

Religious fervour marks last Navratra Prabhat Pheri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The nine days Navratra Festival's Prabhat Pheri in the holy town of Katra-Vaishnodevi came to conclusion on Tuesday morning with religious fervour.

The Prabhat Pheri was jointly organized by Department of Tourism J&K and Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine Board Katra in association with J&K Association Prabhat Pheri beside indirect support from other organizations during Navratra Festival 2022.

The fuction concluded amidst chanting of Bhajans & beating of drums at Bus Stand Katra. Earlier, Chief Guest Nishant Gupta, SHO Katra and Guests of Honour, Gopal Dutt BMO Katra and Shiv Kumar Sharma former Joint Secretary J&K Sports Council flagged off the Prabhat Pheri from Bus Stand Katra from where colorful procession started in which artists from J&K, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and 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



Dignitaries during the Prabhat Pheri at Katra.

and other states joined the Prabhat Pheri. Nishant Gupta wished may Maa Vaishnodevi shower her blessings upon all and complimented the members of the J&K Association of Prabhat Pheri in making this event colourful, successful and spiritual. Gopal Dutt said that Prabhat Pheri during Navratras is a form of devotion towards the holy deity & performing Prabhat Pheri at Katra will definitely please Maa Vaishnodevi. Senior Citizen Forum led by Rattan Chand 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 while wearing orange Pagris. 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. Nishant Gupat, Gopal Dutt and Shiv Kumar Sharma felicitated with Pagari, Chunari and memento by association members.

After the Prabhat Pheri culmination Kanya Poojan was performed and Halwa was served to the Yattris and participants. Raj Kumar Padha president J&K Association of Prabhat Pheri told that it was the result of coordination & sincere efforts put in by the people of Katra especially association members for making the event of Prabhat Pheri a

grand success. He thanked the J&K Tourism Deptt, district administration, Health Department, Police Department, CRPF 6th Battalion Katra, school students, Municipal Committee Katra, print and electronic media and Katra people for their active cooperation and support during Prabhat Pheri processions.

Association members present on the occasion were Raj Kumar Dubey, Aman Mahajan, R S Manhas, Ashwini Katoch, Neelam Singh, Rakesh Sharma, Remeji Dhar, Rattan Chand, Rajesh Gupta, Vimal Sharma and Pawan Kumar. Among others present in the procession were Babu Ram Dubey, Murlidhar, Sham Lal, Sanjay Tickoo, P N Raina, Rohit and Sanjesh.

Enthusiasm marks Durga Puja celebration by Bengali community in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A grand Durga Puja is being celebrated by the Bengali community here in Jammu with full enthusiasm, fervour and gaiety.

As festivities continue across the country during Navratris, Jammu Durga Puja Committee, Digiana Industrial Area along with numerous Bengali community members residing here, are celebrating grand Durga Puja celebration.

The worship of Goddess Maa Durga is being performed with traditional Bengali Rituals.

The sound of Dhak (musical instrument), Sanskrit Mantra by Pujari engulfed the mind of devotees. Sandhi Puja on Moha Ashtami was the main attraction. Daily Pushpanjali and Sandhya Aarti draws a huge gathering.

The Bengali ladies wearing Red & White Sarees add aura to this festival.

The ladies arranged the Puja Upachar and male members whole heartedly joined on hands for other preparations.



Members of Bengali community during Durga Puja celebration.

Daily more than 1000 people were distributed with Puja Mohabhog (Prasad/food of Maa Durga).

Daily Cultural programme performed by local talent at Puja Pandal premises mesmerized the visiting audience.

Rinku Bose, Secretary of the Puja Committee said, "We are organizing this Puja more than 50 years since our father ages. Earlier it was a very small scale within few families. But now it has crossed horizon. There are so many national level institutions came up in Jammu where many

Bengali families joined. People from across religion and caste of entire Jammu come here and we cordially welcome them all. We extend greeting to join with us to make this Durga Puja a grand success. This festival is an example of communal harmony."

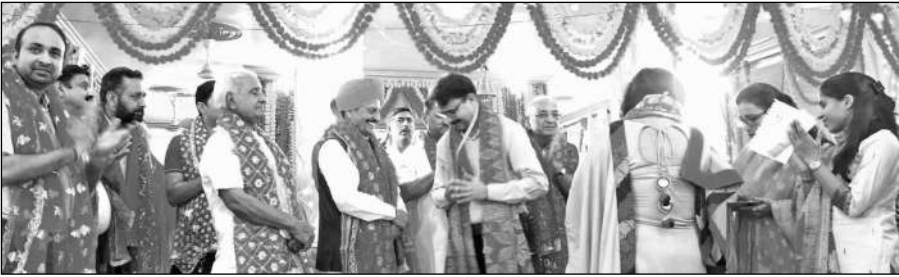
Durga Puja is the much-awaited festival of the Bengali community in India. This festival is observed in the month of Ashwin according to the Indian calendar, which falls in September or October in the Gregorian calendar. The festival is celebrated in the last 5

days of Navratris. Although this is a festival of the eastern region in India, nowadays Durga Puja is celebrated all over the country by various Bengali societies.

Jammu being the summer capital of J&K is the abode of a large population of Bengalis who perform Durga Puja at various places in Jammu every year.

The Pandal, rituals, food, and the concerts arranged during the Puja can give you a hint of the grand celebration of goddess Durga in West Bengal.

Nine-day Navratra festival concludes at Lakshmi Narayan Mandir



Management honouring of Lakshmi Narayan temple participants.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Hindu Festival of Navratras i.e 9 nights of worshipping Goddess Durga, is celebrated by Hindu community throughout the World over.

Navratra celebrations is being celebrated in Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Gandhi Nagar Jammu for the last over 50 years.

Today ie on Ram Naumi a Hawan Yagya was conducted wherein besides Member

Trustees, devotees in large numbers took part. After completion of Hawan Yagya, Kanjak Poojan was performed.

Earlier during Navratras, the Management conducted different programmes on all eight days which include Bhajan Sandhya, Garba, Dandia, Satsang by ladies, Laziam, Shlokas, Ram-Rawan yudh scene, Bhagwat Geeta recitation and all Sawrups of Mata

Vaishno.

On the last day of Navratras the Management headed by Thakur Gulchain Singh Charak (former Minister) and President of the Trust facilitated the participants of different Educational Institutions ie Dogra Higher Secondary, School Rich Harvest School, Shastrri Shiksha Kendra, High School Gandhi Nagar besides member Trustees and Mandir Pujaris.

Cleanliness drive continues at Jammu Airport

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the third day of Special Campaign 2.0 for disposal of Pending Matters and cleanliness drive from October 2 to 3, 2022 on Tuesday conducted cleanliness drive near Check in counter at Jammu Airport.

Sanjeev Kumar Garg,

Airport Director along with AAI Staff, CISF and other Stakeholders participated in this cleanliness drive and encouraged the participants to keep the area neat and clean and motivated all for improvement of environment at Jammu Airport.



Sanjeev Kumar Garg, Airport Director along with AAI Staff, CISF personnel and other stakeholders during the drive.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A guest lecture session by Dr. Chris Bain, Lead of the Alliance for Digital Health, Monash University, Australia was hosted for the students of MBA Hospital Administration and Healthcare Management at the Canal Road Campus of IIM Jammu. The session focused on the current and future trends in digital health.

Prof. B.S Sahay, Director IIM Jammu, mentioned that the session by Dr. Chris Bain was extremely insightful as it provided a detailed overview of the field of medical care, upcoming new IT, and digital trends in the field of medical care which will shape the way medical sciences are practiced in the



Dr. Chris Bain delivering lecture at IIM Jammu.

near future.

Dr. Chris discussed the relevant organizations, upcoming IT standards, and the essential role of key standards in healthcare organizations.

He also emphasized that India despite having a vast population has a tremendous opportunity in data storage and management and in digitalization (Talking about the Digital certificates of COVID-19

vaccination).

Prof. Sahay, felicitated Dr. Chris Bain, with a memento as a token of appreciation. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Harsha Jariwala, Chairperson MBA (HA & HM).

The students of MBA (HA & HM) had a wonderful and knowledgeable session on IT standards (a compendium for managers in healthcare).

Mahanavami Puja held at Ramakrishna Mission Ashram in Jammu



A Hawan being performed at Ramakrishana Mission Ashram in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Maha Navami Puja to mark the culmination of Navaratri was celebrated on Tuesday with great fervour

by the Ramakrishna Mission of Jammu at the Mission premises at Udheywala, Jammu. A large number of devotees, local people gathered for

the celebration.

The full day celebration was started at early morning with Mangalarati and Vedic chanting. A special Pooja, Havan & Pushpanjali was performed under the guidance of Swami Yajnadharananda, Secretary Maharaj of the Mission.

The day-long celebration ended after evening Aarti and Bhajan.

Bhog Prasad was also distributed to the devotees in the afternoon.

The Ramakrishna Mission Jammu is always in forefront to help the locals of Jammu region. With an aim to spread the teaching process of Swami Vivekananda a Vivekananda Study Circle was established. The dispensary in ashram premises provides basic medical care and medicines to locals.

Film singer Shanker Sawhney, Sonali enthrall audience with devotional songs

7 singers get entry into mega final of devotional song competition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: In the semi final of Navratra Festival's All India Devotional Song Competition which began here today at Yog Ashram Complex in the evening by litting of a traditional lamp by Chief Guest of the function Sr:Supertend of Police Sandeep Mehta, in presence of Guest of Honour Jt. Director Tourism Sunaina Sharma, State Taxation Officer Ranjeet Kaur, Chairman Devotional Song Committee & President Hotel Association Katra Rakesh Wazi, Asstt. Director Tourism, Ambika Bali, Yog Acharaya Swami Yoganad Maharaj etc.

In this semi final, out of 15 participants who qualified for it through preliminary rounds of competitions, quarter final, and then this Semi Final, 7 participants qualified for the Mega Final to be held at Yog Ashram Complex Katra including Meenu Atwal from Punjab, Sukhjinder from



Organisers along with participants during the event at Katra.

Amritsar, Shubham Banerjee Jammu, Rajeev Salotra from Jammu, Ritika Kakkar from Jammu, Vivek Mohan from Jammu & Lalit Bhardwaj from Jammu in the tough contest held here today. The competition was adjudged by the panels of experts in music including celebrity Singer Shanker Sawhney, Dr. Surinder Kumar Sharma HOD Govt. Degree College Sunni Shimla and Dr. C L Verma Ex. Chairman Post Graduate University of Himachal Pradesh. Famous celebrity singer Shanker

Sawhney who had come all the way for performing in the event besides providing his duties as Judge of the Competition enthrallled the audience with his melodious songs and the total environment of the venue became spiritual and likewise the previous winner of the Competition Sonali Dogra to mesmerised the audience with his beautiful songs and the people were seen dancing and singing on her tunes.Varsha Jamwal too sang beautifully in the event. The proceedings of Competition were conducted

ed by Rakesh Wazir Chairman of the said Competition who while speaking on the occasion said that the winner of the competition will be awarded with Gold worth Rs 03 Lakh besides recording contract with Venus Records & Tapes Ltd. and likewise the 2nd and 3rd position holders will be provided with gold worth 1 lac and 50,000/- respectively and would be stars of tomorrow.He further said that besides the performances of the singers who have reached the finals,the people will see the live performances of

renowned singers including Amrinder Bobby, Shanker Sawhney, Naveen Punjabi, Ravi Kumar, Sonali Dogra etc. and live Telecast of the event would be available on PTC Punjabi Gold from 9 PM onwards besides its re-telecast on many more channels.

It is worth to mention here that Navratra Festival's All India Devotional Song Competition is being organized by SMVD Shrine Board,Deptt. of J&K Tourism, PTC Punjabi Gold in association with Patanjali Dantkanti and co sponsored by Monalisa Fashion and Wedding Stores, Lia Agarbatti , J&K Bank, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super Specialist Hospital, Nideesh Builders Pvt.Ltd. Jammu,Yog Ashram Trust with active support of District Administration and the local host Community with 92.7 Big FM as its Radio Partner.

Kiran Sharma's maiden Hindi poetry book 'Meri Kalam Se' released

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 'Meri Kalam Se'-a maiden Hindi Poetry book penned by Kiran Sharma was released at Jammu on Tuesday.

A compilation of one hundred poems have patriotic, spiritual, environmental and social flavour coupled with sprinklings of romantic tones.

Kiran Sharma, an upcoming poetess is presently posted as Principal Government Higher Secondary School, Sarore.

Kuvinder Gupta former Deputy Chief Minister Jammu and Kashmir was Chief guest on the occasion whereas Prof. Anupama Sharma a celebrated singer of Jammu and Kashmir Presided over the function.

Capt Lalit Sharma APCCF (Retd.) was Guest of Honour and Rakesh Sharma Advocate

Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh High Court was Special Guest. Dogra Harish Kaila presented NDS also shared the Dias .

Kuvinder Gupta while congratulating Kiran Sharma for her creative work said that poets and writers are mirror of the society and their writing need to be taken seriously by the society.

Prof. Anupama Sharma lauded the poetic expressions of the book and said that the poetess has shown the society its real face through the medium of her poetry.

Capt Lalit Sharma said that the poetry has very successfully expressed the elements of hope , positivity and creativity while touching the dimensions like spirituality , patriotism , environment , society , relationships , nature, romance and Covid

pandemics.

Advocate Rakesh Sharma said that the writers and poets bring positivity in the society with their valuable and penetrating thoughts.

Earlier the poetess while sharing her literary experiences said she has used her pen to react on various social dimensions she has observed and confronted with and it is niv up to readers to react on her poetic expressions and their views thereof will be a great learning for her and to improve her future writings.

Yash Pal Yash General Secretary NDS conducted the proceedings in a befitting manner. He congratulated the poetess for her thought provoking poetry .

The programme ended with vote of thanks by Advocate Anit Gupta Vice President NDS.

IGNOU signs MoU with Central Sanskrit University

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indira Gandhi National Open University has signed MoU with the Central Sanskrit University (CSU) with one of the major activities envisaged being opening of IGNOU Learner Support Centres in different campuses of CSU.

The CSU has the main campus in New Delhi and twelve Regional Campuses across the country in different States and Union Territories including the J&K UT.

IGNOU plans to establish Learner Support Centres for its recently launched Master of Arts in Jyotish (MAJY), Master of Arts in Sanskrit (MSK) and Masters in Vedic Studies (MAVESO) programmes across all the campuses of the Central Sanskrit University. For the upcoming

December 2022 Term-End Examinations of IGNOU, Regional Centre Jammu has established an Exam Centre in Shri Ranbir campus Kot Bhalwal of the Central Sanskrit University. The objective of MAJY programme is to educate the students under Indian oriental science, time knowledge, planetary motion, solar eclipse, lunar eclipse as to how the practical life of human beings is conducted along with the happenings in space on the basis of the beliefs of Indian sages.

The ultimate goal of this program is to provide authentic and detailed knowledge of these facts. Students studying in this program will also have knowledge of how astrology is studied in the form of astrology called Vedanga. In addition to providing special knowledge of the concept of

astrological mathematics, theory and results in ancient India, students will be provided complete knowledge of astrology through the well researched study material of this program. The Masters in Vedic Studies (MAVESO) programme is being offered in collaboration with the International Centre for Integral Studies (ICIS). The Master of Arts in Sanskrit (MSK) Programme subjects the students to learning a wide range of Sanskrit Language & literature.

"I call upon every individual across the region, who is interested in Astrology, Vedic Studies or Sanskrit irrespective of any age bar, to enrol for these fascinating programmes before the last date which is 10th of October, 2022", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director In charge.