

Comm min assures of restoration of full RoDTEP benefits to exporters from Apr 1: FIEO

P-7

Yamini Malhotra Engages In Fun Banter With Paparazzi, Rides On Scooty

P-10



Sinha extends greetings on Int'l Women's Day

LG Manoj Sinha has greeted J&K women on the occasion of International Women's Day, which is celebrated on March 8.

"On the occasion of International Women's Day, I extend my greetings and felicitations to all my sisters of Jammu & Kashmir in their steadfast commitment and unwavering drive to forge the future of UT and our great nation. I trust this occasion will inspire them to step forward

Cont. on P9 >

Forester placed under suspension

A forester was today placed under suspension for alleged dereliction of duty and 'involvement' in illegal felling of trees in Rajwar-Handwara of forest division of the valley.

According to an official order, Tanveer Ahmad Malik, forester and block officer of Behnipoora beat in Rajwar Range of Langate forest division, was suspended pending a departmental enquiry against him.

Cont. on P9 >

Man on run after killing daughter held

A man, accused of killing his 10-year-old daughter here a decade back over the suspicion that she was not his biological child, was apprehended from southeast Delhi today.

The accused, who was identified as Ramesh Kumar, is a native of Madhya Pradesh's Chhatrapur district. He was wanted in a 2016 murder case registered against him at Gandhi Nagar police station.

Following his detention in Delhi, the accused was handed over to the investigating officer from the

Cont. on P9 >

'Illegal mining razed Budgam's Sukhnag river'

NEW DELHI, MAR 07: A government-constituted fact-finding committee has confirmed that illegal riverbed mining has caused massive destruction to the Sukhnag River in the Beerwah area of Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district.

The seven-member panel, formed by the Deputy Commissioner of Budgam in August last year following a directive from the National Green Tribunal (NGT), has submitted its report to the tribunal through J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC).

Cont. on P9 >

DDOs asked to follow rules while processing payments

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, MAR 07

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has issued a circular directing all Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) to strictly follow rules while processing payments for works contracts and ensure proper submission of invoices for materials procured during execution of works.

The circular, issued by the Finance Department, Jammu and Kashmir, states that in several cases

Cont. on P9 >

Direction of India's rise clear, unstoppable: Jaishankar

Pushes back against US official's remarks

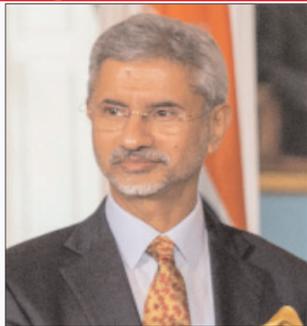
NEW DELHI, MAR 07: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday asserted that India's rise was "unstoppable", adding that the country's growth would benefit the wider Indian Ocean region.

"I do want the rest of the Indian Ocean to appreciate that India's rise is, in a way, a lifting tide. With our growth, other countries of the Indian Ocean stand to benefit. Those who work with us, obviously, will get more benefits. In a way, it is a trend," he said at the Raisina Dialogue here.

Speaking during a session titled 'Heart of the Seas: Future of the Indian Ocean', alongside Barry Faure, Foreign Minister of Seychelles, and Vijitha Herath, Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Jaishankar said that while challenges exist, the direction of India's rise is clear.

"I'm not saying there are no challenges to India's rise; there are. But the direction of India's rise, I think, is very clear. In a way, it is unstoppable," he said.

The minister emphasised that the trajectory of a nation's rise ultimately depends on its own strengths. "The rise of countries is determined by the countries themselves. The rise of India will be determined by India. It will be determined by our strength,



not by the mistakes of others," he said without directly naming any country or individual, though it was apparent he was referring to Landau's comments at a conversation on India-US relations.

Jaishankar also noted that the Indian Ocean region was undergoing a phase of recovery and rebuilding, particularly in terms of trade routes and connectivity.

Highlighting India's connectivity initiatives, he said New Delhi was working to restore links to the east through Myanmar and Southeast Asia, while strengthening western corridors through the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor into the Arabian Peninsula and further via the International North-South

Transport Corridor through Iran into Eurasia.

Jaishankar's remarks came two days after US deputy secretary of state Christopher Landau said at the same forum that his country will not repeat the mistake of providing India the same type of economic advantages it gave China, allowing Beijing to emerge as a key competitor.

Landau, a lawyer who has served as an envoy in both terms of US President Donald Trump, had highlighted the American leader's vision for an "America First" foreign policy that emphasised the US is not a "charity organisation".

While backing the trade deal that Washington and New Delhi are finalising, Landau said: "But again, India should understand that we are not going to make the same mistakes with India that we made with China 20 years ago in terms of saying, we are going to let you develop all these markets, and then, the next thing we know, you are beating us in a lot of commercial things."

He added, "We are going to make sure that whatever we do is fair to our people. Because ultimately, we have to be accountable to our own people, just as the government of India has to be ac

Cont. on P9 >

Educated, self-reliant women contribute to progressive nation: Murmu

NEW DELHI, MAR 07: President Draupadi Murmu today said that educated, self-reliant and empowered women could strongly contribute to a prosperous and progressive nation.

"Women are the foundation of our society and nation. They have demonstrated their talent and hard work in various fields including education, science, sports, art and defence," she said on the eve of International Women's Day.

"Educated, self-reliant, and empowered women can strongly contribute to



a prosperous and progressive nation. Today, the young women are shaping the dreams of a new India. They need appropriate opportunities, guidance, and encouragement," the president said.

"Let us all come together to work towards a society where women have equal

opportunities and can move forward and achieve success on the basis of their capabilities," she added.

Murmu wished a bright future for all women. She will grace the national-level International Women's Day celebration at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi on March 8.

Meanwhile, Murmu expressed dissatisfaction over the low turnout at a tribal community event in North Bengal, questioning the decision to shift the venue from Bidhannagar to Goshapur near the Bag

Cont. on P9 >

Prostitution racket busted; 3 girls rescued

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, MAR 07

Police today rescued three girls after busting a prostitution racket allegedly operating in Greater Kailash locality here, and arrested three persons, including a woman.

The action followed information about immoral activities allegedly being carried out in a house in the Greater Kailash area of the city, officials said.

Officials said a police team conducted a raid at the location and rescued three

Cont. on P9 >

Clash breaks out inside prison

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, MAR 07

A clash today broke out among inmates inside a jail in Jammu's Rajouri district, following a heated argument between two prisoners.

Officials said the altercation between two inmates, one from Kashmir and the other from Rajouri, soon escalated, triggering a scuffle among other prisoners.

During the clash, some inmates allegedly pelted stones at prison guards, prompting authorities to intervene and bring the situation under control, offi

Cont. on P9 >

Bid to smuggle phones to jail inmate foiled

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, MAR 07

Two mobile phones were recovered from a parcel meant for an inmate lodged in Baderwah jail in Doda district of Jammu today.

According to officials, the recovery was made by authorities during routine checking of parcels delivered at the district jail, Baderwah.

Officials said the parcel was meant for delivery to an inmate who was lodged in the jail under PSA for the past one month. He is from Hajin area of north Kashmir's Bandipora.

Cont. on P9 >

Shiv Khori's awakening begins, want to make J&K nation's spiritual heart: LG

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, MAR 07

Asserting that highly revered Shiv Khori cave shrine's spiritual awakening had begun, LG Manoj Sinha today said he wanted to make J&K the spiritual heart of the nation.

"Shiv Khori's awakening begins. We have not only upgraded infrastructure but have also fortified faith itself," he said in his address after inaugurating the infrastructure upgradation and beautification works at holy Shiv Khori shrine which falls in Reasi district of Jammu.

The works were completed by JSW Group under its Corporate Social Responsibility.

"It is my prime objective to make Jammu & Kashmir a vibrant & breathing spiritual heart of the nation. After five years of sustained efforts, I can say with quite satisfaction that the dream is no longer distant," the LG said.



He expressed gratitude to Sajjan Jindal, CMD of JSW Group, and his entire team for the historic endeavour. "I see this as a profound act of kindness for humanity's shared heritage," he said.

"Since the 2023 MoU with JSW Group, we awaited this day and today, anticipation ends. I have always held a firm conviction that the light of spirituality must be readily accessible to every person in society," he added.

He emphasised that the infrastructure upgradation of Shiv Khori was an announcement that the holy shrines of our ancient tradition were being reawak-

ened and restored to life.

"Today, devotees' perseverance bears fruit and we have fulfilled the vibrant dreams of our ancestors who yearned for it," he said and added, "Our strong belief in spirituality has guided every effort - from the historic upgradation for Baba Amarnath Yatra, to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's vision of transforming the entire region into a living spiritual corridor, to placing Shiv Khori firmly on the map of India's great centers of devotion."

"Today, I say with deep confidence that after centuries, Jammu & Kashmir

Cont. on P9 >

Iran will be hit very hard, says Prez Trump

WASHINGTON, Mar 07: US President Donald Trump threatened to escalate the bombing of Iran on Saturday as Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian vowed that he would never surrender, despite a fresh blitz of US and Israeli air strikes that set a Tehran airport ablaze.

Israel confirmed some of the biggest raids since the aerial bombardment of Iran began last Saturday, with a military academy, an underground command centre and a missile storage facility named as targets.

"Today, Iran will be hit



very hard!" Trump posted on his Truth Social media platform.

"Under serious consideration for complete destruction and certain death, because of Iran's bad behavior, are areas and groups of people that were not considered for targeting until this moment in

time," he said. Iranian President Pezeshkian struck a defiant tone in a speech broadcast on state TV in which he appeared to address Trump's demand for "unconditional surrender".

Iran's enemies "must take their wish for the unconditional surrender of the Iranian people to their graves," Pezeshkian replied.

Iran also hit back on Saturday, demonstrating that it retains the ability to launch missiles and drones despite the relentless targeting of its military infra

Cont. on P9 >

Judiciary must protect environment but not hinder development: CJI

CHANDIGARH, MAR 07: Judiciary must continue to serve as a constitutional sentinel in matters concerning the environment, and not impede legitimate development aspirations, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said on Saturday.

He made the remark while addressing the Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association here.

"We are no longer in an era of choosing between environment and development. We are in an era where the only defensible development is the one



which is environmentally responsible," the CJI said.

The jurist was here for the inauguration of a refurbished library in memory of Justice Kuldeep Singh, often hailed as the 'Green Judge' of the Supreme Court.

The CJI stated that the

courts cannot afford a tunnel vision that treats every project as suspect, nor can they afford a complacent vision that treats environmental safeguards as negotiable.

"Our task is to move from a purely reactive model to a more mature environmental governance model that integrates environmental safeguards into the very design of development," he said.

On the contribution of Justice Kuldeep Singh, CJI Kant said he gave messages to all judges that as judges

Cont. on P9 >

Cong slams PM's 'deafening' silence over US 'permission' on Russian oil

NEW DELHI, Mar 07: Congress on Saturday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the recent US 30-day waiver allowing New Delhi to buy Russian oil. The attack was charged with the quote of Donald Trump's aide Scott Bessent, who said the US had given "permission" to India to accept oil from Moscow.

The largest opposition party took to X to condemn and question the diplo-

macy of the Modi government, saying that a country as vast as India with 1.4 billion people is "waiting for Washington's approval", reiterating its charge that the prime minister is "compromised".

"India fought for freedom so that no foreign power could dictate terms to us. Yet today, under a weak Prime Minister, the US is openly talking about giving India 'permission'," it added.

Slamming India's diplo-

macy, the party called the situation a "humiliation". Calling on the prime minister to explain, Congress added: "Indians are not actors in someone else's script.

Earlier to this, the US has said it has given "permission" to India to buy Russian oil that is already on ships at sea, in an effort to maintain global supplies during the Middle East conflict.

"The world is very well

Cont. on P9 >

Kashmir was, is, will always be integral part of India: Kavinder

PHAGWARA, MAR 07: Stating that Article 370 abrogation opened new era of development and opportunity in J&K & Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, who has been appointed as governor of Himachal Pradesh, today said that "Kashmir was, is and will always be integral part of India".

"Unity in Diversity defines Kashmir's identity and India's strength," he said while addressing Rotary International District annual conference here on the theme "Kashmir - Harmony with Mainstream India".

Gupta, who served as 3rd



LG of Ladakh from 2025 until his resignation two days back, highlighted the deep cultural, civilisational, and democratic ties, linking Kashmir and Ladakh with

the rest of India.

Describing Kashmir as the "crown of India," he said, "The region is not merely a geographical entity

Cont. on P9 >