

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE

(MHA : Govt. of India)

Dated, the 4th Nov,2016

Sub: **CHATTH FESTIVAL CELEBRATED IN AFRICA BY CRPF FEMALE CONTINGENTS.**

Chatth Festival in Africa?? surprised?? But, this was made possible by Female Formed Police Unit (FFPU) from India, deployed with UN Peace Mission, in Liberia. Couple of years back, in October 2014, the **Festival of Chatth** was celebrated in Monrovia, the capital city of Liberia, with full fervor and enthusiasm. CRPF, world's largest para-military force has sent its first UN peace mission to civil-war torn Liberia, in 2007. CRPF also has distinction of having sent first female contingent to UN peace mission in Liberia.

Across Atlantic ocean, thousands of kilometers away from home, Indian Culture came alive when the four days Chatth festival was kickstarted and officials of UN peace keeping mission from countries like Fiji, Nepal, Bangladesh, Jordan, Poland, Argentina and other countries joined Indian contingent in the festivities. Uniform clad, combatant female personnel adorned in traditional sarees, worshipping the evening sun (dusk) and morning sun (dawn), made for a magnificent sight. The sweet folk songs, sung with utmost devotion and traditional prasad made up of wheat and jaggery, not only made Indian diaspora nostalgic of their motherland but also mesmerized everyone and left indelible impression on all the attendees from various parts of the world.

Addressing the occasion, Smt. Niraj Bala, Contingent Commander of the Indian Peace Keepers, said that, since Vedic times, Sun is considered "God of Health". The Sun rays have miraculous powers to heal many ailments. The Lord Sun derives power primarily from his two wives "Usha" (Dawn) and "Pratyusha" (Dusk). During this grand festival of Chatth, the devotees pay their obeisance to both the rays of dawn and dusk, thus saluting the most powerful source of energy, deity Sun.

It may be interesting to know that the Chatth festival of 2014 also coincided with the outbreak of deadly "Ebola" virus in West Africa but despite that the Indian Contingent kept high morale and remained completely safeguarded against this deadly outbreak. Call it a miracle that Monrovia where the contingent was deployed, had most number of reported case of infection from Ebola.

Sd/-4/11/16

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