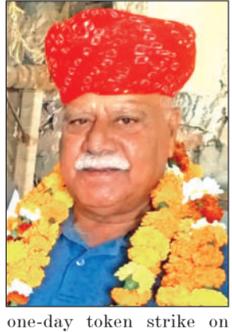


# Sukhnandan suggests Govt to continue e-buses operation; not to succumb to private bus operators' pressure

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Former Minister and senior BJP leader Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar has suggested the J&K UT administration to not to succumb to the pressure tactics of the privately owned passenger bus operators who are holding protests against the operation of Smart City e-buses in Jammu City. The transporters in Jammu had announced



Thursday against operation of e-buses, which they wrongly alleging that the e-buses are affecting their livelihood, said the former BJP minister Sukhnandan Kumar. How the private transporters can blame the government for 'illegally' running e-bus service in various congested routes of Jammu, questioned Ch Sukhnandan, adding the e-buses have resolved many problems being

faced the commuters. In no case these buses be stooped from operating in the city, suggested Sukhnandan Kumar adding "Jammuites had a sigh of relief with the operation of these non polluting an spacious e-buses. The senior BJP leader also said that these transporters had also protested the introduction of e-rickshaws. But government supported the e-riskhaw

supporters and they are operational giving efficient services to the locals and the tourists. "e- Buses are also plying on uncovered areas of city, and also they are plying on city routes, and this has resolved many complaints of female commuters," said the BJP leader CH Sukhnandan Kumar, adding that the government should never stop the operation of e-buses in Jammu.



## Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj addresses congregation

# Peace, compassion essence of harmonious society: Rana

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Friday called for imbuing the spirit of love, compassion, peace and harmony as professed by great saints and seers all their life, saying that striving for social justice and equality will be best tribute to Guru Ravi Dassji. "Relevance of the teachings of great Gurus and Saints assume significance in this age more than ever before as intolerance, hatred and greed have become the way of life", Rana said while attending a congregation which was blessed by the presence and discourse of Shri Shri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj, at Devikan in Ranjan in Nagrota assembly constituency here this afternoon.



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana taking blessings of Shri Shri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj.

Ravi Dassji will continue to inspire and motivate humanity to work for betterment of all, irrespective of caste, creed and colour. The society, he said, has an onerous responsibility to work for the upliftment of marginalized segments and ensure that opportunities of growth and progress are provided to all, he added. Rana said the glorious heritage and legacy of inclusive-

ness has to be sustained, strengthened and bequeathed to the posterity by spreading the divine message of righteousness. The spirit of humanism alone can guide the society to overcome hate, animosity and bitterness that is pivotal for making this world a better place to live in, he added. He said the life and teachings of Guru Ravi Dass Ji have inspired the generations

and helped in transforming the society, making it conducive for various communities, irrespective of caste, creed and colour. "Guruji emerged as a beacon of light at a time when the society was ridden with hate and discrimination on the basis of caste and creed", Rana said while enumerating the great role played by Guruji in ensuring that all segments of the society live with honour and dignity. Rana said the best way to remember the apostle of peace is to take a pledge to follow his teachings in letter and spirit and work for building a society based on the natural principles of social justice, equality, compassion, love and togetherness. Shri Shri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj, in his illuminating and thought provoking dis-

course in the congregation, dwelt upon various facets of the eventful life of Guru Ravi Dassji and said he emerged as a beacon light at a time when the society was engulfed by darkness. "Those were the times when fellow human beings were being discriminated on the basis of caste and creed", he said and referred to the great role played by the Guruji in ensuring that all segments of the society live with honour and dignity. Swamiiji made a fervent appeal to devotees to act upon and spread the message of love, peace and compassion, which was the high point of Guruji's life. "The path shown by the Guruji has helped the society to eschew the tendencies of hatred and intolerance", he said and added this will continue to inspire generations.

## JKEEGA calls off sit in protest programme, Govt constitutes committee to review suspension



JKEEGA members calling on Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineers Association (JKEEGA), under the leadership of Er. Sachin Tickoo, President, and Er. Pirzada Hidayatullah, General Secretary, on Friday conducted multiple rounds of talks with the

Administration, including the Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary of the Power Development Department (PDD). These discussions aimed to address concerns regarding the suspension of 12 Engineers from the Power Development department who were on deputation to JPDCL/KPDCL.

ensure true accountability. Following deliberations, the management agreed to issue charge sheets to the suspended engineers immediately and to evaluate the suspension orders based on the reasoned replies provided by the engineers. Additionally, both parties agreed to establish a Technical Committee to assess and set reasonable benchmarks for billing efficiency, collection efficiency, and AT&C losses with respect to 11KV feeders. The improvement efforts made in achieving these benchmarks would serve as a basis for justifying the performance of engineers in their respective areas. In response to these positive developments, the JKEEGA Guidance Council decided to call off the sit-in protest scheduled for March 30th. Instead, they opted to organize Guidance Meetings in both Jammu and Kashmir to review progress. The association expressed hope that the administration would review the suspensions in a time-bound manner as agreed upon in the meeting. Furthermore, they emphasized that future assessments of engineer performance would be based on benchmarks established by the Technical Committee on loss reduction, billing efficiency, and other relevant parameters.

# J&K Branch NIRC of ICAI organises seminar on Bank Branch Audit

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: J&K Branch (NIRC) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) under the aegis of Auditing & Assurance Standard Board of ICAI on Friday organized a highly informative Seminar on Bank Branch Audit at ICBI Bhawan, Canal Road, here. CA Vineet Kohli, Chairman of the J&K Branch, commenced the event with a welcome address, highlighting the significance of the CA Benevolent Fund. He underscored the pivotal role this fund plays in providing support to Chartered Accountants in times of need, emphasizing the importance



CA Vineet Kohli, Chairman of the J&K Branch with others at a seminar.

of solidarity and mutual aid within the professional community. Kohli's emphasis on the benevolent fund served to encourage attendees to contribute and participate actively in supporting their fellow professionals, fostering a sense of camaraderie and unity within the accounting fraternity.

CA Priya Sehlt, Secretary, J&K Branch conducted the proceedings, and guided participants through the key aspects of the subject. CA Amarjit Chopra, Past President ICAI, a speaker, addressed the audience on

the critical aspects of loan and advances in the context of bank audits. His expertise in the field of auditing, particularly in the banking sector, has provided valuable insights into the intricacies involved in assessing and evaluating loans and advances, as well as the associated risks and regulatory considerations. Additionally, another guest speaker CA Anil Sharma has shared insights on the long-form audit report. This report is an extensive document that provides a comprehensive overview of the audit findings, including detailed analysis, observations, and recommendations. The guest speaker discussed the importance of crafting effective

long-form audit reports, highlighting key elements such as transparency, clarity, and relevance to stakeholders. Both sessions have contributed to the attendees' understanding of crucial areas in auditing, offering practical guidance and insights to enhance their professional practices and responsibilities. CA Sourav Pargal, Vice Chairman, presented the formal vote of thanks. CA Vikas Purdhani, Immediate Past President, CA Ayush Sawhney, Executive Member & CA Nakul Saraf, Past Chairman along with many senior members, several Chartered Accountants and students were also present at the event.

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## In 5-yrs, road accidents killed 4251 people in J&K, Chenab Valley emerging as hotspot

**MASROOR AHMAD**  
SRINAGAR: According to a report released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), as many as 4,287 people lost their lives in road accidents from 2018 to 2022 in J&K. In 2023, as many as 893 people lost their lives in 6,298 accidents. According to data, an average of 850 persons die per year in Jammu & Kashmir. The Jammu region has witnessed the highest number of road accidents, reveals the data, issued by the traffic headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir. In fact, the Chenab roads have emerged as a major hotspot for road accidents, leading to hundreds of fatalities every year in Jammu & Kashmir. These accidents are a dark spot over the otherwise peaceful valley. People living in the region always worry while traveling on these roads. A data revealed in response to an RTI query by the traffic police headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir stated that in 2019, Jammu reported 3907 road accidents, resulting in 695 fatalities and 4987 injuries. In the Kashmir division, 1889 accidents were reported, leading to 301 deaths and 2545 injuries. In 2020, the Jammu division reported 3086 road accidents, resulting in 487 fatalities and 3798 injuries, while the Kashmir division registered 1774 accidents, resulting in 241 deaths and 2096 injuries. The Jammu division witnessed 3584 road accidents, with 560 fatalities and 4640 injuries in 2021, while the Kashmir division saw 1868 accidents, resulting in 214 deaths and 2332 injuries.

Similarly, in 2022, there were 3886 accidents in the Jammu division, resulting in 562 fatalities and 5554 injuries, while the Kashmir division reported 2206 accidents, with 243 deaths and 2818 injuries. Also, in 2023, the Jammu division reported 3943 road accidents, resulting in 598 fatalities and 5486 injuries, while the Kashmir division witnessed 2355 accidents, with 295 deaths and 2983 injuries. As of January 31, 2024, the current year has witnessed 398 road accidents, 55 fatalities, and 486 injuries. Among these, the Jammu Division reported 284 road accidents, 38 fatalities, and 342 injuries, while the Kashmir Division reported 114 accidents, 17 fatalities, and 144 injuries. Meanwhile, officials of the Traffic Department informed

that they are making every effort to reduce road accidents, with a primary focus on educating people to adhere strictly to traffic rules. The officials stated that two-wheelers are a significant contributor to road accidents, followed by driver negligence. They stressed the importance of individual responsibility in promoting traffic awareness. Efforts are being made to identify accident hotspots and deploy personnel to mitigate risks. Additionally, investigations are being conducted to determine the root causes of accidents. The increasing number of vehicles on the roads, coupled with infrastructure challenges, such as potholes, contributes to the incidence of accidents. The officials stressed the need for collaboration among all concerned departments to prevent the loss of lives.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The launch of the "Voter Chetna Mahaabhiyaan" by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan, underscores the party's concerted efforts to engage with the electorate ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The initiative, focused on reaching out to women voters in Ward No. 49 of Chami Rama in the Bahu Constituency of Jammu South, highlights the party's commitment to connecting with the grassroots level. Accompanied by key party officials including District Secretary and Mahila Morcha Prabhari Amit Sharma, Mahila Morcha

# Modi government gives wings to the self-respect of women power: Rekha



BJP District President Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan during a meeting.

District President Divya Jain, Sarojini Sharma, Mandal President Kamlesh Magotra, Ward President Sushil Tagotra, Rekha Mahajan emphasized the importance of women's participation in India's development journey under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. She highlighted various government welfare schemes aimed at empowering women, such as 'Standup India' and 'Mudra Yojana', which have facilitated economic opportunities for them. Mahajan's address focused on the achievements of the Modi-led government over

the past decade, emphasizing its commitment to the welfare of the poor, farmers, women, and the underprivileged. She expressed gratitude to the citizens for their faith in democracy and credited PM Modi for instilling confidence and pride among Indians through his leadership.

Furthermore, Mahajan underscored the transformative impact of Modi's governance across various regions of India, including Jammu & Kashmir, the northeast, and areas affected by left-wing extremism. She credited Modi's leadership for ushering in a new era of development and peace in these regions, while also highlighting India's progress towards self-reliance and emergence as a developed nation under his stewardship. Mahajan's remarks reflected the BJP's efforts to mobilize support and highlight the achievements of the Modi government as part of its election campaign strategy for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

# Grand 'Kalash Yatra' taken out in connection with Shri Shiv Mahapuran Navahan Gyan Yagya at Gadigarh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A grand 'Kalash Yatra' was taken out on Friday in connection with Shri Shiv Mahapuran Navahan Gyan Yagya and Rudhraabhishek Yagya at Lower Gadigarh, here. The 'Kalash Yatra' taken out from venue of Yagya, Lower Gadigarh, under the guidance of head of the Yagya Organizing Samiti, Retd Lecturer Purnu Ram Sharma in which large number of devotees of all walks of life, irrespective of their faith and beliefs took part. The devotee women took out the Kalash Yatra by placing the holy Kalash on their

heads from Yagya venue and travelled all the way to Shiv Temple Indira Nagar amidst chanting of 'Bam Bam Bole', 'Har Har Mahadev' and 'Om Namah Shivaye'. On reaching, Shiv Temple Indira Nagar, Temple committee warmly welcomed the devotees and served water and Parsad to all. The Kalash Yatra was taken out at 9 am and returned two hours later with religious fervour and gaiety. Large number of devotees besides social and religious organisation heads participated in the Kalash Yatra. Police Department made all security arrangement through-

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Head of Yagya Organizing Samiti, Retd Lect Purnu Ram Sharma leading Kalash Yatra at Lower Gadigarh, Jammu.

out the Yatra route. Bal Sant Shri Sahil Ji

Maharaj, former MLC, Vikram Randhawa, former minister;

Raman Bhalla besides prominent persons of the Jammu also participating in the Kalash Yatra. Bal Sant Shri Sahil Ji Maharaj acknowledged the immense significance of such holy programs in preserving and promoting India's rich cultural and spiritual heritage. "The Shiv Mahapuran is not merely a religious text but a reservoir of spiritual knowledge that delves into the essence of human existence, ethics, morality, and the paths to attain self-realization and inner peace. Its teachings are universal and applicable to people of all walks of life, irrespective of caste and religion," Sant Shri Sahil Ji

Maharaj added. Speaking on the occasion, Raman Bhalla commended the efforts of those involved in organizing and conducting a programme, which play a crucial role in fostering unity, peace, and moral values in society. It is worthwhile to mention here that the of Shri Shiv Mahapuran Navahan Gyan Yagya and Rudhraabhishek Yagya under the blessings of Shri Shri 1008 Swami Vishwatmaanda Saraswati Ji Maharaj, has been organised by Yagya Organizing Samiti at Lower Gadigarh Jammu from March 30 (Saturday) to April 7 (Sunday), 2024 where large number of

devotees will take part in Mahayagya and listen Shri Shiv Mahapuran during the programme. Organizers informed that the each day Shiv Mahapuran Navahan Gyan Yagya and Rudhraabhishek Yagya will continue from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and a Bhandara will be performed on daily basis from 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM and Shri Shiv Mahapuran Katha by Katha Vachak Pt. Dr. Ved Prakash Shastri from 3:00 PM to 6:30 PM from March 30 till April 6, 2024. Organizers further informed that Bhajan Sandhya will be organized from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM every day.