



Union Home Minister, Amit Shah interacting with people during a rally at Baramulla and paying tributes to martyr police personnel at Uri.

First CDS Bipin Rawat’s ancestral village gets road connectivity, healthcare facilities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The ancestral village of India's first Chief of Defence Staff, the late Bipin Rawat, in Uttarakhand's Pauni Garhwal district is emerging on the country's development map with the building of roads, healthcare and vocational education facilities.

A Maharashtra-based NGO, Dr. Harivanshrai Bachchan Prabodhan Pratishthan (HBPP), is spearheading efforts to carry out development activities in the Saina village, which lacked road connectivity and was accessible only through a narrow pathway until recently.

Besides building roads to Saina village, the HBPP, with support of the Uttarakhand government, has also helped in the construction of public toilets,

building water tanks for irrigation purposes and piped water supply to households, HBPP founder Nivrutti Yadav told PTI here.

The state government has also approved building a panchayat office, install solar lights in the village, and nurture a litchi and mango orchard on one hectare land in the village, he said.

Yadav said he was now pursuing converting the first CDS's ancestral home into a memorial dedicated to the decorated military officer, and build a statue of General Rawat in the village.

The HBPP has distributed school books and bicycles to students, provided first aid kits and installed a sanitary napkin vending machine in the village.

Madhulika Rawat Tailoring Training School for

providing vocational training to women in the village has also started functioning at Saina, Yadav said.

Gen Rawat, after taking over as the Chief of Army Staff, had visited his village Sain with his wife Madhulika on April 29, 2018 and told his uncle Bharat Singh Rawat that he had requested the state government to provide direct road connectivity to the village.

Gen Rawat was appointed the Chief of Defence Staff on January 1, 2020.

Gen Rawat, his wife and members of his staff died in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu on December 8 last year. According to Yadav, HBPP has been carrying out social activities for the past 18 years and had also sent relief material to Uttarakhand during the 2013 Kedarnath floods.

India logs 2,468 new COVID cases, 17 deaths

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India recorded 2,468 new coronavirus infections, raising the tally to 4,46,01,934, while the active cases declined to 33,318, the Union Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

The death toll climbed to 5,28,733 with 17 more fatalities, which included nine deaths reconciled by Kerala, data updated by the ministry at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.07 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate increased to 98.74 per cent, the ministry said. A decline of 1,280 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 case count in a span of 24 hours, it said. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.32 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 1.32 per cent, according to the ministry. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,40,39,883, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 218.83 crore doses of coronavirus vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 inoculation drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19, 2020. The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore cases on May 4, three crore cases on June 23 last year and four crore cases on January 25 this year.

Rajnath Singh performs ‘Shastra Puja’ at military base in Auli



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday performed 'Shastra Puja' (worship of weapons) on the occasion of Vijaya Dashami at a military base in Uttarakhand's Auli.

In his impromptu address to the soldiers, Singh hailed the "unparalleled bravery and courage" of the military personnel during the clashes in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley in June 2020.

He said India believes in the principle "the whole world is one family" but gives a befitting response if any outsider casts an "evil eye" on it.

Chief of Army Staff Gen Manoj Pande and General-Officer-Commanding-in-Chief of Surya Command Lt Gen Yogendra Dimri were

among the officials present on the occasion.

Because of such bravery, the whole world acknowledged India's growing stature, and India emerged as one of the key decision makers on all issues of international importance, Singh added.

He said India is heard with respect in international fora. Later the defence minister visited the Badrinath temple.

"I feel blessed to visit Badrinath Dham on the auspicious occasion of Vijaya Dashami festival," he tweeted.

Singh has been performing 'Shastra Puja' for last several years, including during his tenure as the Union home minister in the previous NDA government.

In his address at Auli, the

defence minister said interacting with the "men and women in uniform" is always a source of motivation and reaffirmed that the entire nation has pride and faith in the capabilities of its soldiers.

The defence minister also applauded the role of the armed forces in securing the nation against external threats.

"This secure environment has enabled India to pursue economic development and achieve new heights of progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

Singh also spoke of the significance of 'Shastra Puja' and highlighted the traditions and uniqueness of Indian culture, which he said emphasises the unity of all things.

They teach us that we must acknowledge the contribution of all things that contribute to our lives, both living and non-living, including 'shastra' (arms), which aid us in defending ourselves, he added.

He also interacted with the soldiers who celebrated Vijaya Dashami.

The soldiers sang patriotic songs on the occasion.

Admission process for UG, PG courses at Delhi University’s School of Open Learning begins

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The application process for admission to undergraduate and post-graduate programmes at Delhi University's School of Open Learning (SOL) began on Wednesday.

In a notification, the university said admissions in UG courses being offered in SOL will only be based on Class 12 results. This is in contrast to the admission process at Delhi University's constituent colleges where admissions starting this academic session are being conducted through Common University Entrance Test (CUET). The last date of admission will be October 31.

The SOL is among the most sought-after institute for distance learning in the country. It provides a variety of courses to students.

In the previous academic year, 2021-2022, approximately five lakh students were enrolled across various disciplines, as per the officials.

From the academic session, 2022-23, all UG and PG admissions at SOL will be done in the Department of Distance and Continuing Education. The varsity has established the Department of Distance and Continuing Education, Faculty of Open Learning and Open Learning Development Centre under the aegis of the Campus of Open Learning/School of Open Learning. The department has also adopted Undergraduate Curriculum Framework 2022 under NEP - 2022. It offers courses in arts, humanities and commerce and management

merit streams of study at the undergraduate (UGCF 2022) as well as postgraduate levels. Moreover, Delhi University on Monday launched six new courses in the School of Open Learning (SoL), with an aim to provide job-oriented programmes. These six new courses are Master of Business Administration, Bachelor of Library and Information Sciences, and Masters of Library and Information Sciences. From this academic session, the undergraduate degree will be three or four years of graduation, with multiple exit options within this period, with appropriate certification/diploma, as per the prospectus. The undergraduate programmes are Bachelor of Business Administration (Financial Investment Analysis), Bachelor of Management Studies, Bachelor of Arts-Economics (Hons), Bachelor of Library and Information Sciences, and Masters of Library and Information Sciences.

For postgraduate programmes, the department offers Master of Business Administration, Master of Library and Information Science, Master of Arts (Hindi), Master of Arts (History), Master of Arts (Political Science), Master of Arts (Sanskrit) and Master of Commerce.

Fruit growers call on DC Bandipora

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: In order to address the issues of Fruit Growers of the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Wednesday held an important meeting with all stakeholders.

The delegation of growers met DC in the Conference Hall, here and flagged-off several problems and issues faced by the growers and merchants.

The delegation expressed concern over the incurring losses, heavy and extra transportation charges to be paid by the farmers due to non availability of fruit mandi in Bandipora.

Delegation apprised DC that growers have to sell their produce either at Sopore or at Srinagar without having hands on information about current market rates.

On the occasion growers vehemently demanded establishment of 'Fruit Mandi' in Bandipora along with the counseling cum guidance programmes from the Horticulture department for the upliftment of this sector.

The DC gave a patient hearing to the issues and grievances of the delegation and gave assurances to them that issue of high transportation charges will be taken up with the concerned for

its redressal.

He said that Bandipora has 5800 hectares of Horticulture land and there is nearly 70394M.tons of production in this sector:

Agri and Horticulture is the backbone of the economy and this sector, he said, is providing livelihood support to the people of Kashmir, he added. He said, government is taking concrete steps to safeguard this sector and district administration will extend every possible support for the betterment of growers.

On spot directions were issued to the officer's of horticulture department to ensure and establish contact with the growers for the quality production and provide guidance to the growers for the introduction of new varieties of cash crops.

The DC directed Tehsildar Bandipora to identify land for the establishment of 'Fruit Mandi' at a convenient place. He assured the delegation that a proper plan will be devised for the establishment of fruit Mandi in Bandipora.

The meeting was attended by the Programme Officer, Mission Poshan Chief (Nodal Officer, Coordination), Mohd Ashraf Hakak, Chief Agriculture officer Bandipora, Chief Horticulture officer, Tehsildar Bandipora and several other officers.

Shastra Puja done with religious fervor in Jammu



Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Shri Amar Kshatriya (Rajput) Sabha J&K members performing Shastra Puja in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the auspicious occasion of Vijay Dashami, a number of programmes of Shastra Puja (weapon-worship) were organised by Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal across the country including Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. On this occasion, weapons were duly worshipped by performing Havan Yagya and Kanya Puja at Shakti Ashram, provincial headquarters of VHP. The speakers said that tradition of worshipping weapons in

Hindu Sanatan Samaj is going on since times immemorial as except Mother Saraswati, all 33 crore deities are wearing weapons.

Speaking on the occasion, the VHP leaders said, "Our country is subjected to external aggression, infiltration, conversion, cow slaughter, attacks on saints. We pledge to worship weapons and ensure protection against such eventualities."

Bajrang Dal Prefecture Convenor Karthik Sudan, VHP working President Rajesh Gupta, VHP State

Minister Abhishek Gupta, Matrishakti Prant Coordinator Rita Devi, Sushma Sharma and other workers were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Shri Amar Kshatriya (Rajput) Sabha J&K organized a grand Shastra Poojan on the eve of Dusshera at Raj Tilak Bhawan, Purani Mandi Jammu. All the licensed weapons are cleaned on this day to avoid rusting and to keep them readily available for use at any time.

Havan started at 11.00 AM

in the Bhawan by eminent Pandits and proper Pooja was performed. A Large number of Biradari members from urban and rural areas, participated in Shastra Pooja and paid Ahuties in Havan besides wishing for prosperity of Community members, UT and Country.

Mangleshwar Singh (General Secretary) Shri Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha J&K in his address said that Dusshera festival reminds us of victory of good over evil. On this day Bhagwan Ram killed Ravana for his tyranni-

cal rule. The people of that era got rid of tyrannical rule and heaved a sigh of relief. On this day the old weapons are worshipped and cleaned for further use. Narayan Singh, former President of Shri Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha also highlighted importance of Dusshera Festival. Dr Deepak (Advisor), Shampaul (Advisor), Narinder Singh (Secretary), Sukhdev Singh (Secretary), Ashwani Sathia, Ajay Singh, Shaater Singh, Patil Singh, Ramesh Singh and Balbir Singh were also present on the occasion.

Competition Parameters :

- TRADITIONAL SHRINGER
- BEAUTIFUL DRESS
- YAGGAR MESSAGE
- BEST THALI
- BEAUTIFUL MEHADI
- TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE ABOUT KARWACHAUTH

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