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PM Modi presents first-ever National Creators Award

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MARCH 8

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented the first-ever National Creators Award to digital content creators at Bharat Mandapam here on Friday.

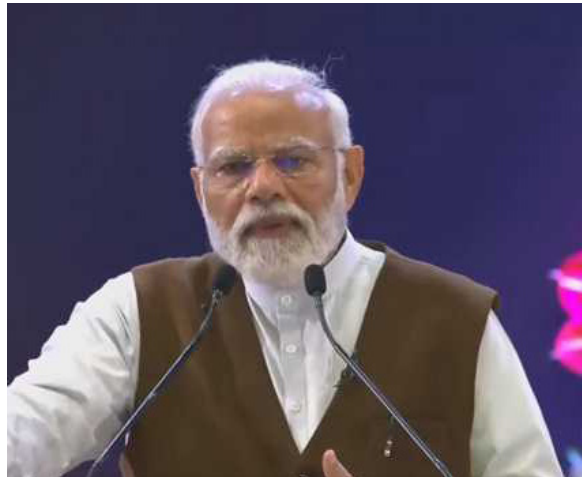
The awards were given across 20 categories to celebrate the contributions of digital content creators who have brought about positive social change and innovation.

The awards were also envisioned as a launchpad for using creativity to drive positive change.

During the event, Modi also had a brief interaction with the winners.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said Digital India Mission has created a new world for content creators.

He added that, "In the last 10 years, the strength-



The Best Storyteller Award went to Keerthika Govindhasamy known as Keerthi History. Disruptor of the Year was awarded to Ranveer Allahbadia.

Ex-Scientist from ISRO, Pankti Pandey from Ahmedabad received the Green Champion Award for amplifying the message of Mission LiFE.

The Award for Best Creative for Social Change went to Jaya Kishori known as Meera of modern times, whereas Lakshya Dabas received the Most Impactful Agri Creator for his work on improving agricultural practices with the use of innovation and technology.

Cultural Ambassador of the Year Award went to Maithili Thakur, while the best International Creator Award had three creators, Kiri Paul from

Continued on Page 4

ening data revolution and cheap mobile phones have created a new world for the content creators".

"This might have happened for the first time that youngsters in any sector have inspired the government to think about them, to do something for them," Modi said.

The Prime Minister

also urged the youngsters to create content for the world.

"Together, we should start a 'Create on India Movement'. Let us share stories related to India, India's culture, India's heritage and traditions with the whole world. Let us create in India, and create for the world" he added.

Peace has returned to J&K, won't allow it to derail: DGP Swain

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 8



The Director General of Police (DGP) RR Swain Friday said that peace has returned to J&K and the police force won't allow it to derail.

Addressing the culmination ceremony of All India Police Water Sports Championship at SKICC here, DGP Swain as per news agency, said that they were a little bit worried about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit but "everything went off peacefully."

"Peace has returned to J&K and we will not allow it to derail," the DGP said. "The ability of an adversary has always been limited. It is not an easy task to counter the fear. We are in 2024 and the year 2025 will be self-explanatory."

Later, talking to report-

ers, the J&K police chief said that the water sports events will be organised at the nook and corner of J&K.

"J&K police have taken it as a commitment. We will collaborate with the sports department and the experts to explore the villages and cities where there are water bodies to promote water sports," he said. To a query about

absence of J&K police's women team in the event, the DGP said that women cops are good at policing and recording keeping. "It's a matter of time and very soon we will have women's teams as well," he said.

Present on the occasion, LG's Advisor Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar said that there has been a great growth in sports infrastructure and the administration is committed to expand it and involve all sections.

ADGP J&K Vijay Kumar, while thanking the participants of the event said that he was hopeful that all participants will remember the water sports championship. "There was a great enthusiasm among the participants and we are hopeful that more participants will join us in the future endeavours," he said.

Kovind-led panel in process of submitting report on simultaneous polls

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 8

The high-level committee led by former president Ram Nath Kovind is in the process of submitting its report to the Government on 'One Nation, One Election', sources said on March 8.

Besides suggesting a procedure to synchronise the terms of State Assemblies to ensure that all polls are held together from 2029 onwards, the Committee is also likely to push for a common electoral roll for elections to Lok Sabha, Assemblies and local bodies, including municipalities and panchayats.

Set up in September 2023, the panel headed by former president Kovind is mandated to examine and make recommendations at the earliest on the issue of holding elections simultaneously.

Sources said that Article 83 (on the duration of the Houses of Parliament), Article 85 (on the dissolution of Lok Sabha by the President), Article 172 (on the duration of the State legislatures),

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One dead, 4 injured as vehicle falls into gorge in Poonch Village

J1NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAR 8



One person was killed and four others injured in a road accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said.

The incident occurred in the Shindhara village of Poonch late Thursday evening when a pickup van plying on Shindhara road, skidded off the road and fell into a gorge.

The injured were evacuated to the district hospital Poonch for further treatment. Dr Nusrat Bhatti, Superintendent, District Hospital Poonch said,

"Four injured people were brought to the hospital. One among them who had serious chest trauma was referred to Government Medical College Rajouri".

"District administration has provided Rs 5,000 to the injured and Rs 10,000 to the next of kin of the deceased," Dr Bhatti said.

Mohammad Ishaq, one of the injured said, "When the vehicle reached near Shindhara, it met with an accident. We both were sitting in the back seat. Five people were traveling when the accident took place".

Major Dev Push for J&K: Centre allocates Rs 2,094 Cr for highway, ropeway projects in J&K

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 8



The central government on Friday gave a further push to J&K's development by sanctioning Rs 2,094 crore rupees for the widening and strengthening of various National Highway projects in the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari in a series of posts on X, as per the news agency said, in Jammu & Kashmir, an allocation of Rs. 1404.94 crore has been approved for the Widening

and Strengthening project of the Rafiabab - Kupwara - Chowkibal - Tangdhar - Chamkot section of National Highway-701.

He said this initiative, executed under Project Beacon in Baramulla & Kupwara districts on EPC Mode under Package 1, aims to transform the 51 Km route into 2-lanes with Paved, Shoulder. Critical for logistics in the region, this strategic route connecting Baramulla and Kupwara districts plays a pivotal role and is integral

to the development of the tourism sector in North Kashmir near the International Border In another post, Gadkari said, an allocation of Rs. 126.58 crore has been approved for the development, Operation, and Maintenance of a Ropeway from SDA Parking (Near Zabarwan Park) to Shankaracharya Temple.

He said spanning 1.05 Km in Srinagar district, this initiative operates on the Hybrid Annuity Mode, utilizing MonoCable Detachable Gondola (MDG) Technology

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2 Russia-based agents under CBI scanner for sending indians to Ukraine War

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 8

"Two Russia-based agents involved in the human-trafficking network that pushed Indians into the Ukraine war zone are under the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) scanner," officials said on March 8.

"The agents allegedly confiscated the passports of Indians arriving in Russia and forced them to fight with the armed forces," officials said. The network was busted

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Dr Jitendra Singh given rousing welcome, hails Udhampur among most developed constituencies in 10 years

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 8



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that with the patronage and support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Udhampur-Kathua-Doda is among the country's most developed constituencies in last 10 years and now it is the time to devote the third 5-year term to consolidate the gains of last two terms and transform this region as among the most attractive destinations of the country.

Dr Jitendra Singh was speaking soon after his arrival this morning for the first time after having been officially nominated the BJP candidate for Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency for the third consecutive term.

On his arrival, from the airport right upto his Parliamentary Constituency office at Gandhinagar,

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Sgr-Jmu highway to remain closed for 14 hours on Sat, Sun for road widening

J1NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MAR 8



The vehicular movement on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway will remain suspended for 14 hours on Saturday and Sunday between Nashri and Banihal in Ramban district.

An order, a copy of which lies with the news agency reads, "In view of the requisition received from Project Director, NHAI, PIU Ramban, vide above-quoted reference and in order to ensure the safety and well-being of the general populace/travelers/drivers, sanction is hereby

granted in favour of NHAI, PIU Ramban, for taking 14 hours traffic haltage from 10 PM on 09.03.2024 to 12 Noon on 10.03.2024 for widening of carriageway to 2 lanes at Dhalwas, during haltage the widening at other places will also be taken up for restoration from Nashri to Banihal in strict adherence to the conditions outlined in the aforementioned communication received from the Project Director NHAI, PIU Ramban."

"Senior Superintendent of Police, Ramban and Senior Superintendent of Police, Traffic, NHWs, Ramban, shall implement the above orders in letter and spirit." the order states.

ACB arrests forester and official for accepting Rs 12,500 bribe in North Kashmir

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 8

Jammu and Kashmir's Anti Corruption Bureau on Friday arrested a Forester and an official of the Forest Range office, in north Kashmir for allegedly demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 12,500 for processing and issuance of transit permit.

Forester Mansoor Ahmad and an official of the forest Range office, Watergam, Mushtaq Ahmad, were arrested by a team of ACB.

The ACB said they received a complaint from a resident of Rafiabab Baramulla saying therein that he has timber business and recently sold about 375 Cft timber to a customer from Srinagar for which he needed transit permit from Range Office, Watergam.

Accordingly, he submitted four applications online under National Transit Pass System (NTPS) which is required for transporting timber from Baramulla to Srinagar. He further stated that when he

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Maha Shivratri celebrated with religious fervour

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 8



Amid the chants of 'Har Har Mahadev', Maha Shivratri was celebrated on Friday with religious fervour in the winter capital of the Union Territory.

Devotees drawn from different areas since morning thronged various Shiv Temples and paid obeisance to mark Maha Shivratri celebrations with religious fervour and gaiety across the region.

Devotees thronged the holy Ranbireswar temple and performed special Pooja of Lord Shiva.

Though the rush of devotees was normal during the wee hours but swelled as the day progressed.

The devotees offered flowers, Bel leaves, milk, curd to the 'Shivlingam'.

Famous temples here including 'Aap Shambu' at Roop Nagar, Peerkh, Raghunath Temple, Shiv Dham, Shiv Parvati Temple, witnessed unprecedented rush of devotees.

Special arrangements have also been made for night long prayers in the temples.

The traffic jams were also witnessed on various

ing religious rituals and prayers in the temple premises by devotees.

A large number of devotees from Jammu and outside the Jammu and Kashmir also accompanied the Baraat.

The devotees were also chanting the religious hymn and singing bhajans in praise of Lord Shiva.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has extended greetings to the people

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International Women's Day celebrated in Poonch



JNEWS SERVICE POONCH, MARCH 8

The Department of Social Welfare with the Collaboration of District Administration, SKC GDC Poonch, DLSA and Police Department celebrated International Women's day here in Multipurpose hall SKC GDC Poonch.

The function was presided over by the ADDC Poonch, while Dy. SP Headquarter was the guest of honour.

Principal SKC GDC Professor Aurangzeb, CPO Police Department, SHO, Female Achievers in different fields, District Hub for Empowerment of Women, Sakhi One Stop Centre, CHL and Superintendent Parisha/Palaash were present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC high-

lighted the role of women in nation building. He also threw light on the rights of women and discussed various centrally sponsored women centric welfare schemes that are aimed at providing hand-holding to the women to make them self-reliant and urged the female folk to avail benefit of these schemes. He also highlighted various steps taken by the district administration towards women empowerment.

DSWO Poonch, Abdul Raheem Mir highlighted the role of DHEW/ OSC in creating awareness about these schemes at grassroots level so that more females are empowered by these schemes. He asserted that the economically independent women is the first major step towards empowerment of women and urged the

females to avail benefit of schemes aimed for establishing their own income generating unit.

During the function, various speakers while highlighting the significant role played by women in social, economic, political, educational and judicial fronts said that mass awareness about the rights of women and to acknowledge their achievements is the need of the hour.

Meanwhile, a felicitation ceremony was organized to felicitate and honour the female mates who have shown exemplary services in different fields. A good number of Women were given certificates of appreciation and participation in the Scooty rally which was organised on 6 March 2024 along with mementos.

International Women's Day: High Court, J&K Legal Services Authority, UT admin, KU organize mega event

JNEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, MARCH 8

The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, along with J&K Legal Services Authority, in collaboration with administration of UT of Jammu & Kashmir and University of Kashmir, organized a mega event to mark celebration of International Women's Day at University of Kashmir.

The speakers, while speaking on the occasion, advocated women empowerment and active participation in progress and prosperity of the nation for a flourished society.

Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, and Patron-in-Chief of J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice N Kotiswar Singh, graced the occasion as chief guest while Vice Chancellor of University of Kashmir, Nilofer Khan, participated as guest of honor. The event was also attended by eminent personalities including Dr. Vijay Lakshmi Brara, Justice Moksha Kazmi



Khajuria, Justice Waseem Sadiq Nargal, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice M.K. Sharma, Dr. Naseer Iqbal Registrar University of Kashmir, Farooq Ahmad Registrar Judicial, Amit Gupta, Member Secretary JKLSA Abdul Bari, Joint Registrar Judicial, members of the Registry, Judicial Officers and Officers of J&K Legal Services Authority and High Court, officers of civil and police administration, officers and faculty members of University of Kashmir, frontline workers of Health and Social Welfare

Department, DLSA staff members and Para Legal Volunteers, members of LADC and students. The event was virtually joined from Jammu by Shahzad Azeem Registrar General High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

The event highlighted the invaluable contributions of women achievers from various spheres of life, felicitating them for their outstanding endeavors.

The women achievers Mohsina Sibtain (JKPS), Advocate Masoodha Jan, Advocate Aarifa

Jan, Afshaan, Neerja Mattoo and Soliha Bashir expressed their views on the occasion. They highlighted the importance of conducive environment for overall development of girl child. Additionally, ten success stories from ten districts of the Valley were screened during the event, shedding light on their remarkable achievements, inspiring others to strive for excellence.

Chief Justice also felicitated them for their hard work and dedication.

The program featured special live performances

by artists from Cultural Department and Roshni Production, addressing pertinent issues such as drug abuse and violence against women.

Through artistic expression, the audience was sensitized about these pressing concerns, fostering a collective resolve to combat them.

Chief Justice, in his special address, underscored the constitutional and statutory safeguards imperative for women's empowerment, reaffirming the commitment of judiciary towards gender equality and justice for all.

Earlier, Vice Chancellor of University of Kashmir, commenced the event with her opening remarks, emphasizing the importance of creating a conducive environment for women's growth and empowerment. The celebration of International Women's Day served as a poignant reminder of the collective responsibility to empower women, thereby accelerating progress and fostering a more equitable society.

Fisheries deptt ensures elaborate arrangements for fish availability on Shivratri

JNEWS SERVICE JAMMU, MARCH 8

The Department of Fisheries has made adequate arrangement for supplying and ensuring sufficient quantity of different species of fresh fish across the Union Territory among the common masses in general and Pandit Community in particular as per instructions of Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, on the auspicious occasion of Shivratri.

On the occasion, the department established number of stalls in every district besides gearing up Departmental Fish Rearing Units, Sale Centres as well. The mobile vans were also pressed into service for delivery of fresh fish at the door points of consumers. Besides, Trout fish was also transported through refrigerated vehicles at wholesale fish Marketing Centre Narwal Jammu and other centres for the people. A total of 8.810 MT of trout/carb fresh live fish was provided to all the customers.

Pertinently, the private fish farmers established by the department throughout the UT, also contributed equally in delivering sufficient quantity of fish available on this occasion in their respective area under the overall command and control of the department. The production of fish through private farmers has significantly increased over few years and the department has been able to provide employment to many new entrepreneurs.

The Department is making all efforts for rejuvenation of fish aquaculture in the Union Territory and number of new initiatives are being taken under Holistic Agriculture Development programme besides other schemes to create employment opportunities at larger scale and also meet out the demand of Fish.

Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar, and Director Fisheries, Deep Raj, also extended warm wishes to the people on the occasion of Maha Shivratri.

Int'l Women's Day celebrated at Police Station Akhnoor



JNEWS SERVICE AKHNOOR, MARCH 8

International Women's Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Akhnoor Police Station

on Friday, for which a special program was organized. During the program, the cake was cut mainly by the social worker Kuldeep Kaur and the students present.

Indian Army felicitates Women Achievers to celebrate Int'l Women's Day at Kupwara



JNEWS SERVICE KUPWARA, MARCH 8

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers organised an event where in local woman achievers were able to put forth the story of their journey to success and motivate the girls and woman present.

The chief guests of the event were Col Pooja, Chauhan, who is commanding 175 TA (Engineers) and Mrs Daljit Kaur, who is SHO of woman cell of JKP at Kupwara. The event was attended by about 100 women of Kupwara region. Amongst them were nine achievers from the fields of entrepreneurship, Sports, teaching and law who were felicitated for their success.

The chief guests while addressing the audience, emphasised upon the need for woman to be

strong and supportive to each other. Declaring one day for celebration of women's day is successful only when she is respected and honoured all days of the year. It is the woman who makes the house grooms the children and thus develops the society. The achievers narrated their success stories and stressed upon the need for woman to be focused on their dreams and work hard to achieve the same. The commanding officer while quoting Guru Nanak Dev Ji ensured the audience present that they cannot be less than anyone if they decide to be strong and committed to the womanhood.

At last, all participants, highly appreciated the efforts of Indian Army, their constructive approach towards women empowerment and providing suitable platforms to showcase their talent and be independent.

GK Educational Trust celebrates Women's Day



JNEWS SERVICE KATHUA, MAR 8

GK Educational Trust training partner NSDC, ministry of skill development celebrated Women's Day at GKTR PMKK KATHUA. All the students participated enthusiastically in the celebration.

Chief Guest Mrs. Madhu Sharma (Sarpanch Amala, Barnoti) was present and she interacted

with the students and motivated them by sharing their experiences.

GK educational Trust is committed to create opportunities and improving the lives of people in the community by skilling them in particular field. Mr. Amar (Director GK Educational Trust), Ms. Pritpal Kour (Centre Incharge) and other staff members were also present.

HOLI FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2024

For the convenience of the passengers Northern Railway will run the following Holi Festival Special Trains during the upcoming Holi festival season. The details are as under:-

Table for 04033/04034 New Delhi-Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan-New Delhi Express Special (weekly). Includes train numbers, stations, and departure times.

Table for 04075/04076 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Express Special (Bi-Weekly). Includes train numbers, stations, and departure times.

Table for 04080/04079 Delhi Jn.-Varanasi-Delhi Jn. Express Special (Tri-Weekly). Includes train numbers, stations, and departure times.

Table for 01654/01653 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi-Varanasi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Express Special (Weekly). Includes train numbers, stations, and departure times.

Table for 02371/02372 Howrah-Banaras-Howrah Express Special. Includes train numbers, stations, and departure times.

Table for 04048/04047 New Delhi-Agra Cantt.-New Delhi Express Special (Daily). Includes train numbers, stations, and departure times.

Table for 04048/04047 New Delhi-Agra Cantt.-New Delhi Express Special (Daily). Includes train numbers, stations, and departure times.

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Table for 04048/04047 New Delhi-Agra Cantt.-New Delhi Express Special (Daily). Includes train numbers, stations, and departure times.

Table for 04064/04063 Delhi Jn.-Tundla-Delhi Jn. Express Special (Daily). Includes train numbers, stations, and departure times.

Table for 04923/04924 Saharanpur-Ambala Cantt.-Saharanpur Express Special (Daily). Includes train numbers, stations, and departure times.

Table for 04051/04052 Delhi Jn.-Panipat-Delhi Jn. Express Special (Daily). Includes train numbers, stations, and departure times.

Table for 04249/04250 Varanasi-Lucknow-Varanasi Express Special (Daily). Includes train numbers, stations, and departure times.

Table for 04048/04047 New Delhi-Agra Cantt.-New Delhi Express Special (Daily). Includes train numbers, stations, and departure times.

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

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Three-Day Skill Development Program on "Drug Discovery and Development" concludes at CSIR-IIM Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 JAMMU, MAR 7

CSIR- Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIM), Jammu, successfully concluded its Three-day skill development training program which saw participation of more than 20 participants from different Universities of J&K region. The valedictory function was chaired by Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIM Jammu who in his address underscored the need of obtaining S&T skills as he termed Science-A way of thinking and said that in order to achieve SDG goals and success towards Viskit Bharat, the role of Science has to be pivotal. While addressing the participants, Dr Ahmed fostered scientific temperament among participants and encouraged them to pursue research as their career, emphasizing the



importance of science & technology for future. Dr Ahmed in his address welcomed all researchers to visit the Institute and equip themselves with practical insights and skills, vital for navigating the complexities of drug research and development. During the three days program, participants were imparted training in drug discovery and development with meticulously designed hands on training practical sessions equipping participants with fundamental skills and knowledge in drug

discovery and development. Through a series of lectures, and practical exercises, attendees delved into various facets of drug discovery, including molecular biology, Pharmacology, computational modeling, and clinical trials management. On Day One, Dr. Parvinder Pal Singh, Principal Scientist delivered a lecture on "Phytopharmaceuticals - Scientific Validation of Traditional Knowledge" while as Dr Ravindra S Phatake, Scientist talked about "Natural products in drug discovery - advances and opportunities".

On day two Dr Prasoon K.Gupta, Principal Scientist gave an insightful talk on "Discovery of Bioactive Compounds through a High Throughput Strategy to Speedup Drug Discovery" while as Dr Bharitkar Yogesh, Scientist delivered a lecture on "Discovery of Novel Phytochemicals - A Systematic Process including Extraction, Isolation and Spectroscopic Characterization". Dr Kancherla Prasad, Senior Scientist delivered a talk on "Intellectual Property Rights". On Day Three, Dr Qazi Naveed, Principal Scientist & Head NPMC Division, talked about "Modern Drug Discovery - A Rational Approach" while as Dr Showkat Rashid, Senior Scientist delivered a lecture on "Natural Product Chemistry (NPC) and Synthetic Organic Chemistry (SOC) - A Tale of Two Complementary Partners in Modern Drug Discovery".

Earlier Dr Nasir Ul Rasheed, Senior Scientist & Coordinator Skill Development conducted the proceedings of Valedictory function and shared objectives of such training programs and informed participants about various initiatives under CSIR-Integrated Skill initiatives. The Training program was conducted under overall supervision of Er Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist and Head, RMBD & IST Division.

Indian Army organizes Joint Intelligence, Security Review Meeting at Rajouri

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 RAJOURI, MAR 8

A joint intelligence and security review meeting was conducted by Indian Army in the presence of all the stakeholders at the stakeholder's Rajouri. It was attended by officers from the Indian Army, DIG Police, DIG Border security force, Para military forces, Intelligence agencies, and other relevant stakeholders. The primary objective of the meeting was to assess the existing intelligence and security situation in the region and formulate strategies to ensure the successful and peaceful conduct of upcoming events. During the meeting, the attendees discussed several key issues related to intelligence gathering, threat assessment, and security arrangements. They evaluated the potential challenges, such as possible terrorist activities



or civil unrest, and devised strategies to mitigate these risks. The meeting served as a platform for sharing intelligence inputs, discussing security protocols, and coordinating efforts among different security agencies. The participants emphasized the need for seamless coordination, intelligence sharing, and proactive measures to ensure the safety and security of the region. Overall, the joint intelligence and security review meeting aimed to enhance the preparedness and effectiveness of security arrangements in Rajouri and its surrounding areas. By pooling their resources and expertise, the stakeholders aimed to create a robust security framework that would deter potential threats and maintain peace and stability in the region.

Apni Party commemorates fourth foundation day across Jammu Region

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 JAMMU, MAR 8

Apni Party today commemorated its fourth foundation day here across Jammu region including at the Gandhi Nagar office in Jammu where the Party leaders hoisted the Party's flag to celebrate the occasion. As per the press release, the main function was organized at the Gandhi Nagar office in Jammu under the leadership of Provincial President of the Party, S. Manjit Singh in presence of large numbers of Party leaders, and workers. In his address, Manjit Singh impressed upon the Party leaders to carry forward the mission of the Party President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari sahib. "The mission of providing true leadership, and representation to the people who have faced decades of negligence

from the traditional political parties in the name of vote bank, and divisive politics," he said, while asking the leaders to work for the people, and intensify their public outreach program. He also commended the leaders for their tireless efforts due to which the Party has gained its support across Jammu plain, and other regions of the division. "The people have associated themselves with the Party while pinning hopes with Altaf Bukhari sahib. The Party is committed to provide an impartial Govt to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, expressing commitment that the land and jobs rights of the people will be protected by the Party. He said that the Election Commission of India should hold the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir along with the Parliamentary elections in the wake of a peaceful and



conducive atmosphere. He said that the democratic system should be restored without further delay as it has disassociated the people with the present form of Govt. "The people in both the regions are concerned about the downgrading of the historic Jammu and Kashmir State which has been reduced to a Union Territory with its bifurcation into two Union Territories i.e., J&K and Ladakh," he said, demanding elections in Jammu and Kashmir to win the confidence of the people.

Meanwhile, a similar function was organized in the morning at Vijaypur in Samba District, and it was presided over by the Provincial President of the Party, S. Manjit Singh. In Poonch district head quarter, a function to celebrate the foundation day of the Party was organized under the leadership of District President, Ex-MLA, Shah Mohammed Tantry, Provincial Vice President Jammu, Ex-MLA Faqir Nath organized the program at Gho Manhasan (Marh Constituency in Jammu District),

and District President Jammu Rural-A, Pushap Dev Uppal organized the program at Akhnoor office of the Party. The District President Jammu, Rural -B, Adv Harpreet Singh organized the program at R.S. Pura, Provincial Vice President Women Wing, Neelam Gupta organized the program at Gandhi Nagar (Bahu Constituency); and Rupali Devi organized the program at Kot-Jagir in Nagrota to commemorate the foundation day of the Party. Similar programs were organized by District President Ramban, Kirpal Singh in Ramban, Provincial Joint Secretary Adil Wani and District President Doda Youth, Sheikh Basharat at Doda; District President Kishwar, Masood Mattoo and State Secretary, Mohinder Singh Parihar at Kishwar, and State General Secretary, Youth Wing, Tufail Choudhary at Reasi.

Expert delivered a Talk at SMVDU on Eve of International Women's Day

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 JAMMU, MAR 8

In an enlightening session at SMVD University, renowned International Wellness Coach, Dr. Samita Gupta, captivated over 100 eager students with her expertise on the topic "Journey of Women from Womb to Tomb." She was welcomed by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Coordinator of NSS, and Dr. Varun Dutta, Assistant Professor at SMVDU. Dr. Gupta, a certified nutrition and fitness expert, delivered profound insights into the holistic health and well-being of women, covering physical, mental, and emotional aspects. The expert lecture, organized by the National Service Scheme (NSS) at SMVDU, centered on crucial aspects of women's health and wellness in contemporary society. Dr. Gupta's comprehensive



discussion delved into the nutritional requirements, reproductive stages, and reproductive health of women, offering invaluable knowledge to the attendees. Highlighting the significance of pregnancy and postpartum nutrition, Dr. Samita Gupta emphasized the pivotal role it plays in ensuring the health and vitality of both mother and child. The expert lecture, strategically scheduled on the eve of International Women's Day, not only empowered the students with knowledge but also served as a reminder of the ongoing journey towards gender

equality and the imperative need for collective action. Dr. Samita Gupta's expertise, coupled with her passion for women's health and wellness, left an indelible mark on the audience, ensuring that the session was not only educational but also transformative. As the event concluded, students departed enriched and inspired to contribute towards a healthier and more equitable society. Other members from SMVDU present on the occasion were Prof. Ankush Anand, Dr. Kamini Pathania and Ms. Shivani Khajuria.

Azad pledges to enact law ensuring job, land protection if elected to power

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 SRINAGAR MARCH 8

Chairman of DPAP Ghulam Nabi Azad today addressed a public meeting in Abhama, Rajpora Pulwama. During his speech, Azad underscored the critical need to create employment opportunities for local residents, emphasizing their in various projects in J&K. He reaffirmed his commitment to empowering the region's economy by boosting the tourism and horticulture sectors, thereby fostering sustainable growth and development. Azad advocated for the uninterrupted transportation of fruits by declaring trucks carrying fruit as emergency vehicles, thereby ensuring seamless logistics operations with no halts along the route. Azad reflected on his tenure, highlighting his efforts in sanctioning numerous tourism and developmental projects for the betterment of the community. However, he expressed disappointment over the withdrawal of support from the alliance party, citing insecurity stemming from his work. He emphasized his dedication to serving the people and fulfilling the vision he had set out to



achieve during his time in office. Despite facing challenges and setbacks, he remains resolute in his belief that completing these projects is essential for the progress and prosperity of the region. He reaffirmed his party's commitment to protecting land and job rights and ensuring the welfare of the people of J&K. He highlighted his party's pivotal role in leading the ground-level fight against land eviction orders, which compelled the government to halt the bulldozers. Azad announced his party's commitment to reinstating the Roshni Scheme and providing free electricity for the underprivileged in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Azad emphasized the importance of these initiatives in addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by the people of the region. The Roshni Scheme,

aimed at providing legal ownership rights to occupants of state land, had previously empowered numerous families by granting them ownership of land they had occupied for years. Azad underscored the significance of reinstating this scheme to continue supporting vulnerable communities and ensuring their security and stability. Additionally, Azad pledged to provide free electricity to economically disadvantaged households in J&K. This initiative aims to alleviate financial burdens and improve the quality of life for those in need, further promoting social welfare and inclusivity. Azad reiterated his party's unwavering commitment to prioritizing the interests and well-being of the people of J&K. By reinstating the Roshni Scheme and providing free electricity, his party aims to foster great

equity, prosperity, and empowerment across the region. Azad reiterated his unwavering commitment to the mission of development and progress in J&K. Emphasizing his dedication to the socio-economic advancement of the region, he outlined his vision for fostering growth and prosperity for all residents of J&K. His focus on infrastructure development, job creation, and social welfare programs reflects his steadfast dedication to improving the lives of residents across the region. Among others who were present on the occasion were Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson, Ad Qayoom Dar Sr Vice President South Zone, Mushtaq Khanday Distt President, Peer Bilal Zonal President, Ashiq Khanday, Javid Hakim and others.

President's Standard and Colours Presentation to Indian Air Force Units

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 JAMMU, MAR 8

On 08 March 2024, the Hon'ble President of India, the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, Smt Droupadi Murmu, awarded the prestigious President's Standard to 45 Squadron and 221 Squadron, and the President's Colours to 11 Base Repair Depot (BRD) and 509 Signal Unit (SU) of the Indian Air Force (IAF). The award of the President's Standard and Colours is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon any military unit. This is the first time in the history of the IAF that four units have been awarded the President's Standard and Colours together in a single ceremony. On arrival, the Hon'ble President was presented with an aerial salute by three Mi-171V helicopters in 'Dhwaj' formation trooping the National flag. General VK Singh (Retd), Min of State for Civil Aviation, also graced the occasion. Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Air Staff and senior officers of the Indian Air Force were present on this momentous occasion. The ceremonial parade was commanded by Group Captain KS Sanu

Nair of 11 BRD. First Day covers for 45 Squadron, 221 Squadron, 11 Base Repair Depot and 509 Signal Unit were released by the Hon'ble President during the ceremony. The President's Standard were received by Group Captain M Surendran, Commanding Officer of 45 Squadron and Group Captain Shubbhankar, Commanding Officer of 221 Squadron. The President's Colours

were received by Air Commodore Ashutosh Vaidya, Air Officer Commanding of 11 BRD and Group Captain Vivek Sharma, Commanding Officer of 509 SU during an impressive parade at Air Force Station Hindan, Ghaziabad. Addressing the parade, the Hon'ble President congratulated the units receiving the President's Standard & Colours, and

commended them for their services to the nation. The Hon'ble President highlighted the courage, commitment and sacrifices of the Indian Air Force during war and peacetime operations, both within India and overseas. She also brought out the important contributions of the IAF in the ongoing space programmes of the country and the upcoming Gaganyaan mission.

NORTHERN RAILWAY				
E-Tender Notice				
Sr. DEN-II/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- 29.03.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in				
	Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	
	Open	Works	Single Bid System	
	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
	07.03.2024	15.03.2024	29.03.2024/15:00 Hrs	
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender		
1.	425-2023-2024-JAT-DRM-FZR	Replacement of abandoned quarters with 9 Nos type-II gang quarters at Raya Morth (VJPJ-BBMN) for the gang 14 PJ at VJPJ under SSE/WJAT.		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	1,64,56,293.14	2,32,300/-	60 Days	06 Months
	Similar nature of work :- "Construction of building/quarters".			
2.	428-2023-24-PTK-DRM-FZR	Works in connection with Manning of Level Crossings in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-II/FZR.		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	1,87,16,203.12	2,43,600/-	60 Days	08 Months
	Similar nature of work :- "Any civil work other than track work".			
3.	428-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR	TRR (S) 29.013Km of loop lines in various yards i.e. BBMN, SJNP, KTHU, BDHY, GHGL, JAT, MDPB, BHRL, BJPJ, CHNR yard with 52 Kg 90 UTS (SH) Rail in the section of ADEN/JAT.		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	3,34,60,356.59	3,17,300/-	60 Days	10 Months
	Similar nature of work :- "CTR/TRR/FR/TTTR including raising of track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machines/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28".			

Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. **Tender Notice No. :- 425 & 428-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR & 426-2023-24-PTK-DRM-FZR Dated: 07.03.2024** 739/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EDITORIAL

PM's Kashmir visit—a laudable outreach

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made his first visit to Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370, extending a hand to the valley residents with the slogan 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu Kashmir'. This was the second visit of the Prime Minister to Jammu and Kashmir in less than a month. Both visits hold great significance from the perspective of the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir. His message was clear: the development of the region, now a Union Territory, would be intertwined with that of the country. During his visit, he launched and dedicated more than 50 projects worth Rs 6,400 crore, including initiatives in tourism and a project for the integrated development of the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar. In his speech to a mammoth rally, the Prime Minister emphasized that J&K is experiencing new heights of development and is 'breathing freely' after the 2019 abrogation. The Union Government and security forces have been credited with significantly reducing the number of terror-related incidents in recent years. The annual death toll of both civilians and security personnel has also decreased, and no major terror strike has occurred in Kashmir since the Pulwama attack of February 2019. There is no denying in fact that Jammu and Kashmir has been the biggest victim of petty politics pursued by Kashmiri politicians since independence. Moreover, Congress supported their cause and misguided the nation about Article 370 but who did it benefit? Did it benefit the people of Jammu and Kashmir or a few political families? the PM asked. After the August 5, 2019 decisions, the central government has prioritized development and employment to dissuade youth from engaging in violence and extremism. Modi declared that a developed J&K is a priority for developed India and that 'Naya Jammu and Kashmir' is the one that they had been waiting for decades as he assured the people that the development of the UT will never come to a halt. New Jammu and Kashmir has the spark for the future in its eyes and "140 crore citizens feel at peace when they see the smiling faces of the people of Jammu and Kashmir", the Prime Minister remarked while praising the beauty of Kashmir and revealing that his mission was to win the hearts of Kashmiri people and that he has succeeded in his efforts. The Prime Minister was right in his words that Jammu and Kashmir is not just a region but India's head. A head held high is the symbol of development and honour. That is why a developed Jammu and Kashmir is the priority of a developed India for the Central government. Despite these confidence-building measures, the Centre faces two major challenges: restoring J&K's statehood and holding Assembly elections. The delay in these exercises suggests that all is not well on the ground, contrary to the government's claim. Resuming the electoral process is crucial to rebuilding trust with political parties and voters. Neglecting democracy could have dire consequences in a region prone to cross-border terrorism. The discontent over perceived disempowerment following the revocation of the special status and statehood must be addressed promptly.

Preserving the feminine essence of India

TEENA VACHANI

Deeply ingrained in the nation's cultural and historical legacy, Indian classical dance forms stand as a testament to the artistic excellence that they have endured for generations. These age-old dance forms, such as Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Kuchipudi, Manipuri, and Kathakali, showcase a beautiful fusion of storytelling, rhythm, and emotion. As modernity permeates through every facet of our lives, it becomes increasingly crucial to preserve and promote these traditional dance forms, not only for the protection of India's creative legacy but also as a celebration of the unique feminine energy that has shaped and nurtured these art forms for centuries.

Indian classical dance forms trace their origins to ancient scriptures and texts, serving as a medium to convey stories from mythology, epics, and folklore. For instance, Bharatanatyam finds its roots in the *Natya Shastra*, a treatise on performing arts attributed to the sage Bharata Muni. Similarly, Kathak traces its origin to the Hindi word 'Katha' and developed as a medium of storytelling from Hindu scriptures like the Mahab-

harata and the Ramayana. As such, each dance form carries a unique history, with regional variations adding to the diverse cultural landscape of the country, often shaped and perpetuated by the creative expressions of talented women who have been the torchbearers of these traditions.

Preserving these dance forms is crucial to maintaining the cultural identity of the nation. These art forms serve as more than just performances; they are living repositories of Indian heritage, morals, and spiritual beliefs. The detailed hand movements, facial expressions, and body motions narrate stories that have been passed down from one generation to the next, serving as a connection between the past and the present. In addition to their cultural importance, these dances also enable artists to express a wide range of feelings, from joy and celebration to sorrow and introspection. The intricate footwork, graceful movements, and expressive gestures allow artists to communicate intricate narratives and emotions silently in a world that is evolving yet still deeply rooted in tradition.

It may perhaps be this deep connection with cultural identity that has



prompted Prime Minister Narendra Modi to put India's rich cultural heritage at the forefront of Indian diplomacy. His commitment to cultural diplomacy is evident in initiatives like the International Yoga Day and the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, both of which have become global celebrations of Indian culture. Under his prime ministership, ministries and embassies around the world have undertaken numerous initiatives to actively support and promote classical dance forms to international audiences. Through cultural exchange programmes, Indian artists have been provided with the opportunity to perform on global stages, while international artists have been welcomed to experience the diverse spectrum of Indian traditions.

In addition to being a means of artistic expression, dance forms also have the potential to bridge societal gaps by promoting inclusivity and understanding. The themes of diversity, unity, love, joy, sorrow, compassion, and communal harmony championed by these dance forms can be used to build a shared cultural understanding that transcends regional, linguistic, and religious boundaries. The heightened cultural integration, in return, will help foster a sense of unity and mutual respect among the diverse communities that make up the very fabric of Indian society.

In recent times, however, the influx of modern cultural trends, limited infrastructure, and waning interest among the younger generation have posed grave challenges to the

practice and growth of these dance forms. Any effort to address these challenges requires sustained efforts in education and awareness, both at the school and community levels. Additionally, there is a need to leverage digital platforms for learning and showcasing performances to make these dance forms more accessible to a wider audience. It is perhaps this desire to promote and reignite interest in these dance forms that has prompted us at Roots 2 Routes to organise online dance courses for different dance forms, starting with Bharatanatyam, Kathak, and Odissi. Launched in collaboration with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), along with 60 embassies around the globe, the aim of the mission is to present dance enthusiasts across the world with an exclusive opportunity to immerse themselves in the rhythmic intricacies, traditional narratives, and storytelling elements intrinsic to the Indian classical dance forms. With the majority of its proponents and practitioners being women, the initiative also aims to provide a platform for their creative expression.

As we commemorate Women's Day, the sig-

nificance of preserving Indian classical dance forms assumes additional significance; it stands as a strategic investment in the very soul of the nation. Our dance forms represent a timeless link to our nation's rich cultural and historical legacy, providing us with a source of inspiration, artistic expression, and social cohesion. They also stand as a testament to the hundreds and thousands of women artists who have promoted and preserved the very essence of classical dance forms. Recognising the intrinsic value of Indian classical dance forms is pivotal, especially on this occasion. Actively contributing to their preservation is not just a nod to tradition but a deliberate step towards fostering the strength and grace of women across generations. It is a way to ensure that these eternal forms of art remain within reach amidst the present and future generations. This Women's Day, let's pledge to support and promote our cultural treasures, reinforcing our dedication to empowering women through a silent yet impactful medium.

(The writer is the founder of Routes 2 Routes, a Delhi-based NGO; views are personal)

Not China, Nepali Congress forced Prachanda's hand

BHARAT BHUSHAN

Nepal's politics has once again taken an unexpected turn with Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, aka Prachanda, breaking his alliance with the Nepali Congress. Prachanda's Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) formed an alliance government with the Communist Party of Nepal - United Marxist Leninist (UML), which is led by K P Sharma Oli.

With this, the alliance between CPN (Maoist Centre) and the Sher Bahadur Deuba-led Nepali Congress, formed in December 2022, has ended. Overnight 32 MPs from the CPN (Maoist Centre) formed a new coalition with the 78 MPs of the CPN-UML, 21 MPs of the Rashtriya Swatantra Party, and 12 MPs of the Janata Samajwadi Party - giving Prachanda is further trying to bolster his majority by bringing Madhav Nepal's CPN (Unified Socialist) into the fold. Refusing to recognise the ground reality of Nepal politics, some Indian observers have opted for the easy explanation that the 'left unity' between the CPN-UML and CPN (Maoist Centre) is the handiwork of China. India has been blind-sided by China so often of late in Nepal that the 'Chinese influence'

has become a go-to explanation for any political changes that may not be of India's liking.

However, Prachanda's actions have more to do with the attitude of the Nepali Congress than efforts by China. The December 2022 alliance between Prachanda, Deuba, and Madhav Nepal was based on rotational prime ministership. Prachanda and Deuba were to get two years each as prime minister, and with the remaining year going to Madhav Nepal. India apparently provided the tacit guarantee that Prachanda would not be disturbed by Deuba for the first two years.

The immediate reasons for Prachanda breaking the alliance just 15 months later were provided by his Nepali Congress-nominated finance minister Prakash Sharan Mahat. Mahat was constantly at loggerheads with Prachanda. Requests to Deuba to nominate someone else from the Nepali Congress for the job fell on deaf ears.

Mahat has never contested an election, and comes from the proportional representation quota of the Nepali Congress in Parliament. He has enjoyed several high offices, including being a former energy minister and foreign minister. His strength comes from the Deuba family, especially Arzu Rana Deuba.

Arzu Rana Deuba, the wife of Sher Bahadur Deuba, is also Member of Parliament under the Nepali Congress' proportional representation quota, and nurtures political ambitions. Sher Bahadur Deuba's opponents in the Nepali Congress suspect that he would like his wife to succeed him as party president. One of the reasons for Prachanda's unhappiness in running the coalition was what he saw as Arzu Rana Deuba's undue interference in governance through her party's ministers, like Mahat. The ambitious Sher Bahadur Deuba himself acted as a super prime minister drastically constraining Prachanda's degrees of freedom as Prime Minister.

The differences also came to the fore over Sher Bahadur Deuba's desire to have party member Krishna Sitaula appointed as Chairman of the National Assembly. However, Prachanda wanted his party to get the job. Sher Bahadur Deuba was also perceived as trying to cut the Maoists down to size by supporting some members of Nepali Congress Central Committee who launched a signature campaign to restore Nepal as a Hindu Rashtra (Hindu nation). Last month, 42 members of the central committee demanded through a signature campaign that the party support the restoration of Nepal as

a Vedic Sanatan Hindu Rashtra. The man leading the campaign, Shankar Bhandari, claimed that the demand had the support of Sher Bahadur Deuba. The central committee in its meeting on February 16 refused to put the issue on its agenda. Bhandari, the campaign leader, told the media that while some Nepali Congress leaders have questioned the intention of the signatories, "we think we also have a responsibility to the state and the nation."

This is the second time that such a signature campaign has been used by Nepali Congress members to force a discussion and support the restoration of Hindu Rashtra. They had done so unsuccessfully in 2018 as well. It is significant that the demand which was earlier limited to political parties that were royalist vestiges is being adopted by one of the largest mainstream parties in Nepal which was at the forefront of creating the republic. In its royalist origins, the demand for Hindu Rashtra envisioned restoration of a symbolic Hindu monarch in the country. As under the current Constitution, Nepal is republican and secular, both demands do not seem realistic. But if the Constitution is changed, the Maoists are threatened, as transitional justice was one of the four pillars of the peace

accord which brought them into the democratic process. The other three were, promulgation of a Republican Constitution, State restructuring and integration of Maoist combatants into the Nepal Army. There are hundreds of legal cases against the Maoist cadre which are in abeyance as of now as the State tries to seek some kind of peace and stability through various reconciliation processes. Sher Bahadur Deuba's tacit support, if the claims of the revivalists are correct, threatened the Maoists existentially. There is strong suspicion in Nepal that the revivalist demand for abandoning secularism and restoring Nepal as a Hindu Rashtra is being encouraged by the Hindutva forces in India. Indeed, many Nepalese political observers claim that 'Indian interests' in Nepal are being overtaken by 'Hindutva interests'. This may be the reason why India often gets blind-sided in political developments in Nepal - as the Indian State and the ideological forces of Hindutva working there are often at cross-purposes in the Himalayan nation. Ambitious political elements in Nepal desirous of being in the good books of the ruling dispensation in New Delhi are only too eager to please.

Bharat Bhushan is a Delhi-based journalist.

Indian airlines should not gamble with stricter safety

TIM CULPAN

Indian pilots are exhausted, battling erratic schedules, consecutive late-night departures and excessive hours.

Yet airlines are pushing back against new rules from the aviation regulator that mandate longer breaks and shorter work hours for cockpit crew. Fearful of higher costs and restricted operations, carriers want to delay implementation. They shouldn't.

Instead, India's aviation industry needs to embrace these rules quickly with the understanding that safer skies and a greater emphasis on working conditions can only help business and lure more customers. The pain of tighter working hours will be short-lived, but the benefits will be enduring.

Among the new stipulations released in Janu-

ary are mandates that weekly rest periods be increased to 48 hours from 36 hours to allow recovery from accumulated fatigue. Maximum flight times have also been cut and the definition of night duty - when reduced work times are enforced - will be broadened.

The Federation of India Airlines, which represents carriers including Air India, IndiGo, SpiceJet Ltd and Vistara, said last week that these new stipulations are the world's most restrictive. They will require 25 per cent more pilots, and may result in the cancellation of up to 20 per cent of flights, The Economic Times reported. The new rules are to go in effect June 1. Airlines believe it'll be almost impossible to comply on time and want that pushed back by a year.

While concerns about

higher costs, staff shortages and schedule cuts are valid, carriers need to remember that fearful flyers are bad for business. Price is a big decision-making factor in passengers choosing an airline, yet multiple studies show that perceptions of safety also impact service quality and choice of transport mode. Given the rules apply to all, the purported higher cost will leave no individual operator with a competitive advantage.

There's also precedent for national aviation authorities to implement regulations that may be stricter than global standards, and at least one case where delayed implementation may have proved fatal.

Two fatal accidents at Taiwan's TransAsia Airways Corp. serve as a warning for India's aviation sector. After the first, in July 2014, the Civil

Aeronautics Administration introduced stricter rules specifically for that airline, which flew mostly domestic routes. Concerned about fatigue, the regulator mandated that pilots at TransAsia spend no less than 30 minutes at the gate between trips in order to provide enough rest and time to conduct preflight checks.

After lobbying from the airline, implementation was pushed back from Jan. 1, 2015 to March 1. But on Feb. 4, TransAsia flight 235 crashed into a river bank, killing 35 people. Logbooks showed that the aircraft spent just 20 minutes at the gate. Investigators found that numerous pilot errors were the chief cause of the accident. More time and less rush would have reduced fatigue and allowed the pilots to work through the problems more care-

fully. The avoidance of just one mistake may have saved dozens of lives. Customers quickly deserted TransAsia and the airline shut down the following year.

Current problems at Boeing Co notwithstanding, including faulty aircraft design and engineering, the aviation sector has eliminated almost every major contributor to air crashes over the past 100 years. Pilot error is among the final factors, and fatigue is a major component.

India's new rules didn't come from nowhere. The sudden death of an IndiGo pilot before his flight last August prompted the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to review data on pilot fatigue and conduct spot checks. Pilots have pointed to erratic schedules, consecutive late-night departures, and excessive hours as

contributors to exhaustion, Reuters reported at the time.

The pressure on aviation workers is set to continue. Domestic traffic hit a new high in December, ferrying 13.8 million passengers on more than 91,000 flights for the month. Annual figures could climb 15 per cent this year as the recovery from Covid and a growing middle class spur customers to criss-cross the world's most-populous, and seventh-biggest, country.

With more than 90 per cent of its 1.4 billion people never having flown, Indian airlines have years of growth ahead. It would be a pity to scare millions of potential customers away before they've even had the chance to experience the magic of air travel.

INDIA bloc will win all 6 Lok Sabha seats in J&K, Ladakh: Bhalla

JI NEWS SERVICE
REAS, MAR 8

The INDIA bloc will win all six Lok Sabha seats in the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla said while addressing public gathering in Reasi today. Prominent among those present on the occasion include JKPC General Secretary Rajesh Sadhotra, Munshi Ram Salaria, Madan Dogra, Raj Kumar Verma, Mohan Singh, Anil Sadhotra, Gopal Pandit, Bashir, Raj Kumar Padha, Raju Spolia, Bhanu Partap, Sewa Ram, Shahid Shah, Vikram, Karan Thappa, Yashi, Ravi Gandotra, Ajay, Jugal, Jammu, Rashid, Jayant, Ranjit, Prikshit, Abhishek, Gafoor, Rafiq, Angrez Singh, Basim Ranjit Singh, Anil Raina, Suresh, Pritam Singh, Adv. Vijay Adv. Ajay, Jishu, Naresh Sharma, Mukesh, Sunil, Tilak besides others Urging party workers to gear up for the ensuing Lok Sabha elections, Bhalla said Congress believes in Hindu-Muslim unity and religious brotherhood for peace and harmony in the country. He said that record unemployment of last 45 years, price rise, murder of democracy in J&K apart from snatching statehood, rights to land and jobs, failure to regularise daily wagers and stopping of old age, widow pension and crushing rights of employees are all anti-people actions of BJP government. Bhalla expressed confidence that the alliance will win all the six seats - two seats of Jammu region, three of Kashmir valley and one of Ladakh. Highlighting the significance of Jammu and Kashmir, he said, "Although J-K has six seats in Parliament and 90 in assembly, it is the most important state for its strategic and secular characters." He said that Congress will emerge stronger enough to form the government with likeminded parties,



as no party will be able to form government without Congress which is only secular and democratic party in the country, fighting against dictatorship of Modi Government. The senior Congress leader said that people are fed up with anti-poor and anti-common people policies of the ruling party whose diversionary and divisive politics is exposed before people.

Bhalla exhorted the party cadre to prepare for the upcoming elections. He said that BJP should tell what contribution it made in the independence of this country. He alleged that while the BJP did nothing on serious issues like inflation and unemployment during its 10-year tenure, it left no stone unturned in disturbing the communal harmony of the country. Taking a jibe at GST also, he said that taxes are being collected from the public for everything from salt and sugar to petrol and diesel, but the tax money collected is going into the pockets of capitalists. He said that before 2014, applications were invited for jobs

in all departments, but in the last 10 years, only a handful of people were given jobs in the name of employment.

Bhalla lauding the people of J&K, said that they wanted development, investment and employment. While addressing the rally, he made it clear that in the coming days, Congress would enter the field with great determination and it would move forward taking every grassroots worker into confidence. He alleged that the country was not in safe hands and the end of the politics of dividing people in the name of caste and religion was near. Taking on BJP, he said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were feeling cheated. He said that BJP's politics of regions divided the mutual brotherhood of Jammu and Kashmir. He claimed, "Today the people of Jammu have been deprived of their rights." He also criticised the party for unemployment, inflation and increasing drug addiction, the skyrocketing fares in the name of smart meters,

anti-encroachment campaigns and 'illegal toll plazas'.

Emphasizing on mutual coordination and harmony, Bhalla said that today the entire country was considering the I.N.D.I Alliance as the only hope. He said, "Now the time has come that Congress, which has been playing the role of a strong opposition, should come to the central stage and the people can be saved from their present miseries. He challenged the central government to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir along with the 2024 Lok Sabha polls if it was serious about its idea of 'one nation, one election'. He said this government, which talks so much about simultaneous elections in the country, is unable to put its money where its mouth is, even in one state much less than the entire nation. "If the government is serious about 'one nation, one election', I hope that they will put their money where their mouth is and show us that it is possible by doing it first in Jammu and Kashmir.

Indian Army constructs a Foot Bridge at Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAR 8

In consonance with the aim of working towards connectivity between resident people of remote villages, Indian Army undertook a project of constructing a foot bridge between Tulli & Banna over Malan Nala. Embracing a transformative endeavour, the construc-



tion of foot bridge heralds a new era of connectivity and communal growth. In the past the access to the other side was almost entirely blocked during

winter and early spring due to frequent flooding of Malan Nala. Construction of Foot Bridge over Malan Nala, was a long pending demand of the

residents. With the bridging of the Nala the inhabitants of Banna can now carryout disruption free movement from their remote location to the road head in all-weather condition. This visionary project benefitting 1500 residents, aims to bridge not only the physical gap but also the aspirations of vibrant communities of Tulli & Banna.

Take One spearheads donation drive, Celebration for Women at Rehan Basera

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 8

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Take One Television & Digital Network organized a heartening donation drive and celebration event at Mahila Jagriti Udyog Kendra Rehan Basera, aimed at uplifting underprivileged women from all walks of life. Supported by Patanjali, V Flow, and Sanjeev Caterers, the event brought together community leaders, sponsors, and volunteers in a celebration of empowerment and solidarity.



who spend their nights exposed to the elements on the streets and under flyover bridges.

Sanjeev Prabhakar, owner of Sanjeev Caterers, graced the occasion and extended his heartfelt appreciation to the women present, emphasizing their resilience and strength.

Lauding the initiative by Take One, he handed over gift hampers including personal hygiene products from Patanjali and V Flow among the underprivileged women. Among the distinguished guests were Veena Bakshi, President of Mahila Jagriti Udyog Kendra, Mona Dogra from

Team Sahara, and Sham Lal Basson, a respected former Corporator. Their presence underscored the significance of collective action in addressing the needs of vulnerable communities.

The event is a testament to Take One's commitment to uplifting and empower-

'Ghamandiya Gathbandhan' is only for their own families, for the 130 crore citizens, it's Modi: Amit Shah

JI NEWS SERVICE
MAHARASHTRA, MAR 8

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, while addressing the youth conference in Jalgaon, Maharashtra on Tuesday, made it clear that the truth of the 'Ghamandiya Gathbandhan' which is pretending to unite against Modi ji who is building a new India, is that whether the coalition which itself lacks democracy can establish democracy in the country. The alliance's sole aim is that Sonia Gandhi wants to make Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister, Sharad Pawar's is to make his daughter the Chief Minister, Uddhav Thackeray's son is to make Aditya Thackeray the Chief Minister, and Stalin's is to make his son the Chief Minister. It's evident that nothing is left for the people of the country. In this scenario, it is clear for the future of youth and a developed nation, Narendra Modi is the choice.

Shah believes that the upcoming Lok Sabha election is for the bright future



of the youth and the creation of a great India. Voting for the Bharatiya Janata Party means ensuring a bright future for the youth, building a great India, and making Modi ji the Prime Minister for the third time.

Over the past 10 years, the Modi government has undertaken unprecedented initiatives for the youth, from space exploration to semiconductor technology, digital advancements to drone technology, AI to vaccines, and 5G to fintech. The journey, from making the country the third-largest economy to establishing a space station by 2035 and sending Indian astronauts to the moon by 2040, will be

completed because it is the 'Modi Guarantee'.

As the 2024 Lok Sabha elections approach, the election activities are also increasing. Shah is gearing up to convey the message of Modi's leadership and the BJP's victory once again. When Shah, Chanakya of Indian politics, prepares for elections, even the opposition becomes his admirers. After Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah is the only leader whose election rallies attract a crowd of lakhs. In the last 10 years, under the leadership of Modi ji and the able guidance of Amit Shah, the country has travelled an unprecedented journey of progress

and prosperity.

The people have seen that during Sonia-Manmohan's government, any nobody could enter from Pakistan to spread terror. However, when Modi Ji became Prime Minister, Pakistan got a befitting reply within 10 days. In the last 10 years, the Modi-Shah duo has not only removed Article 370 to make Kashmir an integral part of India but also abolished Triple Talaq and provided 33% reservation for women in state and national assemblies, respecting women's power. While Modi is launching Chandrayaan on the moon, Sonia is launching Rahul for the 20th time, and Rahul is failing every time.

From the Ram Temple in Ayodhya to the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, 'Nal se Jal' (water for all), Ujjwala Gas Scheme, free ration for farmers, old-age pension scheme, 'One Rank One Pension,' COVID vaccine, and numerous welfare initiatives, it's not wrong to say that in 2024, under Modi's leadership, the victory of the patriotic Bharatiya Janata Party is certain.

Impressive Shiv Barat taken out in Jammu on eve of Maha Shivratri

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 5

On the eve of MahaShivratri Festival an Impressive Shobha Yatra (Shiv Barat) was taken out in Jammu city. Shri Ranbireswar Ji Mandir Welfare Committee (SRMWC) with the active cooperation of Jammu and Kashmir Dharmarth Trust and Jammuities has organized this Shobha Yatra in Old Jammu City.

Mahant of the Temple Rishi Ban (Chairman SRMWC) lead this Shobha Yatra. At around 3.30 P.M this Shobha Yatra has started from Shri Ranbireswar Ji Temple and passed through all main Bazaars of the old city viz. Indira Chowk, Hari Market, Raghunath Ji Bazaar Chowk, Raghunath Ji Bazar, City Chowk, Old Hospital Road, Purani Mandi, Link Road, Jain Bazaar, Pacca Danga, Moti Bazaar, Parade Chowk and will finally culminated at Shri Ranbireswar Ji Temple.

Many social religious organizations viz. Dewan Mandir Natak Samaj Mandli, Hudh Mata



Trisandhya Committee Jammu Branch, Nat Manch, Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti, Asaram Babu Ashram Bhagwati Nagar, Jagdipak Sudesh Memorial Society Jain Bazar, Trinetradhari Shiv Shambhu Seva Dal Parade, Best Item Group, Manish Musical Group, Shishu Kala Kendra Kanji House has participated in this Shobha Yatra and presented colourful Jhankies.

Artists of Deepak Band sing Devotional songs and made atmosphere Shiv-May. Trader organizations of old Jammu city has decorated their markets with gates, buntings, lights to

welcome Shiv Barat. Distt. Admn. of Jammu has made all elaborate arrangements for the success of this Shobha Yatra.

SRMWC members who took part in this Shobha Yatra were Onkar Sharma (Nandi Ji), President, Rajkumar Gupta Sr. Vice President, Amit Gupta, Advocate Jyoti Sarup Misra, Advocate Kapil Sharma, Mandeep Sharma, Anubhav Suri, Mohan Sharma, Deepak Kumar, Dr. Sunny Gupta, Subhash Bhagat, Surinder Bhagat, Sahil Gupta, Ravi Kumar Kakkur, Rajinder Gupta, Ayush Kohli, Nitin Chadha, Depaak Sharma, Suresh Sharma and others.

Jammu Police arrests notorious drug peddler from Rajeev Nagar area of Narwal, recovers heroin

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 8

Continuing its mission against drug peddlers in Jammu District, today Police Party of Police Post Narwal while patrolling in the Rajiv Nagar area apprehended one person who was moving under suspicious conditions & on seeing the police party, he tried to escape but the alert police party chased and overpowered him. During questioning, he disclosed his name as Biru s/o Suresh Kumar R/o Rajeev Nagar, Narwal and on search 7 grams of heroin (Chitta) like substance was recovered from his possession.

Accordingly FIR No.59/2024 U/S 8/201/22 NDPS Act has been lodged at Police Station Bahu Fort, Jammu & investigation taken up. People have applauded the efforts of Jammu Police.

Indian Army organizes Motivational Lecture on Joining Armed Forces at Rajouri



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAR 8

Indian Army organised a motivational lecture on joining Indian Army at JNV Kotranka with an aim to spread awareness and enthusiasm among young boys and girls to join Indian Armed forces

through different entry schemes and contribute to the overall development of the nation. The lecture and talk introduced the students to various career opportunities. A total number of 10 teachers and 200 students (80 x Girls & 120 x Boys) attended the

motivational lecture. Resident youth thanked and expressed their profound gratitude towards Indian Army for organising the motivational lecture and taking this noble initiative for students to motivate the talented and potential students to join Indian Armed Forces.

ICSSR sponsored Workshop on Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana & Women Empowerment concluded at CUJ

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 8

School of Business Studies Central University of Jammu organised Findings Dissemination Workshop on Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana & Women Empowerment: Challenges & Way Forward under Short Term Empirical Research Collaborative Project sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi at Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium, Central University of Jammu.

The programme was formally inaugurated under the patronage of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu by Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Project Coordinator & Dean, School of Business Studies, CUJ. This programme is supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) under Short-term Empirical Research Projects 2023-24 on a competitive basis to assess the reach and socio-economic impact of the scheme on women empowerment.

Prof Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Central University of Jammu appreciated the entire team on the successful culmination of the project. The workshop commenced with lighting of lamp ceremony by Col. Vinod Kumar, Chief Guest of the day, Sh. Sanjeev Mahajan, Regional Manager, SBI and Shri Rajeshwar Singh, Senior Manager, J&K Bank, Special Guests during the inaugural function of the Workshop.

Earlier, Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Project Coordinator and



Dean School of Business Studies welcomed the august gathering for the inaugural function. Prof. Bhasin in her address emphasized on the importance of SSY in the economic empowerment of Girl Child. She apprised the audience that Project was conducted under the academic supervision of Prof. Monidra Dutta, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University & Former ICCR India Chair to DCU, Dublin, Ireland and administrative supervision of Dr. Richa Sharma, Deputy Director (Research), ICSSR, New Delhi.

Col. Vinod Kumar, Postmaster General, UT of J&K in his address highlighted the key features of the scheme and the role of Post Offices in this path breaking initiative towards providing social security at a very nominal cost to the millions of girl children. He shared some best practices adopted by post offices in reaching out to

stakeholders and educating them about the benefits of the scheme.

Sh. Sanjeev Mahajan mentioned in his address that the scheme is a small deposit scheme of the Government of India exclusively for a girl child launched as a part of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign. The scheme is meant to meet the educational and marriage expenses of a girl child and it encourages parents to build a fund for the future education and marriage expenses of their female child. He also shared some best practices of banking institutions in the region to promote the scheme among beneficiaries.

Shri Rajeshwar Singh, Senior Manager, J&K Bank speaking on the occasion apprised the audience about the salient features of Ladli Beti Scheme of J&K Bank and presented a comparative overview of small deposit schemes such as SSY and Ladli Beti. Prof. Dipanker Sengupta

, Former Head, Department of Economics and Director Poonch Campus, University of Jammu and Shri Anokh Singh, J&K bank Zonal Manager (Rtd.) were the Special Guests for the valedictory function. Prof. Dipanker Sengupta in his valedictory address highlighted the significance of Small Deposit Schemes in empowering girl children and advancing sustainable development goals especially in the context of Jammu and Kashmir which has witnessed sharp decline in child sex ratio during 2001 to 2011 from 941 to 859 per thousand males. He further observed that education be made compulsory for availing the benefits under the scheme. Shri Anokh Singh in his concluding remarks observed that linking of security cover, matching contribution from Govt. will encourage parents with low income to contribute and avail the benefits of the scheme. The programme was attended by nearly 150 participants including beneficiaries of the scheme, representatives of Banks, Post Offices, local media professionals (Print/Electronics), policy experts, researchers, academicians etc from border areas of UT of Jammu & Kashmir. It is pertinent to mention here that this collaborative project was sanctioned by ICSSR to a team of faculty members comprising Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dr. Anju Thapa from the School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu and Dr. M. Tripathi from JNU, New Delhi. The short-term project was carried out in the border areas of Jammu region. The findings of the project were disseminated during the workshop by carrying out detailed discussions through Panel Discussions and Open House Session. Experts from Universities, Lead Banks in the region including SBI, JK Bank, HDFC and Post Office chaired the sessions. Dr. Anju Thapa presented a brief overview about the project. Dr. Jaya Bhasin gave a detailed presentation on the major findings and recommendations. Participating in the discussion's beneficiaries provided insightful feedback about the scheme. Dr. Shahid Mushtaq, Project Director presented the formal vote of thanks. Dr. Anju Thapa, Ms. Preeti Slathia and Ms. Shilpa, the research team members conducted the entire proceedings of the Programme.

On eve of "Maha Shivratri" Braham Jyot inaugurates Bhandara at different places in Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 8



On the holy Occasion Of "MahaShivratri" Braham Jyot Satti (Senior leader and State Incharge BJP OBC Morcha) inaugurated Bhandara at New Plot , Bakshi Nagar shopping centre , Bhagwati Nagar and other sites in Jammu .

Ravi Mehra (Vice President BJP OBC Morcha) , Rakesh Pandey (Mandal President OBC) , Billu , Deepak Badyal , Suresh , Avilash , Rahul Samitri , Veena , Anita and other Shiv bhakts were present on the occasion .

Programs were organised by Arun Mehra (President Dogra Youth) , Deepak Sharma (Raka) and Happy Sharma, Sunny at Bhagwati Nagar , New Plot and Bakshi Nagar shopping centre respectively . They along with other shiv bhakts also performed seva at different Shivratri programs .

In the program Firstly they paid Obeisance in the feet of Lord Shiva , After that they inaugurated Bhandara for the general public , performed langer sewa and distributed Langer among people present there .

A heavy number of devotees pays obeisance to Lord Shiva .

Speaking on the occasion Braham Jyot Satti greeted the public on this holy occasion and said

MahaShivratri is a big festival of hindus which is Celebrated across the whole country . On this day people performed Shiv Vivah at various different sites . BJP bows down in the feet of Lord Shiva and prays for the peace and well being of our Nation .

He said During this entire day devotees performed various dances with drum beats and chanted bhajans in favour of Lord Shiva with zeal and gaiety.

He said on this day people also perform kalash yatra and Maha Yagya which holds a very high importance since time immemorial and it literally means devotion, sacrifice, offering and worship and refers to any ritual done in front of sacred fire, often with mantras.

He said Lord Shiva is

Generater , Destroyer and Operator of the whole Universe . He is also Care taker of every living thing present on this earth and BJP is praying for Happiness and peace of Jammu Kashmir.

He said it is known as Maha Shivratri which means the great night of Shiva . It is observed by remembering lord Shiva . Devotees chant Shiva prayers , Fasting themselves and perform various religious functions on this day .

He also appreciated the bhandara Organisers and said these types of social activists are boon to humanity and he thanked the whole Organising committee and public for making this a successful event and he appealed to the whole Public to come forward in big numbers and join this program.

CUJ organizes Mind Meet Program



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 8

Central University of Jammu organised mind meet program at Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium. Under the dynamic leadership of Prof Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, the CUJ regularly organises events and creates a dynamic academic environment in the campus.

Prof Kavita Suri Director (former) Continuing Education Jammu University delivered a mind provoking session on anti sexual harassment Act, 2013 a decade on... Speaking on the occasion Prof Jaya Bhasin Central Chairperson GSCASH informed that Central University of Jammu houses gender sensitisation committee against sexual harassment for creating an inclusive

environment for all genders.

Earlier Prof. Jaya Bhasin welcomed the panelists and the keynote speaker. She apprised about the existence of ICC, gender champions and counseling centre at Central University of Jammu. Prachi, Anjali and Varun were the panelists from the scholars and students. The faculty members Dr. Gowhar, Dr. Iqbal and Dr. Anjali participated in the discussion. Dr. Rouchi and Ms. Khyama also chaired the session. Students and scholars from all the departments participated in the session. Convener of Mind Meet, Prof Vandana Sharma organises events on every Thursdays for the University. The session was co-ordinated by Dr. Vinita member secretary GSCASH. Ms Tanya was the master of ceremony.

Spiritual Mahotsav gives us an opportunity to renew our faith, receive divine blessings: SJS

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 8



Maha Shivratri Mahastov concluded today evening with the traditional Shiv Aarti at Muthi. The Shiv Vivah Mahastov was organized by Shurveer Jammu Sangathan (SJS) under the guidance of Arun Seekey (President SJS) at Muthi.

The Mahastov hosted a variety of programmes which inter alia included Shiv Barat (Shoba Yatra), cultural events depicting local folk dances Dugri Bajans by Sonali Dogra, Shiv Katha, Shiv Vivah by Kotwal group & Shiv Aarti.

During the celebration SJS said that Shivaratri, also spelled as Shivratri, Shivaratri and Sivaratri, is of great importance in Hindu religion. It marks the convergence of Lord Shiva and Goddess Shakti.

Arun said that The importance of Maha Shivaratri festival is mentioned in several Hindu religious books like - the Skanda Purana, Linga Purana and Padma Purana. These books describe various legends and significance of fasting and doing Shivling puja on this day.

Arun also said that Maha Shivaratri is the day when Lord Shiva performs the heavenly dance of creation, preservation and destruction. According to another legend, this is the night when Shiva and Parvati got married. Such spiritual Mahotsav gives us an opportunity to renew our faith and receive the

divine blessings. SJS apprised that all the volunteers, Supporters and Local administration including Police administration, especially SJS volunteers had made elaborate arrangements for the Shiv Vivah Mahostav and all efforts are afoot to improve facilities for the devotees.

Bhanu Partap (President Legal Cell), Ravi Tangotra, Sajan Sharma, Sumit, Deepan Sakey, Anil Kumar (Nika), Th. Dev Karan, Aman Verma, Om Verma, Pavinder Singh, Dheeraj Koul, Arun Sharma, all are organizing committee members.

Man missing since Feb 29 found dead in Budgam village

JNEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MAR 8

Body of a man, who was missing since February 29 from his home in from Dalipora village, was recovered in the nearby Karewas of Badipora area in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday.

An official told news agency that the body was found by locals early morning who then informed the police. He said that the man has been identified as Abdul Majeed Lone (60) of Dalipora Nagam. Police have taken cognizance of the incident and have started further investigation. KNO

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 8

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has announced to provide free tailoring and beautician training with the aim of making women self-reliant and providing self-employment opportunities.

In a special program organized today on Women's Day at the party state office.

State Chief Manish

Sahni said that on the occasion of this special day With the aim of making women and girls self-reliant, a one-month free tailoring and beautician course has been started by them. After completion of which, all possible help will be provided for self-employment along with certificate. Sahni said that

The percentage of women in terms of employment is very low. The Union Territory of



Jammu and Kashmir stands far behind compared to other states regarding women employ-

ment. The rate of female unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir is 72 percent, which is a matter of seri-

ous concern. Sahni said that women interested in this course can register themselves at the party office. The duration of the will be one month and it will be completely free. Sahni said that very soon such free centers will be opened at the district and tehsil level and women will be provided training and shown the path to employment. On this occasion, about two dozen women joined the party, influenced by party

policies and ideas. About a dozen women present on the occasion also got themselves registered for the said courses. President Women Wing Meenakshi Chhibber, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, Balwant Singh, President Kanghar Wing Raj Singh, organizer Imran Sheikh, Shashi pal, Mamata chibber, Kajal, Vijay Singh, Sanjeev Sharma were present on this occasion.

Sham Lal Gupta hails PM Modi's rally at Bakshi Stadium as historic

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 8



Sham Lal Gupta, Chairman of the Anti Crime Bureau (NGO), recently commended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monumental rally at Bakshi Stadium, heralding it as a historic moment for Jammu and Kashmir. His praise for Modi's visionary leadership resonated with the audience, as he articulated how the Prime Minister's initiatives have translated the slogan of "Viksit Jammu Kashmir and Viksit Bharat" into tangible realities.

In his statement, Sham Lal Gupta underlined Modi's unmatched connection with the masses, emphasizing the overwhelming love and support the people of Jammu and Kashmir have demonstrated towards the Prime Minister. This sentiment reflects the significant strides made by Modi's administration in fostering a sense of unity and development across the region.

Sham Lal Gupta reiterated the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) unwavering commitment to bringing prosperity and development to Jammu

and Kashmir. The BJP's ambitious agenda for the region encompasses various initiatives aimed at improving infrastructure, enhancing economic opportunities, and fostering social cohesion. Expressing confidence in the BJP's prospects in the upcoming 2024 parliamentary elections, Sham Lal Gupta predicted a resounding victory with an unprecedented majority. He boldly stated that the BJP would surpass the 400-seat mark, reflecting the trust and confidence the nation has placed in the party's leadership under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Such a prediction reflects the prevailing optimism among BJP supporters regarding the party's electoral prospects and its ability to deliver on its promises.

Sham Lal Gupta concluded his remarks by reaffirming the transformative journey of "Naya Kashmir" under the Modi regime. He highlighted the relentless pursuit of development and progress that characterizes the government's approach, ushering in a new era of prosperity for the people of the region. The vision of "Naya Kashmir" encapsulates the aspirations of the people for a brighter future, underpinned by inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The rally at Bakshi Stadium served as a platform to showcase the BJP's commitment to the welfare and upliftment of Jammu and Kashmir. It also underlined the significance of strong leadership in steering the region towards a path of stability and prosperity. Overall, Sham Lal Gupta's endorsement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and the BJP's agenda reflects the prevailing sentiment among many in Jammu and Kashmir. As the region continues its journey towards progress and development, the support and enthusiasm of its people remain crucial in shaping its future trajectory.

NC, PDP, others 'brittle alliance' broken into pieces: Kavinder

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 8

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Friday maintained that the acerbic reaction by PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti after NC's one-sided declaration of contesting all the three Lok Sabha seats in Valley independently is the testimony to the fact that 'brittle' People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) has been broken into pieces and the 'marriage of convenience' solemnized by five political outfits in Valley saw a tragic end.

In a statement issued here today, the senior BJP leader asserted that political Pundits have already predicted such an outcome because the parties which have joined hands were poles apart as far as their ideologies and interests were concerned.

The BJP stalwart said that there is no element of surprise into the breaking of this alliance as all the constituents in this amalgam were misfit and passing their time just



to explore possibilities which might come as surprise gifts or bounties but with BJP making inroads in Kashmir and making a strong foothold with the wholehearted support of common masses, uprooting of so-called Kashmir centric PDP and NC has become inevitable leading to collapse of this ornamental patch-up between north-south parties.

It is pertinent to mention that Mehbooba Mufti has accused the NC of reducing the PAGD to a mere joke after the Farooq Abdullah-led party unilaterally decided to contest all three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir.

"As the blame game has

just begin in J&K, sooner than later the INDIA bloc will also see the same fate as disharmony has also started brewing in that group as well and self-destruction is just the matter of time", he said, adding that people should not get confused or swayed going after these short-lived and purposeless galvanization of poles apart parties especially they have a best option in the shape of nationalist party BJP.

Kavinder urged the people to wholeheartedly support BJP for a stable future of the J&K and for that matter the entire country as the spree of development which the BJP has started will continue and the party will again come to power with resounding majority.

Meanwhile, Kavinder Gupta inaugurated several Bhandaras organised on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri in Gandhi Nagar constituency. He urged people to preserve rich cultural heritage of J&K and maintain communal harmony and brotherhood at all costs.

Yogesh Sawhney inaugurates Bhandhara at Dewana Mandir, Jammu, on Maha Shivratri

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 8

Former Minister Yogesh Sawhney, accompanied by distinguished leaders and members of the community, celebrated the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri by inaugurating a Bhandhara at Dewana Mandir in Jammu East. The Bhandhara was attended by senior Congress leaders including Varinder Singh Manhas, Abimanu Singh, as well as Sr. Vice Presidents Pawan Dev Singh and Ram Magotra. Pawan Sharma, Radhye Sham, President W No. 10, Haqim Sardari Lal, Vikram Singh (Vicky), and Shiv Kumar Nanda, among others were also present.

Former Minister Yogesh Sawhney extended his wishes to all devotees on occasion of Maha Shivratri stating that the great festival holds



immense significance for devotees across the nation. The Bhandhara at Dewana Mandir saw participation from devotees in large numbers. Sawhney further expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to be part of such celebration and appreciated the organizers. Sawhney said that it was people's enthusiasm and devotion that made Maha Shivratri such a vibrant day, reinforcing values of community. He

added that the spirit of generosity, and solidarity among devotees marked the grand celebration of Maha Shivratri at Dewana Mandir.

Sawhney also offered his prayers to Lord Shiva at the temple. The devotees also participated with devotional songs at the temple as they gathered to partake in the auspicious occasion. They expressed their delight and zeal for the festivities and bhandhara.

Maha Shivratri Celebrations: R.K Ranvijay Singh installs Nandi ji at Shri Ranbireswar Temple

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 7

The Maha Shivratri celebrations started with great fervor and devotion at the Shri Ranbireswar Temple in Jammu.

On the occasion, R.K Ranvijay Singh, Trustee of J&K Dharmarth Trust installed Lord Shiva's sacred companion, Nandi ji amidst Vedic rituals, followed by a holy Hawan ceremony.

Brig R.S Langeh (Retd), President of J&K Dharmarth Trust, Ashok Kumar Sharma (SSP Retd), Secretary of J&K Dharmarth Trust, Varinder Singh Jamwal, Additional Secretary, as well as officials and staff members graced the occasion.

R.K Ranvijay Singh paid his obeisance to Lord Shiva, performing a special Aarti after the installation of Nandi ji in the temple complex.

Speaking on the occasion, R.K Ranvijay Singh informed that the marble Nandi installed temporarily in view of the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri, will soon be replaced with a mag-



nificent 6-and-a-half-foot-long, 4-foot-high brass Nandi. The brass Nandi ji is being specially fabricated by a Chennai-based Handcrafts Development Corporation with an estimated cost of Rs 17 lakhs.

The Trustee R.K Ranvijay Singh further informed that the ancient Shri Ranbireswar Temple is ready to welcome the devotees on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri. With meticulous preparations and fervent devotion, the Trust has ensured that every aspect of the sacred site is immaculately adorned and spiritually charged, ready to embrace worshippers from far and wide seeking divine blessings and communion with Lord Shiva, he added.

Later, R.K Ranvijay Singh flagged off the Shiv Barat (Shobha Yatra) organized by the Shri Ranbi-

reshwar Mandir Welfare Committee (SRMWC) in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Dharmarth Trust. The Shobha Yatra started from the Shri Ranbireswar Temple and passed through various main bazaars of the old city, including Indira Chowk, Hari Market, Raghunath Bazaar, City Chowk, Old Hospital Road, Purani Mandi, Link Road, Jain Bazaar, Mubarak Mandi, Upper Bazaar, Parada Chowk and finally culminated at Shri Ranbireswar Temple successfully.

Mahant of the Temple, Rishi Ban, Onkar Sharma (Nandi Ji), and the President of SRMWC were among the dignitaries who joined the Shiv Barat, spreading joy and religious fervor throughout the city.

ADGP Flags off Students from Jammu for Bharat Darshan Tour

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU MARCH 7

Amidst much anticipation and excitement, the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu Zone, Jammu, Shri Anand Jain, IPS ceremoniously flagged off a group of 39 enthusiastic students of district Jammu and Police Public Miran Sahib Jammu alongwith 2 caretakers each for a transformative Bharat Darshan tour. This remarkable journey aims to provide young minds with a unique opportunity to explore the cultural heritage and historical significance of India.

The Bharat Darshan tour, organized under the guidance of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, is a testament to fostering the cultural understanding. The tour encompasses



visits to iconic landmarks and cities across India. The students will have the chance to immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of India's diversity, from the majestic monuments of Delhi to vibrant streets of Hyderabad.

Speaking at the flag-off ceremony, ADGP Jammu Shri Anand Jain, IPS emphasized the importance of such initiatives in nurturing a sense of unity and pride in the country's heritage among the younger generation.

He expressed his delight in witnessing the enthusiasm among the students and encouraged them to make the most of this enriching experience. The Bharat Darshan tour not only aims to broaden the students' horizons.

The ADGP Jammu along with the DIG JKS Range, SSP Jammu, S.O ADGP Jammu and SP Hqrs. Jammu extend their best wishes to the participating students for a memorable and enlightening journey ahead.

Samvedna organizes 10th Varshik Langar on Mahashivratri



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 8

On the occasion of Maha Shivratri Chairman Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra organized 10th Varshik langar at Talab Tillo, Former Minister Sat Sharma (CA), District President BJP Jammu Parmod Kapahi, BJP JKUT Secretaries Veenu Khanna & Ayodhya Gupta, Mandal Presidents Atul Bakshi, Raman Sharma, Ex Councillors Sanjay Baru, Neelam Nargotra, Sr Sucha Singh, Suneet Raina, Jeet Angral, Ex Dy. Mayor Dharmveer Singh Jamwal, JKUT Health and Medical Cell Convenor Puneet Mahajan, District General Secretaries Kuldeep Kandhari & Adv Rajesh Gupta started the Langar. Sat Sharma

expressed Shivratri greetings to the people of the state and said that Shivratri is such a festival which reminds us how to get rid of evils and lead a pious life.

Parmod Kapahi also expressed greetings to the people of the JKUT and hoped that May this Shivratri brings Peace for everyone. Keshav Chopra also expressed his best wishes to the people of Jammu Kashmir and requested everyone to come forward and work for the needy sections.

Ayodhya Gupta and Sanjay Kumar Baru while expressing greetings said that these festivals also provide an opportunity to come together as a mark of respect towards our religion they also Prayed for

peace and Prosperity of the state. Chairman Nirbhay Bharat Foundation Tarun Uppal, Chairman KCWT Chandan Dutta, Chairman Stands for Humanity Manik Uppal, JKUT BJP Co Convenor Swacch Bharat Sahil Sharma, District Vice Presidents Jaideep Samyal, Manav Mahajan, Karan Singh, Rahul Nargotra, Rajesh Saini, Pratibha Sharma, Ranju vaid, Meena Jamwal, Geeta Sodhi, Naveen Sharma, Ramesh Kumar, Kushant Daffara, Ghansham Sharma Bablu Chand, Anupam Gupta, K.L Sharma, Nitish Kumar, Omkar Verma, Indresh Gupta, Sonali Gupta, Puneet Chawla Vipan Verma, Vikas Kumar, Ritesh Peer, Dr Sanchit Sharma and others were also present.

Vikalp organizes Village Outreach Programme



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 7

Vikalp (a students' initiative to impart education to the destitute) and NSS volunteers joined forces for the first large-scale village outreach program of this semester, wherein 20 volunteers from each organization participated. Their mission was to directly engage with residents,

enlighten them about Vikalp's initiatives, and address their inquiries. Departing from the Medical Aid Centre of SMVDU, the teams split into two groups, covering areas such as Sirah Colony, Sool, Kakryal, and Dheerti. One group walked towards the CRPF camp (3 km) in the direction of Domel, while the other group proceeded to the Shiv Mandir (4 km)

towards Panthal. With dedication, the teams visited approximately 75 to 80 households, reinforcing Vikalp's commitment to providing quality education. Some queries raised by the residents regarding the Vikalp were proficiently dealt with by the volunteers. Notably, the enthusiasm and diligence of NSS volunteers greatly contributed to the program's success. Plans include similar outreach endeavours to further extend Vikalp's impact in the nearby areas and empower more disadvantaged students by providing them with a better future. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Program Coordinator NSS, and Shri Sumanta Sarathi Sharma, Faculty Coordinator Vikalp, applauded the efforts of the volunteers.

NYK Jammu to conduct Nari Shakti Fitness Run in all blocks of district on Mar 09

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 8

To promote sports culture, sportsmanship, fitness and competitive spirit among women Nehru Yuva Kendra Jammu is all set to conduct Nari Shakti Fitness Run in all blocks of the district on 9th March 2024. These Runs are sequel to the observance of International Women's Day and to reiterate the role of healthy and fit women in the development of our nation. This event will be a testament to the power and potential of women in India and will spread the message to enhance regular physical activity participation among women, empower women through fitness, leading to improved health, confidence, and overall well-being of women folk.

Besides, it will also foster an environment conducive to women's growth and success.

As a part of this Fitness Run, in each block of the District, twenty-five women will participate in

each Nari Shakti Fitness Run on a track of half km. Dignitaries like Hon'ble MPs/MLAs, District Level Officials, Block level PRIs/Municipal Authorities, Local Youth/Sports Icons have been extended invitation to flag-off the runs in each Block of the District.

For the successful organizations of these block level Nari Fitness runs, Nehru Yuva Kendra Jammu is collaborating and partnering with NSS, NCC, District administration and other organizations to conduct the run in a befitting manner. Interested women can register themselves through MYBharat portal. At the end of the run, the winners at 1st, 2nd and 3rd position will be given MYBharat kit.

Nehru Yuva Kendra Jammu would like to appeal to womenfolk to come forward and motivate a large number of women to register themselves for the Nari Shakti Fitness Run and express your solidarity and commitment to women empowerment.

Nowshera Forest Division Commemorates Shivratri with Rudraksh Plantation Drive



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 8

Nowshera Forest Division proudly announces the successful execution of a Rudraksh plantation drive in celebration of Shivratri. Under the esteemed supervision of Sandeep Kumar, Conservator of Forests, West Circle Rajouri, Shweta Deonia, Divisional Forest Officer, Nowshera, and the dedicated efforts of Dr. Rakesh Verma, Range Officer, Sunderbani, this initiative marked a significant step towards environmental conservation.

The dedicated efforts of the staff from Kangri Forest

Block were instrumental in the smooth conduct of the drive. Their commitment and hard work ensured the successful planting of Rudraksh trees, contributing to the preservation of our natural heritage.

This initiative not only pays homage to the cultural significance of Shivratri but also emphasizes our collective responsibility to protect and nurture our forests for future generations.

Block Forest Officer Didar Singh extended gratitude to all involved and encourage continued support for such initiatives aimed at safeguarding our environment.

Anurag Singh Thakur announces two National Centres of Excellence for Women

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAR 8

On the occasion of International Women's Day on Friday, Union Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur announced the establishment of two National Centres of Excellence, exclusively for women. NCOEs cover 23 focused/priority disciplines where Indian athletes have a chance to win medals in global competitions like the Asian Games and the Olympics.

Reacting to lack of trainers, coaches and infrastructure at the state level, Shri Thakur said in Bengaluru: "Sports is a state subject but still the Central government is keen to look at the upliftment of sports in the country. We have to spend a lot of money on infrastructure and coaches. We are collaborating with state gov-

ernments and asked them to identify three key sports so that we have a roadmap and information on which state will promote hockey, boxing and athletics etc.

"I have already started consolidating our NCOEs and in association with the national sports federations, will greater emphasis on producing good coaches," said Shri Anurag Singh Thakur.

The Sports Authority of India established 23 National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs) across the country to impart specialized training to promising athletes by providing state of the art infrastructure and playing facilities, sports science backup, individualized diet prescribed by trained nutritionists and overall supervision under the best coaches, qualified support staff and High Performance Directors.

Tony calls for united efforts in bringing harmony, promoting peace

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 8

Praying for universal brotherhood on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri, Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary of JKPC and DDC Member Suchetgarh, today called for putting united efforts for harmonious growth of the society besides promoting peace and tranquillity.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Bhandara organized by youth leader Tableen Boprai on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri in Jammu.

In his address, Tony stressed the crucial need of strengthening the bonds and amity and brotherhood, saying this has been the cornerstone of Indian ethos. He said the spiritual land of India has emanated the message of humanity from times immemorial and guided humanity to peace, prosperity and spiritual bliss.

The senior Congress leader raised serious concern over certain elements within society who engage in divisive politics, attempting to create rifts among different communities. He cautioned the people to remain vigilant and united against such divisive forces, emphasizing the



importance of fostering a society based on inclusiveness, understanding, and mutual respect. He hoped that everyone will play a role towards the growth of the society based on social justice and equality.

Furthermore, in commemoration of International Women's Day, Tony made a heartfelt pledge to work towards the empowerment of women. Recognizing the invaluable role played by women in shaping society, he reiterated his commitment to promoting gender equality and creating an environment where women can thrive and excel. He passionately expressed his

belief that the Congress party is uniquely positioned to bring about tangible empowerment opportunities for women, citing the party's longstanding commitment to social justice and inclusivity.

Tony urged the society to recognize and appreciate the immense contributions made by women in various spheres of life, including politics, education, healthcare, and entrepreneurship. He emphasized the need to break down barriers, challenge stereotypes, and create equal opportunities for women to participate in every aspect of society.

NCC Cadets of 2 J&K Girls NCC Bn outshine at 46th Inter-Collegiate Athletic Meet 2024 at JU

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 8

The power packed performance of NCC cadets of 2 J&K Girls NCC Bn played a significant role in winning medals at the 46th Annual Athletic Meet held at Jammu University. This feat was achieved out of 80 Plus Colleges which participated with their full force. The attributes of dedication, determination and disciplined training, coupled with their athletic abilities as well "Victorious Will contribute towards their triumph. From GCW Udhampur, which stood First in the event, Cadet Mettali Rajput won silver medal in the 4x100 relay race and Bronze in 200m race. Cadet Simran won Gold in 400 m, Silver in 4x100 m relay race and Cadet Smriti won Silver medal in 4x400 relay race. This highlights the impressive and valuable contribution of NCC cadets towards GCW Udhampur's success. From GDC Kathua Cadet Monika, Cadet Deepika and Cadet Banita won Bronze medal in 4x100m Relay Race. Whereas, Cadet Kajal Devi won Bronze medal in ShotPut. From GCW



Parade College, Cadet Shagun Bassan bagged Gold medal in 5km race and also got Bronze medal in Discus Throw, Cadet Neha Sharma bagged Bronze medal in 1500m race, Cadet Janvi Chib bagged Bronze medal in long jump, Cadet Preeti Devi got bronze medal in high jump. Cadet Shagun bassan, Cadet Shakuntla, Cadet Neha, Cadet Aditri got 4th position in

4x400m relay race. Also, Cadet Janvi Chib, Cadet kritika, Cadet Aditri, Cadet Sweety got 4th position in 4x100m relay race. The presence of Brig P S Cheema, SM, VSM, Group Cdr, NCC GP HQ Jammu as the Guest of Honour highlighted the NCC's role in fostering sporting excellence. His presence was a key factor in motivating the cadets to achieve excellence.

Indian Army organizes free medical camp, distributes ration cards among Bakkarwals



JJ NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, MAR 7

Indian Army which is protecting the country on the borders is also always on forefront to help the common people of border areas. Indian Army which is reaching to the people of border areas through Operation Sadbhavna is now extending a helping hand to the nomads and the Bakkarwal community. In continuation of their drive Indian Army now has organised a special camp for the local people and especially the Bakkarwal community in Milan-dikhu in which a free medical camp was organised by army doctors and free medicines were also distributed.

The Bakkarwal community is considered one of the most historical tribes of Jammu and Kashmir due to their rich culture and ethnic traditions. A large number of Gujjars and Bakkarwals follow a nomadic lifestyle. Due to their nomadic lifestyle, they faced a lot of problems regarding ration and ration cards, keeping this in mind the Army distributed dry ration to them during the special camp and also distributed their ration cards to them. These people were deprived of ration cards since last so many years. The people of Bakkarwal community welcomed the step of the Indian Army and thanked them and appealed to the Army officials to continue organizing similar programs in future also.

Advisor Bhatnagar distributes trophies, medals among winners, runner up teams of 23rd All India Police Water Sports Championship at Srinagar



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 8

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today distributed trophies and medals among the winners and runner up teams of 23rd All India Police Water Sports Championship 2023-24 (Men & Women), during the closing ceremony of the event held here at SKICC.

DGP, R.R Swain; ADGP, Vijay Kumar; senior offi-

cers of the J&K Police, participants from various teams from across the country and large number of people were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Advisor Bhatnagar remarked that this reputable tournament marks a dawn in Jammu and Kashmir as it will significantly contribute in promoting sports and lewd to overall development of youth.

He added that J&K is becoming a powerhouse of sports and a preferred destination for organising national and international sports events.

He highlighted that the UT has made significant development in establishing world-class sports infrastructure from Pan-chayat level.

The Advisor on the occasion commended J&K Police for organising this grand event.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, DGP, J&K, R.R Swain said that JKP is committed to popularise the water sports in Jammu and Kashmir as the region is rich in having water bodies both calm and fast, which makes it good destination for holding these kind of events.

The Advisor on the occasion also distributed trophies and medals among the winners and participants of the championship.

In Kayaking Women,

Canoeing Women and Rowing Women events, SSB emerged victorious. In Kayaking Men's event, SSB emerged victorious, Canoeing Men's event, BSF won winners trophy while as in Rowing Men's event, Uttar Pradesh Police took winners trophy.

Pertinently, a total of 30 teams (20 Men & 10 Women) from around the country, comprising about 500 players, participated in the event.

SGWF hosts Rudraksh Plantation Drive in celebration of Shivratri

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 7

The Synergetic Green Warriors Foundation proudly organized a Rudraksh plantation drive at Shiv Mandir Dhera Bhajwal, Sunderbani, in commemoration of Shivratri. Under the esteemed guidance of Dr. Sonia Verma, Director of the foundation, this initiative aimed to promote environmental sustainability and cultural reverence. The success of this endeavor was made possible by the enthusiastic participation of individuals including Kewal Krishan (Papu), Manoj Kumar Ranyal, Shree Kant, Shanti, Sudreshan Prashar, Nitu, Daksh Sharma, and Mohinder Ranyal, whose dedication and hard work contributed to the drive's success.

The foundation extends its sincere gratitude to all those involved, as well as



to Dogar Nath, Office Secretary, for his invaluable guidance and support throughout the event.

This initiative exemplifies the foundation's commitment to environmental

conservation and community engagement. We invite the public to join us in our efforts to cultivate a greener, more sustainable future for all said Dr Sonia Verma .

Yasha Mudgal flags off 25 member group from Jammu for 17 day Special Combined Paragliding Course

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 8

Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Yasha Mudgal today flagged off a group of 25 adventure enthusiasts from Railway station here to undertake a 17-day Special Combined Paragliding Course at NIMAS Training area in Seppa, Arunachal Pradesh, renowned for adventure sports education.

The course is scheduled from March 12 to March 28, 2024 and will encompass three levels - Basic, Intermediate, and Advance (P1, P2, & P3), catering to the diverse skill sets of the participants.

Speaking on the occasion, Yasha Mudgal highlighted on the tremendous potential of Jammu as an adventure tourism

hotspot. She stressed on the importance of capitalizing this potential of Jammu and make it leading adventurous destination of the country.

She commended the Directorate of Tourism Jammu for these kind of initiatives, noting its pivotal role in leveraging the region's natural beauty and diverse landscapes to attract adventure enthusiasts worldwide.

She expressed confidence in the participants' ability to excel in their paragliding endeavours, solidifying Jammu's reputation as a premier destination for adventure tourism.

Joint Director, Tourism Jammu on the occasion highlighted the significance of nurturing local talent, underscoring how this initiative will contrib-

ute to the overall development of Jammu region as a prime adventure tourism destination .

Pertinently, this initiative aims to cultivate local talent, invigorate adventure tourism and elevate Jammu as a premier adventure tourism destination. This special combined paragliding course not only provides a platform for adventure enthusiasts to hone their skills but also aligns with the government's vision to promote adventure tourism and position the region as a premier destination.

During their interaction with the media, participants expressed gratitude to the Tourism Department for the initiative and conveyed hopes for its transformative impact on adventure

tourism, envisioning a future where Jammu becomes a global hub for thrill-seekers and adventurers alike.

Notably, Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, in collaboration with the Indian Kayaking & Canoeing Association (IKCA) and Jammu Adventure Sports Association (JASA), has conducted comprehensive water surveys across all districts of Jammu Division. These surveys have yielded valuable recommendations, pinpointing specific locations for activities like paragliding at Aitham, Dhanwa, Billo ki Paudi, Mokhri, and water-based activities in various locations. Additionally, 38 new trekking routes have been identified, further enhancing adventure tourism offerings in the region.

Ch. Zulfkar Ali reiterates demand for statehood restoration, holding of assembly elections in J&K

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAR 9

Apni Party today, while celebrating its 4th foundation day here at the district headquarter in Rajouri, reiterated its commitment to continue to fight for the restoration of statehood and holding of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

To commemorate the foundation day of the Party, a meeting was arranged at the Dak Bungalow in Rajouri to discuss the future course of action amid the uncertainty over the assembly elections which has disappointed the people of all the regions.

The meeting was chaired by Apni Party Vice President, and Former Cabinet Minister, Choudhary Zulfkar Ali. He was accompanied by Senior Provincial Vice President, Jammu Region, Ex-MLA from Rajouri, Qamar Choudhary, District

President Rajouri, Syed Manzoor Hussain Shah Bukhari, and other leaders of the Party.

In his address, the Former Cabinet Minister, Choudhary Zulfkar Ali explained how it was difficult for the leaders to get united and lay the foundation of a political party that would tell truth to the people without fearing for any kind of consequences while opposing divisive politics that has denied Jammu and Kashmir regions.

He advocated unity among the people of different regions, especially in Poonch and Rajouri to elect their representative to the Parliament and ensure development in the region that has been hampered for the last several years because of the bureaucratic regime.

"The bureaucracy has no accountability, especially because Jammu and Kashmir has no elected

Govt. In absence of their accountability, they fail to implement developmental projects, keep the pace of development, and ensure basic amenities in the rural and urban areas equally," he said, while expressing anguish over the ignorance of the rural areas in Pir Panjal where the basic amenities have not been provided whereas the Jal Jeevan Scheme has collapsed despite claims by the authorities.

The tap water has not reached the villages and the situation of electricity, health and educational sectors is equally suffering because the officials are not working as per the expectation of the people, he said, while pointing out towards the widening gap between the masses and the administration.

He stressed for the holding of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, and restoration of statehood. "The people are feeling

alienated from the present form of regime, but they are not being given heed by the authorities. Therefore, the developmental projects have come to stand still, and the rural areas are worst affected due to the deliberate negligence," he added.

He further said that the Govt has neglected the Pir Panjal region regarding its equitable development, promotion of tourism, employment sector, industrialization, connecting the region with railway line, air service, development etc.

He asked the people of Rajouri as well as Poonch to get united to forcefully highlight their demands so that the region can be developed.

Lauding the role of PRIs, BDCs and DDCs, he said that these institutions however failed to bring much needed relief or development in the region because the authorities did not pay heed to their development.

DC Poonch reviews arrangements for Ramazan

J NEWS SERVICE POONCH, MARCH 8

Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary chaired a meeting to review the necessary arrangements for the upcoming holy month of Ramadan.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Dev, Commissioner, Sandesh Kumar Sharma, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik, Dy. SP Hqrs. Kuldeep Kumar, Deputy CMO, Dr. P.A Khan, Tehsildar Haveli, Azhar Majid, Xen PWD, Imtiaz Khan, SHO Poonch, Kunal Singh Jamwal, CEO Municipality, Yaqoob Choudhary, AD Food, Adil Shabir, ARTO Poonch, Taramani, CAHO, Dr. Yousin, DSHO, Ashish Mahajan, representatives from PHE, Fire Services besides other concerned officers were present.

The meeting focused on various important issues such as ensuring adequate



power and water supply, regulating prices of essential items, maintaining cleanliness, managing traffic, enhancing security, providing healthcare facilities, and making other logistical arrangements for this auspicious occasion.

Representatives from different religious organizations actively participated in the meeting, highlighting various concerns and offering suggestions for effective arrangements during the Holy Month.

To address the issue of uninterrupted water and power supply, the Deputy Commissioner issued directives to the concerned Executive Engineers from the Jal Shakti and Power Development Department (PDD). They were instructed to ensure

a continuous provision of water and electricity throughout Ramadan. Additionally, the Assistant Director of Food was directed to provide ration as per the needs of the community.

To safeguard consumer interests and prevent unfair practices, regular market inspections will be conducted by officials from the Tehsildars, Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Food Safety, Police, and Legal Metrology departments.

The Executive Officers (EO) of Municipalities were asked to maintain high standards of cleanliness and sanitation within their respective areas, especially focusing on religious sites.

Furthermore, the Health Department was tasked with ensuring the availability of comprehensive healthcare facilities throughout the duration of Ramadan.

The Fire Services department was instructed to be prepared for any fire-related incidents that may occur during Ramadan.

The Deputy Commissioner assured all participants that any genuine concerns or issues raised during the meeting would be addressed and resolved promptly.

Among others who were present including; Chairman Human Right Foundation, Adv. Mohd. Zaman, Social activist, Taj Mir, Molana from Jama Masjid, Social activist, Surjan Singh, Harcharan Singh, President Dashnami Akhara, Harbans Lal, Chairman Pir Panjal, Fareed Malik besides other concerned representatives were present.

DC Pulwama inspects Polling Stations of Assembly Constituency 32 Pampore

J NEWS SERVICE PULWAMA, MARCH 8

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom, who is also District Election Officer today visited various polling stations of the Pampore Assembly Constituency to inspect Assured Minimum Facilities, and reviewed the preparedness of administration for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The polling stations visited on the occasion included Kakapora, ITI Women Pampore, GBHSS Ladoo, Shar Shali, BHSS Khrew, GBPS Wuyan, GBHS Wuyan, GBMS Meej GMS Kadlal and GUPS Litterbal.

The inspection was aimed to ensure that all polling stations are accessible to voters especially to specially-abled persons. Ramp access, wheelchair



facilities, and other facilities were reviewed by the DC.

The DC, accompanied by SSP Awantipora, ADC Pulwama, ADC Awantipora assessed the facilities, security arrangements and accessibility features at these polling stations.

He emphasized the concerned departments for ensuring all required facilities at the polling stations so that each and every eligible voter shall participate in the election process without any hindrance.

staff to review the preparedness and adherence to electoral guidelines, emphasizing the importance of impartiality and transparency throughout the electoral proceedings.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to conducting free, fair and peaceful elections, urging all stakeholders to cooperate and contribute to the success of the electoral process.

Later, he visited the strong room at Polytechnic College, IUST Awantipora and took stock of handling of election material for the Tral assembly segment.

The DC also reviewed the storage infrastructure, security measures, and inventory management systems in place at stations to handle election material.

NIT Srinagar condoles demise of Sr. Office Attendant, holds condolence meet



J NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, MAR 8

The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar Friday condoled the demise of its Senior Office Attendant, Abdul Majid Dar of the Personnel Department, who left for heavenly abode on Thursday.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, along with the Registrar Prof. Atikur Rahman, Deans, Heads, Chairpersons of Centers, faculty members, and administrative staff, expressed their condolences on the sudden demise of Mr.

Abdul Majid Dar. Mr. Majid joined REC (Now NIT) in 1998, who served as a Senior Office Attendant in the Personnel Department. Prior to this posting, he worked at the Institute's Mess. He passed away on Thursday evening after battling a prolonged illness.

The entire NIT Srinagar community, under the leadership of Registrar Prof. Rahman, gathered at Fountain Park for a condolence meeting, offering prayers for the departed soul.

In his condolence message, Institute's Registrar, Prof. Rahman

expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of Mr. Majid and expressed sympathy with the bereaved family.

"He was a dedicated employee and worked professionally throughout his service here. We stand with his family at this time of sorrow and grief and will extend every possible help to them," Prof. Rahman added.

Majid was a noble soul, known for his honesty, and simplicity, and was dedicated to his job. The NIT Srinagar community deeply appreciates his contributions.

Grand event marks International Women's Day celebration in Ramban

J NEWS SERVICE RAMBAN, MARCH 8

District Administration Ramban today celebrated International Women's Day, 2024 with the theme "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress," with an emphasis on economic empowerment of women folk. The programme was held under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary.

District Social Welfare Officer Rahul Gupta, Chief Education Officer Dev Anand and officers and women participated in the programme.

District level programme was held at Conference Hall, District Administrative Complex, Maitra where, the Chairperson, District Development Council Dr. Shamsahd Shan was the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairperson highlighted various programmes launched by the Government for the over-



all development of women especially girls. She also appreciated the District Administration especially Social Welfare Department and other departments for organizing a grand programme on the occasion.

She stressed the importance of fostering a soci-

also congratulated all the participants on IWD, 2024 besides sensitizing the girls about the programmes being implemented in the district for providing opportunities to them to make their career in all sectors.

The Administration also felicitated the various meritorious girl students for their outstanding performance in their respective field.

Meanwhile Dr. Asia from the Health department also spoke

on the occasion. Earlier, a cultural bonanza was also presented by the students of different schools and local artists.

Later, the Dignitaries also distributed the certificates and trophies among participants

Maha Shivratri celebrated with fervour at Kheer Bhawani Temple

J NEWS SERVICE GANDEBAL, MAR 8

Amidst a jubilant atmosphere, Maha Shivratri, locally known as 'Herath', was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the Kheer Bhawani Temple in the Tulmullah area of Ganderbal district.

Devotees, including Kashmiri Pandits, gathered at the temple to pay homage to Mata Ragniya Devi, fondly known as Mata Kheer Bhawani. The temple premises exuded a festive aura as devotees engaged in special prayers, seeking peace and prosperity for the region. Sonu, a devotee from Jammu, told the news agency that he and his family are moved by the atmosphere around them.

IIM Jammu welcomes Solo Cyclist Captain (IN) DK Jena on his Extraordinary Expedition from Kanyakumari to Kashmir

J NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, MARCH 8

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu welcomed Captain (IN) DK Jena, Indian Naval Officer, at the main gate of its campus. Captain Jena is currently undertaking an extraordinary solo cycling expedition from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, covering a remarkable distance of approximately 3900 kilometers.

As an Institution of National Importance dedicated to excellence, IIM Jammu is deeply honored to welcome and celebrate the remarkable achievements of Captain Jena. His courage, determination, and spirit exemplify the values of resilience and perseverance that our institution strives to instill in its community. A short video showcasing the journey of Captain D.K. Jena was also showcased on this occasion by the students of IIM Jammu.

Captain D.K. Jena, in his address, extended warm wishes for Happy Shivratri and International Women's Day, expressing his desire for a safer planet for women. He commended Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, for his gra-



acious welcome and praised the institution's journey towards becoming a world-class institute within a year. He emphasized that his expedition is not just about covering kilometers, but about experiencing the rich diversity of India, including its food, culture, and linguistic variety. Advocating the theme of "Shakari Bhojan, Behtaar Jeevan," he highlighted the benefits of vegetarianism in building both body and mind while reducing pollution. He underscored the detrimental effects of non-vegetarian food and emphasized the advantages of cycling for health and the environment, advocating "Burn Fat, Not Fuel."

He urged the audience, particularly students, to prioritize serving the nation and encouraged them to consider joining the Armed Forces if they aspire to contribute to the country's welfare

effectively.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, warmly welcomed Capt. D.K. Jena and reminisced about hosting Dr. Kiran Seth, Founder of SPIC Macay, who embarked on a similar expedition from Kanyakumari to Srinagar at the age of 75. He highlighted the inspiring nature of cycling across the country and advocated for vegetarian food as a path to both physical and mental well-being, echoing the sentiment of "Burn Fat, Not Fuel" emphasized by his own family. He elaborated on the campus layout, designed to promote physical fitness by encouraging students to walk between various points in the Campus. He stressed the importance of service to the nation, quoting the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of making India a developed nation by 2047 and emphasized the need

to uplift the entire society. He expressed confidence in India's potential to achieve this goal by taking everyone along. Urging students to embrace their role as future leaders, he commended Capt. D.K. Jena for accepting the invitation and serving as a role model for the IIM Jammu community, encouraging all to contribute to the nation's growth and development.

Professor Jabir Ali, Dean Academics of IIM Jammu, also shared his thoughts, expressing that Captain Jena's journey embodies the spirit of adventure, determination, and commitment to a cause. He conveyed the institution's honor in hosting Captain Jena at IIM Jammu.

Cmdr. Kesavan Baskaran, CAO of IIM Jammu, reflected on the remarkable journey of Capt. D.K. Jena, highlighting his dedication to societal causes and nation-building. He noted Captain Jena's illustrious background as a popular Marathon Runner, with numerous participations in marathon competitions. He emphasized that Captain D.K. Jena's journey, which includes seeking blessings from

the Swami Vivekanand Rock Memorial, signifies his esteemed status as a guest traveling from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. He stressed that Captain Jena's mission aims to propagate his ideas for nation-building and invites everyone to be a part of this transformative journey.

The IIM Jammu community, comprising faculty, staff, and students, extends a warm welcome to Captain Jena upon his arrival at the main gate of the campus. A felicitation program was organized at the Vivekananda Classroom to honor Captain Jena's extraordinary achievement. The entire IIM Jammu community participated in the felicitation program, showing their support for Captain Jena's remarkable feat. Following the felicitation, a Q&A session took place. Let us unite to celebrate his exceptional accomplishment and reaffirm our commitment to promoting a healthy and environmentally conscious lifestyle. The event was meticulously coordinated by the Sports Committee and Student Affairs Office.

GDC Baderwah organises Interactive Workshop-cum-lecture on EVM and VVPAT



J NEWS SERVICE DODA, MARCH 8

In a significant move towards promoting voters awareness, the NSS Unit of Government Degree (PG) College Baderwah, in collaboration with District Election Office Doda, hosted an interactive workshop-cum-lecture on the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs). The workshop was attended by more than 200 students and faculty of the college.

The initiative was led by the District Nodal Officer SVEEP, Dr. Akhtar

Hussain, who guided the participants through the nuances of these modern electoral technologies.

The event aimed to educate students and faculty members about the functioning and importance of EVMs and VVPATs in maintaining the integrity of the electoral process.

As part of the voters' awareness campaign, the workshop served as a platform for open dialogue and hands-on experience with the equipment, fostering a deeper understanding of their role in democratic governance.

Dr. Akhtar Hussain, a renowned electoral

expert, delivered a comprehensive lecture on the technical aspects of EVMs and VVPATs and addressed concerns and misconceptions surrounding these systems. His extensive experience in the field provided valuable insights into the functioning and benefits of these technologies.

The interactive workshop offered participants the opportunity to engage in practical sessions, learning how to operate EVMs and VVPATs.

The organizer of this event, Prof. Mohd Yaseen Sirwal, NSS Programme officer said that educating the public about the electoral process is crucial for a healthy democracy.

The event culminated by a vote of thanks proposed by Prof. Zain-ul-Aabidin, HOD Political Science who thanked Dr. Akhtar Hussain, organisers of the event, all the staff members, students and others who are directly or indirectly involved in this event for their tireless efforts in making this event successful.