milestones in their T20 careers during their Indian Premier League (IPL) opening clash against Rajasthan Royals (RR) at their home ground of Uppal Stadium.

Travis provided a fine start as an opener, scoring 67 in just 31 balls, with nine fours and three sixes. His runs came at a strike rate of 216.13. In 147 T20s, Head has made 4,003 runs at an average of 31.76 and a strike rate of 149.25. with two centuries and 24 fifties. His best score is 102 On the other hand,



walking at number three, Ishan followed the template set by Abhishek Sharma and Head perfectly, scoring his maiden IPL ton, 106* in 47 balls, with 11 fours and six sixes. His runs came at a strike rate of 225.53.

Now, in 193 T20Is, Kishan has made 5.022

centuries, 28 fifties, and the best score of 113*. His runs have come at an average of 29.02 and a strike rate above 134. Coming to the match, SRH was put to bat first by RR, who opted to field first. A 45-run stand between Abhishek (24 in 11 balls, with five fours) and Head kickstarted Head (67 in 31 balls, with nine fours and three sixes) and Kishan accelerated the run-rate). Cameos came from Nitish Kumar Reddy (30 in 15 balls, with four boundaries and a six) and Heinrich Klaasen (34 in 14 balls, with five fours and a six) and provided good support to Ishan, who ended with 106* in 47 balls, with 11 fours and six sixes. Tushar Deshpande

(3/44) was the top bowler for RR, while Maheesh Theekshana got two scalps for 52 runs. Jofra Archer delivered the most expensive over in IPL history, going wicketless for 76 runs in four overs.

During the run-chase. RR sunk to 24/2, with Yashasvi Jaiswal and skipper Riyan Parag

scores. However, a fighting 111-run partnership between Sanju Samson (66 in 37 balls, with seven fours and four sixes) and Dhruv Jurel (70 in 35 balls, with five fours and six sixes) gave RR a fighting chance. Shimron Hetmyer (42*

in 23 balls, with four and four sixes) and Shubham Dubey (34* in 11 balls, with a four and four sixes) did put an 80-run stand, but the score was too big for RR, and they ended at 242/6, losing the game by 44 runs.

Harshal Patel (2/34) and Simarjeet Singh (2/46) were the top bowlers for SRH, while Mohammed Shami got one.

Ishan got the 'Player of the Match' for his fine century.

taken to the Fazilatunnesa Hospital," the

also accumulated 1,758 runs in 78 T20ls.

ing an intervention from

then Bangladesh Prime

runs in 193 matches and 185 innings, with four things for SRH. An 85-run stand between

going back to the pavilion for single-digit

India look to continue robust record against Bangladesh

SHILLONG, Mar 24 (Agencies): On Tuesday, March 25, India and Bangladesh will face off for the 29th time in international football. The subcontinental rivalry, perhaps the biggest in the region, has been dominated by the Blue Tigers, who have won 14 contests -- including the first one at the 1978 Asian Games -- lost just four, and 10 have ended in draws, as per the AIFF Media Team.

The last decade or so has seen plenty of dramatic moments whenever the neighbours have clashed - be it Adil Khan's 88thminute header that erupted the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in 2019, or Sunil Chhetri's 95th-minute free-kick in the 2013 SAFF Championship.

The last senior-level meeting in the 2021 SAFF Championship ended in a 1-1 draw, with Sunil Chhetri finding the net. The India captain has netted six of India's last seven goals against Bangladesh, who are statistically one of his favourite international opponents. He also scored the penalty in the 1-0 win in the 2023 Asian Games, where he was included as one of the over-aged players in the U23 squad

To search for Bangladesh's last win over India, you have to go back more than two decades when they won 2-1 in extra time at the 2003 SAFF Championship semi-final in Dhaka. On Indian soil, the Blue Tigers have never lost to the Bengal Tigers. Defender Sandesh Jhingan kept a clean sheet in a 2-0



win against Bangladesh in the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers in 2021 and also played alongside Chhetri as one of the overaged players at the 2023 Asian Games.

"Whenever we face Bangladesh, we always know that it's going to be a game with a lot of passion and high intensity. Of course, they are our neighbours, so you can expect that, not just in football, but in every sport. The last time we faced them was at the Asian Games in China. It was a tough game, and we won 1-0. Before, too, in the World Cup Qualifiers, it was a narrow victory," Sandesh Jhingan said, as quoted by the AIFF official website.

Bangladesh is ranked 185th in the FIFA Rankings, 59 places below India, which is 126th. But Jhingan stated that Bangladesh cannot be taken lightly despite the on-paper difference.

"I expect them to be at their best, and you cannot take any game easily, especially when you come into the Qualifiers, and the weight of those three points is a lot. Whoever the opponents are, we have to play at our full potential, and we'll get the job done," said Jhingan.

While India is aiming to qualify for the Asian Cup for the third successive time, Bangladesh has only qualified once before--in 1980. There's room for just one this time, as the group winners will make it to the final tournament in Saudi Arabia in two years' time. Singapore and Hong Kong, who also meet on Tuesday, are the other two teams in Group C.

In the FIFA World Cup Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2, Bangladesh finished Group I winless and in last place with a solitary point from a draw at home against Lebanon, while

suffering heavy defeats against Australia and Palestine. In September 2024, they got a win and a loss against Bhutan in two friendlies. In November, they lost 0-1 and won 2-1 in two friendlies against Maldives, the same opponents India beat 3-0 last Wednesday.

Bangladesh head coach Javier Cabrera, also a Spaniard like Manolo Marquez, has been in-charge of the Bengal Tigers since 2022. The 40-year-old has prior Indian connection, having served as the assistant coach of Sporting Clube de Goa between 2013 and 2015. Captain and midfielder Jamal Bhuyan, who has the highest caps in Bangladesh history at 87, has also been involved in Indian football, playing for Mohammedan Sporting in 2020-21.

The highlight of the Bangladesh squad is 27-year-old midfielder Hamza Choudhury, a former England youth international who recently received his Bangladeshi passport and switched allegiance to the country of his mother's birth. Other key players in Cabrera's squad include experienced midfielder Sohel Rana, defender Topu Barman, who is the highest international scorer in the squad with six goals, young midfielders Shekh Morsalin and Mojibur Rahman Jony, and forward Rakib Hossain. Five-time Bangladesh Premier League champions Bashundhara Kings predominate the national squad, with as many as 11 players hailing from the club.

Jaismine Lamboria cruises to Women's Nationals' quarterfinals with another dominant win



GREATER NOIDA, Mar 24 (Agencies): Commonwealth Games medallist Jaismine Lamboria continued her stellar run at the 8th Elite Women's National Boxing Championship 2025, securing a dominant second-round RSC victory over Chandigarh's Ruchika in the preliminaries.

The reigning national lightweight champion, who transitioned to featherweight on her road to the Paris Olympics, stormed into the quarterfinals in commanding fashion.

Hosted by the BFI in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Boxing Association, the championship takes place at Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, from March 20 to 27, 2025.

One hundred eighty-eight boxers from 24 state units are competing across ten weight categories in this week-long tournament. It follows the World Boxing Technical & Competition Rules and features three three-minute rounds with one-minute rest intervals.

Joining her in the winner's circle was Sanamacha Chanu of Railways Sports

Promotion Board, a Youth World and National Champion, who displayed complete control in her unanimous decision victory over Manipur's Bindiya Devi Maorem. Chanu's calculated aggression and sharp technique kept her opponent on the back foot, reinforcing her title credentials early on in the competition.

Last year's silver medallist, Sonia of Uttar Pradesh, made a strong statement in the bantamweight category, overpowering Delhi's Vanshika to advance. In the minimumweight division, Sikkim's Yasika Rai displayed sharp footwork and clean counterpunching to secure a unanimous decision win over Maharashtra's Janhvi Churi. Meanwhile, Haryana's Tannu edged past Manipur's Sovi Jajo in a closely contested lightweight bout, winning by split decision (4:1).

The preliminaries also saw a string of dominant stoppage wins, with Vanshika Singh of Rajasthan storming past Kerala's Dhanya PR with a first-round RSC in Minimumweight. All India Police's Imroz Khan delivered an equally commanding performance, sealing a roundone stoppage victory against Andhra Pradesh's Swapna Jampana, rounding off another thrilling day of high-intensity boxing.

The nationals will move on to the quarterfinal stage on Monday, with Nitu Ghanghas' bout against Minakshi of All India Police in the Minimumweight category one of the standout ties. Later, defending Featherweight champion Sonia Lather, now competing in Lightweight (57-60kg), will take on Monica in her quest for gold.

LOCAL/ADVT

Dimple announces Rs 10 Lakh reward for person who will cut Hafiz Sayeed's head and give it to India

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 24: Sunil Dimple, President Mission Statehood, led a rally under the banner of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, voiced strong concerns over the rising militancy and recent encounters in the region, including the injury of a yound girl during violence in areas such as Kathua, Poonch, and Rajouri.

Holding the rally on BC Road, Rehari Chungi, he criticized the ongoing violence and the inability to curb militant activities despite the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A. Addressing the gathering, Dimple questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on the rise in militancy post-abrogation, urging them to take accountability. He further announced a Rs 10 lakh reward for anyone who would eliminate wanted terrorist Hafiz Saeed,

asserting India's commitment to combating terrorism. Dimple called on CM



Omar Abdullah to protest before the PM, Home Minister, and Lieutenant Governor, raising questions about the growing militant infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir. He demanded immediate military action to liberate Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK), Gilgit, and Baltistan, integrat-

ing them into India.

Urging the Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police and security forces to intensify operations against ISI modules, sleeper cells, and other militant networks, Dimple emphasized the need for a comprehensive "operation all out" to

restore peace. Criticizing the BJP government and LG Manoj Sinha, he alleged failure

in maintaining security in Jammu and Kashmir. He pointed out that militancy has not only persisted but expanded into peaceful regions like Jammu since the abrogation of Article 370. He accused the BJP of exploiting the situation for political gain over the past decade.

Despite the criticism, Dimple pledged full support to the Indian Army, urging the people of Jammu and Kashmir to stand united with the military to ensure the liberation of POK. Accompanied by senior leaders and supporters, he vowed to continue the fight for the security and sovereignty of Jammu and Kashmir

14th UT Level Tennisball Cricket Championship concludes

Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Mar 24: 14th UT Level Tennisball Cricket Championship for Men and Women concluded at Sports Stadium Qazigund, here.

On the concluding ceremony General Secretary J&K Tennisball Cricket Association, Faroog Ahmad Salroo was the chief guest, who along with Vice President of JKTBCA Nazir Ahamd Lone, Treasure G.N Panoo, Sports Analyst Lal Mohammad Ganie, Dr. Abid Rather and Dr. Riyaz Veeri distributed the trophies and medals among the winners and runners up teams. Besides them Raja Shafi from Media and Arif Wahid from Gulistan TV were present on the occasion for the coverage of Championship.

In the Championship, 14 Dis



ners up place. The Third place

in senior women category was

tricts of J&K participated and almost 398 players took active part in the Championship. In the Championship Ramban District lifted the Championship in Senior Boys category, while District Srinagar secured runners up place. Third place in

senior Men category was jointly secured by District Baramulla tion Trophies. and Shopian. In Senior Girls category, District Kupwara lifts the Championship, while District Anantnag secured Run-

and Kulgam Jointly. In Junior Boys U-19 age Category, District Ramban lifts the Championship, while as district Baramulla secured Runners up Place. The Third place in Junior boys was secured by Bandipora and Kulgam Jointly. In Junior Girls U-19, District Kulgam and Ramban got the Participation Trophies. In Sub Junior U-17 boys Anantnag and Kulgam got the Participation Trophies. In Mini Sub Junior U-14 boys Kulgam and Baramulla got participation Trophies. While Mini Sub Junior U-14 girls Baramulla and Kulgam got the Participa-

secured by District Baramulla

The Championship was organized by J&K Tennisball Cricket Association. The Championship was sponsored by J&K Sports Council

TNWS organizes 8th Subsidy Rates Ration Distribution Camp, interactive session with PHE officers



The team facilitated

on-the-spot bill pay-

ments and updated

customer records for

residents of Trikuta

Nagar Colony. AEE Arun

Kumar also introduced

the PHE department's

online payment portal,

encouraging residents

to conveniently manage

their payments from

announcement. AEE

Kumar assured resi-

dents that the drinking

water supply to Trikuta

Nagar Colony would

soon see improvements.

He revealed plans for

constructing a new tube

well in Sector 8, Ward

54, with a project report

scheduled for submis-

sion under the CAPEX

Plan by early April 2025.

Based on the colony's

population, the area

has been identified as

deserving two new tube

wells for adequate water

Residents were further

relieved to learn that

outstanding water bills

could be paid in flexible

Automotive and a second s

installments of up

supply.

significant

home.

In a

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 24: The Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society (TNWS) organized its 8th Subsidy Rates Ration Distribution Camp today, coupled with an interactive session between the Engineering Wing of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Division Jammu and the residents of Trikuta Nagar Colony.

The event commenced under the leadership of TNWS President. Rajinder P. Kakkar, who inaugurated the NCCFsponsored distribution camp. Subsidized Bharat Atta, rice, and Channa Dal were made available for residents, fostering community welfare and support.

The PHE Division Jammu team, led by Er Arun Kumar (AEE) and Er Abhinash Sharma (JE), was present with their revenue collection team and a fully equipped computer setup.

to Rs 1,000 per month, with no compulsion for lump-sum payments. However, registration on the PHE portal is mandatory for availing such benefits.

The interactive session saw a large turnout of residents and esteemed guests, including Dr. Shreyansh Jain, Shailja Gupta, Rama Jamwal, N.K. Bali, Dr. T.R. Gupta, Er. Ashok Kumar Arora, Er. Varinder Kumar Suri, Ramneek Dubey, Vijay Gupta, Sandeep Sharma, Advocate Harsh Vardhan Gupta, O.P. Sharma, and Deepak Daftari.

Participants discussed their experiences, shared feedback, and voiced suggestions for improved services.

This collaborative effort by TNWS and the PHE Division Jammu marks a significant step toward addressing community concerns and enhancing basic amenities, reinforcing the motto, "PHE Jammu is at your doorstep."

GDC Thannamandi celebrates 3rd **Rhododendron Day**



Mehtab Khan conducted the proceedings of programme whereas Dr.

Government Of India Certified Course tudyKosh MASTER MATHEMATICS with the Power of $\frac{x}{a} + \frac{y}{b} - 1$

Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Mar 24: The Department of Botany in collaboration with Department of Environmental Sciences of Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi celebrated 3rd Rhododendron Day as part of consortium of events here on Saturday.

Initiated on March 18, 2021 at Govt PG College Rajouri under the guidance of noted Environmentalist OP Sharma Vidyarthi, GDC Thannamandi took the lead to celebrate its third edition this vear

A consortium of events along with Rhododendron Day including World Sparrow Day that is celebrated on March 20, International Day of Forests and World Glaciers Day which are observed on March 21, and World Water Day that is commemorated on March 22, organized under the patronage of Prof. Dr. Faroog Ahmed, Principal of college.

On this occasion a composite symposium organized in which the speakers, mainly students of Botany Department, deliberated upon importance of different

Days. Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Head Department of History was Chief Guest on the occasion whereas Dr. Ashaq Malik, Head Department of Botany Co-ordinated the event. Afreen Gulzar and Toiba Farooq spoke on Rhododendron whereas Asiya Mushtag and Zohra Khatoon gave an account of World Forest Day, its historical background and

Role of forests. Razag Mirza and Bilal Dar gave presentations on World Water Day and importance of Water whereas Zia ur Rehman and Zaiba Fatima talked on World Sparrow Day and World Glacier Day respectively.

Dr. Farooq Ahmed, in his message, emphasised upon the need of conservation of Rhododendron especially areas like Darhal which are comparatively less disturbed by developmental activities. Dr. Farooq appreciated

the Department of Botany for organizing this field trip. Dr. Nazakat Hussain awareness about the and Dr. Junaid Ahmed, conservation of this won-Head Department of EVS derful green treasure and also spoke on the occaappealed for wider awareness to conserve this plant as well as declaring

Earlier, Dr. Ashaq Malik introduced the audience about consortium and

sion.

Showkat Ahmed presented the formal vote of thanks. Prominent among others present on the occasion were Dr. Naseem Ahmed, Nazar Ul Islam Wani, Dr. Mohd Ashraf, Dr. Mohd Zabair, Dr. Mudasir Gori, Dr. Sajad Ali and Sarfaraz Ahmed. Followed by the con-

sortium, a field visit to explore Rhododendron organized on Sunday by Botany Department in upper reaches of Darhal Forests. A team of volunteers including Dr. Ashaq Malik, students of Botany Department, Razak Mirza and Mehtab Khan, along with the environmental enthusiast Aiaz Malik visited the Rhododendron rich site (Khorwali/Hatrian) in the high reaches of Darhal in District Rajouri. Dr. Ashaq Malik brainstormed the locals and other masses through facebook live sessions about the importance of Rhododendron (Rhododendron arboreum) - an amazing locally called Hardul, in Dogri Chiu or Burans in Hindi, prevalent in Himalayan nations including India and are in full bloom during months of February and March. Nearly 200 plants of Rhododendron along with oak trees were found in 1km under exploration besides several other locations in Darhal. The team raised

March 18 as Rhododen-

dron Day.

