

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, MARCH 08, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Kareena Kapoor says she can't relate when sees her images with filters and edits



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Murmu awards President's Standard and Colours to 4 units of Indian Air Force

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US to revitalise partnership with allies like India amidst China's rise: Joe Biden



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BRIEFLY

After 5 Months, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq Allowed to Offer Friday Prayers at Jamia Masjid

SRINAGAR, Mar 8 (Agencies): Mirwaiz Kashmir, Umar Farooq was allowed to offer congregational prayers at the Jamia Masjid Srinagar after five months. "Mirwaiz was permitted to leave his residence in Nigeen locality this afternoon," reports said.

After departing his residence, Mirwaiz made his way to the Jamia Masjid in the Nowhatta area of the city and participated in the congregational Friday prayers.

Mirwaiz had been placed under house arrest since August 2019 following the abrogation of Article 370.

Although he was released in September last year after four years and allowed to pray at the Jamia Masjid for a few weeks, he was detained again amidst protests against the Israeli action in the Gaza Strip.

Mirwaiz had petitioned the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court against restrictions on his movement.

On February 21, the court issued a "last and final opportunity" to the Union territory administration to respond to his petition.

Two drug peddlers arrested in Kulgam

SRINAGAR, Mar 8 (Agencies): Continuing its unwavering efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested 02 drug peddlers in Kulgam and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A Spokesperson said that a police party headed by SHO police station Qazigund during patrolling noticed a person carrying a nylon bag and roaming in suspicious circumstances near bus stand Qazigund. He was intercepted and after search, officers present were able to recover 2.5 Kgs of Poppy Straw like contraband substance filled in the said bag from his possession. The person identified as Mohd Mansoor Gojer son of

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Centre approves Rs 2,093 Cr outlay for highway, ropeway projects in J&K

NEW DELHI, Mar 8 (Agencies): Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari announced on Friday that an allocation of Rs 2,093.92 crore has been approved for widening two highways and a ropeway project in Jammu and Kashmir.

The minister said an outlay of Rs 1404.94 crore has been approved for the widening and strengthening of the Rafiabab - Kupwara - Chowkibal - Tangdhar - Chamkot section of National Highway-701 in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said this initiative, executed under Project Beacon in Baramulla and Kupwara districts on engineering, pro-



urement and construction (EPC) mode under Package I, aims to transform the 51 km route into two-lanes. The highway is critical for logistics in the region as it forms a part of the strategic route connecting Baramulla and Kupwara districts. It plays a pivotal role and is integral to the development of the tourism sector in North Kashmir

near the International Border

Gadkari said that an allocation of Rs 126.58 crore has been approved for the development, operation, and maintenance of a 1.5 km ropeway from SDA Parking (Near Zabarwan Park) to Shankaracharya Temple in Srinagar district.

The initiative operates

on the Hybrid Annuity Model, utilizing monicable detachable gondola (MDG) technology with a capacity to transport 700 persons per hour per direction. This project is designed to offer a panoramic view of Srinagar city and Dal Lake, providing a safe and convenient transportation means. It ensures easy access for individuals with disabilities and senior citizens to visit the temple, reducing travel time from approximately 30 minutes to about 5 minutes. Additionally, it serves as an eco-friendly mode for transport, creates employment opportunities for the local

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Society must acknowledge Women's Contribution: JK Chief Justice

SRINAGAR, Mar 8 (Agencies): The Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh N Kotiswar Singh Friday said that the society must acknowledge the contribution of women and shall give them all the spaces and rights they deserve.

Speaking on International Women's Day at University of Kashmir, Justice Kotiswar said, said that women have been playing an important role in the society but somehow in the modern times, the same has not been recognized.

He said that this is the day when we remind ourselves of the important role played by women and also inspire ourselves so that we acknowledge the role played by the women.

"We also have to make ourselves aware about

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One Dead, 4 Injured as Vehicle falls into Gorge in Poonch Village

POONCH, Mar 8 (Agencies): 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".

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No conflict between INDIA bloc members on seat-sharing in J&K, says Congress leader



SRINAGAR, Mar 8 (Agencies): Talks on seat-sharing with NC and PDP in Jammu and Kashmir for the forthcoming parliamentary polls are on and there

is no disagreement between the members of the INDIA bloc in the Union Territory, a Congress office-bearer said here on Friday. "There is no disagree-

ment. It is not a big issue. Every party has a right to claim as many seats it can. But, the talks are on," Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) senior vice president Ghulam Nabi Monga told reporters.

Monga's remarks came after the National Conference (NC) said it will field candidates on the three seats in the Kashmir Valley without leaving a seat for the Peoples Democratic Party

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Woman dies in road accident

SRINAGAR, Mar 8 (Agencies): A lady lost her life in a road accident in the Pattan area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Friday afternoon.

An official said that one pedestrian identified as Khazri Begum, wife of Mohd Asgar Dar resident of Matipora aged about 60 years was hit and injured by one Motorcycle.

He said that the injured was shifted to Trauma

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Forester among two officials arrested over bribery charges

SRINAGAR, Mar 8 (Agencies): 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 visited Range Office, Watergam, he was given one transit permit for transportation of timber but the concerned Forester demanded bribe of Rs 3500 for said issued permit and also told him that he had to pay more for other three pending permissions.

The complainant approached to ACB

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Will take decision after consulting Congress: Mehbooba on Omar Abdullah's 'no alliance' remark

SRINAGAR, Mar 8 (Agencies): Hours after National Conference Vice-President Omar Abdullah said there will be no alliance with the PDP for upcoming Lok Sabha polls, Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti threw ball in Congress's court, saying that it will come up with a decision after consulting the party, which is part of



INDIA bloc. Mehbooba while addressing a presser in Srinagar said that

she was hurt after NC's decision as the party has done what BJP can't do by damaging the PAGD.

"What BJP couldn't do, has been done by PAGD member himself. People of J&K had expectations from PAGD and then INDIA alliance. It's a big setback for the people," Mehbooba said.

She also said that she would talk to Congress in this regard and will come up with a decision soon. "I am a fighter. We will talk to Congress in this regard and will

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Former Legislator joins National Conference

SRINAGAR Mar 8 (Agencies): Former legislator and Pahari leader Javeed Baig joined the National Conference on Friday. NC vice president Omar Abdullah and

senior party leaders welcomed Baig into the party fold.

Baig had won the last assembly polls from the Baramulla assembly segment in 2014 on the People's Democratic Party (PDP)

ticket. He later quit the PDP in 2019 and joined the newly-formed Apni Party.

Baig was expelled from the Apni Party over "anti-party" activities in January this year.

Personal remarks on pm backfire, secure self-goal for opposition: Omar



SRINAGAR, Mar 8 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah here on Friday said personal attacks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi backfire for the opposi-

tion and slogans about his family only secure a self-goal.

Omar Abdullah's remarks came in response to a question about RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav's jibe on

the Prime Minister for having no family.

Omar Abdullah, whose party is a member of the opposition's INDIA bloc, said such things backfire like the "Chowkidar chor hai" slogan did in the last election.

"I was never in favour of such slogans and nor they benefit us. In fact, there is an opposite effect when we use such slogans, it causes loss to us. A voter is not satisfied with these slogans, he wants to know how the issues he

faces today would be addressed.

"He wants to know about employment generation, tackling agricultural distress, reactivate rural economy. He wants to hear about those things rather than whether someone has a family or not," Abdullah told reporters. The former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister said the opposition only secures a self-goal with such slogans.

"Now, we have given

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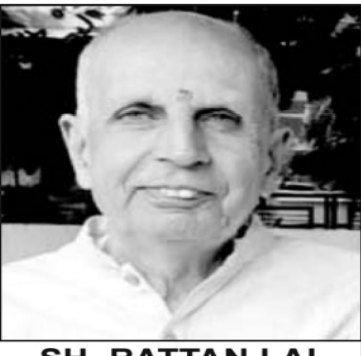
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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you about sad demise of **Sh. Rattan Lal Garib** originally from Sopore J&K, residing at Gangyal Jammu and Currently based at Chatrapati Sambhainagar (Aurangabad) Maharashtra. **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be held at Kaigaon Rameshwar Ghat on 10th March 2024 Sunday. Assembly followed by Prasad will be held at our residence at 1230 hrs at A 601, Kasliwal Marvel East Beed Bypass Road Sambhainagar (Aurangabad) **GRIEF STRICKEN**
Smt. Nancy Garib & Family.
All Nears & Dears
9149597208



SH. RATTAN LAL GARIB

TENTH DAY/KRIYA & RASAM PAGRI

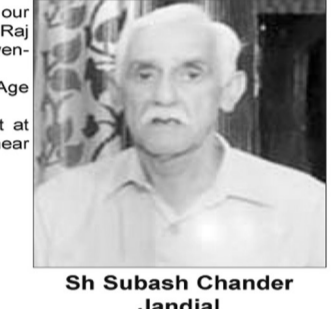
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father, **Sh. Jagdish Raj Choudhary** S/o Late Sh. Chajju Ram Choudhary, R/o H.No. 382, Jawahar Nagar, Narwal Pain, Satwari, Jammu, who left for his heavenly abode on 27.02.2024. **TENTH DAY** shall be performed on 7th March 2024 (Thursday) between 12:00 noon and 1:30 p.m. at our residence. **KRIYA** will be performed on 10th March 2024 (Sunday) at 12:00 noon at our residence. **RASAM PAGRI** shall also be performed on 10th March, the same day. **GRIEF STRICKEN**
(Sons & Daughters-in-law)
Sh. Balbir Choudhary and Smt. Swarna Choudhary. (M/S Balbir Advertiser)
Sh. Kuldeep Choudhary and Smt. Meenu Choudhary.
(M/S Pakaya Builders and Developers Pvt Ltd.)
Grand Children - Aditya, Udhayveer, Amrisha, and Amariah
Mobile Nos. 9419185250, 705111136, and 9419115852



Sh. Jagdish Raj Choudhary

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Subash Chander Jandial** (Lambi Gali Wale) S/o Des Raj Jandial R/o Near KDN Palace Udhampur, who had left us for heavenly abode on 29-02-24. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 09-03-24 (Saturday) at Jagriti Old Age Home, Udhampur at 12 Noon. **Kriya** will be performed on 12-03-24 (Tuesday) at Devika Ghat at 12:00 Noon and **Rasam Pagri** will be performed at our residence near KDN Palace Udhampur on 15-03-24 (Friday) at 4:00 PM. **GRIEF STRICKEN**
Smt Raj Kumari Jandial (Wife)
Sons and Daughters-in-law
Dr Suhail Jandial and Dr Kshama Gupta
Dr Suchait Jandial and Dr Sonia Gupta
Brothers and Sisters-in-law
Late Sh Romesh Chander Jandial and Smt Gita Devi
Sh Jagdish Chander Jandial and Late Smt Pushpa Devi
Sh Ashok Jandial and Smt Anita Gupta
Sh Shiv Jandial and Smt Sadhana Jandial
Sisters and Brothers-in-law
Smt Chander Kanta and Sh Vidya Rattan Gupta
Late Smt Chander Lata and Late Sh Ram Rattan Mehta
Smt Chander Prabha and Sh Des Raj Gupta
Smt Chander Bala and Sh Jugal Kishore Gupta
Grand Children
Reetisha and Ivisha
JANDIAL FAMILY (7889632273, 9463178535, 7006783225)



Sh Subash Chander Jandial

TENTH DAY/KIRYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Asha Rani** W/o Pt. Hari Dutt R/o 321/ Gali Dal Wali Kanak Mandi Jammu on 01/03/2024. **TENTH DAY** will be performed on 10/03/2024 Sunday at Rani Talab Moti Bazar Jammu at 11am. **KIRYA** will be performed on 11/03/2024 Monday at 11 am & **UTHALA** will be performed on 13/03/2024 Wednesday from 12:30 pm to 1:30pm at Central Mahajan Hall, Shalamar Jammu. **GRIEF STRICKEN**
Pt. Hari Dutt - (Husband)
Daughter-in-laws & Sons
Smt. Radhika Kaur & Sh. Sanjeev Kaur
Smt. Mamta Kaur & Sh. Hanish Kaur
Daughters & Son-in-laws
Smt. Sarita Sharma & Sh. Sanjay Sharma
Smt. Nalini Sharma & Sh. Rajesh Sharma
Brother-in-law & Sister-in-laws
Smt. Asha & Sh. Rakesh Kaur
Sister in laws & Brother in laws
Lt. Smt. Lalita Sharma & Lt. Sh. Sunil Kumar Sharma
Smt. Vijay Sharma & Lt. Sh. VD Sharma



SMT. ASHA RANI

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Shakuntla Devi (Munni Bua)** W/o Late Sh. Sat Pal Gupta. **The Fifth Day** will be held on Saturday 09-03-2024 from 10:30 am to 11.00 am at Paanch Mandir Sector-2 Channi Himmat, Jammu. **GRIEF-STRICKEN:**
Smt. Neelam Mahajan and Sudershan Kumar (RAJA) -Nephew
Smt. Shivani Gupta and Aman Mahajan
Smt. Aditi Mahajan and Bhanav Mahajan
Mobile No:- 94191-49495, 9419366531



Smt. Shakuntla Devi (Munni Bua)

TENTH DAY/KIRYA/ RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Krishna Devi** on 29.02.2024 and **Sh. Kuldeep Raj Sangra** on 02.03.2024 R/o 712, Sec. 7 Model Town Gangyal Jammu. **TENTH DAY** shall be performed on 09.03.2024 Saturday at 11:00 AM at our residence 712, Sec. 7 Model Town Gangyal Jammu. **KIRYA** shall be performed on 10.03.2024 Sunday at 11:00 AM. **Rasam Pagri** shall be performed on 13.03.2024 Wednesday at 12.00 Noon at Shiv Temple Model Town Gangyal Jammu. **GRIEF STRICKEN:-**
Harnam Dass Sangra (Brother)
(Sisters-in-law & Brothers)
Saroj Sharma & Ved Parkash Sharma
Raj Dulari & Sham Lal Sangra
Kamla Devi (Sister)
Daughter-in-laws & Sons
Sunita Sharma & Sanjeev Sangra
Meenakshi Bawa & Ranjeev Sangra



SMT. KRISHNA DEVI

SH. KULDEEP RAJ SANGRA

Daughter & Son-in-law
Ritu & Navneet Vats
Gautam, Chaitanya, Siddharth & Vinayak (Grand children)
Contact: +917889312225, +919419104916

10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **SH MAHARAJ KRISHAN TICKOO** S/O LATE HADAY NATH TICKOO ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF RUGHNATH MANDIR, HABBA KADAL SRINAGAR PRESENTLY AT H.NO 255 SECTOR 2 GANGYAL GARDEN JAMMU NEAR ST PAUL CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL WHO LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE ON 03RD MARCH 2024. **10TH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT BHADRAKALI MANDIR THALWAL, PHALIAN MANDAL JAMMU ON 12TH MARCH (TUESDAY) FOLLOWED BY ASSEMBLY AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION MUTHI JAMMU AT 10.30AM. **GRIEF STRICKEN**
SMT BIMLA TICKOO (WIFE)
ROZY TICKOO & RAKESH TICKOO (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)
MEENAKSHI BHAT & RAKESH BHAT (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW)
PRIYA BHAT & SUSHEEL BHAT (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW)
BABLI PANDITA & CHAND JI PANDITA (SISTER & BROTHER IN LAW)
BROTHER & SISTER IN LAWS
RENU TICKOO
KAILASH TICKOO
PROMILA TICKOO & SHIBAN JI TICKOO
DR USHA KHER TICKOO & SUNEEL K TICKOO
SAMAST TICKOO PARIWAR, BHATS, PANDITAS, KOULS, DHARS
CONTACT NUMBER: 9419132953, 9419259010



SH MAHARAJ KRISHAN TICKOO

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief, we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Uma Shori (Pyarji)** W/o Sh. Bansil Lal Bhat originally from Hanjiwara Pattan presently at Meerat left for her heavenly abode on 29th Feb., 2024. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be held at Chota Haridwar Murad Nagar on 9th March 2024. **GRIEF STRICKEN**
Bansil Lal Bhat (Husband)
Bharat Bhushan Bhat (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Shyama & Mani Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Pamposh & Sunil Sopori (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Urmila & Ravi K. Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)
All Friends and Relatives
Mobile No.: 9622220958, 9927233549



Smt. Uma Shori (Pyarji)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Mr Bharat Bhushan Raina (Pappu Ji)** S/o Sh M.L. Raina originally from Alikadal presently at H.No.170, Sector-3, Upper Roop Nagar, Club Road left for his heavenly abode on 1st March 2024. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be held at Muthi Ghat on 10-03-2024 (Sunday) at 11 am. **GRIEF STRICKEN**
Ramma Mattoo Raina
Daughter & Son-in-law
Aakanksha S Arora & Angad Singh
Aary Raina -**Son**
Kiran Kachroo -**Sister**
Rajesh & Seema Raina -**Brother & Bhabi**
Nisha & Sandeep Kaul -**Sister & Brother-in-law**
H.N Raina -**Uncle**
P.N Raina & Usha -**Uncle & Aunt**
B.L Raina -**Uncle**
Mattoo's, Samast Raina Parivar all nears & dears
Mobile No. 9469212956, 7780817936, 9419140849



Mr Bharat Bhushan Raina (Pappu Ji)

Nephew
Rakshit Kachroo
Niece
Shirin Raina

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh Rajinder Singh Slathia (Pinky)** S/o Ishwar Singh R/o Gurha Slathia Mandi Udh Vijaypur District, Samba. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 09/03/2024 (Saturday) at our residence Gurha Slathia Mandi Udh at 11:00 AM. **GRIEF STRICKEN:-**
(Father and Mother)
Sh Ishwar Singh and Smt Savita Devi
(Brother and Bhabi)
Sh Narinder Singh (Vijay) and Mrs Arti Slathia
(Brother and (Bhabi)
Sh. Virinder Singh (Bittu) and Mrs Renuka Slathia
Smt Shivani Rani (Wife)
Tanisha Slathia and Manik Slathia (Daughter and Son)
Sh. Jagdish Singh and Smt Santosh Devi (Brother-in-law and Sister)
Smt Neetu Devi (Sister)
Shunty, Bunty, Anish and Kanahiya (Nephew)
Anisha (Niece)



SH RAJINDER SINGH SLATHIA (PINKY)

10TH DAY/ KRIYA

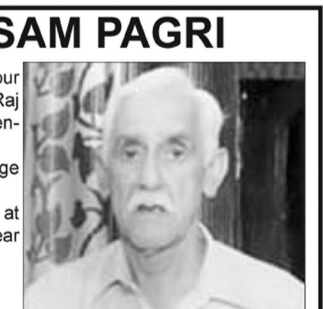
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Maya Devi** W/o Lt. Sh. Des Raj Abrol R/o 102/12 Chabutra Bazar, Udhampur on 29th February 2024. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 9th March 2024 (Saturday) at 11:30 AM at Mahajan Hall (Sheetla Mandir Gali) Chabutra Bazar, Udhampur. **Kriya** will be performed on 12th of March 2024 (Tuesday) at 11:00 am onwards at Devika Ghat, Udhampur. **GRIEF STRICKEN:-**
Smt. Sudershana & Sh. Vijay Abrol (Daughter-in-law & Son)
Smt. Sunita & Sh. Ashok Abrol (Daughter-in-law & Son)
Smt. Neelam & Lt. Sh. Ashok Ana nd (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Smt. Nisha & Sh. Pawan Puri (Daughter & Son-in-law)
(Grand Daughter-in-law & Grand Son)
Mrs. Radhika & Mr. Sahil Abrol
Miss Anshika, Miss Mitali (Grand Daughters)
Mr. Suhail Abrol, Mr. Sushant Abrol (Grand Sons)
Baby Shrinika (Great Grand Daughter)
9419378867 | 9697166661 | 9906097077



SMT. MAYA DEVI

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

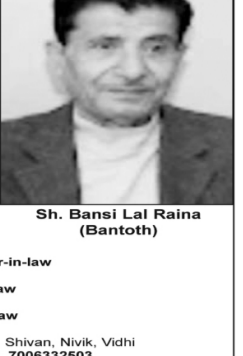
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Subash Chander Jandial** (Lambi Gali Wale) S/o Des Raj Jandial R/o Near KDN Palace Udhampur, who had left us for heavenly abode on 29-02-24. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 09-03-24 (Saturday) at Jagriti Old Age Home, Udhampur at 12 Noon. **Kriya** will be performed on 12-03-24 (Tuesday) at Devika Ghat at 12:00 Noon and **Rasam Pagri** will be performed at our residence near KDN Palace Udhampur on 15-03-24 (Friday) at 4:00 PM. **GRIEF STRICKEN**
Smt Raj Kumari Jandial (Wife)
Sons and Daughters-in-law
Dr Suhail Jandial and Dr Kshama Gupta
Dr Suchait Jandial and Dr Sonia Gupta
Brothers and Sisters-in-law
Late Sh Romesh Chander Jandial and Smt Gita Devi
Sh Jagdish Chander Jandial and Late Smt Pushpa Devi
Sh Ashok Jandial and Smt Anita Gupta
Sh Shiv Jandial and Smt Sadhana Jandial
Sisters and Brothers-in-law
Smt Chander Kanta and Sh Vidya Rattan Gupta
Late Smt Chander Lata and Late Sh Ram Rattan Mehta
Smt Chander Prabha and Sh Des Raj Gupta
Smt Chander Bala and Sh Jugal Kishore Gupta
Grand Children
Reetisha and Ivisha
JANDIAL FAMILY (7889632273, 9463178535, 7006783225)



Sh Subash Chander Jandial

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved father **Karamyogi Sh. Bansil Lal Raina (Bantoth)** S/o Late Sh. Damodhar Raina originally resident of Ikumoo (Kokernag), Ananinag presently at H.No. 4-C, Sector-5, Sharda Colony, Patoli, Brahmana, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 3rd March 2024. **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Akhnoor on 12th March 2024 followed by **ASSEMBLY** at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu, at 11 AM. **GRIEF STRICKEN**
Smt & Sh. Raju Raina - Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt & Sh. Satish Mattoo - Daughter & Son-in-law
Brother & Sister-in-law
Smt & Sh. Autar Krishan Raina
Smt & Sh. Ravi Raina - Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt & Sh. Surinder Raina - Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt & Sh. Amit Raina - Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt & Sh. Sunel Pandita - Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt & Sh. Rohit Bhat - Daughter & Son-in-law
Grand Children - Sahil, Swarn, Gurnu, Anu, Gujru, Shivam, Nivik, Vidhi
Contact: 7006678904, 7006909650, 7889493935, 7006332503



Sh. Bansil Lal Raina (Bantoth)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

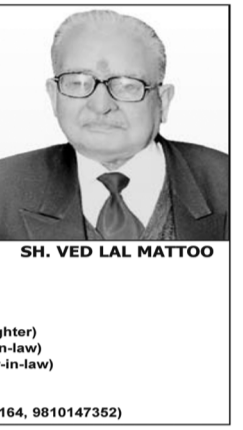
With profound grief, we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Uma Shori (Pyarji)** W/o Sh. Bansil Lal Bhat originally from Hanjiwara Pattan presently at Meerat left for her heavenly abode on 29th Feb., 2024. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be held at Chota Haridwar Murad Nagar on 9th March 2024. **GRIEF STRICKEN**
Bansil Lal Bhat (Husband)
Bharat Bhushan Bhat & Kiran Bhat (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Shyama & Mani Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Pamposh & Sunil Sopori (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Urmila & Ravi K. Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)
All Friends and Relatives
Mobile No.: 9622220958, 9927233549



Smt. Uma Shori (Pyarji)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

As the time rolls by, your memory grows stronger and we remember and miss you always with a deep ache in our hearts. Your loving kindness, warmth and compassion touched everyone's hearts. You were an epitome of strength and full of life. May God Almighty grant the eternal peace and Sadgati to the noble soul. **MASWAR and VAHARVAR** of our beloved father **Late Ved Lal Mattoo** R/o Galwanpora, Kashmir will be performed on 8th & 9th of March, 2024 at 115, Sector 7, Vikas Nagar, Patoli, Jammu. **FONDLY REMEMBERED AND MISSED BY:**
Susheela Mattoo (Wife)
Indra & Prof P K Koul (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Purnima Sapru W/o Late Sh. Ramesh Sapru (Daughter)
Rakesh Mattoo & Renu Mattoo (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Ramesh Mattoo & Sujata Mattoo (Son & Daughter-in-law)
All Grand Children
Kachru & Thussu Parivar (In-laws)
(9622582353, 8750076040, 955215987, 9469500164, 9810147352)



SH. VED LAL MATTOO

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Ashok Parihar (Advocate)**, R/o 28-A, D/C Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, on 28th February, 2024. **Tenth Day** shall be performed on Friday, 8th March at Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Gandhi Nagar at 8:30 AM. **Kriya** shall be performed on Monday, 11th March at our residence 28-A, D/C Gandhi Nagar, Jammu at 1:00 PM. **GRIEF-STRICKEN:**
Suman Parihar (Wife)
Akanksha Parihar (Daughter)
(Daughter & Son-in-law)
Ahana Parihar & Lt. Col. Utsav Anirudh Parihar (Son)
Siddhaangana & Agastya (Grandchildren)
Brothers & Sisters-in-law
Jagdish & Kanta Parihar
Koushal & Asha Parihar
Sisters & Brothers-in-law
Sushma & Ravinder Kotwal (Retd. IGP)
Sushila & Dr. Vinod Bhutyal
Dr. Sharda Parihar



SHRI ASHOK PARIHAR (ADVOCATE)

Mobile Nos.: 9899296036, 7006125123

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Kanta Devi** W/o Late Sh. Both Raj Gupta R/o H No 1073 Sac 8 Lane 10 Opposite Blooming Dale Public School Narak Nagar Jammu who left for her heavenly abode on 29th of Feb 2024. **The TENTH DAY** shall be performed on Saturday the 9th of March 2024 from 10 am to 11 am at Mahajan Hall Shalamar Road Jammu. **GRIEF STRICKEN:**
Son & Daughter in law
Sh Vijay Gupta & Smt Neelani Gupta
Sh Ram Rattan Gupta & Smt Rajni Gupta
Sh Rakesh Gupta
Sh Subash Gupta & Smt Neetu Gupta
Sh Sanjay Gupta & Smt Raman Bala
Sh Anirpal Gupta & Smt Gokly Gupta
Daughter & Son in law
Sh On Prakash & Smt Rama Gupta
Sh Jagdish Raj & Smt Raji Raj
Sh Ashok Kumar & Smt Tripta Gupta
Sh Sandeep Gupta & Smt Asha Gupta



SMT KANTA DEVI

5TH DAY KRIYA

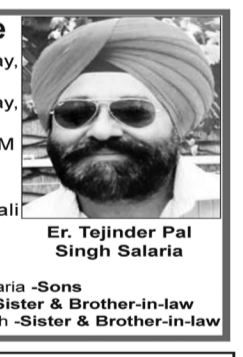
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the untimely sad demise of our daughter **Smt. Renu Bala Manhas** D/o Sh. Prakash Singh Pathania R/o 29/B and Radha Krishna Mandir New Plot Jammu on 5th of March 2024. **5th Day** will be performed at Dwan Jani Ghar Sarwal New Plot Jammu on 9th of March 2024 (Saturday) from 11am to 12 noon. **GRIEF STRICKEN**
(Mother and Father)
Renu Devi & Prakash Singh Pathania
(Bhabhi & Brother)
Reema Rani & Rajesh Pathania
(Dy Dir MES)
(Sisters & Brother in laws)
Anuradha Charak & Rajeev Charak (BJP leaders)
Deepmala Manhas & Sanjeev Manhas
(Husband)
Ranbir Singh Manhas (Agt Deptt)- Titu
(Son)
Jawver Singh Manhas - Raghav
Mob No. 9419175297, 9907031127, 9697518752, 9906139588



Smt. Renu Bala Manhas

One Year Remembrance

Arambh Shri Akhand Path - Friday, 10:30 AM, March, 8th, 2024.
Bhog Shri Akhand Path - Sunday, 10:30 AM, March, 10th, 2024.
Shabad Kirtan - 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM
Followed By Guru Ka Langar
Venue:
Gurudwara Chatti Patshahi, Taali Sahib, Talab-Tillo, Jammu.
Deeply Remembered By:
Parvinder Kaur (Reeta) -Wife
Chetan Singh Salaria & Taran Singh Salaria -Sons
Mrs. Pawan (Juhi) & Chandpuri Rewari -Sister & Brother-in-law
Mrs. Mandeep (Bawa) & Col Navtej Singh -Sister & Brother-in-law



Er. Tejinder Pal Singh Salaria

BARKHI

One year has passed since you left for your heavenly abode. There is not even a single day when we haven't missed your presence and warmth. Your memories & blessings are always with us. **The Barkhi** of our beloved father **Lt Sh Bansil Lal Gupta** (Retd Agriculture Chemist) will be performed at our residence H No. 98, Lane No. 5, Lower Side, Greater Kailash on 9th March (Saturday) at 12 pm. **Grief Stricken**
Lt Smt Tripta Gupta (Wife)
Sons & Daughters in Law
Sh Rami Gupta & Tukrit Gupta
Sh Munesh Gupta & Sneha Kapur
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt Rimple Gupta & Ravi Kant Gupta
Munesh Gupta- 9818423385
Annaya Misses you a lot



Lt Sh Bansil Lal Gupta

CHOUBARSI

S/o Smt Singh Ji Dutt R/o 105 New Rehari Jammu. Remembering the Noble Soul, our Father on his Choubarsi. **Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib** at 10:30 am on 8th of March 2024. **Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib** at 10:30 am on 10th of March 2024 followed by **Kirtan/Ardas** and **Guru Ka Langar** at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Sector 99, Opposite Medanta Hospital, Gurgaon, Haryana. **FONDLY REMEMBERED BY ALL NEAR, DEAR'S AND FAMILY MEMBERS**
S. Jagvinder Singh Dutt
S. Arvinder Singh Dutt
Sdn Tina Singh
Principal Rannheek Kour
Dr. Gurmeet Kour
8264751440



S. Mohan Singh Ji Dutt (1940-2020)

DISCLAIMER

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Devotees throng in temples to pay obeisance to Bhagwan Shiv on Maha Shivratri in Jammu on Friday.

Pic by AMAN

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

Top News Report

REASI, 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, 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 increas-

ing 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.



JAMMU MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
JMC DIVISION - I
Fresh e NIT No. 54 of 2023-24 Dated: 05.03.2024.

For and on behalf of The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, the Executive Engineer, JMC Division - I, invites online tenders on Percentage basis from registered class of Contractors/Firms as per the prescribed format for the works shown here under:-

S. No	Name of work	Advertised Amount (In lacs)	Tender Fee In Rs.	EMD In Rs	Class	Time for completion
1.	Repair of Public Toilet and Bathroom at Dry Fruit Market in Jewel in Ward No. 19 (Under. GIA 2023-24)	1.52	600	3040	ABCD	60 Days

1. The Complete bidding process will be online

S. No.	Sequence of Activities	Date and Time
1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	05.03.2024
2.	Bid submission start date	05.03.2024
3.	Bid submission End date	11.03.2024 at 16.00 hrs
4.	Date and time of opening of Bid(Online)	12.03.2024 at 14.00 hrs

A. Documents required to be uploaded online for Technical Bid:

- Scanned Copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, Division - I, JMC.
- Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, JMC Division - I, tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html>
- Contractor Registration card renewed upto 31-03-2024.
- Scanned Copy of GST Card and latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B.
- Scanned Copy of duly filled Annexure "A".
- Scanned Copy of duly filled Annexure "B".
- Scanned Copy of PAN Card
- Income Tax Return (ITR) for the Assessment Year 2022-23
- Self attested declaration by the bidder that she / he has not been debarred / blacklisted / kept on holiday during last 03 yrs by any Govt. / Semi-Govt. Organization / Corporation.

Note: 1. Non-submission of any of the above documents online shall render the bidder as non-responsive and his financial bid shall not be opened.
Note: The date of issuance of E.M.D (in any of above three forms) should must be between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date.

NO:JMC/DIV-I/23-24/401-09
Dated: - 05.03.2024.
DIP/J-5652-P
Dated : 7/3/2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
JMC Division - I Jammu Municipal Corporation

EDITORIAL

MAHASHIVRATRI-
DEVINE POWER DAY

The biggest festival in Hindu religion is Mahashivratri. On this day there is a crowded atmosphere in all the Shiva temples. On the day of Mahashivratri, all the devotees perform ritual worship to get the blessings of Mahadev. According to the calendar, Shivratri is celebrated on the Chaturdashi date of Krishna Paksha of Phalgun month. The festival of Mahashivratri is dedicated to Lord Shiva and Mother Parvati. This year Mahashivratri of Phalgun month will be celebrated on 08 March. On this holy festival, Lord of the Gods Mahadev and Mother Parvati are worshipped. Along with this, all the devotees of Mahadev observe fast. Let us tell you that on the day of Mahashivratri, the marriage of Lord Shiva and Adishakti Maa Parvati took place. On the day of Mahashivratri, there is Abujha Muhurta throughout the day. Any auspicious and auspicious work can be done on this day at any time. On this day, women also observe fast as per the rules to remain blessed with continuous good fortune. According to ancient legend, when Lord Shiva's first wife Sati dies, Lord Shiva becomes extremely sad. After this, when Sati is reborn as Mother Parvati, Lord Shiva does not see her at all. Later, Mother Parvati takes the help of Kamadeva to convince Lord Shiva, so that the penance of Lord Shiva (Lord Shiva Mantra) can be broken and in this attempt, Kamadeva also dies. Gradually with the passage of time, love and compassion for Mother Parvati arises in the heart of Lord Shiva. After this, Lord Shiva decides to marry Mother Parvati. That's why they got married on the Amavasya date of this holy month i.e. Phalgun month. The festival of Mahashivratri started being celebrated from the day of the auspicious marriage of Lord Shiva and Mother Parvati. It is believed that once a dispute broke out between Brahmaji and Lord Vishnu (Lord Vishnu Mantra) as to who was the best among the two. In which Brahmaji was claiming himself to be superior because he was the creator of the universe. On the other hand, Lord Vishnu ji was describing himself as superior as the sustainer of the entire creation. After that there is a Virat Linga. Both the gods decide that the one who discovers this end first will be called the best. After the gods set out to find the end of Shivalinga. After trying hard, no solution was found and Lord Vishnu returned. On the other hand, Brahma ji was also unable to find the end of Shivalinga, but Brahma ji came and told Lord Vishnu that he had reached the end. He also described the Ketaki flower as a witness to this. Then when Brahma ji lied, Lord Shiva appeared there. He was extremely angry. In anger, he cut off one head of Lord Brahma and also cursed the Ketaki flower that Ketaki flowers would not be used in his worship. This incident happened on the 14th day of the month of Phalgun and on this day Lord Shiva revealed himself in the form of Shivalinga. Therefore, the festival of Mahashivratri is celebrated from this day. On the day of Mahashivratri, all the devotees get up in Brahma Muhurta and worship Lord Shiva. On this day lakhs of people perform special pujas like Rudrabhishek, Mahamrityunjaya chanting in Shiva temples. There is a lot of crowd in the temples on this day. To seek the blessings of Lord Shiva, offer water, Dhatura and flowers to him. Many people also keep fast on this day. By worshipping Lord Shiva on Mahashivratri, all the wishes of a person can be fulfilled. Those who are unmarried also start receiving marriage proposals. Special blessings can be obtained by worshipping at night on this day.

Women have come a long way in India, but a long way to go for full equality

By: Anita Anand

March 8, International Women's Day, is a day to celebrate women. While one day is not enough for this, it is an opportunity to reflect on what can be celebrated and what continues to be a challenge.

As a development professional, I have had the unique opportunity to be part of national, regional and global processes of getting women into development in the 1970s and 1980s, which then came to be known as engendering or mainstreaming women into development.

My journey started in 1975 when the United Nations announced the World Conference on International Women's Year in Mexico City, the first global conference to be held on women's issues, attended by 133 governments.

This was followed by my attendance and witness to four follow-up global conferences, culminating in the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. The global gatherings were a forum for listening to women's voices, designing mechanisms to address their concerns and hasten their advancement in a more concerted way.

After Beijing, the consensus was on engendering or mainstreaming gender into development.

Gender mainstreaming, according to the UN Economic and Social Council, is the process of assessing the implications of any legislation, policies, programmes, in all areas and at all levels for women and men

and then developing strategies to ensure that concerns and experiences of women and men be an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in the political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally.

The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality. Simply put, it is asking at each step, how will this policy, programme or activity affect women? How will it affect men?

The focus was, for a start, on policies, which give authority to change. In India, policymaking, and development planning till 2015, was done through the Five-Year Plans. It became imperative that women's voices and perspectives inform these policies. Hence, engendering the plans became critical. The challenges to engendering policy and planning were formidable as there were no systemic institutional mechanisms in place to encourage and allow efficient intervention. Where they existed, these were sporadic and one dimensional.

The first-of-its-kind coordinated effort to engender the Plans was done during the Ninth Five-Year Plan (1997-2002), spearheaded by UNIFEM, the UN agency for women, now known as UN Women. In 1996, fresh after Beijing, UNIFEM created a think tank which included the Government of India, the Planning Commission, the UN system and civil society organisations to engender the policy and planning process. A concerted effort was made to get women in different parts

of India, from diverse levels of society, to come together to understand how their lives were affected by policy and how they could in turn, influence policy. I was privileged to be a part of this think tank.

As a result of this effort, in the 1997-2002 Five-Year Plan, for the first time in the history of planning in India, "gender" was mentioned in the preamble to the final Plan document, and a Component Plan for Women was included. Since then, while policy statements recognise the need for and mention gender mainstreaming, what is more difficult to accomplish is the implementation of these policies. The 2001 National Policy for the Empowerment of Women and an updated 2016 version are the working documents till now.

The principal activity of the Indian government for the empowerment of women continues in the creation of "schemes". According to a government website, at present, the Central and state governments run about 509 major schemes for women of all age groups, in education, healthcare, self-employment, and others. The primary goals of these schemes is to "provide women protection, better health facilities, enough education to make them employable and financially strong". Many women and their families have benefitted from these schemes.

India is a large and diverse country and implementation of any policy and programme is a challenge. People are not convinced that gender mainstreaming is a good thing. Gender equality is not a mechanical exercise of setting up policies

and programmes but, more importantly, of changing hearts and minds. This has not been attempted. It is difficult for men to give way to women and for women to take the place created for them. Undoing years of socialisation of men and women to accept new and different ways of thinking and acting is a strategic task. While the women's movements have empowered women, the ecosystem around them has not changed, and they cannot easily navigate their way through it, at home or in the workspace. The efforts to change the consciousness of men has been far too little.

In India, most of engendering development has been done by civil society organisations.

However, their impact is minimal, with little possibility of upscaling to the levels that are needed. It is the government, with its vast outreach through the media and governance structures, that can be effective.

We can celebrate that today Indian women have more agency and autonomy than before, increased opportunities in education and income generation, are more visible in the workplace and are likely to be financially independent. At the same time, we must decry the fact that women continue to be susceptible to violence and harassment.

The slow speed of engendering development and mainstreaming women still challenge us. This is why March 8 is still needed. And the rest of the 364 days are for all of us to make it happen.

Women are more disciplined, focused, and hardworking, who raise productivity and create a positive work culture

By: Vijay GarG

The increase in economic productivity has raised the demand for talent. Today, employers are gender agnostic when they are looking for a skilled workforce to meet their requirements and are open to women even for job roles that have traditionally been male-centric. As per the recent data, the Female Labour Force Participation Rate is 37% against 23% five years back and 25% of apprentices are women. Various government initiatives and policies drive women's participation. Sectors such as retail, banking, healthcare, hospitality and education have the maximum women workforce, but the most recent trend is the rise of women workforce in the manufacturing sector in machine operations that have traditionally been male-dominated. Across India, many manufacturing plants are run by women and the trend is on the rise. The social taboo is being broken as families are encouraging girl child education. As per the recent AISHE report, the female GER is 28% which has gone up nominally by 3% Year on Year (YoY). Today, a

little over 2 crore females are enrolled in higher education.

Breaking the glass ceiling Women bring in a lot more to the workplace than just the skills. Being more disciplined, focused, and hardworking with a no-nonsense attitude has a positive impact on the work culture and also raises productivity. A woman often brings a blend of technical skills, knowledge and personal traits to the workplace. To develop the talent pool, among the many skilling, reskilling and upskilling initiatives, the industry is also collaborating with academia to create a talented workforce.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 encourages such collaborations to offer work-based education programmes such as degree apprenticeships. Breaking the tradition of classroom learning, degree apprenticeships are a blend of theory and on-the-job learning that are jointly executed at the establishment of the industry in the real work environment by industry experts and able faculty. Experiential learning is fundamental; it builds both cognitive skills and technical knowledge.

The programmes follow the National Credit Framework (NCrF) and National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF). The cherry on the cake is the financing of the programme, which is done by the industry and the student apprentices earn a handsome stipend. It's not just an apprenticeship or a degree programme, but a holistic career development programme that helps organisations tap talent at the grassroots level. Organisations are using degree apprenticeships to fulfil their gender diversity agenda. Both technical and non-technical courses have been introduced to create a talent pipeline. The scarcity of women ITI candidates makes degree apprenticeship a preferred option in the manufacturing units for skilled women. Also, instead of going for a regular college degree, a degree apprenticeship can be a good option to be job-ready in services industries such as retail, IT/ITES and financial services.

Essential for economic growth

Organisations are also making the most of the degree apprenticeships for mobilising rural women and empowering them

through skills. A few run these programmes under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Interestingly, there is also pay parity under degree apprenticeship which makes it favourable for young women to build a career.

To vocationalise higher education, UGC had introduced B Voc, however, the nomenclature makes them less aspirational, and as per the last three AISHE reports, the enrolments have dropped. Degree apprenticeship courses such as BSc and BBA with industrial specialisation become more acceptable to the youth and society. Women's empowerment is essential for economic growth. As we progress towards a \$5 trillion economy and prepare for a \$30 trillion economy by 2047, higher women participation in the labour force is imperative, and degree apprenticeship is the key driver in creating an inclusive workforce.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)

Realme redefines mid-premium segment with realme 12 Series 5G starting from Rs 16999

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 8: realme, India's Most Reliable Smartphone Service Provider, announced the launch of the realme 12 Series 5G today. The realme 12 Series 5G introduces two stand-out smartphones: the realme 12+ 5G and the realme 12 5G, and marks a significant milestone in realme's journey, aligning with its revamped strategy 'Make it real' and a refreshed brand identity that resonates with young users.

Offering the PLUS experience and raising the standard of mid-range smartphones, the realme 12+ 5G is a stand-out smartphone, boasting segment's first 50 MP SONY LYT-600 main camera with Optical Image Stabilization (OIS), a 2X In-sensor zoom, and a Cinematic 2X Portrait Mode for capturing clear, DSLR-like portraits. It also comes equipped with a 112° ultra-wide camera, a 16MP HD selfie camera.

It features a 120Hz Ultra-Smooth AMOLED Display, and 67W



SUPER VOOC charging and a massive 5000mAh battery for long-lasting use. It also houses notable features like storage and dynamic RAM of up to 256 GB, and IP54 dust and water resistance. Running on the user-friendly realme UI 5.0 based on Android 14, the realme 12+ 5G is available in Pioneer Green and Navigator Beige, two storage variants: 8GB+128GB, priced at Rs 20999 and 8GB+256GB, priced at Rs 21999.

For the 8GB+256GB variant, buyers can avail Bank offers worth INR 1000 with no cost EMI up to 9 months on realme.

com&Flipkart. Customers will get realme Buds T300 worth INR 3998 on the purchase of the smartphone from mainline channels. For 8GB+128GB variant, users can avail discounts up to INR 2000 with bank offers & price offers worth INR 1000 on realme.com&Flipkart. Additionally, users can get No cost EMI up to 9 months on realme.com & up to 6 months on Flipkart.

The realme 12 5G is a feature-packed smartphone that boasts a 108 MP 3X Zoom Portrait Camera for capturing high-quality images. It comes equipped with

a MediaTek Dimensity 6100+ 5G Chipset for smooth performance and a 6.72-inch FHD+ Sunlight Display with a High Color Display, ensuring vibrant and clear visuals. The smartphone also features a 45W SUPERVOOC Charge and a massive 5000mAh battery for long-lasting use. Other notable features include dual stereo speakers, expansive memory for flexible performance, an 8MP selfie camera, a dynamic button for biometric identification, and a Riding Mode*. It also includes the Mini Capsule 2.0 and offers protection from water and fine particles. Running on the realme UI 5.0 based on Android 14, therealme 12 5G is available in Twilight Purple and Woodland Green, with two storage variants: 6GB +128 GB, priced at INR 16999 and 8GB+128GB, priced at INR 17999. For the 8GB+128GB variant, buyers can avail bank offers worth INR 1000 with No cost EMI up to 9 months on realme.com & up to 6 months

on Flipkart. Buyers will get realme Buds Wireless 3 worth INR 2998 on the purchase of the smartphone from mainline channels. For the 6GB+128GB variant, users can avail coupons worth INR 2000 with No cost EMI up to 9 months on realme.com & up to 6 months on Flipkart.

Commenting on the launch, a realme spokesperson said, "Today marks a significant moment in our journey as we proudly introduce two stellar additions to the realme 12 Series 5G – the realme 12+ 5G and the realme 12 5G. This launch resonates strongly with our revamped 'Make it real' strategy. Our refreshed brand identity is designed to connect with young users, offering them best-in-class technology that fits their dynamic lifestyles and both the smartphones are a showcase of that commitment. We believe that the realme 12 Series 5G embodies this completely, providing unparalleled value and performance in the mid-premium segment."

Principal HSS Rang Vinod Gupta honoured for providing excellent services



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Mar 8: A joint delegation of Teachers and prominent people of Block Parli Dhar felicitated Principal HSS Rang Vinod Kumar Gupta for his selfless services in his office chamber.

While speaking on the occasion Baldev Raj Yogi lauded the efficient approach of Principal Vinod Kumar Gupta. He said that such type of dedicated and efficient officers are very rare who gave selfless services to the public.

Surinder Singh Master extended warm and heartiest wishes to

Vinod Kumar Gupta on his prestigious posting. He also assured full cooperation on behalf of teachers community to Principal Rang by doing the tasks assigned by him in efficient manner.

Speaking on the occasion Principal/Cluster Head Vinod Kumar Gupta assured full cooperation to the teachers in running their institutions quite efficiently.

He showed his willingness to meet the students by visiting in the schools so that moral and valuable lessons be given to them which will be quite beneficial for them in shaping their future.

Those who were present on the occasion included Madan Lal (Retired ZEPO), Sanjay Sehgal (Headmaster HS Bland) Shiv Prasad, Gian Chand, kaliDass, Yashpal, Kapoor Chand, Dilawer Singh, Anchal Singh, Sahil Sambyal, Arjun Singh, Jeevan Sharma, Pawan Sharma, Kiran Bala, Rekha Rani Charak, Ajay Sambyal, Sagar Verma Mohd. Akhter, Mohd. Amin, Shakti Kumar, Vicky Sharma, Rameshwar Singh, Ashok Kumar, Kuldeep Chand, Garu Ram, Sham LaL, Om Parkash, Romesh kumar, Ishwar Singh, Parshotam Kumar, Surjeet Singh.

Rotary Club Jammu Helping Hands celebrate International Women's Day



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 8: Rotary Club Jammu Helping Hands celebrated International Women's Day by felicitating Women's Achiever's from different fields who have brought positive change in the society.

Karuna Gupta (President) said that International Women's Day is celebrated each year on March 8 to recognize women's achievements,

to raise awareness, and to reflect on gender equality worldwide.

SSP Sandeep Mehta was the Chief Guest and Mrs Sunaina Mehta (Joint Director Tourism) was the Guest of Honour. Anupama Sinha (Educationist), Namrata Modi (Business Leader), Maalu Sharma (Media), Kanika Gupta (Social Welfare), Devinder Madaan (Animal Welfare), Jasmeet Kaur (Business-

woman), Fozia Zia (Literature), Dr Navneet Kaur (Social Reform), Shilpa Dubey (Rural Development), Aarti Mahajan (Entrepreneur), Dr Ruchita Mahajan (Healthcare). Rtn Jaswinder Singh Kuku (Secretary of the club) thanked Aashu Gupta (Director Fortofino) and Kunal Gupta (Director Silverlines) for their contribution to make this event a grand success.

Army organises medical camp for women



Top News Report

LEH, Mar 8: On the occasion of International Women's Day, Patiala Brigade, under the aegis of Trishul Division, conducted a medical camp for woman of Pun-Pun village Ladakh on Friday. The event celebrating Nari Shakti consisted of an interactive session between women of the village and serving Medi-

cal Officers of Trishul Division, on Breast Cancer Awareness.

In addition, walking sticks were distributed amongst the elderly ladies along with their preventive medical checks and other medical support. During the event, young girls were also provided guidance on various schemes for joining Indian Army and serving the motherland.

DC Harvinder inaugurates Wedding Hub, Party Wear Facility in Doda



Top News Report

DODA, Mar 8: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of the Wedding Hub and Party Wear facility in Doda.

Situated on the first floor above Zaika Restaurant on Dessa Road Doda, this new establishment promises to be a convenient and stylish option for residents seeking wedding and party attire.

In extending his best

wishes to the public and youth, DC Doda expressed confidence that this initiative would meet the diverse needs of the community while providing them with access to fashionable and quality clothing options.

The inauguration ceremony was met with congratulations from DC Doda to the youth behind this venture, recognizing their entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to serving the community.

The event saw the presence of various officers,

including Tehsildar Doda and EO MC Doda, alongside other officers and enthusiastic youth. Their attendance underscored the significance of this initiative in catering to the evolving preferences of the residents of Doda and contributing to the local economy.

The Wedding Hub and Party Wear facility stand as a testament to the collaborative efforts aimed at enhancing the quality of life and expanding opportunities for the people of Doda.

International Women's Day celebrated at Aryans



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 8: International Women's Day was celebrated today

under the theme "Invest in Woman: Accelerate Growth" at Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura,

Near Chandigarh at its campus. Students and Staff participated in the various activities orga-

nized at its campus.

A scintillating cultural extravaganza of melodious songs, ramp walk, theatrical items, Giddha, folk and state dances on the tune of various songs were presented by the students and staff. Students attired in gaudy clothes and added glamour and beauty to the function.

Director General, Aryans Group, Dr. Parveen Kataria highlighted the role of women being acknowledged as equal in all the domains of the society. Be it political, social, professional, domestic or familial, women are doing well in every sphere.

Health Camp-cum-Drug free campaign held



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 8: Bharat Vikas Parishad Shivalik Branch in collaboration with Ayush Department JK UT, organized an Ayurvedic Health camp cum drug free Campaign at Silai Training Centre, Ramliila Ground Chhanni Himmat.

It was integrated by Sh B Sharma, State President Bharat Vikas Parishad, Sh Asok Khazuria, Branch Secretary welcomed the Participants, Patients & Guests.

Dr Kamini Bali, threw light on Drug Addiction, is a disease that affects a person's brain & behavior

and leads to an inability to control the use of legal or illegal drugs or medicines. Substances such as alcohol, nicotine, intoxicated medicines, and tobacco are also considered drugs. When one is addicted, May continue using the drugs despite the harm it causes.

Mr H C Vaid, Branch President, said that some drugs, such as Pain killers, cough syrup & Opioid, have a higher risk and cause addiction more quickly than others. As time passes, one may need longer doses of drugs to get high. Soon, he/she may need the

drug to feel good.

Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, President Vichar Kranti Manch International & State Council BVP, gave some yoga tips to get rid of drug abuse, besides he said that the importance of drug abuse education & activities to promote drug free community are noted. The involvement of schools, the media, law enforcement agencies, business community & social groups, parents, and religious groups in community drug prevention effects are stressed.

Dr Kamini Bali & Dr Roshi Mahajan from Ayush Department examined the patients, mostly of cough & cold, joint pain, Diabetes, chest infection & others, and free medicines were made available.

Others BVP Members including S/Sh Rajneesh Gupta, Joint Secretary, vijay Sharma I/C Media Cell, Abhinandan Jain, Anil Sadhotra, Vijay Gupta, Smt Anju Bansal Sanskar Parmukh, Vandana Maini & Rajrani also shared their views.

Sh Rakesh Branch Financial Secretary presented a vote of thanks.

Dimple attends Maha Shivratri celebration

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 8: Mission Statehood Jammu & Kashmir organized an impressive function on the occasion of Maha Shivratri.

Sunil Dimple President Mission Statehood pre-



sided over the function and danced on the tune of beats with the devotees.

Dimple prayed for the universal peace, communal harmony, brotherhood, restoration of happiness in Jammu Kashmir and prosperity in the families of the Jammu Kashmir people.

Sidharth Malhotra and Raashi Khanna, who launch Tere Sang from Yodha in Chandigarh, say there is a warrior in each one of us

There's something special about Chandigarh, a lot of us would agree, and actors Sidharth Malhotra and Raashi Khanna reached the city to express their love for it as they launched a romantic track from their upcoming film Yodha.

For Sidharth, Chandigarh is one of the most romantic places in India. "It's not just a beautiful city, it's the setting of some of my favourite memories, especially during the shooting of Shershaah. People's love for their city reflects in the way they maintain cleanliness and take care of the surroundings. It's truly impressive, and I always look forward to coming back here."

But there's one thing he missed that Raashi highlights as she sings praise for Chandigarh. "I had the chance to stay here during the shoot of a Telugu film, and I completely agree with Sidharth. But he missed the fact that food here is delicious, especially at the dhabas, I can't forget the lassi."

As they launch Tere Sang, Sidharth opens up about his experience of shooting Yodha. Calling it a concept-action film, there were unique challenges that the actor faced while working on it. He says, "Yodha is not just another action film; it's a concept action film. The plot revolves around a yodha stuck mid-air, facing numerous challenges like saving 200 lives, uncovering the hostage-taker, and dealing with various complications. The film demanded physically challenging action



sequences, and we even created the largest plane set ever for a Hindi film to capture the intensity."

This maybe Sidharth's second action film with Dharma Production, but he has a long association with Karan Johar. The relationship these two share, he says, is special. It has shaped his journey in the film industry, he admits with gratitude. "I am in this industry because of him. Our relationship goes beyond just being a filmmaker and actor. I started as an assistant director, and Karan noticed my passion and dedication during those early years. That was before

I got any film, so our equation is very different. It's a special bond, akin to one between a sportsman and their first coach."

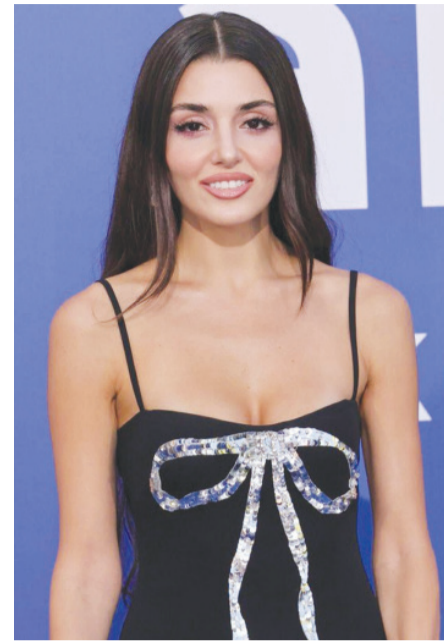
While looking back, Raashi may have been launched in a Hindi film, she moved on to establish herself as a Telugu star. It was in Farzi that she experienced a shift in how people perceive her as a Hindi actor. "Farzi was a turning point for me. The love and respect I received from the audience, especially in North India, were overwhelming. It opened doors and showcased my versatility as an actor. With Yodha, I'm excited to bring a strong and

multi-layered character to the audience. I believe it has the potential to create a similar impact, and I can't wait for their response."

Yodha has a universal theme, the actors say. There is a fighter, a warrior in each one of us. Taking a leaf from his own life, he believes it resonates with everyone's personal journey. "Since childhood, I've seen so many yodhas in my life. My father was in the Merchant Navy; he would live away to run the house, so my mother brought up two sons single-handedly for 16 years. She is a yodha for me. Everyone has their battles to fight. When I came to Mumbai to pursue acting, I faced various challenges, much like any actor trying to make it in the industry. The film reflects on these struggles, and I believe everyone can relate to being a yodha in their own life."

As the title makes them peep into their personal lives, Raashi, who once aspired to become an IAS officer, says it was destiny that chose the career path for her. She grew from a shy girl with stage fright to a confident actor. "I was a quiet, front-bencher while growing up. I ran from my first audition because I couldn't face so many people, I didn't ever think I'll be an actor. For my first film Madras Café, I auditioned solo. With time I became confident as an actor. I am so grateful today for how things have turned out because I wouldn't want to be anything else. And I did realise my dream of becoming an IAS through Yodha," she beams.

Want to work with Aamir Khan, Hrithik Roshan: Turkish TV star Hande Ercel



Turkish TV star Hande Ercel, currently on her maiden visit to India, says she has always been fascinated with everything Indian and would like to work with Bollywood superstars Aamir Khan and Hrithik Roshan in future.

Ercel, who gained international recognition for shows such as "Ask Laftan Anlamaz", "Gunesin Kizlari" and "Sen Cal Kapimi", is set to attend a session at the FICCI Frames.

A "new door is opening" for her with the participation at the event, she said. "I've been interested in learning about (different) cultures since I was young. I was already interested in this (Indian) culture and I wanted to see India. I told one of my friends that I want to go to India... I like how people follow the culture here... I wanted to wear a traditional sari. But, I don't have much time here."

"I would like to work with Hrithik Roshan, Aamir Khan, and Sidharth Malhotra. This is the right time for me to be here. A new door is opening for me to do something here," Ercel told

agency in an interview here. The actor believes she was "destined" to visit India one day.

"My agent asked me if I would like to go to India for FICCI Frames this year. I instantly said yes as I was thinking of coming here. I feel this is a universal plan," she said through an interpreter.

Owing to her packed schedule and Mumbai's traffic snarls, Ercel said she wouldn't be able to explore the city.

At FICCI Frames, the actor will be part of the session 'From Bollywood to Turkish Drama: Acting across Borders' along with Ayushmann Khurrana.

"More people should come together in front of and behind the screen, and start making (films as) cultural projects. This is an amazing exchange through art. The emotions, the language of love are universal."

"For me, it is about discovering myself. It is about adding new experiences. I enjoy learning. This is the reason why I would love to come here and try in (Hindi movies)" she added. Ercel is happy to have a fan-following in India.

The actor said women in Turkish shows have strong on-screen representation, but it is difficult to raise funds for female-led projects even in her native country.

"I've been part of screenplays where women are in the lead but those who invest and pick the stories, they didn't want it. Now, they are choosing projects like that. Times are changing, like my recent project 'Bambaska Biri', in which my role of Leyla Gediz is at the forefront. I played a female prosecutor, she was perfect, tough, genre wise this is good."

"In Turkish projects, we always have a balance between the roles of men and women. We have lead men and women, but we never have only men in the lead. Mostly, the stories have men as the heroes but the story is (told) through the women," Ercel added.

Kareena Kapoor says she can't relate when sees her images with filters and edits

Kareena Kapoor Khan talks about how the concept of beauty has seen a shift and adds that she cannot relate when she sees herself with filters and edits.

Giving audiences a peak into her personal life, Kareena says, "I think now there is an entire shift to beauty and rawness. I like the fact that there are little lines on my face, I can't relate when I see myself with filters and edits."

Kareena, who has never shied away from flaunting her real skin on social media and even in films, adds, "I'm the first one to say that I am not putting on makeup and I like it like that because I have been like that right from Chameli, Refugee and Dev."

She shares an anecdote from her 2004 film Dev.

"In Dev I had oil in my



hair.

The journey should be enjoyed by one, we can't try and stay at a

particular age. I am so happy that I don't want to be 20 anymore," she says.

Whether they're fierce warriors or brilliant minds, women protagonists on OTT and big films smash stereotypes

Make way for the women! They have taken the centre-stage, be it on OTT or big screen, playing characters that embody strength, resilience and unwavering determination.

As we celebrate International Women's Day, we pick a few web series which stand out for their indomitable spirit, stories of courage and resilience, and of course, strong women protagonists.

COPing well

In recent times, many Hindi film actresses have donned the khaki. Who can forget Shefali Shah's portrayal as DCP Vartika Chaturvedi as she made us relive the horrors of Nirabhya case through Delhi Crime Season 1?

Constable Bhumika Pardeshi, played by Aaditi Pohankar, in web series She, who goes undercover to catch gangster Nayak, also makes the cut. With her enigmatic presence as a double agent, she ends up discovering her sexuality as well her vicious-self who is not afraid to take on anybody. Similarly actress Sonakshi Sinha and Raveena Tandon made impressive digital debut with Dahaad



and Aranyak, respectively. These strong-headed ladies wore the uniform to lead the way.

Girl gang

As Savitri, the matriarch running a business of drugs from a remote village in Rajasthan, Dimple Kapadia turned many heads with the Disney+Hotstar original Saas, Bahu Aur Flamingo. Supported by strong female ensemble cast, including Radhika Madan, Angira Dhar, Isha Talwar and Monica Dogra, it was indeed a show to hail women and their strong resolve to survive against all odds. Another such show is Aarya, headlined

by Sushmita Sen, which also marked her digital debut. She was able to grab eyeballs for this female-lead show which ran for three seasons.

When talking of badass characters from Indian web series, Golu, played by Shweta Tripathi, comes to mind. Straight from the Hindi heartland, Mirzapur has catapulted Shweta into fame and her character Golu from a studious girl and loving sister to revenge-seeking girl has evolved like no other characters in the series. As viewers wait for Season 3, it remains to be seen how Golu will take on other challenges as her mind is

set on ruling Mirzapur. Similarly, South Indian superstar Samantha Ruth Prabhu became a person of national interest after she acted in The Family Man 2. She played the dreaded terrorist Raji, giving tough fight to intelligence officer Srikant Tiwari (Manoj Bajpayee).

Urban landscape
In the urban setup and uber-rich category of stories, series Bombay Begums and Made in Heaven, led by Pooja Bedi and Sobhita Dhulipala, respectively, have made their mark. Both the series have women holding important positions; Pooja as the head of a corporate firm whereas Sobhita runs a business of wedding planning. While they have character flaws according to the good-girl theory, yet it's hard not to fall in love with them.

Field study
It's difficult to recreate the charm of village women on screen. The name that shines in this area is Huma Qureshi, who plays Rani in SonyLIV series Maharani. An intelligent homemaker, Rani when given the job of managing a state as acting Chief Minister, does it equally well.

Hours after sister's death, TV actress Dolly Sohi of 'Kumkum Bhagya', 'Kkusum' fame dies of cervical cancer at 47

A night before, Dolly's sister Amandeep Sohi, also an actress, passed away due to jaundice

Actress Dolly Sohi, best known for TV show "Jhanak" and "Bhabhi", died on Friday morning at a hospital in Navi Mumbai due to cervical cancer, her brother Manpreet said.

She was 47.

The actor, who was diagnosed with cervical cancer around six months ago, was undergoing treatment for the disease.

"She is no more. She passed away around 4.00 am at Apollo Hospital."

She had cervical cancer which had spread to her lungs. We had admitted her last night to the



hospital as her health had deteriorated," Manpreet told agency.

A night before, Dolly's sister Amandeep Sohi, also an actress, passed away due to jaundice.

"Amandeep passed away on Thursday due to jaundice at the DY Patil hospital," Manpreet added.

Some of Dolly's notable performances include TV shows such as "Kkusum", "Meri Aashiqui Tum Se Hi", "Kumkum Bhagya", and "Parineetii".

Dolly's last rites will be held in the afternoon.

Neha Kakkar says she's shooting for something that 'may create history'



Singer Neha Kakkar, who has churned out hits one after the another, is now working on something, which she feels 'may create history'.

Neha, who has given an array of superhit songs including 'Balenciaga', 'Dilbar', 'O saki saki' and 'Garmi', took to her Instagram stories and shared a picture of the sun and some trees.

For the caption, Neha wrote, 'Shooting for something that may create history' along with a time stamp.

Neha started her singing journey at a very early stage. In 2005, she participated in 'Indian Idol', a singing based reality show. From there, she made debut as a chorus singer in 'Meerabai Not Out'. In 2012, she rose to prominence with 'Second Hand Jawaani' from Deepika Padukone-starrer 'Cocktail'.

The singer later belted out hits such as 'Sunny Sunny', 'London Thumakda' and 'Manali Trance' to name a few.

Murmu awards President's Standard and Colours to 4 units of Indian Air Force

45 Squadron and 221 Squadron receive President's Standard, while 11 Base Repair Depot and 509 signal unit receive President's Colours

GHAZIABAD, Mar 8 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Friday presented the President's Standard and Colours to four Indian Air Force units.

Two squadrons -- 45 Squadron and the 221 Squadron—received the President's Standard while the 11 Base Repair Depot and 509 signal unit received the President's Colours at a ceremony held at the Hindan Air Force Station here.

This is the first time that four units of the IAF have received the President's Standard and Colours together.



The President's Standard and Colours is the highest military honour for any armed forces unit. The four units selected for

the coveted awards have stellar contributions to the IAF's history.

The 45 Squadron, also called the 'Flying Daggers', was raised in 1959. The squadron took part in 'Operation Vijay' for the liberation of Goa from Portuguese rule in 1960.

The 221 squadron is known as the 'Valiants'. It was raised on February 14, 1963, in Barrackpore equipped with Vampire aircraft. Barely two years after its formation, the squadron was pressed into action in the Eastern theatre during the 1965 India-Pakistan war, where it made commendable contributions.

Philanthropist Sudha Murty, wife of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy, nominated to Rajya Sabha



NEW DELHI, Mar 8 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Friday nominated philanthropist and author Sudha Murty to the Rajya Sabha on the occasion of Women's Day. Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi hailed the decision, so did the entire BJP top brass.

"I am delighted that the President of India has nominated @Smt-SudhaMurty Ji to the Rajya Sabha. Sudha Ji's contributions to diverse fields including social

work, philanthropy and education have been immense and inspiring. Her presence in the Rajya Sabha is a powerful testament to our 'Nari Shakti', exemplifying the strength and potential of women in shaping our nation's destiny. Wishing her a fruitful Parliamentary tenure," PM said.

Sudha Murty, the wife of Infosys co-founder NR Narayana Murty, was chairperson of the Infosys Foundation and is an independent educator and philanthropist.

She's also the mother-in-law of UK Premiere Rishi Sunak.

PM Modi announces LPG cylinder price cut by Rs 100 on Women's Day

NEW DELHI, Mar 8 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a reduction of Rs 100 in cooking gas cylinder prices on Friday on the occasion of International Women's Day.

This will significantly ease the financial burden on millions of households across the country, especially benefiting "Nari Shakti" (women power), he said in a post on X.

"By making cooking gas more affordable, we also aim to support the well-being of families and ensure a healthier environment. This is in line with our

commitment to empowering women and ensuring 'Ease of Living' for them," he said.

In a related decision, the government on Thursday announced the extension of Rs 300 per LPG cylinder subsidy to poor women under the Ujjwala Yojana for the next fiscal starting April 1.

The government in October last year hiked the subsidy from Rs 200 per 14.2-kg cylinders for up to 12 refills per year to Rs 300 per bottle. The Rs 300 per cylinder subsidy was for the current fiscal, which ends on March 31.

PM Modi launches 'Create on India Movement' at first-ever National Creators' Awards

NEW DELHI, Mar 8 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged content creators to start a 'Create on India Movement' and share stories with the world on India's culture, heritage, and traditions.

"Let us Create on India, Create for the World," Modi said after he presented the first ever National Creators' Awards at the Bharat Mandapam here.

Among those awarded were Pankhti Pandey, who got the award in 'Green Champion' category, Keerthika Govindasamy got it for best story teller, singer Maithili Thakur got the 'Cultural Ambassador of the Year award', Gaurav Chaudhary won the Best Creator in Tech Category and Kamiya Jani was felicitated as the Favourite Travel Creator.

"Let us together 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 tell our stories of India to everyone. Let us Create on India, Create for the World," Modi said addressing the gathering after presenting the awards.



"Create such content that, along with you, the country gets more likes. We must engage the global audience for it," he said.

The PM wished women on International Women's Day and urged creators to increasingly make 'nari shakti' a part of their content.

Creativity can even correct wrong perceptions, Modi said. Noting that elections are round the corner, he said, "I give you the guarantee that if possible on next shivratri... I will be doing such a programme."

With the audience chanting "abki bar 400 paar," the prime

minister said it is not Modi's guarantee but that of 140 crore Indians'.

He also urged content creators to make first time voters aware of their responsibility to cast their ballot.

While awarding the Swachhta Ambassador Award to Malhar Kalambe, Modi took a dig at the opposition and said, "Har prakaar ki safai mein kaam aa sakta hai, iss chunaav mein bhi safai hone wali hai..."

Modi also urged content creators to raise awareness against use of drugs among youth.

"Your content creation is making a huge impact in the country," he said.

"When the times change, when a new era begins, it becomes the country's responsibility to keep step with changing times," Modi asserted.

More than 1.5 lakh nominations across 20 different categories were received for the awards.

Subsequently, in the voting round, about 10 lakh votes were cast for digital creators in various award categories.

Following this, winners, including three international creators, were decided.

The awards were given across 20 categories, including in best storyteller, the disruptor, celebrity creator, green champion, best creator for social change, most impactful agri creator, cultural ambassador, best travel creator, swachhta ambassador, new India champion, tech creator, heritage fashion, most creative creator (male and female), best creator in food category, best creator in education and international creator award.

Stopped from drinking, UP man pours petrol on wife, burns her alive

BUDAUN, Mar 8 (Agencies): A man allegedly burned his 40-year-old wife alive after she stopped him from consuming alcohol in Uttar Pradesh's Budaun, police said on Friday.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SP) Alok Priyadarshi said the accused, Muneesh Saxena, was an alcoholic and returned home in a drunken state on Thursday night.

When his wife Shanno tried to stop him from drinking more, Saxena took petrol from his motorcycle, poured it on her and set her ablaze, the officer said.

Shanno's mother-in-law, Munni Devi, tried to help her and got burns on her hands. When they saw their mother burning, her two children, Sunny, 8, and Arjun, 5, raised an alarm and called the neighbours, he said.

The locals put out the fire and called police, he added.

Shanno's body has been sent for post-mortem and her mother-in-law is undergoing treatment at a district hospital.

Police teams have been deployed to look for Saxena, who is currently at large, the officer said.

'Sorry papa, can't do JEE': Teen dies by suicide in Kota, sixth this year

KOTA, Mar 8 (Agencies): A JEE aspirant died by suicide in Rajasthan's Kota on Friday, taking the total of such cases to six this year. The student was identified as Abhishek Kumar, a native of Bihar's Bhagalpur district.

Abhishek, a JEE aspirant, consumed a poisonous substance in his rented room in the Vigyan Nagar area of the city.

Commenting on the incident, police said that a bottle of the poisonous substance and a suicide letter were recovered from Kumar's room.

"Sorry papa, I cannot do JEE...", the suicide note read, according to the police.

The police further added that Kumar was also absent for his two exams that were scheduled at his coaching on January 29 and February 19 respectively.

A postmortem will be performed following which the body of the student will be handed over to his family, police said.

Notably, Kota has been witnessing an alarming surge in student suicide cases in the past few months, raising concerns amongst the local authorities.

Earlier on January 23, a student from Uttar Pradesh, who was preparing for NEET through private coaching in Kota, died by suicide.



Kota, known for its coaching institutes for engineering and medical entrance examinations, saw 29 student suicides in 2023. Authorities are urgently trying to tackle the mental health issues faced by students in the high-pressure academic environment of coaching centres.

14 children suffer electric shock during Mahashivratri procession in Kota

KOTA, Mar 8 (Agencies): As many as 14 children were injured during a procession on the occasion of Mahashivratri in Rajasthan's Kota on Friday. The kids suffered burn injuries from electric shock and have been admitted to MBS Hospital.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajasthan Energy Minister Heeralal Nagar have arrived at the hospital to meet the injured children.

The children were aged 10 to 16 years, and suffered electric shock from a high-tension power line passing overhead in the Sakatoura area under the Kunhari police station.

A senior police official said that two children sustained 100 and 50 per cent burn injuries, respectively, while the remaining 12 suffered less than 50 per cent injuries. The incident occurred between 11.30 am and 12 pm on Friday when the procession was marching through Kalibasti. One of the boys in the procession was holding a flag atop a 22-foot-high bamboo stick, and it touched the power line overhead, Kota City SP Amrita Duhan told news agency. He suffered 100 per cent injuries. The other boys sustained burn injuries after attempting to rescue the boy, Amrita Duhan added.

Dibrugarh jail official arrested over seizure of electronic gadgets from 'Waris Punjab De' inmates

DIBRUGARH, Mar 8 (Agencies): The superintendent of Dibrugarh Central Jail in Assam was arrested on Friday over the seizure of electronic gadgets, including a smartphone, from the possession of inmates belonging to radical outfit 'Waris Punjab De', police said.

The jail official was arrested early in the morning for "laxity" and is currently at Dibrugarh Sadar Police Station, an officer said.

He said the arrest was made in connection with the seizure of electron-

ic gadgets cells of the National Security Act (NSA) detainees in the jail last month.

Among the gadgets seized from the possession of the inmates belonging to the pro-Khalistani outfit were a smartphone along with a SIM card, a keypad phone, a TV remote with keyboard, a spy-camera pen, pen-drives, a blue-tooth headphone and speakers.

"Reference NSA Detenues at Dibrugarh Jail, Assam-On receipt of information about unauthorised activities

taking place in NSA cell, additional CCTV cameras were installed in the public area of NSA block," Director General of Police GP Singh had posted on X.

Further, lawful action and steps are being taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents, he added.

Ten members of the pro-Khalistani outfit, including its top leader Amritpal Singh and one of his uncles, are jailed in Dibrugarh since March 19 last year after they were arrested

under the NSA from different parts of Punjab following a crackdown on the outfit.

Multi-tier security arrangements were put in place in the jail after the members of the radical outfit were brought there from Punjab. Additional CCTV cameras were installed and all faulty cameras were either replaced or repaired.

The Dibrugarh prison is one of the oldest and most high-security jails in the Northeast. It was constructed in 1859-60.

Delhi gym trainer killed by father amid wedding celebrations, stabbed 15 times

NEW DELHI, Mar 8 (Agencies): Gaurav Singhal, a 29-year-old gym trainer, was allegedly stabbed 15 times in his face and chest at his South Delhi home on Wednesday, hours before his wedding.

Gaurav was allegedly killed by his father Ranglal, who has been arrested from Jaipur, said the police on Friday. Ranglal had gone missing soon after the incident, prompting a manhunt and his swift arrest by the evening.

Three others involved in the case are on the run and police are looking for them.

Police had received a call on Thursday around 12.30 am. Upon reaching the scene, they



found that Gaurav Singhal had been attacked with a knife and was taken to Max Hospital by his family.

During the investigation, police spotted blood inside the house, and it appeared that Gaurav's body had been dragged, in a bid to hide the body, after he was

stabbed to death. FORCED MARRIAGE?

Gaurav's wedding ceremony was scheduled for Thursday, and it was an arranged marriage, police have said. However, it is suspected that Gaurav wanted to marry another girl, but had agreed to the marriage

under family pressure. Gaurav repeatedly had arguments with his father over this issue.

On the other hand, senior police official, Ankit Chauhan, said Gaurav's father, Ranglal, fled the house with jewellery worth Rs 50 lakh and Rs 15 lakh cash. They suspect that Ranglal had an argument with Gaurav, during which Gaurav slapped his father. Enraged, Ranglal, along with his three accomplices, killed Gaurav and fled the house with the cash and jewellery.

Though the exact reason behind the murder is yet to be ascertained and police are probing all angles.

Fake images made to show Trump with Black supporters highlight concerns around AI and elections

WASHINGTON, Mar 8 (Agencies): At first glance, images circulating online showing former President Donald Trump surrounded by groups of Black people smiling and laughing seem nothing out of the ordinary, but a look closer is telling. Odd lighting and too-perfect details provide clues to the fact they were all generated using artificial intelligence. The photos, which have not been linked to the Trump campaign, emerged as Trump seeks to win over Black voters who polls show remain loyal to President Joe Biden.

The fabricated images, highlighted in a recent BBC investigation, provide further evidence to support warnings that the use of AI-generated imagery will only increase as the November general election approaches. Experts said they highlight the danger that any group — Latinos, women, older male voters — could be targeted with lifelike images meant to mislead and confuse as well as demonstrate the need for regulation around the technology.

In a report published this week, researchers at the nonprofit Centre for Countering Digital Hate used several popular AI programs to show how easy it is to create realistic deepfakes that can fool voters. The researchers were able to generate images of Trump meeting with Russian operatives, Biden stuffing a ballot box and armed militia members at polling places, even though many of these AI programs say they have rules to prohibit this kind of content.

The centre analysed some of the recent deepfakes of Trump and Black voters and determined that at least one was originally created as satire but was now being shared by Trump supporters as evidence of his support among Blacks. Social media platforms and



AI companies must do more to protect users from AI's harmful effects, said Imran Ahmed, the centre's CEO and founder.

"If a picture is worth a thousand words, then these dangerously susceptible image generators, coupled with the dismal content moderation efforts of mainstream social media, represent as powerful a tool for bad actors to mislead voters as we've ever seen," Ahmed said. "This is a wake-up call for AI companies, social media platforms and lawmakers — act now or put American democracy at risk."

The images prompted alarm on both the right and left that they could mislead people about the former president's support among African Americans. Some in Trump's orbit have expressed frustration at the circulation of the fake images, believing that the manufactured scenes undermine Republican outreach to Black voters.

"If you see a photo of Trump with Black folks and you don't see it posted on an official campaign or surrogate page, it didn't happen," said Dante Johnson, president of the Black Conservative Federation. "It's nonsensical to think that the Trump campaign would have

to use AI to show his Black support." Experts expect additional efforts to use AI-generated deepfakes to target specific voter blocs in key swing states, such as Latinos, women, Asian Americans and older conservatives, or any other demographic that a campaign hopes to attract, mislead or frighten. With dozens of countries holding elections this year, the challenges posed by deepfakes are a global issue.

In January, voters in New Hampshire received a robocall that mimicked Biden's voice telling them, falsely, that if they cast a ballot in that state's primary they would be ineligible to vote in the general election. A political consultant later acknowledged creating the robocall, which may be the first known attempt to use AI to interfere with a US election.

Such content can have a corrosive effect even when it's not believed, according to a February study by researchers at Stanford University examining the potential impacts of AI on Black communities. When people realize they can't trust images they see online, they may start to discount legitimate sources of information. "As AI-generated content

becomes more prevalent and difficult to distinguish from human-generated content, individuals may become more sceptical and distrustful of the information they receive," the researchers wrote.

Even if it doesn't succeed in fooling a large number of voters, AI-generated content about voting, candidates and elections can make it harder for anyone to distinguish fact from fiction, causing them to discount legitimate sources of information and fuelling a loss of trust that's undermining faith in democracy while widening political polarization.

While false claims about candidates and elections are nothing new, AI makes it faster, cheaper and easier than ever to craft lifelike images, video and audio. When released onto social media platforms like TikTok, Facebook or X, AI deepfakes can reach millions before tech companies, government officials or legitimate news outlets are even aware of their existence.

"AI simply accelerated and pressed fast forward on misinformation," said Joe Paul, a business executive and advocate who has worked to increase digital access among communities of colour. Paul noted that Black communities often have "this history of mistrust" with major institutions, including in politics and media, that both make Black communities more sceptical of public narratives about them as well as fact-checking meant to inform the community.

Digital literacy and critical thinking skills are one defense against AI-generated misinformation, Paul said. "The goal is to empower folks to critically evaluate the information that they encounter online. The ability to think critically is a lost art among all communities, not just Black communities."

2-month-old baby among 6 dead in mass stabbing in Canada's Ottawa home; Sri Lanka student who lived with family arrested



TORONTO, Mar 8 (Agencies): A 19-year-old student from Sri Lanka is accused of stabbing and killing six people he lived with, including a 2 1/2-month-old baby girl and three other kids from a Sri Lankan family, Ottawa police said.

Ottawa police chief Eric Stubbs said an "edged weapon" or "knife-like object" was used by the suspect, who was identified as Febrio De-Zoysa. He has been charged with six counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted murder. Mass killings are rare in Canada.

Stubbs said the deceased are Sri Lankan nationals who recently came to Canada. He said they include a 35-year-old mother, a 7-year-old son, a 4-year-old daughter, a 2-year-old daughter and the 2 1/2-month-old baby girl as well as a 40-year-old acquaintance of the family.

The police chief said when the first officers arrived at the home the family's father was outside and screaming for someone to call 911. Police received two emergency calls at 10:52 p.m. Wednesday.

The father is in hospital with serious, but non-life-threatening, injuries.

"This was a senseless act of violence perpetrated on purely innocent people," Stubbs said.

Sri Lanka's high commission said that it is in touch with relatives in the country's capital, Colombo.

De-Zoysa made a brief appearance in court Thursday and mumbled his assent as the justice of the peace ordered him not to speak to the father who survived

the attack or to four other witnesses who provided statements to the police. His case was adjourned until March 13 to give him time to find a lawyer.

Police were called to the home in the Barrhaven area just before 11 p.m. Wednesday night. The suspect was arrested quickly after that, and police said there was no continuing threat to public safety.

Don Perera, a neighbor, said he met the family that lived in the home last fall at a Halloween party at the nearby Catholic elementary school. He said the father was from Sri Lanka.

Shanti Ramesh, who lives across the street, was alerted to a commotion late Wednesday. From her balcony, she saw a man sitting on the driveway of the home and yelling before two police officers arrived and carried him away.

On Thursday morning, five marked police cars were parked on the street and in driveways near the home, which is a middle unit of a row of brick townhouses.

Several people in white jumpsuits were going in and out of the home throughout the early morning, while parents and kids walked and biked by on their way to a nearby elementary school.

"Our first reactions are all ones of shock and horror at this terrible violence," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said.

Ottawa Mayor Mark Sutcliffe called the news distressing for all the city's residents.

"It's hard to believe," he said. "It's devastating and heartbreaking." Police have identified the victims as Darshani Banbaranayake Gama Waluwe Darshani Dilanthika Ekanyake, the 35-year-old mother; Inuka Wickramasinghe, a 7-year-old boy; Ashwini Wickramasinghe, a 4-year-old daughter, Rinyana Wickramasinghe, a 2-year-old daughter and Kelly Wickramasinghe, a 2 1/2-month-old baby girl.

A sixth victim, Amarakoonmubiyansela Ge Gamini Amarakoon, 40, was also found deceased.

Russia, Ukraine Down Dozens Of Drones In Overnight Attacks

KYIV, Mar 8 (Agencies): Russia and Ukraine said they downed dozens of drones overnight, as both launched overnight attacks on each other's targets behind the stretched frontlines.

Drones -- both attack craft packed with explosives and those with advanced cameras for reconnaissance -- have been used extensively throughout the two-year war.

Ukraine's air force said Russia fired 37 Iranian-style "Shahed" kamikaze drones and three missiles at its territory overnight.

"As a result of combat operations, 33 'Shaheds' were shot down in the Kirovograd, Odesa, Kherson, Mykolaiv and Kharkiv regions," it said in a post on Telegram.

In Moscow, the defence ministry said it intercepted 16 Ukrainian drones in the early hours of Friday.

Some 15 were destroyed over the southern Volgograd region, the closest part of which is around 300 kilometres (185 miles) from the frontlines in eastern Ukraine.

Another drone was shot down over the Belgorod border region, the

Russian defence ministry said.

Belgorod has seen multiple shelling and aerial attacks since Russia invaded in February 2022.

In the northeast Ukrainian Kharkiv region, an overnight Russian strike injured five people, including a three-year old child, Governor Oleg Syneghubov said.

Kharkiv comes under frequent artillery, rocket and drone attacks.

Syneghubov posted a picture of a row of shops with their windows blown out and a crater in a road next to a residential building.

US to revitalise partnership with allies like India amidst China's rise: Joe Biden

WASHINGTON, Mar 8 (Agencies): The US has revitalised its partnership with its allies and nations like India, Australia and Japan, US President Joe Biden said, amidst the rise of China, which he said is indulging in "unfair economic practices" and endangering peace across the Taiwan Strait.

Biden, 81, in his final State of the Union Address before a joint session of the US Congress, said the US wants competition with China, but not conflict.

Biden, seeking re-election in November, said America is in a stronger position to win the competition for the 21st Century against China.

"We are standing up against China's unfair economic practice, standing up for peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. We revitalised our partnership with allies and the Pacific, India, Australia, Japan, South and South Korea," Biden, a Democrat, said.

China considers Taiwan as its breakaway province and insists it should be unified with the mainland, by force if necessary. Taiwan,



however, sees itself as completely distinct from China.

China has been ramping up its military offensive against the self-ruled island of more than 23 million people, triggering global concerns including from the US.

He said he several times found his Republican fellow members saying that China is on the rise and America is falling behind.

"They've got it backwards. America is rising," Biden said.

The US has the best economy in the world, Biden said in his address watched by millions

of Americans.

"Since I've come to office, our GDP is up. And our trade deficit with China is down to the lowest point in over a decade," he said "I've made sure that the most advanced American technologies can't be used in China's weapons. Frankly, for all his tough talk on China, it never occurred to my predecessor to do that," Biden said.

"And we're in a stronger position to win the competition for the 21st Century against China or anyone else for that matter," said the president in his speech.

Following Super Tuesday, decks have become clear for a rematch between Biden and Trump in the November 5 presidential elections.

Biden, who is the oldest president of the US, also slammed his Republican rival and predecessor Donald Trump, 77, on several issues ranging from his recent comment on Russian President Vladimir Putin, immigration, the January 6 insurrection, abortion, and gun control.

EAM Jaishankar meets Japan's late PM Shinzo Abe's wife Akie Abe; hands over personal letter from PM Modi

TOKYO, Mar 8 (Agencies): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday met Akie Abe, the wife of Japan's late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and recalled the late premier's invaluable contribution to the advancement of India-Japan relations.

Abe, 67, died on July 8, 2022, after being shot during an election campaign speech in Nara, Japan.

"On my visit to Tokyo this time, met with Mrs Akie Abe, wife of late PM Shinzo Abe. Recalled PM Shinzo Abe's invaluable contribution to the advancement of India-Japan relations," the minister said on platform X.

"Handed over a personal letter from PM Narendra Modi conveying his condolences on the recent



passing away of Mrs Yoko Abe, mother of the late PM," Jaishankar said.

Abe was Japan's longest-serving prime minister, having held office from 2006 to 2007, and then again from 2012 to 2020.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an emotional note after Abe's death in 2022 hailed him as an outstanding leader of Japan.

Modi said with Abe's demise,

Japan and the world have lost a great visionary and he has lost a dear friend.

Abe always gave "top priority" to strengthening Japan's strategic ties with India and the late prime minister took landmark initiatives like signing the bilateral civil nuclear deal, a key trade agreement, and convinced New Delhi to join the Quad grouping.

Abe had also cleared hurdles for the India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IJCPEA), signed on February 16, 2011, and entered into force on August 1, 2011.

The IJCPEA is one of the most comprehensive agreements India has concluded with other countries to date.

Over 230 million girls and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation: UNICEF

NEW YORK, Mar 8 (Agencies): Over 230 million girls and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM), according to a newly released UNICEF report.

The updated global estimates show a 15 per cent increase in the total number of survivors — or 30 million more girls and women — compared to data released eight years ago.

Released on International Women's Day, the data shows that the pace of progress to end FGM remains slow, lagging behind population growth, especially in places where FGM is most common, and far off-pace to meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goal to eliminate the practice. The global pace of decline would need to be 27 times faster to end the practice by 2030.

The report shows that the largest numbers are in African countries, accounting for 144 million cases, followed by 80 million in Asia and

6 million in the Middle East, with more estimated in small practicing communities and countries of migration elsewhere in the world.

The analysis shows that 4 in 10 FGM survivors live in fragile and conflict-affected settings, where population growth is also fast. This combination can strain education and health services, divert resources toward crises, and disrupt programmes that address gender inequality, making it more challenging to tackle FGM. Places like Somalia and Sudan face the challenge of addressing widespread FGM, among other urgent issues, and amid conflict and population growth. Ethiopia has consistently made progress, but climate shocks, disease, and food insecurity make it harder to reliably deliver programmes to support girls.

However, the report also reveals that progress is possible and is picking up. Half of the progress made in the last 30 years hap-

pened in just the past decade. Country examples include Kenya, declining from moderate to low prevalence; Sierra Leone, dropping from high to moderately high prevalence; and Egypt, beginning to decline from a previously near-universal level.

"Female genital mutilation harms girls' bodies, dims their futures, and endangers their lives," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. "We're also seeing a worrying trend that more girls are subjected to the practice at younger ages, many before their fifth birthday. That further reduces the window to intervene. We need to strengthen the efforts of ending this harmful practice."

Female Genital Mutilation: A Global Concern is the most up-to-date compilation of statistics on FGM, a practice that violates girls' and women's human rights and can leave enduring physical, psychological, and social consequences.

JKAP celebrates 4th Foundation Day

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Mar 8: 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 Zulfiqar 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 Zulfiqar



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 dented 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 develop-

mental 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 state-

hood.

"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.

"These institutions failed to perform on the ground because the Govt officials did not listen to them, and hence, they remained

powerless during their tenure that has made a mockery of the democratic institution," he said, while condemning the demeaning the democratic institutions.

Meanwhile, Senior Provincial Vice President, Jammu Region, Ex-MLA Rajouri, Qamar Choudhary also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the agenda of development in the region.

He lauded the role of the Party leaders and insisted on the Party workers to expand their activities by educating the people about the policy of equitable development with an aim to protect land and jobs for the local population.

Similarly, the Party's District President of Rajouri, Syed Manzoor Hussain Shah also addressed the gathering while recalling the role of the Party in awakening the people of all the region regarding their constitutional rights.

He said that the Party has expanded its roots across the region, and the people have come in support of the Party in the wake of its progressive policy.

Braham Jyot inaugurates Bhandara at different sites on Maha Shivratri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 8: On the holy occasion of Maha Shivratri, 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.

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.

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 Maha Shivratri 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 Generator, 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.

Shan urges LG, Chief Secy to rectify Grade Pay Discrepancy for MTS in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 8: Tilak Shan, President of Shiv Sena Chenab Valley, has appealed to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor and Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir to address the issue of the actual grade pay for Multitasking Staff (MTS) in the Jammu & Kashmir.

In a press statement issued today, Shan highlighted the disparity faced by Class-IV employees, particularly those in the Ministerial Cadre, who have been re-designated as MTS following the notification vide S.O No. 133 of 2022.

Shan expressed concern over the discriminatory treatment faced by these employees, emphasizing that while their designation has changed, their pay scale remains unchanged.

He noted that under the Central Government Cadre Structure, the lowest category of employees, known as MTS, is assigned a pay scale of Level-1 (18000-56900). However, in Jammu and Kashmir, the re-designated MTS employees are currently placed at Pay Level SL1 (14800-47100), which does not align with any existing pay level in central or state pay commissions.

Shan stressed that this discrepancy results in MTS employees in J&K receiv-



ing significantly lower pay compared to their counterparts in the central government, amounting to a disparity of more than Rs. 6000 per month.

He urged the Hon'ble LG and Chief Secretary to rectify this issue by notifying the actual pay level of Level-1 (18000-56900) for MTS employees in the Jammu & Kashmir, ensuring justice and parity among citizens.

NYK Jammu to organise Nari Shakti Fitness Run tomorrow

Top News Report

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 organization to conduct the run in a befitting manner. Interested women can regis-

ter themselves through MYBharat portal. At the end of the run, the winners at 1st, 2nd and 3rd position will be given MY Bharat kit.

Nehru Yuva Kendra Jammu appealed 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.



Army constructs a Foot Bridge at Reasi

Top News Report

REASI, Mar 8: In consonance with the aim of working towards connectivity between remote 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 construction 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 benefiting 1500 residents, aims to bridge not only the physical gap but also the aspirations of vibrant communities of Tulli & Banna.

LOST

I, Harish Vardhan S/o Sh Krishan Lal R/o Ward No.-11, R.S. Pura, Jammu., have lost my passport bearing No F9367808. I am applying for renewal of the same. Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority within fifteen days of publication of this notice.

FROM PAGE 1

Centre approves Rs 2,093 Cr outlay for highway, ropeway projects in J&K

populace, and brings economic benefits to the region by enhancing tourism, the minister added.

He said an allocation of Rs 562.40 crore has also been approved for the upgradation and strengthening project of the Nashri-Chenani section of National Highway-244. Spanning 39.1 km in districts Udhampur and Ramban, this initiative operates on the EPC mode under National Highway (O).

The road's enhancement is poised to offer improved connectivity to Patnitop, a tourist hotspot in Jammu, fostering economic development of the region.

Society must acknowledge Women's Contribution: JK Chief Justice

the difficulties faced by the women which often are created by the men and it is attempt to mind that there cannot be any discrimination against the women," he said.

Justice Kotsiwar further said that we must recognized the potential and the rights of women so that we are equal partners in the society.

"The contribution of women has to be acknowledged to make our society a better society without any discrimination and provide all the spaces women deserve which men have deprived them of," he said.

One Dead, 4 Injured as Vehicle falls into Gorge in Poonch Village

"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 travelling when the accident took place".

No conflict between INDIA bloc members on seat-sharing in J&K, says Congress leader

(PDP).

J-K has five Lok Sabha seats, including two from Jammu region, while Ladakh has one. In the last elections, while the NC won all the three seats from the valley, the BJP won the two Jammu seats as well as the lone Ladakh seat.

Citing the the Congress' discussions on seat-sharing in Maharashtra and with parties like AAP, Monga said all the issues are resolved through talks.

"No one would have ever thought that Congress and AAP will come together. So, every issue is sorted through talks. NC has a right to claim even four or five seats. But ultimately talks happen and what will come out of those you will get to know," he said. The Congress leader said discussions are going on all the six seats in J-K and Ladakh.

"A final decision will be taken in a day or two. Everything will become clear when the discussions are given a final shape. Both the NC and the PDP are important for us. They are with us, they are a part of the INDIA bloc," he said.

Asked about the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech at a rally here on Thursday, Monga said the prime minister should have talked about the restoration of statehood and democracy.

"What was the new thing that he said? The new thing would have been to talk

about election or statehood.

"It is unfortunate that the Supreme Court had to tell the government to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He should have addressed the issues of inflation and unemployment," he said.

Forester among two officials arrested over bribery charges

seeking legal action against concerned officers.

"On receipt of the complaint as per laid down norms the allegations were discreetly verified which revealed that the forester in connivance and conspiracy with other officials of the Range office, Watergam is demanding bribe of Rs 3500 for one transit permit already issued to complainant and is also demanding bribe for processing and issuance of Transit Permit through online NTPS in other three pending applications of complainant," ACB statement said.

After proper verification of the contents of complaint a case was registered at Police Station ACB Baramulla and investigation was commenced.

"During the course of investigation a team was constituted which laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant red handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 12500 from complainant. Both the accused public servants were arrested on the spot after completing all legal formalities and the bribe money was also recovered from them," the statement said, adding the role of other officials in the bribery case is also being looked into.

Woman dies in road accident

Hospital Pattan for treatment, where she has succumbed to her injuries.

He said that cognizance has been taken and investigation set into motion.

Will take decision after

consulting Congress: Mehbooba on Omar Abdullah's 'no alliance' remark

make our decision public soon," she said.

Personal remarks on pm backfire, secure self-goal for opposition: Omar

him (Modi) an open goal post and he has used the opportunity to his advantage by saying that Modi belongs to those who do not have anyone. We do not have any answer to that now.

"I will only say that we should not indulge in such personal politics but raise the issues of the public. Chowkidar, Adani-Ambani, Rafale, Parivar — these do not work," he added.

To a question about the NC not leaving any seat in the valley for the PDP for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls and its impact on the INDIA bloc, Abdullah said the situation has kept the PDP out, not his party.

"The PDP came at the third number in the last Parliament elections and how is it justified that the number one or number two party will leave the claim on the seat and give it to the third number? Also, I do not see any influence of the BJP on the seat (south Kashmir-Rajouri)," he said.

As far as coalition is concerned, Abdullah said, it is the responsibility of every party to keep the coalition running.

"You ask us about the seats for them, but when they target the NC through their tweets or on social media, then you don't ask them if that is the coalition dharna... The NC is attacked even when elections take place in Pakistan. They said on Twitter that what happened in Pakistan elections, reminded the people of what happened here in 1987 elections. What coalition dharna is this?"

"I do not know under what influence did

Ghulam Nabi Azad target Farooq Abdullah, but the PDP forced itself into that as well and attacked the NC. They along with Azad attacked Farooq Abdullah and the NC from their Twitter platform and you ask us where is the coalition dharna," he said.

He, however, said that despite the PDP's attacks on his party, the NC has told the Congress that it is ready to keep doors open for an alliance for the assembly polls in the Union Territory.

"But, first we will see their (PDP's) approach in the forthcoming Parliamentary polls," he added.

The NC vice president said his party has discussed the seat sharing with the Congress and the national party would contest from two seats in the Jammu region.

"We have told them to field their candidates from Udhampur and Jammu seats. We have also told them that the NC will not field its candidate on the Ladakh seat, but our endeavour should be to field a consensus candidate there who can take back the seat from the BJP," he said.

Abdullah said had he known before joining the INDIA bloc that he would have to "weaken" his party for the sake of some other member of the alliance, "then perhaps I would never have joined the alliance".

Two drug peddlers arrested in Kulgam

Mohd Hussain Gojer a resident of Nowgolta Chanani was arrested on spot.

"Moreover, a police party of Police Station Qaimoh established a specific checkpoint (Naka) at Wanpora Crossing and during checking one suspicious person identified as Abdul Rashid Dar son of Ghulam Mohd Dar resident of Shamsipora carrying a nylon bag was intercepted. After search, officers were able to recover 04 Kgs of Grinded Cannabis like contraband substance filled in the said bag from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody," he said. Subsequently, cases under relevant sections of law stands registered in Police Station Qazigund and Qaimoh respectively and investigation has been initiated in both the cases.

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

Top News Report

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 Metall 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.

NDS felicitated Saroj Mahajan, Vanshika Kaw



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 8: Silently working Social Activist Madam Saroj Mahajan was felicitated on International Women's Day by Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) in collaboration with ABMS & MASAHARA. She has been working for the last about forty years to empower the poor, physically challenged, mentally retarded, sick, helpless and socially abandoned women folk. "Nari Shakti Welfare Society" (Regd) was founded by her in 1989 and since then she has been working tirelessly without looking back. She has been performing with her dedicated team in rural areas as well by organising camps, seminars, women conferences and meetings.

Her organisation has helped and financially supported the marriage of young poor girls. Her sanstha has all along been identifying poor and down trodden talented girls and helped them to grow in their respective fields. She was first woman President of the coveted "Jammu-Kashmir Zone Bhartiya Mahajan Shiromani Sabha". She has supported hundreds of women to make them self reliant with dignity. Miss Vanshika Kaw

was also honoured for her all round outstanding potential especially in the field of singing and being patronised by Saroj Mahajan. She was presented with a shawl and memento. The dignitaries and Executive Body Members of NDS pres-

ent on the occasion felicitated Saroj Mahajan on International Women's Day with a shawl and memento to mark her contributions to the society.

Yash Pal Yash General Secretary NDS commended the proceedings in a befitting manner.

Capt Lalit Sharma IFS former APCCF and Convener NDS in his opening remarks said that when the established women work to empower the fellow women folk especially from the down trodden strata of the society, wonders happen and Madam Saroj Mahajan has proved this by setting a personal example. He congratulated all women on this day.

Sushil Bhola Executive Member NDS while speaking on the occasion said that Sanstha Culture has always paid respect and ensured legitimate rights of women folk and the present disparities need to be addressed with collective efforts. Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila President NDS said that since about fifty percent of our population are women, therefore, to empower our society it is imperative to empower women.

Prof. Anupama Sharma Patron NDS praised the dedicated, sincere and helping endeavours of Madam Saroj Mahajan and described her as an iconic figure in the field of social work for women folk.

Dr. Parveen Yograj renowned personality of Jammu in his address while appreciating the contribution of women,

enumerated the women who have the privilege to be the first lady in respective fields. On request Prof. Anupama Sharma renowned singer of Duggar, Advocate Deepika Mahajan a talented singer and Miss Vanshika Kaw presented Shiv Bhajans in their melodious and captivating voices to mark the occasion of "Shiv Ratri" today.

Saroj Mahajan while thanking NDS and the participants very humbly expressed her gratitude and said that it is because of blessings of God Almighty that you get inspiration to do your bit. He appealed every one to contribute for an healthy, vibrant and prosperous society. Other prominent persons who participated include Advocate Arjun Dev Mohan General Secretary Youth Wing NDS, Shambu Ram Pyasa Treasurer NDS, Som Nath Taroch a political activist, Advocate Deepika Mahajan, Senior AAG Raman Sharma, Parvesh Singh Salaria General Secretary Jammu Bar Association, Advocate Utkarsh Pathania Treasurer Jammu Bar Association, Advocate K.B Kaw, Advocate Surekha Bhat, Advocate Rajinder Singh Thakur and Advocate Bindusar Abrol, Advocate Amit Gupta Vice President Jammu Bar and Vice-President NDS formally extended Vote of thanks. He said though Madam Saroj Mahajan is a silent worker and is publicity shy but he thanked her for agreeing to the request of NDS to honour her.

DC Ganderbal inaugurates CBC's five day exhibition in Ganderbal

Effective communication is key to success of welfare schemes: DC

Top News Report

GANDERBAL, Mar 8: The Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Shayambir on Friday inaugurated a five-day multimedia exhibition of the Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the Head of CBC J&K, Ghulam Abbas, Field Publicity Officer CBC Srinagar, Naseer Ahmad Rather, and Field Publicity Officer CBC Anantnag, Shahid Mohammad Lone.

The exhibition on Viksit Bharat is being organised by CBC's Field Office Srinagar at the Mini Secretariat Ganderbal from 8th to 12th March 2024.



The five day exhibition aims to showcase various welfare initiatives and schemes of the government, with a special focus on Viksit Bharat, Mission Life, Swachh Bharat Mission and Agnipath scheme.

On the first day, resource persons from the ICDS department delivered insightful lectures about the department's various schemes.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of effective communication in reaching the grassroots level, ensuring that government schemes reach the masses. He reiterated the administration's commitment to extending support to people in availing the benefits of various schemes.

Head of CBC J&K, Ghulam Abbas, under-

scored the role of CBC in disseminating information about public welfare schemes of the government and development initiatives effectively. He mentioned that the media outreach helps in effectively delivering the message and field units of CBC organise such programmes across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir. During the event, the

DC also visited stalls set up at the exhibition venue by various departments including Agriculture, Health, Horticulture and ICDS.

Attendees were further entertained and informed through cultural performances by the CBC cultural troupes, which highlighted information about various government schemes in an entertaining manner.

The programme witnessed an enthusiastic participation from numerous students from various schools and workers from the ICDS department.

An open quiz was also organised for the audience during the programme. The winners were felicitated by the Deputy Commissioner.

Spiritual Mahotsav gives opportunity to renew faith, receive divine blessings: Shurveer Jammu Sangathan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 8: Maha Shivratri Mahotsav concluded today evening with the traditional Shiv Aarti at Muthi. The Shiv Vivah Mahotsav was organized by Shurveer Jammu Sangathan (SJS) under the guidance of Arun (President SJS) at Muthi.

The Mahotsav hosted a variety of programmes which inter alia included Shiv Barat (Shoba Yatra), cultural events depicting local folk dances Dogri 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 Shivaling 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 Mahotsav and all efforts are afoot to improve facilities for the devotees.

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

Army felicitates women achievers at Kupwara

Top News Report

KUPWARA, Mar 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.

Army organises Joint Intelligence, security review meeting

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Mar 8: A joint intelligence and security review meeting was conducted by Indian Army in the presence of all the stakeholders at Palma Garrison, 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 arrange-



ments. 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 emphasised 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.

Chenab Valley Region celebrates Maha Shivratri

Top News Report

BHADARWAH, Mar 8: Maha Shivratri was celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety across the Chenab Valley today. Thousands of devotees thronged various Shiv temples in the region to pay obeisance to the Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati on this occasion.

At the same time, devotees were option less to celebrate the festivity in drought like situations as there is no snowfall or any rainfall which is considered as a good omen specifically on this day. The unprecedented environmental conditions are seen as a drift away from the usual geographical phenomenon.

At Bhadarwah, thousands of devotees thronged the historical and the most ancient Gupt Ganga temple here from early in the morning to perform special Pooja.

Initially, the rush of devotees was normal, but it swelled as the day progressed and continued up to late in the night. The devotees offered flowers, milk, curd etc to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. A Bhajan Sandhya was also organised on the occasion.

The entire complex of ancient temple of Gupt Ganga was wonderfully decorated.

Thousands of devotees also visited the "Vasuki Naag temples at Mohalla Vasakdera and Village Gatha on the occasion of Maha Shivratri today. There was a huge rush of devotees in these temples from late last night which continued up to late tonight also.

The devotees were seen in long queues in the temple complex Gupt Ganga to Bhadarwah Jai road waiting for their turn for darshan and pooja.

A large number of devotees offered prayers at Shiv Temple Pirsthan on Ganpat road Bhadarwah and Jyoti ling Shiv temple Parnalla on the occasion of Maha Shivratri. Hundreds of devotees also gathered to participate in the Maha Shivratri celebrations in the form of processions.

On this occasion, Prasad was also distributed amongst all the devotees and Lingams made of sand were bathed with water in remembrance of Lord Shiva.

"In fact, the festival envisages a message for the union of two souls and the sustainability of respect and honour for each other in the marital union of husband and wife," said Monika Sharma wife of Dr. Sanjeev Kumar - a resident of Mohalla Khakhal Bha-



darwah adding,

"Maha Shivratri is an important Hindu festival celebrated with great religious fervour throughout the Chenab valley. The celebrations unite people in a common bond of devotion, respect and reverence. The festivities of Maha Shivratri marks the triumph of faith, hope, purity and tradition."

At Ramban, hundreds of devotees turned up in the premises of Shiv Mandir at Mairta to celebrate the holy Shivratri festival and worship Lord Shiva and Parvati.

Elsewhere in erstwhile district Doda, Shiv temple Nagri Doda, Shiv temple Prem Nagar, Shiv temple Thathri, Shiv temple Kishitwar and Shiv Cave Baggar were beautifully decorated on Shivratri by devotees.

Meanwhile, sticking further to their tradition, the Kashmiri Pandits putting up in Bhaderwah, Doda and Kishitwar celebrated the Shivratri popularly known as, "Haerath" in Kashmiri Culture.

"On this very day, people worship Lord Shiva and temples are beautifully decorated. Along with that, people also cook traditional Kashmiri dishes such as fish and mutton among others to mark the festival," said Naresh Kumar Mattu adding it is considered to be auspicious if it rains or snows on the day of Maha Shivratri.

As this year round, the winter season particularly in Chenab valley region has remained mostly dry and the unusual environmental shift has caused unexpected decline in the snowfall on higher reaches while middle reaches and the Himalayan foothills have witnessed negligible snowfall. "There is drastic drop in even the normal rainfall this winter season which has considerably dampened the spirits of the devotees on this Maha Shivratri as they are option less to celebrate it under drought like situation," Mattu further added.

Satwik-Chirag pair cruises into French Open quarterfinals

Meanwhile, PV Sindhu to take on second seed Chen Yu Fei of China in women's quarterfinal

PARIS, Mar 8 (Agencies): Star Indian doubles players Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty cruised into the quarterfinals of the French Open Super 750 badminton tournament here with a straight-game victory against the Malaysian pair of Man Wei Chong and Kai Woo Tee.

Satwik and Chirag, who have been on a dream run with successive runner-up finishes in 2023 China Open, Malaysia Open Super 1000 and India Open Super 750 this season to emerge as the world No. 1 doubles pair, defeated the Malaysian duo 21-13, 21-12 in a round-of-16 clash on Thursday night.

The Indians' domination was



such that the match ended in just 32 minutes.

They will take on the Thai pair of Jomkoh Supak and Kedren

Kittinupong for a place in the semifinal later on Friday.

Meanwhile, PV Sindhu, playing her first BWF tour event

since returning from a knee injury, will take on second seed Chen Yu Fei of China in the women's quarterfinal.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, had battled her way from an opening-game reversal to outgun world No. 10 Zhang 13-21, 21-10, 21-14 to enter her first quarterfinal of the season.

In another Thursday night match, the women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also progressed to the quarterfinals, shocking seventh seeded Japanese duo of Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota 21-18, 21-13.

They will face top seeds Qing Chen and Yi Fan Jia of China in the next round.

WFI withdraws circular, ad hoc panel to conduct selection trials

NEW DELHI, Mar 8 (Agencies): In yet another setback to the sport of wrestling, the Delhi High Court has decided that the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) cannot hold selection trials.

The WFI, in its circular, had announced two-day trials in New Delhi to select the team for the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships and Asia Olympic Qualifier to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in April.

In a surprising decision, Justice Sachin Datta

has authorised the ad hoc panel, headed by Bhupendra Singh Bajwa, to conduct the trials.

The decision came after the WFI had to agree to withdraw its circular to hold the trials. This was done after

both the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Sports Ministry claimed that the body was not recognised by them.

Justice Datta, while hearing a petition filed by Bajrang Punia, further said that the trials of the women's team will be held in Patiala, while the men's freestyle and Greco-Roman competitions will be held in Sonapat. It is expected that the dates of the trials will be the same — March 10-11.

Further, the order ensures that Antim Panghal, who had sought an exemption from the trials, will be sent to the championships without taking part in the trials.

"Needless to say the ad hoc committee shall ensure that all athletes, which are found eligible are permitted to take

part in the trial," the order stated.

However, the judgment is not clear as to who will send the entries of the team — the WFI or the ad hoc panel? In its letter that lifted the WFI suspension, the United World Wrestling had also allowed the Sanjay Singh-led new WFI executive to send the team entries for the championships.

The WFI's lawyer Hemant Phalpher said the final order is still awaited. "No legal issue is decided in the matter. The decision (to withdraw the circular) was taken in the interest of the sportspersons. The fact remains that all legal issues remain open and will be decided on April 26, which is the next date of hearing," Phalpher told agency.

Indian Army to have specialised girls sports company next month

NEW DELHI, Mar 8 (Agencies): In sync with the national vision of women empowerment and demonstration of "Nari Shakti", the Indian Army is raising two Army Girls Sports Companies (AGSC) within its two Centre of Excellence (COE) nodes at Army Marksmanship Unit, Mhow, and Army Sports Institute, Pune.

The AGSC will be fully functional with effect from April 2024, official sources said. These units will identify the young talent, provide them with formal education apart from other administrative requirements and train them to be champions in their respective sporting discipline.

Indian Army has had

Boys Sports Companies for long.

The AGSC will train young girls from all parts of the country in shooting, archery, athletics, boxing and weightlifting.

The two locations have been selected for the Army Girls Sports Companies, as they have world-class training infrastructure, sports medicine centre, reha-

ilitation facility and related coaching facilities.

The girls at AGSCs will be groomed not only to be outstanding sportspersons but will also be eligible for recruitment as Direct Entry Non Commissioned Officers and Direct Entry Junior Commissioned Officers, apart from enrolment as

Agniveers.

Already, even before the AGSC has been made operational, Subedar Preeti Rajak, a champion trap shooter and Asian Games silver medallist, was enrolled as a Havildar in Corps of Military Police in December 2022. She was the first woman soldier to be promoted to Subedar in January 2024.

Stokes is special, has turned England into an amazing team: Moeen Ali

NEW DELHI, Mar 8 (Agencies): All-rounder Moeen Ali has lavished praise on England skipper Ben Stokes despite the underwhelming Test performance against India, saying the all-rounder is special for the way he has transformed the side into an "amazing and entertaining" unit.

Ali, who has retired from the longest format, said Stokes deserves plenty of credit for ensuring that England are better than average.

"I had Joe Root and Alastair Cook as my captains, but Stokes was just different. The way he's taking the game and team forward, it's really amazing. He took England from not playing great cricket to amazing and entertaining cricket," Ali told 'ESPNCricinfo'.

England are trailing 1-3 in the ongoing series and the fifth and

final Test is currently in progress in Dharamsala.

Ali also defended the visiting team's ultra-aggressive 'Bazball' approach, which has drawn criticism for being one-dimensional after India managed to gain the upper-hand.

"Everyone is talking about Bazball. But they actually don't believe much in (the term). They just want to play this brand of cricket. I think he is a special captain and a special player," said Ali.

The Birmingham man voted in favour of the aggressive game that England follow under Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum, saying Test cricket is in need of this particular brand of cricket.

"They have taken to India on difficult wickets. I love that about Bazball. There's always a chance. India are also



taking the game on. Look at the way (Yasir) Jaiswal is playing. He is doing unbelievably well.

"It is the way the game needs to go for people to watch. Test cricket also has to change. There's still time for proper Test match batting, but it needs to get forward. This is what Bazball is doing," he explained.

The 68-Test veteran was also delighted to see the young crop of England spinners -- Tom Hartley, Shoaib Bashir and Rehan Ahmed -- giving a good account of themselves in the series against India.

"India is a very difficult place. I know the wickets have spun nicely, still they have carried their own. I thought Hartley did really well in the first game (in Hyderabad)."

"No matter what wicket, on debut, under pressure, the way he has battled is really, really good. This is a very inexperienced bowling attack. It is not even experienced in domestic cricket. You have to give them a lot of credit," he said.

Ali will next be seen in action in the IPL and said his franchise -- five-time champions Chen-

nai Super Kings -- will always have an edge over their opponents because of the unpredictable strategies of their captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

The Super Kings are the defending IPL title-holders.

"Dhoni is a special player and a special captain. When you are playing for CSK with Dhoni as the captain, whether the team is weak or strong on paper, you always have a chance of winning," Ali said.

The spinner said despite playing three seasons for CSK, Dhoni still surprises him with his tactics.

"I have played three seasons but I don't know what he is going to come up with. His strategic persona is really good. It is exciting as a player - what role he has for you," he said.

Hazlewood's five-wicket haul helps Australia dominate day one against NZ



CHRISTCHURCH, Mar 8 (Agencies): A five-wicket haul by paceman Josh Hazlewood ensured Australia had the upper hand on a wicket-laden opening day of the second Test against New Zealand on Friday.

Fourteen wickets fell as Australia reached 124 for four at stumps after the Hazlewood-inspired pace attack rolled New Zealand for 162 in two sessions at Hagley Oval in Christchurch.

Manus Labuschagne was unbeaten on 45, including eight fours, with night-watchman Nathan Lyon on one.

New Zealand debutant Ben Sears, whose first delivery was whipped to the boundary by Steve Smith, claimed his first Test wicket two balls later when he had the Australian opener trapped in front for 11.

Smith's fellow opener Usman Khawaja reached 16 before he was bowled by Matt Henry for the second time in the series.

Henry also clean-bowled Cameron Green

for 25 and had Travis Head caught behind for 21 to finish the day with figures of 3-39.

Australia, looking to sweep the two-Test series, won the toss and put New Zealand into a bat on a green-tinged wicket.

After being kept at bay by Tom Latham and Will Young for the first 90 minutes, the tourists picked up wickets at regular intervals.

Hazlewood finished with 5-31 in a masterly display of seam bowling while Mitchell Starc took 3-59.

It moved Starc up to fourth on the all-time Australian wicket-takers' list with 357, overtaking Dennis Lillee, who ended his stellar career with 355.

Australia expected an early breakthrough when captain Pat Cummins elected to bowl in ripe conditions.

Dogged resistance from Latham and Young saw New Zealand reach 47 before Young was dismissed for 14.

From there, the New Zealand innings fell apart.

They lost eight wickets for 60 runs before the Australian onslaught was frustrated by a ninth-wicket partnership of 55 by Henry and Tim Southee in his 100th Test.

After Starc accounted for Young, Hazlewood bowled a precise line and length to claim the next four wickets including New Zealand talisman Kane Williamson, who was trapped in front for 17.

Williamson, who received a standing ovation as he arrived at the crease for his milestone 100th Test, sought a review but he knew it was a lost cause and started to walk before the three red lights were shown.

Hazlewood also accounted for Latham (38) and Daryl Mitchell (four), both caught by wicketkeeper Alex Carey as well as Ravindra caught by Usman Khawaja at first slip.

The impressive Carey took five catches including Tom Blundell (22) off Cameron Green and Glenn Phillips (two) off Starc, who then dismissed Scott Kugeleijn lbw with his next delivery.

was also in on the action when he caught Southee (26) to give Cummins a wicket, then finished the innings in the next over when he had Henry (29) caught behind.

Dharamsala Test: Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill slam hundreds to put India in lead against England

DHARAMSALA, Mar 8 (Agencies): Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill both struck hundreds and combined in a burgeoning 160-run stand for the unbroken second wicket to put India firmly in the lead on day two of the fifth and final Test against England on Friday.

India, who hold an unassailable 3-1 lead in the series, have been in the ascendancy since bowling out England for 218 at the picturesque Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium.

Captain Rohit got a life on 68 when Zak Crawley missed a sharp catch at backward short leg but that was as close as England came to a breakthrough before lunch.

India were 264-1 at the break with Rohit on 102, his second hundred of the series that included three sixes. Gill was the more aggressive of the pair, smacking five sixes in his stellar 101 not out.

The overnight batters went after the bowlers right from the word go.



The one shot that epitomised their approach was when Gill stepped out against James Anderson and hit test cricket's most successful fast bowler over his head for a six.

Spinner Shoaib Bashir got a flick from Rohit but the ball flew past Crawley before the fielder could even cup his hand.

Rohit took a single off Tom Hartley to bring up his hundred, while Gill slog-swept Bashir for a four in the next over to reach the 100-mark.

IPL 2024: Matthew Wade set to miss first two matches in Gujarat Titans campaign

NEW DELHI, Mar 8 (Agencies): Australia wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade will miss the first two matches of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024. The Gujarat Titans batter has chosen to represent Tasmania in the Sheffield Shield final from March 21 to 25. Wade has made his plans clear to Gujarat Titans, who will begin their campaign on March 24.

The 16th edition of the IPL will get underway from March 22 with defending champions Chennai Super Kings taking on Royal Challengers Bangalore in a high-profile opener at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

Gujarat Titans, who will be led by Shubman Gill, will take on Mumbai Indians in their high-profile opening match on March 24 in Ahmedabad. Wade's absence will not have a big impact on the team's chances, considering the limited role the



veteran wicketkeeper played in the two seasons with the 2022 champions. Wade played 10 matches in their victorious season in 2022, but did not play a single game for the Titans last year despite having been with the squad in India.

Tasmania head coach Jeff Vaughan expressed delight in Wade's availability in the domestic red-ball tournament final. Gujarat will next play Chennai Super Kings in Chen-

nai on March 26 in a repeat of last year's final.

"He's spoken with his IPL franchise and they're happy to allow him to stay here, which probably equates to him potentially missing their first game," Tasmania head coach Jeff Vaughan told reporters in Hobart.

"We feel very fortunate to have someone of Matt's ilk coming back into our group, and his experience and his performances at the back end of our

season," said Vaughan.

OTHER WICKETKEEPING OPTIONS FOR GT
Gujarat Titans are likely to go in with Wriddhiman Saha as their wicketkeeper at the start of the IPL 2024 season. They also have Jharkhand's big-hitting Robin Minz, who was bought for Rs 3.6 crore by the Titans in the IPL 2024 auction.

GUJARAT TITANS SQUAD IPL 2024

David Miller, Shubman Gill (c), Matthew Wade, Wriddhiman Saha, Kane Williamson, Abhinav Manohar, B. Sai Sudharsan, Darshan Nalkande, Vijay Shankar, Jayant Yadav, Rahul Tewatia, Mohammed Shami, Noor Ahmad, Sai Kishore, Rashid Khan, Joshua Little, Mohit Sharma, Azmatullah Omarzai, Umesh Yadav, Shahrukh Khan, Sushant Mishra, Kartik Tyagi, Manav Suthar, Spencer Johnson, Robin Minz.

Sham Lal hails PM Modi's rally at Srinagar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 8: Sham Lal Gupta, Chairman of the Anti Crime Bureau (NGO), on Friday 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 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, he said.

Sham Lal 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 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.

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.

Vikalp organizes Village Outreach Programme

Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 8: 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 vol-

unteers 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 Sumanta Sarathi Sharma, Faculty Coordinator Vikalp, applauded the efforts of the volunteers.

Ajeet Bhagat greets people on Mahashivratri



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 8: Jammu and Kashmir

National Confrance Senior Leader, Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat greeted the people of Jammu and Kashmir in general and people of Chenab Valley Zone in particular on the occasion of Mahashivratri.

"May lord Shiva and Parvati Shower their blessings on you and your family Happy Mahashivratri", he said.

Falgun Amavasya on March 10

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 8: Amavasya occurs only once in the Amavasya month, and the lord of Amavasya is the ancestors. Falgun Amavasya falls on 10th March Sunday. About Falgun Amavasya, the President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sanathan Trust, Mahant Rohit Shastri Jyotishacharya, mentioned that from a religious perspective, on this day, offerings are made to ancestors and other charitable deeds are performed. According to religious scriptures, anyone



who takes a holy bath in sacred rivers on this day will attain prosperity in every way.

They will be free from all kinds of diseases and sorrows. If for any reason one cannot bathe in the

holy rivers, they should bathe in water at home by adding Ganga jal and should give charity to a poor person as much as possible. It is also said to be very fruitful to feed fish with flour balls in rivers or ponds on Amavasya.

The commencement of the Falgun Amavasya date will be on 9th March Saturday at 06:18 PM and will end on 10th March Sunday at 02:30 PM. Due to the Falgun Amavasya falling on 10th March Sunday, this year Falgun Amavasya will be observed on March 10.

Dr. Arvind hails country's initiative for strengthening food security

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 8: At the 55th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation made a joint statement on behalf of like minded organizations during the interactive dialogue on the Report of the Special Rapporteur of Human Right to food.

He highlighted that India

is one of the very few countries which not only strengthens food security for its own people with a very strong public food distribution system but also for its neighboring and other countries of the global south when needed.

He further articulated the initiatives and steps taken by the government of India to address unsustainable fishing and small scale fishing is being pro-

moted in the country. Blue Revolution, the flagship scheme of the Government is aimed to achieve economic prosperity in the country. Fishers and fish farmers contribute towards food and nutritional security through full potential utilization of water resources for fisheries development in a sustainable manner, keeping in view the bio-security and environmental concerns.

Vikram Singh takes over charge of Power and New & Renewable Energy Department UT Ladakh

Top News Report

LEH, Mar 8: Vikram Singh Malik (IAS) took over the charge of Power and New & Renewable Energy Department UT Ladakh from Ravinder Kumar (IAS).

Consequently, a two-day meeting was held and under the chairmanship of Vikram Singh Malik, Secretary Power and NRE for overall review of the Power and NRE Department, UT Ladakh.

Tundup Spalzung, Superintending Engineer Distribution, Ladakh Power Development Department (LPDD), Ghulam Mohd. Qari Executive Engineer, ED Leh, Rinchen Wangmo Executive Engineer STD Leh, Ghulam Mustafa, Executive Engineer Proj-

ect Division Leh, Project Director LREDA gave a brief presentation on the organization, existing scenario of power sector of Ladakh, ongoing works under various Central Schemes and budget review.

Vikram Singh Malik, Secretary Power and NRE took note of the various strategically important projects such as the 220 KV Nubra Zankar Transmission Line under PMDP-15, Grid connectivity of Changthang Region and loss reduction works under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), Smart Metering project in Ladakh etc.

It was impressed upon all the stakeholder involved in these important project for the need to step up the efforts

for timely completion of these projects.

He emphasized that the bottlenecks reasons for the delay in these projects needs to be resolved and therefore called for detailed meeting with each agencies for these projects.

The Secretary further took note of the increase in power consumption in Ladakh over the years and need for overall improvement in the infrastructure for meeting the future demands and reducing the AT&C losses in Ladakh.

Chief General Manger POWERGRID Ltd. along with Chief Manger Rigzen Wangchuk and Surinder Kumar also welcomed Vikram Singh Malik on assuming the charge of Power and NRE Department, UT Ladakh.

5-year-old Jodhamal student Saahir creates New Records

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 8: Saahir Gandral, a five-year-old little wonder has been awarded the title of "IBR Achiever" by India Book of Records for his extraordinary ability in English and Mathematics.

Saahir is a Pre-Primary student of Jodhamal Public School, Jammu who has emerged as a true intellectual force by demonstrating his outstanding memory prowess at just 5 years of age.

In an astounding display of his felicity with literacy and numeracy, Saahir read out text from a book much beyond his age and recalled the multiples of

eight random numbers between 5 to 15, and multiples of 2 to 14 and 18 in a series. At such a tender age, he received the Certificate of Participation from India Talent War Season 3.

Jodhamal fraternity takes pride in Saahir's achievements. Encouraged and guided by his parents and teachers, he has always shown inclination for languages and numbers since his young age. He is a self-motivated learner and enjoys coming to the School.

Nandan Kuthiala, Trustee, Arati Kuthiala, Director, Girish Kumar, Principal, Shefali Sanwal, Vice Principal complimented Saahir for this remarkable feat.

Shiv Sena takes steps towards making women self-reliant

Top News Report

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 Kash-



mir stands far behind compared to other states regarding women employment.

The rate of female unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir is 72 percent, which is a matter of serious 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 chhibber, Kajal, Vijay Singh, Sanjeev Sharma were present on the occasion.

GK Educational Trust celebrates Women's Day



Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 8: GK Educational Trust training partner NSDC, ministry of skill development celebrated Women's Day at GKITR PMKK Kathua. All the students participated enthusiastically

in the celebration. Chief Guest 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. Amar Director GK Educational Trust, Pritpal Kour (Centre Incharge) and other staff members were also present.

Samvedna Society organizes 10th Varshik Langar on Mahashivratri

Top News Report

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, 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, SSucha 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 Swachh 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 Vipran Verma, Vikas Kumar, Ritesh Peer, Dr Sanchit Sharma and others were also present.