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Lieutenant Governor attends Rajasthan Day celebration at Raj Bhawan Rajasthan is known as land of warriors and it is the vibrant centre of India's rich culture and glorious heritage: LG

LG Says, the cultural richness of Rajasthan is as diverse as its geographical features

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 personali-

ties of Rajasthan and recalled their invaluable contribution in nation building. He said the legacy of the great warriors, freedom 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.

RSS Banyan Tree Of India's Immortal Culture And Modernisation: PM Modi

Nagpur, Mar 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday described the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) as the 'banyan tree' of India's immortal culture and modernisation. Modi was speaking after laying the foundation stone of Madhav Netralaya Premium Centre, a new extension building of Madhav Netralaya Eye Institute & Research Centre in Nagpur.



of late RSS chief Madhavrao Sadashivrao Golkalkar. The government's policy is to ensure the best medical treatment to the poorest of the poor, Modi said. "There has been a three-fold increase in the number of operational All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) under his regime, Modi said. "Our government is making efforts to

Lieutenant Governor's, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Greetings on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr

JAMMU, MARCH 30: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri 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 Ramadan 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 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 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." (Contd on Pg 2)

Smell of death permeates Myanmar cities after quake kills over 1,600, leaves countless buried

MANDALAY (MYANMAR), Mar 30: The smell of decaying bodies permeated the streets of Myanmar's second-largest city on Sunday as people worked frantically by hand to clear rubble in the hope of finding someone still alive, two days after a massive earthquake struck that killed more than 1,600 people and left countless others buried. The 7.7 magnitude quake hit midday Friday with an epicentre near Mandalay, bringing down scores of

buildings and damaging other infrastructure like the city's airport. Relief efforts have been hampered by buckled roads, downed bridges, spotty communications and the challenges of operating in a civil war in the midst of a country war. The search for survivors has been primarily conducted by the local residents without the aid of heavy equipment, moving rubble by hand and with shovels in (Contd on Pg 2)

1 Killed, 7 Injured As Bengaluru-Kamakhyia AC Express Derails In Odisha



Cuttack, Mar 30: One person was killed and seven others injured as an express train derailed in Odisha's Cuttack district on Sunday. Eleven coaches of the SMVT Bengaluru-Ka-

makhyia AC Express derailed at Nirgundi near Manguli at 11.54 am, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of the East Coast Railway Ashok Kumar Mishra said. Cuttack's District Collector Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde, who oversaw the rescue operation, said, "One person died and seven others were injured in the accident." He said that some passengers also fell ill after the accident because of the heatwave (Contd on Pg 2)

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

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 Choudhary, today laid foundation stone for construction of a 135-meter span double-lane motorable bridge on the Gambhir Nallah in Udhampur district. The project to be raised with an estimated cost of Rs. 1903.46 lakh is aimed at en-



hancing 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. 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 (Contd on Pg 2)

2ND NAVRATRI



The second day of Chaitra Navratri in 2025 is dedicated to Maa Brahmacharini, the second form of Goddess Durga. She symbolizes devotion, penance, purity, and strong willpower

3RD NAVRATRI



Devotees worship Goddess Chandraghanta, the married form of Goddess Parvati. Adorned with a crescent moon on her forehead, she symbolises bravery, peace, and protection for her devotees.

Lalu Had Eaten Up Fodder, He Can't Think About Welfare Of Bihar's People, Alleges Amit Shah

GOPALGANJ (Bihar), Mar 30: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday slammed RJD supremo Lalu Prasad for his alleged involvement in various scams and alleged that "those who had eaten up fodder cannot think about the welfare of people in Bihar. He also accused the RJD chief of ignoring the development of Bihar and work-

ing only for the betterment of his family. Addressing a rally in Gopalganj, Shah claimed, "The NDA Governments, both at the Centre and in Bihar, have been working for the overall development of Bihar. Those who had eaten up fodder meant for cattle cannot think about the welfare." (Contd on Pg 2)

RSS Progressed From Neglect And Ridicule To Curiosity And Acceptance: Hosabale On Sangh Centenary

New Delhi, Mar 30: Starting as a movement of "national reconstruction", the RSS has progressed from neglect and ridicule to curiosity and acceptance, its general secretary Dattatraya Hosabale said on Sunday, as he urged people to join the organisation in fulfilling its resolve. In an article titled "RSS at 100" published on the Vishva Samvad Kendra



Bharat website, he said, "The Sangh does not be-

lieve in opposing anyone and is confident that, some day, anyone opposing the Sangh's work will join the Sangh fold." When the world is grappling with multiple challenges, ranging from climate change to violent conflicts, Bharat's ancient and experiential wisdom is "eminently (Contd on Pg 2)

Amid Multi-Tier Security, Pilgrims Pay Obeisance At Mata Vaishnodevi Cave Shrine



Reasi, Mar 30: Thousands of pilgrims flocked to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Trikuta hills of Jammu and Kashmir as the nine-day Chaitra Navratri festival began on Sunday. Jammu tourism guide 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 (Contd on Pg 2)

FROM PAGE ONE

1 Killed...

conditions prevailing in the area. "They were treated at a temporary health camp set up at the accident site. Some people who received minor injuries in the accident were also given first aid, declared fit to travel. Around 15 people were given first aid at the health camp," he said.

Shinde said the seven people, whose injuries were serious, were admitted to the state-run SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCB MCH) in Cuttack.

"All of them are stable," he said. SCB MCH's Administrative Officer Subhas Chandra Ray said, "The one person who died is a male. Among the seven injured, three are men and four women." An officer of the Odisha Fire Service, which along with the NDRF assisted the railways following the accident, said the rescue operation has been completed.

The train was heading to Kamakhya station in Assam's Guwahati from Bengaluru.

The accident happened on the down line of the all-important Howrah-Chennai route, affecting railway services, officials said.

Efforts are being made to clear the accident site at the earliest, and the up line has already been made operational, they said. A special train has started its journey to Kamakhya with the stranded passengers from the accident site, they added.

Three trains were diverted because of the derailment. These trains are Dhauli Express, Neelachal Express and Purlia Express.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed concern over the accident, and said, "Authorities are on-site, ensuring assistance and restoring normalcy at the earliest. Helplines activated for support." The helplines are 8455885999 and 8991124238.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said two persons from his state were injured in the accident and are undergoing treatment.

"Both are out of danger," he said in a post on X. Sarma said his office was in touch with the Odisha government and the railways.

"We will reach out to each and every person who is affected," he said.

Lieutenant...

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.

Lalu...

of the people of the state." Prasad was "involved in the bitumen scam, flood relief material supply scam, 'Charwaha Vidyalaya' (school for cattle grazers) scam, 'Charwaha Vidyalaya' (school for cattle grazers) scam, and he had also eaten up fodder", the BJP leader alleged.

The fodder scam, in which crores of rupees were fraudulently withdrawn from treasuries such as Doranda, Deoghar, Dumka and Chaihaba, was exposed in the 1990s when Jharkhand was part of Bihar.

Prasad, the former Bihar chief minister, is one of the high-profile politicians who was convicted in the case.

"Lalu-Rabri regime here and Sonia-Manmohan Government at the Centre did nothing for Bihar. Lalu Prasad worked for his family only. He tried to make both his sons CM, made his wife Bihar chief minister, sent his daughter to Rajya Sabha, but did nothing for the people," Shah alleged. He also asserted that Bihar would be made flood-free in the next five years.

"Flood will soon become a thing of the past in Bihar," he said.

The NDA Government is also constructing a massive temple at the birthplace of goddess Sita in Bihar, he said.

Shah said the State Government is developing 'Punaura Dham Janki Mandir', a Hindu pilgrimage site in Sitamarhi district that is considered the birthplace of the goddess Sita. A large number of pilgrims visit the 'Punaura Dham' every year.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had, in December 2023, laid the foundation stone for the overall development of the 'Punaura Dham Janki Mandir'. The state cabinet had approved Rs 72.47 crore for the overall development of the 'Punaura Dham'.

Lieutenant...

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.

RSS...

capable" of providing solutions, Hosabale underlined. "This gigantic but inevitable task is possible when every child of Bharat Mata understands this role and contributes to building a domestic model that inspires others to emulate," he said.

"Let us join this resolve to present a role model before the world of a harmonious and organised Bharat, taking the entire society together under the leadership of righteous people ('sajjan shakti')," he added.

The Vishva Samvad Kendra is a media centre affiliated to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Revisiting the journey of the RSS since its inception on Vijaya Dashami in 1925, Hosabale said, "In the last hundred years, the Sangh, as a movement of national reconstruction, has travelled from neglect and ridicule to curiosity and acceptance." With the RSS set to complete its hundredth year of service this year, there is an "evident curiosity" about the way the Sangh perceives this landmark, he said.

"It has been crystal clear for the Sangh since its inception that such occasions are not meant for celebration but provide us with an opportunity to introspect and rededicate to the cause," he added.

Hosabale said it was also a chance to acknowledge the contributions of the "stalwart sannyas figures" who guided the movement and the series of 'swayamsevaks (volunteers)' and their families who "selflessly" joined the Sangh's journey.

"There cannot be a better occasion than the birth anniversary of Sangh founder Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, which happens to be Varsh Pratipada — the first day of the Hindu calendar — to revisit the (organisation's) journey of hundred years to resolve for the future a harmonious and united Bharat for world peace and prosperity," he added.

From "armed revolution to Satyagraha", the RSS general secretary said Hedgewar respected all efforts undertaken to free Bharat from British colonialism and never tried to "belittle" any movement.

Hedgewar was a "born patriot" and his trait of "unconditional love and unadulterated dedication for Bharat" was visible in his actions from childhood, he said.

"He diagnosed the fundamental problems that caused us to lose our independence and decided to find a lasting solution," the senior RSS functionary said.

Hosabale said Hedgewar realised that the absence of patriotism in day-to-day life, deterioration of collective national character resulting in parochial identities, and the lack of discipline in social life were the rootcauses of invaders finding a foothold in Bharat.

"He could experience that people had lost the collective memory of our glorious history due to incessant aggressions. Hence, there was a sense of pessimism and inferiority complex about our culture and knowledge tradition," the RSS general secretary said in the article.

"It was his conviction that mere political activism under a few leaders would not solve the fundamental problems of our ancient 'rashtra'. Hence, he decided to devise a method of consistent efforts to train people to live for the nation," he further said.

The "innovative and unique" functioning of the Sangh through 'shakhas' is the outcome of Hedgewar's "visionary thinking" beyond political struggle, he added.

"While participating in the political freedom struggle and encouraging others to do the same, Dr Hedgewar developed this training method for organising the entire society and not creating an organisation within the society," Hosabale said.

Growing acceptance and expectations of society from the Sangh today is nothing but signs of approval for Hedgewar's "vision and method", he asserted.

In wake of the "unfortunate" partition of Bharat post-Independence, RSS 'swayamsevaks' "dedicated" themselves to rescuing the Hindu population in Pakistan and resettling them with honour and dignity, he added.

Hosabale said Hedgewar did not theorise the Sangh's ideology but gave an action programme in seed form, which had been the guiding force in this journey.

"The progressive unfolding of this movement and philosophy is nothing short of a miracle. It was not easy to explain the idea of Hindutva and the idea of 'rashtra' when most of the English-educated elites were influenced by the European idea of nationalism, which was narrow, parochial and exclusivist," he said.

While there is a tendency to look at everything from the political prism, the Sangh is still focussing on the "cultural awakening of society" and creating a strong network of "right-minded people and organisations", Hosabale said. Bharat is an ancient civilisation with a "destined role" to play in the interest of humanity based on its spiritual traditions, he further said.

If Bharat has to perform the role based on the ideas of universal harmony and oneness, the country's common public has to prepare itself for this goal, he added.

"Sri Gurji provided a strong ideological foundation for the same," Hosabale said, referring to the second RSS chief MS Golwalkar.

Amid...

spirituality at bhawan," Amit Sharma from Delhi, said. Praising the arrangements of the Board, another devotee from Pune, Sudhakar Katam, 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, Sumita 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. Gang 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 yatrias starting this Chaitra Navratri.

Dr Jitendra...

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 Udhampur, 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, Majalthe, where he listened to the grievances and demands of former PRI members and local residents of the area. These included widening of dhara road, restoration of statehood, establishment of a Trauma Centre, setting up an Industrial Estate, construction of dhara 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 Udhampur 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 Majalthe, implementation of Lift Irrigation System, declaration of Bani-Basoli-Udhampur road as a National Highway and establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya School etc.

The event was attended by DDC Chairperson Udhampur, Lal Chand, MLA Ramnagar, Sunil Bhardwaj, Chief Engineer PWD, Senior Superintendent of Police, Additional Deputy Commissioner, DDC Member Majalthe, 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.

Smell...

41-degree Celsius (106 Fahrenheit) heat, with only the occasional trinket excavator to be seen.

A 5.1 magnitude aftershock Sunday afternoon prompted screams from those in the streets, and then the work continued.

Many of Mandalay's 1.5 million people spent the night sleeping on the streets, either left homeless by the quake, which also shook neighbouring Thailand and killed at least 18 people there, or worried that the continuing aftershocks might cause structures left unstable to collapse.

Many areas still have not been reached. So far 1,644 people have been reported killed in Myanmar and 3,408 injured, but many areas have not yet been reached, and many rescue efforts so far have been undertaken by people working by hand to try and clear rubble, said Cara Bragg, the Yangon-based manager of Catholic Relief Services in Myanmar.

"It's mainly been local volunteers, local people who are just trying to find their loved ones," Bragg said after being briefed by her colleague in Mandalay.

"I've also seen reports that now some countries are sending search and rescue teams up to Mandalay to support the efforts, but hospitals are really struggling to cope with the influx of injured people, there's a shortage of medical supplies, and people are struggling to find food and clean

water," Bragg added.

The organisation was sending a team by road on Sunday to assess peoples' most pressing needs so that it could target its own response.

With the Mandalay airport damaged and the control tower toppled in the capital Naypitaw's airport, all commercial flights into the cities have been shut down.

Official relief efforts in Naypitaw were prioritising government offices and staff housing, leaving locals and aid groups to dig through the rubble by hand in residential areas, the hot sun beating down and the smell of death in the air.

A team sent from neighbouring China rescued an older man who had been trapped for nearly 40 hours beneath the rubble of a Naypitaw hospital, and many others are believed to still be buried under, the official Xinhua news agency reported. Myanmar sits on the Sagaing Fault, a major north-south fault that separates the India plate and the Sunda Plate. The earthquake occurred when a 200-kilometre section of the fault ruptured, causing widespread damage along a wide swath of territory down the middle of the country, including Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago regions and Shan State.

With widespread telecommunication outages, few details have come out so far from areas other than the main urban areas of Mandalay and Naypitaw.

Foreign aid starts to arrive in Myanmar. Still, two Indian C-17 military transport aircraft were able to land late Saturday at Naypitaw with a field hospital unit and some 120 personnel who were then to travel north to Mandalay to establish a 60-bed emergency treatment centre, according to the country's Foreign Ministry.

Other Indian supplies were flown into Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city, which has been the hub of other foreign relief efforts. On Sunday, a convoy of 17 Chinese cargo trucks carrying critical shelter and medical supplies was expected to reach Mandalay, after making the arduous journey by road from Yangon.

The 650-kilometre journey has been taking 14 hours or longer, with clogged roads and traffic diverted from the main highway to skirt damage from the earthquake. At the same time, the window of opportunity to find anyone alive is rapidly closing. Most rescues occur within the first 24 hours after a disaster, and then survival chances drop as each day passes.

An initial report on earthquake relief efforts issued Saturday by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs noted the severe damage or destruction of many health facilities, and warned that a "severe shortage of medical supplies is hampering response efforts, including trauma kits, blood bags, anaesthetics, assistive devices, essential medicines, and tents for health workers."

China said it has sent more than 135 rescue personnel and experts along with supplies like medical kits and generators and pledged around USD 13.8 million in emergency aid. Russia's Emergency Ministry said it had flown in 120 rescuers and supplies to Yangon, and the country's Health Ministry said Moscow had sent a medical team to Myanmar. Teams from Singapore have been working already in Naypitaw. Malaysia dispatched a team of 50 personnel on Sunday with trucks, search and rescue equipment and medical supplies. Thailand said 55 of its soldiers arrived in Yangon on Sunday to help with search and rescue operations, while Britain announced a USD 13 million aid package to help its locally-funded partners already in Myanmar respond to the crisis.

18 people reported dead in Thailand. In neighbouring Thailand, the quake rocked much of the country, bringing down a high-rise building under construction in Bangkok, some 1,300 kilometres away from the epicentre.

So far, 11 people have been found dead at the construction site near the popular Chatuchak market. A total of 18 people have been reported killed by the quake in Thailand so far. Rescue efforts in Myanmar complicated by civil war. In Myanmar, which is also known as Burma, rescue efforts so far are focused on Mandalay and Naypitaw, which are thought to have been the hardest hit, but many other areas were also impacted and little is known so far about the damage there.

"We're hearing reports of hundreds of people trapped in different areas," said Bragg. "Right now we're at 1,600 (known fatalities) and we don't have a lot of data coming out but you've got to assume it will be increasing in the thousands based on what the impacts are. This is just anecdotal information at this point."

Beyond the earthquake damage, rescue efforts are complicated by the bloody civil war roiling much of the country, including in quake-affected areas. In 2001, the military seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, sparking what has since turned into significant armed resistance.

Government forces have lost control of much of Myanmar, and many places are dangerous or impossible for aid groups to reach. More than 3 million people have been displaced by the fighting and nearly 20 million are in need, according to the United Nations.

The government military has been fighting long-established militias and newly formed pro-democracy People's Defense Forces, and has heavily restricted much-needed aid efforts to the large population already displaced by war even before the earthquake.

Military attacks continued with airstrikes on Friday and reports of mortar and drone attacks on Saturday. Tom Andrews, a monitor on rights in Myanmar commissioned by the UN-backed Human Rights Council, called for the military to immediately call a ceasefire.

"Aid workers should not have to fear arrest and there should be no obstructions to aid getting to where it is most needed," he said on X. "Every minute counts."

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"Aid workers should not have to fear arrest and there should be no obstructions to aid getting to where it is most needed," he said on X. "Every minute counts."

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

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 Garbijon Arti at Adhkuwari and Atri at Bhawan. Additionally, dedicated quotas for helicopter 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 Indraprasth 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 Tarakot 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, Atri 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 facade lights, creating a mesmerizing ambience 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

Free Fibroscan Camp Organized by Mahajan Sabha Channi Himmat Benefitting 151 Patients

Jammu, March 30: In a significant healthcare initiative, Mahajan Sabha Channi Himmat, under the dynamic leadership of its president Vipin 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, Vipin 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 disease. 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) and Anil Gupta (Jr. Secretary) & Vishvadeep 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.

Sonamarg Hoteliers Association President & Managing Director of Snow Land Group of Hotels, Farooq Hafiz, Greets People of J&K On Eid-ul-Fitr



Srinagar: As the blessed month of Ramadan draws to a close, Farooq Hafiz, President of the Sonamarg Hoteliers Association and Managing Director of Snow Land Group of Hotels, has extended his heartfelt advance Eid-ul-Fitr greetings to the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

In his warm message to the community, Farooq Hafiz said, "Eid-ul-Fitr is not just a celebration; it's a time to reflect, give thanks and strengthen the bonds of unity and compassion. I extend my sincerest Eid Mubarak wishes to everyone. May this sacred festival bring happiness to every home and soul." He further highlighted the spirit of generosity and social responsibility, stating, "Let us embrace the true essence of Eid—a celebration rooted in compassion, sharing and kindness. I earnestly appeal to the well-off and capable members of society to extend their support to underprivileged families, ensuring that no one is left behind during this blessed and joyous occasion." Farooq Hafiz concluded, "May this Eid usher in an era of peace, prosperity, and togetherness across Jammu & Kashmir. Let love, harmony, and brotherhood light our path forward. Eid Mubarak to all!"

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

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 to celebrate this holy festival in the spirit of harmony and goodwill, ensuring that its essence of love and kindness reaches every corner of society. He highlighted the importance of remembering the less fortunate during this sacred time and encouraged people to engage in acts of charity 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 participate 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.

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

Arnia: 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 Garu 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 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.

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

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 Navratra, 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 Navratra 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

Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPEDCL) 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.

Minority Communities Benefitted Most Under Modi Government: Sat Sharma

Sat. Dr. Narinder, Ch. Vikram address Minority programme at Sainik Colony

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 Nareish 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 by the vote bank by different political parties, received true recognition and benefit from various schemes of the Modi government, including those for providing health, 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.

PSAJK Greet People On The Auspicious Occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr

Extends Heartfelt Eid Greetings To Students, Educators And Parents

Srinagar: As the sacred month of Ramadan draws to its spiritual completion and the blessed festival of Eid-ul-Fitr approaches, the Private Schools' Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) extends its warmest and most heartfelt Eid Mubarak greetings to the people of Jammu & Kashmir and the global Muslim community. On this deeply spiritual and joyous occasion, PSAJK conveys its sincere wishes to all the students, who represent the future with hope and promise. All the parents, whose sacrifices and support make education possible. All the teachers, who selflessly impart

wisdom and values. All the non-teaching staff, who work tirelessly behind the scenes with unwavering dedication. All the school owners and principals, who lead with vision and resilience. And to every individual who walks shoulder to shoulder with schools, uplifting the mission of education through unity and commitment. Eid-ul-Fitr is not merely the end of a month of fasting — it is a divine celebration of self-discipline, compassion and community. It is a day when hearts unite, hands are extended in generosity, and souls are uplifted in prayer and gratitude. In this spirit, PSAJK

acknowledges the resilience, patience and unwavering faith of the people of the region and calls for deeper social harmony and educational empowerment. PSAJK State President G. N. Var shared his heartfelt Eid greetings with everyone. He encouraged teachers, students, parents and the wider community to embrace the true spirit of Eid — a time of kindness, togetherness and reflection. He said this special occasion is a reminder to stay united, support one another, and continue spreading positive values in both education and everyday life.

He said, "Eid-ul-Fitr reminds us of the importance of spiritual growth and staying united. As educators, we have the responsibility to shape the future. Let this Eid inspire us to teach our students kindness, honesty and the value of living together peacefully. On behalf of PSAJK, I wish the people of Jammu & Kashmir a peaceful, happy and blessed Eid. May this festival bring us closer and help build a better society." Faisal Islam Mir, General Secretary, said "Eid is a festival of giving of love, forgiveness, and hope. After a month of prayer and reflection, we emerge

spiritually stronger and more united. May this Eid usher in a new era of compassion and progress. Wishing everyone a peaceful and joyful Eid Mubarak." Chief Organiser, Shah Gulzar, shared "The true meaning of Eid is realized when it is shared — with our neighbors, students, colleagues and the less privileged. May this day fill our homes with joy and our communities with togetherness. PSAJK remains committed to inclusive education and compassionate leadership." Vice President (Jammu Province), Saqif ul Islam said "Eid-ul-Fitr is a beautiful reminder of the

rewards of patience and sacrifice. May this sacred occasion fill our hearts with kindness and our lives with purpose. Eid Mubarak to all our brothers and sisters from every corner of Jammu Province and beyond." Divisional Organisers Majid Bhat, Mohd Ashraf, Khurshid Bismil, Manzoor Ahmad Rather and Hafizullah Khurwani, in their message, said, "On this joyous day, may the spirit of Eid illuminate our hearts and strengthen the bonds that unite us. Let us celebrate with love, charity and remembrance of the Almighty. Eid Mubarak to

everyone across the divisions." District Presidents' Bilal Bhat (Srinagar), Mohd Syed Wani (Anantnag), Wassem Siddique (Kulgam), Nazir Ahmad (Kupwara), Nazul Islam (Budgam), Bashir Ahmad (Ganderbal), Wahid Bandy (Poonch), Mehboob ul Hassan (Ramban), Abdul Raof Dar (Poonch), Joginder Bhandari (Kishtwar), On Prakash Chandai (Doda) in their message said, "From every district of our proud region, we extend our warmest Eid Mubarak wishes. May the blessings of this holy day bring joy to every home, foster unity

among all communities, and guide us toward a better, peaceful future." Eid-ul-Fitr is not only a joyous festival but a symbolic call to unity — to remember the essence of faith in action: serving others, standing for truth and fostering peace. As the people of Jammu & Kashmir gather in prayer and celebration, PSAJK urges all citizens to continue nurturing the spirit of Ramadan in their daily lives with compassion, justice and integrity. Eid is a day of joy, but also of responsibility — to extend kindness, share with the less fortunate, and embody the values of Islam

Kavinder along with Chhani Himmat residents listen to PM Modi's 200th Mann Ki Baat

Jammu, March 30: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta today joined the local residents of Ward No. 50, Booth 59 in Chhani Himmat to listen to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's landmark 200th episode of the 'Mann Ki Baat' radio program. The gathering witnessed enthusiastic participation as citizens keenly tuned in to the Prime Minister's inspiring address. During the program, PM Modi highlighted the contributions of unsung heroes, extended greetings on Chaitra Navratri and the Indian New Year, and emphasized India's unity in diversity. He also spoke about the preservation of Indian culture by the diaspora, the significance of the Indian Constitution, preparations for Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, and



the growing prominence of indigenous sports. Speaking on the occasion, Kavinder Gupta praised PM Modi's visionary leadership and the profound impact of Mann Ki Baat in fostering a direct connection with citizens. He emphasized that the pro-

gram has empowered grassroots initiatives, inspired the youth, and reinforced the values of cultural heritage and national unity. "PM Modi's Mann Ki Baat is not just a radio program; it is a movement that inspires action and fosters national

pride. It has become an instrument of change, motivating people to contribute to the progress of our nation," he remarked. The senior BJP leader further reiterated the BJP's commitment to strengthening the connection between the government and the

people. He urged local residents to take inspiration from the Prime Minister's words and actively participate in community-driven initiatives. Highlighting the importance of citizen engagement, he encouraged people to contribute towards the development of Jammu by promoting cleanliness, supporting skill development programs, and embracing the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. The event concluded with an interactive discussion, where attendees expressed their appreciation for PM Modi's outreach and shared their thoughts on implementing his vision in their locality. He assured them that their concerns and aspirations would continue to be represented at the highest levels, reaffirming his dedication to serving the people of Jammu.

Royal Group of Managing Director Mukhtar Shah Extends Warm Eid-ul-Fitr Greetings, Emphasizes Unity & Prosperity

Srinagar: On the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, renowned businessman of J&K and Managing Director of Royal Group, Mukhtar Ahmad Shah, has extended heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu & Kashmir and the entire Muslim Ummah. In his message, he said "Eid-ul-Fitr marks the culmination of a month of devotion, reflection, and compassion. It is a time to celebrate the blessings of life, to strengthen bonds of love and to stand together in the spirit of unity and kindness." He further added "I extend my warmest Eid Mubarak wishes to all, especially to the people of Jammu & Kashmir. "May this sacred



occasion fill our hearts with peace, bless our endeavors with success, and nurture harmony across our communities." Shah also urged people to reflect the true spirit of Eid through compassion and community care. "Let us extend our joy to those in

need and let the spirit of Eid be reflected in our acts of kindness, empathy and selfless giving. It is through such gestures that we honor the true essence of this celebration." "May Allah bless us all with happiness, health, and prosperity."

District Kathua Taekwondo Championship 2024-2025 concludes under the aegis of J&K Sports Council and J&K Taekwondo Association organised by Taekwondo Association of District Kathua (TADK) From 29-03-2025 to 30-03-2025 held at Dist. Sports Stadium Kathua.

Kathua—30th of march—The highly anticipated Kathua District Championship is set to begin on 29th at Kathua sports stadium Kathua and today inaugurated by Mr. Sandeep Sharma Physical Education Director GDC Kathua and Mr. Joginder kumar sharma Manager Kathua sports stadium. The championship feature the teams from across the district, competing for the coveted district title. The championship witnessed participation around of 100 Taekwondo athletes. "We are thrilled to conclude the Kathua District Taekwondo Championship under [J&K Taekwondo association]. "This championship showcases the best of our district's players talent and provides an exciting platform for players to shine. First place goes to "Khelo India Taek-



wondo Centre Kathua' under the mentorship of Vishesh Thakur and runner up to SAI International. The championship concluded and prize distributed by our Special Guest Mr. Ravi Singh Andhra BJP mandal

Pardhan (Nagri), Championship tumout great success with the help of supporting team and Technical officials including Pankaj Spolia, Gursaharan, Hazara Singh, Gopal and organisers secretary Pushap Thakur.

Police busts organised timber smuggling racket in Pattan Baramulla

Key accused arrested, Vehicle and stolen timber seized

Baramulla March 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 recoveries 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.

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

Addresses a public meeting and inaugurates Gym at Chhan Arriorian(Channi)

Jasrotia: MLA Rajiv Jasrotia today addressed a public meeting at Chhan Arriorian (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 Jasrotia 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 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 ini-

tiatives. 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.

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

(Exhorted the young generation to take a pledge to celebrate the nine days of Navratri as Nari Shakti Utsav)

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 warmest greetings and best wishes to all. He prayed that the year ahead bring happiness, joy and fulfilment to all and illuminate 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 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.

PMAY-G Awaas+ Survey deadline extended to April 30: Aijaz Asad

JAMMU, MARCH 29: The Union Ministry for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has extended deadline for the ongoing Awaas+ 2024 survey under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) by one month. The extension has shifted the deadline from March 31, 2025, to April 30, 2025, allowing more time to identify the additional eligible rural households. The decision follows multiple requests from the state and UT governments, including Jammu

& Kashmir. According to an official communiqué received from the Ministry of Rural Development, "this extension will enable better coverage of rural beneficiaries and ensure that no eligible household is left out of the scheme. States and UTs have been directed to complete the survey using the Awaas+ 2024 mobile application, including verification of self-reported cases." Welcoming the move, Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Mohamad Aijaz Asad, said that they had requested the Ministry to extend the PMAY-G survey time-line especially in snow-bound areas of the UT. He stated that as of March 29, 2025, Jammu and Kashmir has made a remarkable progress in completing district-wise surveys, with a total of 400,475 potential beneficiaries surveyed successfully across J & K. Rajouri leads with the highest number of surveys (42,141), followed closely by Poonch (41,255) and Kupwara (38,271).

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

Jammu, Mar.29.25

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. 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 discus-

sions 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 regulations 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 & Unind, 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, Domino's, Marriott 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. Kanchar 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 elaborated 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 Kesar Restaurant Association Katra, Pawan Gupta President Hotels & Lodges Association Jammu, B B Kotwal President Baderwah Hotels Association, Shiv Thakur Magotra working President Hotel & Restaurant Association, Patnitop, Ashu Kumar President Travels Agents Association of Katra, etc.

J&K Students Association extends greetings to people on Eid-ul-Fitr

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association on Sunday extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, praying for peace, prosperity, and harmony in the Union Territory. In a statement, the National Convener of the Association, Nasir Khuehami, emphasized that Eid-ul-Fitr is not just a celebration but a significant occasion that highlights the values of peace, unity, and truthfulness. He noted that the festival marks the culmination of the holy month of Ramadan, a period of fasting observed for self-discipline, reflection, and devotion to Almighty Allah. "The essence of Eid-ul-Fitr lies in expressing gratitude

to Allah for granting us the strength to observe the month-long fast and in reaffirming our commitment to truth, sincerity, self-control, and patience," he said. He prayed for the well-being of Jammu and Kashmir, urging people to embrace the spirit of generosity, charity, and social responsibility. He called on individuals to support the underprivileged, particularly orphans, the economically downtrodden, and those in need. Khuehami also stressed the importance of celebrating Eid with simplicity, in line with Islamic teachings that discourage extravagance. "Allah commands us not to indulge in excess, for He dislikes wastefulness. Let this Eid be a time for spiri-

tual reflection, social solidarity, and a renewed commitment to communal harmony," he stated. He further highlighted that festivals like Eid strengthen India's pluralistic society by fostering brotherhood, compassion, and coexistence. He reiterated that the progress of Jammu and Kashmir depends on sustained peace, economic development, and efforts to bridge social and communal divides. Khuehami expressed hope that Eid-ul-Fitr would bring prosperity, happiness, and new opportunities for the youth of the region. He also urged society to cultivate an environment of mutual respect, understanding, and harmony.

DPS Jammu Ranked No. 1 in City, Honored Among India's Top 40 Literary Leaders at NYAF 2024-25

Jammu, Mar 30: Delhi Public School Jammu has once again cemented its position as a pioneer in literary excellence by securing the No. 1 Rank in Jammu City at the National Young Authors' Fair (NYAF) 2024, a prestigious initiative by Bri Books in collaboration with Education World. The school has also been recognized among India's Top 40 Literary Leaders for its outstanding contribution to creative writing and literary excellence, receiving a grand trophy and a citation at the National Awards & Exhibition - NYAF 2024/25 Edition held in Gurugram on March 29, 2025. With an impressive 178 registered authors and 122



published authors, DPS Jammu holds the highest number of published student authors in the city. The school's relentless

efforts in fostering young literary talent have provided students with national and global platforms to showcase their creativity and originality through writing. The prestigious award was received on behalf of the school by Ms. Rupali Sharma, Head of the English Department, DPS Jammu, who had the distinguished honor of interacting with Smt. Smriti Irani Ji at the event. She was also featured in an exclusive interview with NDTV, bringing national recognition to the school's achievements. The award was presented by Ami Dror, founder and President, Bribooks and Bhavin Shah, CEO, Education World. They highly appreciated the school's efforts in nurturing young minds to think creatively. This remarkable feat is a

testament to the visionary leadership of the esteemed management of DPS Jammu, led by Hon'ble President-RCT, Sh. M.K. Ajasthara Singh Ji, English Department, PVC, Kunwar Dr. Ritu Singh Ji, Hon'ble Director, Sh. S.S. Sodhi Ji, along with Principal, Ms. Ruchi Chabra and staff. Their unwavering support, along with the dedication of the faculty, has been instrumental in shaping young minds into prolific writers. DPS Jammu remains committed to nurturing future authors, thinkers, and storytellers, ensuring that students continue to excel in the literary domain and bring laurels to the school at national and international levels.

Gurmeet Singh Baaghi extended his greetings to entire Muslim Faithfuls around the Globe on the auspicious occasion of the Eid-al-Fitr.

Jammu, Mar 30:

Eid al-Fitr is one of two major holidays celebrated by Muslims and commemorates the end of the holy month of Ramadan, in which Muslims fast daily from before dawn until sunset. It is commemorated by a large, community-wide prayer service in the morning, followed by meals and conversation with friends and family. A mandatory charity called Zakat al-Fitr is collected before the prayer and distributed to the poor and needy to ensure all can participate in the festivities. Eid al-Fitr is the Arabic name for the holiday, though it goes by many other names in other languages. Muslims around the world perform communal



prayer at daybreak on the first day of Eid al-Fitr, after cleansing themselves and donning new clothes. They then continue to celebrate for three

days. A common greeting during Eid al-Fitr is "Eid Mubarak," which means "Blessed Eid." This greeting is used to wish other Muslims well during Eid. These celebrations during Eid al-Fitr vary from country to country but include visiting family and friends, giving presents, enjoying feasts, wearing new clothes, and visiting the graves of relatives. Through these celebrations, Muslims show their gratitude to Allah after reflecting and fasting during Ramadan. This holiday is also a reminder for Muslims to be grateful for what they have as well as to help the less fortunate. This is known as zakat, which is one of the five pillars of Islam. Zakat is a requirement that all Muslims with the means to do so donate to the less fortunate. Zakat significantly increases during Ramadan and continues

as an important part of Eid al-Fitr. Eid isn't something to put on new clothes but it is to renew ourselves. It is to add happiness to the worries of others. It is to share the pain of other's. Eid can't be celebrated happily unless we add happiness to other's grief and distress. And, I know Eid is one of those joyous occasions where communities all come together to celebrate. Still, as ever, our number one priority remains to keep all of our loved ones and communities safe. I wish everyone a pleasant and enjoyable Eid. May this Eid bring an end to all our worries. Once again Eid Mubarak to entire Muslim Faithfuls around the Globe.

Balbir listens to PM's 120th 'Mann Ki Baat' in Ward 16

Participates in quiz on NaMo App

Jammu and Kashmir BJP Spokesperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, along with Shakti Kendra Pramukh Onkar Singh Boss, Ward President Rakesh Kumar and local party activists leaders listened to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 120th episode of the popular monthly radio programme "Mann Ki Baat." in Ward Number 16. The programme, which has become a hallmark of direct communication between the Prime Minister and the people of India, continues to inspire and unite citizens across the nation. Balbir Ram Rattan, while speaking to party activists of Wad 16, after the broadcast, expressed his appreciation for the Prime

Minister's continued efforts to connect with people at the grassroots level. "Mann Ki Baat has always been a source of inspiration and guidance for millions. It's remarkable how the Prime Minister addresses issues that concern common citizens and motivates us to contribute towards the betterment of society," he stated. He emphasized the importance of understanding and implementing these messages at the local level to ensure inclusive growth. The significance of "Mann Ki Baat" lies in its ability to bridge the gap between the government and the people. With topics ranging from cultural heritage and environmental conservation to technological

advancements and social welfare, the programme has continued to be a platform that amplifies the voices of ordinary citizens and their extraordinary contributions. Balbir Ram Rattan said that the programme has reached its 120th episode, demonstrating the power of communication. It also reaffirmed the government's commitment to transparency and inclusivity by directly engaging with citizens across the country. The party activists and the residents of Ward 16 expressed their enthusiasm for continuing to participate in future episodes of "Mann Ki Baat" and implementing the valuable insights shared by the Prime Minister.



North in News

EDITORIAL

SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF GOVT. EMPLOYEES-II

It has been said earlier that unlike pre independence periods, presently, the people serving in the system of governance and the people to be governed, both, belong to the generations of Aryavrat Vedic Sanatan Sanskriti and as such both have to move further on the path of peace, progress and development in co-ordination and co-operation of each other. The people elect their representatives who formulate policies, prepare programs and ensure their implementation for the welfare of the people whom they represent. These representatives form the Legislature. The people who execute those welfare policies and programs are the executive persons employed in some constitutional agency of the government. This class of executives are given the responsibility of executing the policies and programs to the best of the satisfaction of the fellow countrymen. The people involved in the process of executing the people friendly policies and programs are expected to work with all honesty and dedication so that the country progresses forward and the people feel relaxed, normal and contented. Being an officer/official of the government, while performing their constitutional responsibilities they need to do the same with a professional skill and traditional cultural values and humanism. They need to always bear in mind that the society respects, loves and appreciates those who know the value, importance and need in our day today behaviour. A seat offered to some senior citizen, during his/her visit to the office with some official purpose, makes him/her satisfied, happy, contented and thankful to the officer/official showing such a courtesy. The fact of the matter is that existence of a public servant, directly or indirectly, depends upon his/her quality of services provided to the society. His/her pleasing manners exhibited in the dealings earn for him/her and the family best wishes/regards/blessings and credibility. Presently, welfare of the people has become the sole objective of the government and the system of governance. The executive people are expected to be professionally skilled, wise, friendly to the people and above all respectful in behaviour. They are expected to be gentle and sympathetic to all particularly, the women, aged, infirm, sick and children while listening to their problems and resolving their genuine issues to their entire satisfaction within reasonable time and trouble. The elected representatives of the people who have been given the responsibility of implementing the policies and programs has to be judged and evaluated against this valued base. The same criterion is applied to the 'government servants/ the executive class of people, to evaluate their performance. The executive class has to bear in mind that they are the public servants and not the masters of the public as was the case in pre-independence periods. In those periods they were answerable to their masters belonging to some foreign lands but presently they owe their accountability and answerability towards the people of the country. Their dealings with the public have the potential to make or mar the fair image of the government.

RAJNI SHARMA.....

Universe: Truth, myth, fact, fiction and the inherited conviction

DEVDUIT PATTANAİK

Is truth a function of faith or scepticism? Truth based on faith is religious truth or cultural truth or patriotic truth, which in modern academic circles is called "myth". Truth based on scepticism is scientific truth, and depends on measurement, evidence, and experimentation. Our identities come from faith-based truth (myth), which most seekers of truth are determined to deny.

Take the case of USA. Historically, it is known that the Native Americans migrated through the Bering Strait to North America and then to South America over 15,000 years ago during the Ice Age. The Europeans reached the Americas about 500 years ago. The Catholic Europeans (Spain and Portugal) took over South America. The Protestant Europeans (British, Dutch) took over North America. They wiped out the locals with disease and guns. They brought in slaves from Africa. And about 250 years ago, North America saw the rise of a democratic republic, shedding European monarchy. But American schools rarely talk about how Europeans treated Native tribes and enslaved



Africans. They prefer focusing on how Europeans brought science, technology and 'enlightenment' values such as democracy and republic to the world. This makes young Americans feel proud of their history. Many schools do not teach evolution, of how life evolved on earth over millions of years through mutation and natural selection. They prefer teaching Creationism — the Christian idea that God created the world in seven days and there is an intelligent design behind creation. Creationism is faith-based, not doubt-based, truth. Yet, it is not called myth. It is called fact. For believers, it is fact, even if there is no evidence for this belief. Many Americans also believe in the Book of Mormon that says Jesus Christ visited America after his resurrection.

And that many Israelites travelled there around 600 BC, when the first temple of Jerusalem was broken by Babylonians. That makes America a Christian land. The Book of Mormon was composed in the 19th century, and is believed to be a translation of ancient manuscripts written on golden plates, discovered in the New York area by Joseph Smith, the founder of the faith, but now lost. For believers, despite absolutely no evidence, everything in the Mormon Bible is fact, and truth. It is not myth. The word 'myth' today means falsehood. This meaning emerged in the 19th century only. Myth comes from the Greek word 'mythos' for story. Scientists argued that knowledge based on stories is not true. So, they rejected myths/stories that tried to explain how the world came to be.

They argued that human history should be investigated using scientific methods. So, scientific historiography emerged as a subject. But the history that historians revealed was not quite what people believed. People inherit stories told by parents and family about 'clan greatness' or 'religion greatness'. How the forefathers were heroes. But historians do not carry the obligation of showing ancestors in a positive light. The history they discover is so disturbing that historians are accused of having agendas — they are Marxist, or anti-Hindu, or colonial. When Bollywood or Hollywood brings history on the silver screen, it presents fantasy, to appeal to the audience. It does not care for facts. The common man calls it history if it appeals to his

memory and inherited myths. He calls it propaganda if it does not. The Hollywood film 'Passion of the Christ' was considered authentic only by Christians, not the Jewish people. The Bollywood film 'Padmaavat' presented a Sufi ballad of 16th century as the history of 13th century. If one goes to Chittorgarh fort, the tourist guides will show the spot where Khilji saw the queen Padmini despite the absence of any proof. It is now a political narrative, painting Muslim invaders as sexually debauched, morally corrupt beings, not merely greedy raiders.

This is the reason it is impossible to write a good history book. It will reveal inconvenient truths. Indian history textbooks do not contain caste stories, not because we want to annihilate caste, but because we do not want to provoke social rage. Peace is a far greater goal than truth. That is why women who face domestic abuse and marital rape are told to be quiet. For the sake of the family's reputation! Truth or satya is a great thing in devotional songs. But what culture prefers is myth. My truth is truth for me. Your truth is truth for you. Each one of us will claim our truth is the Truth, the other's truth is not.

Education of the heart!

JS Rajput

India's journey toward progress hinges on the harmony between social cohesion, religious amity, and unwavering national commitment to education

Social cohesion and religious amity, harmonised with undiluted commitment to the nation create a sound foundation for its progress, growth and development. It has become critical in India, blessed by diversities of numerous kinds. Deeply devastated, exploited and squeezed by invaders, looters and alien rulers, India is yet to regain its socio-economic advancement to an acceptable level. Providing a free ration to 800 million of its citizens says much more than the mere numbers! The post — independence achievements are not insignificant but are certainly inadequate. Gandhi had, with great sensitivity, drawn the attention of the nation — and every citizen — towards their obligations to the 'last man in the line'! It is the essence of 'Sarva Bhut Hite Ratah', that defines the everyday life of a traditionally-linked Indian family, that still takes note of the food and water of the animals and birds around, and also the care of the trees, plants, herbs and shrubs. It is implicit in this culture that everyone deserves his share of the bounty of nature, and also a place of equality and dig-

nity in the man — made social and cultural mores.

The Constitution of India assures it all in terms of equality of opportunity, liberty, and brotherhood. After having celebrated three-quarters of a century of swaraj, it certainly is not an encouraging situation to notice that more than half of the population of my country does not have the economic strength and adequate earnings to purchase the ration of their choice, and have to depend on free ration. It would be incorrect to say that it does not hurt their dignity and self — confidence. It does. And so, it must make every Indian outside the pale of these 800 million to think about how each one of them could contribute to the national efforts being made to make India move ahead. Post — independence India moved ahead in literacy from about 18 per cent to 80 per cent, a great achievement for a nation that increased its population in the intervening period by more than 1000 million. It had begun its journey of the last over 77 years under an acute shortage of resources of every kind. Its outstanding strength at the transition point was the national values that were cemented during the freedom struggle. There were considerable apprehensions — whether these values could be sustained by those who would taste power for the first time, experience, and witness the realities of the adage that 'power corrupts, and absolute

power corrupts absolutely.'

Dr BR Ambedkar made a historic speech on November 25, 1949 in the Constituent Assembly, the following extract of it me be relevant here, "However good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot. However bad a Constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those who are called to work it, happen to be a good lot."

He elaborates further, "The Constitution can provide only the organs of State such as the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. The factors on which the working of those organs of the State depends are the people and the political parties they will set up as their instruments to carry out their wishes and their politics." As democracy was gradually taking root, initial euphoria was normalising, the generation that had fought in the freedom struggle because of inner urge, commitment, and moral strength, was leaving the scenario, getting replaced by the next generation that had not witnessed the hoary period of colonialism, but had seen how power could be the source of riches, quick economic jump, and help one rise swiftly in influence and authority that invariably comes with the riches, no matter how were these accumulated. Dr Ram Manohar Lohia, a great intellectual amongst politicians had warned the future

leaders to keep away from "Sam-patti and Santati", lure of wealth, and love for the children and family! Sadly enough, these two have become the vane of the current political scenario. Our pride in the great ancient culture, thought and values stands deeply hurt when the known corrupt unashamedly occupy positions of power, serve only themselves and their clan, and ignore the basic values of democracy!

In a letter, Mahatma Gandhi wrote on April 25, 1922, Gandhi mentioned that the ray of hope for the deprived, excluded and suffering Indians was the universalisation of education, "But there is hope, if education spreads throughout the country. From that people would develop from their childhood qualities of pure conduct, God fearing, love. Swaraj would give us happiness only when we attain success in the task. Otherwise, India would become the abode for grave injustice and tyranny of the rulers." Our advancement in expanding education, though inadequate is certainly worth appreciation. We are not far away from achieving universalisation of elementary education. Then why have we not been able to get rid of acute poverty, deprivation, unemployment, and exclusion? Intellectuals not constrained by ideological commitments must sit together and attempt to find a solution. Have we seriously erred in imparting education?

Curtains come down on four-day Table Tennis extravaganza — WTT Star Contender Chennai Championship

Bengaluru: Eighteen-year-old Oh Jun-sung from Korea clinched his first-ever WTT Star Contender Mens's Singles title in Chennai on Sunday after prevailing over France's Poret Thibault in a close encounter that went the full distance of seven games. Throughout the match, both the players traded games with one another until the decider, where the Korean pulled ahead, leading 8-3 when his coach called for a timeout. It appears that the sane advice from the sidelines was well worth it as the Korean appeared to be more confident in his strokes against an even more aggressive Frenchman who was firing on both cylinders. But the words with his coach appeared to do the trick as he notched up five championship points and was serving for the championship match at 10-05. Poret saved two championship points, but that's all he could do as the younger of the two put it past him, closing the decider at 11-7.



In fact, since there has to be a winner and a loser, so there was this Korean standing tall today, but the world will hear about them for some very long time to come for their energetic, vivacious, and high-quality table tennis. It was Oh Jun-sung, whose father is also a table tennis player and a commentator of the game, who showed his early control over the game, even though it was the French who took the lead with winning the first game. But, after this, both players won the alternate games to get the match tied up with 3-game win each.

In the decider, Jun-sung mounted a big lead, and it was just catching up that Thibault could do, and in the end, it was just not enough as he buckled at 7. But it was a worthy final of a super-charged tournament. If the men's singles rubber was so engaging, it was the women's singles match that educated the spectators and supporters of the game with something of a table tennis rule called "Expedite". This rule gets pressed into service if a game lasts longer than 10 minutes, and then every rally in the game must be finished in 13 exchanges of shots. The finalists, both from Japan, presented a display of excellent display of all-round table tennis—both defensive and offensive—shots to such an extent that the rule "Expedite" had to be enforced. Then, the title clash for Women's Single—between Harimoto Miwa and Hashimoto Honoka—oozed out energy from both the

winner and the loser as they held rallies that seemed more like practice sessions than the final of a global competitive match in progress. For the students of the game, both the players were perfect demonstrators of every shot that's in the game—push, chop, forehand and backhand top spins, and the counter top-spin drives. And the sudden chop or a chop block. More importantly, the duel between the two Japanese girls lasted one hour and fifteen minutes—almost double or triple the average match in the tournament. Of course, a little extra time is understandable as the finals was best of seven games, but even then the rallies were extended, and some could count until 22 in one such exchange at the end of which even the spectators were seemingly tired. Before Korean Oh Jun-sung and Japan's Miwa Harimoto were crowned the Men's and Women's single champions, the Indian challenge, Manav Thakkar, bowed out in the semifinals. The 24-year-old Manav Thakkar made history as he became the first-ever Indian to reach the semifinals of any WTT ranking tournament worldwide but fell to

France's Thibault in four games. "Manav has created history today at the WTT by reaching where he has reached. And the crop of youngsters waiting in the wings makes us very proud and confident of the future of the game in India," said Deepak Malik, CEO of Stupa Analytics, one of the organisers of the championship event along with the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority. It is the fortune of the TT game and of the younger players that TT legend Sharat Kamal has been mentoring his teammates, competitors, and younger elements all through his playing days. Malik said and hoped that Sharat Kamal came into the system to give back to the game at the earliest. Yes, he is slated to work with Tamil Nadu in developing the game, which has taken deep roots in the state, but "we would be happy if he spent time with youngsters all over the country."

The four-day sporting event is more like our farewell, filled with gratitude to the sportsman who inspires young boys and girls, said several players and officials connected with the sport present at the event.

Shaheed Manjeet Singh Memorial Cricket Tournament: AB Tiger's Dominant Batting and Star Club Junior's Swift Chase

Poonch. [Date] — Four thrilling matches of the Shaheed Manjeet Singh Memorial Cricket Tournament were held today at the Sports Stadium Poonch. The event, organized by Jammu & Kashmir Police, brought together local cricket teams in a display of talent and sportsmanship. The first match of the day saw Star Club Surankote Junior take on AB Tiger. AB Tiger won the toss and elected to bat first. With a solid effort, they managed to post a total of 107 runs in 12 overs, setting a competitive target for their opponents. In response, Star Club Junior exhibited



impressive batting prowess, comfortably chasing down the target in just 10 overs, securing a well-deserved victory. The match was graced by the presence of DySP DR Khalique Choudhary, who was the Chief Guest for the occasion. His support and encouragement added to the event's success, making it a memorable day for all involved. The tournament continues to showcase the spirit of cricket in Poonch, with more exciting matches lined up in the coming days.

ISL 2024-25: Bengaluru FC defeat Mumbai City FC 5-0, move into semis

New Delhi: Among the last teams to secure their play-off spot, Mumbai City FC went down to Bengaluru FC 5-0 in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday night to qualify for the semifinals. The Blues

have set up a last-four fixture with FC Goa now, whereas the Islanders' season wraps up with this defeat. Mumbai City FC held 59.5% of the possession but were overwhelmed by the home side's offensive efficiency, with the Gerard

Zaragoza-coached team converting five out of their six on-target shots into goals. The Blues made early inroads through Ryan Williams in the ninth minute, as the attacker laid in a low cross inside the Mumbai City FC box.

WTT Star Contender Chennai: Sharath Kamal bids emotional farewell, Manav makes history

New Delhi, Mar 30: Indian table tennis legend Sharath Kamal bade an emotional farewell to the sport following his defeat to Snehit Suravajula at WTT Star Contender Chennai 2025 here on Saturday. Earlier in the day, the 24-year-old Manav Thakkar etched his name in history books by becoming the first Indian male player to reach a WTT Star Contender semifinal. In an electrifying showdown to close out the day, South Korea's Lim Jong-hoon and An Jae-hyun powered their way to the Men's Doubles crown, defeating top seeds Tomokazu Harimoto and Sora Matsushita 3-1 with commanding flair. The Women's Doubles Final, meanwhile, was a nail-biting thriller, as Japan's Miwa Harimoto and Miyuu Kihara battled past Shin Yu-bin and Ryu Hanna, sealing a dramatic 11-5 triumph in the deciding game.

WTT Star Contender Chennai 2025 is being organised by Stupa Sports Analytics and Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) under the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI). The event boasts 600 ranking points for winners and a USD 275,000 prize purse, with top global paddlers in action. With his run in the event coming to an end, Sharath played a spirited exhibition match against Egypt's Omar Assar, which served as his final goodbye, before delivering an emotional address to the gathered crowd, during which he underlined his intent to continue contributing to Table Tennis—albeit from the other side. "Somewhere down the line, I had felt it's enough and I wanted to explore the possibility of giving back to the sport from the other side of the court. I have done my part as a player, I feel I have contributed enough to the country as a player, and I want to contribute from the other side, as an administrator, a coach, a mentor, or even as just a senior player," Sharath said, while thanking



family, friends, fans, employees IndianOil, SDAT, Stupa Sports Analytics, Ultimate Table Tennis, TTFI, and ITTF. Earlier, Manav claimed victory in successive five-game thrillers over Germany's Andre Bertelsmeier and South Korea's Lim Jong-hoon, an Olympic medalist, to reach the Semifinals. Snehit's sensational run, however, came to an end

with a defeat against France's Thibault Poret after his earlier win over Sharath. Flavien Coton recorded back-to-back upsets to enter the semi, while Oh Jun-sung completed the quartet with his win over Tomislav Pucar. In Women's Singles, Shin Yu-bin advanced comfortably, sweeping past Miyu Nagasaki in straight games. Honoka Hashimoto's strong

form persisted as she defeated Jo Cheonhui, while Miwa Harimoto cruised past Yuan Wan. Kim Nayeong stunned sixth seed Adriana Diaz, completing a commanding win to reach the final four. The WTT Star Contender 2025 will conclude with the Main Draw on Sunday, with Finals scheduled for Men's Singles, Women's Singles, and Mixed Doubles. Mean-

while, all the action from Table 1 will be streamed live on SonyLiv and Tables 2, 3, and 4 on WTT's official YouTube channel. Full Results (Main Draw, Day 3) Men's Singles (Round of 16): Manav Thakkar (IND) Vs. Andre Bertelsmeier (GER) 3-2; 10-12, 12-10, 15-13, 6-11, 11-5; Oh Jun-sung (KOR) [12] Vs. Omar Assar (EGY) [15] 3-1; 11-3, 11-8, 11-4, 11-4; Tomislav Pucar (CRO) [15] Vs. Tomokazu Harimoto (JPN) [1] 3-1; 11-9, 11-8, 13-15, 11-4; Flavien Coton (FRA) Vs. Sora Matsushita (JPN) [8] 3-2; 11-9, 5-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-8; Lim Jong-hoon (KOR) [16] Vs. Hugo Calderano (BRA) [2] Vs. 13-11, 12-10, 7-11, 4-11, 11-7; Jonathan Groth (DEN) [3] Vs. Liao Cheng-Ting (TPE) 3-1; 11-6, 11-9, 5-11, 11-3; Snehit Suravajula (IND) [WC] Vs. Achanta Sharath Kamal (IND) 3-0; 11-9, 11-8, 11-9; Thibault Poret (FRA) Vs. Feng Yi-Hsin (TPE) 3-2; 11-

9, 9-11, 7-11, 11-9, 11-9 Quarterfinals: Oh Jun-sung (KOR) [12] Vs. Tomislav Pucar (CRO) [15] 3-1; 12-10, 7-11, 13-11, 11-4; Thibault Poret (FRA) Vs. Snehit Suravajula (IND) [WC] 3-1; 11-4, 6-11, 11-7, 11-6; Flavien Coton (FRA) Vs. Jonathan Groth (DEN) [3] 3-0; 11-7, 11-8, 11-8; Manav Thakkar (IND) Vs. Lim Jong-hoon (KOR) [16] 3-2; 5-11, 12-10, 3-11, 11-6, 11-1; Women's Singles (Round of 16): Kim Nayeong (KOR) Vs. Satsuki Odo (JPN) [3] 3-1; 11-6, 11-8, 6-11, 11-6; Jo Cheonhui (KOR) [11] Vs. Miyuu Kihara (JPN) [7] 3-1; 11-4, 7-11, 11-6, 11-7; Yuan Wan (GER) Vs. Huang Yu-je (TPE) 3-1; 7-11, 11-9, 11-9; Miyuu Nagasaki (JPN) [8] Vs. Kritivika Roy (IND) [WC] 3-0; 11-4, 11-2, 11-7; Shin Yu-bin (KOR) [4] Vs. Lee Eun-hye (KOR) [16] 3-2; 8-11, 8-11, 12-10, 12-10, 11-8; Adriana Diaz (PUR) [6] Vs. Huang Yi-Hua (TPE) [12] 3-0; 11-8, 11-6, 11-7; Miwa Harimoto

(JPN) [2] Vs. Sakura Yokoi (JPN) [14] 3-0; 11-4, 11-7, 11-9; Honoka Hashimoto (JPN) [13] Vs. Hina Hayata (JPN) [1] 3-2; 6-11, 4-11, 11-4, 11-7, 12-10 Quarterfinals: Shin Yu-bin (KOR) [4] Vs. Miyu Nagasaki (JPN) [8] 3-0; 11-3, 12-10, 11-8; Honoka Hashimoto (JPN) [13] Vs. Jo Cheonhui (KOR) [11] 3-1; 11-6, 11-2, 11-13, 11-6; Miwa Harimoto (JPN) [2] Vs. Yuan Wan (GER) 3-1; 11-8, 3-11, 11-6, 11-4; Kim Nayeong (KOR) Vs. Adriana Diaz (PUR) [6] 3-0; 11-3, 11-9, 12-10 Men's Doubles (Final): Lim Jong-hoon (KOR) / An Jae-hyun (KOR) [3] Vs. Tomokazu Harimoto (JPN) / Sora Matsushita (JPN) [1] 3-1; 11-13, 11-2, 11-3 Women's Doubles (Final): Miwa Harimoto (JPN) / Miyuu Kihara (JPN) [3] Vs. Shin Yu-bin (KOR) / Ryu Hanna (KOR) 3-2; 9-11, 11-9, 13-11, 12-11, 11-5.

New Zealand's Pakistan-origin rookie Mohammad Abbas breaks Krunal Pandya's record



New Delhi, Mar 30: New Zealand's Pakistan-origin rookie Mohammad Abbas breaks Krunal Pandya's record New Zealand's 21-year-old right-handed batter Mohammad Abbas eclipsed Krunal Pandya's record by slamming the fastest-ever fifty on ODI debut during the first match of the three-match series against Pakistan at the McLean Park in Napier on Saturday. Abbas completed his half-century off 24 balls to surpass India's left-handed batter Krunal Pandya, who completed his maiden fifty in 26 balls on his 50-over

batter termed his inning 'special' and hailed left-hand batter Mark Chapman (132 runs off 111 balls), who was awarded the Player of the Match for his ton in the match. "This is special. Can't describe the feeling now. Special to contribute, and Chappi was unbelievable. To get in there and show what I can do is special to me and my family, I think. Yes they're sitting in the crowd. Quite special for them as well. Gary told me to get up there and do what you do best. That was the license I needed," Abbas said after his knock. New Zealand coasted to victory by a 73-run margin during Saturday's ODI at the McLean Park in Napier. Apart from Abbas, left-hand-er Chapman played a crucial role for the hosts with a century while right-arm seamer Nathan Smith claimed a four-wicket haul as the Blackcaps took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Guwahati: Rajasthan Royals head coach Rahul Dravid isn't much worried about his team's dismal outings in the first two matches of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, and remained optimistic of the side's chances in the tournament as the Royals gear up to take on Chennai Super Kings here on Sunday. "It's early days, and there are a lot of positives," he said confidently, brushing off the back-to-back losses. Reflecting on the team's performances so far, he admitted that the Royals haven't played to their potential yet. "Against SRH, we probably gave away 25-30 extra runs on a flat wicket. And in the KKR game, we should have scored 25-30 more. But this is just the start. We're confident about turning things around," the legendary batter said. Dravid also shed light on the team management's decision to promote stand-in skipper Rryan Parag to No. 3 spot, a role that the coach feels is perfectly suited for the home-grown talent. "Rryan is one of our best batters. We

It's early days, and there are a lot of positives: Dravid on RR's poor start to IPL 2025



want him facing as many balls as possible. The more time he spends at the crease, the better it is for us. He's destructive, and he knows he belongs in that position," he said. Impressed with Parag's temperament and tactical awareness as the stand-in skipper, Dravid said that it isn't easy for any player to take the leadership role, and lead from the front in crunch situations, a role which Dravid feels the 24-year-old has done well.

"It's not easy to captain a side when the opposition puts up 280 in your very first game. But the calmness he showed was admirable. Against KKR, bringing himself on to bowl in the fifth over—that was a bold but correct decision. He's learning quickly and adapting well," Dravid said. The 52-year-old also dwelled on the diminishing role of all-rounders given the Impact Player rule, while insisting that his side is a well-bal-

anced side, and dismissed talks about the lack of a traditional big-hitting all-rounder. "To be honest, the all-rounder's role has diminished. With the Impact Player rule, you can have seven proper bowlers and still extend the batting lineup. Asharanga went up to bat, Hetmyer batted as No. 8 — we're getting creative with our options," he explained. "I'm really excited about this group. A couple of games haven't gone our way, but in a long tournament, that happens. Sometimes it's better to start slow and finish strong — and that's exactly what we're aiming for," he added. Rahul said that the Royals will assess the conditions before taking a call on their combination for the upcoming match. "We'll assess the conditions and take a call. We've got options — and we're not afraid to use them." With the Barsapa Stadium offering a slower pitch, the Royals might add in an extra spinner to the line-up. And with home fans eagerly waiting for a turnaround in fortunes, a win against CSK could inject fresh momentum into Royals' campaign.



Wildfires in South Korea reignited in southeast areas overnight; death toll rises to 30

Seoul, Mar 28: Wildfires in South Korea reignited in the southeastern part of the country overnight, fire authorities said on Saturday, adding firefighting helicopters were dispatched to extinguish them. An official with Gyeongbuk Fire Service Headquarters said reports of smoke in Andong, some 190 kilometers southeast of Seoul in North Gyeongsang Province, had started coming in at around 10 p.m. Friday night. Forestry officials believe the fire reignited around 3 a.m. on Saturday. The Korea Expressway Corporation blocked off a section of a nearby highway at 5 a.m. and reopened it just before 9 a.m. With vehicles unable to reach the mountainous



areas, 11 helicopters were called in to contain the fire. Officials said fires had also restarted in other parts of the province, including Euisong, just south of Andong. Regional officials called in nine firefighting helicopters, along with 230 firefighters and public servants and 50 soldiers, to contain the fires. Separately, a fire that

started near a transmission tower around 9 p.m. Friday in the county of Cheongsong, east of Andong, spread to an adjacent mountain. Cheongsong officials warned residents to brace for a possible power outage. Nine other helicopters were in operation over Cheongsong and Yeongyang to put out embers. North Gyeongsang officials said plumes of

smoke were rising in some parts of the province but claimed fires had not restarted. The province plans to send in 30 helicopters on Saturday. The Korea Forest Service earlier announced wildfires in North Gyeongsang had been fully brought under control as of 5 p.m. Friday after killing or injuring dozens of people and forcing thousands of others to flee. About 48,000 hectares of woodland, equivalent to some 80 per cent of the size of Seoul, have been scorched in the worst wildfire disaster ever in South Korea, according to the forestry agency. Of them, nearly 13,000 ha were in Euisong, and nearly 10,000 were in Andong. Yonhap news agency reported. The fire also damaged 2,996 houses and more than 1,000 agricultural facilities, according to an official estimate. According to the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters, the death toll from the fires hit 30 on Saturday, up two from the previous day, along with 43 injuries. It said 6,885 people from 4,193 households had yet to return home since evacuating. It added that some \$5.4 billion won (\$37.7 million) had been collected in donations through relief organizations. South Korea's Acting President Han Duck-soo said the government will provide "full administrative and financial support" for displaced people until they return to normalcy.

UN Chief appeals for dialogue in South Sudan amid escalating tensions



Washington, Mar 28: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned of a rapidly deteriorating crisis in South Sudan on Saturday and called for urgent dialogue, immediate release of detained officials, and renewed commitment to the 2018 peace agreement. He further appealed to the regional and international community to speak with one voice in support of peace in South Sudan. "All the dark clouds of a perfect storm have descended upon the people of the world's newest country — and one of the poorest," Guterres said while addressing reporters at UN Headquarters in New York. "South Sudan may have fallen off the world's radar, but we cannot let

the situation fall into the abyss," he added and urged South Sudanese leaders to "put down the weapons" and "put all the people of South Sudan first." Guterres called for the restoration of the Government of National Unity and the full implementation of the peace agreement, which remains the only legal path to free and fair elections in December 2026.

"We fully support the initiative to deploy the African Union Panel of the Wise," he said, adding that he had spoken with the Chairperson of the AU Commission, South Sudan is now facing what the Secretary-General described as a security emergency, political upheaval, humanitarian catastrophe, displacement crisis, economic collapse and a severe funding shortfall all at once.

Tsunami warning lifted in Hawaii after 7.1 earthquake, no damage reported

Tokyo, Mar 28: A strong 7.1 magnitude earthquake hit near Tonga, prompting an initial tsunami warning that was later lifted for the Pacific island country. The US Geological Survey said the quake hit about 100 kilometers northeast of the main island in the early morning hours of Monday local time. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii issued an alert saying hazardous waves could be possible but later said there was no longer a tsunami threat. Tsunami sirens could be heard after the 1:18 am quake urging residents to move inland, according to the Talanoa o Tonga news site. There were no initial re-



ports of damage. Residents in the Ha'apai island group had calmly moved to higher ground, the report said. Tonga is a country in Polynesia made up of 171 islands with a pop-

ulation of a little more than 100,000 people, most of whom live on the main island of Tongatapu. It is more than 3,500 kilometers off Australia's east coast.

Pakistan: TTP announces ceasefire during Eid

Lahore, Mar 28: The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has announced a ceasefire during Eid-ul-Fitr, stating that it would halt all its activities during Eid. The announcement comes amid heavy losses incurred by the banned outfit during an Intelligence-Based Operation (IBO) in Mardan district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. TTP announced similar ceasefires during religious festivities in the past as well. Muhammad Khorasani, the spokesperson of the TTP, aka Pakistani Taliban, issued a single-lineer statement, announcing a ceasefire during Eid-ul-Fitr. "Announcement of ceasefire during Eid-ul-Fitr" read a statement issued by



the TTP spokesperson. The statement comes hours after the Pakistani military conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province's Babuzai, Mardan district. As per reports, at least 25 militants of the TTP were killed in the operation where they

had set up hideouts in the Katlang mountains range. Locals from the area claimed that those killed were shepherds of Swat, and the Swat-Mardan motorway was closed for a period of time in protest. However, after negotiations, the bodies have been handed over to the Rescue Services 1122 for DNA tests, these include two women and seven men. They added that the protests ended after some time and the roads were reopened. Sources in the counter-terrorism department in the Mardan Katlang mountain confirmed the operation targeted at militant hideouts, stating that civilian lives were also lost in the operation, including women and children, who had been caught in the crossfire. "The operation has resulted in the targeting of wanted terrorists involved in terrorist activities locally," said Barrister Saif, spokesperson for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provincial government. It may be noted that TTP has been carrying out major attacks on Pakistani security forces, keeping

the security forces on their heels. TTP announced its spring offensive during February, after which a massive surge in targeted attacks has been witnessed on security check posts, military installations and convoys of security personnel. Pakistan has faced major resistance from the TTP and other militant groups like the BLA (Baloch Liberation Army) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan province. Islamabad has accused Afghanistan of supporting and providing breeding space for anti-Pakistan terror groups, calling on the Afghan Taliban to take immediate steps against such elements and abide by its agreement to not allow its soil to be used by terrorists to carry out their activities.

South Korea: Thousands hold rallies in Seoul for, against Yoon's impeachment

Seoul, Mar 28: Tens of thousands of people staged rallies in South Korea's Seoul on Saturday, either demanding the ouster or reinstatement of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, who was impeached over his short-lived martial law invocation in December. Both sides called on the Constitutional Court for a prompt ruling on Yoon's impeachment trial, as the court has yet to announce its ruling date on the case. An estimated 15,000 protesters gathered near Gyeongbok Palace, holding up picket signs demanding Yoon's "immediate ouster" and chanting "End insurrection and embrace a new world." Police blocked traffic in nearby lanes. "What the Constitutional Court must uphold is the safeguarding of democracy on this land and a



ruling for an ouster," Kim Jae-ha, a leader of the civic group behind the rally, said. "There are limits to public sentiment. The Constitutional Court will be kicked out of the public's heart if warnings against it ac-

curate," he said. The main opposition Democratic Party (DP) and four other opposition parties also staged a separate rally in Gwanghwamun, central Seoul, where DP floor leader Park Chan-dae declared: "Where

Yoon should be is in prison. He will attempt martial law again if he is not ousted." On Yoon's side, an estimated 23,000 people gathered in central Seoul for what has become a regular weekend rally, denouncing his impeachment as "null and void," and demanding a Constitutional Court ruling in his favour. The protesters had planned to stage a mass march toward the Constitutional Court but canceled it due to safety concerns. Save Korea, a Christian civic group, hosted a separate rally near the National Assembly in the western Seoul area of Yeouido, attended by about 3,000 participants, including several lawmakers from the ruling People Power Party, Yonhap news agency reported.

2 people killed, dozens wounded in Russian attack on Ukraine's Kharkiv



Kyiv, Mar 28: Russian drones hit a military hospital, shopping centre, apartment blocks and other buildings in Kharkiv late Saturday, killing two people and wounding 30 others, Ukrainian officials said. Regional Gov Oleh Synyehubov said that a 70-year-old woman were killed in the attack on Ukraine's second-largest city. Ukraine's General Staff denounced the deliberate, targeted shelling of the military hospital. Among the casualties were servicemen who were undergoing treatment, it said. The Ukrainian Air Force reported that Russia fired 111 exploding drones and decoys in the latest wave of attacks overnight on Sunday. It said 65 of them were

intercepted and another 35 were lost, likely having been electronically jammed. Russia's Ministry of Defence, meanwhile, said its air defense systems shot down six Ukrainian drones. According to Ukrainian government and

military analysts, Russian forces are preparing to launch a fresh military offensive in the coming weeks to maximize pressure on Ukraine and strengthen the Kremlin's negotiating position in ceasefire talks.

Palestinians in Gaza mark Eid-ul-Fitr with dwindling food, no end to war

Deir Al-Balah (Gaza Strip), Mar 28: Palestinians in the Gaza Strip had little to celebrate on Sunday as they began marking a normally festive Muslim holiday with rapidly dwindling food supplies and no end in sight to the Israel-Hamas war. Many held prayers outside demolished mosques on the Eid-ul-Fitr holiday marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. It's supposed to be a joyous occasion, when families gather for feasts and purchase new clothes for children but most of Gaza's 2 million Palestinians are just trying to survive. It's the Eid of Sadness, Adel al-Shaar said after attending outdoor prayers in the central town of Deir al-Balah. We lost our loved ones, our children, our lives, and our futures. We lost our students, our school, our situations. We lost everything. Twenty members of his extended family have been killed in Israeli strikes, including four young

nephews just a few days ago, he said as he broke into tears. Israel ended the ceasefire with Hamas and resumed the war earlier this month when the militant group refused to accept changes to the agreement reached in January. Israeli strikes have killed hundreds of Palestinians, and Israel has allowed no food, fuel or humanitarian aid to enter for four weeks. "There is killing, displacement, hunger, and a siege," said Saed al-Kourid, another worshipper. We go out to perform God's rituals in order to make the children happy, but as for the joy of Eid? There is no Eid. The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking 251 hostages. Hamas is still holding 59 captives, 24 of whom are believed to be alive after most of the rest were released in ceasefires or other agreements.

Ahead of April 2 tariffs deadline, Trump aides unsure 'what boss will do'

Washington, Mar 28: As the April 2 deadline for implementing new tariffs approaches—a date US President Donald Trump has dubbed "Liberation Day"—uncertainty looms within the White House and among administration officials regarding the specifics of the impending trade measures. Despite public assurances aimed at calming markets, internal discord and unpredictable policy shifts have left many questioning the administration's direction. According to a report in Politico, top Trump officials, including Vice President JD Vance and Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, have privately expressed uncertainty about his exact intentions for the upcoming tariffs. An anonymous White House aide highlighted the



confusion, stating, "No one knows what the f*** is going on." The Trump administration's unpredictability was exemplified by the recent imposition of a 25 per cent tariff on the auto industry—a decision made so abruptly that it

delayed other White House activities and left industry stakeholders unprepared. Such sudden policy shifts have increased anxieties among businesses and investors, with Trump saying he "couldn't care less" if automakers raise car prices in response.

Global trading partners on edge The forthcoming 'reciprocal tariffs' are intended to match the duties that other countries impose on US exports, which Trump perceives as unfair trade practices. However, the lack of detailed information has left global trading partners uncertain about how to respond. Some nations are proactively seeking to mitigate potential impacts. For example, Canada has launched an "education campaign" across 12 US states, using billboards to highlight the economic drawbacks of tariffs. Messages such as "tariffs are a tax on your grocery bill" aim to inform American consumers about the potential domestic consequences of trade barriers, according to a report by the New York Post.



Sharpshooter of Mukhtar Ansari gang killed in encounter in Jamshedpur

Lucknow, Mar 30: In a combined operation, the Uttar Pradesh STF and Jharkhand police shot dead a sharpshooter of the Mukhtar Ansari gang in an encounter in Jamshedpur late on Saturday night. The UP police had announced a reward of Rs 2.50 lakh on shooter Anuj Kanaujia, who was killed in an encounter with the STF, ADG (Law and Order) Amitabh Yash said here on Sunday. The ADG said that 25 rounds were exchanged during the encounter, and the criminal even threw a bomb at the police. STF DSP Dharmesh Kumar Shahi was injured after being shot in his left



shoulder. He was admitted to a hospital in Jamshedpur. Two days ago, Mau Police declared a reward of Rs 2.50 lakh on 36-year-old Anuj Kanaujia. He had committed four murders, and 23 cases, including those of murder and robbery, were registered against him. ADG Amitabh Yash said the STF had received specific information two days ago that Anuj Kanaujia was hiding in Jamshedpur. Following this tip-off, the UP STF contacted the Jharkhand Police.

UP Govt strengthens emergency care to save lives during golden hour

Lucknow, Mar 30: In a significant push to enhance emergency medical response for road accident victims, the Uttar Pradesh government is upgrading healthcare infrastructure across the state. Emergency wards in all district hospitals are being modernized to ensure that patients receive life-saving treatment during the critical "golden hour," officials have disclosed. Key trauma centers in government medical colleges—including those in Kanpur, Prayagraj, Meerut, and Gorakhpur—are being upgraded from Level-2 to Level-1 facilities, ensuring faster and more effective care. Additionally, King George's Medical University (KGMU) in Lucknow is expanding its Level-1 trauma center by adding 500 extra beds,



increasing its capacity from 460 to 960 beds. To further enhance emergency response, specialized skill development centers are being established under the National Emergency Life Support (NELS) program (KGMU, Varanasi and Gorakhpur Medical College, with new centers

planned in Kanpur, Agra, Meerut, Jhansi, and Prayagraj. In collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and AIIMS Delhi, over 300 doctors and paramedical staff have completed a specialized five-day training program in emergency care, focusing on providing critical treat-

ment within the golden hour. Additionally, 2,916 'Aapda Mitras' have been trained as first responders to provide immediate first aid to accident victims. The State Road Safety Council is also upgrading emergency wards in government medical colleges, reducing dependency on higher-level referrals. To support this initiative, new specialist positions have been created for trauma doctors, orthopedic experts, general surgeons, and emergency medical officers. Furthermore, each medical college's emergency wing is being equipped with advanced diagnostic facilities, including CT scans, X-rays, and ultrasound machines. A budget of Rs 300 crore has been allocated for the fiscal year 2024-25 to ensure that accident victims

Ayodhya witnesses massive devotee turnout on first day of Chaitra Navratri

Ayodhya, Mar 30: With elaborate security arrangements in place, thousands of devotees thronged the historic temples of Ayodhya to offer prayers on the first day of Chaitra Navratri. From the early hours of the morning, long queues of worshippers were seen at various temples, seeking the blessings of Goddess Shailputri. Major temples, including Badi Devkali, the Kuldevi (family deity) of Lord Ram, and Chhoti Devkali, the Kuldevi of Goddess Sita, witnessed an overwhelming influx of devotees eager for darshan. Chants of 'Jai Mata Di' echoed throughout the sacred city as devotees com-

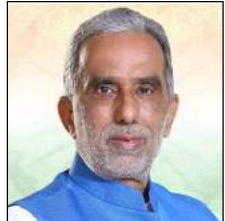


menced the nine-day festival by performing 'Kalash Shhapani' in their homes, marking the arrival of the Goddess. By dawn, temple premises were abuzz with activity as crowds gathered, indulging the atmosphere with

Sita's Kuldevi was evident in the overwhelming turnout. Worshippers offered flowers, 'prasad' and heartfelt prayers at the feet of the Goddess, expressing their unwavering faith. Many devotees observed a fast on the first day, performing special rituals to honor the occasion. The temples in Ayodhya were beautifully decorated with flowers and colorful lights. On the auspicious occasion of Nav Sankranti 2082 (Chaitra Shukla Pratipada), devotees offered 'Arghya' to the rising sun in the sacred Sarayu river, praying for peace and prosperity in Ayodhya. Warm wishes and greetings were exchanged to mark the beginning of the New Hindu year. After offering prayers at the Devi temple, devotees visited Ram Mandir and Hanuman Garhi, where large crowds continued to gather late into the night. Since it was a Sunday, the Janmabhoomi Path was packed with devotees. By the evening, major locations like Lata Chowk and Ram Ki Paldi also witnessed a heavy rush of worshippers. With both Navratri and the upcoming Ram Navami celebrations, the administration has implemented extensive security and crowd management measures.

Central, state govt working on development in tandem: Union Minister Gurjar

Chandigarh, Mar 30: Union Minister Krishan Pal Gurjar has said that all-round development works are being carried out in the country by the Central and state governments. Addressing a public meeting on Sunday after inaugurating various development projects related to the beautification of Palwal city, he said a blueprint of the development will be prepared soon so that the district could develop at a faster pace. He said for the beautification of the Palwal district, many development works have been undertaken by the government in the last 10 years. He cited an elevated bridge built to provide relief to people from traffic jams and construction of KMP and KGP Expressway in this context. Along with this, ROB has been constructed in Rasulpur Road and Bamnikhera in Palwal. Shri Vishwakarma Skill Development University in Dudhola village of Palwal district, bringing medical college in Palwal, building a bridge on the Yamuna river, women's college at various places in Palwal and other development works have been



done by the present government. He said this process of development would continue in future as well. Haryana Minister of State for Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship, Sports and Law Gaurav Gautam acknowledged on the occasion that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, non-stop development is taking place in the state, including Palwal.

Kerala Catholic bishops support Waqf Bill, ask MPs from state to vote for amending 'unfair and anti-Constitutional' provisions

New Delhi, Mar 30: The Kerala Catholic Bishops Council (KCBC) has urged MPs from the state to vote in favour of the Waqf Amendment Bill when it comes up for discussion in Parliament. KCBC president Cardinal Basileos Cleemis Catholicos in a statement issued on Saturday, demanded that "when the Bill is taken for debate in Parliament, the people's representatives from Kerala should vote in favour of amending the sections which are unfair and anti-constitutional". The KCBC is a powerful organisation of Catholic bishops in Kerala belonging to the Syro-Malabar, Latin and Syro-Malankara Churches. Regarding the Waqf Board's claim on around 400-odd



acres of land at Munambam in Ernakulam district, which has mainly been in the possession of Christian residents for generations, the Cardinal said, "Various clauses in the Waqf Act, which have prevented the occupants of the land from enjoying their legal rights, should be amended. The Farook College management (in Kozhikode, which sold

Catholic Bishops Council (KCBC) has earlier approached the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024 urging 'immediate and decisive action' to resolve the matter. In a memorandum to the Committee by KCBC president Cardinal Basileos Cleemis Catholicos, the council pointed out that the enforcement of the Waqf law had been causing hardships for over 600 families at Munambam. It urged the committee to ensure such claims on land owned by citizens were not repeated in the future. The Waqf Amendment Bill is expected to be re-introduced during the ongoing session of Parliament. Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated

Car rally, cultural evening mark Rajasthan Day celebrations in Jaipur

New Delhi, Mar 30: The fascinating "Grand Heritage Chase Car Rally" and colourful cultural evening marked the Rajasthan Day celebrations here Sunday. More than 30 cars participated in the rally being held under the aegis of the Rajasthan Tourism Department and the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC). The rally was flagged off from the Amar Jawan Jyoti memorial by Tourism Commissioner Ravi Jain and culminated at the Hotel Fairmont after traversing through historic monuments — Hawa Mahal, Amer Fort, Jantar Mantar, and some other popular tourist spots. While passing through the earmarked places, the participants were also asked to decipher some



symbols or the quiz related to the history or other features of the monument or place. The winner-runner-up teams were awarded at a grand concluding ceremony at the Hotel Fairmont. Tourism Commissioner Jain, ICC Rajasthan Chapter President Jaysree Pedwal and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. A colourful cultural programme was later held at the historic Albert Museum Hall in the Ram Niwas Bagh here Sunday evening at which folk artists — dancers left the people spell bound.

Two women caught with fake currency notes at Sarojini Nagar Market



New Delhi, Mar 30: Two women were arrested by the Delhi Police for allegedly circulating counterfeit currency in South Delhi's Sarojini Nagar Market, authorities said on Sunday. The accused, Rani Jha, 22, from Faridabad, Haryana, and Akaansha

Desai, a 29-year-old resident of Andaman & Nicobar Island, were arrested. The arrest led to the confiscation of a total of 33 fake currency notes from their possession, officials said. Deputy Commissioner of Police Surendra Choudhary said a team was present in Sarojini Nagar Market to keep an eye on the pickpockets. While patrolling, they received an input through local sources that two girls have been circulating fake currency notes in the area for shopping. Acting upon the tipoff, the team immediately laid a trap and got hold of the two suspected girls and apprehended them, Choudhary further said. During questioning, the accused revealed their names and addresses. A case has been filed against the two under the relevant sections of BNS, and will be produced before the court. Further investigation on this case is underway, the DCP stated.

Insulting people for 2 minutes of fame: Kangana Ranaut reacts to Kunal Kamra-Eknath Shinde controversy

New Delhi, Mar 30: Punjab has achieved a significant milestone in its fight against Tuberculosis (TB) by securing the second rank nationally in the 100-day Intensified TB Elimination Campaign — "TB Mukti Bharat Abhiyan", as announced by the Government of India on World TB Day. Meghalaya emerged as the top performer in TB elimination. The state's relentless efforts in screening, detection, and treatment of TB cases were recognised at a grand ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, where State TB Officer Dr Rajesh Bhaskar received a certificate of achievement from Union



Health and Family Welfare Minister JP Nadra. The campaign, launched on December 7, 2024, by Punjab Health Minister

Dr Balbir Singh in Amritsar, aimed to accelerate TB elimination through intensified screening, early diagnosis, and improved care for vulnerable populations. Dr Balbir Singh said that over the course of 100 days, health teams across Punjab screened approximately 28 lakh high-risk individuals, identifying 17,300 TB patients, who were then provided with timely treatment and nutritional support. The campaign also focused on preventive measures, including TB preventive therapy for contacts and at-risk groups to curb new infections, he added. The Health Minister credited the achievement to the dedication of frontline health workers. Punjab's success was measured on multiple performance indicators, including case detection rates, reduction in TB-related deaths, and coverage of preventive treatment.

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Awareness Lecture Conducted by White Knight Corps for Students in General Hospital at Rajouri

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's Op Brahma: Rapid HADR Deployment in Myanmar*

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, was 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.

Distribution of Blankets, Durries and Mosquito Nets to Gujjar and Bakkarwals at Darman, Rajouri

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 hardships and reaffirm its commitment to their well-



fare. 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 margin-

alised communities. By distributing 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.

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.

Iftar Organised for Local Youth at Dodasan Bala, Thanamandi Rajouri

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 Dodasan Bala. It was aimed to foster good relationships with religious mentors of society in the area and hold the terrorist ecosystem at grassroot level. The aim was to interact with locals and spread the message of harmony during the auspicious month of 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 Dodasan Bala. The event was suc-

cessful in reaching out to people, to reach through the populace and create multiple footprints of ethical perception management across all villagers in a single timeframe. This gesture and effort by the Indian Army was highly appreciated by Awam and was a progressive effort for strengthening trust between the Indian Army and Awam and deployed 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.

Congress questions BJP, Centre for deteriorated situation in Jammu region Criticise Amit Shah for refusal to give any time frame for Statehood

Recuit local youth in police to Strengthen Security and Intelligence Network in the District -Ch Lal Singh

Jammu, March 30, 2025:- 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 Kapi 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 ter-

rorism 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 centre 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 control-



ling 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 trun 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.

Javed Dar, Sakeena Itoo, Javed Rana extends Eid-ul-Fitr greetings to people of J&K

SRINAGAR, MARCH 30: 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 Ramadan 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. JAMMU, MARCH 30: 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 underscored 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 gen-

erosity 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. JAMMU, MARCH 30: 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."



Lieutenant Governor attends celebration of 453rd Prakash Utsav of Goswami Shri Guru Nabha Dass Ji Maharaj

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

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 heartfelt 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 soci-

ety towards the path of devotion and spiritual upliftment of humanity. He also emphasized that elimination of class distinctions was essential to strengthen 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 Sanjay Kalyan Parishad, senior officials, and people in large number were present.

DC reviews preparedness for Eid, Navratri Festival in Kishtwar

KISHTWAR, MARCH 30: To ensure the smooth and peaceful celebration of the Eid and Navratri festival, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan conducted a comprehensive review of preparedness today. The DC visited key locations, including Gauri Shankar Mandir-Sarkoot, Chowgan (for Eid Namaz) to assess the arrangements and ground-level preparedness for the upcoming religious occasions. During the visit, the DC directed the KDA and Municipal Council officials to ensure proper sanitation and necessary arrangements for the devotees. The DC emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts among various departments to maintain law and order, cleanliness, and provide essential services to the public during these festive occasions. The DC was accompanied by ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, officials from the KDA, Municipality, and other concerned departments.



Deputy Commissioner Poonch inspects progress of work on NH144-A "One Nation, One Election" Will Be a Milestone in Electoral Reforms: Abhay Mahajan

POONCH, MARCH 30: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Khandelwal 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

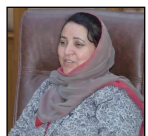
Commissioner paid a visit to the Dundhak Mandir, where he offered prayers and evaluated the facilities and overall maintenance of the mandir. This inspection highlights the administration's commitment to advancing the vital projects and ensuring the progress of NH144 road for the betterment of the region. The speakers further stressed that



requent 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, Indrajeet Sawney, 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.

Sakeena Itoo extends Navratri greetings



JAMMU, MARCH 30: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo has extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the first day of Navratri. In her message, Sakeena said that this holy festival reminds us to adhere to the true spirit of honesty, righteousness and truthfulness in our lives. She urged people to embrace the festival's spirit of unity, while upholding traditions that bring communities together. She expressed hope that this Navratri would bring renewed strength and inspiration for a brighter future, fostering unity and progress in our society. The Minister also prayed for peace, progress and prosperity for entire Jammu and Kashmir.

Kavinder pays obeisance at Bawe Wali Mata Temple on first day of Navratri

Jammu, Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, today paid obeisance at the ancient Bawe Wali Mata Temple on the auspicious occasion of the first day of the Navratri Festival.



The BJP stalwart sought the blessings of Mata Rani for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking on the occasion, Kavinder Gupta highlighted the significance of Navratri as a time of spiritual rejuvenation and reflection. He urged people to participate in the festival with devotion and uphold the values of harmony and unity. "Navratri symbolizes the triumph of good over evil, and it is an opportunity for all of us to come together and pray for strength, health, and happiness," he remarked. The former Deputy Chief Minister also extended his heartfelt wishes to the people, hoping that the festival brings positive change to every household. He lauded the rich cultural and religious heritage of Jammu, of which the Bawe Wali Mata Temple is a significant part,

drawing thousands of devotees from across the region. The senior BJP leader reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring that religious festivals are celebrated peacefully and that the government remains dedicated to protecting and promoting Jammu's cultural legacy.

Deputy Chief Minister extends Navratri greetings

JAMMU, MARCH 30: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Navratri, a festival symbolising devotion, strength and triumph of good over evil. In his felicitations, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasised the spiritual significance of Navratri, highlighting it as a time for self-discipline, prayer and inner purification. He urged the people to celebrate the festival with devotion while upholding the values of harmony and inclusivity. "I extend my heartfelt greetings to all our citizens on the sacred occasion of Navratri," he stated. "May this festival bring renewed hope, prosperity and divine blessings into every home. Let us come together in prayer and celebrate the power of faith and righteousness."



Azad greets people on Eid ul Fitr

NEWDELHI Mar 30: Former Chief Minister J&K, Chairman DPAP Ghulam Nabi Azad has extended his heartfelt greetings to the people on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. He conveyed his best wishes to all those celebrating and prayed for peace, prosperity, and brotherhood. Azad said that Eid-ul-Fitr is a festival that symbolises compassion, gratitude, and togetherness. It marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, during which people observe fasting, prayer, and acts of kindness. He added that this festival reminds everyone of the values of patience, generosity, and unity. He expressed hope that Eid would bring happiness to every household and strengthen the bonds of harmony and mutual respect in society. He also urged people to help those in need and spread the message of love and peace. Wishing everyone a joyous and blessed Eid, he encouraged people to celebrate with their loved ones while upholding the spirit of togetherness and goodwill.

