

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical center.

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:

- Headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Frequent vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Double vision
- Stomach pain or loss of appetite
- Redness

If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY.

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Eid celebrated in Jammu region amid tight security

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 31

Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with religious fervour and traditional gaiety across the Jammu region on Monday amid tight security arrangements, with a large number of people gathering at different eidgahs to pray for peace. Eid-ul-Fitr marks the end of the period of fasting, prayer and charity during the holy month of Ramzan, culminating in an occasion for festivities, joy and togetherness.

On the eve of Eid, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister



Omar Abdullah greeted the people on the Union Territory.

On Monday, the largest congregation was held at

the eidgah on Residency Road in Jammu, followed by the Mecca Masjid and the Jama Masjid Khatikan Talab, where hundreds

of Muslims offered Eid prayers in the morning. Muftis and religious scholars spoke about

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Eid-ul-Fitr celebrated across Kashmir Valley

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 31 (UND)

Eid-ul-Fitr, which marks the culmination of the fasting month of Ramzan, was celebrated on Monday across Kashmir with traditional fervour and gaiety.

The biggest gathering of Eid prayers was held at Hazratbal shrine on the banks of the Dal Lake. Chief ministers Omar Abdullah, his father and National Conference President Farooq

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LG Sinha flags off Mata Vaishno Devi Pracheen Marg Yatra



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 31

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Pracheen Marg Pavitra Chhari Yatra, today. He paid obeisance

at the holy Kol Kandoli Temple in Nagrota and prayed for good health, peace, prosperity and happiness for all.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor attended the 'Pratham Pooja' of the Chhari Yatra and extend-

ed his heartiest greetings to the devotees on the auspicious occasion.

The Chhari Yatra, carrying the Holy Jyot, will reach the Oli Mata Temple Bamyal, following the traditional heritage route.

Lieutenant Governor visits the families of J&K Police Personnel Martyred in Kathua

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 31

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visited the families of three policemen who lost their lives in an encounter with Pakistani terrorists in Kathua district on Monday and expressed his condolences and support to them.

Sinha visited the home of Balvinder Singh Chib in Kanna Chak, Kathua district, where he met with his wife and other family members to express his deepest condolences.



He then visited the family of Jaswant Singh in Londi village near the International Border (IB) to offer support to the

family. Later, he proceeded to Reasi district, where he met the family of police officer Tariq Ahmad in

Chamba village. He assured the families of government jobs for the next of kin, mostly the widows of the martyred policemen.

The LG told the families that the people of this country are with them and all efforts will be made to ensure full government support.

The wives requested jobs in civilian departments as they have young children to look after.

Later in the evening, he will visit the family of Head Constable

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1 lakh pilgrims pay obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine on occasion of Navratri

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATRA, MAR 31

The revered Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine has witnessed an overwhelming response from devotees during the auspicious festival of Navratri, with around one lakh pilgrims visiting the shrine since the start of Chaitra Navratri, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board officials said.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has made extensive arrangements to ensure a smooth and spiritually enriching



pilgrimage experience for all visitors.

Situated in the Trikuta Hills of Katra town in Reasi district, the shrine has seen a significant surge in footfall during Navratri. Devotees from across the

country and beyond have gathered to seek blessings during this sacred period. To maintain order and facilitate a hassle-free yatra, the Shrine Board has deployed dedicated security personnel and

crowd management teams. Special measures have been implemented to handle the increasing number of pilgrims efficiently.

With an aim to enhance the pilgrimage experience, the Shrine Board has introduced new facilities, including a modern skywalk to streamline movement and reduce congestion along the Yatra route. Other improvements include better queue management, expanded accommodation options, and upgraded

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Amit Shah to visit J&K next week

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 31

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to visit Jammu and Kashmir on April 7-8 to review the security situation and interact with security personnel, said sources on Monday.

During his visit, Shah will chair a high-level security review meeting in the Union Territory to assess the current law and order scenario.

Senior officials from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), and intelligence agencies will likely attend the meeting. Discussions are expect-



ed to focus on counter-terrorism operations, cross-border infiltration attempts, and the overall security landscape in Jammu and Kashmir.

In addition to the review meeting, the Home Minister is also expected to visit forward areas along the International Border to inspect security arrangements and boost

the morale of the forces stationed there. This visit comes against the backdrop of heightened efforts to combat terrorism and enhance border security. Shah's visit to the Union Territory is significant considering the recent terror activities in the Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir that deteriorated the peace and tranquil atmosphere in the region.

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April-June to be hotter than usual, more Heatwave Days likely in many States: IMD

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 31

India is expected to experience hotter-than-usual temperatures from April to June, with more heatwave days in central and eastern India and the northwestern plains, the IMD said on Monday.

Most parts of the country will see higher-than-normal maximum temperatures, except for some areas in western and eastern India where the temperatures are expected to be normal. Minimum temperatures will

also be above normal in most regions, India Meteorological Department (IMD) chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said in an online press conference.

"From April to June, most parts of north and east India, central India, and the plains of north-west India are expected to experience two to four more heatwave days than normal," he said.

Usually, India records four to seven heatwave days from April to June.

An IMD official had earlier said northwest

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Nowabad Police Station, Jammu apprehended accused in year-old attempt to murder case

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 31

In a breakthrough, Jammu Police has arrested an accused involved in a brutal attempt to murder case that had remained under investigation for over a year. The arrest highlights the unwavering efforts of law enforcement in ensuring justice and maintaining public safety.

The case dates back to March 19, 2024, when a written complaint was lodged by Makhn Lal, son of Paras Ram, resident of Jandrah, Dansal, Jhajjar Kotli, at Police

Station Nowabad. As per the complaint, two unidentified individuals forcibly entered a room at Grand-in Hotel, Sant Market, Jewel, Jammu, on the intervening night of March 18-19, 2024. The accused attacked the victim, Sanjay Kumar alias Kaalu, with sharp-edged weapons, inflicting severe injuries on his head, arms, and legs before fleeing the scene. Consequently, an FIR No. 43/2024 under Sections 307/452/34 IPC and 4/25 Arms Act was registered at PS Nowabad.

Acting on **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

SC-appointed task force starts work, to seek views on mental health issues of students

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 31

The Supreme Court-appointed National Task Force (NTF) has started its functioning and will seek public opinion in preparing its reports on tackling mental health issues in educational institutions across the country.

In a landmark judgment on March 24, a bench headed by Justice JB Pardiwala took note of the recurring cases of student suicides in higher educational institutions and formed the NTF to address the mental health concerns of students and prevent such incidents.

The top court had also directed the Delhi Police to register an FIR on the complaints of the family members of two students who died by suicide while studying at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, in 2023.

The NTF, headed by Justice S Ravindra Bhat, a former SC judge, comprises a distinguished panel of experts, including Dr. Alok Sarin, Prof. Mary E. John, Arman Ali, Prof. Rajendra Kachroo, Dr. Aqsa Shaikh, Dr. Seema Mehrotra, **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

SC to hear Tuesday plea concerning 1991 places of worship act

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 31

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Tuesday a plea challenging the validity of a provision of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, which mandates maintaining the religious character of a place as it existed on August 15, 1947.

As per the cause list of April 1, the plea **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Search Ops intensified in Kathua to track down infiltrating Terrorists; 6 held for Questioning

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 31

Security forces have intensified search operations using aerial surveillance and sniffer dogs following a night-long cordon after fresh reports of suspected movement of three individuals, believed to be terrorists, who escaped a recent encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said.

Security forces, which have picked up six persons for questioning, have also launched a search opera-

tion in Samba sector near the international border to sanitise the area, while the entire border belt has been put on alert, officials said.

On Sunday night, three suspected terrorists entered a house in Rui village, several kilometres from the encounter site, and took away food from her kitchen, they said. "Multi-tier combing operations have been intensified following fresh movement of terrorists. After a night-long cordon, a search operation

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Operation To Continue Till Last Terrorist Neutralised In Kathua: DIG Shiv Kumar Sharma

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 31

Jammu-Kathua Range Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Shiv Kumar Sharma on Monday reaffirmed the police force's commitment to eliminating every terrorist operating in the hills of the region, saying the ongoing operation in Kathua district would continue until the last terrorist is neutralised.

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Maintained Defensive Position: J&K Police on Search Operations in Udhampur-Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAR 31

As the search operation in the Udhampur-Reasi region is ongoing, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Rayees Mohammad Bhat reaffirmed the security forces' commitment, stating that the operations would continue in a defensive posture.

"We have maintained a defensive position, and search operations are being conducted in Udhampur-Reasi areas. We will continue to stand



with the families of the personnel who have laid down their lives in the line of duty," Udhampur-Reasi Range, DIG Bhat said.

The ongoing operation in the region is part of ongoing efforts to ensure security and combat any threats.

Indian search & rescue teams, doctors rendering critical help in quake-hit Mandalay

AGENCIES
YANGON/NEW DELHI, MAR 31

Indian search and rescue teams and doctors are working round the clock to extend critical support to quake survivors in Mandalay that has seen immense devastation.

India launched Operation Brahma to help in quake-hit Myanmar, sending an 80-member NDRF search and rescue team and an 118-member Indian Army Mobile Hospital unit, complete with operation theatre, specialists and medics.

The Indian Embassy in Yangon said in posts on X: "Since arriving at earthquake sites in Mandalay yesterday, our teams are working to extend critical support in search for survivors and medical/HADR support. More aid is on the way. Our hearts and prayers are with the affected people of Myanmar."

"More aid and support is on the way to Mandalay and Yangon. Committed to assist people in all affected areas of Mandalay, Naypyitaw, Sagaing and Bago."



On Friday, March 28, a shallow 7.7-magnitude quake struck north-west of Mandalay early afternoon, followed minutes later by a 6.7-magnitude aftershock. The tremors destroyed buildings, downed bridged and buckled roads across swathes of Myanmar, with massive destruction seen in Mandalay, the country's second-biggest city. Over 1,700 people are reported to have died so far.

India's NDRF team has begun rescue operations at the U hla thein monastery in Mandalay where around 170 Buddhist monks are still stuck under the rubble following Friday's massive earthquake.

The Indian Army Team is also preparing to set up their Medical Service at a

chosen site.

"We are also trying to get the NDRF team deployed at the Sky Villa, where four towers of 11 storey each have collapsed. The towers have several foreigners, or to any another site which the Government of Myanmar considers," the MEA said in an update on Operation Brahma.

The relief material will also be given to the Secretary General of the state Mahanayak Committee (the second highest of the Committee in Myanmar) where around 2,000 monks are sitting outside the monastery (who are not injured but they have nowhere to go and no basic amenities), the MEA said Our teams will

also be deployed to the Mandalay Palace, Maha Muni Pagoda, MIIT, and other such places where substantial damage has occurred.

We are providing assistance to members of the Indian community for their stay and food, the statement added.

According to reports, more than 90 people are believed to be trapped under the remains of the Sky Villa apartment block.

At the U hla thein monastery, more than 180 monks were taking the third session of a six-day exam for a senior level of monkhood when the tremors hit on Friday.

The earthquake brought down three levels of one part of the building, one on top of another.

On Saturday night, two C-130 aircraft of the Indian Air Force carrying 80 NDRF search and rescue personnel, and two C-17 aircraft with an 118-member Indian Army Field Hospital unit, landed in Nay Pyi Taw, as part of Operation Brahma to help quake-hit Myanmar.

BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers, Senior Officials to meet ahead of Bangkok Summit

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 31

The 6th BIMSTEC Summit scheduled to take place on April 4, in Bangkok, Thailand, will be preceded by a Meeting of BIMSTEC Senior Officials on April 2 and a Meeting of BIMSTEC Foreign or External Affairs Ministers on April 3.

The 6th Summit of the Heads of State/Governments of the member States of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is being held three years after the 5th Summit (held Virtually, Colombo, March 30, 2022). The theme of the upcoming summit is 'Prosperous, Resilient, and Open BIMSTEC'.

The Summit, which aims at fostering collaboration among the member States to address the shared security and developmental challenges, will provide a new impetus to the efforts underway to realise the goal of a prosperous, resilient and open BIMSTEC, a statement issued by the BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka said.

The Summit has a rich Agenda:

○ Adoption of the Declaration of 6th BIMSTEC Summit, which will reflect the vision of the Leaders as well as their decisions and directives;

○ Adoption of the Bangkok Vision 2030. This is the first vision document which will be adopted by the Leaders. It provides a

and Crime (UNODC), which will herald a new era of developmental partnerships between BIMSTEC and these organisations;

○ Adoption of the Rules of Procedure for the BIMSTEC Mechanisms, which, together with the Charter, lay the foundation of institutional framework for regional cooperation under BIMSTEC; and

○ Adoption of the Report of Eminent Persons Group on the Future Direction of BIMSTEC. The Group held six Meetings in 2024. It consulted the relevant stakeholders and finalised its Report in September 2024 after extensive deliberations. The Report contains a number of recommendations and the member States have commenced steps aimed at implementing the Report.

In a rapidly evolving and uncertain global political and economic situation, the 6th BIMSTEC Summit will further reinforce the critical role of BIMSTEC, as the only regional organisation in Bay of Bengal, in forging regional cooperation to enable the member States to deal with their shared security and sus-

tainable development challenges.

BIMSTEC which brings together five countries from South Asia and two countries from South East Asia, is poised to evolve into a vibrant and dynamic regional organisation.

As BIMSTEC's highest policymaking body, the Summits play a pivotal role in shaping the organization's agenda and work. Since BIMSTEC's inception in June 1997, five Summits have been held: in Bangkok (2004), New Delhi (2008), Nay Pyi Daw (2014), Kathmandu (2018) and Colombo (2022).

BIMSTEC comprises seven countries of the Bay of Bengal region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It pursues regional cooperation in seven broad sectors: Agriculture & Food Security; Connectivity; Environment & Climate Change; People-to-People Contact; Science, Technology & Innovation; Security; and Trade, Investment & Development.

The cooperation also covers eight sub-sectors: Blue Economy, Mountain Economy, Energy, Disaster Management, Fisheries & Livestock, Poverty Alleviation, Health, and Human Resource Development.



NDA will contest under leadership of Nitish in Bihar: Kushwaha

AGENCIES
PATNA, MAR 31

President of Rastriya Lok Morcha (RLM) Upendra Kushwaha on Monday made it clear that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar would be the CM face of NDA again in the next Bihar assembly elections to be held in October-November this year.

Kushwaha told media persons here that there was no confusion over the CM face of NDA as Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was the unanimous choice of all its constituents.

NDA would form the government under the leadership of Chief Minister Kumar again after the next assembly elections in Bihar, slated for October-November this year, he added.



"There was no specific agenda for the NDA meeting held at CM residence in Patna on Sunday during the visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah", RLM leader said, adding it was natural for NDA leaders to discuss about upcoming Bihar assembly elections. It was a short duration meeting and no specific

agenda was there, he responded while repeated queries of media persons in this connection.

Kushwaha, to a query, said that it was for all to see what was going on in the Grand Alliance in Bihar, an oblique reference to the tug of war between Congress and RJD over the CM face of the Grand Alliance in the upcoming Bihar assembly elections.

It was all smooth functioning in NDA, and the number of its allies could increase in the future, he remarked, but refused to give any specific reply in this connection.

In politics, there was always a possibility for an increase in the number in alliances, he quipped but clarified that there was no such possibility in immediate future.

Tejashwi will be CM face of Grand Alliance in Bihar: RJD

AGENCIES
PATNA, MAR 31

RJD on Monday reiterated that Tejashwi Prasad Yadav would be the CM face of the Grand Alliance in the next assembly elections in Bihar, scheduled to be held in October-November this year.

State spokesman of RJD Mrityunjay Tiwary told media persons here that

former Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav would be the CM face of the Grand Alliance in the next assembly elections to be held in October-November this year in Bihar. He dismissed all dissenting voices of state Congress leaders on the issue of the CM's face.

"Congress high command decides on CM face



of Grand Alliance in Bihar", Tiwary said, adding that Congress high command had given its consent to project Tejashwi as CM face of Grand Alliance in 2020 Bihar assembly elections. Tejashwi was the CM face of the Grand Alliance in the last assembly elections, and there was no confusion over his name as CM face again in the upcoming assembly elections, he added.

Leader of Congress leg-

islative party in the Assembly, Ajeet Sharma stressed that no decision has been taken on the CM's face of the Grand Alliance. A decision on CM's face would be taken in a meeting of the leaders of all parties of the Grand Alliance, he had maintained a few weeks back.

In-charge of Bihar of Congress, Krishna Allaveru had also maintained stoic silence on the CM's face of the Grand Alliance in Bihar. No decision on the CM's face was taken in the meeting of senior Congress leaders in New Delhi. Yes, a decision was taken for all constituents of the Grand Alliance contesting together in the next assembly elections but the CM face was yet to be finalised, he had pointed out recently.

ATS Homekraft sells 400 plots near Jewar airport for Rs 1,200 crore



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MARCH 31

Real estate firm ATS Homekraft on Monday said it has sold 400 plots for Rs 1,200 crore near the upcoming Noida International Airport at Jewar in Uttar Pradesh.

"The project generated sales exceeding Rs 1,200 crore, reflecting robust market demand. The initial offering was oversubscribed by 2.5 times, demonstrating significant investor interest," the company said in a release.

The real estate firm said that the plots are part of a larger 100-acre development

where ATS has already developed and handed over a group housing project 'ATS Allure' with over 1,100 apartments.

"We have completed and delivered over 4,000 homes across Noida, Gurgaon and Chandigarh in the last 30 months. This recent launch highlights the trust that our customers place in us," said Udayvir Anand, Managing Director, ATS Group.

ATS claimed that its last launch on Dwarka Expressway saw overwhelming demand from first-time homebuyers.

Naidu shirking responsibility of implementing welfare schemes: YSRCP

AGENCIES
GUNTUR, MAR 31

YSRCP senior leader and former Minister of Andhra Pradesh Ambati Rambabu alleged that AP Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is trying to shirk responsibility of implementing welfare schemes and relying on his pet theme of 'privatization' while his Deputy Pawan Kalyan has been displaying unbridled loyalty to his boss.

Speaking to media here on Monday, he said, Chandrababu Naidu's 'P4' is an extension of his privatization policy and shirking responsibility of poverty alleviation besides covering up his inability to implement Super Six promises.

"Naidu who boasted of creating wealth has now roped in wealthy people and gave them the responsibility of poverty alleviation which shows the manipulative politics of Chandrababu



and the Super Six welfare schemes had gone paving way to 'P4', he lashed out.

"Wealth creation cannot be created and poverty cannot be driven out by outsourcing it to a handful of people. What is needed is commitment like what YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has. The standard of living of the poor has to be increased by providing quality education, medicare and jobs," the former Minister stated, adding that Chandrababu Naidu is never into it.

Mr.Naidu has privatized medical colleges depriving the poor students of medical college seats and has been taking many anti people decisions and the anger is being pent up among the

general public, he charged adding that the coalition days are numbered.

Wealth creation could be seen only for Chandrababu and Pawan Kalyan houses and their sole aims appear to be scheming as to how to land Lokesh in the Chief Minister's chair, he said. On earlier occasions Naidu had boasted of 'Janma Bhoomi', 'Sharma Danam' and many slogans which were confined only to cater to his friendly media and with the passing of time have melted away.

Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena party chief Pawan Kalyan has always been playing second fiddle and seems he likes to be in that role, whatever be the aspirations of his party cadre, he flayed. He has been endorsing all the moves of the Chief Minister and had declared that what he cannot achieve alone must be achieved by extending support to TDP, Ambati Rambabu criticised.

14 killed, 46 injured after bus overturns in SE Iran

AGENCIES
TEHRAN, MAR 31

At least 14 people were killed and 46 injured as a bus overturned on an intercity road in Iran's southeastern province of Kerman on Sunday, the official news agency IRNA reported.

The incident took place at 17:17 local time (1347 GMT) on the road from Kerman, the provincial capital, to Ravar County, IRNA quoted Mohammad Saberi, head of the province's emergency medical services center, as saying.

He added that all the injured were taken to the hospital, with five in critical condition, adding that the cause of the incident would be announced within hours.

Nitish will lose moral right to call himself follower of Gandhi and Lohia if Waqf bill passed

AGENCIES
PATNA, MAR 31

Founder of "Jan Suraj" Prashant Kishor on Monday said Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar would lose moral right to call himself a follower of Gandhi and Lohia, if the Waqf Board Amendment Bill is passed in Parliament.

Kishor told media persons that the Waqf Board Amendment Bill was an attempt by the Narendra Modi government to deprive the Muslim community of their rights envisaged in the constitution. Muslims had been given certain rights in the constitution which could not be denied, diluted, or modified by the government without their consent, he added.

"Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has the potential and authority in present political scenario to stall the passage of Waqf Board Amendment Bill in parlia-



ment", Jan Suraj leader said adding that JD(U) had 12 MPs in Lok Sabha and if they did not support the bill on instruction from Kumar, there would be no chance of the bill getting approval of the parliament. If Kumar remained silent and did not take steps to stall the bill, he would lose the moral right to call himself a follower of Gandhi and Lohia, he noted.

Kishor said that Kumar had lost his control over the government as some leaders of his party and the BJP were calling the shots. It appeared that Kumar was not in good health to govern the state, he felt.

Health system in a bad situation in Bihar:CPI

AGENCIES
PATNA, MAR 31

The Communist Party of India (CPI) alleged that the health system was in a bad situation in Bihar, where patients were not being admitted to the hospitals and not getting beds even though four medical colleges were functioning in the state capital, Patna.

CPI state Secretary Ramnareish Pandey said here on Monday that the top officials of the Bihar government have banned the admission of patients in the emergency ward of Patna AIIMS, IGIMS, PMCH and NMCH at night, following which people are forced to go to private hospitals.

The private hospitals have become a den of loot, he alleged, saying that the government was patting itself on the back for health services. The statement of Union Health Minister JP Nadda in Parliament was mislead-

ing and far from reality, he alleged, saying that the Minister claims 157 medical colleges in Bihar, but there are only 12 such institutions, including government and private hospitals in the state.

He said the condition of sub-health centres, additional health centres, Primary Health centres sub-divisional hospitals and Sadar hospitals was wretched. The patients were not getting medicine at the government hospitals, he maintained.

There was a dearth of doctors and other paramedical staff in the government hospitals, and added that the appointment process had been going on for the past 3 years, but no appointment has been made as yet. The CPI leader said that for the past 20 years, the Health Department has been continuously with the BJP, which has ruined the entire Health Services in Bihar.

BJP's Mega Rally in Pargwal: Ashok Koul Extends Hindu New Year Greetings

JINNEWS SERVICE
PARGWAL, MARCH 30

In a grand show of strength and commitment to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Mandal Pargwal, under the leadership of Mandal President Gourav Manhas, organized a massive public gathering in Pargwal to listen to the Mann Ki Baat program. The event witnessed an overwhelming response from party workers and local residents.

The gathering was graced by BJP Organization General Secretary Ashok Koul, MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal, and District President Kuldeep Banotra, who were present as special guests. Following the broadcast of the Mann Ki Baat program, these senior leaders addressed the enthusiastic audience, emphasizing key initiatives and upcoming party programs.

In his address, Ashok Koul extended heartfelt greetings to the gathering on the occasion of Hindu New Year, describing it as a symbol of India's rich culture and traditions. He stated that this New Year inspires us to uphold our values and contribute to nation-building. Additionally, he highlighted the significance of the recently declared holiday in honor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and strongly criticized the Congress party's historical stance on Ambedkar's legacy. He urged people to actively participate in the PM Surya Yojana, emphasizing its role in promoting clean and sustainable energy solutions. Furthermore, he called



upon party workers to ensure the grand success of upcoming events such as the BJP Foundation Day and Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations.

MLA Mohan Lal praised the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that the Mann Ki Baat program serves as an insightful platform to connect with the people and share progressive ideas. He appealed to everyone to listen to the program every month, as it provides valuable knowledge and guidance. Addressing the concerns of the people of Pargwal Block, he assured that their demands would be met on priority. He specifically committed to providing an ambulance and an X-ray machine, as requested by the local community. Additionally, he assured that irrigation water would be supplied in adequate quantity to the farmers of the region.

Reaffirming his personal connection with Pargwal, MLA Mohan Lal recalled his tenure in the region as a lecturer in the Education Department. He expressed

his dedication to ensuring equitable development across all blocks and assured the people that their issues have been raised in the Assembly with full vigor. Congratulating the newly formed Pargwal Block Team, he expressed confidence in their ability to strengthen the party at the grassroots level.

District President Kuldeep Banotra also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of organizational programs and strengthening BJP's structure at all levels.

The event saw the presence of several prominent party leaders, including Prabhari Brijeshwar Rana, DDC Vice Chairman Suraj Singh, Former VC Kissan Board Daljit Chib, Manmohan Singh, Bhupinder Singh, Ram Swaroop, and Jagdish Bhagat, among others.

The newly formed BJP Mandal Pargwal team, which was officially introduced and garlanded at the event, includes: President Gourav Manhas, Vice Presidents Nisha Bhagat,

Subash Singh, Uttam Singh and Pawan Singh, General Secretaries Kulbir Singh and Kaushal Bhagat, Secretaries Kaushalya Devi, Rajni Devi, Manddeep Singh, Chanchal Devi, Office Secretary Joginder Singh, Surjeet Singh Spokesperson, Ajay Sanjwal Media Secretary, Social Media Secretary Kalyan Singh, Publicity Secretary Joginder Singh, IT Incharge. Additionally, several Executive Members were introduced, including Balwinder Singh, Raghuraj Singh, Rekha Sharma, Ramesh Khajuria, Santosh Devi, Pol Devi, Ravi Singh, Swarn Kanta, Banarsi Lal Sharma, Bhupinder Singh, Bansilal Verma, Seema Devi, Satya Devi, Asha Bhagat, Subash Singh, Capt. Jaspaal Singh, Mugdesh Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Naseeb Singh, Rattan Lal Sharma, Kashmir Singh, Sunita Devi, and Ritu Devi. The BJP Mandal Pargwal reaffirmed its commitment to serving the people and ensuring the success of key government initiatives under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Adbi Kunj elects Aarash Dalmotra as President, Piyasa Anjum as Chairman

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 30

A special meeting of the General Body of Adbi Kunj Jammu and Kashmir was held here at the Vishwakarma Complex, Gurah Mod Bakshi Nagar. The main purpose of the event was to hold elections for the post of President of Adbi Kunj. This post had fallen vacant after the demise of former President Late Shri Sham Talib Sahib. For which elections were to be held. This election was conducted under the supervision of former Deputy Commissioner of Jammu Mr. B. S. Jamwal. After much deliberation, Mr. Om Aarash Dalmotra was unanimously elected as the new President of Adbi Kunj. For which he is qualified in the true sense. In this regard, the Vice Chairman of Adabi Kunj Mr. Sarwar Chauhan Habib proposed the name of the present Chairman Mr. Aarash Dalmotra for this post.



Which was seconded by former General Secretary of Adbi Kunj, Mr. Saathi K. R. Salgotra and Vice President, Ms. Santosh Shah Nandan. After this, Mr. Aarash Dalmotra proposed the name of Piyasa Anjum for the vacant post of Chairman, which was seconded by Mr. Dharmesh Nargotra and Mr. Jawahar Jyoti Rahbar. On which the entire house expressed its agreement with thunderous applause.

In his statement, the newly appointed President of Adbi Kunj, Mr. Aarash Dalmotra sought cooperation from all to make

it more prosperous. Mr. B.S. Jamwal announced that the elections for the remaining office bearers would be held after the completion of three years. He was accompanied by Dr. Nirmal Vinod, former General Secretary of Dogri Sanstha, as an observer. On this occasion, the current committee members, Vice Chairman Mr. Sarwar Chauhan Habib, Vice Chairman Mrs. Santosh Shah Nandan, General Secretary Mr. M. S. Kamra and Organizing Secretary Mr. Jitendra Jolly were present. Along with them, new members of the

working committee Sathi K.R Sargotra, Dharmesh Nargotra, Raj Kamal, Ram krishan Abid, Uttam Singh Rahi, ShamsRajan , Jawahar Jyoti Rahbar, Ramesh Rahi, R. R. Malhotra, Dharmapal Kataria, Muhammad Baqir Saba, Rakesh Tripti, Raj Kamal were also present.

Before concluding the proceedings of the convention, heartfelt tributes were paid to late Shri Shyam Talib and Gurudev OP Sharma Sarathi. At the end of all these proceedings, B S Jamwal thanked everyone from the bottom of his heart.

Annual Dangal organized in Sumah on occasion of Hindu New Year

JINNEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, MAR 31

A grand annual wrestling tournament was organized in Sumah, Akhnoor, to mark the occasion of the Hindu New Year. The event was conducted under the aegis of the Pir Baba Dangal Committee, with key contributions from committee members, including Harish (President), Sanjay Sharma (Vice President), Tilak Raj (Chairman), Vinod (Treasurer), Rakesh, Keval, Shubham, Abhay, Rinku, Yograj, Ravi, Bittu, former Sarpanch Rampal, Ganesh Sharma, and former Sarpanch Manisha Sharma.

The chief guest for the event was Akhnoor MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat. He was accompanied by SP Rural Brijesh Sharma, Jammu Narwal Sabzi Mandi President Surinder Singh Kala, Yuva Rajput Sabha President Vikram Singh, former President



Rajan Singh Happy, Station House Officer (SHO) Rohit Gandhi, Baral Sabha President Mangal Baral, and District Gurdwara Management Committee Joint Secretary Ranveer Singh.

This prestigious tournament saw participation from renowned wrestlers from India and abroad. The main wrestling bout was between Ahmad Mirza from Iran and Shubham from Nashik, Maharashtra, where Ahmad Mirza emerged victorious, winning a cash prize of Rs 2,51,000. The second major bout, worth Rs 1,51,000,

was contested between Suhas Godke from Pune, Maharashtra, and Biniya from Jammu, with Suhas Godke securing victory. The third biggest match featured Chhota Saddam and Manish from Maharashtra, in which Chhota Saddam defeated Manish. In total, more than 50 wrestling matches were conducted during the event.

Chief guest Mohan Lal Bhagat congratulated the organizers and emphasized the importance of promoting traditional sports like wrestling to preserve cultural heritage. He stated that wres-

ling is an integral part of Indian culture and plays a crucial role in the physical and mental development of youth. Encouraging young athletes, he urged them to engage in sports for a healthier and brighter future.

The MLA assured that every possible support would be provided for the promotion of sports and athletes. He reiterated his commitment to developing better sports facilities in the Akhnoor region and stated that the government is actively working to provide enhanced training and resources to athletes at the grassroots level. The tournament witnessed an overwhelming crowd of thousands of spectators, who enthusiastically cheered for the wrestlers. The event was a resounding success, further boosting wrestling enthusiasm in the region and contributing significantly to the promotion of sports.

Terrorist attacks can't demoralize security forces: Sat Sharma

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 31

Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Sat Sharma CA and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the assembly, Sunil Sharma, accompanied by party MLAs, senior leaders, and local activists, visited the residence of martyr Jangbir Singh Choudhary in village Mattu of Khour block to express their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Sat Sharma CA was accompanied by former Minister and MLA Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat, Akhnoor District President Kuldeep Banotra, DDC Vice-Chairperson Suraj Singh, former Vice Chairman Daljit Singh Chib, Jagdish Bhagat and others.

Sat Sharma CA while expressing sympathies with the family, lauded the bravery and supreme sacrifice of Jangbir Singh



Choudhary, describing him as a "brave son of the soil." He stated that such sacrifices by valiant soldiers cannot demoralize the security forces who are relentlessly fighting against anti-national elements to uphold the unity and integrity of the nation. He reiterated the BJP's unwavering support for the martyr's family during this difficult time and emphasized that the party stands shoulder to shoulder with them in their grief and sorrow.

Sat Sharma CA also demanded adequate compensation for the family of the martyr and urged the government to provide a job to a member of the martyr's family as a gesture of respect and recognition for Jangbir Singh Choudhary's bravery.

Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma expressed deep pain over the loss of a brave soldier. He affirmed that he himself, the entire BJP leadership, both at the Centre and in the Union Territory,

salutes the martyrdom of Jangbir Singh Choudhary. During his visit, Sunil Sharma assured the family that he would personally take up the matter with the Lieutenant Governor to ensure free education for the martyr's two children, securing their future as a tribute to their father's service to the nation.

They all expressed their condolences to the family and assured them of full support from the party during this period of mourning.

Suresh Sharma inaugurates Development Works Worth Rs 18.50 Lakh in Panchayat Barui of Block Maira Mandrian

JINNEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, MARCH 31

In a significant step towards improving Rural infrastructure, BJP leader and District Development Council (DDC) member, Pandit Suresh Sharma, inaugurated development projects worth Rs 18.50 lakh in Panchayat Barui of Block Maira Mandrian today. These projects include the construction of a lane in Saganibarola Pandit Mohalla, a culvert in Baral Mohalla, two lanes in village Parsoti, and drainage work in Sarpanch Mohalla of village Barui. The projects address long-pending demands of the local residents.

While addressing the gathering, Suresh Sharma emphasized that development is progressing rapidly across every Panchayat



in Block Maira Mandrian and Chowki Choura, in line with the Modi government's commitment to rural progress. He highlighted the Pradhan Mantri Gram Awas Yojana,

under which people living in kuchha houses are now receiving pucca homes, significantly improving their quality of life. Additionally, the government is working towards ensuring

clean tap water reaches every household. Suresh Sharma reassured the public that more developmental initiatives will be undertaken across all Panchayats in the coming days.

The residents of Panchayat Barui, expressing their deep appreciation, commended Suresh Sharma for his proactive efforts for the region's development. The event saw the presence of several dignitaries, including former Sarpanch Rashpal Sharma, former Sarpanch Milkhi Ram, former Panch Subedar Satyapal Sharma, Mandal General Secretary Akshay Magotra, Bavidar Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Thakurdas, Captain Omprakash, Surendra Kumar, Garu Ram, Kuldeep Kumar, Sita Ram, Ramesh, Rajiv Kumar, and many others.

Warm farewell accorded to Behari Lal on his superannuation from SMVDU

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 31

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, organized a heartfelt farewell ceremony for Mr. Behari Lal, Helper Plumber, on the occasion of his superannuation after 20 years of dedicat-



ed service to the University. Speaking at the event, University Engineer, Er. Kamal Sharma, commended Mr. Behari Lal for his exemplary contributions and unwavering commitment over the years. The ceremony was attended by his family, friends, and colleagues, who extended

their best wishes for his future endeavors.

On this special occasion, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, along with faculty and staff members, conveyed their gratitude and wished Mr. Behari Lal a happy, healthy, and fulfilling post-retirement life.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Eid celebrated...

the significance of the day, explaining the philosophy behind the customary sacrifice.

"I want to extend my wishes to everyone on Eid, the festival of happiness. There's a tradition in Jammu where people come together during religious functions," Mufti Anayat Tullah, head priest of the Jama Masjid in Jammu, said.

Emphasising the love and brotherhood among various communities in Jammu, he said, "I hope this bond of love continues. I want to appeal to everyone – do not fall into the trap of those spreading hate." (AGENCIES)

Eid-ul-Fitr celebrated...

Abdullah and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti were among those who offered prayers at the holiest shrine in Kashmir.

Omar said that he joined thousands in offering Eid prayers at Hazratbal with his father and prayed for peace and prosperity for the people of J&K and Ladakh.

PDP President Mehbooba Mufti congratulated people on Eid but expressed sorrow over the situation in Palestine and the "oppression" faced by Muslims in India.

"We pray to Allah to free all humanity, especially the Muslim Ummah, from oppression and bring peace with dignity to Jammu and Kashmir," she told reporters after the Eid prayers.

A large congregation of Eid prayers was held in all districts of the valley.

Officials said the Eid congregational prayers were held peacefully across Kashmir.

During Eid sermons, the Imams in several parts of Kashmir raised their voice against the proposed Waqf Amendment Bill, which the Government of India intends to table in the Parliament. The call to raise the issue of Waqf was given by Muthahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), the largest representative forum of religious organisations in Jammu & Kashmir.

Lieutenant Governor...

Jagbir Singh from the Akhnoor area in Jammu district to express condolences to the family.

Following information from the people, the police tracked a group of terrorists after intercepting them last Sunday within a "dhok," a local term for an enclosure in a nursery, in Sanyal village near the International Border with Pakistan.

Tracking them led to an encounter in Sanyal village of the district resulting in the killing of two terrorists and four policemen on Thursday.

The body of Head Constable Jagbir Singh was recovered from the Ghati-Juthana forest on Saturday. The bodies of two terrorists, believed to be affiliated with the proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit, were also recovered along with war-like stores.

The bodies of three policemen – Balwinder Singh Chib, Jaswant Singh, and Tariq Ahmad – were recovered on Friday evening.

The People's Anti-Fascist Front, a shadow outfit of the Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), has claimed involvement in the encounter. (Agencies)

1 lakh pilgrims...

community kitchen services.

Recognizing the need for accessibility, the Shrine Board has announced several free services for persons with disabilities (Divyang pilgrims). These initiatives aim to provide them with a seamless and comfortable pilgrimage experience.

In 2024, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine witnessed a record-breaking 94.83 lakh devotees, reaffirming its status as one of the most revered spiritual destinations in India. The Shrine Board remains committed to providing enhanced facilities and ensuring a smooth pilgrimage for all devotees. (Agencies)

Amit Shah to visit...

government's commitment to bringing peace and stability to the region.

He also held extensive discussions with political leaders, security officials, and local representatives to address regional concerns.

Since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, the government has intensified its counter-terrorism operations and launched various initiatives to bolster infrastructure and development in the region.

Shah's upcoming visit is seen as a continuation of these efforts, with a focus on strengthening security mechanisms and ensuring the safety of civilians.

Shah had also visited Jammu during the recent Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. In September 2024, he launched the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) election campaign in the region.

During his visit, Shah addressed party workers and public rallies, emphasizing the BJP's commitment to development and security in the Union Territory.

He criticised opposition parties, particularly the National Conference (NC) and Congress, accusing them of misleading the public regarding the restoration of statehood.

Shah then reiterated that the central government would restore Jammu and Kashmir's statehood at an appropriate time after the elections. (Agencies)

April-June to be...

India might face double the number of heatwave days during the summer.

The region normally experiences five to six heatwave days during the season.

States likely to see above-normal heatwave days include Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and the northern parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

In April, most parts of India will likely witness high-

er-than-usual maximum temperatures. However, some areas in the extreme southern and the northwestern regions may experience normal temperatures.

Minimum temperatures will be higher than usual across most of the country, except for a few places in the northwest and the northeast where temperatures may be normal or slightly below normal, Mohapatra said.

Experts have warned that India should prepare for a peak electricity demand growth of 9 to 10 per cent this summer season, with the country expected to experience a higher number of heatwave days.

Last year, the all-India peak electricity demand crossed 250 gigawatts (GW) on May 30 – 6.3 per cent higher than projections.

Climate change-induced heat stress is one of the key factors driving electricity demand.

Nowabad Police Station...

intelligence inputs, technical surveillance, and CCTV analysis, a special team led by SHO Nowabad Sh. Deepak Pathania under the supervision of Dy.SP Headquarters and overall guidance of SP City North Jammu, identified the assailants.

Following meticulous investigation, a raid was conducted at a suspected location, leading to the arrest of Dheeraj Kumar @ Laddi, son of Madan Lal, resident of Ward No. 02, near Radha Krishan Mandir, Jassore, R.S. Pura, Jammu.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime, revealing that an old business rivalry with the victim was the motive behind the attack.

Based on his disclosure, police recovered one pistol, one magazine, two live rounds, and a baseball bat used in the crime. Additionally, the vehicle involved in the incident was seized.

Further investigation is underway, and efforts are being made to apprehend the remaining accused at the earliest.

Jammu Police remains committed to upholding the rule of law and ensuring the safety of its citizens by taking strict action against criminal elements.a

Search Ops intensified...

was launched this morning in the Ghati-Juthana forest area," an officer said.

Aided by aerial surveillance and sniffer dogs, the army, police, NSG, CRPF and BSF are engaged in a multi-tier operation to track down the terrorists in the forest belts of Rui, Juthana, Ghati and Sanyal in the Rajbagh region, and parts of Billawar, the officials said.

The joint operation teams are also focusing on the overground and underground networks of the terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad in areas along the International Border (IB), they said.

On Sunday night, three suspicious persons dressed in black robes entered the house of Shanker in Rui village and asked for water from an elderly woman.

"I was alone at home when they asked me for water. I went into another room out of fear after giving them water," the elderly woman told reporters.

"Before leaving, they forcibly entered the kitchen and took away rotis and sabzi," she added.

The woman said they even offered her money – two Rs 500 notes – before leaving, which she refused.

The incident prompted the security forces to put the area under night cordon.

It is difficult for terrorists to survive in the absence of a network of overground workers (OGWs), who provide them with food, shelter and escape routes, the officials said.

The forces have picked up six persons, including some women of a family, for questioning as it is alleged that they provided food, shelter and guidance to the terrorists operating in the region, the officials said.

The women belong to the family of Mohammad Latief, an OGW who is in jail under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for helping terrorists in Malhar during an attack on an army truck last year, in which six soldiers lost their lives.

It is believed that Abu Tala, one of the slain terrorists, stayed at Latief's house.

The security forces have questioned over two dozen persons about terrorist movements in the area.

Police are also tracking a group of terrorists after intercepting them on March 23 within a 'dhok', a local term for an enclosure in a nursery, in Sanyal village near the International Border with Pakistan.

Tracking them led to an encounter in Sanyal village, which resulted in the killing of two terrorists and four policemen last Thursday.

The bodies of three other policemen – Balwinder Singh Chib, Jaswant Singh and Tariq Ahmed – were found on Friday evening.

The bodies of two Pakistani terrorists, believed to be affiliated to the Jaish-e-Mohammad, were also recovered along with war-like stores.

The body of head constable Jagbir Singh was retrieved from the Ghati-Juthana forest on Saturday.

The People's Anti-Fascist Front, a shadow outfit of Jaish-e-Mohammed, claimed involvement in the encounter. (Agencies)

Operation to continue...

He urged the citizens living along the border to report any suspicious activity as the police rely on information from the public.

"The operation is underway and as long as a single terrorist remains, the Jammu and Kashmir Police will continue in its mission. Our force is dedicated to eradicating terrorism to ensure Jammu and Kashmir remains safe," Sharma told reporters in Reasi.

The DIG emphasised the collective effort of security forces and said, "Our operations conducted in coordination with the Army, CRPF and other forces are underway. We are working as a team and the search operations will continue." Lauding the bravery of police personnel, he said, "The nation salutes the courage of our officers who face bullets without flinching and embrace martyrdom yet they never waver in their commitment to restoring peace and normalcy." Sharma visited the family of policeman Tariq Ahmad who, along with three of his colleagues, lost his life fighting terrorists in Kathua on Thursday.

Praising the fallen officers, he said, "These brave personnel sacrificed their lives to create a secure environment in Jammu and Kashmir. The Jammu and Kashmir Police will never step back from its duty." The DIG particularly acknowledged the heroism of officers Balvinder, Jasveer and Jaswant, saying "had they not led the team in engaging the terrorists, the attackers could have fled elsewhere, causing greater destruction".

Expressing solidarity with the bereaved families, Sharma said, "We met with the families of the martyrs to offer our condolences and assured them that the entire nation stands with them. Their courage and sacrifice have made every citizen and police officer of Jammu and Kashmir proud." He emphasised the unwavering morale of the forces and said, "Like their families, we too feel the loss of our brave jawans. We provide excellent training and our personnel fight with determination on the ground. Our morale is high and we are prepared to face every challenge".

He said the forces will never back down and will continue to fight for the safety of people.

"With an international border to guard, we rely on information from the public and urge citizens to report any suspicious activity," Sharma said.

Saluting the mother of the fallen officer, he said, "We honour the mother who gave birth to such a brave son. Even under a hail of bullets, he stood his ground and embraced martyrdom.

"His sacrifice has made every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir and the police force proud. We are forever indebted to his bravery," Sharma said.

SC-appointed task...

Prof. Virginius Xaxa, Dr. Nidhi Sabharwal, and Ms. Aparna Bhat.

The Task Force also includes ex-officio members from key government departments, including the Department of Higher Education, the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

In its first meeting held on March 29, 2025, the Task Force outlined its plan to explore the root causes of suicides in higher education institutions and develop a comprehensive report with actionable recommendations.

The NTF aims to assess current policies, review relevant laws, and consult with various stakeholders to create an inclusive approach to improving student welfare.

The Task Force has been given a timeline of four months to submit an interim report and eight months for the final report.

The process will involve public consultations, interactions with educational institutions, and discussions with mental health professionals, students, and parents.

The Task Force is also set to launch a website and a social media handle to encourage public engagement and receive suggestions.

The formation of the NTF follows growing concerns over student mental health in India, with increasing reports of distress, depression, and suicides among students in higher education institutions.

By involving a wide range of stakeholders and fostering an open dialogue, the Task Force seeks to ensure that the voices of those affected are central to the decision-making process, with the ultimate goal of creating a safer and more supportive environment for students across the country.

SC to hear Tuesday...

is slated to come up for hearing before a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar.

The law prohibits conversion of any place of worship and provides for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947.

However, the dispute relating to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid at Ayodhya was kept out of its purview.

The plea has sought the apex court's direction allowing courts to pass appropriate orders to ascertain the original religious character of a place of worship.

It has challenged section 4(2) of the Act that barred proceedings to change the religious character, besides prohibiting filing of fresh cases for the same.

"The Centre has transgressed its legislative power in barring the judicial remedy, which is a basic feature of the Constitution. It is well established that the right to judicial remedy by filing suit in a competent court, cannot be barred and the power of courts cannot be abridged and such denial has been held to be violative of basic feature of the Constitution, beyond legislative power," the plea filed by petitioner Nitin Upadhyay, a law student, said.

The plea, filed through advocate Shweta Sinha, said the Act mandated preservation and maintenance of the religious character of places of worship without barring changes in the "structure, edifice, construction or building" in these places.

It said, "Structural change is permissible to restore the original religious character of the place." The Act did not prohibit any scientific or documentary survey to ascertain the religious character of the place, the plea said.

In February, the apex court had expressed displeasure over filing of several pleas on the 1991 Act and said a three-judge bench would in April hear the pending post-notice petitions related to the law.

The top court, however, had granted liberty to some petitioners to file applications for intervention in the pending ones by citing new legal grounds. The top court, through its December 12, 2024 order, effectively stalled proceedings in about 18 lawsuits filed by various Hindu parties seeking survey to ascertain original religious character of 10 mosques, including Gyanvapi at Varanasi, Shahi Idgah Masjid at Mathura and Shahi Jama Masjid at Sambhal where four people died in clashes. (Agencies)

A database of industrial authorities to be prepared in UP

AGENCIES

LUCKNOW, MAR 31

As part of its efforts to develop Uttar Pradesh as a leading industrial hub in the country, the state government is now set to develop a comprehensive database of all major industrial authorities in UP, official sources said here on Monday.

Sources said that as the nodal agency for attracting and tracking investments, Invest UP is set to create this extensive database to enhance transparency in the land allotment process. "It will also provide real-time insights into the status of vacant and allotted plots, setting up of industries, and the implementation progress of various projects across multiple industrial authorities," they said.

Sources said that this initiative will encompass key industrial authorities, including UP State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA), Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority, New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA), Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority (GIDA) and Satharia Industrial Development Authority (SIDA).

Sources said that a detailed land bank analysis will be conducted across these authorities. "Skilled survey agencies will be appointed to map the occupancy status of allotted plots, track the progress of industrial units, and assess vacant plots, ensuring a data-driven approach to industrial planning and development," they said.

Sources said that the Invest UP will oversee the entire database creation process to ensure seamless and transparent land allocation. "The appointed survey agencies will conduct onsite and offsite monitoring of industrial land, compile detailed reports on unit operations, construction and development activities on industrial plots, ensure industrial land is used strictly for its intended purpose and report any violations and facilitate comparative efficiency studies across different authorities, expediting the transparent allotment of vacant industrial plots," they said.

Sources said that by implementing this robust database system, the Yogi Adityanath government is reinforcing its commitment to industrial expansion, investment facilitation, and transparent governance, paving the way for a stronger and more dynamic UP.

Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty winds likely in Coastal AP & Yanam in next 5 days: Met

AGENCIES

AMARAVATI, MAR 31

Thunderstorm accompanied by lightning and gusty winds speed ranging from 30-40 kmph is likely to occur in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam during the next five days, Meteorological Center said on Monday.

In a daily weather report here, it said that the same situation is likely to prevail in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema from April 1 to 4.

Maximum temperatures are likely to fall by 2-3 degrees Celsius in Andhra Pradesh and Yanam during the next five days. Light to moderate rain is likely to occur in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam during the next seven days and in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema from April 1 to 6.

Dry weather is likely to prevail in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next 24 hours. The weather report also said that the trough from south Chhattisgarh to south Tamil Nadu now runs from south Chhattisgarh to Madhya Maharashtra across Vidarbha, above cyclonic circulation over Marathwada at 0.9 km above mean sea level.

A north-south trough runs from the Cyclonic Circulation over Marathwada to north Tamil Nadu between 0.9 & 1.5 km above mean sea level.

The upper air Cyclonic Circulation over southeast Bay of Bengal now lies over southwest Bay of Bengal at 3.1 km above mean sea level.

The Cyclonic Circulation over south Tamil Nadu & neighbourhood at 0.9 km above mean sea level has become less marked.

Dry weather prevailed in Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam and Rayalaseema during the last 24 hours.

The highest maximum temperature of 40.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Kurnool in Rayalaseema on Sunday, the report added.

'Arunachal Pradesh Sanskriti, Parampara aur Kala Tyohar' celebrated at Itanagar Raj Bhavan

AGENCIES

ITANAGAR, MAR 31

The Raj Bhavan in Itanagar on Monday hosted the maiden episode of the cultural extravaganza, 'Arunachal Pradesh Sanskriti, Parampara aur Kala Tyohar', celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Northeastern state.

The event was conceptualized by the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt General (Retd) KT Parnaik, as part of the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative to promote local artists and cultural groups.

Troupes representing various tribes, including Monpa, Adi, Puroik, Wancho, and Nyishi, participated in the cultural presentation, showcasing the vibrant traditions of Arunachal Pradesh.

Addressing the gathering, Governor Parnaik emphasized the state's immense cultural wealth expressed through its music, dance, and folk traditions and reaffirmed Raj Bhavan's commitment to supporting local artists through various initiatives.

He particularly commended the women participants, highlighting their leadership and resilience in different spheres of life. He stated that the dedication and spirit of the women of Arunachal Pradesh are pivotal in realizing the vision of 'Viksit Arunachal'.

Cambridge Montessori School celebrates Navratras with festivities, waiving admission fees

JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 31

Cambridge Montessori School in Pouni Chak recently celebrated the auspicious occasion of Navratras with immense grandeur and enthusiasm. The school opened its doors to the community with a special gesture—waiving all admission fees during this period to make education

more accessible and welcoming to families.

The school's vibrant Navratra celebrations were a showcase of rich cultural traditions, blending spirituality, joy, and community spirit. The entire campus was decorated with bright colors, and a series of activities were organized to mark the festival. Students, staff, and parents actively participated in the celebra-

tions, adding to the festive atmosphere.

Principal Anuradha Sharma expressed her delight at the community's enthusiastic participation in the celebrations. "Navratras is a time for renewal, growth, and unity. We are thrilled to celebrate it with such enthusiasm and pride, bringing together students, parents, and faculty. Waiving admission



fees during this time is our way of spreading the festive joy and ensuring that education remains accessible to all," said Principal Sharma.

The school's commitment to fostering both academic and cultural growth was evident throughout the festivities, which included traditional dances, music performances, and interactive learning experiences

for students. It was a wonderful opportunity for the school to bring together the local community and celebrate the spirit of Navratras with their valued students.

Special guest Vishal Sharma also commended the school for its efforts in making education both enriching and inclusive, stating, "Cambridge Montessori School has always been a beacon of knowl-

edge and culture in the area. Their dedication to blending tradition with modern education is truly commendable."

As the celebrations concluded, the school looked forward to continuing its efforts in providing an exceptional learning environment for all students, marking a promising year ahead for the school and its growing community.

Sat Sharma, Sunil Sharma visit GMC to enquire about injured policemen

JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 31

Sat Sharma CA, President, Jammu and Kashmir BJP and Sunil Sharma, LoP, visited Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu to enquire about the health and well-being of the brave policemen, SDPO Dheeraj Katoch and SPO Bharat Jalhotra, who sustained injuries during a recent anti-terror operation in Kathua. The visit aimed to ensure that the injured officers are receive-



ing the best possible medical care and support for speedy recovery.

They both interacted with the injured police-

men and with Principal, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, and Deputy Superintendent Bharat Bhushan. They urged the medical authori-

ties to provide top-quality treatment and care to the injured policemen, emphasizing that their dedication to duty must be acknowledged and appreciated by providing them with all necessary medical assistance.

The BJP leaders praised the courage and valour exhibited by the policemen during their encounter with terrorists in Kathua. They expressed gratitude on behalf of the party and the general

public, highlighting that such bravery and commitment are instrumental in ensuring the safety and security of the region.

Sat Sharma CA, said that the bravery displayed by our policemen in Kathua is commendable. Their dedication to protecting the citizens is unmatched, and we are here to ensure that they receive the best possible care. We are also committed to extending all possible support to their families during this challenging time.

Indian Army distributes Blankets to Gujjar, Bakkarwals at Kesri Hill, Rajouri



JIN NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAR 31

In a humanitarian effort to support underprivileged communities, Indian Army at Samote distributed blankets to Gujjars and Bakkarwals in Kesri Hill. The Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities known for their nomadic lifestyle often endure extreme cold conditions during transhumance. This welfare initiative aims to provide relief to the residents facing harsh weather conditions, ensuring their well-being and comfort. By extending a helping hand, the Indian Army

seeks to ease their hardships and reaffirm its commitment to their welfare. Such efforts strengthen the deep-rooted bond between the Indian Army and local communities, fostering trust, cooperation and mutual respect while encouraging social harmony and inclusivity. The Indian Army remains committed to the welfare and upliftment of marginalised communities. By distributing blankets to Gujjar and Bakkarwal families, the Indian Army seeks to alleviate hardships and ensure their well-being. This initiative not only provides much

needed assistance but also reinforces trust and cooperation between the Indian Army and the local communities. A total of 25 people availed the benefit of distribution of blankets. Sarpanchs, Panchs & prominent locals thanked and expressed their profound gratitude towards the Indian Army for distribution of blankets to the poor and needy at Kesri Hill. This initiative of Indian Army will go a long way in overall development of the society and cementing of existing strong bond between Indian Army and the Awam.

MASTA appreciates govt. for clearing pending bills of JKMSCL at close of FY

JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 31

The members of the Medical and Surgical Traders Association (MASTA) recently convened to express their heartfelt gratitude to the Finance Secretary, Health Secretary, and the Managing Director of JKMSCL for their swift action in releasing payments to medical and surgical equipment traders at the financial year's close on March 31st.

The early release of payments has been crucial for ensuring smooth operations within the medical & surgical equipment trade, allowing businesses to maintain their supply chains and continue providing essential healthcare products without disruption. The timely



disbursement of funds reflects the government's commitment to supporting the healthcare sector and its suppliers, especially during critical times.

During the meeting, MASTA members also

voiced their hope that this positive trend of timely payments will continue in the future, ensuring uninterrupted operations and a thriving healthcare supply network.

The meeting was

attended by the following office bearers and members: Ashok Amla (Chairman), Vijay Bhardwaj (President), Vimal Arora (General Secretary), Vikas pandita, Vikas Raizada, Sunil Bhat.

Jammu Police, under the jurisdiction of PS Bus Stand, arrests drug peddler

JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 31

In a determined effort to combat drug trafficking, Jammu Police, under the jurisdiction of Police Station Bus Stand, have arrested a drug peddler and seized approximately 05 grams of heroin (Chitta) in the Bus Stand area. The operation was led by SHO Inspector Vikas Dogra, as part of ongoing efforts to eliminate the drug menace from the city.

The accused, identified as Amir Ahmed Bhat S/o. Ghulam Ahmed Bhat R/o. Bhatra, Budgam, was found in possession of the contraband.

A case under FIR No. 24/2025 has been registered at Police Station Bus Stand under Sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act, and investigations are underway to trace the source and any possible links to a larger supply network.

This successful operation was conducted under the close supervision of SP North Jammu & SDPO City North

The Jammu Police have assured that strict action will continue against those involved in drug-related crimes.

Jammu Police have reiterated their commitment to making the city drug-free and urged citizens to remain vigilant. They emphasized the importance of public cooperation in the fight against drugs and encouraged people to report any suspicious activities.

With intensified operations in the coming days, Jammu Police remain resolute in their mission to protect the community, particularly the youth, from the dangers of drug abuse while ensuring law and order in the region.

Retd Brigadier pays homage to his Braveheart Battle Comrade of Indo-Pak War 1971



JIN NEWS SERVICE
GAJANSOO, JAMMU, MAR 31

A septuagenarian, Brigadier Sukhbir Singh Malik (Retired) visited and paid homage to Second Lieutenant Ashok Prahlad Rao Mutgikar, his Battle Comrade of Indo-Pak War of 1971, at the Memorial of the latter in village Gajansoo of Tehsil Marh in Jammu District of the UT of J&K today morning. He has travelled all the way from Haryana with his wife Smt Madhu Malik and other family members.

Speaking to our correspondent after having paying his respects by laying a wreath and observing a two minutes silence with his family, the Brigadier said that he was feeling very nostalgic. He told that both he and Lieutenant Ashok then were

in the same army unit 7 GRENADIERS. Lieutenant Ashok was then a 22 year old Young Officer who had got commissioned barely three months ago in September 1971 and Brigadier Malik was then a Captain with three years' service. The war broke out on 03 December and they received orders to advance into Pakistan on 06 December. He narrated that their unit was advancing in Infantry Combat Vehicles called BMPs. When they reached Chhanni Bajuan in Pakistan, they were severely

attacked by enemy air and ground forces and unfortunately Lieutenant Ashok got a bullet. Though he was injured, he displayed no fear, was calm and smiling. He was seen firing at enemy aircraft with his machine gun. His deter-

mination and continued actions against the enemy aircraft were noteworthy. However, he fell at the Altar of Duty as a proud example of devotion to the nation.

Brigadier Malik then paid his respects at the spot where Lieutenant Ashok had been cremated. Thereafter he took his family to Talli Wali Mata which is barely a few hundred metres from the border. The significance of this was that this was approximately the same route that was undertaken by the Braveheart on that fateful day of 06 December 1971. Brigadier Malik finally said that his visit to Gajansoo Memorial has been like a pilgrimage. His son, Colonel Sandeep Malik daughter-in-law Smt Namita Malik also accompanied him.

Several join BJP in presence of MLA Bishnah

JIN NEWS SERVICE
BISHNAH, MARCH 31

A significant political development unfolded in the Bishnah area today as active members from various political parties like Congress, PDP, NC and other joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the presence of Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Bishnah. This event signals a notable shift in the local political landscape, potentially impacting future electoral dynamics.

Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat, a prominent figure in the region, presided over the induction ceremony, welcoming the new members into the BJP fold. This move is seen by many political analysts as a strengthening of the BJP's base in the Bishnah constituency. Reports show that he is very active



in local development projects. He has been very active in ensuring quality of local construction projects.

Rinku Choudhary District President BJP Zila Border says on the occasion the joining of members from diverse political backgrounds indicates a potential realignment of political affiliations within the region. This development could be attributed to various factors, including Perceived effectiveness of the current leader-

ship. Alignment with the BJP's national and regional policies. The event underscores the dynamic nature of politics in Jammu and Kashmir, where political affiliations can shift based on evolving local and national contexts. Such transitions often reflect the changing political aspirations of the electorate.

Mr. Ashok Kumar stated that the MLA Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat's development initiatives and positive work culture, com-

bined with Prime Minister Modi's 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' vision, motivated their decision to join the party. This move indicates a shift in the region's political alignment. Amar nath, Surinder Mohan, Baldev Singh, Mulkh Raj, Bishamber Lal, Bua Ditta, Gara Ram, Ramesh Lal, Ashok Kumar Jagdish Choudharu, Mohan Lal, Vijay Kumar, Hans Raj, Prem Nath, Jeet Lal, Som Nath, Chaman Lal, Mast Ram and others joined BJP.

EDITORIAL

Ailing before healing

Healthcare is the backbone of a prosperous and progressive society. When it comes to the premier medical institutions in India, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is considered the gold standard. However, in Jammu and Kashmir, this vision seems to be faltering, as AIIMS Jammu and AIIMS Awantipora continue to struggle with severe staff shortages and incomplete infrastructure. Instead of emerging as centers of excellence, these institutes are grappling with challenges that threaten their very purpose. The figures recently presented in the Lok Sabha by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare paint a grim picture. AIIMS Jammu currently has 81 vacant faculty positions out of 183 sanctioned posts. Additionally, 495 non-faculty positions, including nursing staff, junior residents, and senior residents, remain unfilled out of 1,267 sanctioned posts. AIIMS Awantipora, which remains far from completion, is in an even worse state. With 94 faculty positions unfilled and a mere two recruitments against 252 sanctioned non-faculty posts, the institute is struggling to get off the ground. The central government maintains that recruitment is an ongoing process, influenced by multiple factors such as reservation policies, the availability of qualified professionals, and geographical constraints. While these challenges are valid, they do not justify the alarming stagnation. Temporary and contract-based hiring, along with various national-level recruitment exams such as INI-CET, INI-SS, NORCET, and CRE, are being utilized to mitigate the crisis. However, these measures seem insufficient in addressing the urgency of the situation. The consequences of such staff shortages are dire. Patients requiring specialized medical attention are forced to look elsewhere, burdening already overworked hospitals in neighboring states. The delay in making AIIMS Awantipora operational only exacerbates the healthcare gap in the region, leaving residents without access to high-quality medical services. The vision behind establishing AIIMS in Jammu and Kashmir was to provide state-of-the-art healthcare to the people of the region. However, without a well-structured and expedited hiring process, these institutions will remain shadows of their intended purpose. The government must accelerate faculty and staff recruitment, improve incentives for medical professionals to join these institutes, and ensure that infrastructure projects are completed on time. Healthcare cannot afford to wait. If AIIMS Jammu and AIIMS Awantipora are to fulfill their promise, immediate and decisive action is necessary. Otherwise, these premier institutes will continue to struggle, leaving the people of Jammu and Kashmir without the quality medical care they deserve.

OMKAR DATTATRAY

RSS a socio-cultural organization was set up on 27th of September 1952 on the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashmi by Dr B.K. Hedgewar in Nagpur exactly 100 year's ago. RSS is one of the largest voluntary organization of the world dedicated to the service of society and nation. Though RSS has attained the age of 100 years, but it is still young, energetic, enthusiastic and up and doing and is performing its wonderful function of character building, national awakening and service to the society and nation at large. So despite its 100 year age, this organization is still young performing its nation building, character building activities and contributing to national awakening and Hindu renaissance and so it can be said that RSS is doing its work in a dispassionate way for making the Hindu society casteless and classless and thus it can be construed that it works to even fulfill the vision of our great freedom fighters like Savarkar. The RSS is ever fresh, ever active, ever energetic and young even at its age of 100 years and is contributing to the service to society. It is always at the beck and call of the society and never lags behind in its tirade of national awakening and unity in the Hindu society. It is dedicated to the national cultural awakening and national unity and is always at the forefront of instilling nationalism, patriotism and cultural nationalism and in

doing so it seems to be young even at the advanced age of 100 years. RSS has even undertaken work in the past at the times of war with Pakistan and its activists have volunteered to serve the army and also provided services to society at the time of war and has even managed the traffic and law and order position when the security forces and police was performing its duties at the times of war and national exigency. The initial impetus of this organization was to provide character training and instill "Hindu discipline" in order to unite the Hindu community and works in the direction of establishing Hindu Rashtra which is an eyesore for congress, all so called secular parties and the minorities. This organization aims to spread the ideology of Hindutva to strengthen the Hindu community and promotes an ideal of upholding an Indian culture and its civilizational values. RSS has been described as founded on the premise of Hindu supremacy and has been and is being accused of intolerance of minorities. This accusation against RSS is not based on merit and is false and wrong. RSS has all along remained in forefront of providing financial and physical support to the society at the times of floods and other national exigencies and in relief and rehabilitation it does not differentiate among people on the basis of religion and faith and so it serves all irrespective of their religious affiliations. RSS has provided services to the

RSS Young @ 100

countrymen at the time of war with Pakistan and China. It has also supported the society at the time of Kargil incursion and at the time of national emergency. It will not be inappropriate to say that at the times of war and national exigency and national emergency, it provides services to the society without any bias and discrimination. RSS is always working at the times of natural disasters like floods, earthquake and fires. After independence, it grew into an influential Hindu nationalist umbrella organization, spawning several affiliated bodies that established numerous schools, charities, hospitals and formed clubs to spread its ideological base. It was banned for 4 days in 1947 and then thrice by the post-independence Indian government. RSS was banned several times in its history of 100 years. It was banned in 1947 for just four days and then thrice by the Congress government. RSS was first banned in 1948 when Nathuram Godse a member of RSS had assassinated Gandhi, then during the Emergency -1975-1977, and for a third time after the demolition of disputed structure at Ayodhya in 1992. In 21st century, it is the world's largest far-right organization by membership. It has wrongly criticized as an extremist organization. When RSS is completing the 100th year of its service to nation, there is natural curiosity about the monumental tasks and service it has been performing towards the character building, cultural awakening and national

unity and lastly the Hindu unity in the country. When the Sangh has completed its hundredth year of its existence and service to the society and nation, it is crystal clear that for RSS, it is not the occasion for celebration, but an eve and opportunity of introspection and self analysis to unearth the limitations and to throw light on where the RSS has erred if any and so 100 year is not the moment for celebrations but of stock taking and finding faults so that in future the organization will serve the society and nation with more dedication and renewed energy and to rededicate to the lofty cause of service to the nation. It is also an opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of the towering personalities/volunteers who guided the movement and the Swayamsevaks and their families who selflessly worked for the movement and national cause of cultural nationalism and unity in the Hindu community as well as for Hindu renaissance. The birth anniversary of the founder of RSS- Dr. Hedgewar which falls on Hindu new year day is the opportune time to revisit the journey of 100 years to resolve for the future of harmonious and united Bharat for the world harmony, peace and prosperity in accordance with the sanatana doctrine of Vasudevakutumbkam—one world family or the concept that whole world is but a single family. Dr Hedgewar was a born patriot and the flame of patriotism was burning in his life and he conceived the noble plan

of setting an organization which will work for inculcating nationalism, patriotism, national awakening and for this it was basic requisite to form the character of young Indians men and women so that discipline in Hindu community is ensured so that the people will contribute to cultural nationalism and will also dedicate themselves to the cause of serving the nation. Therefore collective national character is the prime need both in the past and present time so that people will rededicate themselves to the noble cause of serving to the nation. Dr. Hedgewar has realized that devise a method of consistent efforts to train people to live for the nation. So he devised the method of Shukhas to instill discipline and infuse the fire of patriotism and nationalism so that people are trained for that so that they will work for the nation. In short it can be said that RSS has always remained at the beck and call of the nation and RSS is doing a yeoman's service to the nation and society. PM Modi has rightly commented that RSS is a banyan tree of India's immortal culture and modernization whose ideals and principles are to protect the national consciousness. He further compared RSS with the Vatruksh and it is not an ordinary one and said RSS is synonymous with service.

The author is a columnist, social, KP activist & Freelancer

Increasing participation of women in sports

VIJAY GARG

"I always cried out of thinking that if there was a chhora, it would bring gold for the country. This thing I did not understand that gold is gold, Chhora Lave or Chhori." This dialogue from Aamir Khan's film 'Dangal' in the year 2016, so we all must have heard. These are not just a dialogue of a movie that enjoyed and went ahead except, but these are a very deep thing that till date our Indian society has not been able to fully assimilate. Yes, no matter how big we talk about gender equality, but the reality is that even today, gender inequality is massive in India whose one winning example is the world of the game. Anyway, India's attitude about sports has always been lethargic, it is a far-off thing to get encouragement to women too. In such a situation, women players like Mary Kom, Vinesh Phogat, Babita Phogat, Mansi Joshi, Duti Chand, P.V Sindhu, Hima Das cannot be forgotten by the absence of adequate support and breaking social taboos. Today, we will learn about these female players, from our talent to the world of the game and in the society, as well as to know what is the reason for women's participation in the region to be comparatively low; why even today, people of the most prominent homes do not support their daughters to make a career in the field of sports.

Listening to the tales of the struggle of these female players challenging the domination of men in sports at national and international level, you will also be shocked to say that "Mhari Chhoris are less than loops".

Hima Das, popularly known as Hima Das- Dhang Express, was born on 9 January 2000 in Dhang village in Nagaon district of Assam. The economic condition of his family was not good. His father had only two bigha of land on which he used to run livelihood by farming. Initially Hima used to practice in her paddy fields only. They did not even have good shoes because of lack of money. Hima wanted to be a striker in football. One day seeing his ability to run, someone advised him to become an athlete and that started from here to the journey of becoming his athlete. Let us know that, Hima is the first Indian player to win Gold globally in track event. In view of the zjabe and perfor-



mance of Hima, he has been made Deputy Superintendent (DSP) in Assam Police. Hima Das has won a gold medal in many competitions.

Mary Kom- Boxer Maricom was born on 1 March 1983 in a small village in Manipur, the northeast state of India. His childhood also passed in great poverty. After starting boxing, Mary knew that her family would never assume the idea of making a career in her boxing, because of which she kept this thing hidden from her family. Years from 1998 to 2000, she continued to train it without telling in her house. In Sun 2000 when Mary won 'Women's Boxing Championship' in Manipur, and she received Boxer's award, the family came to know of being her boxer. The big thing is, in India where the career of the female player is considered to be over after marriage and children, in such a situation, Mary-com did not stop playing even after becoming a mother. Maricom won the World Championships even after becoming the mother of three children. He is the only boxer in the world who has won a total of eight World Championship medals.

Vinesh Phogat- Wrestler Vinesh Phogat was born on 25 August 1994 in the Indian state of Haryana, which is one of the states with the lowest sex ratio in India. When Vinesh started practicing wrestling in her village, she had to face a lot for

choosing wrestling, which was considered a boy's sport, and for her choice of clothes, but Vinesh did not give up and after her father, her uncle supported her in this journey. In this world of sports, Vinesh has increased the pride of the tricolor by winning a bronze medal in the World Championship and a gold medal in the Commonwealth Games. It is also important to know that Vinesh is the first female wrestler of the country to win two medals in the World Championship.

While players like Duti Chand- Vinesh Phogat challenged the male-dominated mindset, Duti Chand broke the stereotypes around poverty and gender. Duti was born on 3 February 1996 in Jajpur district of Odisha state. Her father was a weaver. Her mother also worked as a weaver. The financial condition of the house was not good but seeing Duti's hard work, everyone in her house and village was sure that one day she would go very far. A saying 'honhaar birwaan chekne pat' is completely applicable to Duti. Not only this, Duti also had to fight a legal battle to participate in sports, but Duti won this battle too. Today Duti is one of the fastest running athletes of India.

PV Sindhu- PV Sindhu, who lives in Telangana, is the first Indian badminton player to win a silver medal at the Rio Olympics at the age of just 21. She is among the top-10 players in the

world. Be it a woman or a man, no Indian player has won the World Badminton Championship before Sindhu.

What is the participation of women in sports?

Talking about statistics, there has been a significant increase in the number of women players at the national and international level in the last five years. According to a report of the Sports Ministry, there has been a total increase of 160 percent in the participation of women players in the Khelo India Games in the period from 2018 to 2020. At the same time, according to the Olympic database, in the year 2000, a total of 38 percent women's participation was seen in the Olympic Games, which increased to 45 percent in the year 2016 and 47 percent in the year 2020.

Why is there less participation of women in sports?

Some of the reasons for the lack of adequate participation of women in sports could be-

During a research, people said that lack of emphasis on sports by schools and lack of facilities are the major reasons for this. Women face many issues of sexism on a daily basis, be it at work or at home. Their appearance, their speech and their behavior are monitored and judged on that basis. Most people believe that female athletes face challenges in balancing motherhood and a sports career. Additionally, female

athletes receive less money than male athletes, making it more difficult for them to compete and stick to the sport for long periods of time. Despite the tireless efforts of women in the sports world, they do not receive equal respect or recognition as compared to their male counterparts. Sometimes there are no safe options available, such as carpooling with other families, or the girl has no choice but to stay at home with her family. Despite recent progress, discrimination against female athletes based on actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity persists. The absence of trained and quality coaches is also a big reason. Many times coaches focus more on training those boys who have more money for training. Women's sports are often underrepresented in the media, making it difficult for female athletes to gain recognition and sponsorship opportunities. Suggestions

To promote women's participation in sports, it is most important that they get the support of their families. Apart from this, the state governments should organize seminars and camps related to participation in sports so that women as well as their families are made aware about sports. The schemes should be implemented in a little better manner so that all the needy people can avail the benefits. Apart from providing financial help to sportswomen, there is a need to provide sports related facilities too. Various sports competitions should be organized for women at the local level so that good players can be identified and their talent can be enhanced. In the end, we can say that the excellent performance of Indian women in the Olympics and Paralympics is an indication that a wave of change has started which will go a long way. Only practical and social change will open the doors for women to come forward. As women become capable of taking their own decisions regarding education, career and life, people will also start accepting it and their participation in fields like sports will also increase. In short, we all have to get out of our traditional thinking and accept that "medalists do not grow on trees, they have to be made, with love, hard work and dedication."

Vijay Garg Retired Principal educational columnist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab

Ashwini's four, Rickelton's fifty power MI to victory

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, MAR 31

Mumbai Indians secured a dominant eight-wicket victory over Kolkata Knight Riders in the 12th match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 at Wankhede Stadium on Monday, riding on Ashwini Kumar's stellar bowling performance and Ryan Rickelton's composed knock.

Opting to bowl first, MI bowlers put up an imposing show as KKR were bundled out for a mere 116 in 16.2 overs. The standout performer with the ball was Ashwini Kumar, who dismantled KKR's middle order with an impressive 4/41, claiming the crucial wickets of Ajinkya Rahane (11), Rinku Singh (17), Manish Pandey (19), and Andre Russell (5). His spell proved decisive, as KKR struggled to build any momentum despite a few promising knocks.

Deepak Chahar (2/19) set the tone early, dismissing Quinton de Kock



(1) and Venkatesh Iyer (3) cheaply, while Trent Boult (1/23) removed Sunil Narine for a duck. Hardik Pandya (1/10) and Mitchell Santner (1/17) provided further breakthroughs to ensure that KKR never recovered from their early setbacks. Despite a valiant 26 off 16 from young Angkrish Raghuvanshi and a late effort from Raman-deep Singh (22), KKR's innings crumbled under MI's disciplined attack.

There were brief moments of resistance, including a crisp four from

Manish Pandey off Ashwini Kumar and a powerful pull shot from Rinku Singh for six over long-off against Vignesh Puthur. However, KKR's collapse overshadowed these glimpses of brilliance.

Chasing 117, MI openers Rohit Sharma (13) and Ryan Rickelton (62* off 41) provided a steady start, with the South African wicketkeeper-batsman playing a match-winning knock. Rickelton reached his fifty in style, stepping away and hammering a half-tracker from Sunil

Narine over midwicket for a six in the ninth over. He followed it up with another powerful six, lofting Narine over long-on with a clean swing of the bat.

Will Jacks (16) fell to Russell, caught sharply by Rahane at cover as he failed to keep his drive down. Earlier, Russell also dismissed Rohit, who miscued a short ball, offering an easy catch to Harshit Rana at mid-off.

Suryakumar Yadav (27* off 9) ensured a swift finish, toying with the KKR bowlers. In the 12th over, he dispatched Russell twice to the boundary – first pulling a slower one well in front of square and then ramping a short ball over short third.

KKR's bowlers failed to make an impact, with only Russell (2/35) managing breakthroughs. The rest of the attack, including Spencer Johnson (0/14), Harshit Rana (0/28), and Varun Chakaravathy (0/12), struggled against MI's confident batting display.

Jakub Mensik denies Djokovic 100th title in Miami

AGENCIES
FLORIDA, MAR 31

Teenager Jakub Mensik denied his childhood idol Novak Djokovic a 100th ATP singles title with a superb performance to win the Miami Open.

The 19-year-old Czech beat Serbia's Djokovic 7-6 (7-4) 7-6 (7-4) on a sticky, humid night to clinch his first ATP Tour title.

Djokovic, a 24-time Grand Slam champion, had been bidding to become just the third man in the Open era to win 100 singles titles.

However, the 37-year-old's wait will go on after his loss to Mensik, who was just 10 months old when Djokovic won his first title in 2006.

Mensik is the ninth-youngest Masters 1000 champion and the third-youngest in Miami after Carlos Alcaraz and Rafael Nadal, the BBC reported.

Mensik is another rising star in the men's game, possessing a huge serve and a thumping backhand that has taken him inside the world's top 50.

Djokovic invited Mensik to practice with him



after the 2022 Australian Open when he was still a junior, and Mensik said in his winner's speech that Djokovic was "the reason I am here".

Mensik also thanked his physiotherapist, who treated him for a knee injury that almost led to him withdrawing in the first round in Miami.

"One hour before my first match here I was holding the paper to pull out from the tournament," Mensik said.

"I was just lucky that the referee was having lunch.

"I came for the treatment. He did a miracle and because of him I'm standing here."

Fourth seed Djokovic warmly congratulated Mensik at the end of the

match and said afterwards:

"It hurts me to admit it but you were better.

"I wish you the best of luck. Maybe you'll let me win one of the next times we play."

It has been some rise for Mensik, who broke into the top 100 in February 2024 by reaching the Qatar Open final.

In Miami he beat three top-10 players in Djokovic, Britain's Jack Draper and American Taylor Fritz to lift the biggest title of his career, and handled the pressure of the occasion well.

After a five-and-a-half hour rain delay before the final, settling into a rhythm was not easy, but Mensik adjusted quicker than Djokovic.

He broke Djokovic at the first opportunity and his first serve popped as he rushed out to a 4-1 lead.

Djokovic, by contrast, had a rough start. He fell twice, had to apply eye drops after being bothered by swelling under his right eye and resorted to using sawdust to help him grip his racquet in the humidity.

However, his serve improved as the set progressed and his backhand slice in particular trouble Mensik, who eventually handed the break back.

A tie-break felt inevitable and Djokovic paid for a poor start to it, although he saved two set points before Mensik smashed his way to the opener.

The match was following a similar pattern to their previous meeting in Shanghai last year, when Mensik took the first set on a breaker before fading in the next two.

However, this time he kept up the intensity. Mensik did not face a break point in the second set and the heat and humidity began to take a toll on Djokovic.

RR captain Riyan Parag fined for slow over-rate

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, MAR 31

Rajasthan Royals' stand-in captain Riyan Parag has been fined Rs12 lakh for maintaining a slow over-rate during the 11th match of the IPL 2025 against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati.

The penalty was imposed under Article 2.22 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences. This was RR's first such violation of the season.

Despite the fine, Rajasthan registered their first victory of IPL 2025, edging past CSK by six runs in a closely contested encounter. The match saw crucial performances from Wanindu Hasaranga, who picked up four wickets, and Nitish Rana, who scored a magnificent 81 runs.

Meanwhile, CSK head coach Stephen Fleming addressed concerns over MS Dhoni's batting position in the ongoing season. The former captain, now 43, has been batting lower



down the order, featuring at positions seven and nine in recent matches. Fleming explained that the move balances Dhoni's physical condition and the team's tactical requirements while underlining his continued importance as a leader and wicket-keeper.

Elsewhere, Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya has urged his team's batting lineup to step up following back-to-back losses. Despite boasting a formidable batting order featuring Suryakumar Yadav, Rohit Sharma, and Tilak Varma, Mumbai posted below-par totals of 155 and 160 in defeats to

CSK and Gujarat Titans. Pandya stressed the need for the batting unit to take greater responsibility ahead of their upcoming match against Kolkata Knight Riders.

In another IPL 2025 fixture, veteran stars Mitchell Starc and Faf du Plessis guided Delhi Capitals to a commanding seven-wicket victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad. Starc recorded his first IPL five-wicket haul with figures of 5/35, while du Plessis played a quickfire innings, scoring 50 off 27 balls. Their performances highlighted the continued impact of experienced players in the tournament.

ISL: Khalid Jamil applauds team effort & experience in win over NorthEast United FC

AGENCIES
SHILLONG, MAR 31

Jamshedpur FC head coach Khalid Jamil was delighted with the effort of his players in their win over NorthEast United FC at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here.

The visitors arrived with a well-structured game plan and executed it effectively, securing a spot in the semi-finals with a win in Knockout 2 of the Indian Super League (ISL) match on Sunday night.

NorthEast United FC dominated the early exchanges, but Jamshedpur FC absorbed the pressure, waiting for opportunities on the counter. Their patience paid off near the half-hour mark when Stephen Eze capitalized on Ashutosh Mehta's long throw-in, smashing the ball into the net. This was also their fifth goal from a throw-in this season – the most by any team.

Holding onto their lead at halftime, Jamshedpur FC produced a disciplined defensive display in the



second half to repel NorthEast United's relentless attacks. Javi Hernandez sealed the victory deep into stoppage time, ensuring their place in the final four.

"It is a very important victory. The players worked very hard. Whatever result we got is because of the players," Jamil said at the post-match press conference.

The Highlanders had dominated Jamshedpur FC in both league-phase encounters, first with a commanding 5-0 home victory, followed by a 2-0 triumph in the return fixture.

However, the Men of Steel, despite coming into this fixture on the back of a difficult run of form, displayed resilience and determination – qualities that had defined their season under their Indian head coach. Their experience and well-executed tactics proved decisive as they now prepare for a semi-final showdown against League Shield winners Mohun Bagan Super Giant.

"I said before that this is the type of game where we need experienced players. Look at how Pronay (Halder),

Eze, Javi, Ashutosh (Mehta), Jordan (Murray), Mobashir (Rahman), and (Muhammed) Uvais also used their experience," Jamil stated.

"Albino (Gomes) also used his experience from the start. So it was all about experience. Because if you don't use your experience, you are always under pressure," he added.

Apart from his stunning strike in the first half, the Nigerian centre-back was a commanding presence in defense, leading the backline with composure. He registered 11 clearances and six interceptions.

However, head coach Khalid Jamil credited Pronay Halder for providing solid support, seamlessly slotting into the centre-back role in Pratik Chaudhari's absence. Halder matched Eze's defensive output with 11 clearances of his own.

"Eze had a good understanding with Pronay. Pronay also played a major role today defensively," he commented.

Man City, Aston Villa into FA Cup semifinals

AGENCIES
LONDON, MAR 31

Manchester City and Aston Villa advanced to the semifinals of the FA Cup.

City came from behind away to Bournemouth to win 2-1 after Evanilson put the Cherries ahead after 21 minutes on Sunday.

Prior to the Brazilian's opener, Bournemouth goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga had saved a penalty from Erling Haaland, although the Norwegian made amends four minutes into the second half after City caught Bournemouth flat-footed on the break, with substitute Nico O'Reilly giving the assist.

O'Reilly provided his second assist of the game to set up Omar Marmoush in the 63rd minute, with the Egyptian scoring with his first touch after replacing Haaland, who had gone off with an ankle injury. City dominated the second half and was unlucky when Ilkay Gundogan saw his shot bounce back off the post in the closing minutes.

Pakistan opening batter Usman Khan ruled out of second ODI against New Zealand

AGENCIES
HAMILTON, MAR 31

Pakistan opener Usman Khan, who made his debut in the first ODI against New Zealand, has been ruled out of the second ODI due to a hamstring injury.

He sustained the injury while fielding during the series opener in Napier, and a scan after the game confirmed a low-grade tear. As a result, he will be unavailable for the second clash of the three-match series.

The right-hand batter was not initially part of Pakistan's ODI squad for the New Zealand series but was included after the con-



clusion of the T20I series. He made his debut in the first ODI, scoring 39 off 33 balls.

Pakistan suffered a 73-run defeat in the first ODI against New Zealand. Batting first, New Zealand posted a formidable total of 344/9 in their 50 overs,

driven by a brilliant century from Mark Chapman. In response, Pakistan were bowled out for 271 in 44.1 overs, with Babar Azam top-scoring with 78 off 83 balls, an ICC report said.

The second ODI will take place in Hamilton on Wednesday.

AGENCIES
LUCKNOW, MAR 31

A battle of power-hitters awaits as Nicholas Pooran's red-hot form meets Shreyas Iyer's captaincy brilliance when Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) take on Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the 13th match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow on Monday.

Both teams have shown immense promise early in the tournament, setting the stage for an electrifying contest.

Pooran has been in sensational touch, striking at over 250 in his last five outings and turning games single-handedly for LSG. Meanwhile, Iyer's leadership and an unbeaten 97 off 42 balls in PBKS' opening match have added a new dimension to their campaign. With both sides eager to build on their per-



formances, this encounter promises high-intensity action.

Lucknow made a strong comeback after a heart-breaking one-wicket loss to Delhi Capitals in their opening game, securing a convincing win against Sunrisers Hyderabad. Punjab, on the other hand, started their campaign with a commanding victory over Gujarat Titans.

Apart from Pooran, Mitchell Marsh played a vital role in their recent victory, scoring a solid 52 off 31 balls for LSG. Rishabh Pant and David Miller are yet to make a significant impact

but hold the potential to deliver a match-winning knock.

On the bowling front, Shardul Thakur has led from the front, claiming six wickets in two matches. Young pacer Prince Yadav impressed in the last match, while Ravi Bishnoi remains a key threat in the middle overs.

Punjab's batting lineup looks formidable with Iyer leading the charge. Priyansh Arya and Shashank Singh also chipped in with crucial knocks, while the presence of Marcus Stoinis and Glenn Maxwell adds further firepower.

In the bowling department, Arshdeep Singh and Marco Jansen are expected to lead the attack. Yuzvendra Chahal will be a key figure on the Lucknow pitch, which tends to favour spinners in the middle overs.

The Lucknow stadium is expected to offer a balanced surface, with moderate scoring conditions. Spinners could play a decisive role in the middle overs, though dew later in the match may favour the chasing side. The weather forecast indicates warm and humid conditions, with no rain expected.

Both teams have shown promise in the early stages of the tournament, but Punjab appear to have a slight edge due to their overall balance and batting depth. Lucknow's bowling unit will have to be at its best to counter Punjab's firepower.

Teams:
Punjab Kings: Nicholas

Pooran, Mitchell Marsh, Rishabh Pant (c&wk), David Miller, Aiden Markram, Ayush Badoni, Abdul Samad, Shardul Thakur, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan, Digvesh Rathi, Prince Yadav, Prabhsimran Singh (wk), Priyansh Arya, Shreyas Iyer (c), Shashank Singh, Marcus Stoinis, Glenn Maxwell, Suryansh Shedge, Azmatullah Omarzai, Marco Jansen, Arshdeep Singh, Yuzvendra Chahal, Nehal Wadhwa (Impact Player).

Lucknow Super Giants: Himmat Singh, David Miller, Aiden Markram, Ayush Badoni, Mitchell Marsh, Abdul Samad, Arshin Kulkarni, Yuvraj Chaudhary, Shaibaz Ahmed, RS Hangarkar, Shardul Thakur, Matthew Breetzke, Nicholas Pooran, Aryan Juyal, Rishabh Pant (c), Ravi Bishnoi, Mayank Yadav, Akash Deep, Manimaran Siddharth, Shamar Joseph, Avish Khan, Prince Yadav, Akash Maharaj Singh, Digvesh Singh Rathi.

Kupwara Citizen Soldiers celebrates Eid ul Fitr

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, 31 MAR

The citizen soldiers of Kupwara celebrated Eid ul-Fitr with great enthusiasm and unity at Pathahirri. Eid ul-Fitr a festival of religious sanctity marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, is a significant occasion for Muslims around the world.

The celebrations involved prayers, feasts, and community gatherings. The soldiers of Citizens Army stationed in the area also took part in the festivities, strengthening the bond between the local population and army. The celebration displayed traditional rituals such as offering Eid prayers at mosques, sharing special meals with troops, brother officers and men including Commanding officer of 160 Inf Bn (TA) (H&H).

The event also became special as parents and guardians of new recruits were also invited to bless their siblings. The involvement of parents in celebration foster the sense of community and support, showing solidarity with the local people and celebrating the spirit of Eid together. It is a



moment of joy, peace, and togetherness for everyone involved. The Indian Army unit following the traditions

of soil remained committed to its cause of knowing the pulse of Awam in North Kashmir.

Congress misled, misrule J&K for decades, BJP delivering on promises: Kavinder

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 31

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta has strongly countered the Congress party's criticism of the BJP-led Central Government, holding the Congress squarely responsible for the decades of turmoil and underdevelopment in Jammu and Kashmir. He asserted that during its more than 60 years of rule at the Centre, Congress failed to bring any meaningful change to the region, while the Modi government has transformed J&K over the last decade.

Responding to the statements made by Congress leaders, Kavinder Gupta pointed out that it was Congress that allowed terrorism to thrive in J&K by pursuing weak policies, appease-



ment tactics, and lack of a firm security framework. "The current situation in Jammu and Kashmir is a direct result of Congress' decades-long misrule, during which corruption, dynastic politics, and policy paralysis prevailed," he said.

In a press statement issued here today, the BJP stalwart lauded the Modi government's bold steps, including the abrogation of Article 370, which has ushered in a new era of peace and development. "Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

leadership, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed unprecedented progress. The influx of tourists has increased manifold, infrastructure projects are being completed at a record pace, and law and order have significantly improved," he stated.

Highlighting the economic boost, he said that record-breaking tourist footfall, enhanced connectivity, and industrial investments have created new employment opportunities, which were never a priority for Congress governments.

"While Congress only paid lip service, Modi's government has delivered real results," he remarked.

On the issue of statehood, Kavinder reiterated that the Central Government is committed to restoring statehood to J&K at an appropriate time. "Unlike the Congress, which used J&K for political gains without addressing real issues, the BJP is working with a clear roadmap for the region's long-term stability and prosperity," he said.

Slamming Congress for spreading misinformation and misleading people, Kavinder urged the opposition party to acknowledge the ground reality. "The people of J&K have seen the difference between Congress' failures and BJP's vision. They stand with Modi's mission of a 'Naya Jammu-Kashmir,'" he added.

Two of family killed in road accident in Malappuram

AGENCIES
MALAPPURAM, MAR 31 (UND)

Two members of a family were killed after their scooter skidded and fell into a well while descending a steep slope at Kizhummuri, near Kadampuzha, in Marakkara panchayat of the district on Monday. According to police, the deceased have been identified as K P Hussain (60) and his son Haris Babu (30). The accident occurred at around 1030 am, when the father-son duo was on their way to a relative's house after attending the Eid prayer. The rider suddenly lost control of the scooter, hit the wall of the well and fell in. Local residents and fire brigade personnel rushed to the spot, rescued the injured persons and shifted them to a nearby private hospital at Chankuvetti near Kottakkal, but doctors there declared them brought dead.

Indian Army organizes Motivational Lecture for Local Youth at Mandir Gala, Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAR 31

The Indian Army organized a motivational lecture for local youth at Mandir Gala, Rajouri. The event aimed to inspire and guide the youth on various aspects, including the benefits of joining the Indian Army, applying for government jobs, excelling in sports and living a better life. A total of 20 local villagers attended the lecture, which was part of the Indian Army's ongoing efforts under Operation Sadbhavana. The event provided a platform for the youth to interact with Indian Army personnel and gain valuable insights into various career options and opportunities. The motivational lecture was designed to empower the local youth with the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions about their future. By sharing their experi-



ences and expertise, the Indian Army personnel inspired the attendees to strive for excellence and pursue their goals with determination and passion. The Indian Army's initiatives under Operation Sadbhavana aim to foster goodwill, trust and cooperation between the Army and local communities. The event in Mandir Gala was a significant step in this direction, demonstrating the Indian Army's

commitment to the welfare and development of the region's youth. By conducting such motivational lectures, the Indian Army is playing a vital role in shaping the future of the local youth and empowering them to become responsible citizens. The event was a resounding success and the Indian Army plans to continue its efforts to inspire and motivate the youth in the region.

No corrupt officer will be spared: Judicial Council

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 31

Judicial Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Advocate P. P. Vashishth as the Member Public Grievance Committee for North West National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.

Shri Vashishth brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of integrity to this crucial role.

P. P. Vashishth expressed his happiness and said, "I am deeply honored and delighted to take on this responsibility. I am committed to upholding the highest standards of public grievance and ensuring that our organization operates with utmost transparency



"We are confident that Shri Vashishth's expertise and leadership will be invaluable in strengthening public grievances and reinforcing our commitment serving public at large.

Sanjiv Chauhan Member Human Rights Judicial Council said "His dedication to public service and his proven track record make him an ideal fit for this role

Judicial Council is committed to maintaining the highest standards of ethical conduct and ensuring accountability at all levels. The appointment of Prem Prakash Vashishth as Member Public Grievance Committee, further strengthens this commitment."

and accountability. I look forward to contributing to the organization's mission and serving the public interest."

In his new role, Shri Vashishth will be responsible for public grievance related issues e.g., overseeing Corruption, unauthorized construction all public grievance activities, preventing corruption, probing high level

of embezzlement, and addressing public grievance at large.

Shri Vashishth is seasoned advocate, and socially very active he holds a M. Com and LL. B. Degree and has a reputation for his dedication to public service and his commitment to ethical practices. Rajiv Agnihotri Chairman Judicial Council said

Yogesh Sawhney meets Advisor to CM, discusses devp issues of Jammu East

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 31

Former Minister J&K and senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney Ex-MLA Jammu East met with Advisor to the Honorable Chief Minister, Mr. Nasir Aslam Wani, on Sunday to discuss various developmental concerns of the Jammu East constituency. Sawhney highlighted key issues related to Public Health Engineering (PHE), infrastructural development, and the urgent need to uplift the outskirts of Jammu East. He was accompanied by ex-counselor Shama Akhtar, Haneef Ahmed, Lambardar Madan Lal Sharma, Haider Ali, Mohd Hamief, Mohd Arief, Nizam Din, Saif Ali, Saif Ali, and Muzaffar Hussain. The delegation requested the government to expedite pending projects and address grievances affecting residents. Sawhney thanked the Hon'ble advisor for listening to their concerns and providing them reassurance that they will address them.

Speaking on the occasion, Sawhney emphasized the dire need for improvement in water supply under PHE, particularly in areas facing acute shortages. He pointed out that many locali-



ties in Jammu East have been struggling with inadequate drinking water, creating hardships for the common people adding that water scarcity continues to be a major concern for the residents. We have urged the administration to take swift action to ensure a consistent and reliable water supply, Sawhney stated. He further called for the modernization of water pipelines and the expansion of PHE services to meet the growing demands of the population.

Addressing the broader development agenda, Sawhney stressed the importance of infrastructure projects that have either been delayed or neglected. He pointed out

that roads, drainage systems, and public utilities in several parts of Jammu East require immediate attention. Development should not be confined to a few areas; the outskirts of Jammu East also need equal focus. The administration must allocate adequate funds for road connectivity, street lighting, and sanitation, he asserted. Sawhney added that the lack of proper infrastructure has been hampering economic growth and causing inconvenience to residents, and he sought urgent intervention from the government.

The former minister also raised concerns over the slow pace of urban expansion and the

neglect of certain pockets within Jammu East that have been left out of developmental plans. He urged the government to adopt a more inclusive approach to ensure balanced growth across the constituency. Our objective is to make Jammu East a model constituency where basic amenities are accessible to all, irrespective of their location. We have requested the Advisor to take up these issues with the concerned departments and facilitate prompt action, Sawhney said. He expressed hope that the government would prioritize the welfare of the people and work towards the holistic development of the region.

Pakistan Betrays Islam, spreading bloodshed amid Sacred Eid: Purnima

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 31

BJP J&K Spokesperson, Adv. Purnima Sharma, extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasions of Eid and Navratri. She wished for peace, prosperity, and harmony among all communities, emphasizing the cultural richness and unity of the region.

BJP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra and senior leaders Parmod Kapahi also accompanied Adv. Purnima Sharma, while she addressed a press conference at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Addressing media persons, Adv. Purnima Sharma highlighted the significance of these sacred occasions. "While we are celebrating

Eid, a festival of peace, brotherhood, and devotion, and Navratri, a period of spiritual reflection and reverence for Goddess Durga, it is disheartening to see Pakistan, an Islamic country, continuing its age-old policy of exporting terror and shedding innocent blood. The recent Rajbagh encounter, in which our four brave soldiers attained martyrdom, is yet another grim reminder of Pakistan's nefarious designs," she stated.

She strongly criticized the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) for persistently advocating dialogue with Pakistan, despite its relentless promotion of cross-border terrorism. "How can NC and PDP justify their stand on talks with a nation that does not even

uphold the values of Islam? True Islam stands for peace, compassion, and justice. Yet, Pakistan, in the name of religion, has become a breeding ground for terror, violating every principle of humanity and faith," she remarked.

Adv. Purnima Sharma reiterated that Pakistan has never respected the teachings of Islam and has instead used its name to fuel terrorism, creating havoc in Jammu and Kashmir and across the world.

The senior BJP leader lauded the security forces for their unwavering commitment to safeguarding the nation and assured that the BJP government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains steadfast in eliminating terrorism from Indian soil.

Hyd CP supervises Ramzan arrangements, extends festive greetings

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, MAR 31 (UND)

Hyderabad Police Commissioner C V Anand, IPS, supervised the arrangements at Miralambad on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr on Monday. On behalf of the Hyderabad City Police, he distributed chocolates to children and extended festive greetings to the Muslim community, wishing happiness and peace for all. He stated that the month of Ramzan concluded peacefully without any incidents. "We ensured smooth arrangements for shopping and special prayer gatherings throughout the holy month," he said. Senior officials, including Additional CP (Law & Order) Vikram Singh Mann, IPS, Joint CP (Traffic) Joel Davis, IPS, DCP (South Zone) Ms Sneha Mehra, IPS, and other officers, were present during the program.

Guru Ravidass had vision for a casteless society: Balbir Ram

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 31

Guru Ravidass, a revered saint and social reformer envisioned a casteless society rooted in equality, compassion, and unity. Born in Varanasi to a family of humble background, he experienced first hand the harsh realities of caste-based discrimination. Despite facing prejudice and social exclusion, Guru Ravidass rose above these limitations through his deep spiritual insight and commitment to social justice.

Balbir Ram Rattan, Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth National General Secretary, British Ravidasia Heritage Foundation Indian Branch General Secretary and Begampura Vishwa Mahasabha



Member, shared this with Ajay Vaid, Chairman, Swarankar Sangh, Jammu, and Hans Raj Loria, retired senior official from Defence Accounts Department.

Balbir Ram Rattan told them that Guru Ravidass's teachings had the idea that all human beings are equal in the eyes of God, regardless of their caste, creed, or social status. He rejected the rigid caste hierarchy that plagued society and

preached that true devotion and piety had nothing to do with one's birth but rather with one's deeds and purity of heart. His message was simple yet profound: spiritual liberation and social equality are inseparable.

His vision of a casteless society was encapsulated in his concept of "Begumpura," a city without sorrow, pain, or discrimination. In this ideal society, all people

would live harmoniously, free from oppression and exploitation. His teachings emphasize values such as humility, compassion, and righteousness. His poetry speaks against social inequality and advocates for a just and compassionate world where every individual has the right to live with dignity.

Despite living in a deeply divided society, Guru Ravidass attracted followers from various social backgrounds, including both upper and lower castes. His inclusive approach inspired many to rise above societal divisions. His teachings continue to resonate with millions of people across India and the world, serving as a powerful reminder of the need for unity and equality, Balbir said.

Surinder Choudhary inaugurates Langar at Bawe Temple

Tony, Shakeel pray for peace, prosperity of J&K, India

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 31

On the auspicious occasion of the first day of Holy Navratri and the last day of Roza, a grand Langar was organized at the revered Bawe Temple. The event witnessed a large gathering of devotees and community members, promoting the spirit of unity and brotherhood.

The Langar was organized by senior Congress leader Taranjit Singh Tony, along with Rajan Bakshi, Ghar Singh and team members.

The occasion was graced by Dy. Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary as the Chief Guest. Prominent dignitaries present included DIG Jammu Shiv Kumar Sharma, Senior Advocates Sheikh Shakeel, Anwar Choudhary and Supriya Chouhan, Sehbaz Khan, Jatinder Chib, Sahil Shvotra, Ram Ji, Pawan Kumar, Raju Sarpanch, Gagan Panch, Shamsheer Chand, Happy Randhawa, Balwinder Singh Rinku and others.



Addressing the gathering, Dy. Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary extended his warm greetings on this auspicious occasion. He emphasized the significance of universal brotherhood, highlighting that festivals like Navratri and Roza bring people together irrespective of caste, creed, and religion. He urged citizens to uphold the rich tradition of communal harmony and to work collectively towards fostering peace and unity.

The Deputy Chief Minister further cautioned people to remain vigilant against anti-national elements who attempt to create division and discord in society. He stated that such forces seek

to weaken the fabric of national integration, and it is the responsibility of every citizen to counter these divisive agendas with love, respect, and mutual understanding.

Choudhary reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring peace, stability, and security for all communities and encouraged people to participate in such initiatives that strengthen social bonds.

Taranjit Singh Tony, in his address, underscored the importance of communal harmony and unity. He emphasized that such religious and cultural events serve as a bridge between different communities, fostering a spirit of mutual

respect and coexistence. He highlighted that true devotion is reflected not just in prayers but also in acts of service and kindness towards humanity.

Tony announced that a Vishal Langar will be organized on the upcoming Navami festival, marking the conclusion of Navratri, to further strengthen the spirit of togetherness and provide an opportunity for people from all walks of life to come together and celebrate in unity. He reiterated his commitment to organizing such initiatives that promote social harmony and encourage inclusive participation.

Senior Advocate Sheikh Shakeel, while addressing the gathering, encouraged people to stay united and celebrate such festivals collectively, reinforcing the cultural and social fabric of the region.

The Langar served as a symbol of communal harmony, bringing people from different faiths together in the true spirit of inclusivity and devotion.

Samadhaan Foundation organizes "One Nation, One Election" Program at Samba

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MAR 31

Organized by Samadhaan Foundation, the "One Nation, One Election" program was a resounding success, bringing together prominent citizens of Samba representing various sections of society. The event was addressed by esteemed speakers, including Pawan Sharma, Senior BJP Leader, former State Secretary and Chairman Samadhaan Foundation, Advocate Naresh Raina, Akshay Bharti, Advocate Vikrant Mahajan, BJP Mandal President Samba, social activist Vikas Sambyal, Sanjeev Padha, former corporator Samba and social activist Sahil Bishnotra.

The program highlighted the need for simultaneous elections in India, a concept that has been gaining traction in recent years. As emphasized by the High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections, this approach aims to address logistical



insights into the concept's significance, benefits, and challenges. The idea of holding simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and local bodies has been a topic of discussion in India.

The event also saw discussions on the economic benefits of simultaneous elections. As pointed out by the Law Commission of India, holding elections simultaneously would lead to significant cost savings, reduced strain on administrative and security forces, and improved focus on development activities.

The program concluded with a call to action, urging the government to implement the recommendations of the High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections. The attendees pledged their support for the "One Nation, One Election" initiative, recognizing its potential to strengthen India's democratic framework and promote good governance.

challenges, reduce costs, and minimize disruptions caused by frequent elections.

Pawan Sharma, in his address, stressed the importance of streamlining India's electoral process. He noted that the current system, with its frequent elections, leads to significant expenditure,

diversion of resources, and disruption of public life. Sharma advocated for a synchronized election cycle, where elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies are held simultaneously.

Advocate Naresh Raina's address on "One Nation, One Election" likely provided valuable

PM Vishwakarma Yojna empowering marginalized sections of society: Sunil Prajapati

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 31

The PM Vishwakarma Yojna launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Union government in August 2023, has proved to be instrumental in uplifting and empowering the marginalized sections of society, especially the traditional artisans and craftsmen in India.

This was stated by Sunil Prajapati, President, BJP OBC Morcha, and Incharge PM Vishwakarma Yojna, J&K UT, while he visited the house of Ravinder Singh along with Gourav Sikka (General Secretary OBC Morcha district Jammu) of ward no. 2, Jammu East Assembly Constituency.

Ravinder Singh had attained requisite skill training of Traditional skill of Dolls and Toys making of during last year and now received toolkit recently costing Rs 15000/- through post for manufacturing of traditional Dolls and Toys



also got the loan 1.0 lakh sanctioned to start the manufacturing of dolls, toys like teddy bear as his professional business.

Sunil Prajapati, on this occasion highlighted the outlined benefits of PM Vishwakarma Yojna, including recognition, training, toolkits, and enterprise development loans for artisans and craft peoples. He expressed his great pleasure that two districts of Jammu and Kashmir, the Jammu and Budgam (Kashmir) have

achieved the under top 10 positions amongst 787 districts of the Country in receiving the benefits of this Scheme including tool kits costing Rs 15000/- each and loan benefit of 1.0 lakh on lowest rate of interest sanctioned as compared to other States of the Country. While in training Jammu and Kashmir is third to receive skill training under this Scheme.

Prajapati added that a total of 25000 kits has been disbursed amongst

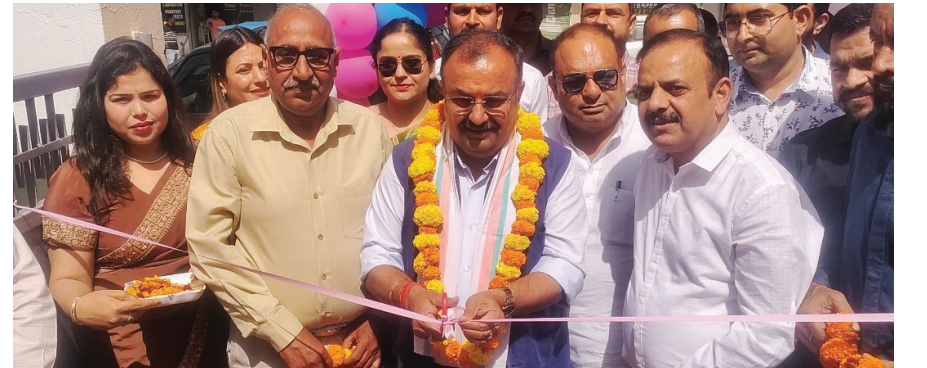
the trained artisans and craft people in the Jammu Kashmir UT and an amount of Approximately 100 crores has been sanctioned towards loan of 1.0 lakh on the lowest rate of interest in the Jammu Kashmir UT to start as well as to extend the business by the artisans and craft people under PM Vishwakarma Yojana.

Ravinder on this occasion expressed lot of gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for launching Vishwakarma Yojana, which has proved very helpful in establishing earning hub by artisans and skilled people. Prime Minister's vision of transforming may change the life of millions of Artisans and skilled people through this scheme involving 18 skilled trades, like of Carpentry, blacksmith, earthen ports making, leather related profession and toys and dolls etc.

Ch Vikram Inaugurates Kinderworld Montessori School at Channi Himmat, Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 31

Kinderworld Montessori School was officially inaugurated in a grand ceremony by MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa, marking a significant step forward in providing quality early childhood education in the region. The event was honored by the presence of Sh. Rakesh Mahajan as the Guest of Honour, alongside esteemed dignitaries, school officials, and members of the local community. The occasion was graced by Smt. Bandana Sharma, Chairperson of Kinderworld Montessori School, who welcomed the guests and shared the school's vision of fostering a nurturing and innovative learning environment. Mrs. Aditi Choudhary, Branch Head, along with Surjeet Singh (Mandal President), Kulveer Charak, Anil Sharma,



Amit Gupta and several distinguished guests, extended their best wishes for the school's future success.

MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa, in his address, emphasized the importance of foundational education in shaping young minds and lauded the efforts of the school management for introducing Montessori-based learning in Channi Himmat. Guest of Honour Rakesh Mahajan highlighted the significance of modern teaching methodologies

and how they play a crucial role in a child's holistic development.

The event featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by a cultural program presented by young children, showcasing their enthusiasm and talent. A tour of the state-of-the-art school facilities was conducted, where guests appreciated the well-designed classrooms, interactive learning spaces, and child-friendly infrastructure. Parents, educators, and community members

expressed their appreciation for the new opportunities that Kinderworld Montessori School will bring to the region.

The inauguration ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks, recognizing the collective efforts of the school management, faculty, and staff in making this vision a reality. The event was a resounding success, symbolizing the beginning of a promising educational journey for the institution and the young learners it will serve.

Modi govt echoes true reverence, unconditional respect for Baba Saheb: Umesh Kumar Gabbar

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 31

Continuing with its consistent decisions to reveal and 'bring to life' the works of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar over an extended period of eleven years, the union government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has echoed true reverence and unconditional respect for Baba Saheb.

This was stated by Umesh Kumar Gabbar, senior leader of BJP SC Morcha, while he welcomed the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Union



Government for announcing a public holiday on the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar ji.

On the occasion, Umesh Kumar Gabbar, along with

the SC Morcha members of BJP District Jammu South visited the Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Chjowk near Jammu Railway station and garlanded the statue of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

Umesh Kumar Gabbar was also accompanied by Girdhari Lal, Parveen Lata, Subash Chander, Himmat Kumar, Som Nath, Ramesh Kumar, Surinder Patyal and others.

"The followers of Baba Saheb are truly thankful to the Modi government, which has made sure that the contributions of Baba Saheb are brought before the general masses", said Umesh Kumar Gabbar.

He also stated that the BJP SC Morcha is committedly engaged in carrying the legacy of Baba Saheb to the masses.

Movement Kalki expresses strong concern against police atrocity in Rajeev Nagar

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 31

Today, Movement Kalki organized a press conference at Jammu Bus Stand, chaired by the core committee member Sanjeev Dubey. He was accompanied by Legal Advisor Advocate Someshwar Kohli, Harmeet, and Anti-Drug Campaign in-charge Pawan Sharma.

In the press conference, Movement Kalki expressed serious concern over a recently viral video from Rajeev Nagar, in which a police officer was seen brutally beating a young man. The video also showed the police officer taking some substance out of his pocket, instructing



another officer to take a photo, and then attempting to frame the young man under the NDPS Act. The young man was later taken to the police station.

Movement Kalki strongly condemned this incident, calling it a grave example of power abuse. The organization demanded that senior police officials take note of this

incident and take strict action against the guilty officers. Such corrupt officers should be removed from the department to prevent such incidents in the future.

The purpose of this press conference was to expose the evils prevailing in society and the atrocities committed by law enforcement agencies.

Movement Kalki also highlighted instances where whistleblowers have gone missing over time, raising serious concerns.

Movement Kalki further stated that this is not an isolated incident; several such cases have been suppressed. These actions erode public trust in the police. The organization urged the Jammu and Kashmir Police Administration to conduct a fair investigation into this matter and take strict action against the guilty personnel.

Movement Kalki will continue its fight against corruption and injustice, making every possible effort to raise the voice of the common people.

Movement Kalki Team meets injured soldiers of Kathua encounter

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 31

The Movement Kalki team met with the brave police personnel injured in the Kathua encounter today, including SDPO Border Kathua Dheeraj Katoch and SPO Bharat Jalotra, to inquire about their well-being. The team was led by Mr. Pritam Sharma, accompanied by Mr. Sanjeev Dubey, Advocate Sumeshwar Kohli, Advocate Harmeet Singh, Ms. Anuradha, Ms. Sapna Hindu, Mr. Antu Kotwal, and Mr. Pawan Sharma.

At Government Medical Hospital, Jammu, the team also met DSP Dheeraj Singh Koch, who played an active role in the Kathua encounter and was injured during the terrorists' gunfire.



Unfortunately, four brave soldiers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police lost their lives in this encounter. Movement Kalki prays for the peace of these great souls and wishes a speedy recovery for the injured soldiers.

During this visit, the team exchanged crucial

information regarding the encounter and discussed the challenges faced by security forces. They also held discussions with SPO Bharat Jalotra regarding national security and the well-being of soldiers.

The team encouraged the injured soldiers and prayed to Mata Rani for

their swift recovery so they can return home and resume their duty in service of the nation. Several issues were discussed, including the difficulties faced by police in combating terrorists and dealing with those who support them.

Movement Kalki paid tribute to the brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in this encounter. A two-minute silence was observed in their honor, and prayers were offered for their families to bear this immense loss with strength.

The nation takes immense pride in its courageous soldiers who selflessly protect the country. Movement Kalki stands in solidarity with these brave warriors and will always work in their support.

Telangana exports first consignment of rice to Philippines

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, MAR 31

In a historic move, Telangana has entered the global rice export market with its first shipment of rice to the Philippines.

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy flagged off the consignment from Kakinada Port on Monday, marking a major step in the state's efforts to tap into international markets for its surplus paddy.

Speaking to the media, Reddy announced that 12,500 metric tonnes of rice had been dispatched, highlighting the significance of this achievement for Telangana's farmers

and agriculture sector. He credited Telangana's emergence as a major paddy producer to favourable climatic conditions, fertile soil, and proactive government policies. With an annual paddy production of around 280 lakh metric tonnes (LMTs), the state often produces more than its domestic and central procurement requirements.

The Minister noted that the Telangana government has been bearing a significant financial burden due to delays in payments from the Central Government and the Food Corporation of India (FCI)

for Custom Milled Rice (CMR). To ease this

burden, the state explored export opportunities and successfully secured an agreement with the Philippines government.

After extensive quality assessments, the Philippines agreed to initially purchase 1 LMT of rice and 8 LMTs of paddy from Telangana.

An MoU was signed between The Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (TGSC-SCL) and Planters Products Inc., representing the Philippines government.

The exported rice belongs to the IR64/MTU1010 variety, meeting strict quality standards, including 5 per cent broken grain, well-milled, polished, and

sortex quality, with low moisture content (up to 14 per cent). The agreed export price was Rs 36,000 per metric tonne, ex-Kakinada Port.

A total of 103 rice mills in Telangana contributed to milling the MSP paddy for this export. The Minister expressed confidence that this initiative is just the beginning of Telangana's expansion into international markets. He congratulated farmers, rice millers, and Civil Supplies Corporation officials for their efforts and reaffirmed the government's commitment to boosting farmer incomes and reducing the state's financial burden through such initiatives.

Magnificent celebration of Satyawati Bua Tripta's Annual Mela, thousands seek Divine Blessings

J1NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, MARCH 31

The annual fair of Satyawati Bua Tripta, held during the auspicious Chaitra Navratri, concluded with grandeur on March 31. Thousands of devotees attended the fair, seeking the divine blessings of Bua Tripta. MLA Mohan Lal also visited the sacred site to offer prayers and expressed his joy at witnessing the grand celebration. Accompanying him were Multan Singh, Jagdish Singh, Neeraj Sharma, Mangesh Sharma, Jaipal, Dev Raj, Ajay, Ayush, Anil Sharma, Vishal Sapolia, Sohan Lal, Sonia Verma, Deepak Sharma, Pawan Singh, Rohit Kumar, Raman Sharma, and other distinguished guests.

The fair featured various rides for children, creating an atmosphere of excitement and joy. Numerous



shopping stalls were set up, offering traditional attire, religious artifacts, sweets, and decorative items. A grand community feast (Bhandara) was also organized, where thousands of devotees partook in the sacred meal, receiving divine blessings.

Under the leadership of Tehsildar Naresh Kumar, administrative arrangements were efficiently

managed, ensuring the smooth execution of the fair. The volunteers and villagers actively contributed to the event's success, urging all devotees to attend with their families and receive Bua Tripta's blessings.

The Satyawati Bua Tripta fair holds 600 years of historical and cultural significance. As per legend, the fair is deeply

connected to Pawar Raja Jagdev Singh, whose revered deity was Bua Tripta. It is believed that after Bua Tripta attained sati, people from the Pawar community were divided into 22 different castes to seek divine protection. This annual gathering is not just a religious event but also a symbol of social harmony and cultural unity, drawing devotees from across India.

Following the centuries-old traditions of Bua Tripta Devasthan, this year's fair once again became a beacon of faith and devotion. Devotees from Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Mumbai, and several other states attended, expressing their unwavering reverence and receiving the divine blessings of Bua Tripta.

Indian Army organizes Iftar at Hasplot, Parore Gujjaran, Rajouri

J1NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAR 31

Keeping in view of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens and Indian Army organised a Iftar party on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat cum interaction with locals at Hasplot and Parore Gujjaran. It was aimed to foster good relationships with religious mentors of society in area and hold the terrorist ecosystem at grassroot level. The aim was to interact with locals and spread the message of harmony during the auspicious month of Ramadan. Evening Namaz was attended by



the troops followed by the Iftar for the invitees. Indian Army addressed the local people and conveyed about the significance of peace and coexistence of various communities in the society. The Indian Army conveyed his good wishes to

the villagers and thanked the local people for their support towards the Security Forces. A total strength of 575 locals and troops attended the event at Hasplot. The event was successful in reaching out to people, to reach through the populace and create

multiple footprints of ethical perception management across all villagers in a single timeframe. This gesture and effort by the Indian Army were highly appreciated by the AWAM and represented a progressive effort to strengthen trust between the JAWAN and the AWAM. The Indian Army's commitment to maintaining peace in the area was clearly displayed. The celebration was overflowing with enthusiasm and the Indian Army once again extended a great gesture towards the consolidation of the Military-Civil bond.

ISRO's Cartosat-3 capture images of damages caused by earthquake in Myanmar

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, MAR 31

The Cartosat-3 Satellite launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has captured images showing the damages caused by the devastating earthquake that hit Myanmar on March 28.

On Rapid damage assessment, it said post-disaster Cartosat-3 imagery was acquired by ISRO on March 29 over the cities of Mandalay and Sagaing in Myanmar. Additionally, pre-event Cartosat-3 data acquired on March 18, 2025 covering the same area was referred for change analysis and assessment of damage, ISRO said in an update on Monday.

Significant damage to infrastructure in Mandalay city was observed, with major landmarks such as Sky Villa Phayani Pagoda, Mahamuni Pagoda and Ananda Pagoda, University of Mandalay and several others suffering either complete or partial damage.

In Sagaing city, damage was observed in the Ma Shi Khana Pagoda, along with several monasteries and other buildings.

As seen from the imag-

ery, the earthquake caused the complete collapse of the historic Ava (InnWa) Bridge on the Irrawaddy River, near Inn Wa City. Cracks/ground ruptures in flood plains of Irrawaddy river with associated liquefaction was also observed. The inference on damage was made by a rapid data analysis mode and has to be ground verified.

India's homegrown PSLV-C47 rocket had successfully launched Cartosat-3, a third generation agile advanced satellite having high resolution imaging capability, and 13 other commercial nanosatellites from USA from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota on November 27, 2019 from the Second Launch Pad.

ISRO said an earthquake of magnitude 7.7 struck Myanmar on March 28 followed by strong aftershock of magnitude 6.4 measured on the Richter Scale.

The epicenter is located at a depth of 10km near Sagaing-Mandalay border. The epicenter of the quake was located near Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city, which experienced severe damage.

The earthquake also rattled the capital Naypyidaw and other regions, resulting in the collapse of infrastructure, roads and residential buildings.

The tremors were felt not only in Myanmar but also in neighbouring countries. The shockwaves were strong enough to be felt as far as Chiang Mai and northern parts of Thailand, where residents reported damages.

On the Tectonic summary, it said Myanmar is located near the convergent boundary of the Indian and Eurasian plates, where the Indian Plate is moving northward toward the Eurasian Plate at a rate of about 5 cm per year.

In addition to that Myanmar also sits near several smaller fault zones, such as the Sagaing Fault, which runs through central Myanmar. The Sagaing fault is a significant active strike-slip fault that accommodates lateral motion between the blocks of the Indian and Eurasian plates.

The present earthquake was likely associated with the release of accumulated stress along the Sagaing fault or its accessory faults in the region, it said.

Cooperative college to be opened soon in Bihar: Prem

AGENCIES
PATNA, MAR 31

Bihar Cooperative Minister Prem Kumar said that a Cooperative college would soon be opened in Bihar to impart proper education about cooperative to the youth of the state.

Kumar said here on Sunday that the process of setting up the college would be initiated soon. He said that the Union Minister Amit Shah has recently inaugurated Tribhuvan Cooperative University.

He further said that to export organic vegetables from Bihar, an arrangement for the packaging of the vegetables was being made, for which two acres of land were being arranged.

The Minister said that micro ATM cards would be distributed among the Cooperative committees, in which the dairy cooperative society would be given priority.

NABARD has also agreed to provide a subsidy for the purchase of 785 micro ATM, the Minister said, and informed that 1500 cooperative societies would get micro ATM cards within the next 6 months to provide them with banking facilities at the doorstep.

Heavy Security at UoH amid student protests over land issue

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, MAR 31

Police have intensified security at University of Hyderabad (UoH) following student protests against the alleged auction of university land.

Heavy police deployment has been made at the university's main gate and inside the campus as a precautionary measure.

The unrest began when authorities attempted to flatten 400 acres of land with bulldozers, triggering student outrage. Clashes erupted on Sunday night, leading to multiple student arrests, though they were later released.

Fearing continued protests on Monday, police have tightened security, allowing entry only to students and staff after verification.

The government insists the 400 acres do not belong to the university and are being auctioned through Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIC).

However, students strongly oppose this claim, asserting that the land rightfully belongs to UoH. Protests are expected to continue as students demand an immediate halt to the land leveling process.

Tejashwi counters Amit Shah on his promise to end flood problems in Bihar

AGENCIES
PATNA, MAR 31

Senior RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav on Monday countered the promise of Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah that flood problems in the state would end permanently, if NDA government was formed in Bihar after next assembly elections. Yadav while reacting to promise made by Shah during his Bihar visit on Sunday said that BJP leader was spreading only lies. Shah had nothing to say about achievements of NDA government, he remarked.

"Is there government of Taliban for the last 20 years in Bihar", Tejashwi asked. BJP leaders could say anything, he remarked and wondered, "from where they bring such bunch of lies".

Shah during a public meeting in Gopalganj of Bihar, had promised that flood problems would be solved permanently if NDA government was formed after next state assembly elections. Floods would become a thing of past in Bihar, he had said while making promise in the meeting.

Nitish greets people on Eid festival

AGENCIES
PATNA, MAR 31

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday greeted people of the state, particularly Muslims, on Eid festival and called upon them to celebrate it with the spirit of brotherhood and mutual co-existence.

Kumar, in his message posted on the social media account X, extended greetings to the people of the state, particularly Muslims. He called upon them to celebrate the festival with joy, love, brotherhood, and mutual co-existence.

"May the almighty bolster blessings of happiness and prosperity on all of us on the occasion", Kumar said, and also wished for development on the occasion. He visited historic Gandhi Maidan in Patna and interacted with Muslims and exchanged greetings on the occasion. A large number of Muslims had gathered there to offer Namaz on the occasion.

Muslims also offered Namaz at all mosques and their other religious places across the state. Reports of Eid celebration have been received from all parts of Bihar.

Coast Guard seizes Sea cucumbers worth Rs 80 lakh

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, MAR 30

The Indian Coast Guard seized an illegal consignment of sea cucumbers worth Rs 80 Lakh off South Uchipuli near Rameswaram on Monday.

Acting on an intelligence input about the likely transshipment of illegal contraband off South Uchipuli seashore near Rameswaram, the Coast Guard's nearby unit at Mandapam swiftly launched an anti-smuggling operation.

The intelligence team of the ICGS Mandapam promptly diverted the Air Cushion Vehicle (ACV) H-197 to conduct extensive surveillance in the area.

During the operation, it sighted and recovered five drums containing sea cucumbers, weighing approximately 200 kg (wet weight). The estimated market value of the seized consignment is approximately Rs 80 lakh, a defence release said.

This successful interception underscores the Indian Coast Guard's unwavering commitment to anti-smuggling, anti-poaching, and the preservation of marine biodiversity.

The force remains vigilant and proactive in safeguarding marine ecology and protecting illegal exploitation.

The Indian Coast Guard continues to operate with the highest level of alertness and efficiency to prevent such unlawful activities in Indian waters.

Eid celebrated with fervour and gaiety across UP

AGENCIES
LUCKNOW, MAR 31

The festival of Eid ul Fitr was celebrated with fervour and gaiety across Uttar Pradesh, including the capital Lucknow, amid tight security arrangements on Monday.

On this occasion, prayers were offered for the progress and peace of the country in all the major mosques and Eidgahs. In Lucknow, Eid prayers were offered at 10 AM in Aishbagh Eidgah, while thousands of people offered Eid prayers at 11 AM in Asifi Masjid Bada Imambara and at 9 AM in Teele Wali Masjid.

Women also offered prayers at Aishbagh Eidgah. Special arrangements were made on this occasion. The police administration was in alert mode regarding Eid and Navratri. The police had made special arrangements to ensure that Eid prayers were conducted safely.

The help of CCTV and drones was taken to keep an eye on mischievous elements in religious places and surrounding areas.

Pleased with the excellent arrangements on Eid in Rampur, Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Mohibullah Nadvi expressed gratitude to the district administration. "Very good arrangements, thank you from the bottom of my heart to the officers," he said.

Eid prayers were offered peacefully in Saharanpur. After the prayers at Eidgah,



people greeted each other. Police and administrative officials greeted the Namazis. During this time, an atmosphere of harmony and peace prevailed in the city.

In Sambhal, thousands of people offered Eid prayers at the main Eidgah and prayed for brotherhood and peace in the country amid tight security arrangements. SP MP Zia Ur Rahman Barq also offered prayers. During this time, a large number of police officers including the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, were present.

In Kaushambi district, Eid ul Fitr prayers were performed peacefully in an atmosphere of brotherhood. People hugged each other and wished each other Eid Mubarak.

SP Brijesh Srivastava and DM Madhusudan Hulgi took stock of the security arrangements during this time. Sensitive places were constantly monitored through drones to keep an eye on suspicious activities.

The festival of Eid ul Fitr was celebrated peacefully with joy and enthusiasm amid tight security in Pratapgarh district. A

large number of Namazis offered Eid prayers in mosques other than Eidgah and greeted each other by hugging. On this occasion, to maintain law and order, the police kept a strict vigil with drone cameras around crowded places and places with mixed populations.

DM Shiv Sahay Awasthi and SP Dr Anil Kumar reached the prayer place Eidgah in Bhulia Pur of Kotwali Nagar and gave chocolates to the children and wished them Eid ul Fitr. On the occasion of Eid, malls, zoos, cinema halls, and other public places were bustling with activity. People reached these places to roam around after offering prayers. Children wearing new clothes and netted caps were seen enjoying this happy occasion to the fullest.

The streets were filled with the mild fragrance of vermicelli. People expressed their love by hugging each other and feeding each other Sevyan. The spirit of Eid was also at its peak on social media. All platforms, including Facebook, and WhatsApp were flooded with congratulatory messages.

Day temperatures above normal at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh

AGENCIES
PUNE, MAR 31

Day temperatures were appreciably above normal (3.1°C to 5.0°C) at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam and Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura, Saurashtra and Kutch, Odisha, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim.

The day temperatures were above normal (1.6°C to 3.0°C) at a few places over Vidarbha; at isolated places over Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh, Gilgit, Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal, Bihar and Madhya Maharashtra.

The temperatures were below normal (-3.0°C to -1.6°C) at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh and near normal over rest parts of the country. Yesterday, the highest maximum temperature of 42.3°C was reported at Akola (Vidarbha) over the country.

Night temperatures were

appreciably above normal (3.1°C to 5.0°C) at isolated places Madhya Maharashtra and Marathwada; above normal (1.6°C to 3.0°C) at many places over Konkan and Goa; at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, West Bengal and Sikkim.

These are markedly below normal (-5.1°C or less) at isolated places over Rajasthan, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, east Uttar Pradesh, Saurashtra and Kutch; below normal (-3.0°C to -1.6°C) at many places over west Uttar Pradesh; at a few places over Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand; at isolated places over Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh, Gilgit, Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal and near normal over rest parts of the country. Today, the lowest minimum temperature of

10.0°C is reported at Sikar (east Rajasthan) over the plains of the country.

Squally/Gusty winds prevailed at isolated locations over north interior Karnataka.

Rain or thundershowers have occurred at isolated places in Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Maharashtra, coastal Karnataka and interior Karnataka.

Mainly dry weather has prevailed in Assam and Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, West Bengal and Sikkim, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat State, Konkan and Goa, Marathwada, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rayalaseema, Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

Following observations for the past 24 hrs were recorded at 0830 hrs on Monday.

Conveyor belt restoration accelerated as SLBC tunnel rescue operations intensify in Telangana

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, MAR 31

The restoration of the conveyor belt in the SLBC tunnel is progressing rapidly as rescue operations continue at full pace.

"It may be noted that the SLBC tunnel accident occurred on February 22, trapping eight workers. So far, the bodies of two victims have been recovered and handed over to their families. Authorities are making special efforts to expedite operations and rescue the remaining six workers."

On Monday, SLBC Tunnel Special Officer Shiv Shankar Loteti conducted a review meeting with senior officials overseeing the ongoing relief efforts at the accident site. He emphasised that the rescue operations are being carried out continuously and more effectively with the acceleration of conveyor belt restoration.

Special Officer Loteti stated that the state

government is closely monitoring the situation, ensuring that multiple teams, including the Army, NDRF, SDRF, Hydr, Singareni Mines Rescue, and South Central Railway, are working round the clock despite adverse conditions. He highlighted that expert advice is being incorporated into the operations, with specialized teams coordinating efficiently to enhance rescue efforts.

Providing an update on the progress, he informed that the conveyor belt is being restored from 13,630 meters to 13,730 meters within the tunnel. Additionally, soil removal operations inside the tunnel are being carried out using excavators. The South Central Railway personnel are actively cutting and removing steel obstructions through a loco train to facilitate smoother rescue operations. Furthermore, high-capacity pumps are being used daily to drain spring

water from the tunnel.

Special Officer Loteti commended the rescue teams for their dedication and tireless efforts, noting that they continue their work irrespective of festivals. He assured that ventilation is being restored in alignment with soil excavation, and necessary precautions are being taken to safeguard the well-being of the rescue personnel. The review meeting saw the participation of key officials, including Nagarkurnool District Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Deva Saawan, Army officers Vikas Singh and Vijay Kumar, SDRF officer Giridhar Reddy, Hydr officer Sudarshan Reddy, South Central Railway officer Nethi Chandra, Singareni Mines Rescue officer, and JP Company representatives. The collaborative efforts of these teams are ensuring swift progress in the rescue operations within the SLBC tunnel, an official statement said.

Nitish congratulates newly elected President and General Secretary of PU students Union

AGENCIES
PATNA, MAR 31

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday congratulated the newly elected President, General Secretary and Treasurer of Patna University Students' Union, saying it was a reflection of women empowerment in Bihar.

Kumar, in his message, said it was an extreme pleasure for him that all three girl students were elected to three important posts of the Patna University Students' Union. It was a reflection of women's empowerment in Bihar, he added.

"Maithili Mrinalini has been elected as President of Patna University Students' Union, while Saloni Raj and Soumya Srivastava have been elected as General Secretary and



Treasurer of the Union", the Chief Minister said, adding that results indicated that the self-confidence of women had increased considerably in Bihar. They were performing well

in sectors of activities, he noted.

It is for the first time in history that girls were elected to three of the top five positions of the Patna University Students' Union.

Scuffle after Eid prayers in Meerut, several injured

AGENCIES
MEERUT (UP), MAR 31

More than half a dozen persons were injured when a minor altercation took a violent turn after Eid prayers, leading to a major scuffle and firing in Siwalkhas town of Meerut district here in Uttar Pradesh on Monday, police sources said.

Police sources said that the incident took place when people from the Muslim community had gathered at the canal-side

graveyard to read Fateha after offering Eid prayers. "The dispute that started a day earlier turned into a brawl between two groups named Niyat and Badam," they said.

Police sources said that as per eyewitness's account, lathis were used, and several rounds of bullets were fired, leading to panic and a stampede in the area. More than half a dozen people were injured and taken to a nearby hospital," they said. Police sources

said that, meanwhile, protests were held in various parts of Meerut against the state government's decision not to allow people to offer namaz on the streets. "The protesters, carrying flags and posters, argued that the ban violates constitutional rights by not treating all religions equally," they said. Police sources said that the officials are closely monitoring the situation, and additional security forces have been deployed to prevent the situation from worsening further.

Cong to stage Black flag protest during PM's TN visit on Apr 6

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, MAR 31

The Congress party will stage a black flag protest against Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Tamil Nadu on April six, condemning the BJP-led Government for not releasing due share of funds to the state under various schemes.

In a statement here, TNCC President and Congress Legislature Party leader K Selvaperunthagai said ever since the BJP government headed by Mr Modi assumed office it has been deceiving Tamil Nadu and Tamils through its anti-people policies.

He said the Centre was acting against the interests of Tamil Nadu by attempting to impose Hindi in the name of three lan-

guage policy under NEP-2020, trying to reduce representation in Parliament under the proposed delimitation based on the current population, non-release of Disaster relief funds for state, which was battered by Cyclone and heavy rains.

Mr Selvaperunthagai also slammed the Union Government for not releasing funds under the SSA for the school education sector and not taking adequate steps to exempt Tamil Nadu from the purview of NEET exams, which has claimed the lives of several young medical aspirants, adopting biased approach in allocation of funds for various projects despite getting large share of GST revenue from TN, exerting pressure using the Governor on duly

and democratically elected governments in non-BJP ruled States, delay in releasing its share of funds for the Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase-2.

He also had a dig at the Centre for not releasing Rs 4,034 crore wage dues for the poor under the 100-day MGNREGS scheme since it was named after Mahatma Gandhi, among other things.

To condemn the indifferent attitude of the Centre, the TNCC will organise black flag demonstrations in all the district headquarters of the State on April 6 when the Prime Minister will visit Tamil Nadu to inaugurate the iconic new Pamban Railway bridge connecting Rameswaram Island with the mainland and address a public meeting.

Eid-ul-Fitr celebrated with religious fervor, enthusiasm in Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MARCH 31

Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with religious fervor, enthusiasm and in a peaceful environment in district Kishtwar, here today.

Thousands of devotees thronged local mosques and performed Namaz-e-Eid and prayed for peace, development and prosperity of the district Kishtwar as well as the UT.

Elaborate arrangements were made by the district and police administration for smooth celebrations of Eid festival at Chowgan Ground.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Rajesh Kumar Shavan, SSP Kishtwar Javed Iqbal remained present besides monitoring and supervising the security and other arrangements.

ADC Pawan Kotwal, ASP Pawan Kumar and



others officers from Police and Civil administration exchanged Eid greetings

with Muslim brethren and prayed for peace, tranquility, integrity, communal

harmony and brotherhood in the district as well as in the UT.

Eid-ul-Fitr celebrated with religious fervor, communal harmony in Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MARCH 31

The festival of Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with great enthusiasm and religious fervor across District Doda, as a large gathering of the Muslim community offered Eid prayers at Eidgah Doda this morning.

The congregational prayers were led by the Imam of Jamia Masjid Doda and were attended by the Deputy Commis-



sioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sandeep Kumar Mehta, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sudar-

shan Kumar, along with other civil and police officers.

To ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of the festival, the District

Administration Doda had made elaborate security and other necessary arrangements.

DC and SSP conveyed their heartfelt Eid greetings, emphasizing the values of brotherhood, peace and unity.

Similarly, prayers and celebrations were observed at various other locations across the district, where devotees gathered to offer prayers and exchange greetings.

Eid-ul-Fitr celebrated with religious fervor across Ramban

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MARCH 31

Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with religious fervor and joyous festivities across Ramban district, here today. The largest congregations were witnessed at Jamia Masjid Sharif Ramban, Eidgah in Banihal, Gool and Batote, where a large number of devotees gathered to perform Namaz-e-Eid, offering prayers for peace, development and prosperity in the Union Territory and the nation at large.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, conveyed warm greetings to the people, emphasizing that



such occasions foster unity, communal harmony and brotherhood in society.

The District and Police Administration have made elaborate arrangements, including security measures, to ensure the smooth observance of Eid-ul-Fitr festivities. Eid prayers were also conducted at various mosques in the town and its outskirts.

Senior officers participated in Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations in their respective jurisdictions, extending their heartfelt wishes to the Muslim community on this auspicious occasion.

MLA Ramban Arjun Singh Raju, Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, Additional SP Gourav Mahajan, Tehsildar Ramban Deep Kumar, Dy.

SP Omprakash, SHO Vijay Kotwal, and other officials from the District Administration joined celebrations at Jamia Masjid Qadeem, Ramban, extending heartfelt Eid-ul-Fitr greetings to all. The spirit of Eid-ul-Fitr resonated in various other areas, including Banihal, Sangaldan, Ramsoo, Ukhral, Batote, Gool and Rajgrah, where communities came together to celebrate with joy and unity.

Tony visits Makkah, Malik Market & Digiana Masjids extends Eid Greetings to Muslim brethren



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 31

Taranjit Singh Tony, District Development Council (DDC) Member from Suchetgarh and senior Congress leader, extended heartfelt Eid greetings to the Muslim community during visits to Makkah Masjid in Malik Market and Digiana Masjid. During these visits, he met with congregants and reconnected with longtime friends, emphasizing the importance of communal harmony and unity.

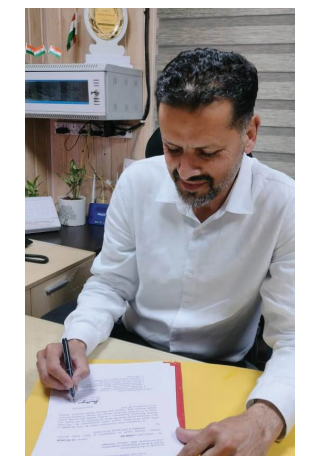
Tony highlighted the significance of Eid as a festival that embodies compassion, brotherhood, and the spirit of giving. He underscored the rich tapestry of cultural and religious diversity in Jammu and Kashmir, advocating for continued mutual respect and understanding among all communities.

Tony's engagements during Eid reflect his ongoing commitment to fostering social cohesion and addressing the concerns of various communities in the region.

His previous initiatives include advocating for equitable distribution of resources, improving local infrastructure, and supporting educational endeavors for underprivileged children.

Tony reaffirmed his dedication to serving all constituents, irrespective of religious or cultural backgrounds. He called upon citizens to uphold the values of empathy and solidarity, especially during festive occasions that bring people together.

Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar assumes charge of DHS Jammu



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 31

Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar assumed the charge of Director Health Services Jammu today. He was given a warm welcome by staff of Directorate of Health Services Jammu.

Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar served the Department in various Administrative capacities since last 15 years, as Block Medical Officer from 2011 to 2021, MS DH Ramban in 2021-22, Chief Medical Officer Rajouri 2022-23, Chief Medical Officer Doda 2023-24 and Medical Superintendent Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar from 2024 to March 2025.

He joined today as Deputy Director HQ with charge of Director Health Services Jammu.

DHS Jammu accorded warm send off

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 31

Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Magotra who superannuated today after rendering 33 years of remarkable service in the department, was accorded a warm send off by the staff of Directorate of Health Services Jammu.

To bid him farewell, a function was organized in the premises of the Direc-



torate, where Dy. Director Health Services (Dentistry)

Jammu Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Chief Medical Officer Jammu Dr. Harbaksh Singh and other officers/officials complimented Dr. Rakesh Magotra for his contribution to the Health Department.

Dr. Rakesh Magotra worked with selfless devotion and started his services as Medical Officer at AD Madha District Udhampur and served the department in various other adminis-

trative capacities as, Block Medical Officer Bishnah, Dy. Chief Medical Officer Samba, Chief Medical Officer Samba, Chief Medical Officer Kathua, Medical Superintendent Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Deputy Director (HQ) Health Services Jammu.

The staff of the Directorate wished him a good health and prosperous post retirement life.

Ramban Forest Division conducts plantation drive on Eid-ul-Fitr

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MARCH 31

The Ramban Forest Division marked the joyous occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr with a significant plantation drive across multiple Eidgahs and surrounding areas within the division. The initiative aimed to enhance green cover and promote environmental sustainability by planting numerous saplings in both urban and rural regions, particularly focusing on degraded lands and public spaces.

The plantation drive was conducted under the supervision of Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ramban, Ankit Sinha. The initiative not only celebrated the spirit of Eid-ul-Fitr but also reinforced the commitment to a greener and healthier environment



for future generations.

The DFO emphasized the importance of such environmental initiatives and encouraged community participation in afforestation efforts. He highlighted that trees play

a crucial role in combating climate change, improving air quality and preserving biodiversity.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals, volunteers and forest officials, making

it a collective effort toward environmental conservation. The Ramban Forest Division reaffirmed its dedication to continuing such initiatives, ensuring a sustainable and eco-friendly future for the region.

Eid-ul-Fitr celebrated with religious fervour, gaiety in Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MARCH 31

In a remarkable display of religious fervor and community spirit, thousands of devotees in Poonch District came together to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr. The celebrations were marked by a vibrant sense of unity and enthusiasm, with participants from various faiths joining in the festivities.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal and SSP Poonch Shafkat Hussain, along with other officials from the district administration and police, actively participated in the celebrations, reinforcing the significance of communal harmony and religious



tolerance. The largest congregation took place at Eid Gah in Poonch, where thousands of Muslims gathered to offer Eid prayers in the morning.

In anticipation of the festivities, the district administration has made comprehensive arrangements for security and other essential services,

ensuring a joyful and safe environment for all participants.

Deputy Commissioners took the opportunity to meet with devotees, including Imams and religious leaders, to extend their heartfelt greetings. They highlighted that the festival symbolizes devotion, charity, and the spirit of giving.

As a testament to the unity among different faiths, individuals from Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, and Christian communities congratulated one another, shared sweets and celebrated Eid together, exemplifying the essence of togetherness and mutual respect in the Poonch District.