

Navratra Prabhat Pheri concludes amidst religious fervour

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The nine days Navratra Festival Prabhat Pheri in the holy town of Katra-Vaishno Devi came to conclusion on Thursday morning.

The Prabhat Pheri was jointly organized by Department of Tourism J&K and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Katra in association with J&K Association of Prabhat Pheri beside indirect support from other organizations during Navratra Festival 2021. The function concluded amidst chanting of Bhajans & beating of drums at Bus Stand Katra.

Earlier, the Chief Guest, Vimal Indu, President Municipal Committee Katra and Guest of Honour, Ambica Bali, Assistant Director J&K Tourism Department Katra in presence of Municipal Committee councilors Ravi Nag, Bindu Sharma, Reena Baru, Renu Bala and special guests Shiv Kumar Sharma, former Joint Secretary J&K Sports Council and Vijay Bali flagged off Prabhat Pheri from Bus Stand Katra in



Chief Guest, Vimal Indu, President MC Katra inaugurating Prabhat Pheri.

which artists from J&K, Himachal, Orissa, Maharashtra & a large number of locals and devotees participated.

Today's attraction was Jhanki of Maa Sidhidatri showcased by Baldev and party.

Pilgrims group from Delhi under the leadership of Sunil Raheja joined the Prabhat Pheri.

Vimal Indu wished may Maa Vaishno Devi shower blessings upon all. Vimal Indu also complimented the members of the Prabhat Pheri in making this event colourful, successful and spiritual.

Ambica Bali said that Prabhat Pheri during Navratras is a form of devotion towards the holy Deity

and performing Prabhat Pheri at Katra will definitely please Maa Vaishno Devi.

Senior Citizen Forum led by Babu Ram also participated in the Prabhat Pheri.

Being the last day of festivity, the association members were all enthusiastic and danced in full swing all along the route.

A felicitation ceremony was hosted to honour the dignitaries present in the procession and members of J&K Association of Prabhat Pheri with mementos for making necessary arrangements and better coordination during Prabhat Pheri.

On the occasion chief guest and guest of honour also felicitated by association members.

The Prabhat Pheri was

culminated by Kanya Poojan. Speaking on the occasion Raj Kumar Padha President J&K Association of Prabhat Pheri told that it was the result of coordination and efforts put in by the people of Katra for making the event a grand success.

He thanked the J&K Tourism Deptt, district administration, health department, police department, CRPF 6th Battalion Katra, NCC cadets, Municipal Committee Katra, health deptt., print and electronic media and Katra people for their active cooperation & support during Prabhat Pheri processions.

Association members present on the occasion were Manoj Sadhotra, Raj Kumar Dubey, Ramnik Nawada, Aman Mahajan, Ratan Sharma, Ashwini Katoch, Rakesh Dubey, Rajinder Mingi, Rattan Chand and Naresh Kumar.

Among others present in the procession were Mangat Sharma, Ram Lal, Rakesh Sharma, Chairman Press Club Katra, Sham Lal, Sanjay Tickoo, P N Raina and Rohit.

ASCOMS organises divisional round of NNF quiz

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Pediatrics organized Divisional round of National Neonatology Forum (NNF) quiz under the aegis of NNF, J&K State chapter in the college Auditorium of Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences (ASCOMS) and Hospital.

National Neonatology Forum (NNF) is a very strong and large body of more than 8000 neonatologists and nurses across India and abroad.

NNF has been actively involved in advocacy, policy making, research and quality improvement for last 4 decades. It encourages latest recommendations for neonatal care at different levels and develops neonatal component of the curriculum for medical as well as nursing teaching.

As part of teaching NNF is organizing quiz activity both for postgraduates and nurses pan India. Four teams, Team A (Neha and Lata) from ASCOMS, Team B (Sabha and Reena) from JK Medcity, Team C (Meenakshi and Neeraj) from SMGS and Team D (Sunil and Arusa) from SDDM Hospital were selected after screening test among 10 teams of various



ASCOMS management presenting prizes to winners.

institutions who are involved in neonatal care.

Sunil and Arusa from SDDM Hospital emerged as winners and qualified for the zonal round which will be held in 2nd week of November 2021.

The scientific activity was inaugurated by Dr. Pavan Malhotra, Director Principal, ASCOMS in the presence of Dr. G S Saini Professor and Head, Department of Pediatrics and President IAP J&K State chapter.

The whole activity was conducted under the supervision of Divisional Coordinator Dr. Ravinder K. Gupta, Professor and Head, Department of Pediatrics, ASCOMS and Hospital. In his address, Dr. Ravinder K. Gupta, who happens to be the President of

NNF J&K Chapter highlighted the significance of roles of nurses in neonatal period especially the first golden minute of life. Dr. Ashu Jamwal, Professor of Pediatrics, GMC, Jammu briefed about the NNF body and its role.

Dr. G S Saini, Professor and Head, Department of Pediatrics and President IAP J&K State chapter appreciated the efforts of team ASCOMS for organizing the activity in impressive manner and stated that the questions asked to nurses were in a uniform way and stressed upon the need of such quiz activities for the benefit of nursing students who can play a significant role in decreasing neonatal morbidity as well as mortality.

Dr. Pavan Malhotra, Director Principal ASCOMS Hospital

lauded the efforts of the Department of Pediatrics in organizing such quiz activities in the institution. He also stated that nurses can play a very significant role at the time of birth and after.

Dr. Pavan also lauded the role of Raj Jasrotia, Assistant Matron, SMGS hospital popularly known as sister Raju for her role in taking care of sick neonates in SMGS hospital for almost 25 years.

He stressed upon the nursing students that they should actively participate in such academic activities and winning or losing hardly matters.

Dr. Sanjeev Digra, Dr. S S Slathia, Dr. Neera Singh, Dr. K R Sangra were among the senior pediatricians graced the occasion. The students among the enthusiastic audience did participate in this quiz and won lot of prizes.

Dr. Sushil Sharma and Dr. Rohit Singh were quiz masters.

Dr. Vikas Mahajan, Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Dr. Vikas Sharma, and Dr. Anurag Vaid assisted in smooth conduct of this activity. Dr. Niharika Mahajan managed the stage. The contestants were awarded mementoes by the dignitaries in the end.

Randhawa takes up issues of residents with Puri



Former MLC, Vikram Randhawa calling on Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Member Legislative Council (MLC) and Secretary Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) JKUT, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, on Thursday called upon Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs and raised the issue of residents of Gandhi Nagar.

During his deliberations with the Union Minister, Randhawa informed that J&K Housing Board and some bureaucrats have misinformed the Lt. Governor

about the alleged encroachment of roads by the residents of Gandhi Nagar Housing Colony which had issued a public notice to about 400 owners of the houses in the colony to vacate ten feet area in their front by November 7, 2021.

He informed the minister that the colony was established in the late 50s and since then thousands of building plans for construction of houses on these allotted plots were approved by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) show-

ing the same 40ft width of the road in the front and it always had NOC from Housing Board.

It woke up after sixty years because of fancy of some bureaucrats with sole objective of harassing peace loving residents of Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

He said that now the residents are being harassed and tortured by the administration and urged upon the minister to intervene and provide immediate remedial steps so that the residents may get sigh of relief.

The minister gave a patient hearing to the former MLC, who was accompanied by Mayor Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Chander Mohan Gupta and Secretary BJP Arvind Gupta, and assured them that the issue would be discussed with the officials of the department and appropriate action would be taken in this regard.

Modi Govt committed for work culture: Rekha

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP Secretary Rekha Mahajan has said that launching of a special campaign on October 01, this year, by the Union government for clearing all pending files in different Central Government departments and offices of the Union Territories in 30 days will give relief to large number of people across the country.

In a statement, Rekha Mahajan said that the move has sent a clear message that there should be no delay in clearance of the official work, which is also the reflective of the commitment of the government to introduce work culture in offices and that there should be no inconvenience to the general public.

Reports that such move has come following a directive from Prime Minister Narendra Modi that a special campaign for disposal of pending matters be undertaken in each ministry/department and all attached/subordinate and autonomous bodies of the



Government of India, is indeed an exercise aimed at clearing entire pendency related to service matters, grievances or any nature of files, which is going to further strengthen the belief of the people that Narendra Modi government is making sincere efforts to check lethargy in the administration, Rekha Mahajan said, adding that it is one more step in the direction of providing people friendly, good governance to the citizens of the country.

Rekha Mahajan further said that in order to keep pace with the fast moving world, it becomes all the more important that the administration too speeds up its working and no one should sit on files or keep them piling without any concrete reasons.

She expressed hope that from now onwards the people will not have to suffer any more and get clearance of their files in a time frame manner.

Kavinder welcomes extension of powers of arrest, search & seizure to BSF

'Various political party leaders to join BJP on HM's visit'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Deputy Chief Minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Kavinder Gupta has welcomed the extension of BSF powers of arrest, search and seizure in the entire Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territories by the Union Ministry of Home affairs.

In a statement issued to media here on Thursday, Kavinder Gupta said that now the Border Security Force (BSF) will continue to have the powers of arrest, search and seizure just like police in the entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as per the revised guidelines.

This will enable further tightening of security will be tightened as BSF will not

need any order of magistrate or warrants while exercising the power of arrest, search and seizure in the aforesaid territories.

This step will undoubtedly help the government in curbing the anti-national or seditious acts by the subversive forces within these two Union Territories, he asserted.

It is pertinent to mention here that a notification in this regard was issued in exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 139 of the Border Security Force Act, 1968.

The BSF will have powers in whole of the area comprised in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The notification will allow the border guarding force to

execute the powers of search, seizure and arrest for the purpose of prevention of any offence punishable under the Passport Act, the Registration of Foreigners Act, the Central Excises and Salt Act, the Foreigners Act, the Foreign Exchange Management Act, the Customs Act or of any cognizable offence punishable under any other Central Act, the MHA notification said.

Meanwhile, Kavinder Gupta informed that Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to visit Jammu in the end of this month and that the leaders of various political parties of Jammu and Kashmir being impressed by BJP's policies and programmes are likely to join the Saffron Party in Shah's presence.

Bhagwan Gopinath Trust organises eight-day long spiritual activity

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To inculcate the moral and spiritual values among the masses, Bhagwan Gopinath Trust organized a eight-day long spiritual activity during the auspicious days of 'Navratra' commenced from the 7th of October and culminated on the 14th of October, 2021 at the Bhagwan Gopinath Ashram, Udaivala, Bohri, Jammu. Hundreds of devotees thronged the Ashram daily from the 7th of October; 2021 to the 14th of October; 2021 during Navratra days.

It was gratifying to watch devotees participating in this spiritual activity in a spirit of true devotion and humility. The spiritual activities were held at the Ashram from 4:30 AM to 7:30 AM daily during Navratra days for invoking the blessings of Mother Goddess during which more

than three Mantras were recited in praise of the deities.

The 'Havan' actually started on the evening of the 06th of October, 2021 at 8:00 PM and Puran Ahuti was offered on the 14th of October; 2021 at 11:30 AM marking the culmination of eight-day long spiritual activity. A good number of devotees paid obeisance at the feet of the Bhagawan and prayed for peace and universal well-being. The whole atmosphere got spiritually charged and was of peace and ecstasy.

The spiritual activities were carried out during Navratra days strictly adhering to the SOPs issued by the Govt. from time to time in view of the covid-19 pandemic.

All the Ashrams and Satsang Mandals disseminate Bhagwanji's ideals of spirituality and universal brotherhood.

Balwant Thakur honoured in Mauritius

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MAURITIUS: Global Rainbow Foundation, Mauritius honoured Balwant Thakur who is currently the Cultural Diplomat of India to Mauritius heading Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, Phoenix at Foundation headquarters in Petit Raffray, Mauritius.

The honours were conferred by Dr. Armogum Parsuramen, the former Director of UNESCO, Paris and Minister of Education, Arts, Culture and Science Republic of Mauritius.

On the occasion a citation was also read glorifying the global contribution of Balwant Thakur in enriching the relations of India with rest of the world through cultural initiatives.

GRP Kashmir celebrates Mahanavami

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Government Railway Police (GRP) Kashmir on Thursday organised events at Railway Stations Avantipora and Hamray to celebrate Mahanavami.

The celebration events were organised under the supervision of SDPO during which sweets, fruits and other edible items were distributed among the passengers and staff members.

The events were attended by a large number of people who hailed the conduct of such events and the measures taken by GRP Kashmir. They also asked that such programmes shall be organized in future too to strengthen police and public relationship.

DIG NKR Baramulla visits Bandipora, reviews security scenario

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police NKR Baramulla Udaybhaskar Billa visited District Bandipora and chaired a meeting with officers to take stock of security scenario.

SSP Bandipora Mohammad Zahid-JKPS gave a detailed presentation regarding the security scenario of the district, drives against drug menace and other social crimes.

The DIG NKR Baramulla chaired security review meeting with all Police officers of the district to assess the law and order situation in the district. He appreciated the role of Bandipora Police for their professionalism in maintain-



DIG NKR Baramulla Udaybhaskar Billa chairing a meeting.

ing peace and public order in the district and keeping the criminal activities under check.

He also hailed the role of Bandipora Police in combating drug menace and other crimes in the district.

While addressing the jawans, he exhorted upon

them to remain cautious and alert to maintain peaceful atmosphere in the district as anti-national elements are making efforts to disturb it.

He further said that the synergy among the forces is the key to thwart any nefarious designs of the enemies of the nation.

10 ft space will not be vacated in Gandhi Nagar: Puri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister for Housing & Urban Development, Hardeep Singh Puri assured that people of Gandhi Nagar colony in Jammu that they would not be made to vacate a space of 10 ft in the colony. Puri said that he himself would take up the matter with LG and officials of concerned department. "Government will not take any step which would cause any trouble for people of Jammu," Puri assured, during his meeting with a delegation of Traders Federation Ware House-Nehru Market on Thursday.

While interacting with the Minister, the members of the delegation under the



Delegation of Traders Federation Ware House-Nehru Market meeting with Union Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri.

leadership of Deepak Gupta, said that after abrogation of contentious Article 370 of Constitution, Jammu is facing heat of almost every action of UT administration. "In a latest dose of harassment, the 'responsive' administration came up with a unique plan to 'retrieve' 10-ft strip in

front from plot-holders of J&K's oldest well-planned Housing Colony of Gandhi Nagar," they alleged. The members further said that Housing Board is withholding NoCs of those plot holders who have submitted building plans to JMC for approval to reconstruct or renovate old structure.

"The residents are being told that they are in unauthorised possession of 10 ft land in front of their plots and unless they vacate it by reconstructing boundary wall 10-ft inside, the NoCs would not be sanctioned," they added. Deepak Gupta also raised some issues regarding Ware House-Nehru Market and demanded that special funds should be allotted to acquire additional land for godowns.

Others members of the delegation included Munish Mahajan Senior Vice President, Abhimanyu Gupta Vice President, Sham Lal Langar General Secretary, Vishal Gupta Secretary and Amit Gupta Cashier.