

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

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**Deepika says India has been robbed of Oscars many times**



**Political power only way to secure Dalits' welfare: Mayawati**

**We expect Bangladesh to follow rules of Human Rights: US**



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## BRIEFLY

### Police arrest drug peddler in Handwara, recover brown sugar

KUPWARA, Mar 25 (Agencies): A drug peddler was Monday afternoon arrested by Police in main town Handwara while 9.14 grams of a brown sugar-like substance was recovered from his possession.

Police in a statement said, "During routine patrolling on GMC Handwara Road, a team from Police Station Handwara, led by SHO Handwara, intercepted an individual identified as Abdul Wahid Bhat, son of Ab Khaliq Bhat, a resident of Turkpora Zachaldara. Upon searching him, officers recovered 9.14 grams of a brown sugar-like substance".

"The accused has been taken into custody, and a case has been registered at Handwara Police Station under relevant legal provisions. An investigation is underway to trace further links in the case" reads the statement.

"Police urge citizens to remain vigilant and report any drug-related activities to the nearest police establishment or by dialing 112. Community cooperation is crucial in the fight against drugs, and strict action will be taken against those involved in such crimes" reads the statement further.

### Rain, thunderstorms likely in J&K over next 3 days

SRINAGAR, Mar 25 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir is set to experience isolated light rain and thunderstorms over the next three days.

According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, over the next 24 hours there is a possibility of light rain or snow in higher reaches at scattered places mainly over North & Central Kashmir.

The outlook for the subsequent two days indicates scattered to fairly widespread light to moderate rain, accompanied by gusty winds reaching 40-50 kmph.

The MeT said that a spell of light to moderate rain and snow is expected in Jammu and Kashmir, mainly in north and central Kashmir, between March 26 afternoon and March 27 late afternoon.

The weather is expected to gradually improve thereafter. From March 28 to 31, the forecast indicates generally dry conditions. The dry weather is likely to

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## Uproar in assembly over regularisation of daily wagers

JAMMU, Mar 25 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly witnessed chaotic scenes on Tuesday after the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) raised the issue of regularisation of daily wagers and demanded a response from the government.

Soon after the Question Hour, the LoP rose from his seat and said that government should respond to the demand of regularization of daily wagers.

"The strike of daily



wagers had triggered a water crisis, and it is unfortunate that there is no response from the government", said the LoP.

He said that he also

drew the attention of the House to the issue previous day but to no avail.

In response, Deputy Chief Minister accused BJP MLAs of orchestrating protests to attract

media attention, leading to a heated exchange between the treasury and opposition benches.

Amid the uproar, Minister Satish Sharma condemned the use of force against daily wagers, emphasizing that the police falls under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and that the government sympathized with the protesters.

In an attempt to pacify the agitating MLAs, the Speaker said that a committee had already been constituted and it

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## CM Omar reiterates commitment to provide 200 units free electricity, says process initiated



JAMMU, Mar 25 (Agencies): Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that the government was committed to provide 200 units of free electricity.

Responding to a ques-

tion from People's Conference legislator Sajad Lone, Abdullah said that the government had initiated the process by providing free electricity to poorest of the poor.

As Lone asked he

wanted to know if the government provides 200 units of free electricity to all households or not, the Chief Minister said that the government has made it clear at multiple occasions.

"We have reiterated it in LG's address, budget speech and while replying to the demands for grants", said the CM.

When the legislator raised his doubts if the solar power panels in Kashmir could be able to generate 2 KW of electricity, the Chief Minister said that it should be

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## We are A UT until Parliament gives us back Statehood: CM Omar Abdullah

JAMMU, Mar 25 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday criticised opposition members for walking out over the use of the term "Union Territory," saying the region remains one until the Parliament restores its statehood.

The Jammu & Kashmir Assembly passed a bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax (GST) Act, 2017, amid a walkout by People's Conference member Sajad Gani Lone, who alleged that passing the bill amounts to endorsing the Union Territory status by the house.

Responding to the

walkout, Abdullah said "Just because we have mentioned 'Union Territory' here and not anything else, it does not change anything. Unfortunately, until the Parliament of India restores our statehood, we will remain a Union Territory. So let us not politicise this." He said walking out does not help the cause. "We should not engage in politics over WhatsApp university posts, which some among us have received." Abdullah added, "We have to get back statehood to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Inshallah, we will restore it. Removing the word 'UT' will not change our reality. We

are a UT whether you like it or not. This government governs as a Union Territory." Wahid Para of the Peoples Democratic Party also raised his concerns about the endorsement of Union Territory status.

In response, the CM said, "All the business conducted by this house so far has been under the name of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. During the passing of the finance bill, I repeatedly mentioned 'Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir' regarding consolidated funds. Why didn't Sajad stage a walkout then? During my grants, I

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## J&K Police recover and return Air Force veteran's lost bag in Gulmarg

SRINAGAR, Mar 25 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police recovered a lost bag belonging to an Air Force veteran in the ski resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district.

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## ACB raids revenue official's residence in North Kashmir

SRINAGAR Mar 25 (Agencies): The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday conducted a raid at the residence of a patwari, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, in the Ajas area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

Quoting sources, local news agency KNT reported that the raid



was carried out following complaints of alleged corrupt practices involving the revenue official. A team of ACB officers

searched Bhat's residence and reportedly seized several incriminating documents

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## Over 8,800 schools in JK lack clean drinking water, 12,600 without functional toilets: Government

JAMMU, Mar 25 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir government has disclosed that thousands of government schools across the Union Territory lack basic infrastructure, including drinking water, functional toilets, libraries, laboratories, and internet connectivity. The information was provided in response to a question raised in the

assembly by legislator Ranbir Singh Pathania. According to official figures, out of 18,724 government schools in Jammu and Kashmir, 8,807 schools do not have access to clean drinking water, while 12,615 schools lack functional toilets. Additionally, 8,457 schools are without libraries, 6,916 do not have laboratories, and 8,036 are

missing playgrounds. A total of 8,807 schools also lack boundary walls, raising concerns about security. The absence of smart classrooms and internet connectivity remains a significant issue, particularly in higher secondary and middle schools, with 11,093 schools still not equipped with these facilities. Furthermore, 6,645 schools do not

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## Shrine Board gears up to facilitate Mata Vaishno Devi Pilgrims in Navratras

JAMMU, Mar 25 (Agencies): Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) is geared up to welcome and facilitate the pilgrims with additional facilities and new infrastructure during the week-long navratras starting from March 30 and concluding on April 6.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), (SMVDSB) Anshul Garg posted on X, "an all-weather cov-

ered resting area for 1500 pilgrims at Ardhkuwari, being decked up to facilitate Yatris this #ChaitraNavratri onwards."

The area, he said, is equipped with a water ATM, Prasad Kiosk, Refreshment unit and Live Telecast of Garbhjoon Aarti for enhancing divine Yatra experience.

The CEO also posted that the renovated 'Darshani Deodi' with a double storey queue

complex, is all set to welcome pilgrims this #ChaitraNavratri.

"An all-weather marble clad structure, with a capacity to accommodate 2000 pilgrims at a time, adds to the glory of the traditional Banganga track. #JaiMataDi," he posted on X.

Notably, in the month of January this year, 5,69,164 pilgrims offered prayers at Bhawan while in February, 3,78,865

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# GupShup

## RESTAURANT

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### TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

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



**SAHIL KOUL**

### TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With extreme grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Bal Krishan Purohit** Ji S/o Late Sh. Nek Ram Ji R/o Old Hospital Lane, near Hotel Heera Heritage, Ward No.10, Katra, Vaishno Devi.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 26th March (Wednesday) at Raghunath Mandir Katra from 11 am onwards.

**Kriya** will be performed on 27th March (Thursday) at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Meena Devi (Wife)  
Sh. Kewal Krishan Purohit (Brother) (Brother and Bhabhi)  
Sh. Ramesh Chander Purohit (Meshu Purohit) and Smt. Vijay Laxmi Purohit  
**Son and Daughter in Law**  
Sh. Deepak Purohit and Smt. Shwetika Purohit  
**Daughters and Sons in Law**  
Sh. Anil Magotra and Smt. Surekha Magotra  
Sh. Ambrish Magotra (Ashu) and Smt. Sapna Magotra  
Sh. Rajesh Sanmotra and Smt. Rishi Sanmotra  
**Grand Children:**  
Adhiraj, Advik Utsav Upmanyu, Aradhya, Aishwika, Rabhya, Veer



**Sh. Bal Krishan Purohit Ji**

### TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Chuni Lal Koul** S/o Late Lachman Koul R/o Chinkral Mohalla, Habba Katral, Srinagar A/p H No. 376, Endevo-2 Block B, Rop Nagar, Jammu who has left for heavenly abode on 17th March, 25 (Monday).

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 26th March, 25 (Wednesday) at Akhnor Ghat & Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat (near Director Education Office) at 11 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**  
Smt Phoolo Koul (Wife) - 6006331726  
Smt Phily Koul (Sister) - 788420874  
**Brother in law & Sister**  
Sh. T.N. Dhar & Late Mohini Dhar  
**Daughter & Son in law**  
Rajni Ganjoo & R.K. Ganjoo  
Rakesh Koul & Meenu Koul - Son & D.L.L  
Anita Bhat & Late Satish Bhat - Daughter & S.L.L  
Arju Raina & Raj Raina - Daughter & S.L.L  
Anil Koul & Neetu Koul - Son & D.L.L  
Mohini Koul & Late Hira Lal Koul - Bhabhi & Brother  
O.N. Koul & Girja Ji Koul - Brother & Bhabhi  
Ashok Koul (Brother)  
Vijay Satish & Ashok Sachu - Sister & Brother in law  
**GRAND CHILDREN :** Sachin, Sakshi, Avika, Romil, Anvi, Rahul Raju, Priya



**SH CHUNI LAL KOUL**

### 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, it is to inform that Karmayogi, Great orator, Guide & humanitarian **Sh. Autar Krishan Dhar** (S/o Sh. K.N. Dhar R/o K.K. Sokhta Safakadal, Srinagar Kmr) left for his heavenly abode on 18-3-2025 at Greater Noida.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Murad Nagar Ghat on 27-3-2025 at 8 A.M. **Obituary & Shanti Path** will be held at our residence J-357, Beta II, Greater Noida from 11 AM onwards.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Mr. Neeraj & Mrs. Sunita Dhar  
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, Abhmanyu, Sheetu, Sonu, Monu & Chunoo  
**Panditas (Murrari), Panditas (Chitragul), Kouls, Bhats, Razdans**  
**MOB.: 8447002674, 9873860581, 9818881988, 9968215127**



**Sh. Autar Krishan Dhar**

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

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 Kriya** will be performed on 29th of march at Akhnor Ghat and **Assembly** will be held at Muthi (Near Directorate of School Education) at 11 am.

**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)



**Sh Santosh Kumar Tickoo**

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

**"YOUR DEPARTURE IS EXTREMELY PAINFUL BECAUSE YOU WERE SO SPECIAL FOR US SO YOU CAN NEVER BE FORGOTTEN."**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and ultimate demise of our beloved **Smt. UPASNA (Jyoti Pandita)**, Wife of Shri Puranmashi Pandita (King Ji) of Kulgam, Kashmir, presently at H.No. 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, at 10.00 am on 28.03.2025 (Friday).

**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)



**Smt. UPASNA (Jyoti Pandita)**

### RASAM PAGRI & UTHALA

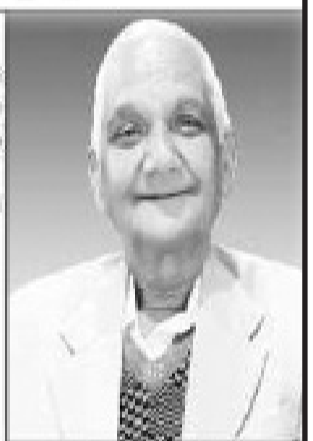
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Sham Lal Gupta (Chohala Wale)** S/o Late Sh. Chuni Lal who left for heavenly abode on 11-03-2025 R/o W.No.5 Near adjoining BJP Office RS Pura; **Uthala** will be performed on 26-03-2025, (Wednesday) at Devi Dwara Mandir RS Pura at 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Tripta Devi (Wife)

**Sons & Daughter in Laws**  
Sh. Narosh Kumar & Smt. Kavita Gupta  
Sh. Sudesh Kumar & Smt. Rajni Gupta  
Sh. Rohit Gupta & Smt. Palvi Gupta

**Daughters and Son in Laws**  
Smt. Geeta Gupta & Sh. Neeraj Gupta  
Smt. Shashi Gupta & Sh. Surinder Gupta

**Brothers and Sister in Laws**  
Lt. Sh. Rattan Lal & Lt. Smt. Chano Devi  
Sh. Mohan Lal & Smt. Suman Gupta  
Lt. Sh. Sohni Lal & Smt. Sunita Gupta



**Sh. Sham Lal Gupta**

**Sisters and Brother in Laws**  
Lt. Smt. Sita Gupta & Sh. Raj Gupta  
Lt. Smt. Sarbosh Gupta & Sh. Gulshan Gupta  
**Friends Watch Co. (Kaile Di Hatti)**  
9906356428, 6006211048, 9796404205

### TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Smt Maya Devi** W/o Late Sh Chandu Lal Parotra (of Kohag Billawar) presently at 1/104- Indira Vihar, Old Janipur Jammu.

**Tenth Day** shall be held on 25/03/2025 (Tuesday) at our residence at 11 AM.

**Kriya** to be held on 28/03/25 (Friday) at 12 Noon at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt Prem Lata Jandial (Daughter)  
**(Son & Daughter-in-law)**  
Dr Kuldeep Parotra & Smt Prem Lata  
**(Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-law)**  
Sh Kanavdeep (Kannu) & Smt Bharti



**Smt Maya Devi**

### 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)**

### 10th DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Ashish Magotra (PHE Deptt)**, S/o Lt Sh Ramesh Chander Magotra R/o H No. 64 Sec-12 Nanak Nagar Jammu.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 26th March (Wednesday) at 10:00 A.M at Gorkha Mandir Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

**Kriya** will be performed on 27th March (Thursday) at our residence H No. 64 Sec-12 Nanak Nagar Jammu.

**UTHALA** will be performed on 31st March (Monday) at 4-5 PM at Gorkha Mandir Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

**DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY :-**  
**SMT JEEVAN MAGOTRA --- (MOTHER)**  
**ALL FAMILY MEMBERS & FRIENDS**  
**MOB :- 7006183839**



**Ashish Magotra (PHE DEPTT)**

### 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 Akhnor Ghat on Wednesday, the 26th of March, 2025 and the **Assembly** shall be held at Royal Apartment Park at 11:00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**  
Smt. Susheela Kadalbajoo (Wife)  
Smt. Nirmal & Sh. Lalit Karwani  
Smt. Rita & Sh. Satish Safaya (Sisters & Brothers-in-law)  
Smt. Ameesha & Sh. Amit Kher  
Smt. Akriti & Sh. Mohit Singh (Daughters & Sons-in-law)  
Kadalbajoo, Khers, Singhs, Karwanis, Safayas, Kouls, Langers  
**Friends & Relatives**  
**Contact Details: 8875645000, 9816076617, 9419173857, 9419240170**



**SH. AVTAR KRISHAN KADALBAJOO**

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad demise of **Sh. Tej Krishan Ganjoo** R/o Srinoo Pulwama A/P 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 Sanki School Nagrota at 7:30 AM.

**ASSEMBLY** will be held at 10:30 AM at Lane No. 12 Book 68, Flat No. 06, Jagti.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Smt. Nimra Ganjoo (Wife)  
Mr. Ashish Ganjoo (Son)  
Smt. Ruhi Bhat & Deepak Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Smt. Baby W/o Ajay Kumar (Niece & Son in Law)  
Smt. Sheela Koul W/o Late Omkar Nath Koul (Sister in law)  
Smt. Phoolo W/o Late Krishan Lal Koul (Sister)  
Smt. Girja & Tej Krishan (Sister & Brother-in-law)  
Smt. Meeta W/o Shubham Lal Ganjoo (Brother & Sister-in-law)  
Smt. Sangeta Koul W/o Ashok Kumar Koul (Sister & Brother in Law)  
Smt. Lisha Koul W/o Rakesh Koul (Nephew & Daughter in Law)  
Sani Ganjoo (Nephew)  
**Contact: 8082547044 / 7899959600**



**Sh. Tej Krishan Ganjoo**

### UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Subhash Chandra Suri** (S/o Late Sh. Kundal Lal Suri) R/o Rajpara Mangotian, Jammu.

The **Uthala Ceremony** will be held on Wednesday, 26th March 2025, from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Om Palace, Shakti Nagar, Jammu (J&K).

May his noble soul attain eternal peace and divine blessings.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Krishna Suri (Wife)  
**(Son-in-law & Daughter)**  
Sh. Rajesh Kohli & Smt. Rama Kohli  
**(Son & Daughter-in-law)**  
Sh. Ashwani Suri & Smt. Seloni Suri  
**Bhais & Bhabhis:**  
Lt. Sh. Balraj Suri & Lt. Smt. Sudesh Suri  
Sh. Ravinder Suri & Smt. Anji Suri  
**DEWAN DEVI PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**MOB : 9419182603, 6005935413**



**Sh. Subhash Chandra Suri**

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## GDC Neeli Nallah releases its maiden newsletter "Neer: The Campus Chronicles"

### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Mar 25: GDC Neeli Nallah Udhampur celebrated the launch of its maiden Newsletter, "Neer: The Campus Chronicles" under the guidance of Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Arora, marking a significant milestone for the institution.

The event was graced by the presence of Principal guests Prof. Kuldeep Sharma, Principal GDC Jindrah, Dr. Rajni Bhagat, Principal GDC Katra and Dr. Shalini Sharma, Principal GDC Majalta.

The programme commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp followed by Saraswati Vandana sung by the students. In the opening address by Dr. Sunil Tanoch, Convenor IQAC, he welcomed the



invited special guests.

After the welcome address, the newsletter was unveiled as a testament of the college's accomplishments, academic excellence, innovation and community engagement, highlighting the notable achievements of the students and the staff members.

The Principal of the college presented the overview of the college newsletter where she talked about the activities portrayed in the newsletter which are amalgamated with strong focus on holistic development under the umbrella of NEP curriculum fabric.

She further elaborated that our newsletter not only showcased our tireless efforts and achievements but also reaffirm our commitment to providing quality education and fostering a community who are passionate about learning.

She also expressed her appreciation and

gratitude to the staff members for their diligence, expertise and collaborative spirit in making the release of the college newsletter a resounding success.

In the end, the Principal and the invited guests felicitated and awarded the students who have displayed exceptional talent and achieved remarkable victories in various academic, cultural and sporting endeavours acknowledging their perseverance and dedication.

The vote of thanks was given by Prof. Shaista Yasmeen, Department of English. The launch of the newsletter demonstrated an unwavering commitment and serving a reflection of the institution ethos expressed collaboratively by students and academia.

## SPMR College of Commerce organizes yoga session



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 25: Internal Complaint Committee against Sexual Harassment (ICCASH) of Govt. SPMR College of Commerce, Jammu, in collaboration with SPARSH and NCC Club and Shikshita Bharat Committee under the aegis of IQAC organized an awareness drive on the implementation of the Fit India Initiative.

Resource person for the event was renowned Yoga instructor and founder of Yogatvam, Sahil Mehra. Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder Singh was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The awareness drive aimed to sensitize students about the importance of physical fitness, mental well-being, and the role of yoga in leading a healthy lifestyle.

Sahil Mehra, Professional Yoga Instructor, shared valuable insights on incorporating yoga and fitness routines into daily life. Through an interactive session, he demonstrated various yoga postures and breathing techniques

beneficial for stress relief, concentration, and overall well-being.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder Singh emphasized the significance of the Fit India Movement initiated by the Government of India, highlighting how small lifestyle changes can have a profound impact on an individual's health.

He encouraged students to adopt a disciplined fitness regime and embrace yoga as a way of life. He appreciated the efforts of Sahil Mehra and Yogatvam for their valuable contribution to the cause of health awareness.

He reiterated the institution's commitment to supporting fitness initiatives and urged students to actively participate in such programs to cultivate a healthier future.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members, who expressed their keen interest in incorporating yoga and fitness practices into their routines. The session concluded with an engaging

Q&A, where Mr. Mehra addressed queries related to fitness and well-being. This initiative marks a significant step toward reinforcing the message of the Fit India Movement and fostering a culture of health and wellness in educational institutions.

Representatives from the Yogatvam included Sahil Mehra, Riya Gupta, Uma Bogia, Uttam Bogia, Simardeep Kour, Praguni Sanotra and Atharv Sanotra.

The program was organized by Dr. Reena Rani (Convener ICCASH), Dr. Ashraf Nazaz (Convener IQAC), Dr. Deepshikha Sharma (Convener Literary and Cultural Committee and Shikshita Bharat Committee), Dr. Madhu Bala, (ANO NCC and Coordinator SPARSH), Dr. Rajni (Coordinators SPARSH) and Ravi Kumar (Physical Director).

Among those who were present on the occasion included Prof. Pawan Gupta, Dr. Mohd. Azam, Prof. Ashwani Kumar, Prof. Rekha Gupta, Dr. Chetna Gupta, Prof. Monika Mahajan, and others.

## MIER College hosts career guidance programme on NET/JRF exams



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 25: The Placement Committee of MIER College of Education, in collaboration with the School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSSH), organized an orientation programme titled "Career in Higher Education with Special Focus on NET/JRF Examination" under

the "College to Career Programme" at Sh. H.L. Gupta Auditorium here today.

The session was held for students of School of Education from Semester IV and M.A. Political Science Semester IV. The programme was aimed to provide crucial insights, vital information and regarding NET/

SET exams, including exam patterns, syllabi, preparation strategies, and key dates.

Jyoti Sharma, Convener of the Placement Committee, delivered the welcome address and introduced the resource person, Dr. Vivek Sharma, an Associate Professor, Department of Lifelong Learning, University of Jammu. Dr. Sharma, a PhD and MBA (NET/JRF) holder with over 19 years of teaching and research experience, has actively worked with marginalized and socio-economically disadvantaged groups through his role as Coordinator for Competitive Exam Coaching for SC/ST/OBC/Minorities.

During his address, Dr. Sharma highlighted the importance of NET/SET exams in securing academic and research careers, emphasizing UGC guidelines and eli-

gibility criteria.

The key points covered included the eligibility criteria, examination scheme, and the latest UGC regulations for 2025. Additionally, the discussion addressed reservations, the pattern of examination and syllabus, the application process, and fee structure for NET/SET/JRF Examinations.

Importantly, the resource person outlined various career paths available in higher education, underscoring how qualifying for NET/JRF can enhance opportunities in academia and research. He emphasized how qualifying the NET/JRF has become essential in the wake of the New Education Policy

The session saw active participation of over 80 students. It concluded with an engaging Question and Answer session, where

students sought clarity on various aspects of the exams and career pathways.

Dr. Sahil Bhagat, member of the Placement Committee, delivered the formal vote of thanks, while Anshu Rakwal, student representative of the committee, compered the event.

The Placement Committee reaffirmed its commitment to guiding and supporting students on their journey from college to professional careers.

## MLA Mohan Lal marshalled out of Assembly while raising demand for Akhnoor's District status, pending compensation for farmers

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 25: Akhnoor MLA Mohan Lal was marshalled out of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Tuesday while passionately raising the long-pending demand for granting district status to Akhnoor and seeking compensation for farmers whose land has been acquired by the Defense Forces.

During the session, the Minister of Revenue responded to Mohan Lal's question, stating that there is no proposal to grant district status to Akhnoor. Unfazed, Mohan Lal raised a supplementary question, arguing that Akhnoor fulfills all criteria for becoming a district, boasting three subdivisions, seven tehsils, three municipalities, and 14 niabats.

He emphasized that the area and population of Akhnoor surpass many existing districts, yet the region remains deprived of its rightful administrative recogni-



tion.

Highlighting the lack of educational infrastructure, he pointed out that Akhnoor has no Polytechnic or ITI, making it difficult for the youth to access technical education. Furthermore, he demanded the appointment of an Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) for Akhnoor, similar to what has been done for Sunderbani, Nowshera, Basohli, Bilawar, and Kotranka.

Mohan Lal also shed light on the pending compensation for farmers whose lands have been acquired by

Defense Forces since 2016.


He asserted that these farmers, having lost their only source of livelihood, are struggling to make ends meet as they have received neither rent nor compensation for their lands over the past nine years.

In a show of defiance, Mohan Lal stormed into the well of the Assembly, demanding justice for his people. As tensions rose, the Speaker directed security to marshal him out of the House.

Later, addressing the media, Mohan Lal reaffirmed his commitment

to the people of Akhnoor, declaring, "I will fight for Akhnoor's district status from the roads to the Assembly. The people of Akhnoor sent me to raise their voices, and that is exactly what I am doing. I am working day and night to fulfill the promises I made in my Sankalp Patra. Akhnoor deserves this recognition, and I will not stop until justice is done."

The MLA further criticized the Speaker's actions, claiming that his voice was not being heard, which left him with no option but to walk out in protest.



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
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### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 13 of 2024-2025/PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU, Dated 22-03-2025

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other States / Central Governments/ Registration with State & Central Government Department for Execution of Heritage Works for following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of (Balance work) of New Smart Classroom Block (G+2) at GGM Science College Jammu.	PWD (R&B) PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU	39.46	600/-	2% of Advertised Cost	3 Months	(1200 Hrs) on or after 08-04-2025	Class "A" and "B" registered contractor

Head of Account : UT CAPEX  
Position of AAA : ACCORDED  
Position of Technical Sanction : ACCORDED

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22.03.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 22.03.2025 to 07.04.2025 upto 1600 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	XXXXXXXX in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU
4	Bid Submission Start Date	22.03.2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	07-04-2025 up to 1600 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	08-04-2025 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU and upload the same i.e treasury challan/ receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU at the time of allotment.

No :- EE/PD-II/2024-25/1608-15  
Dated :- 22-03-2025

DIP/J-11341/24  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Project Division-II  
Jammu

## EDITORIAL

PATHWAY TO  
SUCCESS

Diversity in the workplace is not just a buzzword but a cornerstone of modern organizational success. It represents the integration of individuals from varied backgrounds, including differences in race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, and cultural experiences. Promoting diversity is no longer an option; it is an essential strategy that fosters innovation, improves decision-making, and strengthens a company's competitiveness in a globalized economy. By embracing inclusivity, organizations can create environments where every individual feels valued and empowered to contribute their unique perspectives.

The workplace is a microcosm of society, and as the world becomes more interconnected, diverse teams are becoming the norm rather than the exception. Promoting diversity brings numerous benefits. Research shows that organizations with diverse workforces are more likely to outperform their competitors. This is because varied perspectives foster creativity and innovation, enabling teams to approach problems with a broader range of solutions.

Diverse workplaces also reflect the customers they serve, allowing organizations to understand and meet the needs of a broader audience. This cultural alignment is especially crucial in industries like retail, marketing, and healthcare, where understanding customer demographics can lead to better service delivery and higher satisfaction.

Moreover, embracing diversity enhances employee engagement and retention. When individuals feel seen, heard, and respected, they are more likely to remain committed to their work. A sense of belonging fosters higher morale and reduces turnover, which can save companies substantial recruitment and training costs.

While the benefits of workplace diversity are evident, achieving it comes with challenges. Bias—both conscious and unconscious—remains a significant barrier. These biases can manifest in hiring practices, promotions, and daily interactions, preventing talented individuals from reaching their full potential.

Another challenge is resistance to change. Employees and leaders accustomed to homogeneity may feel uncomfortable or even threatened by efforts to diversify the workforce. This resistance can create friction and hinder progress unless effectively managed.

Additionally, organizations often struggle to implement meaningful diversity initiatives due to a lack of resources, training, or strategic planning. Efforts may fall short if diversity is viewed as a one-time project rather than an ongoing commitment.

Leadership plays a critical role in setting the tone for diversity. Organizations must ensure that leaders actively advocate for inclusivity, both in words and actions. Diversity goals should be integrated into the company's mission, vision, and strategic plans, signaling their importance across all levels.

Attracting diverse talent begins with inclusive hiring practices. Organizations should create job descriptions that appeal to a wide range of candidates and eliminate unnecessary requirements that may exclude certain groups. Partnering with diverse professional organizations, attending multicultural job fairs, and implementing blind resume reviews are effective strategies.

Providing training on unconscious bias can help employees and leaders recognize and mitigate their biases. These workshops foster awareness, encouraging individuals to challenge stereotypes and embrace more equitable behaviors.

Establishing mentorship and sponsorship initiatives can support underrepresented employees in navigating workplace challenges. Mentors provide guidance, while sponsors advocate for their mentees' advancement, helping bridge gaps in leadership representation.

Forming diversity councils or ERGs allows employees to engage in meaningful conversations and initiatives around diversity. These groups provide a platform for underrepresented voices, fostering community and collaboration.

Accommodating the needs of diverse employees demonstrates organizational commitment to inclusion. Flexible working hours, parental leave, religious observance accommodations, and accessible office spaces are examples of policies that make workplaces more inclusive.

Organizations must track their progress in achieving diversity goals. Regularly measuring metrics such as hiring rates, promotion patterns, and employee satisfaction can provide insights into what's working and what needs improvement. Publicly sharing these results can also enhance accountability. A diverse workplace cannot thrive without an inclusive culture. Inclusion goes beyond representation; it ensures that every employee feels valued and respected. Organizations must foster environments where open dialogue is encouraged, and differences are celebrated rather than tolerated. Recognizing cultural holidays, celebrating diversity through events, and creating safe spaces for dialogue are ways to build inclusivity.

Additionally, allyship is a vital component of inclusive cultures. Employees who are in positions of privilege should actively support and advocate for their underrepresented colleagues. This could involve speaking up against discrimination, amplifying marginalized voices, or mentoring employees from underrepresented groups.

## Navigating The Geopolitical Trends Reshaping Our World

By: Amitabh Kant

The Second Trump Administration is doubling down on tariffs and 'Make America Great Again' policies. The Trump Administration is also redefining and rewriting alliances of the past, with reverberations being felt by their allies in Europe and Asia. These moves aim to strengthen the US economy by improving trade balance and reducing public spending. At the same time, the United States has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement, the World Health Organisation (WHO), and earlier, it had withdrawn from the International Court of Justice (ICJ). These moves are creating a vacuum in the global geopolitical order. This vacuum will not remain for long – it will be filled by competing powers. While the U.S. remains the most powerful actor, we are seeing the rise of a multipolar world once again. Fragmenting globalisation, the battle for technological supremacy, the geopolitics of energy, and collapsing global governance are the key geopolitical trends reshaping our world that India must navigate.

## Fragmenting Globalisation

The era of globalisation we have seen in the post-World War II era is coming to an end as we know it. Since the global financial crisis, we have seen fragmented globalisation. Trade wars accelerated this fragmentation. The COVID-19 pandemic saw a massive disruption in global supply chains, prompting countries and businesses to build alternative supply chains. With the Trump Administration again pursuing tariffs, the second era of trade wars is upon us. Whether reciprocal or across-the-board tariffs, the trade wars will disrupt world trade immensely. Trade wars are no longer just about merchandise. They impact factors such as technology, energy, and industri-

al policy. Countries are increasingly resorting to protectionism and building capabilities in strategic industries to ensure energy and national security. With the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in limbo, countries are increasingly turning to bilateral or plurilateral trade agreements. The rise of friend-shoring and the goal of building alternative supply chains presents opportunities for India. We can attract manufacturing investments with the right policies, strategic bilateral trade deals, and a focus on ease of doing business.

## Technology: The Battleground for Global Power

Technology has been the key driving force shaping global power dynamics from the First Industrial Revolution to the Fourth. In today's era, semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), and emerging technologies are the key drivers. Nations are pouring billions into chip manufacturing to ensure technological sovereignty. AI is seeing massive investments from countries and companies alike. At the same time, the risks posed by cyberwarfare and AI cannot be overlooked. Cyber warfare can disrupt entire energy grids or bring down payments and banking systems. AI-driven misinformation campaigns can disrupt elections and sow social discord. AI should be shaped, owned, and deployed by communities worldwide. We must innovate efficiently, do more with less, champion open source and ingenious engineering, and create multilingual and multimodal models. The global community must ensure that technology is inclusive while limiting harm. The India model, where technology is used to bridge divides, rather than widen them, can be a template for the world.

## The Geopolitics of Energy and the Energy Transition

The shift toward clean energy is redefining power dynamics. Nations rich in critical minerals (lithium, cobalt, rare earths) or those that control the processing of these critical minerals are becoming more influential. Today, about 70-80% of rare earth elements (REE) extraction and processing is controlled by China. 80% of the world's solar cells are produced by China, and so are ~70% of electric vehicle batteries. With China already ahead of the technological curve, the US, under the Trump Administration, has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement and has instead focused on fossil fuel expansion. This poses enormous risks for the global energy transition. Developed nations have already consumed 80% of the global carbon budget, and coal phase-out from G7 countries will now happen by 2035 instead of 2030. Further, developed nations are failing in their responsibility to provide climate finance and technology to the developing world. This leaves little room for developing countries to meet their development ambitions. Our race towards clean energy requires new forms of global alliances. Countries must collaborate on technology, such as next-generation solar panels, electrolyzers, and alternate cell chemistry (ACC) batteries. India must act decisively, continuing to build our domestic ecosystem in green hydrogen, solar energy, and electric mobility. We must also secure trade partnerships to ensure access to critical minerals while developing capabilities for processing and refining.

## Collapsing Global Governance Amidst Rising Global Conflict

At a time when global cooperation is most required, the structures we have in place are failing in their mandate. The United Nations is struggling to maintain relevance. Global temperatures

have already crossed the 1.5-degree Celsius mark. The Global South remains on the sidelines both in terms of its representation and its priorities. The UN Security Council remains gridlocked, the WTO lacks a functioning dispute resolution mechanism, and COP29 failed to deliver much-needed climate finance. From Ukraine to Gaza to Sudan, conflict is escalating worldwide. As PM Modi has stated repeatedly, today's challenges of climate change, pandemics, and financial instability see no national borders. He has emphasised that we cannot fight the challenges of the 21st century with outdated institutions. A new global governance framework is needed that places the Global South at its core and recognises that the world is no longer the domain of a select few powers. This is a moment of opportunity for India—to shape an alternative global economic model and advocate for a more inclusive international system.

The coming decade will shape the future of global politics and economics. India is emerging and positioning itself as a pragmatic leader on the global stage. We are bringing to the fore issues of importance to the Global South whilst striking a conciliatory note on global conflict. The Prime Minister's recent statement that we must emphasise dialogue instead of discord has struck a chord globally. India's diplomatic balancing act is becoming a defining feature of this era.

*(The author is India's G20 Sherpa, and former CEO of NITI Aayog. Views expressed are personal)*

## "Pension battle: Employees' right or government burden?"

By: Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

In India, before 2004, government employees were given pensions under the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). Under this, a fixed pension was given for life after retirement. 50% of the last salary was given as a pension. Dearness Allowance (DA) was linked, due to which the pension kept increasing from time to time. The entire funding was done by the government; there was no contribution from the employee. But NPS was implemented on 1 April 2004, due to which this system was closed for newly recruited government employees.

Restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) has become an important social and economic issue in India. It is not only a matter of concern for government employees but also for the country's financial policy and social security. In 2004, the Old Pension Scheme was abolished and the New Pension Scheme (NPS) was implemented, but in the last few years, there has been a widespread movement and political debate among employees regarding the restoration of OPS.

What was the Old Pension Scheme (OPS)? Imagine getting a fixed income every month even after your job is over, like a magical treasure that never gets empty! This was OPS—a defined benefit pension scheme in which government employees received 50% of their last salary as pension after retirement. Dearness Allowance (DA) was also added to this, due to which the pension kept increasing from time to time. Under this scheme, the government gave a full guarantee of pension, and the employee did not have to make any contribution.

New Pension Scheme (NPS) and Contro-

versy

In 2004, the central government abolished OPS and implemented NPS, which is a defined contribution scheme. In this, employees have to invest a certain part of their salary in a pension fund, which has to depend on market-based returns. Now imagine that your pension is floating on the waves of the stock market—sometimes up, sometimes down! This is the reason why there is a feeling of insecurity among employees about NPS, because there is no guaranteed pension in it.

Why is the demand for OPS restoration increasing?

Financial insecurity: The pension amount in NPS depends on the market performance, which does not provide permanent and fixed income to retired employees. The pension in OPS used to increase with the dearness allowance, whereas NPS does not have this benefit. States like Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Jharkhand, and Himachal Pradesh have announced the implementation of OPS. Lakhs of government employees are on strike and protesting, increasing the pressure on the government. OPS is considered an essential means for financial stability in old age. Many retired employees under NPS are struggling to meet their expenses.

International perspective: pension systems in other countries

Different models have been adopted for the pension system in many countries of the world. Some countries have continued schemes like OPS for government employees, while other countries have adopted a private investment-based system. Under the Social Security System in the US, government and private employees get a fixed pension after retirement. However, government

contribution is limited in this, and personal investment is also necessary. A state pension scheme is in place in Britain, in which the government ensures a minimum pension, but private schemes are encouraged for additional pension.

Germany has a strong public pension system, where both employees and employers make mandatory contributions, resulting in a guaranteed pension. France also has a defined benefit pension system, where the government plays a major role and employees are provided with a permanent pension.

A superannuation fund system is in place here, in which both the employee and the employer make regular investments, and after retirement this amount is given in the form of a pension.

Why do MPs and MLAs get pensions?

An important question also arises: if the pension of government employees has been abolished, then why are MPs and MLAs still given pensions? Do MPs and MLAs take policy decisions during their tenure, for which they get special privileges? In many states, MLAs get lifelong pensions after one term, which is different from the rules for general government employees. Many former MPs and MLAs have already been working in government services, and they get double pensions. Many employee organizations argue that when the pension of government employees has been abolished, then public representatives should also be kept in the same category. The burden of pension of MPs and MLAs on the government treasury is increasing, due to which the demand for abolishing it is increasing.

Potential benefits, financial impact, and challenges of OPS restoration

Restoration of OPS may increase the gov-

ernment's financial burden. The government will have to allocate a large part of its budget for pension payments, which may affect other development schemes. Some economists believe that implementing OPS may lead to long-term economic imbalances. A permanent pension scheme will provide security to employees, and they will be assured about their future. People's inclination towards government jobs will increase, due to which qualified and talented people will join the administrative services. When retired employees get assured income, they will maintain their purchasing power, which will maintain stability in the market. OPS gives employees an opportunity to live with dignity in old age.

conclusion

Restoration of old pensions is not just an employee welfare policy but a broader social and economic issue. The government has to adopt a balanced approach and formulate a policy that ensures the economic security of employees and, at the same time, maintains the financial balance of the government. The future of OPS restoration will depend on how the government resolves this issue and whether a middle path is possible.

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## APSCC opposes Govt order seeking construction of modern abattoir in Aloochoi Bagh

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 25: All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) has opposed the government order seeking construction of a modern abattoir in the Aloochoi Bagh area of the Srinagar city. The Committee has appealed the government to look for an alternate site for the construction of the abattoir.

In a statement APSCC Chairman Jagmohan Singh Raina said that the area selected for the construction of the modern abattoir is surrounded primarily by Sikh population. He said the construction of the abattoir would hurt the sentiments of the minority Sikh community.

"Coexistence is the mantra of a secular and democratic set up and as such sentiments as well as emotions of the different communities need to be taken into consideration by the government. As such I would request the government to drop the idea of constructing the abattoir at Aloochoi Bagh. The same can be constructed at any place in the vicinity where land is available and in such a manner the religious sentiments would not be hurt," said Raina.

The APSCC Chairman said that a portion of the land where the construction of the abattoir has been proposed was earmarked for a degree college with the founda-

tion stone being laid by Mr. Khurshid Ahmad Ganie. He said yet another chunk of land at the same place was set to be developed as a modern sports field with the foundation stone being laid by veteran Congress leader Prof. Saif-ud-din Soz.

"The place where the abattoir is proposed to be constructed is being used as a playground by youth belonging to Aloochoi Bagh, Khadi Mill, Batamaloo and adjacent areas. Once the abattoir comes up at this place then these youth would be deprived of a sports field. As such the government should look for some other place for the construction of the abattoir," said Raina.

## GDC R. S Pura organizes awareness talk on Legal Implications of Ragging



### Top News Report

R S PURA, Mar 25: Anti-Ragging Committee in collaboration with NSS Unit of Government Degree College R. S Pura has organized a thought-provoking talk on the Legal Implications of Ragging, emphasizing the critical role of legal awareness in preventing ragging incidents in educational institutions.

The event witnessed the participation of students, faculty members, and legal expert.

Dr. Chanchal Angral introduced the guest speaker for the session in her welcome address, Deep Daler Singh Kulzem, a renowned legal expert and advocate specializing in educational law. She emphasized that the initiative forms part of the college's broader commitment to student welfare and safety, with the institution continuously striving to raise awareness and promote a positive academic

atmosphere. The talk covered a broad range of topics related to the legal aspects of anti-ragging, including the legal consequences faced by perpetrators, the rights of students, and the responsibilities of educational institutions in ensuring a ragging-free environment.

During the session, Singh highlighted the landmark legal provisions such as the Anti-Ragging Act and the guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to prevent ragging.

The expert also discussed the serious legal consequences of ragging, which can include criminal charges, suspension, expulsion, and even imprisonment, reinforcing the importance of adhering to the anti-ragging regulations in educational institutions.

The talk also stressed the importance of creating an inclusive and respectful campus envi-

ronment and encouraged students to come forward with complaints if they ever faced any form of ragging.

The guest speaker further emphasized that strict legal actions could help deter such behavior, and that everyone had a role to play in ensuring a safe academic environment for all.

In her remarks, Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal of the College, expressed her gratitude to the guest speaker and reinforced the college commitment to maintaining a ragging-free campus. She also encouraged students to stay informed and make use of the college anti-ragging cell to report any untoward incidents.

The whole event was coordinated by Dr. Chanchal Angral, Convener Anti-Ragging Committee and NSS PO and the members of both the committees' viz. Dr. Hari Singh, Prof. Harpreet Kour, Prof. Rajinder Singh, Dr. Sanjeev Upadhyay, Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, Dr. Akriti Parihar and Dr. Savleen Kour.

Prof. Harpreet Kour hosted the whole event and exchanged her ideas via poem and instances from real life narratives.

The event concluded with the formal vote of thanks presented by Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, HOD Dogri.

## GDC Paloura observes Shaheed Diwas

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 25: Department of History in collaboration with NCC Unit of GDC Paloura observed Shaheed Diwas.

The purpose of the programme was to remember and honour the brave souls who sacrificed their lives for India's freedom, particularly Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru. Rajbir Singh and

Harsh Bhardwaj students of Semester 6th department of History welcomed the gathering and provided information about the programme.

The programme started with floral tributes to the martyrs followed by a documentary featuring discussion on the lives of above martyrs.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. Vishal Magotra advised the students

to uphold the values of courage, patriotism and sacrifice in their lives.

At the end of the programme Harsh Bhardwaj presented a melodious song on the occasion.

The whole programme was organised by Prof. Vishal Magotra, HoD Department of History, Prof. (Lt.) Arun Sharma, ANO under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Kulvinder Kour, Principal of the college.

## GDC Darhal launches week-long Fit India initiative to promote health and wellness

### Top News Report

DARHAL, Mar 25: Government Degree College (GDC) Darhal has inaugurated its week-long Fit India initiative aimed at engaging students and faculty in various health and fitness activities.

The initiative, organized by the college's Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and the National Service Scheme (NSS) body, is under the patronage of Principal Prof. Zamir Ahmed Mirza.

The first day of the initiative kicked off today with invigorating Yoga sessions, where students and faculty members alike united in the pursuit of health and well-being. Guided by Rahul Sangra, Head of the Department of Education and a certified yoga expert, participants engaged in

various 'asanas' (yoga postures) and pranayamas (breath control exercises), emphasizing the importance of mindfulness and physical health in our lives.

"I am grateful to see such enthusiastic participation from both students and faculty. Yoga plays a vital role in enhancing our physical and mental well-being, and I encourage everyone to integrate it into their daily routines," said Mr. Sangra during his extensive lecture on the significance of yoga.

The week-long Fit India initiative will feature a series of engaging events, including Fit India Run to promote cardiovascular health, cycling events for encouraging eco-friendly transportation and fitness, fun cardio sessions to enhance endurance and overall fitness,



and activities designed to challenge the spirit of competition among participants while promoting teamwork and health.

Dr. Mohd Saleem Wani, IQAC Head, and Dr. Mohd Akhlaq, NSS Coordinator, affirmed their commitment to promoting fitness in the college.

They were joined by other faculty members, including Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Dr. Taseem Ahmed, Dr. Anzar Ahmed, Dr. Mukhtar, Dr.

Muzammil, Dr. Sumina, and Dr. Sageer, all of whom actively participated in today's sessions.

This initiative emphasizes the college's commitment to fostering a healthy lifestyle among students and staff. The upcoming events will continue to provide opportunities for participants to engage in physical activity and learn about the importance of fitness in daily life. "We believe that a fit mind and body can

significantly contribute to the overall development of our students and the college community.

"We encourage everyone to take part in these events throughout the week," said Principal Prof. Zamir Ahmed Mirza.

GDC Darhal invites everyone to join in this celebration of health and wellness, making a commitment to a more active lifestyle.

## GDC Kathua celebrates World Poetry Day



### Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 25: The Department of Languages, in collaboration with the Literary Club of Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua, organized a vibrant celebration of World Poetry Day on the theme "Poetry as a Bridge for Peace and Inclusion." The event aimed to highlight the power of poetry in fostering unity, understanding, and harmony across diverse cultures and communities.

The welcome note was delivered by Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Head, Department of Urdu. Prof. Seema Mir, Principal, GDC Kathua, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and emphasized the transformative power of poetry in bridging differences and promoting inclusivity. In her address, she remarked, "Poetry transcends boundaries and serves as a universal language that connects hearts and minds. It has the potential to nurture peace and mutual respect in society."

The event witnessed

enthusiastic participation from 20 students and faculty members, sharing their heartfelt compositions. The recitations touched upon themes of peace, unity, love, and cultural harmony, resonating deeply with the audience.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Shivani Kotwal, Head, Department of English and Convener, Literary Club.

The celebration concluded with a note of gratitude from the organizers, appreciating the participants for their creative contributions. The event successfully reinforced the idea that poetry is not just an art form but also a powerful medium for fostering peace and inclusion in society. D. Sanjay Roshan Department of Urdu, Dr. Ishyaq Ahmed Department of English, Dr. Harpreet Kour Department of Punjabi also presented their poems on the occasion.

The event was attended by various faculty members including,

Dr. S.K. Karupia, Head, Geology, Prof. Neelam Bhagat, Head, Home Science, Prof. R.K.

Pandita, Head, Zoology, Dr. Dinesh Jasrotia, Head Physics, Dr. Rupinder Kour, Head,

Economics, Dr. Ram Singh, Head, Education, Dr. Kulbir Singh HOD Mathematics.

## Mission Director JJM urges consultants, project managers to expedite source sustainability reports under JJM

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 25: Mission Director, Jai Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K Khurshid Ahmad Shah on Tuesday convened at internal meeting of Mission Directorate, Jai Jeevan Mission in the UT of J&K.

The meeting was attended by the Consultants, Project Managers, Chief Chemists, Technical officers and other staff of Mission Directorate, JJM, JK.

The MD enquired about the field visits undertaken by the consultants and asked for their feedback about technical feasibility and source sustainability reports entrusted to them in various districts of J&K.

The chair was informed that most of the reports stand submitted however some reports are pending owing to snow bound far flung areas in Kashmir and hilly inaccessible areas in the Jammu Division. MD directed the consultants to complete the whole process in the first half of April.

He also enjoined upon



the consultants and project managers to conduct the survey for left out areas for which prefeasibility reports are awaited from field divisions. Shah also reviewed the progress in Har Ghar Jal certification and urged the Project Managers and District Project Management Units to speed up the process for certifying remaining Har Ghar Jal reported villages.

Mission director also

enquired about the targets set for water testing and achievements from Executive Engineer, Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance. He was assured by the chief chemists that water testing targets will be achieved soon.

The meeting also discussed expenditure related details, scheme completion and Functional Household Tap Connections provided till date.

## Army organises informative lecture on joining armed forces

### Top News Report

DODA, Mar 25: In a significant initiative to inspire and guide young minds, the Indian Army conducted a comprehensive lecture on opportunities and processes to join the Indian Armed Forces.

The event, held at Government Higher Secondary School, Bhagwah witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, youth, and community members eager to learn about the prestigious career path of serving the nation.



The lecture covered key aspects of joining the Indian Army, including eligibility criteria, examination processes, and the myriad roles and responsibilities within the armed forces. The

event aimed to instill a sense of patriotism and encourage the next generation to embrace a career that combines personal growth with national service.

The Bhagwah Com-

pany Operating Base Commander, who conducted the event, said, "Through this lecture, we aim to provide clarity and motivation to those who aspire to be a part of our proud Armed

Forces." The Principal of the School, Abida Bano and other teachers expressed their appreciation for the valuable insights shared during the session. Many participants described the lecture as inspiring and informative, further strengthening their resolve to pursue this noble profession.

The Indian Army remains committed to fostering a spirit of service and patriotism among the youth, ensuring that India continues to be safeguarded by its finest.

## CIFF: Rasika Dugal, a proud Punjabi herself, wants to work with Diljit Dosanjh in the coming times

It's a name synonymous with versatility and depth—Rasika Dugal is known for effortlessly essaying diverse characters across films, web series and theatre. From her fierce portrayal of an IPS officer in Delhi Crime to the enigmatic Beena in Mirzapur, Rasika continues to push the boundaries of her craft. On the concluding day of the Cinevesture International Film Festival in Chandigarh, she comes across as an artiste who embraces the challenges and rewards of her profession with refreshing authenticity.

For Rasika, the uniqueness of her roles stems from the script itself. "The writing is different, so the characters are different. Whether it's the idealistic IPS officer Neeti Singh from Delhi Crime or the mysterious Beena from Mirzapur, each character offers an opportunity to explore different facets of humanity," she says.

Rasika relates to Neeti on a personal level, describing her as someone who mirrors her own college-day idealism.

"There's a righteousness and belief that her work can change the world. I resonated with that part of her." On the other hand, Beena was a stark departure from Rasika's own personality. "Beena owns every space she walks into with a sensual quality, something I've always admired but never allowed myself to embody."

When reflecting on her approach to acting, Rasika attributes much of her skill to intuition. "The most important part of acting is to know when to let go and trust your instinct," she said. Rehearsing is not her thing, but, "I like to spend a lot of time familiarising myself with the character's world, immersing in it before the performance."

Trained at the Film and Television Institute of India, Rasika says, "Everything I know about acting is because of FTII." At the same time, she credits theatre for helping her find her footing in Mumbai. "Theatre gave me a sense of community when I didn't



have work. It allowed me to keep practicing my craft and connect with like-minded actors."

Going down memory lane, Rasika recounts her time working with the late Irrfan Khan on the sets of Qissa. "He was so spontaneous and in the moment that sometimes it felt like the scene was taking on a life of its own. I learnt how to be a good co-actor from Irrfan. It was such a big thing to be working with him. His

simplicity and honesty deeply resonated with me."

On the OTT industry, Rasika offers an insider's perspective. Having just wrapped up the third season of Delhi Crime, she acknowledges how fortunate she has been with projects that gained traction and earned subsequent seasons. However, the broader industry narrative is not as stable. "The initial golden period, where we thought any story would

find a place, has burst," she remarks.

Rasika points out that the OTT space is undergoing a transformation, driven by algorithms. Platforms, she explains, are becoming more cautious about the projects they commission, with many getting shelved midway due to changing viewer trends. "You hear of a project being developed because the algorithm says that is what audiences want, but three months later the trends change and suddenly it's abandoned," she says. However, she sees the change as an opportunity. "Every shift pushes us to adapt and explore new storytelling forms. Short-form content, for instance, could be an exciting avenue."

When asked about her future goals, Rasika, a proud Punjabi, wants to work with Diljit Dosanjh. She also wants to explore comedy, "I'd love to take on a comedic role. And if I could choose, my co-star would be Cate Blanchett or Kate Winslet," she beams.

## Emraan Hashmi announces Awarapan 2 on birthday



Bollywood fans can brace themselves for a blast from the past as Emraan Hashmi and filmmaker Vishesh Bhatt have officially announced Awarapan 2 as the ultimate birthday surprise for the actor's

dedicated fanbase.

In a thrilling social media announcement, Emraan Hashmi and Vishesh Bhatt revealed that a sequel to the cult classic Awarapan is in the works. "Bas mujhe kuch aur der zinda

rah... #Awarapan2 in cinemas, 3rd April 2026," Emraan Hashmi captioned the post. Titled Awarapan 2, the film is set to hit theatres on April 3, 2026.

The original Awarapan, released in 2007, was a commercial success, with its songs, characters, and emotional depth leaving an impact on audiences.

The film's legacy has endured, with fans demanding a sequel. The film will be directed by Nitin Kakkar, written by Bilal Siddiqui, and produced by Vishesh Bhatt.

Awarapan 2 promises to be an intense action drama, picking up where Shivam Pandit's story left off. The film starred Emraan in the lead role of Shivam Pandit The partnership between Emraan Hashmi and Vishesh Films has yielded numerous blockbuster films.

Their collaborations, from Jannat and Murder to Raaz and Gangster, have been iconic. Awarapan 2 is gearing up to go on floors soon.

## Black Warrant actor Zahan Kapoor talks about the expectations and responsibilities that come with the privilege of being Shashi Kapoor's grandson

Privilege is a word he uses liberally but not by way of self-gloating. Till the other day he could have been just another member of the illustrious Kapoor khaandan. Today, courtesy his stellar part in Black Warrant, Zahan Kapoor is a cynosure of many eyes, enjoying both attention and adulation.

Indeed, the young actor in Chandigarh for the Cinevesture International Film Festival, who stayed away from limelight in his formative years, is savouring this moment. And not merely because he has earned fulsome praise for etching the lead role of Sunil Gupta with conviction but also that every aspect of the Vikramaditya Motwane series is exceptionally well made. In his words, "Motwane is a meticulous director with astute understanding of every aspect of filmmaking. He empowers and steers those who work with him and enables the process of collaboration."

For Zahan, the greater sense of pride also is that he met him after auditions and not as somebody looking for work. Since many viewers too saw the actor in him first and realised who he is much later, he believes in letting his work speak for itself.

Interestingly, Black Warrant is not where he cut his acting teeth. Just before the much acclaimed Netflix series brought him on centre-stage, he was part of Hansal Mehta's film Faraz. In 2019, he had the privilege of working on stage with maverick theatre person Makarand Deshpande. In between there has been a short film, yet another play, Siachen, and an Amazon series, Bandwaale, to be released soon.

One could easily argue acting/filmmaking races



in his blood. If you think he owes his talent to his privileged parental surname alone, let you be reminded, this grandson of Shashi Kapoor also has another very strong filmy family connection. The Sholay fame Ramesh Sippy happens to be his maternal grandfather. Double bonanza which could easily have been a double whammy too; only his parents, actor and ad filmmaker Kunal Kapoor and photographer Sheena Sippy, ensured he did not grow under the shadow of the remarkable lineage he was born with.

He observes, "From the outside, the privilege might seem rather strong but it comes with the weight of expectations and responsibilities. I was afraid of not being able to live up to it. So, I worked hard to earn it." Indeed, love for theatre must have passed on from his grandmother Jeniffer Kendal too whom he never met since she passed away before he was born.

With so many stalwarts

in the family, perhaps he didn't need to look outside for role models. Yet, he admires so many more like Aamir Khan and his vast body of work. He adds, "Even though several films of his like Dangal, 3 Idiots, Rang De Basanti fall in the mainstream space, these are so very authentic."

Authenticity and honesty in cinema is exactly what he is aiming at. Like his grandfather, whose vast range, from commercial fanfare to international movies to championing independent cinema with his own productions, he singles out (more than any particular film), he would like to try out all genres. Typical lover-boy... why not? And this polo player would simply love to ride horses on screen. Post the success of Black Warrant, he claims he has not signed anything on the dotted line as yet. Self-effacingly he says, "People have begun to notice my work and considering me a possible option." Equally heartening is how the extended family, cousins

like heartthrob Ranbir Kapoor have reacted to his performance. If Ranbir was blown away by how he nailed his jailer act, Alia Bhatt exclaimed to have been 'star struck,' all effusive compliments he takes with a pinch of salt. Whether we will see him sharing screen space with them anytime soon, he is keener to share his work and learn valuable lessons from them. To those, who see only stardom in his superstar cousins, he reminds what Hansal Mehta had to say about Kareena Kapoor's work ethic. As to how she is a thorough actor who comes to the sets remarkably well prepared. Zahan says, "Stardom is only a by-product. There is so much rigueur involved in acting." He too gives it all. Why he even made scene by scene notes for Black Warrant.

With grounding in theatre, he promises he will always be closely associated with family heirloom Prithvi theatre, started by Shashi and Jennifer, which has since nurtured both theatre and talent. After all it was on stage he learnt to be 'present in the moment' and theatre taught him to 'rehearse, rehearse, rehearse yet surprise yourself'. Interestingly, he is not astonished when people sense an uncanny resemblance with his handsome grandfather Shashi, especially the twinkle in the eyes and oh-so-endearing smile. Only he says, "It's more like people sharing their love for him, remembering him and the deep impact he had." Chip of the Kapoor block he might be but with a mind and identity very much his own. With talent to match... look out for more from him who wants to be at the service of storytelling more than anything else.

## Deepika says India has been robbed of Oscars many times



Deepika Padukone believes that many Indian films deserved to win Oscars but were repeatedly snubbed.

Deepika took to her Instagram account to share a video in which the actress, who is seen getting ready for a Louis Vuitton show in Paris, recalls being at the Academy Awards when RRR won Best Original Song for Naatu Naatu in 2023.

The actress also expressed her disappointment, stating how India has been "robbed of the Oscars" too many times despite its rich cinematic heritage and the talent present in the industry.

"India has been robbed of the Oscars many times. Many, many deserving movies, I feel, have been snubbed. Whether it's movies, whether it's talent... But I remember being in the audience when they announced RRR, and I

got emotional. Outside of being an Indian, I had nothing to do with that movie, but that was a huge, huge moment. That felt very, very personal," Deepika said in the video.

The Chennai Express actress also spoke about this year's Oscars and mentioned that the one win that made her very happy was Adrien Brody's Best Actor win for The Brutalist. As she spoke, clips of critically acclaimed Indian films, including All We Imagine As Light, Laapataa Ladies, Tumbbad, and The Lunchbox, were featured in the video. These films, which received worldwide praise, did not get nominated for the Oscars.

Deepika attended the Louis Vuitton show at the Cour Carre du Louvre. The actress is the first Indian to be signed as a global ambassador for both Louis Vuitton and Cartier.

## AR Murugadoss on why he chose Salman Khan for Sikandar

AR Murugadoss expressed his love and admiration for Salman Khan by sharing an old incident which took place in Chennai, where he saw the actor for the first time.

Director Murugadoss, who is known for films Ghajini and Holiday, collaborated with Salman Khan for the first time for the upcoming film titled Sikandar. It is slated to hit theatres on March 30.

At the trailer launch event, the Ghajini director shared, "I was struggling as an AD (Assistant Director) long back. I wanted to watch a shoot, so I went to Prasad Studios in Chennai. I requested the security guard to let me in and watch me shoot. He allowed me on two conditions. You have to be in corner



and you cannot talk to anyone. He gave me 20 minutes. After that, I had to leave."

He further explained how he became a fan of Salman after one unexpected encounter with the actor and decided to cast him in a film.

"I entered. I don't know what the shoot was. Sridevi was there. I was surprised. Then suddenly, I saw a hero's back. He was combing his hair. He was none other than Salman sir. I thought that one day I would direct him. After so many years, I have directed the film with him."

At the trailer launch, Salman reflected on his experience working with Murugadoss, how the director constantly pushed him, especially in action sequences, to bring out his best.

## 2 Hurriyat-linked groups sever ties with separatism, Amit Shah hails move

Says 'separatism has become history in Kashmir'

NEW DELHI, Mar 25 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said separatism had become history in Kashmir and the unifying policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government had tossed separatism out of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Two organisations associated with the Hurriyat have announced the severing of all ties with separatism. I welcome this step towards strengthening Bharat's unity and urge all such groups to come forward and shed separatism once and for all. It is a big victory for PM Shri @narendramodi.Ji's vision of building a developed, peaceful and unified Bharat," he said on X.

On March 21, while address-



ing the Rajya Sabha, Shah had said year 2004, when the NDA government exited power, saw 1587 incidents in J&K whereas 2024 saw 85.

"Civilian deaths were 733 in 2004 and 26 in 2024; security

personnel deaths were 331 in 2004 and 31 in 2024. Between 2004 and 2014 the number of terror incidents plummeted from 7217 to 2242 and deaths by 70%. Between 2010 to 2014, organised stone pelting cases

averaged 2654 annually and there were 112 deaths, organised strikes averaged 132 a year. In 2024 there were none," he said.

"The Modi government ruthlessly sacked and weeded out relatives of terrorists who were enjoying government jobs. Today sympathisers of terrorists in the Bar Council are in jails of Delhi and Srinagar. Also there was a time when terrorists were glorified. No more. Today they are buried where they die," Shah added.

The Home Minister argued that the abrogation of Article 370 from the Constitution enabled J&K's full integration with India and was the source of separatism.

## New Income Tax Bill to be taken up for discussion in monsoon session: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman



NEW DELHI, Mar 25 (Agencies): The new Income Tax Bill will be taken up for discussion in the monsoon session of Parliament, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday.

Replying to the discussions on the Finance Bill 2025 in the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman said the new income tax bill, which was introduced in the House on February 13, is currently being

vetted by the Select Committee. The Select Committee has been mandated to submit its report by the first day of the next session of Parliament. "...we will take it (new income tax bill) up in the monsoon session," Sitharaman said. The monsoon session of Parliament is usually convened in July and runs through August. The simplified Income Tax Bill, which is half the size of the 1961 Income Tax Act, seeks to achieve tax certainty by minimising the scope of litigation and fresh interpretation, the Income Tax department had earlier said. The new bill has a word count of 2.6 lakh, lower than 5.12 lakh in the I-T Act. The number of sections is 536 against 819 effective sections in the existing law. The number of chapters has also been halved to 23 from 47. The Income Tax Bill 2025 has 57 tables compared to 18 in the existing Act and removed 1,200 provisos and 900 explanations.

## Battle of Panipat symbol of Marathas' bravery, not defeat: CM Fadnavis

MUMBAI, Mar 25 (Agencies): The third battle of Panipat was a symbol of the bravery of Marathas and not the defeat, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said in the state assembly on Tuesday.

Replying to a debate on the 'Last Week Motion' initiated by the opposition, Fadnavis said the state government is building a 'Shiv Smarak' (memorial of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj) in Agra.

Land is also being acquired for building a memorial in Panipat (Haryana), where the third battle of Panipat was fought between the Marathas and (Afghan ruler) Ahmad Shah Abdali in 1761, he said.

To this, opposition NCP (SP) MLA Jitendra Awhad asked why a memorial is being built in Panipat where Abdali defeated the Marathas. "Panipat is not a symbol of our bravery or



our defeat. It will remind me of defeat. It was between Ahmad Shah Abdali and (Maratha general) Sadashivrao Bhau. There is no memorial of defeat in the world," Awhad said.

Fadnavis then said, "The battle of Panipat is a symbol of Marathas' bravery and not defeat." Talking about the historic battle, the CM said it reflected Marathas' valour.

The emperor in Delhi was paying "chauth" (a kind of tribute) to Marathas.

"When Abdali conquered Delhi, he wrote to Marathas asking them to come to save

Delhi, Fadnavis said. The Marathas went to Delhi, defeated Abdali. The Afghan ruler then fled and camped across the Yamuna river," he said.

"Abdali then wrote a letter to Marathas seeking a truce that Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan should be considered his territory and rest of the country will be of Marathas", the CM said.

"The Marathas were not linked to (the conflict) but asserted that they will not cede an inch to Abdali. The Marathas fought for the country so that the three regions remain part of India," Fadnavis added.

## Political power only way to secure Dalits' welfare: Mayawati

LUCKNOW, Mar 25 (Agencies): Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Tuesday said only political power can bring "good days" for the Dalits and Bahujans.

"Winning political power is the only way to bring 'achche din' for Bahujans," the party supremo said at a state-level special meeting of BSP's OBC officials. Mayawati said that the Bahujan community, particularly OBCs, has been severely affected by caste-based and narrow-minded politics.

She claimed that, like Dalits, OBCs have been deprived of their Constitutional reservation benefits due to new policies that have rendered quota ineffective.

Mayawati urged for a renewed and intensified campaign to unite all sections and secure political power to end social discrimination.



"To free themselves from humiliation, all sections of the Bahujan community must unite and strengthen their political power. We must start a new and aggressive campaign at the village level to expose the anti-Dalit and anti-OBC agendas of Congress, BJP, and SP," she said.

She added, "Defeating casteist parties like BJP, Congress, and SP and securing political power is the only effective way

for Bahujans to bring their 'achhe din'." The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said that OBCs had always been divided and marginalised until the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations.

She said it was the BSP that helped them secure their Constitutional right to the reservation.

Accusing rival parties of conspiring against

BSP, Mayawati said, "In 2012, casteist parties worked together to remove BSP from power in Uttar Pradesh. Since then, Dalits and OBCs have suffered under successive governments, and their condition has only worsened." During the meeting, Mayawati also spoke at length about the development work undertaken during her four terms as UP chief minister. She recalled that in 2011, her government had written to then-prime minister Manmohan Singh, demanding a caste-based census.

"Opposition parties have created small caste-based parties and organisations to divide and weaken Bahujan unity. While some leaders of these outfits fulfil their personal and family interests, their communities remain deprived. Only under BSP's banner can the entire

community's interests be safeguarded," she asserted.

Mayawati alleged that all major political parties — Congress, BJP, and SP — were equally responsible for misleading and exploiting Dalits and OBCs.

"These parties deceive Dalits and OBCs with sweet words and false promises. But they will never truly work for their uplifting. The sooner people understand this and take control of their destiny, the better," she said.

Mayawati also instructed party members to organise district-level discussions across the country on April 14, the birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar.

She announced that BSP leaders would garland Ambedkar's statues in Lucknow and Noida as a tribute to the architect of the Constitution.

## Top commander with Rs 25 lakh bounty among three Naxalites killed in Chhattisgarh

DANTEWADA, Mar 25 (Agencies): Three Naxalites, including a top commander with a bounty of Rs 25 lakh, were killed in an operation by security forces in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Tuesday.

The gunfight broke out around 8 am in a forest along the border of Dantewada and Bijapur districts when a team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, a police official was quoted as saying by news agency.

Dantewada Superintendent of Police (SP)

Gaurav Rai said the security forces had gone on an anti-Naxalite operations after receiving information about the presence of Naxal cadres in the areas along the districts of Dantewada and Bijapur.

During the search operation after the encounter, the bodies of three Naxalites, including top commander Sudhir, were recovered from the spot along with firearms.

Security forces recovered an INSAS rifle, .303 rifle, 12 bore rifle and other explosive

materials and items were also found from the encounter site.

Initially, a Naxalite was identified as DKSZCM (Dandakarnya Special Zonal Committee Member) Sudhir alias Sudhakar alias Murali, a resident of Telangana's Warangal district. The identification of the other two Maoists was being carried out.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Dantewada Range Kamalochan Kashyap said a search was going on in the surrounding area.

Inspector General of

Police, Bastar Range, Sundarraj P said 100 Naxalites had been gunned down by security forces so far in anti-Naxalite operations this year.

He stressed that the security personnel deployed in Bastar Range were dedicatedly working for the peace, security and development of the Bastar region.

On March 20, security forces gunned down 30 Naxalites in two encounters in Bijapur and Kanker districts of the state.

## "Not done any analysis": Atishi slams Delhi government's Budget 2025-26

NEW DELHI, Mar 25 (Agencies): Attacking the Delhi government for making a Budget without an economic survey, the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital, Atishi, on Tuesday said that the government has admitted that they have not done any analysis to make the Budget.

"Is it a good thing that they are saying that they are forming a Budget with reviewing the situation of Delhi's financial condition? I think this means that the Delhi government itself is admitting that they have not done any analysis to make this Budget," Atishi told reporters.

She expressed surprise at the absence of the Economic Survey, which typically precedes the budget presentation.

"It is surprising how the budget was made without an economic survey. To date, we have not seen any government making a budget without an economic survey," she said.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday presented the



Budget 2025-26 for the national capital. She stated that this year the Delhi government's Budget is Rs. 1 lakh crores.

Calling the Budget "historic," the Chief Minister said that this is a budget of transformation from a dire economy to Viksit Delhi.

"This is not an ordinary budget. Delhi and whole country is watching this. They all have very hope with new government. This budget is not just an account or ledger; this is budget of transformation from bad economy to Viksit Delhi. The Delhi government's budget this year is Rs. 1

lakh crores. This budget is historic. We are presenting a budget of Rs 1 lakh crore. This is 31.5 percent more than last year," Chief Minister Gupta stated in the assembly.

Addressing the assembly, CM Gupta stated that the Delhi government has allocated Rs 5,100 crores for the Mahila Samridhi Yojana. She also proposed Rs. 28,000 crores for capital expenditure in the national capital. To develop infrastructure for better connectivity with the NCR region, Rs. 1000 crores was allocated.

The Chief Minister

said, "Soon people will get the benefit of Ayushman Yojana, Ayushman Arogya Mandir. Along with the five lakh with the five lakh to the people of Delhi under Ayushman, Rs 2144 crores are being allocated for this. We had announced a reward of Rs 2500 for the women of Delhi. A provision of Rs 5,100 crores has been made to implement it under Mahila Samridhi Yojana," the Chief Minister stated in the assembly.

"For women's safety, more than 50,000 cameras will be installed. Rs 3843 crores are allocated for road and bridge infrastructure. Rs 696 crores have been allocated to provide basic facilities in slums and JJ colonies," she added.

The Delhi Chief Minister targeted the previous AAP government for their inaction and claimed that the government income decreased because the government revenue was going into the "pockets" of liquor mafia and PWD contractors.

## Karti Chidambaram asks Chennai MC to take waste-management tip from Indore in BJP-ruled MP

NEW DELHI, Mar 25 (Agencies): Congress MP Karti Chidambaram has created a flutter in the political circles by praising waste-management techniques in Indore, the city in which the BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh and has advised the Chennai municipal corporation to draw lessons from Indore.

Reacting to a Chennai MC plan to visit Europe to study waste management techniques this May, Karti replied: "Can the @

chennaiCorp name one learning & implementation of a practice from any of the previous study tours? Poor garbage management, street dogs & cattle, broken sidewalks & potholed roads is the hallmark of Chennai. Visit Indore to start with."

Karti was responding to reports that the World Bank would support Chennai officials' visit to cities like Barcelona to study clean waste management and this could help Tamil Nadu adopt better solutions



amid protests over local dump yards.

## Israeli strikes on Gaza kill 23 people overnight

*The dead include three children and their parents, who were killed in a strike on their tent near the southern city of Khan Younis, according to Nasser Hospital.*

GAZA, Mar 25 (Agencies): Palestinian medics said Israeli strikes killed at least 23 people in the Gaza Strip overnight into Tuesday.

The dead include three children and their parents, who were killed in a strike on their tent near the southern city of Khan Younis, according to Nasser Hospital, which has received a flood of dead and wounded since Israel resumed heavy bombardment of Gaza last week, shattering the ceasefire that had halted the 17-month war.

In central Gaza, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital said it received



the bodies of six people who were killed in three separate strikes. Three others were killed in a strike on a house in the

built-up Nuseirat refugee camp, according to the Awda Hospital. In Gaza City, an Israeli strike on a residential building killed 5

people, according to the Health Ministry's emergency service. Another 12 people were wounded, it said.

On Monday, Israeli strikes across the Gaza Strip have killed more than 60 Palestinians, including women and children.

Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed more than 50,000 Palestinians and wounded more than 113,000, according to the Health Ministry.

Israel launched the campaign vowing to destroy Hamas after its October 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel, in which some 1,200 people were killed.

## US-Russia talks on Ukraine 'useful,' will continue: Russian negotiator

MOSCOW, Mar 25 (Agencies): A Russian negotiator said on Tuesday that Moscow would continue "useful" talks with the United States over the Ukraine conflict and would aim to involve the UN and other countries.

"We talked about everything, it was an intense dialogue, not easy, but very useful for us and the Americans," Grigory Karasin, told the state TASS news agency, adding that "lots of problems were discussed".

"Of course we are far

from solving everything, from being in agreement on all points, but it seems that this type of discussion is very timely," he said.

"We will continue doing it, adding in the international community, above all the United Nations and certain countries," Karasin said.

He spoke a day after the US and Russian teams held 12 hours of talks in a luxury hotel in Saudi Arabia.

President Donald Trump is pushing for a rapid end to the three-year war and hopes

the latest round of talks in the Saudi capital will pave the way for a breakthrough.

Earlier, TASS cited a source saying that a joint statement on the talks would be published on Tuesday.

The Ukrainian negotiating team was staying in Riyadh for another day to meet with US representatives, a source in the delegation told Suspline news, with another source also telling agency a second meeting was likely -- a sign that progress may have been made.

## Motorcyclist who disappeared into huge Seoul sinkhole found dead after 17 hours

SEOUL, Mar 25 (Agencies): A motorcyclist who fell into a massive sinkhole that opened on a Seoul street was found dead after around 17 hours, officials in South Korea's capital said Tuesday.

The roughly 20-meter-wide, the 20-meter-deep sinkhole appeared at an intersection in the Myeongil-dong neighborhood in eastern Seoul on Monday afternoon, swallowing the motorcyclist and injuring a woman whose van was passing over the site, according to safety and emergency offices.

The motorcyclist, who was in his 30s, was found before noon on Tuesday, emergency officer Kim Chang-sup told a televised briefing.

Kim said the man was found wearing a helmet



and motorcycle boots, and that rescue workers found his Japanese-made motorcycle and mobile phone before reaching his body. Kim said rescuers used excavators, shovels and other equipment to find him.

Kim said the injured woman didn't fall into the sinkhole and she

sustained minor injuries.

The cause of the sinkhole was under investigation.

Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon visited the site on Monday night and asked authorities to find why the sinkhole happened and prevent recurrences of similar incidents.

## US airstrikes targeting Yemen's Houthi rebels kill at least two people, group says

DUBAI, Mar 25 (Agencies): U.S. airstrikes targeting Yemen's Houthi rebels pounded sites across the country into early Tuesday, with the group saying one attack in the capital killed at least two people and wounded more than a dozen others.

The American strikes on the rebels, who threaten maritime trade and Israel, entered their 10th day without any sign of stopping. They are part of a campaign by U.S. President Donald Trump targeting the rebel group while also trying to pressure Iran, the Houthis' main benefactor.

So far, the U.S. has not offered any specifics on the sites it is striking, though Trump's national security adviser Mike Waltz claimed the attacks have "taken out key Houthi leadership,



including their head missileer."

That's something so far that's not been acknowledged by the Houthis, though the rebels have downplayed their losses in the past and exaggerated their attacks attempting to target American warships.

"We've hit their headquarters," Waltz told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday. "We've hit communications nodes, weapons factories and even some of their over-the-water drone produc-

tion facilities."

An apparent U.S. strike Sunday hit a building in a western neighborhood of Yemen's capital, Sanaa, killing at least two people and wounding 13 others, the rebel-controlled SABA news agency said, citing health officials.

Footage released by the rebels showed the rubble of a collapsed building and pools of blood staining the gray dust covering the ground.

A building next to the

collapsed structure still stood, suggesting American forces likely used a lower-yield warhead in the strike.

The Houthis also described American airstrikes targeting sites around the city of Saada, a Houthi stronghold, the Red Sea port city of Hodeida and Marib province, home to oil and gas fields still under the control of allies to Yemen's exiled central government. Those strikes continued into early Tuesday as the Houthis separately launched a missile attack on Israel.

The campaign of airstrikes targeting the rebels, which killed at least 53 people immediately after they began March 15, started after the Houthis threatened to begin targeting "Israeli" ships again over Israel blocking aid enter-

ing the Gaza Strip. The rebels in the past have had a loose definition of what constitutes an Israeli ship, meaning other vessels could be targeted as well.

The Houthis had targeted over 100 merchant vessels with missiles and drones, sinking two vessels and killing four sailors during their campaign targeting ships from November 2023 until January of this year. They also launched attacks targeting American warships, though none have been hit so far.

The attacks greatly raised the Houthis' profile as they faced economic problems and launched a crackdown targeting any dissent and aid workers at home amid Yemen's decade-long stalemate war that has torn apart the Arab world's poorest nation.

## Strong earthquake of magnitude 6.5 hits New Zealand; Emergency Minister Mitchell says potential danger along shoreline

WELLINGTON, Mar 25 (Agencies): A strong earthquake of magnitude 6.5 hit New Zealand on the early hours of Tuesday according to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS).

Sharing the details of the earthquake in a post on X, the NCS noted that the earthquake occurred at a depth of 10 kilometres off the West Coast of South Island of New Zealand.

"EQ of M: 6.5, On: 25/03/2025 07:13:11 IST, Lat: 46.78 S, Long: 166.28 E, Depth: 10 Km, Location: Off W. Coast of South Island New Zealand", it wrote on X.

New Zealand's Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery, Mark Mitchell shared updates and follow-ups.

In a post on X, he said that potential danger exists near the shoreline and requested people to stay away from the beach and water bodies.

Mitchell noted that an emergency mobile alert was thus issued for the bottom of the island and highlighted that strong and unusual currents may be experienced.

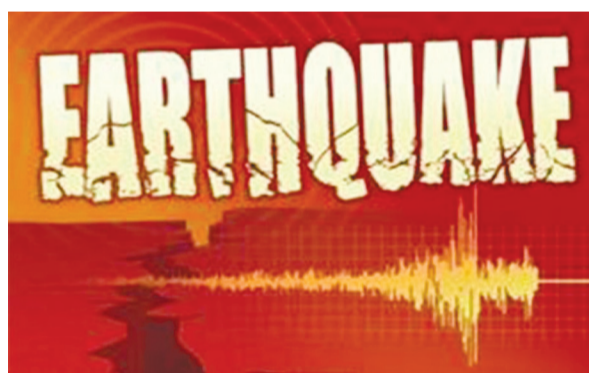
"An Emergency Mobile Alert has been issued for the bottom of the South Island. Evacuations are NOT required but there

is potential danger near the shoreline. We are asking people to stay away from the beach and water. Strong and unusual currents may be experienced."

The National Emergency Management Agency of New Zealand (NEMA) issued a national advisory for tsunami activity.

It said that coastal areas of New Zealand could expect to see unpredictable surges at the shore following the earthquake.

It noted that areas under threat are the West Coast of the South Island from Mil-



ford Sound to Puysegur Point.

Highlighting that danger persists for swimmers, surfers, fishers, or anyone near the sea, NEMA asked people to move out of the water, off beaches and shore areas and

away from harbours, marinas, rivers and estuaries.

It further elaborated, "People on boats, live-aboards and at marinas should leave their boats/vessels and move onto shore. Do not return to boats unless instructed

by officials."

NEMA noted that as of now there is not a need to evacuate areas, however, "strong and unusual currents and unpredictable surges will continue for several hours and the threat must be regarded as real until this Advisory is cancelled."

The information, which was provided by NEMA was issued following an assessment of information available.

It gave a call for people to listen to the radio or TV for updates, or check [www.civildefence.govt.nz](http://www.civildefence.govt.nz).

## We expect Bangladesh to follow rules of Human Rights: US



DUBAI, Mar 25 (Agencies): The United States expects Bangladesh to follow the rules of human rights and be fair to their own citizens, the US State Department said, in relation to the US State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said that Bangladesh is expected to follow rules of human rights and be fair to their own citizens when asked to respond to Bangladesh Army Chief's warnings of imminent Islamist extremist attacks on Bangladesh.

Being asked about the rise in attacks by extremist elements, Bruce said the US expects every country to follow human rights.

"What's most important in the nature of how we handle other countries, what we expect of them if we consider them our friends, the diplomatic scenario," she said in the briefing.

"We expect every country, certainly Bangladesh and others... to follow the rules of human rights and to be cognizant and fair regarding the behaviour and what their own citizens expect from their government. So I think that's a north star for any nation," Bruce added.

The remarks follow after US Department of State Spokesperson Tammy Bruce on March 20 condemned the violence against minorities in Bangladesh during her press briefing.

Being asked about US Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard's recent criticism of Bangladesh, the State Department emphasised the need to reduce instances of violence in the country.

"We condemn any instances of violence or intolerance directed toward members of minority communities in any country and have welcomed measures taken by Bangladesh's interim government to ensure safety and security for all in Bangladesh. That's what we're watching. That's what we expect. And that will be what continues," Bruce said.

The Bangladesh interim government had expressed deep concern over Tulsi Gabbard's remarks stating that her comments are both "misleading and damaging" to the country's image and reputation.

## Balochistan government tightens control, decides to suppress dissent with stringent measures

QUETTA, Mar 25 (Agencies): The Balochistan government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has decided to take stringent measures against government employees involved in anti-state activities, as reported by ARY News.

In a high-level meeting chaired by CM Bugti, which was attended by the IG Balochistan and the Chief Secretary, the government announced that it would target individuals involved in anti-state propaganda and activism.

According to ARY News, CM Bugti instructed all commissioners and district officers to act swiftly against any government employees suspected of promoting anti-state narratives or participating in activities that challenge the state's authority. The government's move appears to be a direct attempt to suppress activism and dissent within the province, especially among those critical of the state's policies. Bugti also confirmed that individuals involved in such actions would be placed



under strict surveillance by being added to the Fourth Schedule for closer monitoring.

ARY News also report-

ed that CM Bugti directed all heads of educational institutions in the province to ensure the national flag is hoisted

and the national anthem is recited regularly. Educational leaders who fail to enforce these directives are being told to resign, which signals a heightened crackdown on any form of resistance within these spaces.

This renewed focus on stifling activism in Balochistan reflects the government's broader strategy to assert control over the region, including monitoring and potentially silencing any opposition to its policies.

This comes amidst the detention of Baloch leaders and activists.

Activists in the Balochistan region have frequently organised protests and campaigns, calling attention to the region's marginalisation.

In response, governments have implemented harsh crackdowns, often leading to the detention of Baloch leaders and activists. These actions have sparked widespread criticism from international human rights organisations, highlighting concerns over the suppression of political expression and the stifling of peaceful advocacy for regional rights.



## Bhaderwah Campus organizes traffic awareness rally Public urged to follow traffic rules



### Top News Report

BHADERWAH, Mar 25: To bring traffic related awareness and to sensitise students and locals with the rules and regulations covering vehicular commutation processes, the School of Education, Bhaderwah Campus University of Jammu in collaboration with the Traffic Police Doda organized a Traffic Awareness Rally here on Tuesday.

The importance of road safety and responsible driving were the main epicentric points of the event.

A communication issued in this regard stated that the rally attended by students, faculty and officials from Traffic Police Doda organised a march in the township aimed to spread awareness

regarding traffic rules and regulations.

"The students, holding placards with impactful slogans marched enthusiastically from Bhaderwah Campus passing through various routes in the town before culminating back at the campus," communication said and added, "The event highlighted the significance of following traffic rules, wearing helmets, seat belts, avoiding over speeding and adhering to traffic signals to prevent road accidents".

On this occasion, Rector Bhaderwah Campus, Prof. Rahul Gupta, in his message congratulated the School of Education, Bhaderwah Campus and Traffic Police Doda for organizing the rally and appreciated their

efforts in promoting road safety awareness.

He emphasized the role of educational institutions in instilling civic sense and responsibility among the youth.

Dr. Kuljit Singh, Academic Coordinator and In-Charge, Department of School of Education addressing the gathering emphasized the importance of traffic management in ensuring road safety.

"I strongly urge student community to act as responsible citizens and spread the message of safe driving practices within their respective social spheres," he added.

The locals and participants appreciated the initiative reinforcing the need for collective efforts in ensuring safer roads and responsible commuting.

## Awareness camp on "bank frauds & cyber security in Banking" held at JKAP-8th B



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 25: An awareness camp regarding "bank frauds & cyber security in Banking" was held at JKAP-8th Battalion Miran Sahib Jammu in collaboration with HDFC Bank under the overall supervision of Sh. Suram Singh JKPS(SSP) Commandant JKAP-8th Bn. Miran Sahib Jammu.

While speaking on the occasion, Commandant told that bank fraud is a major issue that can cause serious financial losses for individuals, businesses, and financial institutions.

It is a serious crime that can occur in many different forms, ranging

from simple check fraud to complex schemes such as identity theft and money laundering.

Some of the most common types of bank frauds include counterfeiting, check fraud, identity theft, loan scams, credit card fraud, ATM frauds, phishing, wishing, smishing etc.

He further stated that banking frauds also involve sneaking into the network or record of financial institutions and misuse of their services for personal gains or to commit other crimes.

On the occasion among others Bhupinder Singh-DySP and Om Prakash Chib-DySP were also present in the awareness camp.

## Divisional Sports Officer, Kashmir J&K Sports Council declares open Softball/Baseball championship Sports best medium to eradicate drug menace from society: Nusrat Gazala



### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 25: Sports and games are the best medium to eradicate drug menace from the society and help youth not to derail from the mainstream.

This was stated by Nusrat Gazala Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir, J&K Sports Council while declaring open Softball/Baseball5 Championship 2024-25 at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar here today.

The event witnessed a huge participation of athletes from 14 districts of J&K Union Territory.

While DSO Kashmir J&K Sports Council graced the grand Opening Ceremony as the Chief Guest, Mushtaq Zargar, Manager Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar and Maqsood Khan, Deputy Manager, SKISC Srinagar were present as Guest of Honours while a galaxy of reputed sports personalities, district unit heads, sports promoters, sports lovers and International Softball athletes were also present in the opening

Ceremony.

The 3-days Championship is being organized by J&K Softball Association with the support of the apex body for promotion of games and sports in Jammu & Kashmir namely Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council.

The Chief Guest, Nusrat Gazala while speaking on the occasion highlighted the tremendous steps taken by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council and J&K Softball Association for development & promotion of Softball in particular and other recognized Sports in general as Softball is a recognised and regular event in the Olympic Games and Asian Games.

She said from a few years Softball sport is gaining momentum and achieving great heights in Jammu & Kashmir, besides making inroads in every nook and corner of the Union Territory. She further said the involvement of youth in sports and games helps them not to fall prey to drugs and other

social evils, otherwise, the drug menace is spreading alarmingly nowadays.

Terming sports persons as the messengers of peace and harmony, Gazala lauded the efforts of the organisers for uplifting sports & games in Jammu & Kashmir.

Over 500 athletes/officials from 14 districts of UT J&K are participating in Sub-Junior (Boys & Girls), Junior (Boys & Girls) and Senior (Men & Women) categories.

"The 3-day Championship, which is being sponsored by J&K Sports Council, will conclude on March 27, 2025. Tremendous support for the successful conduct of the Championship by the team of technical officials & Ground staff of Sports Council, is worth appreciable. 18 matches in both the sections were played till now in Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior categories in both sections," said General Secretary of J&K Softball Association.

## Shiksha Niketan High School declares its Summative Assessment result 2024-25

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 25: Shiksha Niketan High School, Gandhi Nagar declared its Annual Summative Assessment (Session 2024-25) on Tuesday.

The day began with the distribution of report cards, where students were recognized for their hard work and achievements throughout the year. It was rewarding to observe the tremendous growth demonstrated by the students who exceeded their dreams.

The students have earned a comprehensive range of excellent individual scores with a composite average that

epitomizes excellence and hard work.

Result declaration day is very important to know the strengths and weaknesses of students in academic performance. It also provides the platform for further improvement in the teaching-learning process. The day was filled with joy and satisfaction for high achievers. Beautiful gifts are given to achievers as facilitation.

This event was a great success with a large turnout of parents and students.

The school Principal, Rameshwar Mengi and Director of the school Risheek Mengi extend-



ed heartiest congratulations to the students,

their families and teachers, all of whom have

contributed to this achievement. They said that it's our responsibility to provide support for the improvement of Students' learning and well-being of the school.

## Over 3.6 lakh students appear in BOSE exams in J&K, Ladakh BOSE thanks SED, Police, DCs

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 25: The BOSE has successfully conducted the annual examinations for 10th, 11th and 12th classes, which were spread over 3600 centres across the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Union territories.

In all, over 3.6 lakh students took up the exam at the designated centres set up in both soft and hard zones.

In a statement issued here today,

the JKBOSE has expressed gratitude to the School Education, Police, District Administration and Postal Departments for extending their whole-hearted support in conducting fair, smooth and transparent examinations across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The evaluation process has already started and efficient system has been put in place to ensure fair evaluation of the papers in a time bound manner.

The BOSE looks forward to the compilation and declaration of timely results in adherence to set protocol.

In the meantime, the Board is in the process of verifying records of internal assessments from affiliated institutions and the concerned school managements have been advised to ensure submission of authentic records of the students to curb the incidence of commission of minor mistakes

## From Page No:1

### Uproar in assembly over regularisation of daily wagers

would look into the issues of the daily wagers.

### CM Omar reiterates commitment to provide 200 units free electricity, says process initiated

left to the government. "It is the responsibility of the government to ensure electricity reach to each household", he said.

### We are A UT until Parliament gives us back Statehood: CM Omar Abdullah

mentioned 'Union Territory' as well. "All members took oath under the Union Territory and contested elections under it, he added.

Abdullah stressed that his government has been vigorously fighting for the restoration of statehood.

"We passed a resolution in the first cabinet meeting. We submitted it to the Prime Minister. I raised it with him during the Sonamarg function. Whenever I go to Delhi, I bring it up, that the people of J&K do not like the Union Territory status and want the restoration of statehood," he said.

The first bill of the Budget session by the National Conference-led government was introduced by Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Saturday on behalf of Abdullah, who also oversees the finance ministry.

During the discussion, Lone took exception to the use of the words 'Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir' and said it signifies the endorsement of Jammu and Kashmir's status by the house. "I will not be a partner in this," he said as he walked out.

### J&K Police recover and return Air Force veteran's lost bag in Gulmarg

Police said Group Captain Ajit

Singh (Retired) of the Indian Air Force, a resident of Mohali, Punjab, who was on a tour with his family in Gulmarg, misplaced his bag containing Rs 37,000 in cash and other documents on Monday.

"Upon realizing the loss, the family immediately approached Police Station Gulmarg for assistance," police said.

"Acting swiftly, Baramulla Police initiated a prompt search operation with dedicated efforts, lost bag was located and safely handed over to Gp Capt and his family," police said.

The family expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the officials for their quick and efficient response.

### ACB raids revenue official's residence in North Kashmir

related to land records and financial transactions.

"The raid was part of an ongoing investigation into corruption allegations against the patwari. We have recovered some crucial documents, and further scrutiny is underway," an ACB official said.

### Over 8,800 schools

### in JK lack clean drinking water, 12,600 without functional toilets: Government

have appointed safaiwalas, and 92 schools lack even a single cook under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme

Regarding the appointment and welfare of cooks working under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, the government clarified that Cook-cum-Helpers are engaged on an honorarium basis as per the guidelines of the centrally sponsored scheme under the Ministry of Education. The scheme follows a 90:10 cost-sharing pattern between the Centre and the Union Territory administration. However, since these engagements are temporary in nature, there is no policy for their regularization

Addressing concerns about private school fee regulations, the government stated that a Fee Fixation and Regulation Committee (FFRC) was constituted in 2013 under the chairmanship of a retired judge of the J&K High Court. This committee has the

statutory authority to fix, regulate, and approve the fee structure of private schools to prevent arbitrary hikes and ensure transparency.

The government assured that efforts are being made to improve school infrastructure and ensure that both government and private educational institutions operate with greater transparency and accountability. However, the large number of schools still lacking essential facilities remains a major concern for policymakers and education stakeholders in the region.

### Shrine Board gears up to facilitate Mata Vaishno Devi Pilgrims in Navratras

paid the obeisance.

The shrine is expected to witness heavy rush of pilgrims from the first week of April when the examinations across the country will be over.

In 2024, a record number of 94.83 lakh devotees visited the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi nestled in the Trikuta Hills of Katra town in Reasi district of

### Jammu and Kashmir. Rain, thunderstorms likely in J&K over next 3 days

continue into the first three days of April.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir continues to witness above-normal temperatures, with both day and night temperatures rising across the region.

MeT said the maximum day temperature remained 2-8°C above normal in many parts.

Similarly, minimum night temperatures were also 3-5°C above normal in Kashmir and 0-4°C above normal in Jammu.

The ski resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district recorded a night temperature of 3.6°C.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 9.8°C, which is 4.4°C above normal, while Qazigund in south Kashmir's Kulgam district saw 7.2°C, 3.3°C above normal.

Pahalgam, a popular tourist destination, registered 5.8°C, marking a 5°C rise above normal. Kupwara recorded 6.5°C, 2.9°C above normal.

## Rajesh Kesri slams Pakistan for sponsoring terrorists in J&K

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 25: Shiv Sena Hindustan, under the leadership of Jammu and Kashmir President Pandit Rajesh Kesri, held a press conference to protest against Pakistani-backed terrorists entering Kathua. Addressing media persons in Jammu, Kesri condemned the presence of Pakistani terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir and praised the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and NSG commandos for their joint operation to eliminate terrorists.

Kesri said that Pakistan cannot fight

directly, so it infiltrates terrorists into India. He warned that the people of Jammu region will not support terrorists and will instead help eliminate them.

He demanded that the government conduct a powerful surgical strike against Pakistan to teach them a lesson and ensure that people living near the border can sleep peacefully at night.

Political parties have been vocal in condemning Pakistan's role in sponsoring terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

They accuse Pakistan of harboring and supporting terrorist groups



that operate in the region, causing harm to innocent civilians and undermining peace and stability.

Kesri criticizing Pakistan's actions said that it is now an established fact that Pakistan support of terrorism as a means to destabilize the region and advance its

own interests.

The international community has also taken notice, with several countries expressing concerns over Pakistan's links to terrorist organizations. The issue has become increasingly politicized, with various parties in India and elsewhere calling for

stronger action against Pakistan. Some have demanded economic sanctions, while others have advocated for diplomatic isolation.

Kesri further said that despite these criticisms, Pakistan has continued to deny any involvement in sponsoring terrorism, claiming that it is itself a victim of terrorism. However, the evidence suggests otherwise, and the international community remains skeptical of Pakistan's claims.

The press conference was attended by State Vice President Balveer Kumar, Border President Sanjeev Sharma, Raj Kumar and others.

## GDC Paloura observes Shaheed Diwas



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 25: Department of History in collaboration with NCC Unit of GDC Paloura observed Shaheed Diwas.

The purpose of the programme was to remember and honour the brave souls who sacrificed their lives for India's freedom, particularly Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru. Rajbir Singh and

Harsh Bhardwaj students of Semester 6th department of History welcomed the gathering and provided information about the programme. The programme started with floral tributes to the martyrs followed by a documentary featuring discussion on the lives of above martyrs. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Vishal Magotra advised the students to uphold

the values of courage, patriotism and sacrifice in their lives. At the end of the programme Harsh Bhardwaj presented a melodious song on the occasion. The whole programme was organised by Prof. Vishal Magotra, HoD Department of History, Prof. (Lt.) Arun Sharma, ANO under the supervision on the occasion Prof. Vishal Magotra advised the students to uphold

## Krishi Sakhis sensitized regarding Natural Farming at KVK Poonch

### Top News Report

POONCH, Mar 25: As a part of the project National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF), KVK Poonch working under the aegis of Directorate of Extension, SKUAST-Jammu concluded its five days training programme on Natural Farming for Krishi Sakhis at KVK campus.

The training programme was conducted as per the guidelines of the project and under the guidance of Vice Chancellor, Dr. B. N. Tripathi, and Director Extension, Dr. Amrisha Vaid, SKUAST-Jammu.

At the threshold of valedictory function, Chief Scientist & Head KVK Poonch, Dr. Ajay Gupta congratulated Krishi sakhis of district



Poonch for attending and completing 05 days Natural Farming training programme.

Natural Farming is a dream project of GOI initiated during 2024-25 with aim of rejuvenating the soil health, ecological and agricultural sustainability, he elaborated.

Natural Farming is a community based approach for address-

ing the ramifications and correcting the ill effects of chemical fertilizers and as such he stressed on the participants to carry forward the true message of Natural Farming in their villages, panchayats and blocks etc.

He emphasized on Krishi sakhis to inspire the fellow contemporaries in their villages and vicinities regarding

the Natural Farming. During the 05 days training programme lectures on different aspects of Natural farming such as components and principles of Natural Farming, disease and pest management, orchard management and role of krishi sakhis in fostering Natural Farming etc. were delivered by resource persons of KVK and agriculture

department.

Hands on training on preparation of jeevamrit, beejamrit, gunjeevamrit and derekastra was also imparted to trainees during 05 days period.

The participating Krishi Sakhis/Community Resource Persons (CRPs) thanked the KVK officials in ensuring such type of training programmes that are beneficial both from environmental perspective and agricultural sustainability.

A total of 12 Krishi Sakhis from six clusters were trained during the five days duration w.e.f 20-25 March, 2025. At the end of the training programme, Training Module and Certificates were distributed among the participants.

## GGs College of Management and Technology, IIU Bathu sign MoU to foster academic collaboration

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 25: GGS College of Management and Technology has entered into a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indus International University (IIU), Bathu, Himachal Pradesh, to foster academic collaboration and drive educational excellence.

This strategic partnership is set to ignite innovation, facilitate knowledge exchange, and cultivate transformative learning experiences.

Principal Dr. R.K. Uppal lauded the collaboration as a pivotal milestone, underscoring its potential to unlock unparalleled academic growth and institutional progress opportunities.

The MoU encompasses a comprehensive range of joint initiatives, including collaborative research publications, knowledge-sharing seminars, international conferences, and specialized workshops.

Additionally, the partnership will promote global academic alliances, support student development programs, offer consultancy services, implement faculty development initiatives,



enhance skill-building activities, and reinforce industry-academia linkages.

Dr. Sanjay Behal, Vice-Chancellor of Indus International University, expressed his admiration for the esteemed academic reputation of GGS College of Management and Technology.

He articulated his confidence in the collaboration's capacity to drive institutional growth, fuel innovation, and elevate

the academic and research landscape.

Both institutions are dedicated to harnessing their collective expertise and resources to achieve academic distinction and contribute significantly to research advancements.

This collaboration stands as a testament to their commitment to enriching the broader educational ecosystem and inspiring future generations of scholars and professionals.

## DC Kulgam, AGM NABARD release PLP document

### Top News Report

KULGAM, Mar 25: NABARD has envisaged a potential of Rs 1660 crore in Kulgam district for the year 2025-26 which can be tapped by banks, financial institutions and development departments in the district.

This was revealed at a district level consultative committee meeting held under the chairmanship of DC Kulgam, Athar Amir.

The meeting was attended by, Joint Director Planning, AGM NABARD, AGM RBI, LDM, district officers from various departments and banks in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner launched the Potential-linked Credit Plan (PLP) prepared by NABARD for the ensuing year.

The PLP would form the basis for the preparation of annual District Credit plan for upcoming year, DDM NABARD Rof Zargar said. The PLP is being prepared based on the policies of the Central and State Government and reflected the national priorities of the Government of India to scale up lending to various sectors of the economy, he stated.

Giving details, AGM NABARD, Rof Zargar said that NABARD has envisaged a total credit potential of Rs 1660.03 crore for the district for the year 2025-26 under priority sectors.

Among the highlights of the sector-wise credit plan, the total potential for agriculture, including agriculture infrastructure and allied activities.

## Motivational lecture on "Fitness Awareness" organized in GDC Ramkote

### Top News Report

RAMKOTE, Mar 25: Govt. Degree College Ramkote organized a motivational lecture on "Fitness Awareness" on March 25, 2025, under the campaign "Fit India Initiative".

The event was organized by Prof. Vasundra Rajee, HOD Sociology under the able guidance of Prof. Ramneek kaur, Principal of the college. Dr. Shakeeb Manzer, faculty member at GDC, Ramkote delivered an insightful and motivational lecture on the theme "Fitness Awareness".

The event aimed to inspire students to embrace fitness not only as a physical goal but as

### Top News Report

BISHNAH, Mar 25: The Department of Environmental Sciences at Govt. Degree College (GDC) Bishnah organized an Awareness Program on the Importance of Waste Segregation followed by a cleanliness drive within the college campus. The initiative aimed to educate students on responsible waste disposal practices and encourage active participation in maintaining a clean and sustainable environment.

During the awareness session, students were

informed about the significance of segregating waste into dry and wet categories at the point of generation.

They learned how proper segregation not only eases waste management but also helps in recycling, reduces landfill waste, and minimizes environmental pollution.

The session emphasized the role of individuals in adopting sustainable waste disposal habits and contributing to a greener future.

Following the session, students from the Department of Environmental Sciences actively

participated in a Cleanliness Drive within the college campus. They enthusiastically cleaned various areas, promoting the importance of hygiene and environmental responsibility. Their efforts reflected a strong commitment to fostering a cleaner and healthier learning environment.

The event was conducted under the guidance of the Principal, Dr. Shalla Samyal, and with the dedicated support of faculty members Dr. Kusum, Dr. Vimpal Khajuria, Pallavi Bansal, Tina Gupta, Diksha and Dr. Anshul.



## IPL 2025: Kolkata Knight Riders, Rajasthan Royals eye batting, bowling overhaul to bounce back

GUWAHATI, Mar 25 (Agencies): Outmuscled in their previous matches, title-holders Kolkata Knight Riders and Rajasthan Royals will eye a quick course correction in every aspect when they face each other in an IPL match here on Wednesday.

The Knight Riders were beaten by seven wickets by Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the tournament-opener while the Royals were given a 44-run drubbing by Sunrisers Hyderabad.

The common theme in those defeats was how the seemingly powerful batting and bowling units of KKR and RR failed to fire.

While the Rajasthan outfit might offer the excuse of playing on a Hyderabad shirtfront for the malfunction of their bowling unit, the Kolkata side do not have any such cover.

Apart from Sunil Narine, none of the KKR bowlers were able to contain free-flowing RCB batters, and in that the demystification of mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy might just worry them a bit.



Even on an Eden Gardens pitch that had some grip, Chakravarthy was given a towelling by Phil Salt and Virat Kohli.

The KKR camp now hopes that the spinner will find his stride on a Guwahati pitch that generally has some bite.

They will also keep an eye on the fitness of Anrich Nortje, who is recovering from a back strain. If the South African gets a green signal from the physios, then he will walk in for Spencer Johnson.

Similarly, KKR's middle-order batting crumbled spectacularly after skipper Ajinkya Rahane and Narine gave them a blistering start, eventually settling for a sub-par score.

Their batting pivots such as Venkatesh Iyer and Andre Russell got out, playing pre-determined cross-batted shots, and KKR will hope that they will show more game awareness in Guwahati.

The Knight Riders will also hope that Rinku Singh regains his hitting prowess down the

order. It is crucial in converting a good total into something more intimidating in nature.

His recent T20 form is not that encouraging and in his last five international outings, Rinku has logged scores of 11, 9, 8, 30, 9 along with a 12 in the IPL opener.

Rinku and his top-order colleagues in KKR will hope that the Rajasthan bowlers would once again struggle to find their groove here.

The likes of Jofra Archer, who bowled the most expensive spell in the history of IPL against SRH, Fazalhaq Farooqi and Maheesh Theekshana were rudderless against the onslaught of Travis Head and Ishan Kishan. Archer had leaked 76 runs from his overs at the Uppal.

But they have an opportunity in Guwahati to regain their form.

It will also be a blot on stand-in skipper Riyan Parag who, at times, looked perplexed on the field about the decisions to be made.

The Rahul Dravid-coached side will eye sharper and more intuitive leadership from Parag against KKR.

## Ashutosh Sharma's heroics give Delhi Capitals one-wicket win over LSG in IPL thriller



VISAKHAPATNAM, Mar 25 (Agencies): Ashutosh Sharma's late heroics earned Delhi Capitals a thrilling one-wicket win against Lucknow Super Giants in their Indian Premier League season opener here on Monday.

Chasing 210, Delhi Capitals slipped to 7/3 in the second over and limped to 116 for six after 13 overs, but Ashutosh's stunning knock — 66 off 31 balls with five sixes and as many fours — delivered his side a sensational win from the jaws of defeat.

Even as wickets fell regularly towards the end, Ashutosh kept his composure and executed stunning bottom-handed strokes to finish the job for his side and give Delhi Capitals a stunning start to their season.

In a contest where fortunes swung from one side to another, DC emerged on top riding on the calm and composed knock from Ashutosh, who hit the winning runs as DC made 211/9 in 19.3 overs.

There was a late twist in the tale — with six runs needed off the final over and one wicket left, LSG skipper Rishabh Pant missed a stumping on the first ball from Shahbaz Ahmed which would have given his side the win but it wasn't meant to be.

LSG, who put on a below-par total on a placid surface here after scoring 209/8, made early inroads to shock Delhi's chase.

A recovery looked largely difficult as Delhi Capitals largely appeared more in damage-control mode than to make a real crack at the target.

However, the pair of debutant Vipraj Nigam (39 off 15 balls, 5x4s, 2x6s) and Ashutosh threatened to turn the tables on LSG with their 55-run stand-off only 22 balls for the seventh wicket, but the second strategic break ended their resistance right upon resumption.

Nigam fell to Digvesh Rathi (2/30) and Ravi Bishnoi (2/53) dismissed Mitchell Starc for a second wicket in quick succession as LSG tightened the screws on a faltering Delhi Capitals.

## Australia fast bowler Darcie Brown set to miss third T20 against New Zealand-W due to family reasons

WELLINGTON, Mar 25 (Agencies): Australia fast bowler Darcie Brown will be absent from the third and final T20I versus New Zealand in Wellington after returning home for family matters, as per the ICC website.

Brown performed excellently in the initial two matches of the series, taking 1 for 22 from four overs in Auckland and 2 for 23 from four in Mount Maunganui. This helped Australia secure a 2-0 series lead with one game left to play.

Experienced fast bowler Megan Schutt did not participate in the second match of the series on Sunday and is expected to be a probable substitute for Brown, while all-rounder Charli Knott might also be in the running for her international debut.

Knott was added to the squad ahead of the second match after star



all-rounder Ash Gardner was sidelined for the series due to a finger injury. Brown has taken three wickets from the first two matches of the series, with her teammate Annabel Sutherland being the only bowler to have taken more wickets than she has. In the previous encounter between New Zealand-W and Australia-W, Aus-W won by 29 runs. The 3rd T20I fixture of New Zealand Women Vs Australia Women will be played on Wednesday, March 26 at Sky Stadium in Wellington.

squad: Tahlia McGrath (c), Ashleigh Gardner (vc), Darcie Brown, Nicole Faltum, Kim Garth, Grace Harris, Alana King, Charli Knott, Phoebe Litchfield, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham. New Zealand Women Squad: Suzie Bates(c), Georgia Plimmer, Amelia Kerr, Brooke Halliday, Maddy Green, Isabella Gaze(w), Leigh Kasparek, Jess Kerr, Lea Tahuu, Molly Penfold, Fran Jonas, Sophie Devine, Hannah Rowe, Rosemary Mair, Eden Carson.

## "Boss, it will be the biggest match": Navjot Singh Sidhu on CSK vs RCB clash

NEW DELHI, Mar 25 (Agencies): Former Indian cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu has spoken about the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) rivalry, he has called the clash the biggest event in this one or two weeks, Navjot Singh Sidhu Jio Star expert told media.

CSK will play its second match of the Indian Premier League 2025 campaign against RCB at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on March 28. Ahead of the clash, Sidhu said both the teams are a centrifugal force and has called Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni as institutions. He said these players will be remembered for generations.

"Boss, it will be the biggest match in this one or two weeks. Why? Because you see the centrifugal force of the two teams, our institutions, people call them



icons, I call them institutions, men in flesh and blood will come and go. But Virat Kohli's name will stay for generations, and Dhoni's name will stay for generations. Why? For stamping his supremacy throughout the world over a period of time with longevity and adapting to all formats, the attitude of a lion, right? And someone with his charisma and magnetism has eclipsed across the globe". Navjot Singh Sidhu Jio Star expert told the media. Sidhu compared Kohli

with Manzoor Ali Khan Pataudi and said when he used to come to the stadium in Hyderabad for the match, the stadium would fill up. If he got out, all the fans would depart. After years, that lineage, that legacy has been fulfilled by Virat Kohli, he admired the craze Kohli has across the country. Sidhu also quoted MS Dhoni as the best captain India has ever produced, and said both these players Kohli and Dhoni's name will live on for ages. "Across the globe, he is a great role model.

The kids in the street want to be Virat Kohli's boss. That's the kind of impact. I heard once that Manzoor Ali Khan Pataudi when he actually would come into the stadium in Hyderabad for the match, the stadium would fill up. If he got out, they would depart. After years, that lineage, that legacy has been fulfilled by Virat Kohli. Who could fill it? I mean, not even a one-day international does that. The man walks in and it is packed for a Ranji trophy match. The other man is Dhoni. Another institution. So I do not call them icons. I call them institutions. A human being can be born from the womb of the mother. But he is a man of the age. There are no mothers who give birth to a man of the age. A man of this age is the one whose name lives on for ages. Understand? So somewhere down the line, if you

look at Dhoni, the best captain that India has ever produced by miles. One, you won the T20 World Cup. One, you won the World Cup by 50 overs. One, you won the Champions Trophy," he added.

CSK will take RCB on March 28 Friday at their home ground, RCB showcased an impressive display in their initial match of the season, achieving a decisive victory over the Kolkata Knight Riders. At the same time, CSK commenced their season on a solid footing by overcoming the Mumbai Indians on their home ground.

The previous encounter between these two squads occurred during an important league-stage game in IPL 2024, where RCB claimed victory by 27 runs, ultimately extinguishing CSK's playoff aspirations in a thrilling twist of fate.

## KIPG 2025 spotlight: Meet the Unhalkars! Swaroop and Romy aspire for Paralympics glory

NEW DELHI, Mar 25 (Agencies): Love has the power to lift one's performance. With husband Hunter Woodhall cheering from the stands, Tara Davis clinched the long jump gold at the Summer Olympics in Paris. One month later, Tara's performance acted as an inspiration for Hunter as he pocketed the gold medal in the T62 400m race in the Paralympics. Similarly, the story of Swaroop and Romy Unhalkar offers a heartwarming glimpse into how love and sports can intertwine to create something truly extraordinary.

Paris Paralympics 2024 were replete with such power couples, whose determination, mutual support and resilience motivated a young generation to keep dreaming of achieving excellence in their discipline. Swaroop, a two-time Paralympian in shooting, won gold in the R1 - Men's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 in the ongoing Khelo India Para Games here at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range. Romy participated in the R2 - Air Rifle Standing Women SH1 event, finishing fourth in qualifying, and eighth in her event, as per a SAI Media press release.

The couple met through a common friend from Kolhapur in Pune around 2021-2022. What began as a professional relationship soon blossomed into something more meaningful. Following their marriage, Romy herself took up shooting, and for the past three years, they have travelled together, participating in competitions and bringing home medals as a team.

Swaroop, who was diagnosed with polio as a toddler, faced an uphill task initially. The shooting range was far away from his home



and his family's finances did not allow him to have his own weapon and a kit.

Swaroop started participating in tournaments with a 10-year-old rifle presented by his coach from 2012 and success soon followed as he became the first shooter from Maharashtra to win medals at national and qualify for international meets.

The turning point came when Swaroop Unhalkar began competing internationally and was honoured with Maharashtra's prestigious Chhatrapati Award, the state's highest sports recognition.

"After that, everyone's perspective changed. Today, my family and those who know me in society say, 'We don't want anything else, just keep playing,'" Swaroop told SAI Media.

When Swaroop began his journey in 2008, the ecosystem for para-athletes in India was far from supportive. Society largely viewed para sports merely as a form of entertainment rather than a serious profession. "It took a long time for people's mindset to change, to

accept that we could pursue this as a career and progress in it," he shared.

Romy Unhalkar also speaks of her husband with immense pride, "He is very patient and makes all decisions calmly through ups and downs, which I find very inspiring. I am very proud to support him in his journey. I consider myself lucky and happy to do this."

Their dedication has paid dividends. Swaroop also participated in the Mixed 10m Air Rifle Prone SH2, where he finished eighth. On Monday, Swaroop qualified in the R6 - 50m Rifle Prone Mixed SH1, where he finished fifth.

Meanwhile, Romy also aspires to become a Paralympian like her husband. This dream will edge closer to reality when the two fly to Changwon, South Korea, for the 2025 WSPS World Cup, in what will be their first international tournament together.

Speaking about the Khelo India Para Games, Swaroop said, "This is a well-designed program that provides a good platform for para-athletes. I won gold in the first edition, and again in this one, which makes me very happy. Getting a medal on such a good platform provides great exposure for para-athletes."

Romy added to this by saying, "This is a good platform. We're getting national-level exposure, which is increasing the number of participants. Definitely, in future, more and more participants will increase in shooting."

The message from the awesome twosome is clear and powerful: "Follow whatever interests you. We are getting maximum opportunities now. There's no need to maintain a negative mentality."

## Uncapped New Zealand duo earn call-ups in Latham-led squad for Pakistan ODIs



WELLINGTON, Mar 25 (Agencies): Uncapped top-order batter Nick Kelly and left-arm pacer Muhammad Abbas earned their maiden national side call-ups for Tom Latham led-New Zealand's ODI series against Pakistan at home starting from March 29 onwards.

Having gained an unassailable lead in the ongoing five-T20I series against Pakistan, the hosts have named their squad for the upcoming ODIs.

Latham will take over as skipper in the upcoming three-match ODI series against Pakistan, with white-ball skipper Mitchell Santner missing out.

While eight of the 13 players named in the squad featured in New Zealand's ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 squad, multiple fresh faces also earned call-ups for the home side.

Top-order batter Kelly and left-arm pacer Abbas, both of whom play for Wellington Firebirds in New Zealand's first-class circuit, have earned their maiden call-ups to the national side, as per ICC.

Rachin Ravindra, Devon Conway, Glenn Phillips and Santner all missed out, given their IPL commitments, while veteran Kane Williamson was unavailable for selection.

Will Young, who forged a century in the opening game of the Champions Trophy against Pakistan, will join Kelly at the top of the order while Daryl Mitchell, Michael Bracewell and Nathan Smith will form the middle order.

In the bowling department, Will O'Rourke, Jacob Duffy, Nathan Smith and Ben Sears will feature in a four-prong pace attack with both Matt Henry and Kyle Jamieson missing out.

Henry is undergoing rehabilitation from a right shoulder injury, which led to him missing out on featuring in the Champions Trophy Final earlier this month.

Jamieson, meanwhile, has been rested with the selectors managing his workload.

In the spin department, all-rounder Bracewell will be joined by 22-year-old Auckland Aces leg spinner Adi Ashok, who has received his second call-up to the ODI squad, having made his debut against Bangladesh in 2023.

New Zealand will play the first ODI against Pakistan on Saturday, 29 March in Napier.

New Zealand squad: Tom Latham (c), Muhammad Abbas, Adi Ashok, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Jacob Duffy, Mitch Hay, Nick Kelly, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Ben Sears, Nathan Smith, Will Young

Series schedule:  
1st ODI: March 29, McLean Park, Napier  
2nd ODI: April 2, McLean Park, Napier  
3rd ODI: April 5, Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui.

## 'CM Omar Abdullah leading J&K towards prosperity' Babu Rampaul hails budget announcements, terms it people-centric

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 25: Former Minister and JKNC Zonal President (Central Zone) of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), has lauded Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's recent budgetary announcements during the J&K Assembly's Budget Session.

Speaking during a meeting of JKNC Central Zone leaders, Rampaul highlighted the allocation of funds dedicated to the restoration of heritage sites across Jammu and Kashmir, with particular emphasis on the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex in Jammu. This initiative underscores the government's commitment to preserving the region's rich cultural heritage.

Additionally, the Chief Minister announced an increase in the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from Rs 3 crore to Rs 4 crore per



annum. This enhancement aims to empower legislators to undertake more substantial developmental projects within their constituencies.

Furthermore, the budget includes an extension of the amnesty scheme for domestic consumers of the Power Development Department (PDD) for another year. Under this scheme, consumers who avail themselves of the amnesty will have their interest waived, with provisions to settle the principal amount along with monthly rent.

This move is expected to provide significant relief to domestic electricity consumers facing financial challenges.

Highlighting the importance of pilgrim tourism especially in Jammu, the former minister lauded the Chief Minister's vision to promote religious destinations across Jammu and Kashmir. Developing pilgrim tourism would not only boost the local economy but also enhance the state's reputation as a spiritual and cultural hub, he said, urging all stakeholders

to work collectively in strengthening tourism infrastructure, which in turn would generate employment opportunities and contribute to economic growth.

He also welcomed the assurance given by the Chief Minister regarding the equitable release of advertisements to newspapers, saying that fair distribution of government advertisements is imperative for the healthy growth of the fourth estate in Jammu and Kashmir. A balanced and impartial media environment,

he said, is crucial for upholding democracy and ensuring that public concerns are effectively highlighted.

Rampaul expressed his appreciation for these measures, stating that they reflect the government's dedication to cultural preservation, infrastructural development, and public welfare. He believes these initiatives will have a positive impact on the socio-economic landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

He also reiterated demand for restoration of statehood to J&K and urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to fulfil his promise with the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Ex-MLA Qazi Jalal-Ud-Din, Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC Ankush Abrol, Coordinator Jammu District and Zonal Secretary Dr Vikas Sharma, BD Dalotra (Retd SP), Baldeev Raj, Adv Lovesh Bharat and others.

## SMVDU organizes Plantation Drive on Martyrs' Day

### Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 25: Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan Cell of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) organized a Plantation Drive on Martyrs' Day to honour the brave souls who sacrificed their lives for the nation. The event aimed to promote environmental sustainability while paying tribute to the martyrs Saheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev for their extreme sacrifices for the motherland. The event included various activities, including a speech on Martyr's Day, a video clip on the life of Saheed-e-azam Bhagat Singh, a Quiz Competition, and a photography contest.

The drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members, students, and staff, who planted various indigenous tree species within the university campus.

The initiative aligns with the objectives of Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan, which focuses on rural



development and community engagement through sustainable practices.

The plantation drive also served as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the martyrs and the responsibility of citizens to uphold their legacy through constructive actions.

Faculty members, Dr. Bharat Bhushan Jindal, Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, and Dr. Sunny Kumar Sharma participated

actively in the event, along with student volunteers Anurag, Ravish, Utkarsh, Kamaljeet, Anshika, Mrinal, Krishav, Rathik, and Sourav. SMVDU remains committed to fostering environmental consciousness among students and the local community.

The university will continue to organize similar initiatives to encourage sustainable development and active participation in nation-building efforts.

## ZEO Vijaypur takes swift action on General Line Teachers' Forum demands



### Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Mar 25: A significant meeting of the General Line Teachers' Forum (GLTF), presided over by Neeraj Sharma, resulted in immediate and positive outcomes as Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Vijaypur, Surinder Kumar Balgotra, addressed the forum's key demands with remarkable promptness.

The meeting was marked by a warm welcome for the ZEO, who was honoured with a bouquet and garland. His proactive leadership style and rapid decision-making were praised by all attendees.

The forum raised concerns regarding the urgent need to frame Result Confirmation Committees for government and private schools for the academic session 2024-25.

The GLTF emphasized the importance of clearing all pending arrears of both teaching and non-teaching employees under the ZEO's jurisdiction.

The forum urged the

prompt issuance of textbooks to all schools, ensuring students face no interruptions in their academic journey.

Acknowledging the crucial role of Mid-Day Meal in-charges, the forum demanded the immediate clearance of their pending arrears.

In an impressive display of efficiency, ZEO Balgotra issued on-the-spot instructions to address each of the forum's concerns. His swift action and commitment to resolving issues won the applause of the teaching fraternity.

"His prompt response and decisive action reflect his dedication to the teaching community's welfare and the betterment of the education system," said Neeraj Sharma, President of GLTF.

ZEO Balgotra, a seasoned educator with 36 years of experience, is recognized for his exemplary work as Headmaster of Tarore, where he led infrastructure upgrades, boundary wall construction, and welfare initia-

tives. His leadership at Vijaypur is anticipated to bring a wave of positive changes in the education sector.

The ZEO commended Neeraj Sharma for his tireless efforts in advocating for the teaching and non-teaching community's welfare, fostering a collaborative and solution-oriented environment.

The meeting concluded with a renewed sense of hope and mutual trust between the ZEO office and the teaching community. Both parties expressed their commitment to creating a more efficient, transparent, and student-focused educational environment.

Prominent GLTF members in attendance included Digvijay Singh (Vice President), Ramneesh Khajuria (Secretary), Sanjeev Rakwal (District Secretary, Jammu), Waseem Choudhary (Zonal President, Dansal), Amit Dabgotra (District President, Jammu), Both Raj, Anil Sharma, Ashwani, Ram Sharma, Sonu Sharma, and others.

## Langar is symbol of service to humanity: Balbir

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 25: Langar is not just a tradition; it is a true symbol of service to humanity.

This free community meal service spreads the message of brotherhood, equality, and compassion in society.

Balbir Ram Rattan, the National General Secretary of Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth, General Secretary of the Indian branch of the British Ravidassia Heritage Foundation, and a member of Begampura Vishwa Mahasabha,

said this during a langar distribution event.

This langar has been organized for several days by a prominent social worker, Prem Gupta, and hundreds of people receive langar prasad every afternoon.

Balbir Ram stated that this sacred tradition, which started in gurdwaras, has now become a global movement beyond religion, caste, and borders, dedicated to fighting hunger and helping the needy. He emphasized that the primary purpose of langar is to provide food to

those in need and promote equality in society.

This service ensures that no one, regardless of their religion, caste, gender, or social status, goes hungry.

The food served in langar is entirely vegetarian and the spirit of everyone can take in it without any religious or cultural restrictions.

"The concept of langar was established by Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism.

By starting this service, he conveyed the message that all are equal in the eyes of

God and that everyone should receive food with love and respect, without any discrimination," said Balbir.

He further added that langar is not just a means of providing food; it also fosters inclusivity and the spirit of service in society. It teaches us that true humanity lies in helping each other.

On this occasion, Prem Gupta stated that Langar services are now being organized in disaster-stricken areas, hospitals, railway stations, and various public places. During pandem-

ics and natural disasters, langar services have provided relief to millions. Various organizations and volunteers are participating in this service, expanding its reach further.

Prem Gupta emphasized that this service promotes generosity and kindness in society, inspiring people to help one another. He stated that langar is not just a tradition but an exemplary form of humanitarian service that, if adopted, can make the world a better place.

## GDC Akhnoor organizes Seminar, Mushaira

### Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Mar 25: The Department of Punjabi and the Department of Dogri under the aegis of Prof. (Dr.) Romilla Malla Bhat, Principal of GDC Akhnoor organized Seminar/Mushaira in collaboration with the Cultural Academy Jammu, celebrating the richness of Punjabi literature and Dogri Literature.

The eminent persons who spoke on the occasion

were Jang Singh Varman Senior Journalist, Popinder Singh Paras Editor Sheeraza (Punjabi) Suraj Prakash Rattan Punjabi poets and Dr Monika Malhotra, Dr Anju Bala, Prof. Gopal Singh and Prof. Jagmohan Singh also throw light on the occasion.

All the writers shared their literary works and insights. This was a unique opportunity for faculty members, students, and literature enthusiasts to engage

with Punjabi and Dogri language and culture.

The Department of Punjabi and the Department of Dogri are committed to promote and preserve the linguistic and cultural heritage of Punjab and Jammu regions.

The Cultural Academy Jammu is a premier institution dedicated for promoting and preserving the cultural heritage of Jammu region.



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