

After 2 years, devotees throng ancient Rehoshra temple to join traditional Ashtami festival celebrations

■ RAJA REHBER JAMAL

BHADARWAH: After a gap of two years, traditional Ashtami (8th Navratri) festival which remained suspended for devotees due to pandemic, thousands of pilgrims converged at hill top ancient temple to offer prayers at Asht-Bhuja goddess temple and join the festivities.

Festivities broke out with people in large numbers reaching 1000 year old temple from early in morning at Rehoshra Dhar located at a height of 8000 ft above sea level.

Nestled in the hilly region around 8,000 feet above sea level, Rehoshra is famous for its ancient namesake temple. It is believed to host the local deity of goddess Sheetla.

State Times Correspondent of Chenab Valley Raja Rehber Jamal trekked 8 KM steep hill to reach the ancient Temple to cover the Ashtami Mela.

The place with no population around 8 Km radius also hosts ancient Naga Cult which becomes alive during Navratras, especially on Ashtami (eighth day of Navratri) as thousands of devotees converge at 1000-year-old High altitude temple to seek the blessings of goddess Sheetla.

The place is surrounded by lush greenery and rich biodiversity. The



People thronging to Asht-Bhuja goddess temple to pay obeisance.

shrine is located in a mountain pass, situated in Doda district is 43 km away from Bhadarwah town. Legend has it that Rehoshra temple is believed to have its origins in Moghal emperor Babar's era.

Continuing with their age old tradition depicting their unique ancient culture, thousands of devotees converged at high altitude meadow to celebrate Ashtami as a prelude to Dushera Festival, symbol of Nag Culture in mountainous Bhadarwah Valley with full religious fervor and gaiety.

Record 20,000 devotees paid obeisance at ancient Rehoshra Mata Temple located at a height of 8,000 feet from sea level, the doors (Kewa) of which were opened on first Navratri.

The ancient festival which marks the beginning of autumn followed by harsh winters in this hilly region, symbolising the ancient Naga cult of Bhadarwah is considered the last festival of the year during harvest season.

The traditional celebrations started early in morning with the opening of

the kewaars of the historic temple which was burnt during militancy, followed by sacrificing of Rams. Hundreds of Nag devotees converged at hill top meadow surrounded with snow peaked mountains, after trekking 8 km steep hill to pay obeisance.

On this occasion dozens of sheep were sacrificed as per ancient custom.

Chief organiser and Sarpanch of Sunarhawa Panchayat, Rakesh Charak said that this festival has not only of the religious importance but this is also the most ancient festival of this area. Due to pandemic the festival remained suspended for the common devotees and far us Navratri are incomplete without paying obeisance on Ashtami here at Rehoshra. We are delighted to be here again with full strength.

Holy mace (Charri Mubarak) from chinta, Shoura, Nalthi, Chirala, Sunarhawa, Atalgarh, Rainda and Dalain reached the Temple at 12 noon, after which people started celebrating Ashtami festival with traditional Dekhnu dance. Community food (Langar) was served to all the devotees by the volunteers of Chinta Village beside administration had made adequate security arrangements for the safety of devotees.

Ch Manmohan pins hope on Amit Shah for granting OBC status to Jats



President AIJMS, Ch Manmohan Singh, along with others during the meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SUCHETGARH: Ch

Manmohan Singh, President All India Jat Maha Sabha (AIJMS) and former Mayor on Monday anticipated that Home Minister Amit Shah would satiate the aspirations of Jats in Jammu and Kashmir by granting OBC status before culmination of his visit to Union Territory. Addressing a meeting of the community members here at village Seer Balah in Suchetgarh Constituency, the senior

Jat leader said that AIJMS has high hopes from Home Minister Amit Shah with

regard to granting OBC status to the Jat community longing for this genuine demand since last so many years.

In the meeting, the AIJMS President also listened to issues being faced by the local people residing in the area. After giving a patient hearing to the local demands and sharing the ways to address the same,

the Jat leader said that the major issues which the Jat community is confronting right now include reservation under OBC category, ownership rights over the custodian land allotted to the families after Indo-Pak

wars of 1965 and 1971 in Districts Kathua, Samba and Jammu, release of payment of Rs 5.5 lakh to the left over families and above all the grant of promised amount of Rs 25 lakh for one time settlement.

Prominent among those who were present in the meeting include Brig Pawan Kumar Sauntra, CA Sunil Choudhary, Sarpanch Surjeet Choudhary, Retd Principal Gurnam Singh, Ex Sarpanch Rashpal Singh Gill, Ex Sarpanch Jasbeer Singh, Sardar Satvinder Singh and Sardar Baljeet Singh Kaka.

Ramban Administration discusses arrangements for B2V4 programme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Musarat Islam on Monday convened a high-level meeting of the District and Sectoral officers to discuss the arrangements for B2V4 and the proposed VVIP visit to the district Ramban.

Chief Planning Officer, Dr. Kasturi Lal; ACR Gias-ul-Haq; ACP Swaran Singh; ACD Ashok Singh Katooch and other officers of line departments attended the meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner briefed the meeting about both events and asked the officers to submit the reports as per format in view of B2V4.

The Deputy Commissioner also discussed the arrangements regarding the proposed VVIP visit to the district and directed officers to work in coordination with each other to make all necessary arrangements as per the direction.

Meanwhile, the DC asked the officers of different departments to highlight their achievements, best practices, and targets of the previous and current year and furnish the report to the Planning and the Monitoring Department for evaluation.

He further directed the officers to submit the action taken report on deliverables as per directions. The DC emphasized the departments to ensure close monitoring and follow-up for 100 percent achievement and saturation of schemes in a stipulated time frame.

Govt. GLDM Degree College Hiranagar organises Seminar on Clean India 2.0 Campaign



Faculty along with students during the event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HIRANAGAR: To commemorate the Gandhi Jayanti, NSS Unit of Govt. GLDM Degree College, Hiranagar organised a seminar on the day two under Clean India 2.0 campaign under the patronage of Principal Dr. Pragya Khanna.

Today NSS Unit organized a seminar on the theme 'Three Wise Monkeys', embodying the proverbial principle "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil". The program was started with the welcome address by Prof. Rakesh Sharma, NSS Program Officer where he highlighted the teaching of Mahatma Gandhi in detail.

NSS volunteers who presented their views on the theme were Riya Sharma, Vivek Sharma, Simran and Monika. Prof. Sujat Khan, IQAC Coordinator in his presidential address appealed the volunteers to follow the Gandhian thoughts in their day to day life. In addition to this, NSS volunteers showcased their art skills by displaying the things

related to Gandhi ji's life like Charkha, eye glasses, sandals, sacred thread Janeu, lathi etc. The proceedings of the event were carried out by senior NSS volunteer, Komal Sharma. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Anju Ranji. Other NSS Committee members who

witnessed the event were Prof. Kiran Thapa, Prof. Manjot Singh, Dr. Arun Kumar, Prof. Reetika and Mrs. Reetu Bhushan, Chief Librarian. The whole program was conducted under the supervision of NSS Program Officer, Prof. Rakesh Sharma.

GDC Khour organises awareness drive on menstrual hygiene



NSS volunteer imparting awareness.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KHOUR: NSS volunteers of GDC Khour on Monday organised an awareness drive on menstrual hygiene among the women of village Nai Basti, Panchayat, Lower Narayana. The major objective of the activity was to increase awareness among women about menstrual hygiene. NSS volunteers interacted with the women and also spoke about the superstitions related to menstruation and about safe and hygienic menstrual health practices. Sanitary napkins were also distributed among the women. The programme was organised with the cooperation of Anganwadi Center, Nai Basti, Khour by NSS Programme Officer Prof. Gurvinder Kour under the able guidance

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION SAMBA

ABBREViated SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 67 of 2022-23 Dated: 30-09-2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works

S. No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earliest Money (in shape of CDR/FDR) (In Rs.)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Const. of link road to Village Raipur.	7.97	600/-	2 % of adv. Cost	01 month	10-10-2022 (1400 Hours)	A, B, C & D
2	Const. of link road Rakh Amb Talli Moh. SC (1.00 Km.).	14.16	600/-	2 % of adv. Cost	02 months	10-10-2022 (1400 Hours)	A, B, C & D
3	Construction of link road to Village Raiyan (Length = 2.20 km)	21.73	600/-	2 % of adv. Cost	02 months	10-10-2022 (1400 Hours)	A, B & C
4	Const. of link road from Kotli to Jarda (L = 1.50 Km.).	11.80	600/-	2 % of adv. Cost	02 months	10-10-2022 (1400 Hours)	A, B, C & D
5	Const. of link to Village Kamore and Kamore Camp (L = 2.30 Km.).	25.52	600/-	2 % of adv. Cost	02 months	10-10-2022 (1400 Hours)	A & B
6	Const. of Health Sub Centre Building with residential Quarters (Double Storey) at Kullian.	23.04	600/-	2 % of adv. Cost	02 months	10-10-2022 (1400 Hours)	A, B & C

Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of T.S: Sanctioned
Major Head: BADP

Position of Funds: Available

1/ Date of Publishing = 30/09/2022
2/ Pre bid meeting = 02/10/2022 at 1300 Hrs
3/ Date of downloading = 1000 hours on 01/10/2022 to 08/10/2022 upto 1800 hours
4/ Date of submission / Uploading = 1000 hours on 01/10/2022 to 08/10/2022 upto 1800 hours
5/ Date of opening of bids = 10/10/2022 at 1400 hours.

The tender is available at website <http://jktders.gov.in> all other terms & conditions can be seen on the above website.

DIP/J-9551/22
Dated: 03/10/2022

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Samba

Army organises veterinary camp



Medicines being provided to dairy farmers.

Contractors (MLCs), who have been allotted different procurement centres in the district by Food Corporation of India (FCI).

Chief Agriculture Officer (Ext.) Kathua Raju Mahajan and Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer, Kathua Sanjiv Mehta extensively toured the procurement Centres/ Mandies of Kathua and Datalachak Agricultural Sub Divisions to inspect the infrastructure and facilities installed by Mandi Labour

corporation of India. Farmer shall avoid excess moisture in paddy, which should also be devoid of inert material so that the produce can be procured easily at procurement centres.

District Agriculture Officer (Ext.) Raju Mahajan, also District Nodal Officer (Procurement for Paddy 2022-23) said that all the necessary arrangements have been made and we are heading towards record procurement of Paddy during the season of Kharif 2022.

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Reserve two Assembly seats, give minority status to Sikhs'



Sukhjeet Singh, Working President, Central Sikh Labna Samaj Sabha briefing media.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBAL: Army organised a veterinary camp at the border villages of Regal and Suchetgarh in Samba District. The camp was organised by Gurjar Division of the Army's Mission First Brigade under Operation Sadbhavna.

The camp included free veterinary treatment, mass de-worming, screening of animals for systemic diseases, operation of minor surgeries and gynaecological tests for pregnancy diagnosis, anti-rabies vaccination of dogs and distribution of feed supplements and

mineral mixtures. In the camp the local farmers were made aware by advising them on various scientific aspects of animal management to improve the productivity of their livestock. Apart

from cattle owners of villages Suchetgarh and Regal, many farmers from nearby villages and people of Bakkawal and Gujjar communities also participated. The camp saw cases suffering from

minor ailments such as anorexia, fever, parasitic infections, minor injuries, infertility, repeat breeders and other chronic systemic disease conditions, and were provided with advanced veterinary care. Several animals including cows, buffaloes, sheep, goats, dogs and mules were treated at the camp site, and given medicines including nutritional supplements.

The camp also provided door-to-door treatment of sick animals and professional advice to the needy farmers on various aspects of animal health management.

P.S. Badal, Col Retd Mohinder Singh, Ex DGPC Member, Sansar Singh BJP leader, Gurdial Singh, Retd DSP Kulwant Singh Distt president BJP, Balwinder, DGPC Member Bachan Singh, Joga Singh, Kamal Singh, Bajan Singh, Bikramjit Singh, Balwant Singh, Kehar Singh and Mehar Singh were also present.

Samaj Sabha in a press conference at Akhnoor.

While addressing the media, Sukhjeet said "as Sikh community in JK UT is in minority we appeal Prime Minister, Home minister and Election Commission of India to nominate or

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