

## CGPWA & Balgran undertake Swachhta Drive in Channi Rama

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the Swachhta Abhiyan 2023, the Central Govt Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu (CGPWA) in collaboration with Balgran, Charitable Home for Destitute children, Channi Rama, on Saturday undertook 2-hour long cleanliness campaign this morning along the road outside the Bal Bharti Public School.

About an half a km stretch along with drain was cleaned up. About fifty boys and girls and members of the CGPWA took part in the drive.

As a part of the program, the Balgran collected the unserviceable items and auctioned it for Rs. 23, 900. With the disposal of these items, the Home created some space besides earning revenue.

Later, a symposium was also held in the School on Swachhta in which six students took part and spoke about the importance of cleanliness in the life of citizens.



Chief Guest Kuldeep Khoda with participants of symposium.

They included Iskar and Zubair of 9th class, Priyanka and Diksha of 8th class, Jaffar of 7th class and Minkli of 6th Class.

All of them spoke passionately about inculcating the spirit of Swachhta right from childhood to become a responsible citizen.

The former DDP and President of CGPWA, Jammu Kuldeep Khoda gave away gifts to each of them.

Speaking on the occasion, Khoda hailed the Swachhta Abhiyan launched by the Modi

Govt since 2014, every year commencing from the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi who is a pioneer in spreading the message of Swachhta. This initiative has impacted citizens especially the children who at their impressionable age, take it as a lifetime message.

Khoda also impressed upon the management of Balgran to give necessary focus to other matters like Swachhta, sports, debates, and other extra-curricular activities as these are as important as studies, in formation of the holistic development

of students' personality.

In this context, Khoda suggested regular interaction of senior citizens with the students and offered to depute some of the members of CGPWA, Jammu which has a huge experienced Human Resource, for regular interaction.

The Secretary Balgran, V K Raina conducted the proceeding and briefly apprised about the activities of the Home and the School.

Later, at a joint meeting of the managements of CGPWA & Balgran, the modalities of this interaction were finalized. It was decided that one senior member of the CGPWA would

visit the Balgran on every second Saturday and interact with the inmates of the Balgran. The objective is to infuse in the children, moral values, Indian culture, and other good things about our nation.

J K Vaid, former Director, GSI and Life member of both organisations will be the first to interact with the students in November.

By another initiative of CGPWA, one of its members, expert in a particular field, would deliver a talk on selected topics to upgrade students' knowledge on different matters. Under the program, the first member, former Director IIM, Dr. S C Puri would deliver a talk on Science and Yoga on next Sunday, 29th October.

Among others, the President of the Balgran, Er A. K. Khajuria, General Secretary, CGPWA, K B Jandial, Treasurer, O P Sharma, J K Vaid, Sunil Sharma, Dr S C Puri, all from CGPWA, Treasurer Dr Shashi Kant Goswami & former VC, Prof R D Sharma from Balgran were present.

## MGSB celebrates Birth Anniversary of Maharaja Gulab Singh with Grand Tribute Ceremony

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Maharaja Gulab Singh Brigade (MGSB) commemorated the birth anniversary of the visionary leader, Maharaja Gulab Singh, in a heartfelt ceremony at his statue located within the premises of SMGS Hospital. This tribute event, held under the guiding hand of Chairman Shivang Satya Gupta and presided over by President S.S Jamwal, and Working President Anil Singh Rakwal, was a poignant celebration of the life and contributions of Maharaja Gulab Singh.

The event witnessed a heartfelt gesture as the statue of Maharaja Gulab Singh was adorned with garlands. Members of the brigade, along with various attendees, gathered to reflect on his immense role in shaping the history and culture of the Dogra land.

Among the distinguished members of the Maharaja Gulab Singh Brigade who



MGSB members celebrating birth anniversary of Maharaja Gulab Singh.

played a crucial role in organizing and participating in this tribute ceremony include Atul Sharma, Vice President of MGSB, Thakur Banshi Singh, Buntay Sharma, Gourav Chadha, Ravinder Jamwal, Ishant Mahajan, Varun Jamwal and Divaker Singh.

Maharaja Gulab Singh, a true luminary and the founder of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir, is known for his enduring legacy. His visionary leadership extended the boundaries of the state from Tibet in the east to Afghanistan in the west, leaving an indelible

mark on the region's history and heritage.

The commemoration of Maharaja Gulab Singh's birth anniversary stands as a testament to the rich history and culture of the Dogra land. It also underscores the enduring impact of his leadership on the region's history and the indomitable spirit of the people.

The Maharaja Gulab Singh Brigade remains committed to preserving the memory of this remarkable historical figure and ensuring that his legacy continues to inspire generations to come.

## Bamboo Handicraft Skill training workshop held at PPND GDC Samba

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: The Internal Quality Assurance Cell and Women Development Cell of Pt Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College Samba organized a 5 days' skill training workshop on Bamboo Handicraft for the students. The thematic concern of the workshop that was inaugurated on 17th October and concluded on Saturday was vocal for local.

Rajinder Kumar from Sumbh, an alumnus of the college, a local Bamboo artist cum entrepreneur acted as Resource person of the workshop.

It's pertinent to mention that on day one, he displayed his artifacts to the students and motivated them towards picking up such ventures in order to



Students posing with faculty members during a workshop.

make optimum utilization of the locally available natural resources and generate self-employment-related avenues for the youth. In total, 25 students participated in the workshop and learned the skill of bamboo handicraft throughout the workshop. On the concluding day of the workshop, students showcased their handmade articles, including baskets, pen

stands, table lampshade, flower vass, etc. from bamboo sticks.

Prof (Dr) Twinkle Suri, Principal of the College, congratulated both the organizing cells of the college for taking up such a thoughtful initiative in the interest of student welfare and highlighted upon the vocational significance of the workshop.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A programme under Special Swachhata Campaign 3.0 was on Saturday organised by Government Boys Pahari Hostel Jammu in collaboration with 22 MAHAR & NCC Cadets Battalion (Poonch/ Bhadherwah) and Poshan Project Kot Bhalwal.

On the occasion, field workers of Poshan, NCC cadets, inmates and staff of Boys Pahari Hostel jointly conducted the drive. The cleanliness drive was conducted under the guidance of Commissioner Secretary to Government Social

## Cleanliness drive organized at Govt Boys Pahari Hostel

## Sapna Kotwal sensitises about healthy habits, hygiene atmosphere



Secretary J&K Advisory Board for Development of Pahari Speaking People, Sapna Kotwal posing with students and others.

Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda.

Secretary J&K Advisory Board for Development of Pahari Speaking People, Sapna Kotwal supervised the cleanliness drive. CDPO Poshan Kot Bhalwal, Mohit Bharti and

Warden BPHJ were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary said that the event aimed at generating mass awareness regarding importance of observing Swachhata all around which directly impact one's

Personality, healthy habits, hygiene atmosphere and disease free body.

Sapna Kotwal said that sanitation should be incorporated in our daily routine. She asked the participants to make masses aware that don't throw the

waste material on the streets, drains, water bodies, open spaces and also prohibit them from littering.

Secretary sought cooperation of general public for successful conduct of cleanliness drive.

## Fight against terrorism reaching its logical conclusion in J&K Ceasefire agreement is adhering, 90 pc infiltration bids foiled this year: DGP

### MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said that police have taken the fight against terrorism almost to its logical conclusion while efforts are on to make peace a permanent feature in the UT.

Talking to reporters on police commemoration day function at Zewan in Srinagar, DGP Singh, said that J&K has been hit by the menace of terrorism since the past over three decades. "The fight against wiping out the terrorism from J&K soil is reaching its logical conclusion. Efforts are on to make the prevailing peace in J&K as a permanent feature, he said. "From Sialkot to Tangdhar there are still many terrorist training camps and trying to review militancy and disrupt the peace in Jammu and Kashmir but police and other agencies are fully prepared to tackle the situation." DGP said. He said that even though efforts to disrupt peace from across continue, police are working hard to foil all such bids. He said this year eight policemen including officers were killed in anti-militancy opera-



Some officers from the army and other forces also lost their lives.

Regarding incidents of Arnia and Tangdhar where two forces personnel have gone missing recently, DGP said that Army and BSF is on the job and they are investigating how these two incidents took place.

He said, "this is unfortunate but true that in Arnia one BSF and in Tangdhar sector one ARMY personnel is missing from many days and both agencies are trying to locate them. Regarding the ceasefire DGP said, both sides are clearly following the ceasefire agreement and overall security grid along the LOC and international borders is on high alert. The DGP said that over the past few years, the situation has witnessed a sea change in Kashmir. "J&K is on the

path of peace and development," he said.

The J&K police chief paid rich tributes to the fallen heroes stating that so far 1606 policemen were killed in line of duty during the long turmoil period in Jammu and Kashmir. "Today, we stand with our martyrs and pay them rich tributes. J&K and the entire nation is highly indebted to them," he said, adding that the entire police force stands with the families of police martyrs. Meanwhile, J&K police organised a blood donation camp in which 200 policemen participated and donated blood. The event was organised on the occasion of police commemoration day. The camp was inaugurated by DGP Dilbag Singh and Special DG DID RR Swain was also present there. The DGP said that police is committed to safety of the public and whenever the police are needed, we are in the service of public. Today is a very encouraging moment that around 200 police personnel donating blood which will help save the lives of those who are not getting a second chance to be saved from the operation theatre," he said.

## DSEJ, NCPCR organize workshop on 'Elimination of Corporal Punishment in Schools'

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Directorate of School Education Jammu (DSEJ) in collaboration with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), New Delhi on Saturday concluded a MOE-approved, workshop on 'Elimination of Corporal Punishment in Schools' at Govt. Polytechnic College, Jammu Auditorium, late evening yesterday.

About 120 participants including Principals, Vice Principals, Sr. Lecturers, Lecturers, Headmasters, Masters, and Teachers from both government and private schools attended this workshop.

The workshop was aimed at sensitizing Heads of schools and teachers to adhere to the guidelines of the Ministry of Education and NCPCR regarding the elimination of Corporal punishment occur-

ring in any form viz: 'physical punishment,' 'mental harassment,' and 'discrimination in schools.'

Ashok Sharma, Director, School Education Jammu in his message to the participants called upon all the stakeholders to ensure a blanket ban on any form of corporal punishment in schools.

He apprised the participants about various initiatives of the Directorate of School Education Jammu to ensure the safety and security of children as per the guidelines of NEP 2020, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, NCPCR etc.

Dr. Geetanjali, a renowned Psychologist and NCPCR Representative, Dr. Romesh Sharma, Counselling Cell, DSEJ and Vaishali Singh Sr. Academic Officer at



DSEJ and NCPCR, New Delhi officers at a workshop.

SCERT Jammu acted as resource persons for the workshop and deliberated in detail about various topics viz: Understanding the provisions of the Section 17 of the RTE Act, 2009 and other related Acts, Perceptions on Corporal Punishment, Long-term Consequences of Corporal Punishment, Legal provisions against corporal punishment, the Role of NCPCR and SCPCRs in eliminating corporal punishment, Guidelines for

Affirmative Action in Schools Towards Positive Development of Children Accountability and Multi-sectoral Responsibility were deliberated upon in detail.

The programme which was organised on the directions of Ashok Sharma, Director School Education Jammu, was coordinated by counselling Cell DSEJ and moderated by Dr. Alka Sharma, whereas Preeti Sharma presented a formal vote of thanks.

## Directorate of Tourism Jammu hosts 'Folk Festival Cum Cultural Bonanza-2023' at Bahu Plaza

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, under the visionary leadership of Secretary Tourism, J&K, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, orchestrated a grand Folk Festival Cum Cultural Bonanza at Central Park, Bahu Plaza, Jammu on Saturday.

This vibrant event, held as part of the ongoing Navratra celebration, was a celebration of cultural exchange and unity in diversity.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, Chief Guest of the event, lauded the Tourism Department for their impeccable orchestration of the gala event.

He extended warm Navratra greetings to all attendees, emphasizing the cultural significance of this auspicious occasion within Jammu's vibrant tapestry.

His commendation for the event's flawless organization was entwined with his enthusiastic hope for the future, anticipating more such cultural gatherings that would



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar lighting ceremonial lamp.

continue to enhance unity in diversity in the city of Jammu.

The venue exuded a festive atmosphere, with traditional welcomes set to the rhythmic beats of Dhols and a soul-soothing Ganesha Vandana performance.

Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, extended his warm and heartfelt Navratra greetings to the people of Jammu. He emphasized the crucial role of events like this as they provide a common

ground for cultural exchange among diverse regions, fostering strong bonds of unity, brotherhood, and communal harmony.

Sunaina Sharma Mehta, Joint Director Tourism, emphasized the department's unyielding dedication to boosting public participation and shining a spotlight on hidden talents. She also underscored that this year's Navratra celebrations extended beyond Katra, encompassing Jammu,

Samba, Udhampur, and Kathua, where the splendid Basohli Utsav took center stage.

This event celebrated the major art, culture, and traditions of Jammu and Kashmir, including the renowned Basohli paintings, the captivating Rameela performances and the exquisite craftsmanship of traditional shawls.

The event showcased various performances, including Ganesha Vandana and Mata ki Bhaint. The Open MIC platform provided a stage for local emerging talents to captivate the audience with their songs and dance performances, showcasing the region's abundant talent. The highlight of the festival was a scintillating Kud dance performance, which left the audience mesmerized.

In the evening, local artists, including Saras Bharti, Sonali Dogra, Ravi Raghuvanshi, Sourav Shivalaya and artists from Tanseyan Sangeet Vidyalaya, delivered high-energy Dandiya-Garba perform-

ances.

The enthusiastic audience joined in the celebratory atmosphere with the combined rhythms of Kud and Dandiya beats setting the tone for Navratra festivities. The audience lauded the department's efforts in organizing such a grand event during Navratras.

The Tourism Department also felicitated the winners of the online competition, My Favorite Tourist Destination of Jammu Division, which received an overwhelming response from enthusiasts, underscoring the department's commitment to engaging the public and promoting unexplored tourist destinations in the Jammu region.

The event also featured an LED screen showcasing Jammu's tourist destinations, providing a visual treat for travel enthusiasts.

The event was attended by Amit Sharma, Joint Commissioner GST, Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Director Tourism (Publicity), Neha Mahajan, Deputy Director Planning, Sugandhi Banotra,



Shilpa Thakur, STATE TIMES photo-journalist won the first prize in the Tourism Wildlife Photography Competition which is a significant achievement. She not only received a cash award of Rs 5,000 but also a citation and certificate from Joint Director Tourism Sunaina Sharma Mehta, along with other dignitaries. It is worth noting that Shilpa Thakur had previously received an award for her best photography from the Press Club of Jammu. This recognition reflected her talent and dedication as photo journalist.

Assistant Director Tourism Jammu, Arif Lone, Assistant Director Tourism NHW Batote/Katra, Capt. Anil Gour, President Travels Association of Jammu, Rajendar Sharma, General Secretary TAAJ, Sanjay Gupta, Dalbir Sharma,

Executive members TAAJ, other distinguished guests and officials from the Tourism Department.

In addition, the seventh day of the Navratra festival was celebrated with immense enthusiasm in Katra. The day began with Prabhat Pheris in

the morning, followed by Bhagvat Katha, Mata ki Kahani, Shobha Yatra, an All India devotional song competition, and a cultural and multimedia exhibition presented by the artists from the Central Bureau of Communications and many others.