

**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 and continuous fever above 101°F
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Present vomiting
- A skin rash
- Lowness
- Steady low pulse or no blood in stool
- Redness

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## Eid to be celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir today

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 30

Eid-ul-Fitr, which marks the culmination of the fasting month of Ramzan, will be celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

Kashmir's Grand Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam Sunday said witnesses have been on record on the sighting of the Shawaal moon.

Muslims across the world follow the lunar calendar and the sighting of the Shawwal crescent marks the end of the month of fasting and Eid.

Greetings poured in from all over on the festive eve.

**Lieutenant Governor's Greetings on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr**

The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr.

In his message the Lieutenant Governor has said, "On the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, I extend my warm greetings and good wishes to all.

Eid-ul-Fitr marks the end of the period of fasting, prayer and charity during the pious month of Ramzan and an important occasion for festivities, all-round joy and togetherness. It strengthens our faith in oneness, compassion and brotherhood.

May Eid-ul-Fitr this year usher in peace, prosperity and happiness for all".

**Chief Minister Omar Abdullah**

**extends Eid-ul-Fitr greetings to people of J&K and beyond**

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and beyond on the joyous occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

In his message on the auspicious occasion, the Chief Minister highlighted the significance of Eid as a divine blessing following a month of fasting and devotion.

He emphasized that Eid is an occasion to express gratitude to the Almighty and to cherish the spirit of togetherness and compassion fostered during Ramadan.

"Eid is a time when people come together to celebrate the blessings of Ramadan, strengthening the bonds of

community and reinforcing the values of mutual respect and brotherhood. It is a time to share happiness, extend kindness and support those in need," Omar Abdullah said.

The Chief Minister further remarked that the festival is a true reflection of Jammu and Kashmir's rich tradition of communal harmony, shared heritage and cultural inclusivity, strengthening the fabric of unity and peace.

On this occasion, he prayed for peace, progress and prosperity for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and for all those celebrating Eid across the world.

**Deputy Chief Minister extends Eid greetings**

Deputy Chief Minister,  
**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## Mann Ki Baat | Our festivals show unity in diversity in Country: PM

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAR 30

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that various festivals being celebrated today and to be observed in the coming days are a pointer to the spirit of unity pervading India's diversity and asked people to continue to strengthen this feeling.

In his monthly Mann ki Baat broadcast, he said various states are celebrating their traditional new year on Sunday and many others will be celebrating in the coming days.

"Today the festival of Ugadi is being celebrated with great fervour in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana. Today itself, Gudi Padwa is being celebrated in Maharashtra. In our country full of diversity, during the next few days, in different states, 'Rongali Bihu' will be celebrated in Assam, 'Poila Boishakh' in Bengal, 'Navreh' in Kashmir. Similarly,



between 13th and 15th April, there will be joyous celebration of festivals in different parts of the country," he said. Jammu travel guide

There is an atmosphere of excitement about this too and the festival of Eid is also there, Modi added.

Noting that the coming month is of festivals and of festivities, the prime minister extended his greetings to the people of the country.

"These festivals of ours may be in different regions, but they show how unity is woven

into the diversity of India. We have to keep reinforcing this spirit of unity, on our way ahead," the Prime Minister said.

He noted that summer vacation in schools will also fall in a few weeks and said the long days of summer are a time for students to develop new hobbies and polish their skills.

He urged those offering various activities for students to use the hashtag of "myholidays" and students and parents to share their  
**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## LG attends Rajasthan Day celebration at Raj Bhawan



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 30

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the Rajasthan Day celebration, hosted by Jammu Kashmir Raj Bhawan at Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor conveyed his greetings and best wishes to the people of Rajasthan, on the occasion.

"Rajasthan is known as land of warriors and it is the vibrant centre of India's rich culture and glorious heritage. The cultural richness of Rajasthan is as diverse as its geographical features.

Rajasthan, one of the major centres of ancient civilization with its culture, art, knowledge, customs, traditions and values is contributing to the all-round development of India. In the field of architecture, music, dance and painting the state has made unparalleled contribution," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to the illustrious personalities of Rajasthan and recalled their invaluable contribution in nation building.

He said the legacy of the great warriors, freedom  
**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## Goswami Shri Guru Nabha Dass Ji Maharaj has guided the humanity to live an honest, truthful and virtuous life: LG Sinha

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 30

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the celebration of 453rd Prakash Utsav of Goswami Shri Guru Nabha Dass Ji Maharaj, at Abhinav Theatre.

The Lieutenant Governor paid obeisance to Guru Nabha Dass Ji, and extended his heartiest greetings and best wishes to the people, on the auspicious occasion.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the eternal relevance of Shri Guru Nabha Dass Ji's spiritual teachings and his immense contribution to our composite culture.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "Goswami Shri Guru Nabha Dass Ji Maharaj has guided the humanity to live an honest, truthful and virtuous life.

Through his works, revered sage Nabha Dass Ji not only



inspired society towards the path of devotion but he also breathed new life into Indian civilization and culture and re-instilled self-confidence in the society.

Guru Nabha Dass talked about awakening and unity in the society and desired that the feeling of brotherhood should unite the entire society. He was also of the opinion that compassion in every human being should lead to service".

The Lieutenant Governor called upon people to rise above narrow considerations

and promote the idea of unity of all mankind.

He said, the progressive teachings of Guru Nabha Dass Ji also aimed at creating an ideal community without any divisions and discriminations to strengthen the social equity.

"During Bhakti-Kaal, Guru Nabha Dass Ji's aim was to guide the society towards the path of devotion and spiritual upliftment of humanity. He also emphasised that elimination of class distinctions was essential to strengthen  
**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## Lieutenant Governor attends 'Navreh Samaroh' organised by Kashmiri Pandit Sabha



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 30

On the auspicious occasion of Navreh, the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended 'Navreh Samaroh', organised by Kashmiri Pandit Sabha, at Amphalla Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the people and extended his heartiest greetings and best wishes to all. He prayed that the year ahead bring happiness, joy and fulfilment to all and illuminate  
**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

their journey with lights of hope for a better future.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated the Central Government's commitment to ensure the dignified return of Kashmiri Pandits to Kashmir valley.

"Government is committed to the return of Kashmiri Pandits to Kashmir valley. The central government is working on this. Efforts are being made to create the environment for this and we will eliminate all the obstacles to make  
**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## LG visits GMC Jammu, enquires about the health of Police personnel injured in Kathua

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 30

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today visited Government Medical College Hospital Jammu to enquire about the health of J&K Police Personnel, who sustained injuries during an encounter with terrorists in Kathua.

Team of senior doctors briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the health condition of SDPO Border, Kathua, Shri Dheeraj Katoch and SPO Bharat Jalhotra and medical procedures being followed.

The Lieutenant Governor also met the family members of the injured and assured all possible assistance. He directed the Hospital Administration for ensuring the best possible medical care for the speedy recovery of the brave police personnel.

## Amid Multi-Tier Security, Pilgrims pay obeisance at Mata Vaishnodevi Cave Shrine

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, MAR 30

Thousands of pilgrims flocked the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Trikuta hills of Jammu and Kashmir as the nine-day Chaitra Navratri festival began on Sunday.

Heavy security arrangements, including AI-enabled CCTV cameras and drones, have been deployed at the base camp of the bhawan and along the route to avert any untoward incident, officials said.

While 48,000 pilgrims paid obeisance at the cave shrine on Saturday, the numbers are set to increase as serpentine queues were seen on Sunday from the base camp to the shrine.

"I greet pilgrims on the occasion of Chaitra Navratri. There is huge enthusiasm among pilgrims from Katra



to Bhawan. There has been a significant increase in the flow of pilgrims. Long queues are visible from Katra to bhawan," Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, told reporters here.

To ensure a trouble-free yatra, security and crowd management teams have been deployed en route from Katra to bhawan, he said.

The Shrine Board, which manages the yatra, has taken

new initiatives to ease the pilgrimage for the devotees.

Many devotees said they were happy with the arrangements made by the Board.

"On the first day of Navratri, we feel blessed to pay obeisance at the cave shrine. Although there is little difficulty due to heavy rush, it is insignificant when you experience the beauty of the environment and spirituality at bhawan," Amit Sharma from Delhi, said.  
**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## Dr Jitendra Singh, Dy CM lay foundation stone for 135 double-lane motorable bridge in Majalta

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 30

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS, PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh along with Deputy Chief Minister Jammu & Kashmir, Surinder Chowdhary, today laid foundation stone for construction of a 135-meter span double-lane motorable bridge on the Majalta link road over Gambhir Nallah in Udhampur district.

The project to be raised with an estimated cost of Rs. 1903.46 lakh is aimed at enhancing the regional connectivity.

While addressing the gathering, Dr. Jitendra Singh



congratulated the residents on fulfillment of their long-pending demand for a motorable bridge. He emphasized that the bridge would serve as a crucial 'Setu' (link) for the region and directed the concerned authorities to ensure its timely completion.

Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated the Government of India's commitment towards enhancing the quality of life for citizens through improved service delivery and infrastructure

development. Highlighting the importance of the new bridge, he observed that it would reduce travel distances by 1.5 km, significantly easing the daily commuting challenges for the local population.

The Union Minister shed light on various government schemes like PM Vishwakarma and the Mudra Scheme, urging the youth to take full advantage of these initiatives.  
**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## Natrang stages 'The Dear Departed' on Elderly Neglect

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 30

Natrang presented an experimental performance of Stanley Houghton's popular play 'The Dear Departed' which is a social play on the condition of the elderly people who are being abandoned and neglected by their own children. The play is optimistic that even elderly people may choose to live merrily, despite their old age. The play was directed by Neeraj Kant who very intelligently accommodated a number of actors in the play without changing its texture and pace.

In the beginning of the play, 'Mrs. Slater' goes to offer something to grandfather 'Abel Merryweather' and finds him quite cold and motionless. She declares that the grandfather is no more. Accordingly, her sister and her husband, the 'Jordans' are informed about the sudden demise of the grandfather. 'Mrs. Slater'



and her husband are busy making arrangements for the mourning. They are expecting the Jordans to join them. They start using the various materials used by the grandfather. 'Victoria', daughter of Mrs. Slater does not like all these but reluctantly she is helping her parents in these matters. Mrs. Slater is not willing to share everything of her father's belongings with Mrs. Jordan. When all these arrangements are being done, the Jordans arrive to join them. The family members start

detailed conversation on the deeds of the grandfather, planning the details of the obituary announcement in the papers and the insurance premium payment. They start discussion over the distribution of grandfather's belongings among them. Amid these discussions and debates, to everybody's surprise, grandfather (who was actually alive) is seen coming downstairs. He is surprised to find the Jordans. No one dares to tell him that he has been declared 'dead'.

While taking tea, the truth comes out and the grandfather gets to know how his daughters have been in a hurry to divide his possessions among them. On knowing the harsh reality, the grandfather decides not to live with any of his daughters. He even expresses his final intention to change his Will. He declares that he is going to give everything to 'Mrs. Shorrocks' whom he will marry. He feels that by marrying he will have someone to look after him wholeheartedly without considering him to be a burden.

Natrang's young actors who performed in the play included Kananpreet Kaur, Brijesh Avtar Sharma, Vandana Thakur, Aryan Sharma, Adaksh Bagal and Priyal Ashok Gupta. Lights were operated by Neeraj Kant whereas the sound was rendered by Kartik Kumar. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

## Free Fibroscan Camp organized by Mahajan Sabha Channi Himmat Benefitting 151 Patients

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 30

In a significant healthcare initiative, Mahajan Sabha Channi Himmat, under the dynamic leadership of its president Vipan Gupta, organized a Free Fibroscan Camp near the railway crossing in Channi Himmat. This noble endeavor was conducted in collaboration with Dr. Rajesh Gupta, a distinguished General Physician, with the objective of diagnosing liver-related ailments through advanced medical technology.

While addressing the gathering, Vipan Gupta underscored the significance of such medical camps, emphasizing that Fibroscan—a cutting-edge diagnostic technology—was being offered free of cost, despite its usual price



range of 4,000 to 5,000 in private healthcare facilities. He expressed his gratitude to the medical team and volunteers for making this initiative a success.

Elaborating on the technology, Dr. Rajesh Gupta explained that Fibroscan is an advanced liver-specialized ultrasound technology designed to measure liver stiffness and fatty changes, enabling early detection of conditions such as liver fibrosis, cirrhosis, and fatty liver dis-

ease. He highlighted that this non-invasive procedure plays a crucial role in assessing liver health, allowing timely medical intervention and better disease management.

The camp witnessed an overwhelming response, with 151 patients undergoing screening for various liver conditions. Each participant received expert consultation based on their diagnostic results, empowering them with crucial insights into their

liver health.

Several key office bearers of Mahajan Sabha Channi Himmat, including Ashok Jandyal (Chairman), Raj Kumar Gupta (Sr. Vice President), Mohan Lal Gupta and Dalip Gupta (Vice Presidents), Ashok Gupta (General Secretary), Ankit Gupta (Publicity Secretary) Anil Gupta (Jt. Secretary) & Vishavdeep Gupta (Cashier), also graced the occasion, reinforcing their commitment to community welfare.

The Mahajan Sabha Channi Himmat remains steadfast in its mission to enhance public health awareness and provide accessible healthcare services. This free Fibroscan camp stands as a testament to their dedication to community well-being, ensuring that advanced medical diagnostics reach those who need it the most.

## Hakeem Yaseen extends Eid-ul-Fitr greetings to people of J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 30

Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

In his message, Hakeem Yaseen conveyed his heartfelt wishes for peace, prosperity, and happiness to the people of the region.

He emphasized that Eid-ul-Fitr is not only a festival of joy and gratitude but also an occasion that strengthens the bonds of brotherhood, compassion, and unity.

Hakeem urged everyone



and generosity.

The senior leader PDF leader said that true happiness is found in sharing, and the teachings of Eid-ul-Fitr inspire individuals to care for those in need.

He called upon affluent sections of society to extend support to the underprivileged, enabling them to partake in the celebrations with dignity and happiness.

Expressing optimism for a brighter future, he prayed for lasting peace, progress, and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

He reiterated his commitment to working towards the welfare of the people and ensuring that the region moves forward on the path of development

and stability.

Hakeem Yaseen also acknowledged the sacrifices and hardships faced by many families and hoped that Eid-ul-Fitr would bring renewed hope and solace to all.

He urged the youth to uphold the values of integrity and mutual respect, reinforcing a society based on justice and equality.

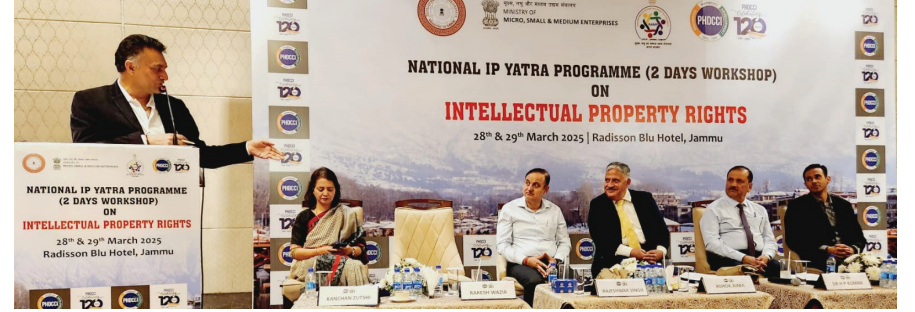
On this festive occasion, he extended warm wishes to all citizens, hoping that the spirit of Eid would bring renewed energy and positivity to every household.

Hakeem Yaseen also prayed for the well-being of the entire humanity and wished for an end to suffering and turmoil worldwide.

## Proper Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights is need of hour: DIG SIA

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 29

While speaking in the concluding session of the Two-Day Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights (in simple words awareness with regard to registration of Patents, Trademarks, Copy rights, Trade secrets etc. and their protection) with topic "Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights & Consequences of IP infringement in India" organized by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) with the support of the Office of the Development Commissioner MSME, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India, held at Radisson Blu Hotel, Jammu, that featured engaging discussions on the impact of Intellectual Property Rights on different sectors, and the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights and the consequences of IP infringement in India, Rajeshwar Singh DIG SIA (State Investigation Agency) who was special invitee on the occasion said that it is very important that Intellectual Property Rights are implemented in letter and spirit and if we go into detail there are strict laws to deal with it. He shared real-world examples of IP-related crimes and enforcement challenges faced on the ground, emphasizing the need for stronger regu-



lations and swift action against infringement to protect businesses and creators.

Ashok Aima, Former Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, stressed the importance of creating widespread awareness about IP Rights and their role in encouraging youth entrepreneurship. He highlighted the need for educational institutions to promote IP for commercialization rather than just academic research, encouraging students to think beyond conventional career paths and explore business opportunities.

Dr. H.P. Kumar, Former CMD, NSIC & Advisor, PHDCCI, provided a comprehensive overview of the current status of IPR in India, the benefits businesses can derive from it, and the gaps that need to be addressed to improve IP protection and enforcement.

Sh. Gaurav Gogia, Principal, United & United, explained the need for a robust IP framework through a series of live examples from different

industries, emphasizing the legal and financial consequences of failing to secure intellectual property rights.

Sh. Rakesh Wazir, Chair of PHDCCI Jammu Region Chapter, extended a warm welcome to all distinguished speakers and invitees, emphasizing the broader understanding of IP-related laws and their significance in the modern economy. He illustrated how brands like Radisson, McDonalds, Dominos, Marriot etc. have secured IP registrations and enjoy a commercial edge over a vast market. This, he explained, showcases the strategic power of intellectual property rights in providing businesses with global recognition and sustained competitive advantages.

The session was moderated by Ms. Kanchan Zutshi, Director, PHDCCI, who set the tone by explaining the fundamentals of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and their increasing importance in today's competitive business landscape. She elab-

orated on how IP protection fosters innovation, safeguards businesses from infringement, and enhances market competitiveness, particularly for startups and MSMEs looking to scale their operations.

The workshop successfully equipped entrepreneurs, students, and industry leaders with the necessary knowledge to protect and leverage their intellectual property, fostering an environment for innovation and business growth in Jammu & Kashmir.

Prominent among others present on the occasion include Shyam Lal Sharma chairman & Virender Kesar Sr. Vice President Hotel & Restaurant Association Katra, Pawan Gupta President Hotels & Lodges Association Jammu, B B Kotwal President Bhaerwah Hotels Association, Shiv Thakur Magotra working President Hotel & Restaurant Association, Patnitop, Ashu Kumar President Travels Agents Association of Katra, etc.

## Indian Army Distributes Essentials to Gujjars and Bakkarwals in Darman

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI: 30 MAR 2025

In a humanitarian effort to support underprivileged communities, Indian Army at Samote distributed blankets, durries and Mosquito Nets to Gujjars and Bakkarwals in Darman. The Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities known for their nomadic lifestyle often endure extreme cold condition 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 hard-



ships 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, durries and mosquito nets 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 number of 250 (including 72 men, 108 women & 70 children) people availed the benefit of distribution of blankets, durries and mosquito net. Sarpanchs, Panchs & prominent locals thanked and expressed their profound gratitude towards the Indian Army for distribution of blankets, durries and mosquito nets to the poor and needy at Darman. 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.

## Army Opens Online Registration for AGNIVEER Recruitment Rally 2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 30

The Indian Army has commenced online registration for the AGNIVEER Recruitment Rally for the Online Common Entrance Exam (CEE) 2025. Eligible unmarried male candidates can apply for

various categories including AGNIVEER (General Duty), AGNIVEER Technical, AGNIVEER Clerk/Store Keeper Technical (Clk/SKT), and AGNIVEER Tradesman (8th & 10th).

The registration window opened on March 12, 2025, and will remain active until April 10, 2025.

Candidates are required to apply exclusively through the official website at www.joinindianarmy.nic.in.

Authorities have advised all applicants to refrain from engaging with middlemen or touts, ensuring a fair and transparent recruitment

process. Interested candidates are encouraged to carefully read the instructions on the website before applying.

This initiative is part of the AGNIVEER scheme, offering young individuals an opportunity to serve the nation in the Armed Forces.

## A large number of people joined BSP

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 29

As part of the membership campaign being run by BSP across the state, a Program was organized by the party in village Mehmoodpur of Bishnah Assembly Segment on Today in which a large number of people left other political parties and joined Bahujan Samaj Party. On this occasion, Bahujan Samaj Party State President Darshan Rana was present in the main event who welcomed the people who joined BSP and said that the party will get a lot of



strength by these people joining the party and the party will continue such campaigns in the coming days and more and more people will be added to the party. Former Panch Rinku Kumar and Gur-

dayal were the main ones who joined BSP, in whose presence other people also joined BSP. On this occasion, BSP's Jammu Kashmir President Darshan Rana said that the party is trying to add as

many people as possible to the party before the Panchayat and Municipal elections to be held in Jammu Kashmir. He said that this campaign will be continued by the party in the coming days as well.

## White Knight Corps Promotes AFMS Careers at Rajouri Medical College

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI: 30 MAR 2025

White Knight Corps conducted an awareness and interaction with students of Government Medical College, Rajouri. The purpose of the session was to introduce the audience to the numerous benefits of pursuing a career in the Armed Forces Medical Services as part of the AFMS outreach initiative, which aims to make a career in the Armed Forces an attractive option for medical students and doctors. A team, headed by Army Hospital Rajouri, led the session. During the interaction, the students



were provided with valuable insights into the various opportunities available within the AFMS. They were informed about the unique blend of medical practice and leadership development

that the Armed Forces Medical Services offer. It was emphasized that working within the AFMS not only allows doctors to serve their country but also provides them with a platform to gain exposure

to a wide range of medical conditions, acquire specialized training, and take on leadership roles early in their careers. The session highlighted the honour and prestige associated with serving in the Indian Army's medical wing, where doctors are respected for their contributions both on the battlefield and in peacekeeping missions. Furthermore, the interaction shed light on the perks and benefits of working in the Armed Forces, including job security, opportunities for professional growth, and the chance to be a part of something greater than oneself.

## Indian Army Hosts Iftar to Strengthen Community Bonds in Thanamandi

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI: 30 MAR 2025

Keeping in view of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens, Indian Army organised an Iftar party on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat cum interaction with locals at Govt Boys Model Higher Secondary School, Thanamandi and Dodosan Bala. It was aimed to foster good relationships with religious mentors of society in the area and hold the terrorist ecosystem at grassroots level. The aim was to interact with locals and spread the message of harmony during the auspicious month of Ramzan. Evening namaz was attended by the troops followed by the Iftar for the invitees. Officer of The Indian



Army addressed the local people and conveyed about the significance of peace and coexistence of various communities in the society. The Officer conveyed his good wishes to the villagers on behalf of the Indian Army and thanked the local people for their support towards the Security Forces. A total of 675 locals and troops attended the

event at Govt Boys Model Higher Secondary School, Thanamandi and Dodosan Bala. The event was successful in reaching out to people, to read 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 was highly appreciated by Awam and

was a progressive effort for strengthening trust between the Indian Army and Awam and displayed Indian Army's commitment towards maintaining peace in the area. The celebration was overflowing with enthusiasm and the Indian Army once again extended a great gesture towards consolidation of military-civil bond.

## Indian Army's Op Brahma: Rapid HADR Deployment in Myanmar

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI: 30 MAR 2025

As part of India's commitment to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations, a specialised rescue team from 50 (I) Para Brigade has been swiftly deployed to Myanmar under Operation Brahma.

The team, comprising 118 personnel, including medical and communication units, air-landed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport at 2330 hours (Myanmar Time) on 29 March 2025. The operation is being led by the Commander of the 50 (I) Para Brigade.

On arrival, the team was received by the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, along with the Defence



Attaché (DA) and Naval Attaché (NA) of Myanmar. Unloading of essential stores and equipment continued until 00:30 hours, after which the team moved to a designated harbour area located 45 minutes from the airport.

Expansion of Operations - 30 March 2025  
The first reconnaissance party, consisting of

one officer and one JCO, was inducted into Mandalay at 0840 hours (Myanmar Time).

Mandalay, located 160 miles north of the current base, has been identified as the primary area of operations. The team will commence movement towards Mandalay by 1100 hours. While aerial insertion remains a key mode

of deployment, parallel road-based induction is also being explored to establish the Operation Theater (OT) at Mandalay in the shortest possible time.

Operation Brahma underscores India's unwavering commitment to providing timely and effective humanitarian assistance in the region.

## Chaitra Navratra commences at Vaishno Devi Shrine with Sacred Shatchandi Yagya and enhanced facilities

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
KATRA, MARCH 30

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has launched a range of new facilities and upgraded existing ones to provide a seamless and spiritual experience for devotees visiting the shrine on the auspicious occasion of beginning of Chaitra Navratra. Under the guidance and directions of Hon'ble Chairman, Shri Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor JK-UT), the Board aims to elevate the overall pilgrimage experience, offering devotees with enhanced comfort, convenience and inclusive facilities, said Shri Anshul Garg, the Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board after attending the commencement of nine-day long Shatchandi Yagya amidst the vedic hymns and performance of other religious ceremonies being organized for peace, prosperity and wellbeing of humanity during 'Navratra' at the Holy Cave Shrine.

CEO underscored that the Shrine Board has introduced several initiatives to enhance the pilgrimage experience, including smart lockers, free public call booths and complimentary slots for divyang devotees to participate in Garbjoon Arti at Adhkuwari and Atka Arti at Bhawan. Additionally, dedicated quotas for heli-



copter bookings and complimentary battery car services have been provided for divyang pilgrims. To ensure comfort in all weather conditions, resting and holding areas have been set up at Banganga and Adhkuwari, while the Inderprasth Bhojanalaya at Adhkuwari has been expanded to cater 200 devotees. Furthermore, the Langar facility has been extended to Shubhra Bhawan at Banganga augmenting the existing Langar Sewa currently operational at Tarakote Marg, Sanjichhat, Adhkuwari and Bhairon Ji with availability of fast-related food options for devotees observing fasts during the pilgrimage.

Notably, about 200 Smart lockers have been strategically installed near the Skywalk area offering a convenient and secure storage solution for devotees at Bhawan. These smart lockers are linked with RFID Cards allowing devotees to store their belongings safely and securely. To facilitate seamless communication

for pilgrims, especially those carrying prepaid SIMs, free PCO facilities in collaboration with Bharti Airtel are available at various locations along the track to provide devotees with an added layer of comfort and reassurance, enabling them to stay connected with their families throughout their spiritual journey.

To mitigate fatigue and provide respite, resting cum holding areas have been established for devotees at Banganga and Adhkuwari. These structures with a capacity to accommodate 2,000 pilgrims at a time offer a comfortable and tranquil space to rejuvenate regardless of the weather conditions, thereby revitalizing them to continue their journey with renewed vigor and enthusiasm.

The Shrine Board has beautifully transformed the Bhawan, Atka and surrounding areas into a radiant spiritual oasis for warmly welcoming pilgrims visiting to pay obeisance at the sacred Shrine. The grand decorations

feature an exquisite blend of indigenous and foreign fruits, flowers, majestic reception doors and elegantly designed track; besides, the Bhawan area has been illuminated with stunning colorful façade lights, creating a mesmerizing ambiance for devotees.

To ensure a seamless and comfortable pilgrimage experience, the Shrine Board has also made comprehensive arrangements including round-the-clock water and power supply along the tracks, sanitation facilities and medical care. Additionally, pilgrims can avail of facilities like battery-operated vehicles, passenger ropeway and helicopter services for hassle free journey.

As part of the Navratras celebrations, Shrine Board has also lined up captivating Bhajan and Bhaint performances by acclaimed artists during morning and evening Atka arti. These spiritual events will further enrich the pilgrims' experience, fostering an atmosphere of devotion and spirituality.

## NSF tribute of 95th Death anniversary of Shyamji Krishna Varma

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 30

National Secular Forum (NSF) paid tributes to Shyamji Krishna Varma on his 95th Death Anniversary at University Campus, who laid his life for the country.

Dr. Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District and Zonal Secretary JKNC was the chief guest while, Dr. Sukhdev Singh State President NSF presided over the function and Vikshay Vashist state Secretary NSF, was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Vikas Sharma appreciated the initiative taken by the University Unit NSF to remember

the death anniversary of those who have contributed their lives for the Country. He also said that the right tribute to Shyamji would be to launch the struggle for restoration of full status of Jammu and Kashmir State.

Dr. Vikas threw light on the life and supreme sacrifices of "Shyamji". Sharma also said that Shyamji Krishna Varma was an Indian revolutionary fighter, an Indian patriot, lawyer and journalist who founded the Indian Home Rule Society, India House and The Indian Sociologist in London. In 1905, Shyamji focused his activity as a political propagandist and organiser for the complete independence of India.

Shyamji made his debut in Indian politics by publishing the first issue of his English monthly, The Indian Sociologist, an organ and of political, social and religious reform. This was an assertive, ideological monthly aimed at inspiring mass opposition to British rule, which stimulated many intellectuals to fight for the independence of India.

On this occasion, Dr. Sukhdev Singh State President NSF said that News of his death was suppressed by the British colonial government in India. Nevertheless, tributes were paid to him by Bhagat Singh and other inmates in Lahore Jail where they were undergoing a long-term drawn-out trial. Maratha, an English daily newspaper started by Bal Gangadhar Tilak paid tribute to him. The India Post issued a postal stamp on Shyamji Krishna Varma on 4 October 1989.

Vikshay Vashist, State Secretary NSF also addressed this occasion. Abhishek Uppal Jammu District Chairman delivered the welcome address, Gourav Partap Singh President University Unit was delivering the vote of thanks.

## BJP committed to address people's day-to-day problems: Rajiv Jasrotia

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JASROTA, MAR 30

MLA Rajiv Jasrotia today addressed a public meeting at Chhan Arorian (Channi), where he listened to the grievances of the local community and assured them all their grievances will be addressed in time bound manner. Various deputations, including individual persons participated in meeting to present their grievances on issues such as ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, and other development-related topics, as well as personal issues

Mandal President Mukesh Sharma Ronni, Sarpanch Kaka, Mahant Mohangiri ji, Vidya Sagar, Sardari Lal, Harisham, Manik Gupta were prominently present on the occasion.

Jasrotia gave a patient hearing to the deputations and assured to resolve their issues by taking them up with the authorities concerned. He said that the BJP is committed to addressing the day-to-day problems being faced by the people in general and Jasrota in particular and that the party is making a sincere attempt to lessen the gap between administration and people. The MLA further stated that

only BJP can fulfill the dreams and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and address their issues on a priority basis. Jasrotia maintained that PM Modi's various initiatives demonstrate the government's commitment to addressing the issues faced by the people of J&K and bringing prosperity, peace, and development to the region.

This outreach effort seems to have made a positive impact, as Sarpanch Sanjeev Gupta, also known as Kaka, and Naib Sarpanch Abhishek Sharma, along with their supporters, were



impressed enough to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Jasrotia has been actively engaging with his constituents. His efforts to address public grievances and promote development in the region have contributed to his growing popularity. Jasrotia on the occasion also inaugurated multi specialty Gym in the

area.

While welcoming the initiative of the management for providing state of the art services, Jasrotia said, he feels happy after seeing better health clubs coming up in the area which is a welcome step as such services are now becoming an integral part of our lifestyle. He wished

good luck to the management and its staff for their endeavor and hopes that they will open more branches in other parts of the constituency to reach out to maximum number of people. Meanwhile, in his message to the youth coming for physical training in gyms, he said that there is no comparison

between the healthy and fit body of an agile young lad and that of a drug addict. He said that youth should be streamlined in a way that they don't have time to destroy their lives through substance abuse and drugs.

Jasrotia further said that government's emphasis on Digital India and Artificial Intelligence is intended to create new opportunities for citizens, especially in rural areas, to access services, skills and knowledge. The government's commitment to equitable growth is also evident in its efforts to promote Vocal for Local and Local for Global initiatives. These

initiatives aim to support local businesses, farmers and artisans, while also promoting Indian products and services globally. Overall, PM Modi's government has made significant strides in promoting equitable growth and development, and its commitment to standing by the people through thick and thin remains a core priority. PM Modi's government has indeed shown a deep commitment to addressing the issues faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The government's efforts are focused on bringing prosperity, peace, and development to the region, added Jasrotia.

**FROM THE FRONT PAGE...**

**Eid to be celebrated...**

Surinder Choudhary, today extended heartfelt greetings to the people on the joyous occasion of Eid Ul Fitr, marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

While highlighting the significance of the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the festival is being celebrated as a time of unity, compassion and gratitude, reflecting the values upheld during the month-long period of fasting and reflection.

"I wish all our citizens, especially our Muslim brothers and sisters, a very happy Eid Ul Fitr," the Deputy Chief Minister said. "This festival is a beautiful reminder of the strength found in discipline, the joy of community and the importance of extending kindness to one another. May it bring peace, prosperity, and happiness to every household," he added.

**Sakeena Itoo greets people on Eid-ul-Fitr**

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today extended heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the joyous occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

In her greetings, Sakeena Itoo underlined the essence of Eid-ul-Fitr as a festival of compassion, unity and gratitude. She urged the people to embrace the spirit of generosity and togetherness, especially by helping the underprivileged and needy.

"Eid-ul-Fitr marks the culmination of fasting during the holy month of Ramzan, month of blessings and forgiveness. The festival reminds us of our duties towards poor and downtrodden as well as the need for charity and generosity towards all", Sakeena said.

The Minister prayed that the joy of this festival should reach every household. She also prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of entire Jammu and Kashmir.

**Javed Dar extends Eid-ul-Fitr greetings to people of J&K**

Minister for Agriculture Production and Rural Development Departments, Javed Ahmad Dar, today extended warm Eid-ul-Fitr greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister wished people joy, peace and prosperity on this auspicious occasion.

In his message, the Minister emphasized that Eid-ul-Fitr not only signifies completion of the holy month of Ramadhan but also serves as a reminder of the religious duties, values of compassion, generosity and social responsibility. He underscored the importance of caring for the underprivileged, urging people to fulfill their moral and religious duty by contributing Fitr for the welfare of those in need.

The Minister further highlighted that this festival is a symbol of unity, harmony and coexistence, reinforcing the bonds of brotherhood among different communities. He prayed for lasting peace, progress and communal harmony in the region.

Encouraging the people to celebrate Eid with austerity, Javed Dar reminded everyone of the essence of the festival spreading love, kindness, and supporting those who are less fortunate and maintain the spirit of togetherness and compassion.

**Javed Rana greets people on eve of Eid-ul-Fitr**

Minister for Jal Shakti and Forests, Javed Rana, on Sunday greeted people on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr, saying this festival motivates all to lead a peaceful life and work for the prosperity of our society.

This festival marks culmination of the period of fasting and prayer during the holy month of Ramzan and gives us the message of love and brotherhood, he said.

"This festival promotes unity, forgiveness and charity. Eid is the occasion to help the poor and deprived people and share our happiness with them," maintained the Minister.

He said, on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, "let us spread the feelings of love, kindness and compassion while working for the betterment of our society."

**Mann Ki Baat | Our festivals...**

experiences with "holidaymemories" hashtag. In his address, Modi stressed on the "catch the rain" campaign and asserted over 11 billion cubic metre water has been saved in the last seven to eight years through such practices.

"By conserving raindrops, we can save a lot of water from getting wasted.

Over the last few years, under this campaign, unprecedented tasks related to water conservation have been undertaken in many parts of the country. I will give you an interesting figure. During the last 7-8 years, over 11 billion cubic metres of water has been conserved through newly built tanks, ponds and other water recharge structures," Modi said.

"You must now be wondering how much 11 billion cubic metres of water is? You must have seen the pictures of the water that gets accumulated in the Bhakra Nangal dam. This water forms the Govind Sagar lake. The length of this lake is more than 90 kilometres. Even in this lake, not more than 9-10 billion cubic metres of water can be conserved," he said.

And the people of the country, through their tiny efforts, have managed to conserve 11 billion cubic metres of water, Modi said, lauding such efforts.

The prime minister urged people to join such efforts at the community level.

Noting that along with fitness, keeping a count is also becoming a habit, Modi cited the example of people keeping a count of the number of steps taken in a day, of the number of calories eaten in a day and of the number of calories burnt.

"Amidst all these counts, another countdown is about to begin. The countdown to the International Yoga Day. Now less than 100 days are left for Yoga Day. If you have not yet included yoga in your life, do it now -it is not too late yet," he said.

Noting that the first International Yoga Day was celebrated 10 years ago on June 21, 2015, Modi said now this day has taken the shape of a grand festival of yoga.

"This is such a priceless gift from India to humanity, which is going to be very useful for future generations. The theme of Yoga Day 2025 has been kept as 'Yoga for One Earth One Health'. That is, we wish to make the whole world healthy through yoga," the Prime Minister said.

Modi said it is a matter of pride for all the people that

today the curiosity about yoga and traditional medicine is rising, all over the world.

A large number of youths are adopting yoga and Ayurveda as an excellent medium for wellness, he asserted.

"For example, there is a South American country, Chile. Ayurveda is rapidly becoming popular there. Last year, during my visit to Brazil, I met the President of Chile. We had a lot of discussions about the popularity of Ayurveda," he said.

"I have come to know about a team named 'Somos India'. In Spanish, it means 'We are India'. This team has been promoting yoga and Ayurveda for almost a decade. Their focus is on treatment as well as educational programmes.

"They are also getting information related to Yog and Ayurveda translated into the Spanish language," he said.

Highlighting the importance of staying connected with one's roots, Modi said, "When we stay connected to our roots, no matter how big the storm, it cannot uproot us."

Just imagine, about 200 years ago, many people from India went to Mauritius as indentured labourers and nobody knew what would happen next but with the passage of time, they settled there, he said.

They carved a niche for themselves in Mauritius and preserved their heritage and remained connected to their roots, he said.

"Mauritius is not the only such example. Last year when I went to Guyana, the Chawtaal performance there impressed me a lot," the PM recalled.

Noting that some flowers beautify the house, some dissolve in perfume and spread fragrance everywhere, Modi talked about another journey of flowers.

"You certainly must have heard about Mahua flowers. People of our villages and especially the tribal community know very well about its importance. The journey of Mahua flowers in many parts of the country has now embarked upon a new path. Cookies are being made from Mahua flowers in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh," he said.

These cookies are becoming very popular due to the efforts of four sisters of Rajakhoh village, Modi pointed out.

Talking about the Krishna Kamal flowers found in large numbers around the Statue of Unity in Ekta Nagar, Modi said these flowers have become the centre of attraction in Arogya Van, Ekta Nursery, Vishwa Van and Miyawaki forest of Ekta Nagar. (Agencies)

**LG attends Rajasthan...**

fighters and their saga of courage, resilience, and devotion to motherland will continue to inspire the generations.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the youth to actively participate and promote the spirit of national integration through a structured engagement between all States and Union Territories.

"Young generation must take a pledge for individual contribution to showcase the collective representation of our country," he said.

Several captivating performances were presented by the Artists celebrating the rich folk culture of Rajasthan. Officials, students and the residents of Rajasthan living in J&K UT were the special invitees on the occasion.

**Goswami Shri Guru...**

mutual relations and brotherhood.

Guru Nabha Dass also highlighted that devotion and meditation leads to the process of continuous transformation of oneself. He said the entire life is another name for transformation," the Lieutenant Governor observed.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also felicitated the achievers from diverse fields.

Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal and Dr Bharat Bhushan, Members of Legislative Assembly; Shri Sansar Chand, President, Guru Nabha Dass Samaj Kalyan Parishad, senior officials, and people in large number were present.

**Lieutenant Governor...**

it possible," he said.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor exhorted the young generation to take a pledge to celebrate the nine days of Navratri as Nari Shakti Utsav.

"We should resolve to provide equal opportunities to our daughters in every sphere of life," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the significant contribution of Kashmiri Pandit Community in J&K's growth journey and nation building.

"Jammu Kashmir is blessed with the spiritual energy. The Kashmiri Pandit community has been practicing for thousands of years on this land and has touched the ultimate peak of consciousness. On this occasion, we should also remember the great men and women of the Kashmiri Pandit community and pay homage to those great personalities," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor assured the PM Package employees that appropriate steps will be taken to ensure that all the benefits available to other employees of J&K Government are extended to them as well.

He appreciated the vital contribution of everyone associated with Kashmiri Pandit Sabha and other stakeholders in preserving and promoting the cultural and spiritual heritage of Jammu Kashmir.

"The kind of coordination and efforts that many Kashmiri Pandit organizations are making and the values that are being inculcated in the younger generation, I am confident that no one can harm this vibrant culture," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the celebrations of Navratri and Navreh also reflect the unity in diversity and strengthen the emotional bond. "Let us take a pledge today that we will further strengthen this unity for the welfare of Jammu Kashmir," he further said.

Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Kuldeep Khoda, former DGP; Shri K K Khosa President, Kashmiri Pandit Sabha; Shri Deepak Dhar, senior Vice President and other office-bearers of Kashmiri Pandit Sabha, senior officials, and prominent citizens from all walks of life were present.

**Amid Multi-Tier Security...**

Praising the arrangements of the Board, another devotee from Pune, Sudhakar Kadam, said paying obeisance on the first day of the new year of Hindus and Navratri was a dream come true.

"We had planned to visit the cave shrine several times in the past but could not do so. This year, we made a sudden plan and are here on the first day to pay obeisance at the cave shrine. It was Mata's wish," he added.

Paying their obeisance along with five family members, Sunita Sarkar from Kolkata said it was a very smooth yatra as the arrangements and facilities provided by the board were excellent.

"I thought it would be difficult to pay obeisance at the cave shrine due to the huge rush and hilly track. But I must give credit to the management for creating facilities, including accommodation, community kitchens, and queue management," she said.

Elaborate arrangements have been made by the Board and the local administration for the devotees.

The Board has announced that persons with disabilities will receive various free services to facilitate their pilgrimage to the temple in the Katra belt. Garg said "a series of initiatives have recently been introduced for divyang pilgrims, including a dedicated quota in helicopter bookings, aarti, and free battery car services." He further added that advanced online bookings for helicopter services at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine are now available for senior citizens and divyang pilgrims as a special category.

"Reservations can be made through the board's website," he added.

Regarding new facilities, he said an all-weather covered resting area for 1,500 pilgrims at Ardhkuwari is being set up to facilitate yatrins starting this Chaitra Navratri.

**Dr Jitendra Singh, Dy CM...**

Speaking about Mantalai, he mentioned about development of a world-class Art Centre and a helipad, encouraging the youth to contribute towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Vikshit Bharat by 2047.

The Union Minister also highlighted major achievements in education and healthcare recorded over the past five years under the Modi government. These included sanctioning of three Medical Colleges in Udampur, Kathua and Doda, establishment of an Engineering College in Kathua, opening of a Degree College and Ayurvedic College in Kishtwar

The Deputy Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Centre Government especially Dr. Jitendra Singh for sanctioning the bridge under NABARD funding. He reaffirmed the J&K Government's commitment, under the leadership of Chief Minister towards resolving day-to-day issues faced by the people. He assured full cooperation from the J&K government to all stakeholders in addressing the public grievances.

Emphasizing quality and timeliness in construction, he directed the executing agencies to ensure the highest construction standards and encouraged vigilant monitoring. He urged the public to report any discrepancies in construction quality.

The Dy CM appealed to the people to remain vigilant against drug abuse and play an active role in preventing youth from falling prey to substance abuse.

Later, Dr. Jitendra Singh held a public outreach camp at Government Model Higher Secondary School, Majalta, where he listened to the grievances and demands of former PRI members and local residents of the area. These included widening of dhar road, restoration of

**DC Poonch inspects progress of work on NH144-A**



**JI NEWS SERVICE**

POONCH, MARCH 30

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today conducted a thorough inspection of the ongoing work on the Bhatadurian to Poonch stretch of National Highway NH144-A along with the Bhaturia-Sanjote tunnel project.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by SDM Surankote, Farooq Khan, SDM Mendhar, Imran Kataria, as well as officials from the Border Roads Organization (BRO), revenue department and other concerned executive agencies.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed several crucial aspects, including land acquisition issues related to the highway's alignment and the progress of construction at vital sites i.e; tunnel, various culverts, retaining and breast walls.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the executive agencies to expedite the construction of roads and also maintain the highest engineering standard, as this project is important in enhancing the regional connectivity and development of the area.

In addition to the highway inspection, the Deputy Commissioner paid a visit to the Dundhak Mandir, where he offered prayers and evaluated the facilities and overall maintenance of the mandir.

This inspection highlights the administration's commitment to advancing the vital projects and ensuring the progress of NH144 road for the betterment of the region.

statehood, establishment of a Trauma Centre, setting up an Industrial Estate, construction of dhar road as a four-lane highway, inclusion of Government Higher Secondary School in PM SHRI scheme, combating the drug abuse in the area.

Responding to these demands, the Union Minister assured prompt action and reiterated the government's dedication towards bridging developmental gaps in remote areas.

During the program, MLA Udampur East, Ranbir Singh Pathania, also addressed the gathering and projected several developmental demands. These included upgradation of Primary Health Centre, establishment of an Accidental Hospital in Majalta, implementation of Lift Irrigation System, declaration of Bani-Basoli-Udampur road as a National Highway and establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya School etc.

The event was attended by DDC Chairperson Udampur, Lal Chand, MLA Ramnagar, Sunil Bhardwaj, Chief Engineer PWD, Senior Superintendent of Police, Additional Deputy Commissioner, DDC Member Majalta, PO Poshan, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development and other officers, former PRI members, representatives of various political parties and general public of the area.

**Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu**

e-mail: [xennorth@gmail.com](mailto:xennorth@gmail.com)

**ADDENDUM TO E-NIT NO. 203 OF 2024-25 DATED 19-03-2025**

**Tender ID (2025\_PHE\_274618\_1).**

**Sub: Improvement of water supply by way of execution of Components of works (Mech. North) under revised Action Plan for Jammu City under AMRUT 2.0 (Part-II) (Installation of Electric Transformers for Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Sub Division No. 1 Company Bagh Jammu).**

The following terms and conditions and other details are added to the already published tender notice and terms and conditions of the above referred e-tender.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR BIDDERS**

Tenders to be submitted under two cover system:-

**A) COVER 1<sup>st</sup> (Technical /Pre qualification Cover) : Scanned copies of the following documents are to be uploaded:-**

- i) Cost of Tender document as per tender notice in shape of single window challan of JMC/ (e-challan) online payment through the JMC link [http:// www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html](http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html).
- ii) EMD amounting to the value as per tender notice in the shape CDR/FDR/TDR duly pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division North, Jammu.
- iii) Other documents comprising of copies of PAN Card, GST Registration Certificate and latest GST return& clearance certificate, Latest Income Tax Return Certificate.
- iv) Work completion certificate as per Annexure "I".
- v) Acceptance of Scope of Work, Terms & Conditions and Technical Details as per Annexure "II".
- vi) Bidder information as per format enclosed as Annexure "III".
- vii) Affidavit as per format enclosed as Annexure "IV".
- viii) Work in Hand and work where LOI is issued as per enclosed Annexure "V".
- ix) Certificate of Annual Financial Turnover of last 05 years, ending 31 March of the previous financial year as per format enclosed. (Turnover Certificate on CA's letter head).

**B) Cover 2<sup>nd</sup> : (FINANCIAL COVER)**

1. Rates to be submitted by the bidders in the BOQ.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Mech. Division North  
Jammu

No. JSMDNJ/5313-18  
Dated:27-03-2023

**DIP/J-11481/24**  
**Date: 29-3-25**

## IIPA Organizes 11th Shri Ram Sahai Memorial Lecture

JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 30

The Indian Institute of Public Administration, Jammu and Kashmir Regional Branch, (IIPA J&K RB) organized the 11th Shri Ram Sahai Memorial Lecture. Dr. Arun Manhas, Director of Industries and Commerce, Jammu, delivered the Memorial Lecture on "Benefits of Industrialisation under New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS) to Local Populace." Late Ram Sahai was the one of the founder members of IIPA J&K RB and was involved in its growth till his death and in recognition of his vast contributions the IIPA J&K RB decided to institute a memorial lecture in his name.

B.R. Sharma, State Election Commissioner and Chairman of IIPA J&K RB presided over while Dr Ashok Bhan Patron was the Chief Guest.

In his insightful presentation on the fast-changing industrial scenario in Jammu, Dr. Arun Manhas, said that the new industrial policy of J&K has received tremendous response from the investors. Industrial proposals of over Rs 14000 cr have been received under the new initiative out of which Rs 9000 cr proposals are for Kathua. He disclosed that as many as 194 new units in Jammu -Kathua have started production, generating employment for 44000 persons. Seventy more units are in the pipeline for production in near future, he added.

Sharing his optimism, he said that in next five years, Kathua would be another Ghaziabad and impressed upon fulfilling pre-requisites like infrastructure for producing skilled workers for enhancing employability of local youth. He said that as Jammu is embarking upon a leap forward on industrialisation, it is incumbent to establish proper Labour Serais for the labour to be engaged in the coming up industry. He said that for the first time, the Govt has earmarked Rs 50 Cr in the budget for construction of Labour Serais in Jammu which is a welcome step.

Referring to the importance of NCSS, Dr. Manhas said that it played a vital role in employment generation, boosting industrial



development and promoting sustainable development in the region. Its key objectives included generation of employment opportunities, encouragement to new investments, substantial expansions, and nurturing existing industries, taking industrial development to the block level in J&K, first-of-its-kind initiative in any Industrial Incentive Scheme of the Central Govt. By providing incentives, such as capital investment subsidies, interest subvention, and GST linked incentives, the scheme aimed to attract new investments and promote industrial growth. He said that only manufacturing can provide a sustainable and long-term employment besides adding to India's GDP. It focuses on enhancing the skill of the youth and their capacities to make them employable and market ready.

Dr Ashok Bhan in his address, described late Ram Sahai as an iconic personality, doyen of Industry, visionary, and promoter of societal causes. He referred to the presentation of Dr Manhas on NCSS, and said that it would boost the industrial sector and make it an investor friendly destination. Besides incentives to investment under the NCSS, he said that a right and red-tape free environment is a prerequisite for investment and growth. Unless there is peace and a secure environment Corporates would hesitate to invest here. He said that while the Govt is doing its best to root out terrorism and separatism, the people too have to ensure social and communal harmony, and for that, strong fraternal ties between social and religious groups need to be promoted. Quoting Baba Sahib Ambedkar, he said that fraternity has the

power of integrating the nation.

In his presidential address, Shri Sharma paid glorious tributes to late Ram Sahai, acknowledging his legacy as a visionary entrepreneur with a remarkable ability to network and negotiate for the greater good of Jammu and Kashmir. He acknowledged the huge response of industrialists, businessmen, academia & civil society to today's memorial lecture including presence of women and said that women too have an important role in industrialisation of Jammu & Kashmir and announced that IIPA J&K RB would hold next Ram Sahai Memorial Lecture on Women Empowerment (in Industry) for Viksit Bharat. He hoped that most of the issues flagged by the industrialists would find a solution in the forthcoming NCSS-2.0.

Prof. Alka Sharma, Honorary Secretary, paid glowing tributes to the late Ram Sahai, recognizing his pioneering role in the industrial landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier, Er M.M. Gupta, Director Seminars, presented the welcome Address and said that he would never allow his adverse relations to influence his decisions for the benefit of businessmen.

In the Vote of Thanks, Rahul Sahai Son of Late Shri Ram Sahai and chairman of Indian Chamber Of Commerce Jammu expressed deep gratitude to the dignitaries, including Chairman, Patron IIPA Sh B R Sharma IAS (Retd) Dr. Ashok Bhan, retired IPS officer Sh. Kuldeep Khoda, Sh Rattan Lal Gupta NC Provincial president, BJP leader Miss Deviyani Rana, and representatives from various trade, industry, and social organisations. He Thanked and appreci-

ated Esteemed speaker Dr Arun Manhas Director Industries & Commerce Jammu for his insightful lecture on the topic, He highlighted the importance of industrialisation not merely as an economic driver but as a means to uplift lives, create employment, and build an inclusive society. Rahul Sahai emphasised his father's vision of industry as a tool for societal development and urged collective action from chambers, IIPA, and stakeholders to ensure industrial progress benefits all. He extended special appreciation to IIPA J&K for sustaining this meaningful lecture series and acknowledged the continued love and respect Shri Ram Sahai commands, even 16 years after his passing. The event concluded with a heartfelt tribute to Shri Ram Sahai's legacy, underscoring the importance of service, integrity, and sustained efforts toward industrial and social progress.

The event brought together over a hundred eminent citizens, members of IIPA, prominent industrialists, government officials, and the family members of the late Ram Sahai, who continue to honour his entrepreneurial spirit and vision. This annual lecture serves as a tribute to Shri Ram Sahai's outstanding contributions to the region's entrepreneurship and industrial growth, aiming to foster meaningful discussions on the key issues facing the local industry and economy. The event concluded with a heartfelt tribute to Shri Ram Sahai's legacy, underscoring the importance of service, integrity, and sustained efforts toward industrial and social progress.

## Hundreds of people pay tribute to Prof Roshan Lal Kataria, Founder Aryans Group

JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, 30TH MARCH

Renowned Educationist Prof. Roshan Lal Kataria, Founder of Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura Near Chandigarh passed at the age of 76 on 26th March, 2025. The bhog and antim ardaas was done at Shri Sanatan Dharm Mandir, Sec-16 D Chandigarh.

Hundreds of people paid tribute to Prof Roshan Lal Kataria, Founder Aryans Group and conveyed their condolences. His son, Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group along with his mother Mrs Rajni Kataria and wife Dr Parveen Kataria received condolences from the attendees.

Several prominent figures attended the ceremony, including Satpal Jain, Additional Solicitor General of India; Kuljeet Nagra, Vineet Joshi were present. IAS KK Yadav, Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Government of Punjab; IAS Vimal Setia, Joint Principal Secretary



to the Chief Minister, Punjab; Arun Sharma, PCS, Deputy Director, Rural Development; Dr HK Bali, Renowned Cardiologist, Arun Grover EX VC, paid the tribute.

Representatives from various educational institutions and associations were present including Punjab Unaided Colleges Association, Punjab Unaided Technical Institutions Association, Joint Association of Colleges, Nursing Association, Chandigarh Management Association, Pharmacy Association and various academicians from Adesh University, Chandigarh University, Bahra University, Guru Kashi Univer-

sity, CGC Jhanjheri, AGC, SVIET, Quest, Golden, Baba Farid, Universal, LGC Ludhiana, GGS Nursing Barnala, GGS Sachdeva, PIMT, Khanna Gurdasi Das, Bathinda, Baba Farid Bathinda, Vidya Jyoti, Longowal Group, Dr. Shailesh Sharma Bela Group, Dr Ajay Sharma, SD College; Sec 32, Chandigarh Prof Rupinder Tiwari, Abhimanyu Panchi, Saurabh Joshi, Narinder Lamba were present.

From Panjab University Chandigarh's alumni Association, Padamnabhin Walia, Adv Anil Sagar, Adv Baljinder Brar, Naresh Maluja, Rajesh Kataria, Suman Summi, Rajesh

Ahuja, DSP Ucee Chawla, Rakesh Arora & from media sector, Kewal Sahni, Hilary Victor, Mukesh Kumar, Rajesh Monga were present.

From Rose club Group, Deshbandhu Uppal, HS Malhi, Jay Prakash Verma, Yogesh Kohli, Surjeet Singh, Varinder Gupta, Vinay Jain, Dr Ashwani Biana, Dr Ruchit Uppal were present.

BJP muktsar leader Ravinder Kataria, State Awardee Chanchal Kataria, Bittu Bitti Kataria (Baghapurana) were also present.

Prof Roshan Lal Kataria was the founder of Aryans Group of Colleges. Prof. Roshan Lal Kataria was renowned educationist who taught in various educational institutions including Government College, Muktsar, Govt. College, Zira & DAV School, Muktsar. He started Aryans Group of Colleges in 2007. Now the group is Running 8 different colleges in 20 Acre lush green campus on Chandigarh -Patiala highway.

## Shiv Sena Hindustan celebrates party's 22nd Foundation Day in Arnia

JINews SERVICE  
ARNIA, MAR 30

J&K Unit of Shiv Sena Hindustan under the leadership of J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today celebrated the party's 22nd Foundation Day in Arnia with great enthusiasm. The event included feeding green fodder to cows, distributing fruits among children, and organizing a langar. Several prominent members, including Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Captain Gur Ram, Dharam Singh and others, were present at the event, which concluded with chants of "Jai Hind Jai Bharat".

Speaking on the occasion, Kesri said that National President Pawan Gupta founded the party on March 3, 2003, and it has since expanded to 18 states. Kesri addressing the gathering emphasized the need to protect the youth from drug abuse. He urged everyone to come forward and work together with the police and administration to achieve this goal. He said youth are the backbone of



our country, and it's our collective responsibility to ensure they're equipped to serve the nation with full strength. A healthy India is, without a doubt, a prerequisite for a prosperous and developed India.

Kesri said by keeping our youth away from drugs, we can unlock their full potential and talent, foster a generation of healthy, productive, and responsible citizens, build a stronger, more resilient nation and ensure a brighter future for ourselves and future generations. Let's work together to create a supportive environment that encourages our youth to make informed choices, prioritize their well-being, and strive for excellence,

said Kesri.

Kesri maintained that creating employment opportunities for youth is a vital step in keeping them positive and empowered. He suggested ways to achieve this including implementing training programs that equip youth with skills in demand, such as technology, healthcare, and renewable energy. He urged Govt to encourage businesses to offer apprenticeships, providing youth with hands-on experience and a pathway to employment. Offer resources, mentorship, and funding to young entrepreneurs, enabling them to start their own businesses.

Kesri demanded organizing job fairs, bringing

together employers and job seekers, and providing a platform for youth to explore career opportunities. He demanded offering youth internships, allowing youth to gain work experience and build their professional networks. Establish mentorship programs, pairing experienced professionals with young individuals, providing guidance and support.

He suggested conducting workshops, teaching youth essential skills, such as resume writing, interview preparation, and time management, providing career counseling services, helping youth identify their strengths, interests, and career goals. Kesri maintained that the need of the hour is to offer volunteer opportunities, enabling youth to gain experience, build their networks, and develop a sense of purpose. By implementing these initiatives, we can create a supportive ecosystem that fosters youth employment, positivity, and empowerment, added Kesri.

## Navreh Celebrations Marked at Bhagawaan Gopinathji Ashram

JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 30

An annual function was held at the Bhagawaan Gopinathji Ashram, Udaiwala, Bohri, Jammu on the 30th of March, 2025 to mark the first Navratra "Navreh celebrations". The function started at 2 p.m. with the Guru Vandana. As usual, Guru-Geeta recitation competition was held on the occasion. This competition is held with a view to promoting Bhagawaan consciousness in the youth. The competitors were categorized as Sub-Junior Group (upto the 5th Standard), Junior Group (beyond the 5th Standard and upto the 8th Standard) and senior group (beyond 8th standard and upto 12th standard).

Sh. Kamlesh Tufchi, Sh. Vijay Wali and Sh. S.N. Maratha acted as the judges on this occasion. The participants who bagged 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize in the



Sub-junior group are : Atharva Bhat, Amyra Safaya and Disha Sharma respectively. In Junior Group : Sakshi Sharma, Tejesvi Pandita and Shaniya Sharma got 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize respectively. In Senior group : Mansavi Bhat, Krishi Thusoo and Archana Devi got 1st, 2nd

and 3rd prize respectively. Certificates and trophies were given to the position holders in each group. All other participants were given certificates.

The function was presided over by Sh. P.N. Shad., a prominent poet. In his address, he was all praise for the organizers for hold-

ing such type of seminars which he said would have moral and educative influence on the youth. The programme was conducted by the organizer of the Trust.

An eight-day long spiritual activity in connection with the Navratras also started at the Jammu

Ashram. The activity started with Hawan and will continue to be held at the Ashram from 4:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. daily during these auspicious days and the Puran Ahuti will take place on the 6th of April, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. followed by prasad distribution.

Ms Jai Kishori Patwari, one of the founder Trustees of the Trust, had all praise for the competitors. She appreciated their effort and encouraged them to imbibe spiritual values that will guide them to tread on the right path.

Dr. Opendra Krishen Bhat acted as the compere on this occasion.

A vote of thanks was presented by the Secretary of the Trust on this occasion. He threw light on the specific instances of the ways the institution is carrying forward the mission of Bhagawaan Gopinathji.

## War Against Drugs; Police attaches property worth lakhs under NDPS Act in Handwara

JINews SERVICE  
HANDWARA, MAR 30

In its ongoing drive against drug trafficking and in strict compliance with the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, Police in Handwara attached a vehicle worth 12 lakh representing Norco-proceeds.

The vehicle, Maruti Swift Dzire bearing registration number JK09D-5264, owned by accused Tahir Habib Dar, son of Habib Ullah Dar, resident of Jaggerpora, Kupwara. The accused is involved in FIR No. 38/2025 under sections 8/21-29 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Handwara. Acting under Section 68-F(1) of the NDPS Act, the vehicle has been attached



by Police Post Chogul, Police Station Handwara, as part of legal action against assets acquired through drug-related offenses.

Police remains committed to taking stringent action against drug ped-

dlers and dismantling financial networks supporting the narcotics trade. The public is urged to support law enforcement in the fight against drugs and report any such activities to the authorities.

## EDITORIAL

## Need to address Jammu's security concerns

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has touched upon a critical and sensitive issue—the rise in terror incidents in Jammu, particularly in Kathua district. His recent remarks that the redeployment of army personnel from Jammu to Ladakh, necessitated by Chinese incursions, created security vulnerabilities in the region marks a significant moment in political discourse of Jammu and Kashmir. This is the first time that such a direct link has been drawn between troop movements and the escalation of militant activities in Jammu. His visit to the grieving families of the four martyred police personnel—Balvinder Singh, Tariq Ahmad, Jaswant Singh, and Jagbir Singh—underlines the gravity of the situation. These officers made the ultimate sacrifice in a fierce encounter with infiltrating terrorists in Kathua's Safiyana forest. Their bravery ensured that the threat was neutralized before further harm could be inflicted. The incident, which saw two Pakistani-linked Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists eliminated, highlights the persistent cross-border terrorism that continues to challenge regional stability. The Chief Minister's assurance that the sacrifices of these officers will never be forgotten is commendable. His statement on social media, recognizing the debt owed to these brave officers, resonates with the broader sentiment of the people. However, while tributes and compensation for the slain officers' families are necessary, they must be supplemented with concrete security measures. Omar's admission of increased terror attacks in Jammu over the past few years points to a deeper, more systemic issue. The region has witnessed disturbing incidents, including attacks on pilgrims, raising concerns about the security framework in place. The decision to redeploy troops to Ladakh, while strategically necessary, left a critical gap in Jammu's security infrastructure. The ongoing efforts to address this deficiency must be expedited to prevent further loss of life. He has refrained from politicizing the issue, choosing instead to focus on the immediate need to support bereaved families. While political debates over security policies are inevitable, at this moment, solidarity with those affected should take precedence. Moving forward, a multi-pronged approach is necessary. Intelligence networks must be strengthened, border surveillance tightened, and local police forces equipped with better resources to counter emerging threats. The recent attack in Kathua is a grim reminder that militant groups continue to find ways to infiltrate, requiring a dynamic and evolving security strategy. The government must act decisively. The security of Jammu cannot be compromised due to broader geopolitical shifts. The sacrifices of our brave security personnel demand not just recognition but immediate and effective policy actions. Strengthening Jammu's security apparatus is no longer an option—it is an imperative.

BKSINGH

Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun organised a days workshop on March 20 – 21, 2025 for Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers recruited in 1974 and 1975. All officers along with their co – trainees under the Colombo plan from Nepal and Malaysia were invited. There were 32 participants including two from Nepal and one from Malaysia who took part in deliberation. Senior Foresters who retired 11 to 15 years ago, were aged between 71 and 75 years brought varying experiences from government sectors, corporations and private sectors to the table.

The role of the forestry sector in combating climate change was flagged by many participants. Malaysian participant Ong Chye Iye, who is engaged in forest assessment and forest auditing in several countries was forthright in his expression that conventional forestry management in the present day is changing with climate change and improvement of technology. Today's trend is urban forestry. Foresters worldwide have been blamed for deforestation even when natural disasters like landslides, flooding, sea surges etc are more frequent and destructive. Ong has practical experience in creating urban forests overnight by transplanting saplings and young trees at several locations in Malaysia.

Participants flagged the country's commitment to restore 26

million hectares of degraded land out of a total of 90 million hectares available in the country. This has been in response to the Paris Climate Accord setting a target to afforest 26 million hectares by 2030 so that we add 2.5 to three giga tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in addition to existing carbon (approximately seven giga tons CO2 equivalent) stored in India's forest. Participants expressed concern about the progress made in fulfilling the commitment by 2030.

India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021 suggests that we have added only 0.6 giga tons by 2021 post – Paris Accord from all sources like forest growth, agro – forestry and degraded land restoration together. ISFR 2023 is silent about it and we cannot know whether carbon storage in our forests has gone up or otherwise. The group recommended breaking this figure of 26 million hectares into states and districts and letting the concerned Forest departments set targets for restoration by 2030. CAMPA funds can be diverted for the purpose.

Sudhir Ahluwalia has the distinction of serving two States (Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh) and also the private sectors emphasised that the forestry sector is quite insignificant in providing storage for carbon, as compared to the enormity of the problem. The solution lies in the transition to cleaner energy from renewable sources like the Sun and wind. Despite several climate deals, the greenhouse gas emissions from developed

countries and China continue to show a rising trajectory, which means that the speed and scale of transition are yet to pick up.

Some participants claimed that the enactment of the Forest Rights Act, of 2006 was the result of states' inaction in not recognising forest villages and strengthening the basic needs support like health, sanitation, education, water and road network, despite the centre's repeated advisories. Other participants expressed concern regarding states' not implementing the cut – off date (December 13, 2005) in true letter and spirit, and accepting claims supported by bogus evidence leading to fresh and endless deforestation.

Participants observed that claims up to lakhs of hectares are being recognised in many central Indian states before each election. It results in compromising the ecological security of the region. The only scientific evidence of satellite imagery verification, which has been rendered ineffective by the Union Tribal Ministry, is recommended to be revived for admitting claims under the law.

Sundarraju, emphasised his experiences of clonal planting to boost productivity in plantations undertaken by him as MD of Tamil Nadu Development Corporation, till he retired in 2011. The data presented by him though updated till 2023. Participants hailed the research in the forestry sector which in turn has helped in quick biomass production leading to faster

industrial growth. The corporations and private sectors have led from the front in inventing the clones. Later Ahluwalia in his presentation before young trainees advocated that the research in the forestry sector should be privatised, which would take the inventions to greater heights, which benefits industrial growth and helps in faster absorption of carbon.

For sustainable management of trees and forest cover resources, a system of forest certification, a market – driven tool is developed, so that environmentally conscious consumers can rely on wood products from such certified sources. A participant, Arun Bansal, who, post-retirement from the government sector has been working with the national governing body of Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) – the world's largest forest certification system, explained how it is useful for citizens to procure wood from sustainably managed forests, that leaves a minimum carbon footprint.

Devendra Pandey, a participant, who has the distinction of serving Forest Survey of India as Director for seven years in two tenures, addressed young trainees by explaining how modern technologies like remote sensing, GIS and computers are supporting the forestry sector in the country in measuring and monitoring the forest resources accurately that helps in effective planning and management of forests. As biotechnology helps

in enhancing productivity, the technologies developed by the Forest Survey of India should be employed in the sector for better management and penetration.

Suraj Shreshta, a participant from Nepal narrated his fight through PIL in Nepal's Supreme Court to save 8045 hectares of forests proposed for Nijagagh International Airport, in the corridor connecting Protected Areas in the Terai Arc region of India and Nepal. The court hailed the effort of Shreshta, declared EIA null and void and saved 2.4 million trees from the axe.

CK Sreedharan, a participant who has the distinction of serving the private sector for more than a decade after superannuation from the government, chose to address young trainees on developing professional excellence. He advised to develop general, emotional, spiritual, moral, physical and social intelligences.

He also emphasised the need for acquiring knowledge and skills in using artificial intelligence. All these will benefit in developing a passion for forestry, a clear goal and objectives, competence, self-confidence without ego, continuous learning and emotional control and trainees would be in a better position to take the country forward towards 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

**(The writer is a retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force, Karnataka. Views expressed are personal)**

## Beyond backups: The key to data protection

ASHISH GUPTA

In the digital age, data protection is everything. For over a decade, World Backup Day has served as a reminder of the importance of safeguarding our data. However, as cyber threats become increasingly sophisticated, relying solely on backups can provide a false sense of security. This leads organisations to believe that they are protected when, in reality, they remain vulnerable.

As a result, organisations are rethinking their strategies. SaaS – based attacks, in particular, have surged, prompting a shift toward cloud-based protection. Gartner predicts that by 2028, 75 per cent of large organisations will prioritise SaaS backup – up from just 15 per cent today – reflecting a growing recognition that traditional backup solutions alone are insufficient against modern cyber threats. Today, organisations must move beyond traditional backup strategies and ensure data remains secure and available, no matter what happens. I believe the key to protecting your business from the most advanced cyber threats is

“cyber resilience”.

There are three important components to this. Cyber resilience means having the ability to not only defend against attacks but also to quickly recover and continue essential operations during and after an incident. It's not a matter of “when” you will be attacked, but “how often.” That's why a holistic cybersecurity strategy is critical. By identifying and protecting your most crucial business processes, detecting threats early, and implementing rapid response mechanisms, you can take steps to ensure that your organisation remains operational, even in the face of a cyberattack.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration AI plays a critical role in enhancing cybersecurity, but it also introduces new challenges. While AI-driven security systems can automate threat detection and response, cybercriminals are also leveraging AI to develop more sophisticated attacks, such as automated phishing and adaptive malware. To effectively combat these evolving threats, I believe organisations must take a “fight fire with fire” approach – using AI not just for defence, but to

anticipate, counter and neutralise AI-driven cyberattacks in real-time.

This proactive strategy can strengthen overall cyber resilience, ensuring that businesses stay ahead of both human and AI-powered adversaries. Zero trust frameworkAnother essential component of cyber resiliency is adopting a “Zero Trust” security model, which operates on the principle of “never trust, always verify.” By default, Zero Trust principles assume that every user, device, and application is a potential threat, regardless of its origin.

This approach can drastically reduce the risk of insider threats and ensure that only authenticated and authorised entities can access critical data and systems. Implementing a cyber resilience strategy to solve the paradox, a strong cyber resilience strategy goes beyond backup and recovery – it involves continuous testing, real-time threat detection and a proactive approach to security. Backup systems must be regularly tested and validated to ensure they are effective when needed most.

This means more than just backing up data – it's about

assessing the integrity of backups and recovery procedures through continuous simulations of real-world cyberattack scenarios. By doing so, you can ensure that your organisation is truly prepared for the worst-case scenario. To stay ahead of increasingly sophisticated cyber threats, organisations must implement AI-driven monitoring systems capable of identifying threats in real time.

These systems can detect unusual patterns of behaviour, pinpoint vulnerabilities, and respond to threats faster than any manual intervention. Real-time monitoring ensures that your organisation can detect and mitigate threats before they cause significant damage. So, how can we solve the paradox of a false feeling of security? Looking ahead, organisations can no longer afford to treat backups as the be-all and end-all of their data protection strategy.

To effectively combat the rapidly evolving cyber threat landscape, it's essential to adopt a comprehensive cyber resilience strategy that includes prevention, detection, and rapid recovery. Cyber resilience isn't just a strategic

advantage – it's a necessity for survival in today's threat landscape.

That's why we should embrace being resilient over-reliance on just backups and take proactive steps to protect what matters most: our data, our business and our future.

In an era of relentless cyber threats, organisations must move beyond traditional backup solutions and embrace a comprehensive cyber resilience strategy.

True security lies not just in safeguarding data but in ensuring business continuity through proactive threat detection, AI-driven defense mechanisms, and a zero trust framework. By continuously testing backup integrity and leveraging AI for real-time monitoring, businesses can stay ahead of evolving cyber risks.

Cyber resilience is no longer optional – it is essential for survival. To protect our data, businesses, and future, we must prioritise resilience over complacency and adopt a proactive, multi-layered approach to cybersecurity.

**(The writer is Managing Director, Rubrik, India. Views expressed are personal)**

## Rediscovering charm of a bygone Delhi

APS MALHOTRA

Old timers of Delhi, like me, with a high level of 'nostalgia' quotient, reminisce the days of yore. Of how the city I love, of which I am an ever – youthful 'boy', has metamorphosed over the decades – of how much we have lost, and how callously the soul of this beloved has been trampled upon.

Undoubtedly, gains, in terms of development and progress are substantial, but pale in comparison to what we have lost, the experiences that were once the heartbeat of the city.

For me, growing up in the city continues to be a Golden chapter of my life. And the lost experiences, well, there is a plethora of them, though, the foremost remains the numerous visits or picnics I enjoyed at what was then known as India Gate, in the company of friends

and family. Those were the days when one could walk up to the eternal flame and pay homage to the fallen soldier. Then, and even now, I boast of knowing Dilli like the back of my hand. But the world has always been a tricky place, full of surprises – one of which I came across in July 2003.

It was a cool and breezy weekend. After a spell of heavy rain, I, along with my better half, Sonia, and my daughter Mehak, visited the sprawling lawns adjoining what was then called Rajpath.

Expectedly, it was swarming with boisterous revellers. As the lawns were soggy, we sat on the footpath, where sundry ice cream vendors lined up in a row.

As usual, it was a chaotic panorama of sounds and scenes – everything required to make it a fun-filled and enjoyable picnic was on sale – colourful balloons, an occasional 'monkey' man, once in a while 'bear'

man, numerous 'fast food' joints where hawkers sold 'channa jor garam', betelnut, corn (which had a taste and aroma worth dying for, as it was roasted on a small bed of burning coals, and handed over dripping in slurpy lime and heavenly 'masaala'), and soft drinks in buckets full of ice, the bantewali bottle, well, heaven.

There was much more to look forward to sadly, interspersed with poignant scenes of deprivation – of toddlers with running noses scavenging for leftovers with stray dogs – the experiences are so widespread that they can not be encompassed in this space.

Anyways, amid this hullabaloo, our attention was drawn to some loud music, jarring to the ears. Initially, we thought it to be the churlish misdeemeanour of a yuppie passing by. But when the commotion persisted, Mehak and I went to look. Having cov-

ered a few yards, we came across the source of the brassy sound a bi-scope – being pushed on a small cart by a humble hawker. Mehak was clueless about it, her curiosity stirred.

As for me, I had seen it umpteen times at India Gate, and my association with it enhanced substantially through sundry Hindi films – where its myriad virtues were extolled in mellifluous ditties by voluptuous lasses at pristine environs. The picture of a bi – scope got indelibly imprinted in my mind when one of my all-time favourite actors, Mumtaz, essayed the role of a sassy bi-scope waali in the 1971 box – office smash hit, Dushman.

As times changed, the ethos of the films also metamorphosed, and the bi-scope completely disappeared from the screen, as well as from our collective imagination.

That evening, to satisfy

Mehak's curiosity – by now the eagerness had rubbed on me as well – I asked the chap to play a 'show'.

He gave a cue, and we knelt to peep into the box. He operated a handle, which, slowly, almost painstakingly, moved pictures – crumpled at many places – of ruling Bollywood deities on the small screen, lit by a bulb. It lasted a few minutes, and at five per person, my daughter and I enjoyed it to the hilt.

We were exhilarated – on cloud nine – as if we had unearthed a treasure or made a pathbreaking discovery.

What cheered me even more was finding an archaic relic, preserved in the heart of New Delhi. It reflected hope and hope is the wheel on which the world moves.

**(The writer works with an oil and gas PSU. Views expressed are personal)**

## Ayush Ministry working to integrate Unani with modern medicine: Prataprao Jadhav

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Ayush is taking multiple initiatives, for the integration of Ayush systems, including Unani with modern medicine, said the government.

In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Ayush Prataprao Jadhav noted that the government has set up the Central Council of Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), New Delhi and National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Bengaluru, for education and research in Unani system of medicine.

This includes the development of new drugs as well as conducting clinical trials on scientific lines.

"A satellite institute of the National Institute of Unani Medicine with a 200-bedded hospital is also established at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. A total number of 21 clinical institutes/units are



also working under the CCRUM across the country," Jadhav said.

These clinical institutes/units provide treatment through general OPD, reproductive and child health OPD, geriatric OPD, non-communicable diseases clinics, etc.

"Both CCRUM and NIUM have taken up several clinical research studies for various diseases which include arthritis, bronchial asthma, anaemia, anxiety, depressive disorders, neuro-degenerative diseases, lifestyle disorders like hypertension, obesity, dyslipidemia, diabetes and various skin diseases like

vitiligo, etc," the MoS said.

To boost Ayush and Unani into the mainstream of the healthcare system in the country the CCRUM is providing healthcare facilities through relocation/extension centre at several government hospitals. These have been set up to make the Unani treatment facility accessible and affordable to the public.

The CCRUM is also taking various research programmes including pre-clinical and clinical research, drug standardisation research, fundamental research, etc. to ensure accessibility and

affordability to the public.

Five mobile apps have been developed and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Ilaj-bit Tadbeer (IBT) are being developed. Standard Treatment Guidelines for Musculoskeletal disorders have also been developed.

Other measures include Ayush Vertical under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) -- a dedicated institutional mechanism for planning, monitoring, and supervising Ayush-specific public health programmes.

This vertical provides technical support to both Ministries in developing strategies for public health, healthcare, Ayush education, and training, Jadhav said.

Further, the Ministry of Ayush and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) jointly established Integrated Ayush Departments in Central Government Hospitals to promote integrative healthcare.

## Govt to create regional BIRAC centres to accelerate startups and biomanufacturing

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Friday announced the creation of regional BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council) Centers across India to accelerate startups and biomanufacturing.

At a high-level meeting of the Department of Biotechnology, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh said the move will be launched in collaboration with States and will also harness the biotech potential in different parts of the country.

Singh emphasised the need for comprehensive mapping of states based on their biotech potential and directed the department to collaborate with them in establishing Bio E3 (Economy, Environment, and Employment)



cells. These specialised cells will provide the necessary support for fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and scaling up biotech ventures.

"Encourage startups in biomanufacturing and bio foundries, attract FDI, and provide handholding and incubator support," Singh said.

The MoS stressed that the Tripartite arrangement -- a synergy between research infrastructure, startups, and industrial R&D -- is the way forward

for India's biotech sector.

Singh also reiterated the government's commitment to fostering a biotech revolution across states through collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and technical assistance. He noted that several States have expressed interest in setting up biotechnology parks, further strengthening India's bioeconomy.

Singh instructed the Department of Biotechnology to "establish early industry linkages and

work towards a 4P Model (Public-Private-People Partnership) for accelerating biotech growth".

He also welcomed proposals to create BIRAC Centers at a global level to attract cutting-edge biomanufacturing technologies and investments.

Noting that India ranks third in biotech publications worldwide, with nearly two-thirds of research papers emanating from the Department of Biotechnology, Singh said "This reflects India's growing influence and leadership in the international biotech arena."

With these strategic directives, Singh reinforced the government's vision to position India as a global leader in biotechnology, ensuring that biomanufacturing, research, and innovation drive the country's economic and scientific growth to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat in 2047.

## Global HIV funding cuts can cause over 10 mn infections, 3 mn deaths by 2030: Lancet

AGENCIES  
SYDNEY

The significant reductions in international funding for HIV prevention and treatment programmes may result in more than 10 million infections, and about 3 million deaths by 2030, according to a study published in The Lancet HIV journal on Thursday.

The study, conducted by a team at the Burnet Institute in Australia's Melbourne models the impact of a projected 24 per cent reduction in global HIV funding by 2026. This follows announced aid cuts of 8 per cent to 70 per cent by key donors, including the US, Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands. These five countries collectively fund over 90 per cent of global HIV assistance.

This could lead to an estimated "4.4 to 10.8 million additional new HIV infections and 770,000 to 2.9 million HIV-related deaths in children and



adults between 2025 and 2030 if funding cuts proposed by the top five donor countries, including the US and the UK, are not mitigated," said the researchers.

The US, the largest contributor to global HIV funding, halted all assistance on January 20, following the swearing-in of the new US President Donald Trump.

The loss of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), combined with other funding cuts, now threatens to reverse progress toward ending HIV/AIDS

as a global health crisis by 2030, revealed the study.

"The US has historically been the largest contributor to global efforts to treat and prevent HIV, but the current cuts to PEPFAR and USAID-supported programmes have already disrupted access to essential HIV services including antiretroviral therapy and HIV prevention and testing. Looking ahead, if other donor countries reduce funding, decades of progress to treat and prevent HIV could be unravelled," said co-lead study author Dr. Debra Ten

Brink of the Burnet Institute.

The findings showed that sub-Saharan Africa, and marginalised groups who are already at a higher risk of acquiring HIV, such as people who inject drugs, sex workers, and men who have sex with men, as well as children would be the most affected.

Co-author Dr. Rowan Martin-Hughes from the Institute showed that besides limiting testing and treatment programmes, sub-Saharan Africa would see a cut in broader prevention efforts, such as distributing condoms and offering pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP - a medication that reduces the risk of getting HIV).

"It is imperative to secure sustainable financing and avoid a resurgence of the HIV epidemic which could have devastating consequences, not just in regions such as sub-Saharan Africa, but globally," Brink said.

## Study shows how resistance to chemotherapies may occur in some cancers

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

US researchers have found how resistance to chemotherapies may occur in some cancers, an advance that could help pinpoint treatment-resistant tumours.

Chemotherapy resistance is a major challenge in cancer treatment. It occurs when cancer cells stop responding to chemotherapy, allowing the tumour to grow again.

The team from Mass General Brigham focused on a pathway that harnesses reactive oxygen species (ROS) to kill cancer cells. The study, published in the journal Nature, found that mutations to VPS35 -- a key player in this pathway -- can prevent chemotherapy-induced cell death.

"ROS play an important role in healthy and diseased cells, but pathways that sense and control cellular ROS levels are not



well understood," said corresponding author Liron Bar-Peled, of the Krantz Family Center for Cancer Research at the hospital.

"A clearer understanding of ROS could help us understand why chemoresistance occurs in some cases."

Low concentrations of ROS are required for normal cell signalling, but higher levels of ROS can damage cells and contribute to diseases such as cancer and neurodegeneration.

Previous studies have shown that mitochondria

play an important role in ROS production, but it has been unclear if ROS-sensing proteins influence the mitochondria. If they do, this could impact responses to some anti-cancer treatments.

To investigate the team screened cancer cells for ROS-sensing proteins that might contribute to chemoresistance.

They identified mutations that increased treatment resistance, and the team traced two of them to a protein called VPS35. Further studies showed that these mutations led to lowered ROS levels within the cell.

In addition, they analysed VPS35 expression levels in 24 patients with high-grade serous ovarian cancer (HGSO), who received treatment at MGCC. They noted that higher tumoral VPS35 levels were associated with improved treatment responses and overall survival rates.

## ICMR calls for investing in adolescent nutrition to tackle obesity woes

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Investing in adolescent nutrition is a national imperative, and key to tackling the country's rising obesity issues, said Rajiv Bahl Secretary, Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research on Friday.

He was speaking at a stakeholder consultation on the Let's Fix Our Food (LFOF) Consortium, held in the national capital.

The LFOF Consortium is a multi-stakeholder initiative led by ICMR-NIN, PHFI, and UNICEF, working in collaboration with national and international organisations to create healthier food environments for adolescents.

At the event, the experts focused on providing Indian adolescents with healthy food environments to address the rising prevalence of overweight and obesity -- directly



linked to the rise in several non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like diabetes, hypertension and cancers.

"Investing in adolescent nutrition is not just a health priority but a national imperative. By fostering healthier food environments and implementing evidence-based policies like placing reasonable restrictions on advertising and marketing of foods to children, possible taxation of foods high in fats, sugars or salt, and promoting nutrition literacy, we can secure the well-being of future gener-

ations," Dr. Rajiv Bahl Secretary, Director General, ICMR. "The rising burden of overweight and obesity among adolescents is an emerging crisis. If left unaddressed, it will have long-term consequences on public health and economic productivity," added Dr. V.K. Paul.

As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 (2019-21), overall, 24 per cent of women and 23 per cent of men in India are overweight or obese.

There has also been an increase in the percent-

age of children under 5 years who are overweight (weight-for-height) from 2.1 per cent in NFHS-4 (2015-16) to 3.4 per cent in NFHS-5 (2019-21).

The LFOF Consortium aims to advance evidence-based policies, empower youth through nutrition literacy, and advocate for regulatory frameworks that promote healthier food choices. It recognises that bettering food environments for adolescents is essential to combating the growing problem of overweight. Rajiv Bahl Secretary, Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research on Friday.

During the event, the experts also released several policy briefs and research updates; as well as held a panel discussion to explore strategies to enhance multi-sectoral collaboration in fostering healthier food environments.

## High BP can damage kidney functions even before symptoms appear: Study

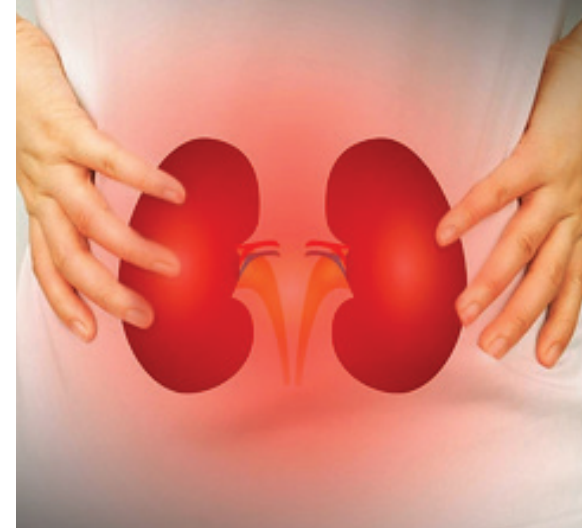
AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Hypertension or high blood pressure can have a significant impact on kidney function, much before clinical symptoms begin to appear, according to a study that stressed the importance of early detection.

The research, led by a team from the Medical University of Vienna in Austria, found that high blood pressure can lead to abnormalities in the podocytes -- specialised cells in the renal filter -- even without other pre-existing conditions such as diabetes.

"Early detection and treatment could help to slow the progression of kidney disease and prevent long-term damage," said the researchers Rainer Oberbauer and Heinz Regele from the varsity.

For the study, published in the journal "Hypertension", the team analysed kidney tissue from a total of 99 patients: who either



suffered from high blood pressure (arterial hypertension) and type 2 diabetes or did not have either of the two conditions. High BP and diabetes are the most common causes of chronic kidney disease.

The study was conducted on unaffected renal tissue samples from tumour nephrectomies -- a surgical procedure in which a kidney is removed in whole or in part to treat a kidney tumour.

Using modern imaging and computer-assisted methods, the size and density of the podocytes and the volume of the renal corpuscles (glomeruli) were determined in the tissue samples.

Podocytes are specialised cells of the renal corpuscles (glomeruli) that play a crucial role in the filtering function of the kidney. Their size and density are important indicators of the health of the

kidney tissue.

Artificial intelligence in the form of deep-learning-based image analysis was used for the analysis. With the help of a specially trained algorithm, digital tissue sections were automatically analysed to precisely capture the structure of podocytes and glomeruli.

"The results show that patients with hypertension have a reduced density of podocytes compared to healthy controls and that their cell nuclei are enlarged compared to those of healthy controls," said first author Christopher Paschen.

These changes occurred independently of the additional diagnosis of type 2 diabetes and likely represent the first microscopically visible step towards impaired renal function.

This indicates that high blood pressure can cause structural damage to the kidneys at an early stage and before clinical symptoms appear, the researchers explained.

## GCW Udhampur organizes field visits at Jambu Zoo



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 30

The Department of Zoology, Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur organized a field visit to Jambu Zoo, located on NH-44, Bypass Road, Nagrota, as part of the 4th-semester curriculum for both Major and Minor students.

This visit aimed to provide students with practical insights into wildlife, complementing the theoretical knowledge covered in this semester's coursework. Under the patronage of Principal Prof. Nalini Pathania and the guidance of Dr. Sanjeet Kaur, Head of the Department of Zoology, the visit

was meticulously planned and executed.

Accompanied by esteemed faculty members, including Dr. Neha Antal, Dr. Anita Kumari, and Dr. Om Prakash, students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in various aspects of wildlife. Throughout the visit, students were exposed to the diverse processes involved in wildlife management, conservation, and care.

By observing animals in their natural habitat and learning about their behaviours, habitat requirements, and conservation status, students gained valuable insights into the complexities of wildlife biology and management. Moreover, inter-

acting with zoo staff and participating in guided tours facilitated a deeper understanding of the practical challenges and ethical considerations associated with wildlife conservation and management.

Overall, the visit to Jambu Zoo provided students with a hands-on learning experience that enhanced their understanding of wildlife biology and conservation. Such experiential learning opportunities play a vital role in shaping students' perspectives, fostering a deeper appreciation for biodiversity, and preparing them for future endeavours in the field of zoology and wildlife conservation.

## Amit Shah should honor the promise of restoring J&K's Statehood: Adv. Rattan Lal

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 30

Advocate Rattan Lal Guta, Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), has called upon Union Home Minister Amit Shah to honor the commitment made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir regarding the restoration of statehood.

Reacting to the Home Minister's refusal to provide a definitive timeline for statehood restoration, Advocate Rattan Lal emphasized that both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on the floor of Parliament and other multiple occasions have assured the public of reinstating Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. He expressed concern that the absence of a clear timeline appears to undermine the massive mandate given to the National Conference in the recent Assembly elections



in Jammu and Kashmir.

Advocate Rattan Lal highlighted the moral and constitutional responsibility of the Lieutenant Governor, being the head of UT, to actively pursue the resolution passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet and recommended by him on October 19, 2024. This resolution, unanimously adopted under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, called upon the Union Government to restore the region's statehood in its original form. The Cabinet asserted that such restoration would initiate a healing process, reclaim constitutional rights, and protect the unique identity of the

people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Reflecting on the recent elections, Advocate Rattan Lal noted the enthusiastic participation of the populace, driven by the hope of establishing a fully elected and democratic government enjoying the same privileges as other states. However, he expressed concern that this aspiration remains unfulfilled, leading to growing alienation among the people due to the prevailing dual power structure.

The Provincial President further emphasized the urgency of addressing these concerns to prevent further disenchantment among the people. He reaffirmed the NC's commitment, under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, to work tirelessly towards the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and the establishment of a fully empowered democratic government.

## Civil Defence Jammu organizes One Day Awareness Camp



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 30

one days Civil Defence awareness programme was organized at DTM Convent Hr.Sec. School Ratnal Zone Bishnah under the supervision of Deputy Controller, Civil Defence, Jammu. The awareness programme was attended by 100 nos of Staff, Civilians and students of the School. Awareness about the basic knowledge of First Aid, Fire fighting, CPR and other life saving techniques were given to the students by the Civil Defence expert. During the programme demonstration on the above said topics was also presented by the

Civil Defence team. The main aim of the awareness programme was to educate students with regard to preventive measures during natural or man-made disasters.

Chairman Rajinder Lal Rana and Anubhuti Jangral Principal of the School appreciated and thanked the Civil Defence team for organizing the awareness programme. Sh Paramjeet Kumar Chief warden Civil defence Jammu R. Vijay Magotra, Dy. Chief Warden Civil Defence, Jammu, Sandeep Bhatt Sector warden CD, Jammu and other staff of the School also present on the occasion.

## Dy CM Surinder inaugurates Langar at Bawe Temple, calls for Universal Brotherhood

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 30

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, Shamsher Chand, Happy Randhawa, Balwinder Singh Rinku and others.

Addressing the gath-



ering, 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.

## Dr. Parneesh slams Pakistan's role in cross-border terrorism following Kathua Encounter

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 30

Dr. Parneesh Mahajan, Senior BJP Leader, has strongly condemned Pakistan for its persistent support and export of terrorism into Indian territory. He asserted that Pakistan's involvement in fostering cross-border terrorism remains a significant obstacle to peace and stability in the region. He emphasized the need for stringent measures to hold Pakistan accountable in promoting terrorism.

In a press statement issued here today, the senior BJP leader has expressed profound grief over the recent encounter in the Rajbagh area of Kathua district. The operation resulted in the martyrdom of four police personnel. He extended his deepest condolences to the families of the martyred officers and wished



a swift recovery for the injured. He lauded the bravery and dedication of the security forces who continually put their lives on the line to ensure the safety and security of the nation.

Highlighting the government's unwavering commitment in combating terrorism, Dr. Parneesh reiterated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has witnessed unprecedented development and

progress, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir. He affirmed that the government remains resolute in its mission to eradicate terrorism and ensure the safety and security of its citizens.

The senior BJP leader also underscored the importance of unity among the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the face of such challenges. He urged citizens to remain vigilant and cooperate with security forces to thwart the nefarious designs of terrorists and their sponsors.

Dr. Mahajan expressed confidence in the capabilities of India's security forces to neutralize threats and maintain peace in the region. He reiterated the BJP's unwavering support for the armed forces and the government's proactive approach in addressing security concerns in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Jammu Police arrested notorious, hardcore criminal from Arnia area, pistol recovered

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 30

Jammu Police arrested a notorious criminal namely Raman Kumar S/O Bodh Raj R/O Kathar, Arnia

Jammu, against whom multiple FIR's are already registered for various criminal acts. The accused is also a history-sheeter of Police Station Arnia & had recently come out after completing his detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

Today on 29.03.2025 during patrolling at Karyal village PSI Harjinder Pal Singh along with police party apprehended one person namely Raman Kumar S/O Bodh Raj R/O Kathar, Arnia & on his search recovered one country made pistol from his procession.

## Police busts organised timber smuggling racket in Pattan Baramulla

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, MAR 30

In a significant operation against organised crime, Police in Baramulla have successfully busted a timber smuggling racket operating across the Kashmir Valley. This marks the first FIR registered under organised crime for timber smuggling in the region.

Acting on credible intelligence, police received information that a group of smugglers was illegally felling willow trees from government land (Rakh) in Rakh Duslipora, Nowgam Circle (Gund Ibrahim). The stolen timber was being transported in a Tata Mobile vehicle (JK18D/2556) for illegal sale in Pattan and nearby areas.

Responding swiftly,



police teams intercepted and seized the vehicle along with 25 stolen timber logs. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 50/2025 has been registered at Police Station Pattan under Sections 324(3), 112(2), and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya

Sanhita (BNS), and an investigation is underway. The prime accused, John Mohd Bhat, a resident of Naina Batpora, Pulwama, fled from the scene but was later tracked and arrested from Pulwama. Further arrests and recov-

eries are expected as investigations continue. Police remains committed to taking strict action against organised crime and environmental offenses to safeguard public resources and uphold the law.

## Kashmiri Pandits Reaffirm Resolve on Sankalp Diwas as Navreh Mahotsav 2025 Continues

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 30

On the second day of the ongoing "Navreh Mahotsav 2025," the Kashmiri Pandit community today observed Sankalp Diwas (Day of Resolve) with solemnity and determination. Responding to a call given by Sanjeevani Sharda Kendra (SSK), Jammu, community members participated in pledge-taking ceremonies, reaffirming their collective commitment and aspiration to return to their homeland, Kashmir.

Organized events marked the day across various locations. Vivekananda Kendra Nagdandi hosted a significant "Navreh Milan" at Sanskriti Bhawan in Roop Nagar, Jammu, where attendees collectively recited the Sankalp (pledge). Another major gathering for a



Samohik Sankalp (Collective Pledge) took place at the revered Mata Baderkali shrine in Talwal, Jammu. Similar community pledge events were reported from Gurugram, highlighting the observance beyond Jammu and Kashmir.

Beyond these organized gatherings, the spirit of Sankalp Diwas resonated deeply within individual families. Countless Kashmiri Pandit households in Jammu, various parts of Kashmir, across India, and even abroad participated privately, reciting the pledge within their homes,

reinforcing the personal and collective nature of the community's resolve.

Sankalp Diwas forms the central theme of the second day of the core three-day Navreh Mahotsav celebrations, which run from March 29th to March 31st. The festival commenced yesterday, March 29th, with Tyaag Divas, honouring the sacrifice of the 15th-century scholar Acharya Pandit Shreya Bhat. Numerous events were held across Jammu and other cities to commemorate his contributions. Tomorrow, March

31st, will be observed as Shaurya Divas, celebrating the valour and legacy of the 8th-century emperor, Samrat Lalitaditya.

Engaging the younger generation remains a key focus. The online essay and short video competitions on the lives and contributions of Acharya Pandit Shreya Bhat and Samrat Lalitaditya continue to receive entries via the designated Google Form (<https://forms.gle/g2daj7m18MqrKSjb9>). Information about these historical figures continues to circulate actively on social media platforms.

The Navreh Mahotsav 2025 will culminate in a concluding ceremony, the Navreh Samaroh, scheduled for Tuesday, April 1st, 2025, at 4:00 PM at the Abhinav Theatre in Jammu. This event will formally close the Mahotsav celebrations.

# PM Modi slams Cong for decades of 'neglect' & underdevelopment in Chhattisgarh

AGENCIES  
BILASPUR, MARCH 30

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday strongly criticised the previous Congress governments for years of neglect towards Chhattisgarh, accusing it of plunging the state into a prolonged era of darkness and underdevelopment.

He highlighted that the Congress, which governed for six decades, labelled districts backward, resulting in generational destruction and loss.

The "disregard" of Congress for the challenges faced by Maoist-affected regions further exacerbated the situation, PM Modi said.

In stark contrast, Prime Minister Modi said, his government has adopted transformative initiatives such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, and PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra, which have revolutionised healthcare and infrastructure.

"With 5,000 kilometers of roads sanctioned, including 2,500 kilometers under PM JANMAN Yojana, Chhattisgarh is now witnessing a new era of progress. The establishment of hospitals in Sukma and the celebration of events like the Bastar Olympics symbolise this



remarkable transformation," he said.

While handing over keys to three beneficiaries, Prime Minister Modi underscored the importance of "punya" (profound virtue) of providing shelter, a noble act deeply rooted in Indian society.

PM Modishared: "Today, three lakh impoverished families are moving into their new homes, a testament to the trust in 'Modi Ki Guarantee'."

He described the fulfillment of someone's dream of owning a home as one of the greatest gifts.

Unlike plain houses, PM Modi pointed out, these houses are customised to meet the needs of the poor and equipped with amenities like toilets, tap water, and cooking gas under the Ujjwala scheme.

Thousands of women now own homes, many for the first time, and the initiative has generated

employment for numerous individuals, he said.

The Congress governments had left these aspirations of owning a house, buried in files, but the Vishnu Deo Sai government, in its first cabinet meeting, revived such aspirations of people and pledged to construct 18 lakh houses.

Of these, three lakh homes have been completed, offering permanent housing to families in Bastar and Sarguja districts of the state, Prime Minister Modi said.

Chhattisgarh has embraced the BJP's vision wholeheartedly, observing 2025 as 'Atal Nirman Varsh', a year dedicated to fulfilling promises and advancing development, he said.

PM Modi highlighted efforts to bring projects to remote areas, focusing on solar energy and sustainable solutions.

Under the PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana, registrations for free electricity have commenced, and many got enrolled, PM Modi said.

He further said efforts are underway to make petroleum products affordable, introduce CNG vehicles, and supply cooking gas through pipelines, addressing the previous government's inaction on gas infrastructure.

On the occasion, PM Modi inaugurated or laid foundation stones for projects worth Rs 33,700 crore.

The projects include NTPC's Sipat Super Thermal Power Project Stage-III (800MW) and CSPGCL's Super Critical Thermal Power Project (2x660MW), alongside three POWERGRID transmission projects under WRES (Western Region Expansion Scheme).

Cleaner energy solutions are being introduced through the City Gas Distribution project and Visakh-Raipur Pipeline, spanning over 1,540 km.

Railway projects totaling 219 km and road upgrades worth Rs 1,270 crore aim to improve connectivity. Educational advancements include 130 PM SHRI Schools and Vidya Samiksha Kendra in Raipur.

# Climate change needs collective solution: V-P Jagdeep Dhankhar

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday said that climate change poses an existential challenge for our planet and the solution to the complex problem must be found collectively.

Presiding as Chief Guest at the valedictory session of National Conference on Environment- 2025, organised by the National Green Tribunal, he said the problem of "huge dimensions" needs to be fixed with "immediate, urgent, concerted and sustained" efforts.

"Everyone among us is in a position to make a contribution. When the contribution converges into totality, it will be result-oriented," said V-P Dhankhar.

"We are trustees of everything offered by



Mother Earth and we must pass on to the future generations all this in good shape," said the Vice-President.

He also praised the NGT for doing its bit to protect the environment of the country, adding that for him the acronym stands for 'Nurturing Green for Tomorrow'.

Calling for collective global action on climate change, Dhankhar said, "There is a global need

to evolve and believe in environmental ethics. This underscores humans' moral obligation to protect and preserve the environment."

"Let us realise the worth of nature before we lose it forever," he said, calling for urgent measures to protect the environment.

Earlier, President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday called for nurturing and protecting the environment for the next genera-

tion, saying it is a "moral responsibility" of parents towards their children.

Inaugurating the Conference, the President said, "It is our moral responsibility to provide a legacy of a clean environment to the coming generations. For this, we will have to adopt an environmentally conscious and sensitive lifestyle so that the environment is not only protected but also enhanced."

She called for actions with which the environment can become more vibrant and said, "Balancing clean environment and modern development is both an opportunity and a challenge."

The President said: "We all have to make India a developed nation by 2047 with clean air, water, greenery, and prosperity that would attract the entire world community."

# As PM Modi gives calls to 'Catch the Rain', 24.24 lakh water bodies enlisted in first-ever census

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call on Sunday for public participation in water conservation has brought into focus the Jal Shakti Ministry's 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain - 2025' drive that has enlisted 24.24 lakh water bodies in the first-ever census.

In the 120th episode of his radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', PM Modi said, "Catch the Rain" campaign is not just a government effort but that of the people. Jal Sanchay-Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan is also being run to connect more and more people with water conservation."

Earlier this month, the Ministry launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain - 2025' campaign.

As part of the earlier Jal Shakti Abhiyan, till June 2024, 24.24 lakh water bodies were enumerated in the country's first water bodies' census, and 671 Jal Shakti Centres were established, according to official documents.

At least 25,397 traditional water bodies were re-



novated, 71,096 reuse and recharge structures were built, apart from the completion of 1.41 lakh watershed development projects, said an official report. Apart from these, several projects under these heads were still underway.

The Jal Shakti Abhiyan campaign calls upon all citizens to join hands in securing India's water future through innovative solutions and grassroots participation.

It underscores the importance of water security, rainwater harvesting, and groundwater recharge in the face of climate change and growing water challenges.

The initiative focuses on 148 districts, fostering greater synergy between

government agencies, communities, and stakeholders in ensuring the sustainable management of water resources.

The campaign focuses on water conservation and rainwater harvesting, enumerating, geo-tagging and inventory of water bodies; setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras in all districts to provide information and support for water conservation and intensive afforestation to enhance groundwater recharge and reduce erosion.

Additionally, the campaign emphasises on de-silting and cleaning water bodies, revitalising abandoned borewells for groundwater recharge, snow harvesting in hilly regions, and the rejuvena-

tion of small rivers.

A statement said that the Jal Shakti Abhiyan was launched in 2019 to address the acute water stress in various parts of the country. The campaign was divided into two phases: the first phase was during the monsoon season from July 1 to September 15, 2019, and the second phase from October 1 to November 30, 2019, for states receiving the Northeast retreating monsoons.

The campaign's primary focus was on water-stressed districts and blocks, emphasising the need for local-level interventions and community participation, it said.

In 2021, 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' was launched with the theme 'Catch the Rain - Where it Falls When it Falls'. This initiative subsumed the earlier Catch the Rain campaign, extending its coverage to all blocks in both rural and urban areas across the country. Since its inception, Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain has become an annual campaign, the statement said.

# Navy ships from Andaman to carry relief material to quake-hit Myanmar

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

Indian Navy ships Karmuk and LCU 52 from the Andaman and Nicobar Command will also be sailing for Yangon on Sunday to boost 'Operation Brahma' to render assistance to earthquake-hit Myanmar.

Under MEA's direction, the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) efforts are being progressed in conjunction with Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, Indian Army, Indian Air Force and NDRF.

On Saturday, the Naval ships Satpura and Savitri, from the Eastern Naval Command, sailed for Yangon.

Approximately 52 tonnes of relief material have been embarked onboard these ships, including HADR pallets consisting of essential



clothing, drinking water, food, medicines, and emergency stores.

"The Indian Navy remains committed to India's resolve to remain the 'First Responder' in the region," said an official statement.

Earlier, India intensified its efforts to assist Myanmar by sending two C-17 aircraft with a 118-member Indian Army field hospital unit, including women and childcare services, as

well as 60 tonnes of relief material, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

In total, five flights providing relief material from India landed in Myanmar, MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

Taking to social media platform X, MEA spokesperson wrote: "#OperationBrahma continues. Two C-17 aircraft with 118-member Indian Army Field Hospital Unit, includ-

ing Women & Child Care services and 60 tonnes of relief material have landed in Myanmar. With these, five relief flights from India have landed in Myanmar today."

The spokesperson in another X post said: "Another C130 aircraft landed in the capital city Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, with 38 personnel of @NDRFHQ & 10 tonnes of relief material. This is the third Indian aircraft @IAF\_MCC to bring relief assistance to Myanmar today. #OperationBrahma."

Additionally, a field hospital with 118 personnel, including doctors, were airlifted from Agra.

The massive 7.7-magnitude earthquake on Friday led to widespread destruction, with the death toll surpassing 1,644 as more bodies are being pulled from the rubble of collapsed buildings.

# India records robust growth in metal production during FY 2024-25

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

The production of key minerals such as iron ore, manganese ore, bauxite and lead in the country have recorded a robust growth in financial year 2024-25 after reaching record production levels in FY 2023-24, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Mines on Sunday.

The output of iron ore which accounts for 70 per cent of the total mineral production by value increased to 263 million metric tonnes (MMT) during April-February of FY 2024-25 from 252

MMT in the same period of FY 2023-24, which represents a growth of 4.4 per cent, official figures showed.

The production of the full financial year 2023-24 was 274 million metric tonnes (MMT).

The production of manganese ore jumped by 12.8 per cent to 3.4 MMT in FY 2024-25 (April- February) from 3.0 MMT during the corresponding period of the previous year while the production of bauxite has also risen by 3.6 per cent to 22.7 MMT during these 11 months of the current financial year from 21.9 MMT in the same period of FY 2023-24.

Similarly, the production of Lead Concentrate has also risen by 3.5 per cent to 3,52,000 tonnes during this period in FY 2024-25 from 3,40,000 tonnes in FY 2023-24.

In the non-ferrous metal sector, primary aluminium production in the 11 months of FY 2024-25 posted a growth of 0.9 per cent over the corresponding period last year, increasing to 38.36 lakh tonnes (LT) from 38.00 LT in FY 2023-24. During the same comparative period, refined copper production has grown by 7.1 per cent from 4.64 LT to 4.97 LT.

India is the second larg-

est Aluminium producer in the world, among the top-10 producers of refined copper and the fourth largest iron ore producer in the current financial year reflects the robust demand conditions in steel, which is the user industry for these metals.

Coupled with growth in aluminium and copper, these growth trends point towards continued strong economic activity in user sectors such as energy, infrastructure, construction, automotive and machinery, the statement added.

# Bihar must decide between NDA's progress & RJD's lawlessness: Amit Shah

AGENCIES  
PATNA, MARCH 30

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday criticised RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav over corruption during a public rally in Gopalganj and asked the people of Bihar to decide between NDA's progress and RJD's lawlessness in the upcoming state elections.

The Home Minister accused Lalu Prasad Yadav and his party of "corruption", "lawlessness", and "hindering Bihar's development" while asserting that the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections will be fought under the leadership of Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar.

"The people of Bihar must choose between NDA's progress and RJD's lawlessness in the upcoming Assembly elections. The people must decide



whether they want to go back to Lalu-Rabri's jungle raj or continue on Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar's path of development," he said during his address.

The Home Minister further added that PM Modi's government has worked for Bihar's progress, while the Congress has failed Bihar in the last 65 years.

Amit Shah promised that the NDA will "make" Bihar "flood-free" if re-

lected for another five years. He also announced plans for a Ramayana Circuit in Bihar and a grand temple for Mata Sita.

The Home Minister also accused Lalu Prasad Yadav of "looting" Bihar through "scams", saying, "Lalu Prasad Yadav has no shame. He looted fodder meant for cows and did the tar scam. His government only promoted extortion, ransom, and kidnapping."

He also criticised RJD's

land-for-job scam, saying: "Would Bihar again go to those involved in corruption? Would it go to the ones who took land in exchange for jobs?"

He mocked Lalu Prasad Yadav for prioritising his family's political ambitions over Bihar's youth.

"Lalu Yadav did only one thing—set up his entire family. Now his son wants to become CM. But he never thought about setting up the youth of Bihar," he said. He praised PM Modi for creating job opportunities and empowering Bihar's youth.

Amit Shah's Gopalganj rally set the stage for a fierce NDA vs. RJD battle in Bihar's upcoming assembly polls. With Modi and Nitish Kumar leading the charge, NDA is preparing to counter Lalu Yadav's influence and solidify its position in Bihar ahead of the 2025 elections.

## IAF's Su-30 MKI to display skills in multinational exercise in Greece

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

Aiming to hone skills against a dozen other counterparts, including the US, Israel, and France, the Indian Air Force (IAF) will be participating in biennial multinational air exercise INIOCHOS-25, starting in Greece from Monday, an official said.

The IAF contingent, including Su-30 MKI fighters along with combat enabler IL-78 and C-17 aircraft, will join the prestigious multinational air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force at Andravida Air Base from March 31 to April 11, 2025.

INIOCHOS is a biennial multinational air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force. It serves as a platform for air forces to hone their skills, exchange tactical knowledge, and strengthen military ties. According to the Hellenic Air Force, this edition, featuring the largest number of fighter aircraft and helicopters fielded by the participating countries, is divided into three phases. Phase 1, comprising the deployment of participating forces, was from March 24-30, while Phase 2 is the main phase, entailing the execution of the exercise, from March 31 to



April 11.

The final phase will be the redeployment of forces, from April 11 to April 13.

The execution phase of the exercise will comprise Offensive Counter Air Operations, Defensive Counter Air Operations, Strategic Air Operations, Air Power Contribution to Counter-Land Operations, Air Power Contribution to Maritime Operations, Reconnaissance Missions, Combat Search and Rescue, Time Sensitive Target, and High Value Airborne Asset, as per the Hellenic Air Force.

Apart from the Hellenic Air Force and the IAF, the participants include France with the -2000, the Israel with G-550, Italy with Tornado, Montenegro with B-412, Poland with F-16, Qatar with F-15, Slovenia with 2 PC-9, Spain with F-18, the UAE with

-2000/9, and the US with F-16, KC-46 and KC-135.

Cyprus will be represented by support staff, while Bahrain and Slovakia will have a team of observers.

As per the IAF, its participation in Exercise INIOCHOS 25 is to enhance international cooperation, synergy and interoperability among participating air forces.

An official said the exercise will provide an opportunity to train in planning and executing combined air operations, refine tactics in complex air warfare scenarios, and gain insights into operational best practices.

IAF's participation will not only strengthen its operational capabilities but also contribute to mutual learning and enhanced coordination among participating countries.

The IAF's participation

in INIOCHOS-25 reflects its commitment to global defence cooperation and operational excellence. The exercise will further reinforce India's strategic partnerships and bolster its capabilities in joint operations with friendly nations, said the statement.

In October last year, the IAF undertook the 12th Joint Military Training (JMT) with the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) at Air Force Station Kalakunda, West Bengal.

The RSAF participated with its largest contingent till date, comprising aircrew and support personnel from F-16, F-15 squadrons, along with G-550 Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) and C-130 aircraft. The IAF participated with Rafale, Mirage 2000 ITI, Su-30 MKI, Tejas, MiG-29 and Jaguar aircraft.

## Won't happen again, assures CM Nitish while admitting past mistakes of quitting NDA

AGENCIES  
PATNA, MARCH 30

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday publicly admitted that he committed "mistakes" of leaving the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) twice, while assuring that it won't happen again.

During a Cooperative department event at Babu Auditorium, attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, CM Nitish acknowledged his past political flip-flops but declared, "I made a mistake twice, but this will not happen again."

CM Nitish credited the cooperative sector for large-scale benefits in Bihar, particularly under Amit Shah's leadership as Union Cooperation Minister.

He stated, "Bihar has



benefited from multiple schemes launched during Amit Shah's tenure, and these have helped people nationwide."

CM Nitish targeted former CMs Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi, accusing them of stagnating the state's progress before 2005.

He claimed that under their rule, people were

afraid to step out of their homes after evening, contrasting it with the changed scenario under his governance.

CM Nitish hailed the Jeevika scheme as a major achievement of his government, stating that its success inspired the Congress-led UPA government to implement the Aajeevika scheme nationwide.

"Bihar's model of women empowerment through self-help groups has now gained national recognition," he said.

Notably, Union Minister Shah was the chief guest at the event in Patna, where he inaugurated multi-crore development projects in the state.

The Union Minister also announced that the NDA will contest the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections under Nitish Kumar's leadership.

He urged voters to reelect the NDA with a huge majority, promising further development and stability in Bihar.

On the occasion, Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, Water Resource Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary and many other leaders of NDA were present.

## BJP committed to protect Hindi and regional languages: Rajnath Singh

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh indirectly attacked the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government over the language issue and stressed that the Bharatiya Janata Party is committed to protecting Hindi and all other Indian languages.

Addressing a programme organised by the BJP's 'Mahila Morcha' to pay a theatrical tribute to Tamil queen Velu Nachiyar, the Defence Minister said on Saturday that some people were creating controversy over Tamil and Hindi and lauded the effort to spread awareness about her in north India.

He also added on Saturday that the tendency to divide the country based on language must come to an end, adding that there is no competition but a spirit of cooperation between Hindi and other Indian vernaculars, asserting that efforts to break the country in the name of language should stop.

"Some people are unnecessarily creating controversy over Tamil and Hindi languages. However, the BJP is fully committed to protect-



ing Hindi and all other Indian languages, and we are working towards that. There is no competition between Hindi and other Indian languages, but rather a spirit of cooperation among them. Hindi strengthens all Indian languages, and all Indian languages strengthen Hindi," Rajnath Singh said.

"This trend of dividing the country in the name of language must stop. And if anyone can spread this message effectively and play an active role in it, I believe our sisters can do it in a more impactful way," he added.

The Defence Minister also said: "It is ironic that some people in our country have started considering Aurangzeb as their ideal. Aurangzeb not only divided the people of India on the basis of religion but also committed

atrocities against followers of other faiths."

His comments come at a time when the Tamil Nadu government, led by MK Stalin, is at odds with the Central government regarding the three-language formula proposed in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the delimitation exercise.

In his speech, Rajnath Singh also highlighted the BJP government's commitment towards women's empowerment, saying that the party has ensured reservations for women in Parliament and state Assemblies. He emphasised that without the support and empowerment of women, the goal of building a strong and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' is impossible. "We passed the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, ensuring reservation for women

in Parliament and state Assemblies. When I was the party president, I also ensured that women held at least 33 per cent representation within the party organisation. Without the support and empowerment of women, building a strong and Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) is impossible," Singh said.

The Defence Minister also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for focusing on women-led development in the country.

"Today, our Prime Minister has shown complete faith in the strength and power of women. There's a growing focus on women-led development in the country. Before PM Modi ji, no one ever discussed women-led development," he said.

The senior BJP leader on the occasion also paid tributes to Queen Mangammal, who was also from Tamil Nadu, and praised her role.

He said women played a key role in turning India's freedom movement into a people's movement.

PM Modi too has often lauded Velu Nachiyar, an 18th-century queen, as among the inspirational figures who fought against the British rule.

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

Kerala BJP President Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Sunday accused the INDIA bloc of spreading misinformation regarding the Waqf Amendment Bill, with an intention to mislead a particular community.

He stated that the bill, introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is not against any community but aims to protect people's constitutional right to property.

"The Waqf Amendment Bill is not against anybody. It is a pro-people, pro-constitutional right to property amendment bill. The Opposition, whether it is Owaisi or Rahul Gandhi, depends completely on lies and misinformation," he remarked.

He further pointed out that in Kerala, many families have suffered due to alleged arbitrary land



grabs by Waqf authorities.

"In Kerala alone, there are hundreds of families in Munambam, outside Cochin, whose land and property are being grabbed by the Waqf unilaterally. The Waqf Amendment Act will protect people from their properties being taken away by anybody," he said.

He also welcomed the Kerala Catholic Bishop Council's recent appeal

to MPs to support the bill, calling it a step in the right direction. He urged all MPs, including those from Congress, to ensure that laws remain consistent with the Constitution and address real issues faced by the people.

Former Union Minister's demand for Waqf (Amendment) bill's clearance from the Parliament comes ahead of its introduction in the House,

likely next week. Notably, Union Home Minister Amit Shah categorically stated on Friday that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill will be reintroduced in the ongoing Budget session of Parliament. The second leg of Budget Session is set to end on April 4.

Amit Shah also said no one should be afraid of the proposed amendments as Modi government is amending the Waqf Act in accordance with the ambit of the Constitution.

"The opposition is misleading Muslims. No rights of Muslims will be curbed. They are just telling lies after lies," he said.

The contentious Bill was referred to a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) in August 2024. The panel's 655-page report was submitted to both Houses of Parliament earlier this month amid protests by Opposition and Muslim groups.

## Centre urges states to take steps to boost financial health of power utilities

AGENCIES  
LUCKNOW, MARCH 30

Union Minister of State for Power Yesso Naik on Sunday highlighted the need for measures to help power utilities of states to improve their financial viability.

Addressing the states' group of ministers meeting here, Minister Naik highlighted the need for designing a mechanism for financial restructuring of liabilities of distribution utilities, lowering the interest burden, development of storage solutions, facilitating daytime power supply for agriculture to lower the overall power purchase costs and reducing subsidy burdens, according to a statement issued after the meeting.

The Minister also emphasised the need for implementing AI and digital innovations and the need for ensuring cost-reflective tariffs for the financial viability of the power sector.



He added that implementing these measures would help utilities improve their financial sustainability. He also underscored the need for a scheme similar to the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY), a financial turnaround and revival package for electricity distribution companies (DISCOMS) in India.

The Energy Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and senior officials from the Central and State governments, State Power Utilities of Member States, Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Ltd and REC Ltd attended the meeting. TATA Power Distribution, Odisha, as a special invitee, shared the best practices adopted

and their journey toward making their DISCOMs profitable.

The member States actively participated in the meeting and presented the overview of State DISCOMS. They gave valuable suggestions for improving the financial condition of DISCOMS. The states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu made presentations on the subject.

The contours of the Action plan identifying the ways to reduce the outstanding debts and losses of the distribution utilities and the means to bring them into profits, were discussed in detail.

Emphasis was placed on the need for a review

of regulators' performance for determining tariffs. The support from the Government of India for Privatisation initiatives by the state was suggested. The need for regulators to adapt to the latest developments in the sector, including the current levels of RE integration, the requirements of capacity building and operation and maintenance (O&M) costs while finalising the tariff, was also discussed.

The issue of delays in payment of government department dues and subsidies is forcing DISCOMS to resort to working capital loans, which are not being passed on in tariffs. There are also delays in passing on of Fuel and Power Purchase Cost Adjustments in tariffs, thus creating the need for working capital, which is not considered in the Annual Revenue Requirements of the Utilities. To avoid future tariff shocks, it was suggested to link tariffs to annual inflation-linked tariff hikes.

## 'Operation Brahma': India sends more relief aid to quake-hit Myanmar, says MEA

AGENCIES  
YANGON, MARCH 30

India has intensified its efforts to assist Myanmar following the devastating earthquake, under 'Operation Brahma', by sending two C-17 aircraft with 118-member Indian Army field hospital unit, including women and child care ser-

vices, as well as 60 tonnes of relief material which arrived in Myanmar later on Saturday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

In total, five flights providing relief material from India have arrived in Myanmar, MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

Taking to social media platform X, MEA spokesperson wrote: "Two C-17 aircraft with 118-member Indian Army Field Hospital Unit, including Women & Child Care services and 60 tonnes of relief material have landed in Myanmar. With these, five relief flights from have landed in Myanmar today."

The spokesperson in another X post said: "Another C130 aircraft landed in the capital city Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, with 38 personnel of @NDRFHQ & 10 tonnes of relief material. This is the third Indian aircraft @IAF\_MCC to bring relief assistance to Myanmar today. #OperationBrahma."

# Starc's five-fer, Du Plessis' fifty seal win for DC

AGENCIES  
VISAKHAPATNAM, MAR 30

Mitchell Starc ripped through the Sunrisers Hyderabad batting lineup with a fiery five-wicket haul as Delhi Capitals bowled out the hosts for 163 in 18.4 overs and went on to win by seven wickets in the 10th match of IPL 2025 at Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium here on Sunday.

Opting to bat first, SRH had a rocky start, losing opener Abhishek Sharma for 1 in the first over via a run out by Vipraj Nigam. Star Australian batsman Travis Head (22 off 12) provided some early momentum with three well-timed boundaries, including a push-drive past mid-off and a crisp flick through backward square leg. However, he was caught by keeper KL Rahul off Starc in the fourth over.

Ishan Kishan (2) and Nitish Kumar Reddy (0) fell in quick succession to Starc, leaving SRH reeling at 25/3 in just 2.3 overs. The left-arm pacer continued his rampage, later dismissing Wiaan Mulder (9) and Harshal Patel (5) to complete his five-for, finishing with figures of 5/35 in 3.4 overs. One of the highlights of his spell was a sharp catch taken by Axar Patel at mid-off to dismiss Harshal.

Aniket Verma played a blazing knock of 74 off 41 balls, which included six fours and five sixes, bringing up his maiden IPL fifty with a single past mid-wicket. His aggressive



sive intent was evident as he smashed back-to-back sixes off Axar Patel, one lofted straight over the bowler's head and another pulled over mid-wicket.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Heinrich Klaasen contributed 32 off 19 before being caught by Nigam off Mohit Sharma, breaking a crucial 77-run stand. However, the middle and lower order could not provide substantial support, as Abhinav Manohar (4), captain Pat Cummins (2), and Harshal Patel (5) failed to convert their starts. Cummins fell to a mistimed pull off Kuldeep Yadav, while Manohar holed out to Faf du Plessis at long-off.

Kuldeep Yadav impressed with 3/22 in his 4-over spell, while Mohit Sharma picked up a wicket. Aniket had an eventful innings, surviving a dropped catch on 6 when Abhishek Porel failed to

hold on at extra cover. His fireworks, including a six that brought up a fifty-run partnership in just 22 deliveries, kept SRH in contention, but their total remained underwhelming.

In response, Delhi chased down the target with ease, posting 166/3 in 16 overs. Faf du Plessis led the charge with a blistering 50 off 27 balls, bringing up his half-century with a pull through the leg-side off Harshal Patel. Jake Fraser-McGurk contributed 38 off 32, despite surviving two dropped chances - one by Cummins at mid-on and another near mid-off where Aniket nearly pulled off a blinder.

Zeeshan Ansari was the pick of the SRH bowlers, claiming all three wickets for 32 runs in his four-over spell. He dismissed du Plessis for 50 with a well-tossed-up delivery, forcing a miscue to Wiaan Mulder

at deep mid-wicket. He followed it up by removing Fraser-McGurk, who chipped a return catch to the bowler, and later bowled KL Rahul for 15 as the latter missed a sweep shot.

Tristan Stubbs (21\*) ensured there were no further hiccups, smashing three boundaries in quick succession. He pulled Mulder through backward square leg for four, drove a fuller delivery through wide mid-off, and chipped a full toss over long-on to bring up 150 for Delhi. With only nine runs required off 28 balls, Abhishek Porel (34\*) finished things off in style, launching Mulder over deep mid-wicket for a massive six to seal a seven-wicket victory with four overs to spare.

With this win, Delhi not only secured two points but also significantly boosted their net run rate.

# MI, KKR set for battle as Rohit-Narine duel heats up

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, MAR 30

A high-voltage clash is set to unfold at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday as Mumbai Indians (MI) take on Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in Match 12 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. With both teams seeking early momentum, all eyes will be on two seasoned campaigners—Rohit Sharma and Sunil Narine—who could shape the outcome of the contest.

For Mumbai Indians, Rohit's return to form is imperative after their winless start to the season. The veteran opener, known for his composure under pressure, will look to anchor the innings and provide stability. His duel with Narine, who has dismissed him a record eight times in the IPL, adds an intriguing subplot to the encounter.

KKR, on the other hand, will be buoyed by Narine's expected return after missing the previous game due to illness. The all-rounder's ability to influence matches with both bat and ball makes him a crucial cog in KKR's



campaign. His team, led by Ajinkya Rahane, recovered from a heavy defeat to Royal Challengers Bengaluru with a convincing victory against Rajasthan Royals, setting the stage for a keenly contested fixture.

Hardik Pandya's return as MI skipper in their previous match added much-needed balance to the side, but they still fell short against Gujarat Titans, following an earlier defeat to Chennai Super Kings under Suryakumar

Yadav's leadership. With Suryakumar and Tilak Varma strengthening the batting lineup, MI will be determined to bounce back and secure their first win in front of their home crowd.

Historically, MI have dominated KKR, winning 23 of their 34 meetings. However, the KKR had the upper hand in their last encounter, signaling a shift in momentum.

The Wankhede surface promises a run-fest, with conditions favour-

ing strokemakers. Pacers might find early assistance, but the track traditionally settles down for free-flowing strokeplay. Warm weather with high humidity is expected, ensuring a testing environment for players.

As MI seek their first win and KKR aim to build on their resurgence, an intense battle looms large at Wankhede. With match-winners on both sides, expect a contest brimming with drama and high-octane action.

# Gulveer misses World Championship mark by 0.22s

AGENCIES  
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO (USA), MAR 30

India's Gulveer Singh delivered a stunning performance at The Ten 2025 athletics meet, setting a new men's 10,000m national record while narrowly missing the automatic qualifying mark for the World Athletics Championships 2025 by just 0.22 seconds.

The 26-year-old Indian athlete clocked an impressive 27:00.22s at the J Serra Catholic High School track on Sunday, finishing sixth in a highly competitive field. His new mark improved upon his previous national record of 27:14.88, which he had set at the Hachioji Long Distance 2024 event in Japan, shaving off a remarkable 14.66 seconds.

The race was won by Ishmael Kipkurui, who

clocked 26:50.21 to break the NCAA record. Habtom Samuel secured second place with 26:51.06, while Adrian Wildschutt finished third in 26:51.27. The Ten is classified as a World Athletics Continental Tour silver-level meet.

Despite missing the automatic entry mark of 27:00.00 for the World Athletics Championships by the narrowest of margins, Gulveer comfortably surpassed the entry standard for the Asian Athletics Championships 2025, which stands at 29:33.26, as determined by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI). However, his selection for the continental championships, scheduled in Gumi, Republic of Korea, will be subject to AFI's discretion.

With this performance, Gulveer is now ranked third among the fastest Asian runners in the 10,000m event, trailing only Qatar's Ahmad Hassan Abdullah and Nicholas Kemboi.

Notably, Gulveer had first broken the 10,000m national record at The Ten in 2024, clocking 27:41.81 to surpass Surendra Singh's long-standing record of 28:02.89 from 2008. He further improved it later that year in Japan.

A bronze medallist in the 10,000m at the Hangzhou Asian Games 2023, Gulveer also holds the Indian national record in the 5000m. Earlier this year, he set new national marks in the men's 3000m indoor event and the Asian 5000m short track event in Boston.

Meanwhile, at the same meet, Ankita Dhyani bettered her personal best in the women's 1500m, clocking 4:13.97, an improvement from her previous best of 4:16.20.

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# India to tour Australia for 8-match white-ball series

AGENCIES  
MELBOURNE, MAR 30

Team India is set to embark on an extensive white-ball tour of Australia later this year, featuring a total of eight matches across eight cities, as both teams prepare for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, scheduled to be jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka in early 2026.

Cricket Australia (CA) announced the complete schedule for the 2025-26 international season, which includes the much-anticipated series against India.

The tour will consist of three One Day Internationals (ODIs) and five Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is), beginning on October 19 and concluding on November 8.

Notably, the T20I series will see international cricket return to venues such as Canberra and Hobart.

The ODIs will be played in Perth, Adelaide and Sydney, while the T20Is will take place in Canberra, Melbourne, Hobart, Gold Coast and Brisbane.

The ODI series will commence on October 19 in Perth, followed by matches in Adelaide on October 23 and Sydney on October 25. The T20I leg will begin on October 29 in Canberra, with subsequent fixtures in Melbourne (October 31), Hobart (November 2), Gold Coast (November 6), and Brisbane (November 8).

The upcoming series follows India's fiercely contested five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia earlier in the year, which drew record-breaking attendance and viewership.

CA Chief Executive Todd Greenberg expressed confidence that the upcoming season would continue to drive interest in the sport.

# FA Cup: Forest beat Brighton in quarter-final and reach to semi-final

AGENCIES  
BRIGHTON, MAR 30

Nottingham Forest won a third straight FA Cup penalty shootout to beat Brighton and reach the semi-finals for the first time in 34 years.

Goalkeeper Matz Sels was the hero for the visitors, saving Jack Hinshelwood and Diego Gomez's spot-kicks as Forest won the shootout 4-3 after the match had finished goalless, the BBC reported.

In a drab tie that lacked quality throughout, there was nothing to separate the two teams after 120 minutes at Amex Stadium.

Brighton had looked the likelier side to snatch a winner late on - and Sels made a superb save to keep out a bullet header from Gomez in extra time.

Joao Pedro then thought he had won it at the death for the hosts after bundling



in Pervis Estupinan's delivery, but the goal was ruled out for offside and the match went to a shootout.

After two big saves from Sels, it was Forest captain Ryan Yates who stepped up to fire the club into their first FA Cup semi-final since 1991.

Forest, who beat Exeter City and Ipswich on penalties in the previous rounds, will discover their opponents when the draw takes place on Sunday.

Forest have made penalty shootouts a habit during this FA Cup run, and it has

become the norm that Sels will see them through.

The Belgium keeper has been integral to Forest's superb Premier League campaign, and he has kept their hopes of a first FA Cup win since 1959 alive.

Penalties had almost seemed inevitable from the first half on Saturday, with neither team able to fashion any meaningful chances.

Forest felt the effects of Chris Wood's absence, with the club's top scorer missing after picking up a hip injury while on inter-

national duty with New Zealand.

Nuno Espirito Santo's side had been awarded a spot-kick in the 64th minute, when Kaoru Mitoma was judged by referee Peter Banks to have brought down Elliot Anderson in the area.

However, the Video Assistant Referee intervened and Banks reviewed the incident before confirming, through the Amex sound system, that no foul had been committed - much to the delight of the home crowd.

Nuno and the Forest bench were less impressed, furiously protesting the decision with the fourth official.

But the whole team sprinted to the opposite end of the pitch as Yates' penalty hit the back of the net more than an hour later to celebrate in front of their ecstatic travelling fans.

# Chapman's heroics guide NZ to ODI series lead against Pak

AGENCIES  
NAPIER, MAR 30

The Black Caps carried their T20I series momentum with a 73-run victory in the opening ODI.

It was a Mark Chapman show in Napier as the Kiwi scored an unbeaten 132 (111), setting the base for New Zealand's victory by 73

runs in the first ODI against Pakistan, according to an ICC media release.

The century was the third of Chapman's ODI career and his highest score in the format so far.

Pakistan ODI skipper Mohammed Rizwan won the toss and elected to field first, which seemed like a success at first.

The Napier pitch was proving friendly to the bowlers as the New Zealand top-order fell apart to the pace of Naseem Shah and Akif Javed. Openers Will Young and Nick Kelly perished inside the Powerplay, as did Henry Nicholls soon after.

At 50/3, it was Mark Chapman and Darryl

Mitchell who came to New Zealand's rescue with an incredible stand of 199 runs.

Mark Chapman was the aggressor as he smashed 13 fours and 6 sixes in his innings of 132 at a strike rate of 118.91, with Darryl Mitchell playing a solid second fiddle with a calm 76 off 84 balls with 4 fours and 4 sixes.

## Minority Communities Benefitted Most Under Modi Government: Sat Sharma

AGENCIES  
JAMMU, MAR 30

J&K BJP President Sat Sharma CA, accompanied by MLA RS Pura- Jammu South & BJP National Secretary Dr Narinder Singh, MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa, addressed a public program chiefly attended by the participants from minority communities, at Sainik Colony, Jammu.

The programme was organized by the J&K BJP Minority Morcha under the leadership of J&K BJP Minority Morcha President S. Ranjodh Singh Nalwa. District president Jammu South Naresh Singh Jasrotia, former Deputy Mayor of Jammu Baldev Billawaria, former councilors Narinder Bunty and Gurmeet Randhawa, Ajay Partap Singh, Kamalpreet Singh and Santokh Singh, and others were amongst the prominent present in the programme.

Sat Sharma, while addressing the gathering, credited the BJP's Minority Morcha for its relentless efforts in taking central welfare schemes to the underprivileged and marginalized sections among the minority communities. He reiterated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision is crystal clear that every citizen of India must



receive equal opportunities for growth and prosperity. He also shared the impact of Modi Government's welfare schemes on the ground.

"The development policies of the Modi government are designed to uplift every section of society without any discrimination. Every activist of the party has played a commendable role in bridging the gap between the Government and the people in need. BJP's Minority Morcha has extended the party's reach manifolds to complete the mission," Sharma said.

On the occasion, Sat Sharma also reflected upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi's latest edition of the 'Mann Ki Baat' programme, where he stressed the strength of India's unity in diversity. He remarked that under PM Modi's leadership, the country

has maintained a resolute stand against terrorism and remains unwavering in its determination to thwart any nefarious designs by Pakistan.

Earlier, a special telecast of the 'Mann Ki Baat' programme was organized, which was attended by senior BJP leaders and party workers, who listened to the Prime Minister's address with keen interest. Dr. Narinder Singh said that the religious Minorities which were earlier used as the vote bank by different political parties, received true recognition and benefit from various schemes of the Modi government, including those for providing housing, health benefits and pertaining to the welfare of farmers.

Ch. Vikram Randhawa counted upon the welfare measures and the unprecedented development in

Jammu & Kashmir by the Modi government.

Ranjodh Singh Nalwa reiterated the party's commitment to public service over political gain. He stated that the BJP is not a power-hungry entity but a party dedicated to the welfare of the people.

"Our mission is not merely to govern but to serve the public with sincerity and dedication. That is why the BJP has successfully broken the traditional political cycle and transformed anti-incumbency into pro-incumbency," Nalwa asserted. Naresh Singh Jasrotia, while thanking the senior leadership of party and the participants, said that BJP's cadre is dedicatedly serving the society and the needy population.

Ajay Partap Singh conducted the stage proceedings and Kamalpreet Singh presented the note of thanks.

## Congress questions BJP, Centre for deteriorated situation in Jammu region

AGENCIES  
JAMMU, MARCH 30

Hitting hard BJP & government at the centre, Congress today questioned the Home minister Amit Shah for the failure of his government to control the rising terrorism in Jammu region and his refusal to give any time frame for granting statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a joint press conference at party's headquarters here today, jkpc Senior leaders Shri Raman Bhalla, working president jkpc, former MP Ch Lal Singh, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma Ex MLC Ved Mahajan Incharge HQ, District President Kathua Pankaj Dogra besides, Chief Media Coordinator Neeraj Gupta, Spokespersons Kapil Singh and Sahil Sharma questioned the failure of centre government in handling the security situation and the law and order position which has deteriorated to a large extent especially in Jammu region post 2019, contrary to the tall claims of BJP government.

Kathua district was one of the most peaceful area in the region, but is now worst hit by militancy and people are fear struck in entire border belt and pahari region, said former MP Ch Lal Singh rejecting the false and misleading claims of Modi government. The situation on terrorism front and law and order was much better prior to 2019, and for the last two decades when J&K was a full fledged state but it has deteriorated in recent years, for which directly the home ministry is answerable.

Lal Singh alleged that security situation is worst in the district and there is great sense of insecurity amongst people who don't feel safe and secured in any part of the district and elsewhere. BJP and centre should answer people for their utter failure when entire control is with the centre under the UT.



BJP government at the centre and LG administration has been exploiting the resources of the Jammu and Kashmir especially Jammu region by converting the historical Dogra state into UT but law and order and security situation has deteriorated in Jammu region. He alleged acute shortage of man power with police stations in the district besides disbanding of police outposts and weakening of security network, Ch Lal Singh demanded immediate recruitment of local youth in the police to strengthen security and intelligence network.

Working President Raman Bhalla questioned BJP for the utter failure of the centre government in controlling security and law and order situation in Jammu region which has worsened to large extent under Union Territory than in previous years when Jammu region was almost peaceful.

He said BJP and centre government make tall claims of normally but on ground they are total failure on ground on the security front and in the overall law and order situation for which they are answerable. The entire Jammu region is today disturbed due to faulty and weak policies of centre government which only make false claims amidst increased terror incidents in the hitherto peaceful

region in the past two decades.

BJP and centre have no answer to these questions and only beat about the bush when questioned and go back to history without explaining how situation deteriorated under BJP regime especially after downgrading the state into UT, alleging it was just to control gain over the resources of Jammu and Kashmir state.

BJP has remained failure on all fronts in Jammu and Kashmir during the past ten years especially in giving employment to large number of educated youth despite availability of thousands of vacancies, regularise the daily wagers, casual, need based, temporary, adhoc, contractual employees working in numerous departments for several years and now shedding crocodile tears. It failed to fulfill the false promises with different categories of people including refugees, youth, farmers etc but biggest failure is law and order situation and security front.

Chief Spokesperson Mr Ravinder Sharma said that current security situation and law and order in Jammu region is the direct answer to false, misleading and shameful claims of BJP and centre government, day in & day out and demanded that government work out more fool proof measures

to strengthen security and intelligence network and to restore security confidence amongst people.

He said congress party is fully behind the security forces to deal with the situation and to defeat terrorism while paying rich tributes to the martyrs and expressing solidarity with their families on behalf of the party, however he alleged that BJP alone wanted to take credit for controlling terrorism but situation has deteriorated. Why not centre taking all political parties and elected representatives and popular government into confidence in controlling the situation in more effective ways.

He said BJP led centre is still vindictive in approach as it is not transferring power to the people even after six months of elections and an elected government in place. It is very serious and unfortunate that the Chief minister has to say in the house that even the institution (control room) of lathicharge is away from seat of power i.e. civil secretariat indicating the current state of affairs of powers under UT system. BJP still wants to run the affairs from centre through remote control to enjoy power through proxy while escaping responsibility, which the congress shall not allow it and use every model to fix responsibility and expose the duplicity.

## "One Nation, One Election" Will Be a Milestone in Electoral Reforms: Abhay

AGENCIES  
JAMMU, MAR 30

Abhay Kumar Mahajan, SSP (Retd) and Co-Convenor of the J&K BJP Senior Citizens Cell, chaired an awareness programme on the "One Nation, One Election", highlighting its benefits in streamlining elections, improving efficiency, reducing costs, and enhancing political stability.

The event, held in Channi Himmat, Jammu, was organized by Abhay Kumar Mahajan under the banner of J&K BJP's Senior Citizens Cell.

Prominent speakers at the event, including Bharat Bhushan Talwar, Ashok Khajuria, Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, Abhinandan Jain, and Prof. H.C. Vaid, elaborated on the positive aspects of holding simultaneous elections across the



country. They emphasized that conducting elections together would curb the massive financial burden on the government and political parties, reducing costs associated with security, logistics, and administrative efforts. The speakers further stressed that

frequent elections lead to the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), which hampers policy implementation. Holding elections simultaneously would not only enhance governance efficiency but also improve voter participation, as citizens would

need to cast their votes only once within a given period. A host of senior leaders and dignitaries, including Kailash Kumar Langer, Capt. Karnail Singh, Inderjeet Sawhney, Suman Kumar Abrol, Ashok Kumar Sharma, Gopal Sharma, B.S. Salathia, Rakesh Sharma, Gopal Ram Khajuria, Rattan Singh Mankotia, Mohinder Singh, Raj Kumar, Shyam Lal Khajuria, Rakesh Gupta, Hem Raj Sharma, N.D. Sharma, Hriday Chand, Man Mohan Krishan, Vicky Verma, Balbir Singh, and Pardeep Singh, participated in the discussion. Abhay Mahajan urged all participants to take a pledge to spread awareness about the benefits of "One Nation, One Election" among the masses. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Ashok Khajuria.

## Govt must ensure uninterrupted power supply, cleanliness, sanitation, and security during Navratri in J&K: Pawan Sharma

AGENCIES  
JAMMU, MAR 30

Pawan Sharma, Senior leader and former state secretary of BJP Jammu and Kashmir, has urged the government to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply and provide all necessary facilities to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This is not only a matter of convenience but also a question of devotion and faith.

Sharma emphasized that during Navratri, devotees gather at temples and shrines across the region, and it is the government's



responsibility to ensure that they have access to basic amenities like electricity, water, and sanitation. Any disruption in these

services can cause inconvenience and distress to the devotees, which is unacceptable.

Sharma demanded that the government must take immediate action to address the issue of power cuts and ensure that the electricity supply remains uninterrupted throughout the Navratri festival. Additionally, the government should also provide necessary facilities like cleanliness, sanitation, and security at all temples and shrines. Pawan Sharma further stated that, The Jammu and Kashmir Power

Distribution Corporation Limited (JKPDCL) and the Power Development Department (PDD) should work in tandem to ensure that the electricity supply remains stable and uninterrupted. The government should also ensure that all necessary arrangements are made to prevent any power outages during the festival. Sharma urged the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the people of Jammu and Kashmir can celebrate Navratri with devotion and fervor, without any inconvenience or disruption.

## Vikramjit and Saurabh attend First-Ever Storytelling Workshop by CII in J&K

AGENCIES  
JAMMU, MAR 30

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Jammu & Kashmir successfully organized its 1st Storytelling Workshop, bringing together industry leaders, government officials, and MSME stakeholders to explore the power of narratives in business growth. The event witnessed insightful discussions on branding, government incentives, and the role of storytelling in shaping positive perceptions.

Mr. Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner/Secretary, Information Technology, J&K and Mr. Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner/Secretary, Industries & Commerce, J&K were special guests on the occasion along with keynote speaker Ms. Kripi Singh, CEO & Chief Storytelling. The session was skillfully moderated by Ms. Minna Dubey, Proprietor, Calico by Silpine



ensuring an engaging and interactive experience for all participants from Industry.

Mr. Saurabh announced an exciting initiative where a government team will collaborate with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to highlight valuable subsidies, funding opportunities, and incentives for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in key sectors such as hydro, agriculture, solar, and IT. This partnership aims to empower MSMEs to leverage these

schemes, driving business growth and sustainability.

Mr. Vikramjeet Singh, delivered a captivating address, highlighting the profound impact of storytelling on business success. He emphasized that differentiation is crucial in today's competitive landscape, urging MSMEs to craft distinctive narratives that resonate with their customers.

Dr M A Alim, Chairman CII J&K UT Council and Dr Iqram Shafiee, Vice Chairman, CII J&K UT Council

have extended warm greetings to all Industrialists, Business community and people of J&K on the joyous occasions of Eid and Navratri, wishing everyone peace, prosperity, and Happiness.

Chairman CII J&K Dr. M A Alim brought the event to a close with his address and Hosted the gathering to a special Iftaar and Holi Milan, specially organized after the workshop with all participants, including the CII members and other dignitaries.