

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

**Yash to shoot for Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups**



NATIONAL | 7

**Lok Sabha being run in 'undemocratic' manner: Rahul Gandhi**

INTERNATIONAL | 8

**Trump says Soros may be behind funding attacks on Tesla in US**



e-paper: [www.topnewsjk.in](http://www.topnewsjk.in)

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-12 Issue-83 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

### MeT predicts moderate rain, Snow in J&K

SRINAGAR, Mar 26 (Agencies): A two-day spell of moderate rain and snow is forecast in Jammu and Kashmir from Wednesday, with the local Meteorological Department (MeT) issuing a yellow alert until March 27 at multiple locations.

Light to moderate rain and snow are expected during this period, while some areas experienced light rainfall this afternoon.

The MeT has issued a yellow alert for March 26 and 27 across several places in Jammu and Kashmir.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said that a spell of light to moderate rain and snow (in higher reaches) is expected at many locations, mainly in North and Central Kashmir, from the late afternoon of March 26 until the night, and again from the late afternoon of March 27 until the night, followed by gradual improvement.

He added that the weather is expected to remain generally dry from March 28 to April 3.

However, the MeT advisory has urged travellers, tourists, and transporters to plan accordingly and adhere to administration and traffic advisories. Farmers have also been advised to suspend farm operations on March 26 and 27.

"There is a possibility of thunderstorms with gusty winds at a few places during March 26-27," the advisory reads.

### Motorcyclist dies after being hit by vehicle in Nowgam

SRINAGAR, Mar 26 (Agencies): A motorcyclist lost his life in a road accident at Nowgam area of Srinagar on Tuesday evening.

An official told that a man hailing from south Kashmir's Kulgam was critically injured after being hit by a vehicle in Taingam Nowgam.

He said that he was immediately rushed to Ujala Cygnus Hospital for treatment. However, he succumbed to his injuries.

He was identified as Salman Ahmad Malik, son of Mohammad Iqbal Malik.

Meanwhile, cognizance of the incident has been taken while an investigation has been initiated in this regard.

## ATM cash withdrawals to get costlier from May 1

NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (Agencies): Come May 1, withdrawing cash from ATMs will become costlier, as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised ATM interchange fees. This means customers who rely on ATMs for financial transactions will have to pay additional charges once they exceed their free transaction limit.

Customers will have to pay an additional Rs 2 for each financial transaction beyond the free limit. Currently, a bank user in a metro area can make five free transactions on other banks' ATMs each month, whereas in a non-metro area, the number of free transactions is limited to three.

For non-financial transactions, such as balance inquiries, the fee will increase by Re 1. As a result, withdrawing cash from an ATM will cost Rs 19 per transaction, up from the current Rs 17. Checking account balances will now cost Rs 7 per transaction, according to the official notification.



An ATM interchange fee is a charge that one bank pays to another for providing ATM services. This fee, usually a fixed amount per transaction, is often passed on to customers as part of their banking costs.

The RBI decided to revise these charges following requests from white-label ATM operators, who argued that rising operational expenses were affecting their business.

The increase in charges will apply nationwide and is expected to impact customers, particularly those from smaller banks. These banks rely on larger financial institutions for ATM infrastructure and

related services, making them more vulnerable to rising costs.

Key changes

Rs 2 extra on financial transactions beyond free limit

Rs 19 per transaction for cash withdrawals (up from Rs 17 currently)

Rs 1 increase for non-financial transactions like balance checks

Fee hikes apply nationwide, especially affecting customers of smaller banks

Push towards more digital payments likely as cash withdrawals get pricier

The decision to revise interchange fees was communicated to banks and other stakeholders by the National Pay-

ments Corporation of India (NPCI) following a request from the white-label ATM operators who had been struggling financially to operate under the current price structure.

ATMs, once seen as a revolutionary banking service, have been struggling in India due to the rise of digital payments.

The convenience of online wallets and UPI transactions has significantly reduced the need for cash withdrawals.

As per government data, digital payments in India were valued at Rs 952 lakh crore in FY14. By FY23, this figure had jumped to Rs 3,658 lakh crore, reflecting a massive shift towards cashless transactions.

With this new fee hike, customers who still rely on cash transactions may feel the burden, further pushing them towards digital alternatives.

What is an ATM interchange fee?

When a customer of one bank uses an ATM

Turn to page 9

## Kathua Encounter: Multi-Tier Operation launched, Suspects questioned



JAMMU, Mar 26 (Agencies): A massive multi-tier combing operation to track down a group of infiltrating terrorists continued for the fourth consecutive day on Wednesday in forested areas of Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district.

A local woman informed the police on Tuesday that two men in army uniform asked her for water while they were having food in the Ding Amb belt of the district, prompting the area to be cordoned off.

"They took water and headed towards the nearby forest area," Darshana Devi said.

Security has been intensified along the Jammu-Patankot National Highway in the Samba-Kathua section, with increased vigilance on border roads, officials said.

The search operation is concurrently underway in multiple areas from Sanyal to Ding Amb and beyond, covering several kilometers.

The operation involving the army, NSG, BSF, police, Special Operation Group, and CRPF armed with technical and surveillance equipment, is supported by helicopter, UAVs, drones, bulletproof vehicles, and sniffer dogs.

Security agencies have questioned several persons in various areas and picked up three suspects for questioning, they said.

During the search operation on Tuesday, security forces recovered two grenades. The tracksuits found among a large cache of ammunition and other materials in the Sanyal forests were identical to those worn by the four JeM terrorists killed in Assar forests and Doda in June and August last year.

Locals of the areas have joined the operation by security forces and urged people in

Turn to page 9

## J&K Police raids multiple locations in Kashmir; Banned outfits targeted



SRINAGAR, Mar 26 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police conducted raids at multiple locations in the Kashmir valley, including at the residences of former Hurriyat chief Abdul Gani Bhat, as part of its investigations into activities

of proscribed organisations, officials said on Wednesday.

The searches were conducted over two days at multiple locations in the Kashmir Valley, including Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag. The cases,

registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), pertain to banned organisations, including Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference (Bhat Group), Jammu and Kashmir Muslim League (Masrat Alam Group) and Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (Shabir Shah Group), police said.

The raids were conducted at the two residences of Bhat, one in Baramulla and the other at Wazir Bagh in Srinagar, the officials said. Bhat heads the Jammu

Turn to page 9

## Jammu Kashmir Government terminates five employees

SRINAGAR (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir government has dismissed five government employees over their involvement in narcotics trafficking, officials said on Wednesday.

According to an official order, the terminated employees include Gulzar Ahmad Dar, Jamadar, Irrigation Division Shopian, Abdul Rashid Bhat, Gang Coolie, Irrigation & Flood Control Division Sumbal, Dilbag Singh, Lineman,

Jal Shakti (PHE) Sub-Division Hiranagar, Gulzar Ahmed, Assistant Motorman, Hydraulic Division Ramban, and Noor Mohammad Sheikh, Gang Coolie, Ferozpora Basin, Irrigation Division Tangmarg.

"The terminations follow investigations under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, with cases registered in their respective areas. In one case, 9.9 kg of poppy straw was recov-

ered from Gulzar Ahmad Dar in 2023, leading to his suspension and subsequent dismissal," the order reads.

The government order further adds that all five employees are disqualified from any future employment in the public sector. Officials reiterated that strict action will continue against those found involved in the illegal drug trade as part of the administration's efforts to curb narcotics trafficking in the Union Territory.

# GupShup

## RESTAURANT

Where Hunger Meets Happiness

Are you a true desi chicken connoisseur? Look no further than Gupshup Restaurant, the only restaurant in Jammu and Kashmir to serve 100% Desi chicken (Jatka) cooked to perfection on a traditional Chullah.

Visit us at:  
 Ban Bantalab, Old Nagrota Highway, Jammu (J&K)  
 +91-9086207123 | +91-9086072543

**ORDER NOW**



**10TH DAY KRIYA AND KREM**  
With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Lalita Devi** W/o Late Shree Janki Nath Koul who left for her heavenly abode on Sunday, 23rd March 2025.

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will take place on 1st April 2025 from 11.00 AM onwards.

**KREM** on 2nd April 2025 from 10.00 AM onwards at home near old Talab matador Stand Muthi, Jammu

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Santosh & Sushma, Vijay & Madhu, Kaka & Poli and Asha & Archana (Son & Daughter in Law  
**Mobile No: 9158113399, 9149731808**



**SMT LALITA DEVI**

**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 Sonbatni Tickoo of Batiyar Alikadal Srinagar, at present H.No 126, Dina Nagar, Bamai, Jammu.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 29th of march at Akhnoor Ghat and **Assembly** will be held at Muthi (Near Directorate of School Education) at 11 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**

**10TH DAY**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Pritam Dass Gupta** S/o Lt. Shiv Nath Gupta R/o. 104, Marble Enclave Sec 4 Extn. Trikuta Nagar Near Garden Estate, Jammu

**10TH DAY** will be held on 27th March (Thursday) at 10:30 am to 11:30 am at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Lt Smt. Bimla Devi - Wife  
**Brother and Bhabhi:**  
Lt Sh. Sandesh Gupta & Smt. Vijay Gupta  
**Son and Daughter in Law:**  
CA Ritender Gupta & Iesha Gupta  
Abhimanyu Gupta & Diksha Mahajan  
**Daughters and Sons in Law**  
Smt. Shashi Gupta & Shri Ravi Gupta  
Smt. Seema Gupta & Shri Rakesh Gupta  
Smt. Reema Gupta & Shri Sanjay Gupta  
Smt. Deepa Mahajan & CA Amit Gupta  
Smt. Sakshi Gupta & Shri Sahil Mahajan  
**R.C. Gupta & Co., Bahu Plaza, Jammu**  
M/S Stylish Cloth House, Link Road, Jammu  
**Mob Nos: 9419113558, 7006596700**




**Sh. Pritam Dass Gupta**

**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)**

**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. Roshi Sanmotra  
**Grand Children:**  
Adhiraj, Advik Utsav Upmanyu, Aradhya, Aishwika, Rabhya, Veer



**Sh. Bal Krishan Purohit Ji**

**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)**

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

**Tenth Day Kriya** shall be performed on 27th March 2025 at Akhnoor Ghats and assembly will be held at our Residence at 11:00 am.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY**  
Smt. Shoki & Sh. Sunil Kumar Pandita - Daughter in Law & Son  
Smt. Sunita & Sh. Raj Kumar Pandita - Daughter & Son in Law  
Smt. Sushma & Sh. Vicky Bhat - Daughter & Son in Law  
Bhawani, Gautam, Yashika, Vidhya, Prabhat & Pratik  
**Pandita & Bhat Parivaar**



**RANI PANDITA**

60055792904,  
7006134919,  
9622176438


**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)**

**OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA**  
WITH PROFOUND GRIEF WE REGRET TO INFORM SAD AND SUDDEN DEMISE OF **SH. AVTAR KRISHAN TIKU** S/O LT. SH. SHIV JI TIKU ON 23-03-2025. ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF 18-SHALLA KADAL, HABBA KADAL, SRINAGAR AND 25/1, BASANT NAGAR EXTENSION, BEHIND PETROL PUMP, JANIPUR, JAMMU.

PRESENTLY AT HIS RESIDENCE AT S-2, C-31, SHALIMAR GARDEN EXTENSION-2, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 01-04-2025 (TUESDAY) AT MURAD NAGAR, GANGA GHAT, GHAZIABAD. **ASSEMBLY** WILL BE AT RESIDENCE AT 10.30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**NEW STANDARD CLINICAL LABORATORY**  
SRINAGAR, KASHMIR AND  
**CLINICIANS CLINICAL LABORATORY JANIPUR, JAMMU**  
**Mobile: 9873555699, 8448555699**



**SH. AVTAR KRISHAN TIKU**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Arti Chowdhary**, W/o Sh. Moti Lal Chowdhary, originally from Nadyar Rainawari, Srinagar, Kashmir, presently at H.No. C-2/276, Jankapuri, Delhi, who left for her heavenly abode on 23rd March 2025.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 01.04.2025 at Chota Harwar, Murad Nagar Ghat at 7:00 AM and **ASSEMBLY** at 12:30 PM at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sh. Moti Lal Chowdhary (Husband)  
Shivan & Vishal Chowdhary (Daughter-in-law & Son)  
Ashish Chowdhary (Son)  
Aakhya Chowdhary (Granddaughter)  
**Family**  
Raj Dhali Kaul (Sister-in-law)  
Usha & K. K. Chowdhary (Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law)  
Suni & Paritosh Chowdhary (Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law)  
**Children**  
Shiba & Abhishek Magazine  
Aahna & ARI Agrawal  
Nidita & Rohit Thakur  
Nahi & Pyush Chowdhary  
Rishi Chowdhary  
**Grandchildren:** Aartiya, Aadyant, Rense, Prashan & Chowdhary, Rainas, Koushik, Razdans, Bhat, Magazines, Thakur, Agrawals, Zutshis  
Contact: 7804833276, 9873674295, 9555874295, 8078971310, 7306483878




**SMT. ARTI CHOWDHARY**

**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 Km7) 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  
**Pandits (Murrari), Pandits (Chitrapal), Koushik, Bhat, Razdans**  
**Mob.: 8447002674, 9873860581, 9818881988, 9968215127**



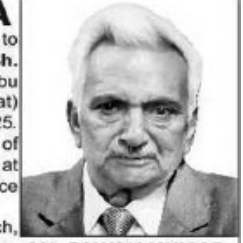
**Sh. Autar Krishan Dhar**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Pawan Kumar Verma** S/o late Sh. Babu Ram Verma R/o Hari Nagar (Paacca Gharat) Talab Tillo Jammu on 18th of March 2025.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 25th of March, 2025 Tuesday from 10 am to 11 am at Arya Samaj Mandir near Bakshi Nagar Police station, Jammu.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 28th of March, 2025 Friday at 12:00 Noon at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Smt Vijay Verma (Wife)  
**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Smt. & Sh. Sidharth Verma & Rekha Verma  
Smt. & Sh. Gautam Verma & Vasudha Verma  
Sh. Goorav Verma  
**Brother & Bhabhi**  
Late Sh. B.B. Verma & Smt Sanjogita Verma  
Late Sh. Ashok Kumar Verma & Smt. Champa Verma



**SH. PAWAN KUMAR VERMA**

**Grand Children:** Shubhang, Trishika, Shubhanshi, Vaishavi & Koushiki  
9419120077, 9419234160, 700623860

**10TH DAY KRIYA**  
With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Shanta Pandita** W/o Sh. Prithvi Nath Pandita (Lathi Sht Sopore) Baramulla A/p H.No. 128-G, Lane 4C, Anand Nagar, Bohni, Jammu on 21/3/2025.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 30th March 2025 (Sunday) at 7AM.

**Assembly** shall be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 11 AM.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:**  
Sh. Prithvi Nath Pandita - Husband  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Sh. Ashok Pandita & Smt. Soni Pandita  
Sh. Baner Jee Pandita & Smt. Sonny Pandita  
Sh. Sanjay Pandita & Smt. Archana Pandita  
Sh. Anil Pandita & Smt. Sneha Pandita



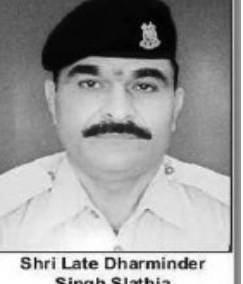
**Smt. Shanta Pandita**

**Mob.: 9419121195, 6006025936**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**  
With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Late Dharminder Singh Sialthia** H/o Smt Bindu Bala on 20/03/2025, presently residing at H. No. 1/10-10 Vishal Nagar Talab Tilo, Jammu.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 29-03-2025 at h/o-1-D-10 Vishal Nagar Talab Tilo & **Mourning Assembly** will be held at 11:00 Am, at their residence.

**Parents**  
Sh. Sujan Singh Sialthia  
Smt. Bimla Devi Sialthia  
Smt. Bindu Sialthia - Wife  
**Bhauvika Sialthia - Daughter**  
Pragati Sialthia - Daughter  
**Brother and Sister in law**  
Sh. Arjun Singh Sialthia  
Sh. Madhu Sialthia  
Sh. Shrivder Singh Sialthia  
Smt. Reema Devi  
**Sisters and Brother in law**  
Smt. Veena Wazir  
Smt. Joginder Singh  
Smt. Manju Bhatt  
Sh. Balwinder Singh Bhatt (SHO)



**Shri Late Dharminder Singh Sialthia**

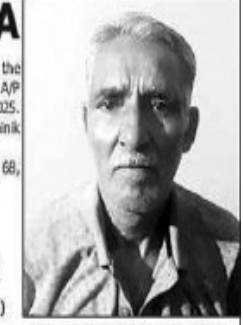
**Nephew and Niece**  
Abhishek Sialthia  
Anmol Sialthia  
Sonali Sialthia  
Jashvardhan Sialthia  
Ravya Sialthia

**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 26-03-2025 at Sanki School Nagrota at 7:30 AM.

**ASSEMBLY** will be held at 10:30 AM at Lane No. 12, Block 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. Phoola W/o Late Krishan Lal Koul (Sister)  
Smt. Girja & Tej Krishan (Sister & Brother-in-law)  
Smt. Neetu 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

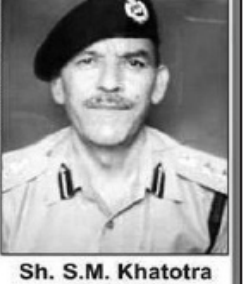


**Sh. Tej Krishan Ganjoo**

**10TH DAY/SATSANG**  
10th Day/Satsang in memory of Late Sh. S.M. Khatotra SSP (Retd) Who left for heavenly abode on 18th March 2025, is to be Performed on 27th March 2025, at Nirankari Bhawan Shastrri Nagar Jammu from 12 PM to 1 PM.

Followed by Lunch.

**Grief Stricken:**  
Kanta Devi - Wife  
Dr. Sukhdev Khatotra - Son & Khatotra Family.  
**Contact Number. 7889452996**



**Sh. S.M. Khatotra (Retd. SSP)**

**DISCLAIMER**  
"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."



## Property worth over Rs 1.5 crore of drug peddler attached in Qazigund Persons found indulging in drug peddling will be dealt as per law: Police



### Top News Report

KULGAM, Mar 26: Kulgam Police on Wednesday attached property of drug peddler involved in multiple cases at Nussu Badragund area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

An official told Top News JK correspondent that they have attached property (Two

Double storied residential houses) belonging to drug peddler namely Reyaz Ahmad Ganie son of Mohd Jabbar Ganie a resident of Nussu Badragund, Qazigund presently lodged in central Jail Kot Balwal Jammu under PIT NDPS act.

"The actions were taken under sections 68-F (1) of NDPS Act of 1985, of NDPS act of Police Station Qazi-

gund. "Property was identified as illegally acquired property during the course of investigation and enquiry conducted by Police" he said.

"Persons found indulging in drug peddling will be dealt as per law. Our actions against drug peddlers should reassure the community members that we are making efforts," he said.

## ABVP Jammu University Unit organizes blood donation and free medical camp

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu University, in association with Vidyarthi CEVA Educational Trust and Ramakrishna Mission, organized a Blood Donation and Free Medical Camp in collaboration with Rama Krishna Mission on Trimurti Balidan Divas at Fountain Plaza, Jammu University.

The camp was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Dr. Sanjyogita, and the Guest of Honour, Mukesh Manhas.

The event witnessed an overwhelming response from students, faculty members, and locals, who voluntarily donated blood and availed free medical check-ups.

The Blood Donation Camp collected 60 units of blood, which will be donated to the Blood Bank at GMC, Jammu. The Free Medical Camp provided free consultations and check-ups to over 200 patients.

Shivam Sharma (Unit President) ABVP Jammu University, addressed the youth and said, "We are proud to organize this event, which aims to promote the noble cause of blood donation and provide free medical aid to those in need. We are grateful to our partners,

Vidyarthi CEVA Educational Trust and RamaKrishna Mission, for their support in making this event a success."

Chief Guest, Dr. Sanjyogita said, "I am honored to be a part of this noble initiative by ABVP Jammu University. Blood donation is a selfless act that can save countless lives. I applaud the efforts of the students and organizers for promoting this cause and providing free medical aid to those in need. Let us all come together to make a difference in our community."

Guest of Honour, Mukesh Manhas said, "I am impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication of the students of ABVP Jammu University. This Blood Donation and Free Medical Camp is a shining example of the power of youth in making a positive impact on society. I urge everyone to support this noble cause and make a difference in the lives of others."

The event was attended by a large number of students, faculty members, and locals, who appreciated the initiative taken by ABVP Jammu University.

In this event, ABVP State Secretary Sanak Srivats, Vikrant (Vibhag Sanjyok), Harish Sharma (Mahanagar Mantri) and others were also present.

## Prof R. Balakrishnan endowment lectures begin at GCET Jammu



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: The much-anticipated Professor R. Balakrishnan Endowment Lectures commenced on Wednesday at the Government College of Engineering and Technology (GCET), Jammu, under the aegis of the Professor R. Balakrishnan Endowment Trust. The event, held with great enthusiasm, honored the legacy of the eminent mathematician and sought to inspire young minds by exploring the beauty and significance of mathematical concepts.

The event began with remarks from the Principal, Dr. Sameru Sharma, emphasizing the importance of such academic initiatives in fostering intellectual curiosity and strengthening student's mathematical foundations. This was followed by a warm welcome

address by Dr. Heera Saini, Head of the Department of Mathematics, GCET Jammu, who expressed gratitude to the distinguished speakers and attendees for their participation.

The highlight of the day was the engaging lectures delivered by distinguished speakers Dr. Sarika Verma and Dr. Manish Kumar from the Department of Mathematics, University of Jammu. Their discourse on "Linear Algebra – The Secret Behind Technology" captivated the audience, shedding light on the critical role linear algebra plays in modern technological advancements.

The session emphasized the application of linear algebra in diverse fields such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, quantum computing, and engineering innovations. Dr. Verma and Dr. Kumar provided deep

insights into how fundamental mathematical principles are shaping the technological landscape, making the lectures both educational and thought-provoking.

The Regional Coordinator of the event was Prof. Kuldeep Singh Charak from the Department of Mathematics, University of Jammu. The Nodal Officer of the event from GCET Jammu was Dr. Heera Saini, Head of the Department of Mathematics, GCET Jammu. Other faculty members present included Dr. Ambika Bhat and Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Malla, who played a significant role in making the event a success.

Aarav Gutkar, a student of the Mechanical branch of GCET Jammu, efficiently managed the event proceedings and delivered the vote of thanks, ensuring a smooth and engaging experience for the audience.

## GCW Bhagwati Nagar organizes webinar on "Career Guidance through Financial Literacy"

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 25: Department of Commerce, Govt. College for Women (GCW) Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu organised a thought-provoking and educational webinar on "Career Guidance through Financial Literacy" in collaboration with Excellence Global Skill and National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) as part of SEBI's SMART Investor Awareness Program under the patronage of the Principal of the college, Dr. MeeruA broI.

The session was delivered by Nidhi Singh, a Financial Education Resource Person from NISM, who provided

insightful knowledge on various aspects of the Indian securities market.

The session covered essential topics such as types of security markets, the importance of investing in securities, an overview of the Indian security market, the role of depositories, and anti-money laundering activities.

Singh also guided students on SEBI's free online investor certification examination, SEBI's complaint redressal system, and highlighted key milestones in the Indian securities market under the 'Danohar Milestones' initiative. Furthermore, she elaborated on how students can become prudent

investors by making informed financial decisions.

Dr. Meeru Abrol, Principal of GCW Bhagwati Nagar, expressed her gratitude to Ms. Nidhi Singh and applauded his efforts to promote financial awareness among students.

She also commended Prof. Gagan Jyoti and Prof Rasmeet Kour for organizing this impactful event, stating, "Such initiatives equip our students with critical skills to navigate their financial journeys confidently."

The session witnessed active participation from students and faculty with a vibrant Q&A session



where attendees interacted with the resource person to clarify their financial doubts and concerns.

The lecture concluded with a formal vote of

thanks by Nikita Choudhary, Excellence Global skill leaving participants inspired to apply their newly acquired knowledge in real-life financial scenarios.

## JKCA organises three-day workshop for physiotherapists



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: A three-day workshop is being held at JKCA complex, GGM Science College Jammu for Physiotherapists from March 26 to 28, 2025. The workshop is being conducted under the aegis of BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) Bangalore.

18 participants from all across J&K are participating in the workshop which includes the Physiotherapists who have worked earlier or still working with JKCA and a few new faces.

The workshop was inaugurated by Brig. Anil Gupta (Retd.), Member Administration, JKCA.

Brig. Gupta in his inaugural speech, exhorted the attendees to make best use of the expertise and experiences of the BCCI team to hone their skills and knowledge so that they can contribute towards the better performance of the JKCA players in the coming seasons.

He also reminded them that to be a successful Physiotherapist, one needs to maintain a good rapport with the players so that mutual confidence can be developed wherein the physiotherapist gains the confidence of the player who in turn benefits from the expertise of the physiotherapist which will be a win situation for the both. It will also help the Association as the injuries to the players would be controlled.

Brig. Gupta also thanked BCCI for conducting this first ever workshop in J&K and hoped that more such workshops will be held in future so that our staff can benefit of their expertise in situ without having to travel to Bangalore.

The team is headed by Dr. Bradrinath Prathi, Zonal Head Sports Science Medicine (North Zone), which includes Niraj Karamchandani and Abhishek Thakar, who are experts in their respective fields.

## CRC Jammu observes World Down Syndrome Day with awareness program

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: The Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Jammu-PDUNIPPD, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, marked World Down Syndrome Day with an insightful awareness program on Wednesday.

The event, organized by the Department of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD), aimed to enhance knowledge and understanding of Down syndrome while fostering an inclusive society.

The program was held in a hybrid format, ensuring widespread participation from parents, beneficiaries of CRC Jammu, and social workers from the Department of Social Welfare.

The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Harbaksh Singh, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Jammu, who served as the Chief Guest. The program featured three comprehensive sessions led by field experts, focusing on key aspects of Down syndrome and therapeutic interventions that can significantly improve the lives of individuals with the condition.

In the first session, Dr. Rayees Zahoor Shah, a Developmental Therapist, discussed the developmental challenges faced by children with Down syndrome and the support systems available to help them thrive. The second session, led by Ms. Manisha Yadav, a specialist in Prosthetics and Orthotics,



emphasized the role of assistive devices in enhancing mobility and overall development. The third session, delivered by Ms. Meenakshi Devi, a Special Educator, provided valuable insights into educational practices that promote inclusion and effective learning for children with Down syndrome.

The sessions were chaired by Dr. Rohnika Sharma, Director of CRC Jammu, who highlighted the importance of collective societal responsibility in creating a nurturing and inclusive environment for individuals with Down syndrome. She emphasized the need for awareness and continued efforts to

empower them to lead fulfilling lives.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Naveen Gupta, Administrative Officer, CRC Jammu. He expressed gratitude to the experts, participants, and attendees for their active contributions, which made the event a meaningful success.

This awareness program by CRC Jammu served as a vital platform to engage the community, inspire understanding, and reaffirm the commitment to building an inclusive society where individuals with Down syndrome can flourish.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE		
DEN-HFZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below listed tenders and available on <a href="http://www.iraps.gov.in">www.iraps.gov.in</a> with closing date 15.04.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against the tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on <a href="http://www.iraps.gov.in">www.iraps.gov.in</a> in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to <a href="http://www.iraps.gov.in">www.iraps.gov.in</a>		
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/ Time
24.03.2025/ 17:06 Hrs	01.04.2025	15.04.2025/ 15:00 Hrs
Tender No.	Details of Tender	
332-2024-25-DEN-II-FZR	Augmentations/ Upgradation of resources, infrastructure of centre of excellence & scoring in steel yard enhancement of basic training & manufacturing capacity at Amritsar Workshop.	
Advised Value (₹)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer / Period of Completion
3,38,46,728.25/-	3,10,000.00/-	60 Days / 06 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work."		
Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.		
Tender No:-332-2024-25-DEN-II-FZR Date: 25.03.2025 9182025		
SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE		

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE		
For and on behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, J&K, invites open Tender through e-tendering system from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work.		
Name of Work	Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Centralized Hoisting System (CHS) on turnkey basis in light repairbay at DEMU Car Shed, Budgam, (J&K).	
Estimated Cost of Work (Approximate)	Rs. 4,63,36,596.92 (Rs. Four Crore, Sixty-Three Lakh, Thirty-Six Thousand, Five Hundred Ninety-Six and Ninety-Two Paise Only).	
Tender Security Amount (Earnest Money Deposit)	Rs. 3,81,700/- (Rupees Three Lakh, Eighty One Thousand, Seven Hundred Only)	
Tender document available for sale on website	25.03.2025	
E-Tender closing Date & Time	16.04.2025 at 15:00 Hrs.	
Date and time of opening of E-Tender on IREPS website	16.04.2025 at 15:15 Hrs.	
Contract Period	06 Months	
Type of Tender	Open Tender (Single Packet System)	
Validity of Tender	45 Days from the last date of submission of tender	
Website	<a href="http://www.iraps.gov.in/">http://www.iraps.gov.in/</a>	
Tender No.:	01-2025-DEMU BDGM Dated: 25.03.2025 9212025	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE		



## EDITORIAL

POWER OF  
THEATRE

Every year, on the 27th of March, the world unites to celebrate World Theatre Day, a tribute to the profound art form that transcends borders, cultures, and generations. Established in 1962 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI), World Theatre Day seeks to highlight the importance of theatre in fostering unity, creativity, and cultural dialogue. This global event brings together theatre professionals, organizations, students, and enthusiasts to acknowledge theatre's role in shaping societies and nurturing human connections.

Theatre, as one of the oldest art forms, is a dynamic medium of expression that mirrors the human condition. Its power lies in its ability to dissolve barriers—be it language, geography, or ideology—while providing a platform for storytelling that resonates universally. It engages audiences not only as spectators but as participants in a shared experience that elicits emotions, provokes thoughts, and often inspires action.

World Theatre Day was initiated by ITI to emphasize the significance of theatre in cultural and artistic contexts and to encourage collaboration between theatre artists across the globe. Each year, a prominent theatre personality delivers the International Theatre Day Message, reflecting on the state of theatre and its influence on society. These messages resonate with the universal relevance of theatre, shedding light on its evolving role in addressing contemporary challenges.

The celebration of World Theatre Day is marked by performances, workshops, discussions, and community events worldwide. It also serves as a platform to advocate for the performing arts, highlighting the need for greater investment, recognition, and accessibility for theatre practitioners and audiences alike.

One of the most transformative applications of theatre is in the field of education. Beyond its entertainment value, theatre is a powerful tool for learning, helping students build confidence, enhance communication skills, and develop critical thinking. Theatre fosters creativity, encourages collaboration, and strengthens emotional intelligence—qualities essential in today's interconnected and dynamic world.

Recognizing this, institutions like the University of Jammu have embraced theatre as a means of experiential learning. On the occasion of World Theatre Day 2025, the University of Jammu organized an orientation lecture on the "Supplementary Role of Theatre in Education," delivered by Sumeet Sharma, a National Award-winning theatre director and Drama Instructor. The lecture highlighted how theatre can nurture creativity and self-expression, enabling students to explore new dimensions of personality development.

The university's emphasis on integrating arts and culture into education aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP-2020), which advocates for holistic learning experiences. Over the years, the Department of Students Welfare has introduced various initiatives, including theatre workshops, certificate courses, and youth festivals like Display Your Talent and Goonj. These programs have not only showcased students' artistic abilities but also contributed to their overall growth and development.

Theatre has long been a catalyst for social change, addressing pressing issues, challenging stereotypes, and inspiring action. From ancient Greek tragedies that explored themes of morality and governance to modern-day productions tackling climate change, gender equality, and mental health, theatre has been a mirror reflecting societal concerns.

World Theatre Day is a reminder of the potential of this art form to foster dialogue and bring about change. By dramatizing real-life stories, theatre holds up a lens to society, compelling audiences to introspect and act. Its immediacy and intimacy create a unique space where empathy flourishes, and new perspectives emerge.

The celebration of World Theatre Day is as diverse as the art form itself. Across the world, theatre communities host a range of activities, including live performances, play readings, interactive workshops, and public discussions. These events often highlight the contributions of theatre to cultural preservation and innovation.

In recent years, digital platforms have also become integral to the celebration, with online performances, webinars, and virtual tours of iconic theatres. This shift to hybrid formats has expanded the reach of World Theatre Day, making it accessible to a global audience and ensuring that the celebration is not limited by physical or geographical boundaries.

As the world continues to navigate challenges such as technological advancements, social transformations, and environmental concerns, theatre remains a steadfast and evolving art form. It adapts to changing times while retaining its core essence—a reflection of humanity and its stories.

World Theatre Day reminds us of the enduring power of theatre to connect, inspire, and transform. It is a celebration of the artists, storytellers, and audiences who keep this ancient art alive and relevant. Above all, it is a call to ensure that theatre continues to thrive, touching lives and shaping societies for generations to come.

By: Vijay Garg

If you are traveling long by rail or road or have gone to roam somewhere and get hungry in the middle, you will get plenty of options like chips, biscuit and cold drinks compared to options like dal, rice or roti to fill the stomach.

Sometimes we eat these because of the taste even if we are to pass the time, or even to be full of stomach.

But do you know that these delicious alternatives that are eaten in place of traditional food items of food and drink are called 'Ultra Processed Foods' and more of them are harmful to health?

Not only this, experts say that these are prepared in some way so that they enjoy eating and we get addicted to them.

A recent report by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relation (ICRIER) stated that the market for ultra-processed food has increased rapidly in India in the last 10 years.

What happens is ultra processed food That ultra processed food means something like this, "Understand in simple terms, ultra processed food is the food stuff you can't usually make in your kitchen. It doesn't look like normal eating, such as chips coming in the packet, chocolate, biscuit, and large-scale bread and bun and so on."

"Every community prepares food according to their tastes and likes. This can also be called food processing i.e. food processing. If we make curd from milk, it is processing. But if curd is made from milk in a large industry and add color, flavor, sugar or corn syrup to make it delicious, it will be ultra processed food."

"Ultra processed food is the food stuff you can't usually make in your kitchen. It doesn't look like eating normal.", These items put in ultra processed food do not increase their nutritional value but are put in so that you keep eating them, they keep selling and more profits. In this way, they can only prepare big industries.

Ultra Processed Food is also called Cosmetic Food. According to the World Health Organization, ultra-processed food is made from materials that are prepared from industrial techniques and procedures.

According to DoubleUHO, some examples of ultra processed things are-

Carbonated cold drink Sweet, fated or salty snacks, candy Massive Ready Bread, Biscuit, Pastry, Cake, Fruit Yogurt Ready to eat meat, cheese, pasta, pizza, fish, sausage, burger, hot dog Instant Soup, Instant Noodles, Baby Formula According to experts, chemicals and preservatives doing sugar, salt, fates (fats) or emulsifiers

## Dangers of Ultra-processed Foods

(mixing two different types of substances) under the industrial process in all these things, which we do not use in our kitchen. Former Senior Scientist at National Institute of Nutrition Dr. V Sudarshan Rao points out that when civilization began to use preservation (conservation).

Its main job was to protect the food from deterioration of bacteria and fungi, etc., for long-term use. "Our ancestors knew that if moisture is removed from foods, it can be prized. So, first of all, it started by drying foods in the sun, because they know that dried foods can be used for a long time."

Dr. V Sudarshan Rao explains that salt for prisorvation, sugar began to be used, which you can call preservative. But now new technology has caused many changes in prisorvation.

Explaining the same, Dr. Jayesh Vakani, in the municipal corporation's health department in Rajkot, Gujarat explains, "Take pickles as an example. It uses more salt, sugar, vinegar, and citric acid, which work naturally as a preservative. If artificial preservatives are to be used, they are required to be used as per the standards of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)." Preservative occurring in foods, including many types of antimicrobial, antioxidants, sorbic acid, etc., may not be used in every food item.

Foods use antimicrobial preservative to prevent bacteria. At the same time, antioxidants in oil, while sorbic acid preservative are used to protect against fungi.

Preservative is not only used in food ingredients, but also in cosmetics such as creams, shampoo, sunscreens, so that they can be used for a long time.

But can these be harmful? Replying to this question, Dr. Jayesh Vakani says, "Preservative in any substance or food item is used by keeping safety standards in mind and the amount you need is only that, because there is no benefit of over-use."

DR. V Sudarshan Rao says the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) checks the preservative used in food materials and it has been found that they do not suffer any damage to the body even if they take up to 60-70 years. Preservative is also used in increasing the test and making it attractive by adding color to the test, says Ashim Sanyal, CEO of 'consumer voice', the consumers' conscious entity, says that it is also used to protect food and drink from prolonged deterioration.

These preservatives are artificial and are poured into a limited amount. But the methods that are adopted to protect ultra processed food from deterioration become extremely harmful.

That the use of preservative in foods cannot be seen separately but it should be seen connecting to ultra-processed food.

"DoubleUHO also says that ultra-processed foods are preservative and rich in chemical. These are also put in some of the additives (addiction substances) to get used to them. Making vegetables, lentils, etc. is also called processed food but ultra-processed food is what is moulded into a laboratory through technical innovation. In addition to sugar, saturated fats, etc., mixtures of preservatives are very high.

According to him, "DablUHO also says ultra processed food is rich in preservative and chemical. These include preservatives so as to be used for a long time. In order to get used to these, some additives (addiction substances) are also inserted."

Ashim Sanyal says that for example, chips, cold drinks or other food items get used to children to grandparents and that is what such substances are put to get used to.

According to him, "It has also been scientifically proven that ultra-processed food has become the root of a lot of diseases. Whenever we checked, we found that ultra-processed food contains plenty of preservative and other chemical content."

DR. "The nutrients in ultra processing are depleted," says Ashim Sanyal. There is no quality in this food. Just as tobacco or cigarette addiction takes place, such food also gets addicted."

Experts say the difficulty with ultra-processed food is that we do not know how much it is being eaten.

Doctor Arun Gupta says, "Our brain signals us when we eat food, now it is full of stomach. But ultra processed food is prepared in some way that you enjoy eating them. When you're eating it, a signal from the brain does not come that the stomach is full and you go to eat it."

If artificial preservatives are used for more than standards and for longer periods of time, cancer can also be formed in the body. Many times such preservatives are put to increase the shelf life of foods that may cause damage.

He says, "They contain chemicals such as preservative and coloring agents, which may cause allergies in the body or weaken body immunity. Even though not immediately known, these may prove dangerous in the long run."

While the country on the one hand is facing a challenge for malnutrition, there is also a growing problem of obesity. Ultra-processed food is also playing a role in increasing obesity "Sometimes these can be eaten, but when we start using them more than ten feet of our food, that is, more than 200 calories in 2000 calories if coming from ultra-processed food, the damage begins." First of all, weight increases, which invites many diseases in itself. This increases the risk of diabetes, blood pressure, heart and kidney-related diseases, and even cancer. "Recent research also indicates that using ultra-

processed food can also lead to depression and angaziti. Research is underway now on why it is so."

Usually, it has been observed that people of every age and class eat ultra processed food, but children are more at risk if they look at India, as children usually like sweet things. They like to eat chips, candy, chocolate, packed juice and cold drinks. Most research in relation has taken place on adults, but a research in 2017 revealed that about fifty-five-century children are suffering from ultra-processed food and are pushing them to obesity.

What is the way to escape? Knowledgeable states that the habit of eating ultra processed food should be avoided. If you eat such food or foods four times a week, slowly decrease its intake.

People also need to be aware of food labels. In addition, companies that make such foods should also give prominently information on the front of the materials. "We are pushing the front of pack nutritional labelling, so that these items in the front in the label are said to have a high sugar, salt is high or fat is high. These main things will be noticed, 80 percent of the problem will be banned. Right now all these information are written on the back of the label and so small that customers do not get noticed."

U.S. countries have started front labelling and that has changed people's eating habits, as they have become aware.

At the same time, there is a debate that if information is given in labelling, it will affect Brickly. In response to this, Ashim Sanyal says that warning has been put on cigarettes and tobacco, did it stop the brickery of such products?

At the same time, Doctor Gupta says that the biggest role in the matter is that of the government. "The government's responsibility is the greatest. What people are eating, they should know. In addition, media, society and institutions also have a difference to make people aware of this. Then people have their own wishes to do." The way it has been banned in India to advertise baby food for babies up to two years, so the deceptive propaganda about more salt, sugar, and fat materials should also be stopped. He says, "People should know which thing is harmful. Maybe people still eat, but they will know that these things should eat less."

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

## Early arrival of summer in India and increase in heatwaves

By: Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

Rising temperatures are having a negative impact on agriculture, water scarcity, public health, and the economy. The unusually hot February, rising night temperatures, sea level rise, and urban heat island effect are making this problem even more severe. It is also affecting education, labor productivity, and food security.

Heat wave events in India are increasing rapidly due to climate change. According to the India Meteorological Department, a heat wave is defined as a heat wave when the temperature in the plains exceeds 40 degrees Celsius and this condition persists for a long time. India experienced 554 heat wave days in 2024, while the number was 230 in 2023. This increase is affecting agriculture, water availability, and public health, necessitating urgent mitigation measures.

February, which is usually a winter month, is now experiencing extreme heat. Odisha, Telangana, and Maharashtra recorded temperatures above 40°C in February 2025, pointing to climate change. Example: Mumbai recorded a temperature of 38.7°C in February 2025, the hottest February day in five years. This disrupted daily life and led to a rise in heat-related illnesses. Global warming is leading to more frequent and intense heatwaves in urban and rural areas, putting a huge strain on the population. Night temperatures are also increasing unexpectedly. 31 states and union territories recorded night temperatures 1°C above normal, while 22

states saw an increase of 3°C-5°C. Delhi recorded its hottest February night in 74 years in 2024, shortening the recovery time for vulnerable sections. Marine heatwaves increase inland temperatures and affect monsoon patterns. In 2023, marine heatwaves in the Bay of Bengal delayed the monsoon in eastern India and increased pre-monsoon heat. Concrete structures, less greenery, and the presence of pollutants make urban areas hotter. In April 2023, temperatures in urban areas of Ahmedabad were 3-4°C higher than the surrounding rural areas.

It is necessary to incorporate heat-wave mitigation in the national adaptation plan while ensuring coordination among states. Ahmedabad's Heat Action Plan (2013) helps prevent 1190 deaths every year. Urban planning should increase the use of green buildings, passive cooling, and heat-resistant materials. Telangana's Cool Roof Policy (2021) promotes heat-reflecting roofs, which reduce indoor temperatures. Tree plantation, rooftop gardening, and conservation of water bodies can reduce temperatures. Delhi's Urban Forest Initiative reduced local temperatures by 2-3°C in several hotspots. Local weather monitoring, heatwave forecasting, and urban heat island mapping should be expanded. Heat insurance, adjusted working hours, and cooling shelters need to be ensured for vulnerable workers. Rajasthan's Heat Insurance Pilot (2023) provided financial compensation to daily wage workers on extreme heat days.

Extreme heat can lead to longer summer holidays in schools, making it

difficult to complete the syllabus. Many schools do not have adequate cooling facilities, which affects the health of students. Heat waves during exam time can affect student performance. Extreme heat reduces the productivity of workers, especially in construction, farming, and other outdoor jobs. Increased electricity consumption can lead to energy crises, which increase power cuts. Heatwaves lead to health problems, which puts pressure on hospitals and increases healthcare costs. Water levels in lakes, ponds, and rivers fall rapidly, worsening the drinking water problem. Groundwater levels decline, affecting irrigation and drinking water supply. Incidents of forest fires increase, which causes loss of biodiversity. Heat affects the ecosystem of many plants and animals. Yields of wheat, paddy, and other major crops decline, affecting food security. Animal husbandry is also affected due to extreme heat and the water crisis.

Develop and use crops that are more heat tolerant and require less water. Encourage farmers to adopt micro-irrigation technology (drip irrigation). Promote green roofs, reservoirs, and open green areas. Install shade trees and water spray systems in public spaces. Adopt temperature adaptation technologies in smart cities. Promote heat-resistant building materials and energy-efficient design. Strengthen global and regional efforts to control sea temperature. Regenerate mangrove forests in coastal areas, which naturally help balance temperatures. Europe's Heat Action Plan: France and Spain have implemented cooling centers and

public alert systems during heatwaves. Australia's Water Management: Effective policies have been implemented for water harvesting and conservation in drought-affected areas. America's 'Green Infrastructure' program: Various schemes are being run to promote greenery and shade areas in urban areas.

A multi-pronged strategy is needed to mitigate the effects of rising heat and heat waves in India. For this, the government, society, and the scientific community will have to work together to develop long-term solutions. Climate adaptation, smart urban planning, agricultural innovation, and global cooperation can tackle this challenge. The increasing threat of heat waves has made it necessary to implement climate-adaptation plans. It is important to strengthen early warning systems, heat action plans, and resilient infrastructure. Urban greenery, reflective roofs, and sustainable water management should be prioritized. Also, expanding schemes like Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and implementing cooling-focused urban policies will help ensure public health, livelihoods, and future sustainability.

**(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh)  
Poet, freelance journalist and  
columnist, radio and TV panelist,  
333, Fairy Garden, Kaushalya  
Bhawan, Barwa (Siwani) Bhiwani,  
Haryana-127045, Mobile:  
9466526148, 01255281381**



## ABDPSS organizes Shriram-stuti, Hanuman Chalisa Path for world peace



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: The Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti organized a grand program featuring Shriram-stuti and Samoohik Hanuman Chalisa Path at Shri Ram Mandir, Channi Himmat, Jammu.

The event, held for the cause of world peace (Vishwa Shanti), saw enthusiastic participation from devotees, including members of the younger generation, making it an inspiring and spiritually uplifting occasion.

Sunil Sharma, National Co-ordinator of the Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti, graced the occasion along with Swami Mahesh Pandey from Ayodhya.

The program commenced with the recitation of Vedic mantras and a heartfelt prayer, "Hey Prabhu Anandata Gyan Humko Diyiye." This was fol-

lowed by the collective chanting of Shriram-stuti and Hanuman Chalisa, which drew a large number of participants with their families.

The speakers at the event highlighted Lord Hanuman's unwavering devotion, his immense contributions to society, and his selfless service to Lord Rama. They emphasized how Hanumanji's timeless deeds during challenging times continue to inspire humanity, underscoring their relevance in today's world.

Post the path, a Sat-sang session was held under the guidance of Acharya Manoj Kumar from Ayodhya. The session provided spiritual wisdom, helping devotees deepen their devotion to Lord Rama and Hanumanji while fostering inner peace and a sense of community.

Addressing the gathering, Sunil Sharma spoke about the Samiti's efforts over the years to expand the reach of

sacred scriptures such as the Bhagavad Gita. He shared that for the past 10 years, the organization has been distributing Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta Granth (not as a book but as a scripture) free of cost, in line with the teachings of their Brahmgyani Guruj. This initiative aims to spread Lord Krishna's divine message of love for humanity and God.

The event witnessed active participation from key individuals, including Kewal Krishan Sharma, Bhuvneshwari Sharma, Aayushman Sharma, Rohit Verma, Sanjeev Sharma, Pra-teek Kumar, Sandeep Kumar, Sounanya Om Parkash Sharma, Man-mohan Sharma, Sanjay Yadav, Rahul Yadav, Vimbo Devi, Seema Jamwal, Sonia Kumari, Shalini Devi, Sawitri Sharma, Vimal Kumar, and Srinjan Devi. Their contributions played a pivotal role in making the event a grand success.

## FDP on "Universal Human Values" conducted by AICTE concludes at SMVDU

### Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 26: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) successfully organised a three-day Introductory Faculty Development Program (FDP) on "Universal Human Values" under the PM-USHA initiative. The event was organized in collaboration with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and conducted by the NCCIP AICTE Team.

The event featured insightful sessions conducted by NCCIP members of the AICTE Team Dr. Priya Darshni and Dr. Manisha Gupta.

NCCIP member Er. Manu Rajput was present as an Observer during the FDP for the smooth execution of all the sessions. NCCIP members Jitender Narula and Dr. Charan-



jeet Madan were the Regional Coordinators of the FDP.

The FDP aimed to instill human values in educators, fostering ethical and moral development in teaching.

Participants from SMVDU,

Cluster University, Jammu, Central University of Jammu, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME), and various other Government Degree Colleges attended the program, gain-

ing valuable insights into the integration of human values in education. The initiative aligns with AICTE's vision to promote value-based education across academic institutions in India.

The programme was organised by Universal Human Value cell and Academic Affairs Section of SMVDU with Prof. (Dr.) Balbir Singh (Dean Academic Affairs, SMVDU) and Dr. Kamal-deep (Assistant Professor, School of Electrical Engineering, SMVDU) as Coordinators.

Dr. Shafaq Rasool (Associate Dean Academic Affairs), Dr. Bharat Bhushan Jindal (Associate Dean Academic Affairs), Dr. Madhu Mangal Chaturvedi as Local Co-ordinators, Dr. Pooja Sharma, Dr. Amit Sinha and Dr. Anil Bhardwaj ensured the smooth execution of the FDP.

## GDC RS Pura organizes extension lecture on "Constitution and Governance in India"

### Top News Report

R S PURA, Mar 26: The Department of Political Science og GDC R S Pura organized an extension lecture on "Constitution and Governance in India" celebrating 75 years of Indian Constitution and 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh-bhai Patel.

The event witnessed an enthusiastic response from students, faculty members, and esteemed guests, who gathered to explore the principles and intricacies of India's Constitution and its governance framework.

The distinguished speaker for the session was Dr. B.B. Anand Retired Principal, a renowned expert in constitutional law and public governance.

Delivering a thought-provoking lecture, he delved into the foundational principles of the Indian Constitution, including justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, while also addressing the evolving nature of governance in the country.

The session highlighted the relevance of the Constitution in contemporary times, focusing on key themes such as federalism, separation of powers, judicial independence, and the role of citizens in a vibrant democracy. T



he lecture also addressed current challenges in governance and the importance of upholding constitutional values.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Preetpal Kour, Principal of the College, expressed gratitude to the guest speaker, noting, "This lecture has been an enlightening experience for everyone present, reinforcing the significance of constitutional values in fostering good governance and active citizenship." She further remarked that this lecture marks another step in the institution's commitment to promoting academic discourse and awareness on critical socio-political issues,

fostering a deeper understanding of the pillars of democracy.

The interactive session followed the lecture saw attendees engaging with the speaker, raising questions about the practical implications of constitutional provisions in governance and policymaking.

The entire event was organized by Dr. Rakesh Choudhary, HOD Political Science. The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony where winners of Quiz competition namely Reena Devi of semester 4, Sonali and Vishalli from semester 6 were felicitated. The participants of students' spanel discussion on

the theme "exploring Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties namely Jhanvi Majotra, Meenu Choudhary, Tinishka and Sourav Heer were also felicitated.

The event was attended by Dr. Sudesh Kumar, Prof. Sanjeev Upadhyay, Dr. Sunil Mangoch, Prof. Rajinder Singh, Dr. Rakesh Kalotra and Prof. Vijeeta Anand.

The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Virender Kour, who acknowledged the efforts of the organizing committee and the participation of attendees in making the event a grand success.

## All JK NHM Employees Association congratulates Administrative Secretary on receiving TB Mukht Panchayat Award Demand release of salary before Eid-ul-Fitr

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: The All JK NHM Employees Association Jammu Division has extended congratulations to Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Administrative Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, J&K, and Nazim Zai Khan, Mission Director NHM J&K, for being honored with the TB Mukht Panchayat Award at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, by the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India on World TB Day 2025.

In a statement issued to the media, Provincial President of the Association, Dr. Vikas Sharma, congratulated both officers for receiving this prestigious national-level recognition. He highlighted the crucial role played by the Health Department, particularly NHM employees, in achieving this significant milestone under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP) and contributing towards the goal of a TB-free India.

Dr. Vikas Sharma also expressed deep gratitude to the NHM staff,

especially those working under the NTEP scheme, who have been tirelessly working at the district and UT levels to eliminate tuberculosis. He acknowledged their dedication and relentless efforts, which have been instrumental in strengthening the healthcare system in Jammu and Kashmir.

Furthermore, he emphasized that due to the continuous hard work and commitment of NHM employees across the UT, the health sector in J&K has witnessed significant improvements in patient care. However, he also pointed out that NHM employees continue to face challenges such as the lack of a job policy, salary enhancements, timely salary disbursement, and other legitimate concerns.

The All JK NHM Employees Association made a strong appeal to the Health Minister J&K, Sakina Masood Itoo, Administrative Secretary H&ME, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, and Mission Director NHM J&K, Nazim Zai Khan, to immediately release pending salaries before Eid-ul-Fitr. Dr. Vikas Sharma

stressed that NHM employees, who have been tirelessly serving the healthcare system, should not be left struggling financially, especially during the festive season. He urged the authorities to ensure timely salary disbursement as a gesture of recognition for their hard work and dedication.

The All JK NHM Employees Association Jammu Division reiterated its commitment to advocating for the welfare of NHM employees and ensuring their rightful demands are met.

## District Kathua Taekwondo Championship to begin on March 29

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 26: The Taekwondo Association of District Kathua, under the aegis of J&K Taekwondo Association (Regd) and J&K Sports Council, is set to host the District Kathua Taekwondo Championships 2024-25 at the District Sports Stadium, Kathua from March 29 to 30, 2025, under the theme "My Youth, My Pride."

The championships are open to Sub-Junior, Cadet, Junior, and Senior players from District Kathua, with the association reaf-

firming its commitment to nurturing and supporting local athletes.

To participate in the championships, athletes must meet possession of a valid JKTA Athlete License (mandatory for all participants), senior athletes must provide Black Belt Certificates in compliance with Taekwondo Federation of India (TFI) guidelines and submission of a completed registration form, duly signed by parents, attachment of supporting documents, including an Aadhaar card, JKTA License, and Date of Birth certificate issued by the Municipality of Kathua or the

concerned Sarpanch.

Participants are required to report to the District Sports Stadium, Kathua, on March 29, 2025, at 2:00 PM for the weigh-in process.

The decision to organize the championships was taken unanimously during a meeting of the office bearers of the Taekwondo Association of District Kathua under the supervision of the association's president. For further details, interested participants can contact the event coordinator at 9149512724.



## Farewell party organized at GDC Khour

### Top News Report

KHOUR, Mar 26: A heartfelt farewell party was organized for the outgoing students of the 6th semester at Government Degree College (GDC) Khour on Wednesday. The event was marked by a vibrant cultural program and engaging activities, meticulously planned by the students of the 4th and 2nd semesters, to bid an affectionate adieu to their seniors.

The celebration featured an array of cultural performances, including music, dance, and poetry, adding to the joyous atmosphere. To make the occasion even more memorable, various fun games and interactive sessions were arranged, ensuring an evening filled with laughter and camaraderie.

As a token of appreciation for their journey at the institution, the

6th-semester students were conferred with titles and medals, recognizing their unique qualities, achievements, and contributions to the college.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. T. K. Sharma, Principal of GDC Khour, extended his best wishes to the outgoing batch, encouraging them to strive for excellence in their future endeavors.

He expressed his hope that they would carry forward the values and knowledge gained during their time at the college and make a mark in their respective fields.

The farewell concluded on an emotional yet celebratory note, with students reminiscing about their cherished moments at the college, capturing memories through photographs, and bidding farewell to their alma mater with gratitude and optimism.



## In Chandigarh for the screening of his film *Fire In The Mountains*, Ajitpal Singh reveals excerpts from his journey fraught with challenges

Son of a security guard and then a debut as a filmmaker at Sundance, Ajitpal Singh's story is what dreams are made of. He sure has a knack of telling tales and of holding listeners in a spell. When he came calling to Chandigarh for the screening of his award-winning film *Fire In The Mountains*, he was open, honest to the core, and oscillating between hope and doubt for the future. He talks about his life journey and how the challenges he faced shaped up the filmmaker that he is today.

To read is one, to see another

We grew up reading Guru Nanak Dev ji was revered by both Hindus and Muslims. And, how after his death only flowers were found in place of the body. To see his asthis in a gurdwara and people placing chadars at a mazaar at Kartarpur Sahib was an experience. This was our Punjab, our Hindustan. Where are we going today? One lives in the hope that when things get out of control, God takes human form

to lead the world out of crisis. I believe we are ready for one, or else Elon and Trump hain hi! Born Punjabi, now a Marathi

My life was impacted hugely by operation Blue Star and the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's death. Tough circumstance forced our family to leave our home in Punjab and migrate to Gujarat in search of a living. Wearing a turban then, I was labelled as an atankvadi not just by my classmates but also teachers. Things changed when the focus shifted to my Muslim classmate, when Kar Seva for Ram Mandir started. I have realised first-hand how such pressure can rob one of their potential.

When books filled in for friends

Displaced from Punjab, I struggled to make friends in Gujarat. So I turned to books. I found value in literature and writings on films. I did take some 10 years to figure out that films were my calling. But then *Fire In The Mountains* to get an opening at Sundance was a pay-



back for all those nasty experiences, which fired my creative self.

Finding the story In fact, the story for my debut film also stems from my personal experiences. One of my cousins, the first graduate of the family, a rational woman, who inspired people around to study and get ahead in life, was married in a village near Amritsar. She

died when her not-so-progressive husband, instead of taking her to the doctor, when she fell sick, took her to a jhaad phunk wala. There was a lot of anger in me; who does that in 2001! And that has found a vent through the film.

One's loss, other's gain

The road to making films isn't a cakewalk. I spent months in Kumaon

where *Fire In The Mountains* has been shot. Low on budget, when our supposed DOP and production designer boarded the train from Mumbai to Munsiyari, the journey began on a tough note. Back then, it was a 12-hour train from Mumbai to Delhi, then another eight to Kathgodam and then 15 to 16 hours in a taxi to village Munsiyari.

Battling cancer

I was diagnosed with cancer right before the shoot for the web series *Tabbar* was to start. It was a journey fraught with doubts. It all started with me losing my voice for a while and then it came back. Instead of carrying on with life, I tried to get to the root of the problem. Three doctors diagnosed me wrongly. Increasingly, cancer is becoming common. Thankfully enough, now there is a cure but early detection is the key. So, if you see any signs of your body not functioning well, please don't take it lightly. Be regular with check-ups and follow ups!

## Neha Kakkar breaks down at Melbourne concert, apologises to fans for arriving late



Singer Neha Kakkar broke down and apologised profusely to her fans after she allegedly arrived three hours late for her concert in Melbourne, Australia.

In a video, posted on Reddit by a user, the

singer is seen crying on stage while some audience members booed for as she apparently arrived late for the concert. Some members could be heard shouting 'go back' to Kakkar, who then took the mic to

address the audience.

"You have been really sweet and patient. Itni der se aap log wait kar rahe ho (you have been waiting for so long). I hate it. Maine life mein kabhi kisi ko wait nahi karwaya (I've never made anyone wait in my entire life)," the singer said.

"I'm so sorry. You mean the world to me. Aap log itne sweet ho (You people are so sweet). I was so worried about ki kya hoga (I was worried what would happen). It means a lot to me. I'll remember this evening forever. But I'll make sure, aap log jo mere liye itna keemati time nikaal ke aaye ho (that you have taken out your precious time for me), I will make you all dance," she added.

While her apology pacified some in the audience, many were still not convinced. A user in the video said, "This isn't India, you're in Australia. Go back and take rest. We waited for over two hours. Very good acting. Yeh Indian Idol nahi hai (This isn't Indian Idol)." Another person called her concert a "waste of time and money".

## Yash to shoot for *Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups*

Yash, best known for his power-packed performance in *KGF*, touched down in Mumbai.

He is all set to begin the next schedule of *Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups*.

Yash happily posed for the shutterbugs outside the Mumbai airport. *Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups* is jointly produced by Venkat K. Narayana and Yash under KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations. It will hit the theatres on March 19, 2026.

Yash recently treated his fans to a short glimpse of *Toxic*, on the occasion of his 39th birthday. In the clip, Yash, impeccably dressed in a crisp suit while holding a cigar, makes a commanding entrance into a club



filled with partygoers. As the actor walks in, every gaze in the room is drawn to him. Brim-

ming with bold and provocative moments, the teaser invites viewers into a captivating world.

## 16 years later, the Jonas Brothers are bringing the magic back with a new movie

Hold on to your hats, Jonas fans, because the legendary trio is back and bigger than ever! After 16 years since their iconic mockumentary series *Jonas* wrapped up, the Jonas Brothers are ready to grace the silver screen with a brand new movie announcement. Here's everything to know!

Hall of Fame, new albums, and a Disney revival

The buzz all started at JONASCON, an exclusive fan event that took place at the American Dream in New Jersey. The event featured performances, immersive-themed activations, a museum dedicated to the Jonas Brothers' journey, and of course, a mountain of exclusive merch. It was a day dedicated entirely to celebrating the band's legacy — and it started off with an electrifying performance from the brothers themselves: Nick, 32, Joe, 37, and Kevin, 37.

Post-performances, there were a lot of announcements. First off, the Jonas Brothers are officially getting inducted into the New



Jersey Hall of Fame later this year. The announcement was a heartwarming moment as the brothers were joined on stage by their proud parents, Kevin Sr. and Denise, as well as their little brother Franklin Jonas. To top it off, they were also joined by their wives, Danielle Jonas and Priyanka Chopra Jonas.

The trio also had some things to say about their brand-new single, *Love Me to Heaven* which was released on March 21. The Brothers revealed that

a brand-new album titled *Greetings from Your Hometown* is set to drop on August 8 of this year. Fans can also expect a live album to accompany the new release. Talk about music overload in the best way possible! Joe's highly anticipated solo album, *Music for People Who Believe in Love*, was originally slated for a fall release but has been rescheduled to hit the shelves in May.

Now we must ask, what's a Jonas Brothers comeback

without a little Disney magic? The brothers are heading back to their roots with an upcoming Disney+ holiday movie, *A Very Jonas Christmas*. Yes, you read that right. It's going to be an absolute blast for fans who grew up with their early Disney days. While they dropped a teaser for it on social media, that's not all — they will also be providing the voice for Disneyland's 70th-anniversary theme song. Is there any other band that embodies the magic of Disney quite like the Jonas Brothers? We think not!

It's safe to say that 2025 is shaping up to be the year for the Jonas Brothers. From new music to special projects, performances, and even a holiday movie, they are embracing their journey with open arms and sharing it all with their devoted fans. Whether you're jamming out to their new single or reminiscing about their Disney days, there's no doubt that the Jonas Brothers' comeback is one for the books.

## Mohanlal talked about Amitabh Bachchan, Rajinikanth and his upcoming film *L2 Empuraan*

Actor Mohanlal has revealed that he shared the trailer of his upcoming film, *L2: Empuraan*, with Amitabh Bachchan. Speaking with agency Mohanlal also shared how Rajinikanth reacted to watching the trailer. He said that the actors "genuinely appreciated" the trailer.

Mohanlal talks about Amitabh Bachchan, Rajinikanth

Talking about garnering praises from Amitabh and Rajinikanth, Mohanlal said, "It's not competition but appreciation. I sent the trailer to Amitabh Bachchan saab. Rajini sir called me and I had a chat with him. He told me, 'What have you done? Oh my god!' They genuinely appreciated our trailer. It didn't come from a place of them wanting to make another film that's better



than ours."

Mohanlal on *L2: Empuraan* "What we've spent on the film is showing, and that's a very important thing. As a producer, Rajini sir could easily capture and understand this aspect. He told me, 'You all have spent so much on the film and I

can see that.' It's not like he watched the trailer and just tweeted about it saying how great it is. His compliment was true and came straight from his heart. It came after he watched the trailer," added Mohanlal.

About *L2: Empuraan* Directed by Prithviraj Sukumaran, *L2:*

*Empuraan* is one of the most highly anticipated movies of 2025. Apart from Mohanlal, the film also stars Tovino Thomas, Abhimanyu Singh, Indrajith Sukumaran, and Manju Warrier, among others. The first instalment, *Lucifer*, released in 2019, was a massive success.

## Actor Akshay Kumar and Arshad Warsi starrer '*Jolly LLB 3*' on way



Actor Akshay Kumar and Arshad Warsi starrer '*Jolly LLB 3*' has finally got a release date. The Subhash Kapoor's directorial is set to hit the theatres on September 19. Akshay and Arshad recently wrapped up the *Jolly 'LLB 3'* Rajasthan shoot. Taking to his Instagram handle, Akshay

shared a video from the set of '*Jolly LLB 3*' with Arshad.

Both can be seen riding bikes in the footage while covered in blood. The video hints that the BTS may be from a combat scene in the film.

Akshay captioned the video, "And that's a schedule wrap! As you

can see both the Jollys had a jolly good time in Rajasthan. #JollyLLB3." In 2017, Akshay and Huma Qureshi starred in '*Jolly LLB 2*', a spiritual sequel to *Jolly LLB*, released in 2013. The first film featured Arshad and Saurabh Shukla in the lead roles. Amrita Rao also starred in the first part.



## Judge cash discovery row: Dhankhar says legislature, judiciary not pitted against each other

NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (Agencies): Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday said the executive, legislature and judiciary are not pitted against each other and they have to function in tandem with checks and balances.

He made the comments in Rajya Sabha a day after saying "things would have been different" if the mechanism for judicial appointments — referring to the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) — had not been struck down by the Supreme Court.

The reference to NJAC on Tuesday in the Upper House came amid a row over the discovery of wads of currency notes at the New Delhi home of Justice Yashwant Varma.

Dhankhar had called a meeting of leaders of various political



parties to discuss the fallout of the row and the way forward.

"I need to indicate to the House that yesterday had a very fruitful interaction on the issue that is agitating the minds of the public," he said.

Leaders of various political parties including Leader of the House and Union minister Jagat Prakash Nadda and Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge were present at the meeting.

"Without going into the details, the deliberations were consensual, reflecting cooperation, concern and the issue is not between institutions inter se. It is not that the executive, legislature or judiciary are pitted against each other," he said.

"All the institutions in the country have to function in tandem, in togetherness... and also there are checks and balances which are well meant," Dhankhar said.

Without giving details of the deliberations, the chairman said both Leader of the House and Leader of the Opposition said that after having wider consultations within their respective parties, they would come to him for further deliberations.

"That was the conclusion after both Leader of the House and Leader of the Opposition had shared their thoughts along with others," he added.

## If Hindus are safe, then Muslims are also safe: Yogi says minorities have been 'safest in UP since 2017'



LUCKNOW, Mar 26 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath assured that people from all religions are safe in the state, asserting that as a Yogi, he wishes for everyone's happiness.

The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, speaking to agency, said that if Hindus are safe, then Muslims are also safe in his state.

CM Yogi, highlighting the tolerant nature of Hindus, said that a Muslim family would feel safe among a hundred Hindu families. He, however, questioned the possibility of 50 Hindu families being safe among a hundred Muslim families.

"A Muslim family is the safest among a hundred Hindu families. They will have the freedom to practice all their religious deeds. But can 50 Hindus be safe among 100 Muslim families? No. Bangladesh is an example. Before this, Pakistan was an example. What happened in Afghanistan? If there is smoke or someone is being hit, we should be careful before we get hit. That is what needs to be taken care of," Yogi said, while adding that he treats everyone equally.

CM Yogi reiterated that Muslims in Uttar Pradesh are the safest, emphasizing that communal riots in the state

have stopped since the BJP came to power in 2017.

"In Uttar Pradesh, Muslims are the safest. If Hindus are safe, then they are also safe. If there were riots here in UP before 2017, if Hindu shops were burning, then Muslim shops were also burning. If Hindu houses were burning, then Muslim houses were also burning. And after 2017, the riots stopped," he added.

"I am an ordinary citizen, a citizen of Uttar Pradesh. And I am a Yogi who wishes for everyone's happiness. I believe in everyone's support and development," the UP CM stated.

He termed Sanatan Dharma as the most ancient religion in the world while asserting that there are no examples in the world where Hindu rulers, using their own strength, have established dominion over others.

"Sanatan Dharma is the most ancient religion and culture in the world. You can guess from its name. Sanatan Dharma followers have not converted others to their faith. But what have they received in return? What did they gain in exchange? There is no example anywhere in the world where Hindu rulers, using their own strength, have established dominion over others. Such instances do not exist. While everyone has this mind-set--'this belongs to me, and that belongs to someone else'--which is a product of narrow and limited intellect. In contrast, for Sanatan Dharma followers, the whole world is considered a family, guided by this universal feeling," he said.

Speaking about law and order in the state during Ram Navami and Eid, he said, "We sit with the administration from time to time, and we have already prepared an SOP for this. Uttar Pradesh is the first state that, according to the instructions of the Supreme Court, has controlled noise coming from outside its territory or has had it removed and controlled it through this communication."

Referring to violence in West Bengal last year during Ram Navami, he asserted, "If we can do it, then why can't it be done in Bengal?"

Speaking on the tarpaulin used to cover the mosque during Holi in Uttar Pradesh, the CM said that there are strict instructions not to throw colours at the mosque, but colours do harm anyone.

"If you are playing with colours, it does not harm anyone's existence. You tell me. It is not like that; there are rallies during Muharram. Doesn't the shadow of their flag fall on any Hindu house near the temple? Does it make the Hindu house impure? These are strict instructions not to put anything that is not coloured. But even then, if it has fallen, then the administration is cleaning it and repainting it," Yogi Adityanath said.

## Maternity scheme severely underfunded: Sonia Gandhi

NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (Agencies): Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday said the government's flagship programme to provide maternity benefits to pregnant women is "severely underfunded", resulting in a drastic fall in entitlements to beneficiaries.

Raising the issue through a Zero Hour mention in the Rajya Sabha, she said Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) has seen a drastic fall in the number of beneficiaries and asked the government why this was allowed to happen.

Gandhi said the National Food Security Act (NFSA), passed by Parliament in Septem-

ber 2013 under the leadership of the then prime minister Manmohan Singh in September 2013, has been the foundation for PM Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), which was launched during Covid-19 to provide foodgrains to poor families. PMGKY currently has 81 crore beneficiaries.

Under NFSA, pregnant women were entitled to maternity benefit of Rs 6,000 per child, paid in two instalments.

PMMVY was launched in 2017 to fulfil this entitlement. But under PMMVY, only Rs 5,000 is given for the first child and the benefits are extended to the second child only if it is a girl.

"According to an informed analysis for 2022-23, about 68 per

cent of pregnant women received at least one instalment of PMMVY for their first birth, but this number drastically dropped to 12 per cent (in) the following year. I would like to ask the Union government why this was allowed to happen," she asked.

She also questioned the provision for PMMVY not being separately mentioned in the Union Budget documents.

"The full implementation of the maternity benefits provision requires an annual budget of around Rs 12,000 crore. Surprisingly, the Budget documents do not contain separate information on allocations for PMMVY," she said.

All that the Budget documents reveal is that there is a programme



called Samarthya in the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It has five components, of which PMMVY is one.

"The allocation in 2025-26 for Samarthya is only Rs 2,521 crore. This clearly shows that the PMMVY is severely underfunded, thereby violating the key provisions of the law passed by Parliament," she said.

This is the second time in the current sitting of the Rajya Sabha in the Budget Session where Gandhi has raised an issue.

On March 18, she raised concern over the dilution of employment guarantee under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

## Lok Sabha being run in 'undemocratic' manner: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (Agencies): Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday claimed that he was not being given a chance to speak and the House was being run in an "undemocratic manner".

His remarks came after Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla asked him to follow the rules of procedure that members are expected to uphold the dignity of the House.

It was not immediately clear what was the reason for the Speaker to make the observation.

Gandhi said the



Speaker made remarks about him and then adjourned the House without giving him an opportunity to speak.

He said that in the last week he had not been allowed to speak.

About 70 Congress Lok Sabha MPs, including deputy leader of Lok

Sabha Gaurav Gogoi, party general secretary KC Venugopal and party's whip in the Lok Sabha Manickam Tagore, met the Lok Sabha speaker and raised the "denial" of opportunity to Gandhi to speak in the House, party sources said.

## Communist parties will enter 21st century, but it may only be in 22nd: Tharoor's swipe at LDF

NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (Agencies): In a stinging jibe at Kerala's LDF government, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday said the Communist parties will one day finally enter the 21st century, but it may only be in the 22nd.

His remarks came after the Kerala Assembly on Tuesday passed the Kerala State Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 2025, which marks a break from the CPI(M)-led government's long-standing opposition to the privatisation of education.



Tharoor said, "So Kerala's LDF government has finally done the right thing, by permitting private universities to open in the state. As usual, the decision comes about

15 to 20 years late, which is usually the case with those anchored in a 19th century ideology." Never forget that when computers first came to India, Communist goons

entered public sector offices to smash them, the MP from Thiruvananthapuram said in his post on X.

The only parties to object to the introduction of mobile telephones in India were also the communist ones, Tharoor said.

It took them years to realise that the real beneficiary of these changes was the common man, for whom they claimed to speak, he said.

"I'm sure they will one day finally enter the 21st century, but it may only be in the 22nd!" Tharoor said, taking a dig at the

communist parties.

The bill was passed by voice vote following detailed discussions on Monday and Tuesday.

Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan stated that the UDF was not opposing the bill in principle but urged the government to conduct a thorough study and scrutiny before implementing it.

He suggested giving preference to credible corporate education agencies that have been operating in the state for decades when establishing private universities.

## Youth kills teenage girl, father before shooting self at Bihar's Ara railway station

Police sources said that Ayushi had turned down Aman's proposal when she came to her native village from Delhi before Holi.

PATNA, Mar 26 (Agencies): A 24-year-old youth shot dead a teenage girl and her father before shooting himself with a country-made pistol at Ara railway junction in Bhojpur district, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place when the 16-year-old girl, along with her father was about to board a train for New Delhi from Ara railway station late on Tuesday. The youth intercepted the girl and her father on the stairs

of the railway platform and fired from close range. The girl and her father fell unconscious on the stairs after receiving gunshot injuries and started bleeding profusely.

Before people at the railway platform could react to the incident, the assailant shot himself with the same weapon in his temple. He died on the spot.

The officials of the railway government police (GRP) rushed to the spot and sent the

bodies for postmortem at the Ara Sadar hospital. They recovered the illegal weapon from the site.

The assailant was identified as Aman Kumar, a compounder and resident of Asni village in Bhojpur district. The identity of the girl and her father was ascertained as Ayushi Kumari and Anil Kumar Sinha. Ayushi was pursuing MBA from Delhi.

Prime facie the incident appeared to be a



fallout of a love affair. Police sources said that Ayushi had turned down Aman's proposal when she came to her native village from Delhi before Holi.

"She was fed up with Aman's advances and had also rebuked him," said an investigating officer. Sources said that the deceased girl belonged to a well-educated family. While her elder sister is an IITian and working in Hyderabad, her mother is a

teacher in Navodaya Vidyalaya at Bihiya in Bhojpur district. Her father worked at a private firm.

Additional Superintendent of police (ASP), Ara, Parichay Kumar, confirmed that love affairs appeared to be the reason behind the incident.

"Further investigation is underway. The bodies have been handed over to respective families after postmortem," he added.

Meanwhile, the GRP has obtained CCTV clips for investigation in the triple killing. RPF senior commandant Prakash Panda said that the weapon used in the crime has already been seized.

"We have asked the authorities concerned to enhance the number of CCTV on the railway overbridge," he added. The incident has become a talking point in the Ara, district headquarters of Bhojpur.



## Pilot killed as South Korea firefighting helicopter crashes in mountain

*At least 19 people have been killed in one of South Korea's worst wildfire outbreaks, with multiple raging blazes causing "unprecedented damage", the acting president said Wednesday.*

UISEONG, Mar 26 (Agencies): At least 19 people have been killed in one of South Korea's worst wildfire outbreaks, with multiple raging blazes causing "unprecedented damage", the acting president said Wednesday.

More than a dozen fires broke out over the weekend, scorching wide swathes of the south-east, forcing around 27,000 people to urgently evacuate, with the fire cutting off roads and downing communications lines as residents fled in panic.

Overnight into Wednesday, the death count jumped to 19 as wind-driven flames tore through neighbourhoods and razed an ancient temple.

Eighteen people were killed in the wildfires and a pilot in a firefighting helicopter died when his aircraft crashed in a mountain area, officials said.

According to the interior ministry, the wildfires have charred 17,398 hectares (42,991 acres), with the blaze in Uiseong county alone accounting for 87 percent of the total.

The government has raised the crisis alert to its highest level and taken the rare step of transferring thousands of inmates out of prisons in the area.

"Wildfires burning for a fifth consecutive day... are causing unprecedented damage," South Korea's acting president Han Duck-soo said.

He told an emergency safety and disaster meeting that the blazes were "developing in a way that is exceeding both existing prediction models and earlier expectations."

"Throughout the night, chaos continued as power and com-



munication lines were cut in several areas and roads were blocked," he added.

In the city of Andong, some evacuees sheltering in an elementary school gym told agency they had to flee so quickly they could bring nothing with them.

"The wind was so strong," Kwon So-han, a 79-year-old resident in Andong told agency, adding that as soon as he got the evacuation order he fled.

"The fire came from the mountain and fell on my house," he said.

"Those who haven't experienced it won't know. I could only bring my body."

'Most devastating'

Authorities had been using helicopters to battle the blazes, but suspended all such operations after a helicopter crashed Wednesday, killing the pilot on board.

Authorities said changing wind patterns and dry weather had revealed the limitations of conventional firefighting methods.

Thousands of firefighters have been deployed, but "strong winds reaching speeds

of 25 metres per second persisted from yesterday afternoon through the night, forcing the suspension of helicopter and drone operations," acting president Han said.

The fires are "the most devastating" yet in South Korea, Han said.

By Wednesday, one of the fires was threatening historic Hahoe Folk Village -- a UNESCO-listed world heritage site popular with tourists but now under an emergency alert.

Huge plumes of smoke turned the sky over the village grey, agency reporters saw, with fire trucks and police cars lined up at the edges of the historic site.

'Fireballs'

Last year was South Korea's hottest year on record, with the Korea Meteorological Administration saying that the average annual temperature was 14.5 degrees Celsius -- two degrees higher than the preceding 30-year average of 12.5 degrees.

The fire-hit region had been experiencing unusually dry weather with below-average

precipitation, authorities have said, with the South experiencing more than double the number of fires this year than last.

Some types of extreme weather have a well-established link with climate change, such as heatwaves or heavy rainfall.

Other phenomena, such as forest fires, droughts, snowstorms and tropical storms can result from a combination of complex factors.

"We can't say that it's only due to climate change, but climate change is directly (and) indirectly affecting the changes we are experiencing now. This is a sheer fact," Yeh Sang-Wook, professor of climatology at Seoul's Hanyang University, told agency.

"Wildfires will become more frequent," he added.

"Basically, as the atmosphere becomes warmer due to climate change, the water vapour in the ground evaporates more easily, so the amount of moisture contained in the ground decreases. So, all this creates the conditions wildfires can occur more frequently."

The major fire in Uiseong was reportedly caused by a person tending to a family grave who accidentally ignited the blaze.

Apple farmer Cho Jae-oak told agency that he and his wife had sprayed water around their house all day in a desperate bid to protect it.

"We kept spraying and guarded. When the fire was burning on the mountain, fireballs flew here," he said, adding that the encroaching flames eventually forced them to leave.

## BWF leader urges support for BYC amid ongoing state repression in Balochistan



BALOCHISTAN, Mar 26 (Agencies): The central organiser of the Baloch Women Forum (BWF), Dr. Shalee Baloch, has urged Baloch people to support the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) in every possible way and condemned the recent detention of Baloch leaders and activists, as reported by the Balochistan Post.

In a recent statement, Baloch condemned the worsening situation in Balochistan, which she described as an environment of brutality and injustice targeting the Baloch community.

She pointed out the false charges against prominent Baloch figures such as Dr. Mahrang Baloch and Sammi Deen Baloch, and Bellow Baloch, the Balochistan Post reported.

Shalee Baloch also criticised the state's heavy-handed tactics, including illegal arrests, the use of tear gas, and indiscriminate firing, which she argued have

failed to resolve the longstanding issues of Baloch rights, Balochistan Post cited.

According to her, these methods, which have been ongoing since the forceful annexation of the Kalat State in 1948, have only intensified the sense of alienation among the Baloch people. The latest crackdown is just another chapter in this long history of state repression.

Over the past three days, around 200 Baloch activists have been detained under fabricated charges such as "disturbing peace and tranquillity," including key figures like Mahrang Baloch, Sammi Deen Baloch, and Bellow Baloch, the Balochistan Post reported.

Dr. Baloch argued that such actions are a cover-up for the state's broader attempt to stifle peaceful calls for Baloch rights. She also highlighted the ongoing violence, which has led to numerous deaths and injuries, exacerbating public anger over the state's repressive actions.

According to the Balochistan Post, the statement further addressed recent incidents, such as the illegal raid on Gulzadi Baloch's residence and the detention of two minor girls, which has raised serious concerns regarding the safety and treatment of Baloch women and children. Dr. Baloch expressed alarm at the continuous threats and harassment faced by those involved in advocating for Baloch rights.

Baloch pointed out the role of certain powerful figures in maintaining the ongoing conflict in Balochistan, suggesting that a peaceful Balochistan would hinder their personal interests. She stressed that the state's violence, even during the holy month of Ramadan, reveals a disregard for the well-being of the people, regardless of age, gender, or health, the Balochistan Post reported.

In conclusion, Dr. Baloch urged the people of Balochistan to unite in solidarity with the BYC and its leadership, as well as with all those seeking justice. She said, "I urge the indigenous people of Balochistan to stand by Baloch Yakjehti Committee, its leaders and members and all those who are just and demanding what belongs to them in such a critical time. It is the only way to bring peace, tranquillity and justice to the people of Balochistan as a whole."

## Trump says Soros may be behind funding attacks on Tesla in US

WASHINGTON, Mar 26 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump suggested on Wednesday that George Soros and other liberal billionaires may be behind funding attacks on Tesla in the United States.

"I believe that is part of it, yeah, there are some of them that were involved with my trials, that were, I think, probably involved with that also. And, you know, Elon [Musk] has done a very good job. He's found tremendous waste, fraud and abuse, like levels you've never seen," Trump told Newsmax when asked whether he believed Soros and other billionaires close to Democrats could be involved in attacks on Elon Musk's business.

On Monday, US media reported, citing police, that several "incendiary"



devices were found at a Tesla dealership in the city of Austin in Texas.

The devices were reportedly safely removed by police without any incident.

In recent weeks, multiple Tesla vehicles have been targeted in at least 13 states across the United States, according to media reports.

Last week, Attorney General Pamela Bondi described the attacks

as nothing less than domestic terrorism, highlighting that the Justice Department has already filed charges against several individuals, who could face prison sentences of up to five years.

On Friday, Trump suggested sending individuals responsible for acts of vandalism against Tesla vehicles and dealerships to prisons in El Salvador.

## Growing China-Russia-Iran-North Korea cooperation poses multi-front threat to US: Report

WASHINGTON, Mar 26 (Agencies): The rapidly intensifying cooperation among four major adversaries of the United States - China, Russia, Iran and North Korea --spotlighting that Russia's war in Ukraine is a catalyst that could drag the United States into a multi-front conflict according to a report.

The annual report of worldwide threats to the national security of the United States by the US Intelligence Community released by the office of Director of National Intelligence has warned about the deepening ties between these nations--primarily in security and defence--amplifying individual threats and creating a formidable bloc challenging US global dominance.

It further mentioned China's pivotal role in amplifying the risks due to its ambitious goals and vast influence.

"Cooperation among China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea has been growing more rapidly in recent years, reinforcing threats from each of them individually while also posing new challenges to US strength and power globally," the report said.

This alignment increases the chances of US tensions or conflict with any one of these adversaries drawing in another, with China being critical to this alignment because of its global significance, particularly its power and influence.

"Russia's war in Ukraine has accelerated these ties, but the

trend is likely to continue regardless of the war's outcome. This alignment increases the chances of US tensions or conflict with any one of these adversaries drawing in another. China is critical to this alignment and its global significance, given the PRC's particularly ambitious goals and powerful capabilities and influence in the world," the report read.

The assessment revealed that Russia's reliance on its partners has surged amid the Ukraine conflict, with North Korea supplying munitions, missiles, and troops under a June 2024 strategic pact; Iran providing UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) in exchange for advanced military support; and China bol-

stering Moscow's war machine with dual-use materials and components.

"Trade between China and Russia has soared since the war began, helping Moscow withstand US sanctions," the report noted, while Russia's oil and LNG exports to China further cushion its economy.

This alignment, accelerated by the Ukraine war, heightens the danger of a US confrontation with one nation pulling in others, a scenario the report deems increasingly likely regardless of the conflict's outcome.

"Cooperation between China and Russia poses the greatest enduring risks to US interests," the report states, pointing to their decade-long

joint military drills, now intensified, and plans for expanded Arctic operations, including bomber patrols and naval missions, to counter Western influence," it said.

While driven by a shared aim to undermine US power, the report acknowledges the uneven nature of this alliance, tempered by escalation fears and divergent interests. Yet, it predicts continued collaboration, especially in the Arctic, where China leverages Russia to build icebreaker ships and secure economic footholds.

The intelligence community cautions that this evolving axis, rooted in mutual gains, demands urgent US attention to safeguard its strategic edge.

## CFU backs Uyghur Human Rights Bill to aid refugees fleeing persecution

WASHINGTON DC, Mar 26 (Agencies): Campaign for Uyghurs (CFU) expresses its support for the reintroduction of the Uyghur Human Rights Protection Act, a critical and timely bipartisan piece of legislation that aims to provide Priority 2 (P-2) refugee status to Uyghurs escaping persecution.

This necessary measure presents a vital opportunity for those fleeing systematic

oppression, and we sincerely appreciate Representatives Suhaz Subramanyam (D-VA), Maria Elvira Salazar (R-FL), and Gregory Meeks (D-NY) for bringing this significant bill to light, as highlighted by CFU in a report.

The Uyghur Human Rights Protection Act will grant direct access to the US refugee resettlement program and facilitate quicker asylum processing for Uyghurs. This legisla-

tion addresses an urgent requirement for a haven, as numerous Uyghurs in the United States face prolonged uncertainty while waiting for asylum and refugee status, subjected to transnational repression, CFU noted.

CFU emphasized that the bill also requires the Department of State to engage diplomatically with third countries that host Uyghurs, ensuring they are not forcibly returned to China. The importance of this legis-



lation is accentuated by recent occurrences, including the deportation of over 40 Uyghurs from Thailand to China, where they are sent back to a region known for documented geno-

cide and crimes against humanity.

"As the PRC continues to surveil Uyghurs abroad and pressure other countries to forcibly deport them back to danger, countless

Uyghurs remain trapped in fear and uncertainty, anxiously awaiting asylum and refugee status.

By passing this bipartisan bill, the United States will reaffirm its commitment to protecting human rights and standing with Uyghurs escaping genocide." Rushan Abbas, Executive Director, Campaign for Uyghurs, said as quoted by CFU.

The campaign for Uyghurs fully supports

this bipartisan bill and calls on Congress to swiftly pass the Uyghur Human Rights Protection Act, as stated by CFU.

The Uyghur population in China has faced severe repression, particularly in the Xinjiang region, where reports of widespread human rights abuses have emerged.

The Chinese government has been accused of implementing a policy of forced assimilation,

including mass surveillance, arbitrary detentions in "re-education camps," and suppression of religious and cultural practices.

According to several reports, Uyghurs have been subjected to forced labour, family separations, and forced sterilizations. International organisations and governments have condemned these actions, describing them as efforts to erase Uyghur identity.



# Godrej ramps up AC portfolio to meet 50% growth aspiration

## Invests on premium range of Smart ACs

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: With the onset of summer and temperatures already picking up, the Appliances Business of Godrej & Boyce, part of the Godrej Enterprises Group, unveiled its new AC portfolio, spanning multiple capacities, tonnages, energy ratings and technologies. Buoyed by its 2X growth in the category this year and the already climbing temperatures, the brand is targeting further 50% growth in the coming summer.

Building on its nature-inspired Vogue series from last year, the brand introduced new wood finish ACs and extended it further to a new marble series, strengthening its commitment to offering décor friendly designs.

The design focus extends to window ACs as well with new top throw window ACs. Additionally, the brand is also expanding its consumer base by venturing into the commercial AC segment with Tower

and Cassette ACs, designed to meet the unique needs of large residential spaces and commercial spaces.

With more SKUs in the 5-star AC portfolio and high cooling capacities spanning to 3 and 4 Ton, new designer models, a large AI powered range apart from existing Anti-Leak ACs and Hot & Cold ACs, the brand is banking on its robust portfolio to deliver on its growth ambitions. The biggest focus area for the brand this year has been the smart AC segment with multiple new model introductions. The Godrej Smart AC range with AI-powered technology, IoT connectivity and WiFi-enabled controls, redefines user convenience with its insight-based feature design and will be taken to consumers through a 360-degree campaign.

Speaking about the launch, Kamal Nandi, Business Head & EVP at Appliances Business of Godrej Enterprises Group, said, "We continue to abide by our philosophy of thought-



ful innovation to unlock value for our consumers. Our new range of Smart ACs go further than the regular offerings of remote connectivity and voice commands and instead, offer compelling, insightful solutions that enhance the core cooling performance or add real convenience. With advanced value laden features like smart filter cleaning notifications for uninterrupted cooling performance & improved efficiency; smart schedulers that make remotes and voice commands redundant by switching on and off

by itself and operating at your preferred temperature at your preset schedules; smart energy monitoring, remote diagnosis, easy service access and a lot more – these voice and app enabled Smart Air Conditioners are designed keeping the Indian consumers in mind. From AI powered machines to patented anti-leak technology, unique wood finish ACs to compelling Smart ACs and powerful commercial ACs, our endeavour is to meet the premium aspirations of our consumers."

Further, Sabyasachi

Gupta, Product Group Head – Air Conditioners at Appliances business of Godrej Enterprises Group, said, "Consumers today seek a blend of style, performance, and smart features. We are happy to introduce our comprehensive new AC portfolio that caters to the varying needs of our consumers with high cooling capacities to high energy ratings, design forward, AI powered, smart connected portfolio to heavy duty commercial ACs. The new smart AC range will be backed by a high decibel campaign.

# DPS Jammu excels in International & Zonal SOF Olympiad



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Continuing its legacy of academic excellence, Delhi Public School (DPS), Jammu, has once again made the institution proud with its students' outstanding performance in the 2nd level of the National Science Olympiad (NSO) and International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO). Organized by the Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF), the final round was conducted offline on 9th February 2025, bringing together the brightest young minds who had qualified through a rigorous 1st Level Olympiad in November 2024.

The recently declared results have added another feather to DPS Jammu's cap, with 18 meritorious students securing remarkable achievements, including Zonal Gold Medals, Certificates of Zonal Excellence, Merit Certificates, and significant cash prizes.

Their exceptional success is a testament to

their hard work, perseverance, and the unwavering guidance of their mentors and teachers.

This remarkable accomplishment reaffirms DPS Jammu's commitment to fostering academic brilliance and nurturing future innovators and problem-solvers.

The winners were Avni Suri (Class IV) – NSO (International Rank: 112) & IMO; Mahotsav Gandotra (Class VIII) – IMO (International Rank: 161); Ayank Jaiswal (Class IV) – NSO; Safal Pranjal (Class VII) – NSO; Manan Khanna (Class VIII) – IMO; Rishita Mahajan (Class XI) – NSO; Neelakash Pargal (Class XI) – IMO.

Merit Certificate Awardees were Khan Arham Tanveer (Class III) – IMO; Amanah Adeen (Class IV) – NSO; Shiv Singh (Class V) – IMO; Yatharth Salathia (Class V) – NSO; Namanveer Singh Bhalwal (Class VI) – NSO; Darsh Sharma (Class VI) – IMO; Safal Pranjal (Class VII) – IMO; Sabal

Chargotra (Class VII) – NSO; Chirag Luthra (Class VIII) – NSO; Smart Saini (Class VIII) – NSO.

The distinguished management of DPS Jammu, under the visionary leadership of President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, PVC, Dr. Ritu Singh, and Director, S.S. Sodhi, along with Principal, Ms. Ruchi Chabra, extended their heartfelt congratulations to the young achievers, their proud parents, and the dedicated faculty for their relentless support and mentorship.

Special appreciation was also extended to Dr. Paramjeet Singh and Navneet Kaur, the Olympiad Coordinators, for their continuous efforts in nurturing scientific curiosity and excellence among students.

DPS Jammu remains steadfast in its mission to foster a culture of academic distinction, empowering students to excel in prestigious competitive platforms at national and international levels.

# GDC Samba organized awareness session on Intergenerational Bonding



### Top News Report

SAMBA, Mar 26: The IQAC cell of SPPND GDC Samba and National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India in collaboration with Anugraha RRTC organized an enlightening one day awareness and sensitization program on Intergenerational bonding in colleges.

The event, held under the patronage of esteemed Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, aimed at fostering stronger relationships between younger and older generations, promoting mutual understanding, respect and knowledge sharing.

In her address, she

emphasized the importance of intergenerational bonding in today's fast paced world where digitalization often distances us. She exhorted the need to nurture a generation which is morally upright and socially conscious.

The young, fresh, energetic and dreamy minds coinciding with the experience, wisdom, moral values of elderly people will foster empathy and enrich our cultural values, upholding emotional well being.

The first insightful lecture was delivered by Assoc. Prof. Seema Sharma, Head, Department of Education. She highlighted the need of intergenerational bonding as this AI based younger generation is lagging in terms of respecting, commu-

nicating and bonding with the morally upright generation.

The second resource person, Assoc. Prof. Meenakshi Thakur, H.O.D. Sociology gave her valuable inputs about various levels of intergenerational bonding. She emphasized that tradition and modernity should go hand in hand as they compliment each other.

Further, Swati Basotra; eminent motivational speaker, trainer and entrepreneur; motivated the students to build emotional bonding with the elderly at their homes. Deepali Arora, renowned Lawyer and Social Activist discussed various sections of the legislation governing and protecting Senior Citizens rights.

She also made students aware about Swabhiman Parisar- an Ageing and elderly care unit. The event began with a formal welcome address by Dr. Banpreet Kour, Coordinator IQAC and formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Ramandeep Kour, H.O.D. Home Science.

The session reinforced, among students, the critical need to enable our elders to live with dignity as our cultural heritage is a testament to our respect and value for our senior citizens.

# GDC Paloura organises essay-writing competition



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: To celebrate 75th Year of adoption of Indian Constitution by constituent assembly, Department of Political Science organised essay-writing Competition on the topic 'Features of Indian Constitution' under the guidance of Dr. Kulvinder Kour, Principal of the College.

The competition witnessed an enthusiastic response from students, reflecting their keen interest in enhancing their skills and knowledge.

The competition aimed to engage students in meaningful discussions about the Constitution and its relevance,

while also helping them improve their essay-writing skills, a critical component of competitive exams.

Prof. Amit Bhalla, Head Department of Political Science highlighted the significance of constitution in a democratic set up. He said that a constitution acts as the foundational document in a democracy, outlining the framework for government structure, individual rights, and citizen participation, essentially serving as the "rulebook" for how power is distributed and exercised, ensuring stability and legitimacy within a democratic system. The event was co-ordinated by Dr. Ikhlakh Ahmed.

# GDC Samba organizes industrial visit to UPL Agrochemical Industry

### Top News Report

SAMBA, Mar 26: The Department of Chemistry, SPPND Government Degree College Samba, under the patronage of worthy Principal of

the College, Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, organized a two-day industrial visit to an Agrochemical Industry, UPL Limited, Phase-1, Samba, as part of academic curriculum to provide stu-



### Top News Report

BISHNAH, Mar 26: An enlightening awareness program on anti-ragging was organized at Government Degree College (GDC) Bishnah on Wednesday.

The program, aimed at fostering a safe and supportive environment for students, was held under the aegis of Principal, Dr. Shal

Samyal, with a key lecture delivered by Dr. Sapna Bhargav, Conve-nor Anti-Ragging Club.

The session focused on educating students and faculty members about the dangers and legal consequences of ragging, highlighting the importance of creating a respectful and inclusive academic atmosphere.

Dr. Sapna Bhargav,

delivered a comprehensive talk, emphasizing the impact of ragging on students' mental and emotional well-being and the role each individual plays in preventing such incidents.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from both students and faculty, marking a significant step towards eradicating ragging and promoting a positive campus culture.

## NOTICE

I, Urmila Anand, W/o Late Yudhvir Anand, R/o H. No. 113-P, Sec-1, Ward No. 53, Trikuta Nagar Jammu-180020 J&K, have applied for transfer of plot 113-P, sector No. 1, measuring 30 ft X 60 ft, situated at Trikuta Nagar Housing Colony in the office of JDA. Objection if anybody may convey to collector of JDA within 10 days from issuance to this notice.

## From Page No:1

### ATM cash withdrawals to get costlier from May 1

installed by another, the first bank is required to pay the other bank a fee each time. This is called ATM interchange fees. This fee is usually calculated as a percentage of the transaction and is often included in the customer's bill.

### Kathua Encounter: Multi-Tier Opera-

### tion launched, Suspects questioned

other areas to remain vigilant and inform any movement of suspected persons in their areas. Several villagers have requested people to come forward with information about the movement of terrorists in their areas.

The operation led by Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat was launched on Sunday evening

in the Hiranagar sector following an encounter between security forces and terrorists hiding in a nursery.

The Special Operations Group of police initiated the operation after receiving intelligence about terrorists hiding inside a "dhok" (local enclosure) in a nursery in Sanyal village, approximately five kilometers from the International Border with Pakistan, officials said.

The hiding terrorists opened fire on the police team, resulting in a prolonged firefight lasting over half an hour.

Reinforcements were promptly dispatched as a manhunt began to apprehend the terrorists believed to have infiltrated on Saturday via either a ravine route or a newly constructed tunnel.

Initial firing did not cause any casualties, and the area remained under tight security overnight before security forces moved in at dawn, officials said.

Although there have been no further encounters with the terrorists, search parties on Monday discovered four loaded magazines of M4 carbine, two grenades, a bullet-

proof jacket, sleeping bags, track-suits and several packets of food.

### J&K Police raids multiple locations in Kashmir; Banned outfits targeted

and Kashmir Muslim Conference (Bhat Group), a Hurriyat Conference constituent.

A search was also carried out at the residence of incarcerated Shabir Ahmad Shah, who heads the Democratic Freedom Party,

they added.

According to an official statement, the other leaders who were raided are Tehreek-e-Hurriyat chief Masrat Alam Bhat, Ghulam Nabi Sumbji, Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat (alias Gugga), Ghulam Nabi Wagay, Feroz Ahmad Khan and Mohammad Nazir Khan, Hakeem Abdul Rashid and Javid Ahmad Munshi (alias Bilpapa).

The searches were carried out in connection with suspected members of these proscribed organisations and in furtherance of investigations in various cases, the officials added.



## GDC Kathua, SWD Kathua organise symposia on “Role of Youth in building a Drug Free Society”

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 26: The Literary Activity Committee, GDC Kathua and the Social Welfare Department, Kathua, jointly organised a symposia on the topic “Role of Youth in building a Drug Free Society” in the college’s Smart Classroom under the aegis of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

The event aimed to engage students in meaningful discussions about the responsibility of youth in shaping a drug-free society.

A number of students actively participated in the symposium, sharing their insights on the crucial role young individuals play in spreading awareness and con-

tributing to a healthier, addiction-free nation.

The event was graced by Prof. Seema Mir, Principal, GDC Kathua, as the Chief Guest, who emphasized the importance of youth-led initiatives in tackling social issues like substance abuse.

Varun Kumar Choudhary District Social Welfare Officer, Kathua graced the event as Guest of Honour.

The program commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Yash Pal Sharma, Head, Department of Urdu, who highlighted the significance of youth engagement in societal development.

The event was adjudicated by a panel of three judges Prof. S.K. Karlupia, Head, Geol-



ogy, Prof. Rakesh Jasrotia, Head, Chemistry and Prof. R.K. Pandita Head, Zoology.

The 1st position was secured by Mehak, Semester-4, Second position was secured by Tanya Semester 4 and 3rd position was bagged by Sneha, Semester-2.

A token of appreciation was given to Etika Mahajan, Social Wel-

fare Department and Ms. Kusum Salaria, member NGO.

The symposium concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Prof. Shivani Kotwal, Head, Department of English and Convener, Literary Club, expressing gratitude to all participants and organizers for making the event a success.

The event was efficiently anchored by Vishal, a student of Semester-6, who kept the audience engaged throughout the session.

This initiative by GDC Kathua and the Social Welfare Department stands as a testament to the power of youth-driven change in building a progressive and drug-free society.

## Nissan Motor India to Launch Two New Products Starting FY25- the 5-seater C-SUV & an All-New 7-seater B-MPV



### Top News Report

JAMMU, March 26, Nissan Motor India has announced an all-new 7-seater B-MPV to their existing line-up. The company showcased two new products slated for India at their recently concluded Global Product Showcase Event held in Yokohama, Japan. This is in line with the company’s plans for the India business to reshape its new products to meet the rising aspirations of its customers and deliver products in all high-growth segments such as the B-MPV and C-SUV segments in addition to its existing share in the B-SUV segment led by the New Nissan Magnite.

Nissan will continue to strengthen its presence in India’s rapidly growing market, enhancing domestic performance

and expanding exports. Nissan’s planned product offensive has begun with the first-time global reveal of an all-new 7-seater B-MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) scheduled to launch in FY25 as a brand-new addition to the India product portfolio.

This will be followed by a previously announced 5-seater C-SUV (compact sports utility vehicle) in early FY26. The company today shared two brand new teasers for Indian audiences which confirm the developments and timelines for both vehicles. Nissan Motor India remains on track to have 4 products by FY26 for Indian customers across the B/C and D-SUV segments.

The C-SUV has been designed to disrupt the segment in India. It will be feature-packed and be delivered with state-of-the-art propri-

etary advanced technologies. Inspired by another iconic Nissan SUV, the new C-SUV takes its design cues from the Nissan Patrol. The C-SUV will deliver true Nissan SUV DNA and deliver the same robust reliability, premium craftsmanship and technology that Nissan is renowned for globally. The C-SUV with unmistakable presence will offer a high approach and departure angle making it the perfect companion for Indian road conditions.

## Galaxy A26 5G, Samsung’s most affordable AI-powered Smartphone launches in India starting at just Rs 22999

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Samsung, India’s largest consumer electronics brand, continues to push the boundaries of AI democratisation with the launch of Galaxy A26 5G, its most affordable smartphone with the power of AI. Crafted for a seamless experience, Galaxy A26 5G delivers a balance of style, durability, performance, and innovation, making it a perfect choice for everyday use.

Samsung brings Awesome Intelligence to Galaxy A26 5G, making everyday tasks smarter and easier.

The Intelligent AI Suite enhances user experience with features like Circle to Search with Google, AI Select, Object Eraser, My Filters and more. Circle to Search with Google – a

fan-favourite on Galaxy A series devices last year – now goes beyond just images, allowing users to identify songs, discover information, and take instant actions with minimal effort. With the latest upgrades, users can now get even more done on their phone.

Circle to Search with Google will quickly recognize phone numbers, email addresses and URLs on the screen, so that users can take actions with minimal effort.

Galaxy A26 5G also comes with the Object Eraser which allows users to remove unwanted objects from photos. Users can manually or automatically select objects to erase, achieving a cleaner, more polished final image with just a few taps.

AI Select intuitively

understands the context by enabling instant search and extraction of information with a single click. My Filters enables users to create their personalised filters. This innovative function allows users to capture the look and feel of their preferred photos by mimicking their colours and styles and instantly applying them to new images.

Each custom filter is conveniently saved in the Camera app for easy access in future projects, allowing for a more personalized and creative photography experience.

Galaxy A26 5G stands out with its premium glass back appearance in four stylish colours—Peach, Mint, White, and Black—allowing users to express their personality through its expressive design. The larger 6.7-

## Rajan Gupta calls for closure of meat shops during Navratras

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: On the eve of the upcoming Navratras, social activist Rajan Gupta has urged the government and local administration to issue an order for the closure of meat shops during the sacred festival.

Emphasizing the religious and cultural significance of Navratras, Rajan Gupta stated, “Navratras hold deep spiritual importance for millions of devotees who observe fasting and prayers during these nine days. To maintain the sanctity of this period, I appeal to the authorities to ensure that meat shops remain closed during the festival.”

He further mentioned that several states and cities have previously



enforced similar measures out of respect for religious sentiments and called upon the administration to take appropriate action.

Rajan also encouraged shopkeepers to voluntarily support this appeal, promoting harmony and sensitivity toward devotees’ beliefs. He expressed hope that the authorities would respond positively to this request and issue necessary directives.

## Indian Army Conducts Lecture on Women Specific Schemes by Govt at Dupariya & Khanetar, Poonch

### Top News Report

POONCH, Mar 26: Indian Army organised a lecture to provide awareness on welfare schemes provided by Government to people of border villages in J&K. The locals of Dupariya Khanetar are primarily from local communi-

ties, usually unfamiliar with the welfare schemes of Govt. During the lecture, the locals were educated about vaccination schemes, Tejaswani Schemes, Kishor Shakti Yojana, Janani Suraksha Yojana, HIMAYAT-Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, Ladli Beti Scheme.

## SSH extends support to daily wage workers protesting for regularization

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Shiv Sena Hindustan held a press conference in Jammu, led by Jammu and Kashmir President Pandit Rajesh Kesri who spoke in support of daily wage workers in Jammu, saying that various governments, including Congress, BJP, NC, and PDP, have exploited them like a football.

Kesri alleged that these workers have been mistreated, beaten by police, and forced to lie on roads.

Their children have also been deprived of education. He accused the governments of committing injustice against these daily wage workers.

Kesri demanded that the government treat these workers equally, providing them with wages similar to those in Delhi and Ladakh. He also called for their regularization and promotion based on seniority. He expressed solidarity with the daily wage workers and vowed to support them until their



demands are met. “The prolonged neglect of daily wagers, denying them regularization for years, is a grave injustice and highly condemnable.”

“The government must immediately regularize daily wagers in Jammu and Kashmir, ending their years-long uncertainty and struggle for job security, added Kesri.”

Kesri further said that daily wagers in Jammu and Kashmir are protesting to demand regularization of their services, which has affected public services in the region. The protest has impacted public services, including water supply, as daily wagers

from the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department are participating in the strike. He also criticized Govt that instead of regularizing their services has formed a high-powered committee to look into the issue of regularizing daily wagers, but protesters are demanding immediate action.

With an estimated 61,000 daily wagers in Jammu and Kashmir, the government faces a significant challenge in addressing their demands.

Other leaders, including Balveer Kumar, Sanjeev Sharma, Rajkumar, Balwant, Fauji Darshana Devi, and others, were also present.

## Two-day Intra-College Sports event concludes successfully at GDC Kathua

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 26: The Physical Education and Sports Department, along with the Sports Board of Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua, successfully organized a two-day Intra-College Sports Event under the aegis of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department of the District Administration, Kathua. The event, held with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship, aimed at promoting women’s empowerment through sports.

The esteemed Principal of GDC Kathua, Prof. Seema Mir, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Mr. Varun Kumar Choudhary, District Social Welfare Officer, was the Guest of Honour. The inaugural session commenced with a warm welcome address by the Convener of Sports, Prof. Shivani Kotwal. A floral bouquet was presented to the Principal by the Convener of the Sports Board as a mark of respect and appreciation. On the first day of the event, a thrilling Kho-Kho (Women’s) match was played between She Warriors and Pink Panthers. The Pink Panthers emerged victorious, displaying



exceptional teamwork and athleticism.

The second day witnessed an intense Football (Women’s) match between The Knights and The Titans. The match ended in a dramatic penalty shootout, with The Knights securing a hard-fought victory. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Prof. Seema Mir commended the players for their enthusiasm and dedication. She encouraged students to actively participate in such events, highlighting the importance of sports in building confidence, leadership, and teamwork. “Sports not only keep us physically fit but also instill discipline and perseverance. I urge all students to embrace sports as an integral part of their lives and strive for excellence in every field,” she said.

The senior faculty members along with all the staff members who were present during the matches were Dr.

Sanjay Karloopia, Prof. Neelam Bhagat, Prof. R.K. Pandita, Dr. Dinesh Jasrotia (Advisor Sports Board) Prof. Ravinder Kour, Dr. Ram Singh and Dr. Yash Pal Sharma (Staff Secretary). To acknowledge the efforts and dedication of the players, refreshments were served, and participants were felicitated with T-shirts sponsored by the Social Welfare Department. Additionally, medals were awarded to all players for their active participation in the tournament.

The sporting event was thoroughly enjoyed by the staff and students of the college, fostering a sense of camaraderie and enthusiasm for sports. The successful execution of the event reflected the college’s commitment to promoting sports and empowering women through athletics. A formal vote of thanks was presented by Sandeep Sharma, Physical Director of the college.

## MLA Mohan Lal Inspects Water Supply Amid Daily Wagers’ Strike in Akhnoor

### Top News Report

AKHNOOR, March 26: Taking cognizance of the drinking water crisis caused by the strike of daily wagers in the Jal Shakti PHE Department, Akhnoor MLA Mohan Lal conducted an inspection of various pumping stations and water supply projects across the constituency on Wednesday. He directed the department’s permanent staff to ensure an adequate supply of drinking water to the public.

During his visit to the main pumping station of Akhnoor town, he issued instructions to ensure proper water supply to all 13 wards of the town. He further

emphasized that if necessary, permanent employees should work double shifts to ensure adequate water supply to the people.

MLA Mohan Lal also held a meeting with the department’s XEN, Assistant Executive Engineers, and other officials to review the water supply system. Expressing displeasure over the lack of detailed information regarding water supply through tankers, he directed that the supply process should be transparent and properly recorded.

While addressing the media, the MLA expressed his support for the daily wagers, stating that the Bharatiya Janata Party stands with them.



## India to host 2025 Women's ODI World Cup; Final set for Mullanpur

DUBAI, Mar 26 (Agencies): The 2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup will take place in India from September 29 to October 26, with the final scheduled at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Stadium in Mullanpur. Other host cities include Visakhapatnam, Thiruvananthapuram, Raipur, and Indore, as per ESPNcricinfo.

Among these venues, only Visakhapatnam has previously hosted an international women's match. The ACA-VDCA Stadium last staged a women's game in 2014 and has hosted six women's T20Is and five women's ODIs in total.

Indore, meanwhile, hosted two Women's World Cup matches at the Nehru Stadium, which has since been replaced by the Holkar Stadium as the city's primary international cricket venue.

India, as the host nation, has already secured its place



in the tournament, along with Australia, England, New Zealand, South Africa, and Sri Lanka. The final two spots will be determined through the Women's World Cup Qualifiers, set to take place in Lahore on April 9.

The six-team qualifier tournament, which will take place in Pakistan from April 9, will finalise the remaining teams for the eight-team tournament later this year in India.

If Pakistan qualifies, their matches will be played in either the UAE or Sri Lanka, in line with a reciprocal agreement between the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). This mirrors arrangements ahead of the 2025 Men's Champions Trophy.

The bottom four ranked sides from the 2022-2025 ICC Women's Championship - Bangladesh, West Indies, Pakistan and Ireland - will have a second

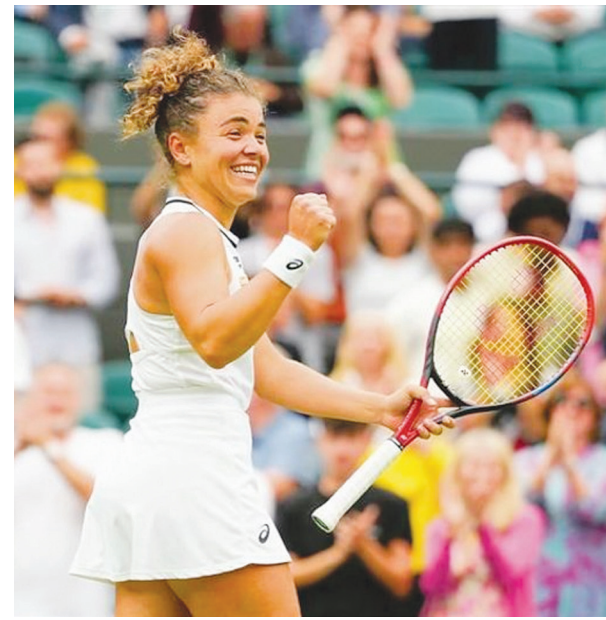
shot at making it to the Women's Cricket World Cup.

Scotland and Thailand also joined them in the qualifier tournament. They got their place based on being the next best-ranked teams in the ICC Women's ODI Team Rankings.

This will be the first 50-over Women's World Cup hosted by India since 2013, when the home team failed to progress beyond the group stage. India also hosted the Women's T20 World Cup in 2016. The 2025 edition will follow the same format as the 2022 tournament, featuring eight teams competing across 31 matches.

India has yet to win the Women's ODI World Cup, with its best performance coming in 2017, when it finished as runners-up to England. This edition will mark India's first 50-over World Cup campaign without legends Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami, both of whom have retired.

## Paolini becomes 1st Italian women's player to make Miami Open tennis semifinals



MIAMI GARDENS, Mar 26 (Agencies): Jasmine Paolini is headed to the Miami Open semifinals for the first time. The sixth-seeded Paolini defeated

unseeded Magda Linette of Poland 6-3, 6-2, becoming the first woman to make the tournament's final four this year. Paolini is the first Ital-

ian woman to make the semifinals at Miami. There were six instances of Italian women making the quarterfinals there, most recently Martina Trevisan in 2023.

Paolini will face top-seeded Aryna Sabalenka in the semifinals. Sabalenka topped ninth-seeded Qinwen Zheng of China 6-2, 7-5 in their quarterfinal match on Tuesday night, capping a day where rain postponed many matches by several hours.

The other side of the women's bracket is set for quarterfinal matches Wednesday, with fourth-seeded Jessica Pegula of the U.S. taking on Britain's Emma Raducanu, and second-seeded Iga Swiatek facing Alexandra Eala of the Philippines.

## 'Most improved batsman': Ganguly impressed with Shreyas after match-winning heroics for PBKS

NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (Agencies): Former India captain Sourav Ganguly believes Punjab Kings skipper Shreyas Iyer is the most "improved" batter in the past year and appears to be "ready" for all formats.

Shreyas has rediscovered himself after being dropped from BCCI's central contract list for 2023-24. He returned to India's domestic setup, put in the hard yards and returned to international cricket with a new air of swagger.

After ending India's triumphant Champions Trophy campaign as the nation's leading run-scorer, Shreyas relished his purple patch of form in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025.

He paved the way for his side's success against the Gujarat Titans on opposition turf with a blistering 97\* in the first innings. Throughout his stellar display, Shreyas indicated that his prime nemesis, considered a short-length delivery, has now turned into a boon for him.

The former BCCI president expressed his delight after seeing a new version of the 30-year-old and wrote on X, "Shreyas Iyer the most improved batsman in last 1 yr .. ready for all formats. Great to see his improvement after a few issues on length."

It wasn't a wanton whim for Shreyas to get his maiden IPL hundred. He was solely driven by the desire to steer his



side to victory. When fatigue started to hit Shreyas, he decided to forgo his personal milestone and asked Shashank Singh to break his shackles and make the most of the final over.

The explosive right-hander hammered five boundaries to lift PBKS to a mammoth 243/5. The target exceeded GT's reach as they surrendered to a narrow 11-run defeat.

His match-winning 97\* reflects what the 30-year-old has been executing for the past year. In his last Ranji Trophy campaign, Shreyas garnered 480 runs from five matches for Mumbai, averaging 68.57 while striking at a healthy rate of 90.22.

With 345 runs in his kitty from nine matches, Shreyas was the fourth-highest run-getter in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. He exhibited his rich vein of form in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, boasting 325 runs in five games at a staggering average of 325.00.

## India hockey player Amit Rohidas reacts to winning Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year 2024

NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (Agencies): Indian men's hockey team stalwart Amit Rohidas shared his reaction after being honoured with the Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year 2024 at the recently held Hockey India 7th Annual Awards.

Rohidas, who received a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh along with the award, expressed his surprise and gratitude, reflecting on the hard work and teamwork that contributed to this achievement.

Sharing his thoughts when nominated, Amit Rohidas said, as quoted from Hockey India, "Apart from me, there were three more nominations, Sanjay, Harmanpreet Singh, and Udita, and all of them are top players. I couldn't predict who would win because everyone has been playing well and contributing to their team. I was just happy to be



nominated. When I actually won, I was surprised and overjoyed. It was an incredible feeling."

Rohidas, who is considered one of the world's best first-rushers, explained that he hadn't discussed his nomination with his teammates but acknowledged the excitement and support he received from friends and well-wishers.

"People in my friend circle, especially non-hockey players, were

without them, I wouldn't have achieved this. It's a team effort, and I want to thank everyone, including my family, for their unwavering support. This recognition gives me more energy to contribute to the team and the country."

Speaking about his family's reaction, 31-year-old Rohidas shared, "My family was watching the awards on YouTube, and when they saw I won, they were extremely happy. When I spoke to them, they encouraged me, saying, 'Keep playing for the nation, and you will keep receiving awards.' Their happiness motivates me to keep pushing forward."

Looking ahead, Amit Rohidas remains focused on upcoming challenges, particularly the Asia Cup and the FIH Pro League, as both tournaments provide opportunities for direct qualification to the 2026

World Cup. "I like to go step by step. Right now, my focus is on the Pro League in June and the Asia Cup later this year. Both are key tournaments for us to secure our place in the 2026 World Cup. I'm determined to perform at my best," Rohidas commented.

One of the most memorable moments of his career came during the 2024 Paris Olympics, where India secured back-to-back Olympic Bronze medals and achieved a historic win against Australia.

"The 2024 Paris Olympics were special. We defeated Australia after 52 years in the Olympics, which was a huge moment for our team. That win gave us immense confidence, and then winning the Bronze medal made it even more memorable. It's a moment I'll always cherish," Rohidas concluded.

## Phil Simmons to continue as Bangladesh head coach until 2027 ODI World Cup

DHAKA, Mar 26 (Agencies): Phil Simmons will continue as Bangladesh's head coach for the next two years until the 2027 ODI World Cup.

Simmons was initially appointed by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) in an interim role until the recently concluded Champions Trophy. The Bangladesh board then offered him a longer contract that would keep him with the Tigers for the next two years.

"I am delighted to be given the opportunity to work with Bangladesh cricket on a long-term basis. The talent within this team is undeniable, and I believe we have the potential to

achieve great things together. I am looking forward to the journey ahead," the 61-year-old said as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

"Having worked with some exceptional players already, I can see the immense promise in this squad. Their skill and passion for the game inspire me daily. Together, we can take Bangladesh cricket to new heights and create something truly special," he added.

During his interim period, Simmons didn't enjoy much success with the Bangladesh side. Under his watch, Bangladesh won a sole Test and a T20I series in the West Indies.

In the recently concluded



Champions Trophy, Bangladesh went winless and crashed out of the group stage after back-to-back defeats against India and New Zealand.

"My time with the Bangladesh team over the past few months has been incredibly rewarding. The energy, commitment, and ability within this group have been nothing short of impres-

sive. I'm excited to continue helping these players reach their full potential," Simmons said.

The recent appointment puts an end to the rumours and speculations about Simmons' future. As he extends his role with Bangladesh, Simmons won't be available to coach the Karachi Kings in the upcoming Pakistan Super League (PSL) 10.

The former West Indies batting all-rounder has previously served as the head coach of Zimbabwe, Ireland, and Afghanistan. When he sat at the helm of the West Indies management, the 'Men in Maroon' lifted the 2016 World Cup.

## Legendary former English batter Alastair Cook makes grand return to cricket in upcoming WCL 2025



NEW DELHI, Mar 26 (Agencies): In a historic moment for cricket lovers, England's legendary batter Sir Alastair Cook has announced his return to competitive cricket, joining the England Champions squad for the upcoming World Championship of Legends to be held at Edgbaston in July 2025.

Cook, who bid farewell to international cricket in 2018 as England's highest Test run-scorer, will reunite with his longtime comrade and white-ball icon, Eoin Morgan, who is set to lead the England Champions in this prestigious global tournament.

Sharing his excitement, Cook said, as quoted from a press release by World Cham-

pionship of Legends, "It is great to be back playing for my country. I am really looking forward to being back on the field with Eoin and the other guys."

Expressing gratitude for the opportunity, he added, "The World Championship of Legends is providing the chance to be back involved with cricket at its best. I can't wait!"

Harshit Tomar, Founder and CEO of WCL, expressed his enthusiasm and said, "Having a player of Sir Alastair Cook's caliber join the World Championship of Legends will be a tremendous boost for the tournament. His legendary status will undoubtedly elevate the competition and bring immense value to the England

Champions team."

"Sir Cook's decision to return to cricket through the WCL platform demonstrates the tournament's growing prestige and appeal to cricket icons worldwide," Harshit Tomar added.

Praveen Sharma, owner of the England Champions, shared his pride in the team's strengthening squad: "This is more than just a team announcement--it's history in motion. With Cook and Morgan at the helm, England Champions is ready to take the WCL by storm."

Captain Eoin Morgan welcomed Cook with open arms and said, "Having Alastair back is not just about cricket, it's about camaraderie, history, and creating new memories. We're not just playing the game--we're honouring it."

Cook's return adds yet another layer of excellence to a side already packed with champions. His career boasts 161 Test matches, 12,472 runs at an average of 45.35, and 33 centuries, solidifying his legacy as one of the game's all-time greats.

## IPL 2025: Rashid Khan breaks Jasprit Bumrah's record vs Punjab Kings

AHMEDABAD, Mar 26 (Agencies): Afghanistan and Gujarat Titans (GT) all-rounder Rashid Khan broke Jasprit Bumrah's record during Match 5 of the Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025).

Rashid completed 150 wickets in IPL as he dismissed Punjab Kings' Priyansh Arya in the seventh over of the match.

The wrist-spinner got rid of the youngster on his IPL debut, who looked in sublime touch play-

ing an innings of 47 (23). As a result, Rashid managed to complete his milestone and he even reached there faster than Jasprit Bumrah.

Rashid took 122 matches to complete 150 wickets to become the third-fastest to achieve the feat in the history of IPL.

He surpassed Bumrah in the list, who took 124 matches to complete the milestone. Yuzvendra Chahal (118 matches) is the second-fastest to 150 wick-

ets in IPL while Lasith Malinga (105 matches) is the fastest to do so.

Rashid is the joint 11th highest wicket-taker in IPL with 150 scalps from 122 innings at an average of 22 and an economy of 6.86.

Rashid's best-ever IPL season came in 2023 when he picked 27 wickets from 17 innings at an average of 20.44. He also picked up a hat-trick in the season against Kolkata Knight

Riders, but it ended up in a losing cause as Rinku Singh took Kolkata home with five consecutive sixes.

Meanwhile, apart from Arya's wicket, Rashid didn't have a memorable outing against Punjab as he ended up leaking 48 runs in his four overs and picked just one wicket. He was taken to the cleaners by Shreyas Iyer and Shashank Singh, who milked him for 34 runs in his last two overs.



## Dimple protests against MLAs' salary hike, demands LG roll back proposal



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Sunil Dimple, president of Mission Statehood, staged a roadside protest at Rehari, accompanied by members of the poor labor class, to voice strong opposition to the proposal for increasing the salaries of MLAs.

During the press conference held at the protest site, Dimple registered his disapproval with LG Manoj Sinha and criticized the panel constituted to consider salary hikes for legislators.

Dimple demanded that no salary increase be approved for MLAs until Jammu and Kashmir's statehood is fully restored. He questioned the rationale behind legislators demanding higher pay when the government struggles to provide jobs and salaries to daily wagers and employees due to financial constraints.

Highlighting the discrepancy, Dimple said, "What special have these MLAs done for the youth and people of Jammu and Kashmir? The demand for a Rs 5 lakh monthly salary is unjustified, especially when legislators have no significant powers under the Union Territory setup."

Dimple further alleged that the BJP failed to speak up about critical issues like power project mismanagement and liquor bans, prioritizing their own interests over the welfare of the people.

"Jammu and Kashmir is a state facing economic challenges. Increasing salaries for MLAs at this juncture is unjustifiable and a mockery of the struggles faced by the common people," Dimple remarked.

He warned of launching a strong agitation against the salary hike if the proposal is not withdrawn. The press conference was attended by several prominent leaders, including Sanjay Sethi, Pt Brahm Sharma, Sunil Kumar, Molvi Aslam, Akbar Khan, Shafi, Nazier, Rakesh Kumar, and others.

Blaming BJP for the situation, Dimple claimed that Sunil

Sharma, BJP Leader of Opposition and Chairman of the salary hike panel, is spearheading the proposal to increase MLAs' salaries to 5 lakh per month. He alleged that the BJP-dominated assembly session concluded without addressing key public concerns, such as statehood restoration, banning liquor shops, tackling the mining mafia, or resolving recruitment scams in various government departments, including PHE.

Dimple further alleged that the BJP failed to speak up about critical issues like power project mismanagement and liquor bans, prioritizing their own interests over the welfare of the people.

"Jammu and Kashmir is a state facing economic challenges. Increasing salaries for MLAs at this juncture is unjustifiable and a mockery of the struggles faced by the common people," Dimple remarked.

He warned of launching a strong agitation against the salary hike if the proposal is not withdrawn. The press conference was attended by several prominent leaders, including Sanjay Sethi, Pt Brahm Sharma, Sunil Kumar, Molvi Aslam, Akbar Khan, Shafi, Nazier, Rakesh Kumar, and others.

## BMS extends full support to daily wagers' regularization demand, urges immediate action on pending issues

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) expressed strong support for the regularization of daily wagers and demanded the early resolution of their grievances during a press conference. The organization criticized the government for merely constituting yet another committee to address the plight of daily wagers, calling it a delaying tactic and an "eyewash."

BMS alleged that daily wagers, despite performing the same duties as permanent employees, are paid a meager wage of 9,300

for unskilled labor, while regular employees receive five to six times more for the same work. They argued that forming committees has been a futile exercise, as reports from previous committees lie untouched in government offices.

The Sangh demanded that the government release a white paper addressing the issues raised by Hon'ble MLA Sh. Sham Lal Sharma, particularly highlighting the alleged discrimination against the Jammu province. BMS insisted that, until the new committee submits its report, SRO 520 should be implemented without

delay, and all pending wages of daily wagers should be released immediately.

The organization also brought the grievances of daily wagers to the attention of the Union Home Minister and Finance Minister but lamented that the state government has failed to advocate for these workers' issues with the central government seriously.

BMS strongly condemned the recent lathi charge on daily wagers, criticizing the government's insensitivity. They highlighted the stark contrast between the swift revision of salaries and perks for MLAs



and ex-MLAs and the government's lack of urgency in addressing the issues faced by daily wagers. The press conference was led by senior BMS leader Harbans Choudhary, along with Ashok Choudhary, the State Organizing Secretary of

BMS, Subash Chander, Chuni Lal, and other prominent members. BMS reiterated its unwavering support for the cause of daily wagers and urged the government to act decisively to ensure justice and fairness for these workers.

## YNC cadre playing vital role in disseminating Party's policies at grass roots level: Tejinder Says youth can play important role in upcoming Panchayat polls

### Top News Report

KATHUA Mar 26: Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President of J&K Youth National Conference, was accorded a grand welcome by the District Body of National Conference and Youth National Conference in Kathua.

The reception was followed by a meeting chaired by Singh,

where he extensively discussed the pressing issues faced by the youth in the region.

Ajit Kumar, District President Jammu Kashmir National Conference Kathua, K.K Bakhshi District Secretary Kathua, Devinder Mehta Block President Lakhampur, J.P Singh Block President, Shakeel Ahmad Tony along with other members of

the District Committee and YNC organized the program, ensuring a platform for young voices to be heard.

During the meeting, Ajit Kumar apprised the Provincial President over the alarming rise in drug peddling activities in the region, calling for stringent measures to curb the menace that threatens the future of the youth.

Acknowledging the relentless efforts of the party cadre in strengthening the Youth National Conference at the grassroots level, Tejinder lauded their role in disseminating the party's policies and vision effectively.

He reiterated that the present government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, remains

steadfast in its commitment to youth empowerment, ensuring their active participation in the decision-making process.

Tejinder urged the party high command to recognize and provide opportunities to dedicated and hardworking youth in the upcoming Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies elections.

## Cluster University convenes 7th Academic Council Meeting to shape future educational goals

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 26: The Cluster University of Jammu convened its 7th Academic Council meeting, in the university's conference hall, where significant decisions were made to enhance academic offerings and opportunities for students.

The Academic Council discussed various aspects of academic development and unanimously approved the introduction of Human Genetics, Biochemistry, and Statistics as minor subjects in GGM Science College, a Value-Added Course in Home Science, Commerce as a major course in MAM College, Integrated Programs in Geology and Linguistics.

In his opening remarks, Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice-Chancellor, welcomed the members of the Academic Council and the Special Invitee, Prof. Mohammad Mobin, Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar.

Dr. Naveen Anand, Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University of Jammu, presented the agenda of the meeting, which included 29 items and one table item. The Academic Council endorsed the vision set forth by the Vice-Chancellor.

Emphasizing the importance of fostering holistic development, the Council approved the introduction of a Master's in Performing Arts Degree (in Music



and Indian Theatre).

A key decision made during the meeting was the commencement of the 4th year of the Four-Year Undergraduate Program (both Honours and Research) as per the Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programs (CCFUP) from the ensuing academic session.

Additionally, the Council approved recognizing college faculty as Ph.D. supervisors and supervisors for 4th year research under the FYUGP. The Council also endorsed a hassle-free migration process for students from other universities to Cluster University and implementation of UGC guidelines on pursuing two academic programs simultaneously.

Furthermore, the Academic Council approved the introduction of a one-year PG Program from the academic session 2026-27, the introduction of PG Geography at GGM Science College, B.Sc. Nursing and M.Sc Entrepreneurship program in collaboration with Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) from the upcoming academic

session.

These decisions reflect the University's commitment to meeting evolving educational needs and enhancing academic opportunities in the region.

All decisions made during the meeting were thoroughly discussed and either confirmed or endorsed to the relevant academic bodies within the University for further action.

Expressing gratitude, Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice-Chancellor, extended heartfelt thanks to all members of the Academic Council for their active participation.

The meeting was also attended by Registrar Ankur Mahajan, Controller of Examination Dr. Ranvijay Singh, Dean Student Welfare, Dr. Raj Shree Dhar, Dean Research Studies Dr. Satinder Kour, Deans of various faculties, Principals and faculty members of constituent colleges, Heads of Departments of Cluster University of Jammu, as well as the Registrar, Controller of Examination, and Deans of Faculties from Cluster University Srinagar.



Government Of India Certified Course

# MASTER MATHEMATICS

with the Power of Vedic Maths

Enhance Your Child's Interest in Maths!  
20+ years Experienced Trainer

100% LIVE 249 Days Course

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Rs. 249/- Only

249 Days of Learning  
79 LIVE Classes  
3 Sessions Per Week

Speedy Calculations  
Mental Maths for class 5th onwards  
Creative Problem-Solving  
Helpful for all entrance exams (UPSC/PCS/CLAT/Banking/JEE/Army etc.)

Book Your Spot:  
7087312888, 7087313888, 7087871871

Link in Description

