

Maa Mahagauri invokes devotion in Prabhat Pheri

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Jammu and Kashmir Association of Prabhat Pheri on Wednesday took out Prabhat Pheri on 8th Navratri which is a part of Navratri Festival Katra 2021 being organized jointly by J&K Tourism Department and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Katra in association with district administration.

A spiritual environment was created by today's Prabhat Pheri which started from Bus Stand Katra to Darshan Deodi via Ban Ganga road and after passing through Main Bazar Katra it got culminated at Bus Stand.

The procession was welcomed and joined hugely by the locals and pilgrims all along the route. It was experienced by one and all the participants of Prabhat Pheri as Maa Mahagauri has invoked devotion among them.

Today's Prabhat Pheri was flagged off by the Chief Guest, Dr. Gopal Dutt, BMO Katra and Guests of Honour, Ranjeet Kaur State Taxation Officer and Shiv Kumar Sharma, President Senior Citizen Welfare Forum in presence of Special Guest, Pritima Sharma. Chief guest and other guests were felicitated by the



Dignitaries participating in Prabhat Pheri at Katra.

association members with turbans, chunnis and memento.

The locals as well as pilgrims danced to the tunes of Bhajans and Kirtan performed by Vijay & Party and Rajnikant and party of Rajasthan.

CRPF personnel received the procession at Yog Ashram and served the Parsad to the participants under the supervision of CRPF Commandant of 6th Battalion Yad Ram Bunker.

School students and NCC cadets were very enthusiastic while participating in the Prabhat Pheri and they danced and ehoed the "Jaikaras" of Maa Vaishno Devi all along the route. Regional Outreach Bureau also participated in the procession with groups from Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam and J&K. The people got mes-

merized by their scintillating performances depicting rich cultural heritage.

Raj Kumar Padha, President, J&K Association of Prabhat Pheri informed that tomorrow, last day of Navratri festival, a grand Prabhat Pheri shall be taken out. He appealed the locals and the visiting devotees to come in large numbers to Prabhat Pheri and seek the blessings of Maa Vaishno Devi.

The members present on the occasion were Babu Ram Dubey, Ajay Sharma, Raj Kumar Dubey, Manoj Sadhotra, Rattan Sharma, Ashwini Katoch, Rakesh Dubey, Rajinder Kumar Mengi, Rattan Chand, Babu Ram, Renu Dhar, Kasturi Kermi, Naresh Kumar, Rajesh Gupta, Sham Lal, P N Rana and Rohit.

BJP demands lifting of ban on extraction of minor minerals from Tawi river bed

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and Incharge Namami Gange Projects (J&K UT), Advocate Chander Mohan Sharma, demanded lifting of ban on extraction of minor minerals from river bed of Tawi in Jammu region.

Adv. Chander Mohan Sharma accompanied by BJP J&K Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Department Co-Incharges Surinder Sharma and Balwinder Singh, Policy & Research Department Co-Incharge Dr. Makson Tickoo at BJP headquarter Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Sharma said that Tawi River is the only source of availability of minor minerals for construction activities but blanket ban on extraction of these from the river has resulted into crushing of boulders and rocks by JCBs in the hilly areas of the region resulting into shaking and weakening of hillocks making these more prone to land erosions and sliding thus putting the human lives into danger. The onus of mineral extraction in a scientific, regulated and ecological manner lies on the Mining department and the certain pockets of envi-



Incharge Namami Gange Projects (J&K UT), Advocate Chander Mohan Sharma talking to reporters.

ronmental importance and pillars/base areas of vital infrastructure like bridges of Tawi and other are to be protected and extractions in the rest of river beds are to be carried in a regulated manner. The Government should therefore, pursue the case before the Hon'ble High Court in a proper and vigorous manner to convince the court by clearing the facts and fears. The issue should not be left to a routine and lethargy approach as the blanket ban is highly detrimental to the river ecosystem, development work, employment and public interest. The concerned departments are taking shelter of some court order without striving for a legal solution for the benefit of poor people.

Sharma who is also President of Tawi Andolan and connected with other green ini-

tatives said that River Tawi passes through many densely populated townships and villages located on its banks. Overflowing of water in the rainy season often causes damage to the property, live-stocks and crops. Only safety is desilting of rivers by means of mining etc which is not allowed. This was only a natural process with the hilly rivers and rivulets. The worst example of damage to agriculture was that thousands of kanals of A-class fertile land had been rendered non-cultivable after heavy floods of the year 2014 as thick layer sand had spread into the fields and there was no remedy to get the farms free of sand. Another dark side of this blanket ban on mining is the loot underhand by a nexus of the police and mining department. The sand, bajari and gravel are being sold at

very exorbitant prices in black market. Thousands of Trucks and tracker trolleys loaded with minor minerals are being extracted in an unregulated way from the areas that are not earmarked for the extraction. General public is suffering and their hardship for procuring minor minerals at reasonable rates for the normal construction and renovation purpose of their homes and hearths are being subjected to the whims and caprices of black marketing mafia. Sharma further said that as a result of the sustained campaign of Namami Gange mission there is noticeable awakening among the masses toward protection and maintenance of all water bodies.

In the recent tour undertaken by me and Dr DK Manyal Former Minister, Rajeev Sharma MLA Co-Incharge, Surinder Sharma Corporator, Balwinder Singh Bhatia, Purushotam Bava, Satish Sharma and Bharat Bhushan Gupta and Veena Gurtu at different water bodies, cleanliness drive at 71 different water bodies were part of all India programme to celebrate seventeenth birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

DHH Jammu organises training for online Handloom mark registration

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A maiden workshop-cum-training for online Handloom mark registration was on Wednesday organized by the Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom (DHH), Jammu here at Udyog Bhawan. The workshop held under the guidance of Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Principal Secretary Industries and Commerce Department, was attended by 45 Cooperatives/Weavers associated with the Handloom sector.

Director Handicrafts & Handloom Jammu, Dr. Vikas Gupta urged the handloom weavers to come forward and get them enrolled on the portal devised by the Ministry of Textiles, GoI, which would make them eligible for obtaining Handloom Mark. For the purpose, the handholding is being provided by the weavers Service Centre, Srinagar.

The workshop-cum-training was attended by Joint Director Handloom, Pradeep Singh Manhas; Deputy Director Adm. Gulam Rasool; Development Officer Textiles, Fareed Kohli; Deputy Director (plg), Megha Boagria and other senior officers.

Mayor starts development works in Shiv Nagar



Mayor, Chander Mohan Gupta starting development work.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing his endeavour to provide more development & civic amenities to the citizens of Jammu, Chander Mohan Gupta Mayor JMC on Wednesday started the macadamization work of lane at Lower Shiv Nagar opposite Govt. Women Polytechnic College Jammu in Ward No 33.

Naseeb Raj, Ved Sharma, Krishan Verma, Ravi Raina, Balvinder Kumar, Khussant Daffara, Shamsheer Singh, Karan Sharma and other

prominent inhabitants of the locality as well as Ashish Bhasin Assistant Executive Engineer, Mukesh Kumar Junior Engineer & other supervisory staff of Engineering Division-II and Health Section of JMC were present. Speaking on the occasion, Mayor told that it was the long pending demands of the locals as this lane which was constructed a way back has been damaged & passersby were facing great hardships and even on certain occasions the motorists as well as old

persons have got themselves injured by crossing the area due to deteriorated condition of the road being the thorough fare and in order to provide immediate relief to them, this much needed development work by way of laying of black topping as well as covering of side drains with iron gratings has been kick started today by the JMC with an allotted amount of Rs 24 lakh.

He also directed the concerned Engineering wing to complete this work by applying best quality & durable construction material & complete it within the stipulated time frame and also appeal to the general public to come forward & cooperate with JMC & other allied agencies in all the development activities being undertaken in various wards of the city as all the Municipal Councillors in collaboration with various departments are committed to provide best possible amenities to the general public from the last three years as soon as they were elected.

RBBA elects new team of office bearers with Sanjay Gupta as President



Newly elected RBBA office bearers in jubilant mood.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sanjay Gupta has been elected as president of the Raghunath Bazar Businessmen Association (RBBA) Jammu.

The elections for various posts of the association were held on Tuesday and the results were declared late in the evening.

According to a spokesman of the association, the election process went on smoothly.

The office bearers were elected for the tenure of October 2021 to 2023. Sanjay Gupta secured 156

votes. Sanjay Sethi was elected unopposed as Senior Vice President while Pawan Sharma secured 167 votes and was elected as Junior Vice President. Amit Goel secured 218 votes and was elected as Secretary General of the Association. Nitin Gupta has been elected as Secretary of the Association. He secured 175 votes.

Mohit Gupta, who secured 214 votes was elected as Joint Secretary while Ankush Sethi, who secured 138 votes was declared elected as Treasurer of the association.

DDC Chairpersons, former legislator, delegations meet LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of DDC Chairpersons, Former Legislator, and Public delegations on Wednesday called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha to project their concerning issues and demands.

The delegation of DDC chairpersons, comprising of Saraf Singh Nag, Bharat Bhushan, Mahan Singh, Lal Chand, and Keshav Sharma from Reasi, Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur; and Samba respectively apprised the Lt Governor about various developmental and administrative issues of their districts. They also suggested measures for further empowerment of elected bodies and shared their feedback on the ongoing visits of Union Ministers to various districts of the UT. Former Legislator, Balwant Singh Mankotia also met the Lt Governor and raised various issues of public importance of Udhampur area vis-à-vis upgradation and strengthening of road network, Solid Waste Management, developing Sports infrastructure, aug-

mentation of drinking water supply among other issues.

The Lt Governor, while interacting with the DDC Chairpersons and former Legislator observed that the Government is working on the principle of equitable development of all regions.

He assured them that all their genuine issues and demands would be taken up for examination and early redressal. The Lt Governor further urged them to continue their sustained endeavours for the advancement of public welfare.

Similarly, members of Prem Nath Bhat Memorial trust comprising of Shiban Khaibri, SL Koul, Dr. BL Bhat, HIL Bhat, and Sanjay Pandita called on Lt Governor and apprised him about the security of temples and shrines in Kashmir. He also presented a book titled 'Hindu Shrines of Kashmir' to the Lt Governor. Vice President, J&K

Veterinary Doctors Association, Dr. Sunil Kumar Dogra also met the Lieutenant Governor and discussed several issues related to the welfare of their fraternity.

Meanwhile, Nakul Matoo, Councillor SMC also called on the Lt Governor and discussed about several developmental issues in his area.

The Lt Governor gave a patient hearing to all the visiting deputations and individuals and assured them that the government is taking all necessary steps for the betterment of the public. While interacting with the members of the delegations, the Lt Governor reiterated that the government is committed to improving the lives of all the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir. He assured them redressal of their genuine demands on merit and said that all their issues and suggestions will be looked into earnestly for appropriate action on them.

J&K Postal Circle releases special covers on 'Unsung Heroes'



CPG J&K Circle, Shailendra Dashora and others releasing special covers on two unsung heroes.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Department of Posts, J&K Postal Circle on Wednesday released two special covers on two unsung heroes of Jammu and Kashmir Sarvanand Koul "Premi" and Mohd Maqbool Sherwani. These special covers were released by Shailendra Dashora, Chief Postmaster General, J&K Circle in a function attended by Ranjeet Premi (son of late S K Premi) and other senior officers of the Department of Posts. Speaking on the occasion, Shailendra said that it is an endeavor of Government of India to recognize the role played by the unsung heroes for the betterment of the

nation. He further said that J&K Postal Circle feels privileged in bringing out two special covers on two such unsung heroes from J&K whose contribution can never be underestimated. Sarvanand Koul "Premi" was a famous Kashmiri litterateur, social reformer and Gandhian and Mohd Maqbool Sherwani was the person who saved Srinagar from the raiders (kabilies) attackers in 1947 merely at the age of 19.

Ranjeet Premi, son of Sarvanand Koul Premi, in his address expressed gratitude to the Department of Post for recognizing the contribution of his father for the nation and society as a whole.

Kavinder, Sunil visit JK House; distribute domicile certificates among PoJK, Kashmiri migrants

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta along with Sunil Sharma former Minister and General Secretary J&K BJP today distributed domicile certificates among the beneficiaries of POJK and Kashmiri Migrants at JK House New Delhi.

Earlier, the senior BJP leaders Kavinder and Sunil Sharma interacted with people and took stock of their problems.

Speaking on the occasion, Kavinder Gupta has batted for introducing a hassle-free mechanism to issue domicile certificates to migrant KPs living in Delhi or elsewhere. He said that hiccup if any are hampering the distribution of the domicile certificates should be taken care of immediately as not a single migrant



Former Dy CM, Kavinder Gupta along with former Minister, Sunil Sharma distributing domicile certificates among PoJK and Kashmiri Migrants at New Delhi.

family should face any inconvenience in getting their genuine domicile certificates as the same is their right and it is the duty of government to provide them the same at the earliest.

Kavinder Gupta asked Deputy Commissioner Relief to devise a people friendly mechanism to issue domicile certificates

as the very inception of this Department is for providing relief to the community which faced exodus in 1990s and has seen lots of ups and downs during the last over 30 years.

Sunil Sharma urged the Deputy Commissioner Relief to hold similar camps after regular intervals so that migrants residing in Delhi may not face

any problem in getting the domicile certificates. He also advised him to look into the feasibility for adopting an online system to distribute the domicile certificates for people residing outside J&K to ensure convenience and better services.

Pertinent to mention here that the J&K Government has deputed three teams to Jammu at JK House, Prithvi Raj Road, Delhi; Kashmiri Samiti Bhawan, Lajpat Nagar, Delhi and Mobile Team deputed at various places covering Faridabad, Noida, Dwarka, Shalimar Garden Covering both POJK and Kashmiri Migrants for issuance and preparation of Domicile Certificates. All the teams are working under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Relief, Devender Singh Bhau.

Sham Lal appointed as Member of Advisory Committee FAIVM

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Federation of All India Vyapar Mandal (FAIVM) appointed Sham Lal Gupta as Member of the Advisory Committee Jammu Kashmir.

In the programme, this event was organized by Sanjay Bansal, President, Jammu and Kashmir, in which Gupta was honored with Mata's Churni and Shawl over him, A Letter of Organization was also handed to him.

Organization State President Sanjay Bansal Congratulated, Prominent Businessman Sham Lal Gupta and said he is very



FAIVM appointing Sham Lal Gupta as Member of the Advisory Committee Jammu and Kashmir.

confident that Gupta will strengthen this organization, business and businessman.

Sham Lal said that he is very happy that FAIVM

understood him as capable and told that he would work for the betterment of the Board of Trade and would work under the Supervision of Sanjay

Bansal, the President of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that supporting Small and Medium Scale Traders would be his priority and more and more facilities would be extended to them to promote their works.

Those Present include Sanjay Bansal, State Vice President FAIVM and Businessman Sandeep Mengi, Varun Sharma, Kuldeep Gupta, Amit Luthra, Sanjeev Aggarwal, Sandeep Bhat, Varun Gandotra, Prashant Singh, Sushil Sharma, Business man Sahil Gupta and other colleagues.

Workshop held on International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Department of Geography and Disaster Management, University of Kashmir, in collaboration with DMRRR, SDRF and Institution of Engineers (India) J&K State Centre Srinagar organised a Workshop on Wednesday, on the occasion of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction at Gandhi Bhavan, University of Kashmir.

The Chief Guest on the occasion was Nazim Zai Khan, Secretary, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and



Participants of workshop posing for a photograph.

Reconstruction (DMRRR). Prof Farooq Ahmad Masoodi, Dean Academic Affairs presided over the function. The Guest of Honour was Haseeb Ur Rehman, Commandant SDRF Kashmir. Those who spoke on the

workshop was attended the faculty, consultants, scholars and students.

The participants were provided basic skills in First Aid, Search & Rescue and fire fighting. A mock drill on evacuation from high rise buildings was also conducted by SDRF team comprising of Abdul Gaffar HC, Gh Mohiudin SGCT, Aijaz Ahmad SGCT, Mohammad Lateef SGCT, Fida Hussain SGCT, Muzamil Ct, Hilal Ahmad Ct, Sartaj Ahmad Ct, Mudassir Ct, Javid Ahmad Ct, Pervez Ahmad Ct, Arshid Ahmad Ct.