

# Indian Army organises Cultural Fest & Village Carnival

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**RAMBAN:** Army and Civil Administration Ramban on Sunday organised a Cultural Fest & Village Carnival at Mahu nestled amidst nature's lap, surrounded by the mighty Riliyar and Pir Panjal mountain ranges and situated on the banks of Mahu river.

Beautiful Mahu village inhabited by 400 households, since decades, aspired to open avenues for offbeat tourism, however, remoteness of the region coupled with internal situations and limited lines of communication became a serious impediment to realize Mohu's dream. The Indian Army stepped forward to materialize this long pending desire of the residents of Mahu.

To boost local economy by means of promoting Mahu & Mangat valley as an offbeat tourist destination, Indian Army in active collaboration with District Administration Ramban,



Artists performing during the fest at Ramban.

organized a Cultural Fest and Village Carnival for two days beginning today at village Mahu in Banihal sub division. The grand event was conceptualized by the Indian Army after witnessing the huge success of the Winter Carnival that had been organized earlier this year jointly by the Indian Army & JKTDC.

The event was organised under the aegis of Op Sadbhavana and is a part of a multipronged initiative which is a subset of grand design of positive engagement of youth and provide opportunities of regular income to wean the population away from migrating to Kashmir for employment.

Celebrations were carried out in two parts concurrently including local culture and diversity was showcased in a two hour long cultural fest wherein, participants from all corners i.e. Srinagar, Jammu, Banihal, Gool, Ramban, Khari & Mahu represented their rich local heritage. Festival was embellished with a wide variety of entertainment programmes attracting interest from all sections of the society.

On the other hand, a village carnival in the form of village fair was organized which consisted of 20 stalls offering fun activities for children, muscle flexing completion for youth, shop-

ping arcade for girls and succulent cuisine for foodies. A huge crowd of approximately 4000 people from far and wide of J&K UT witnessed this cultural fest.

High ranking Civil and Military dignitaries attended the event. The chief guest, complimented the organizers of the event and expressed gratification on collaborative efforts of Indian Army and civil administration. He further stated that such events besides promoting tourism and local culture bring identity of pride to the village and its inhabitants. The Remote region of Jammu division is blessed with yet to be explored pristine natu-

ral beauty, he added. Tourists as a part of the package enjoyed the host spirit of the locals during their 'Home Stays', flavor of local cuisines, witness of cultural performances of local artists & enjoyed the scenic beauty. Indian Army along with Goonj NGO with an aim to enhance women empowerment and patronizing education, distributed sewing machines, gas stoves, school bags & stationery kits, to the young prodigies.

Indian Army also distributed assisting equipment to Divyang Jan for their resuscitation and rehabilitation. A total of 20 beneficiaries were distributed which included wheelchairs, crutches & hearing aids.

Later, The Chief Guest felicitated the participants of various cultural performances and young budding talents. Ramban district holds the unique distinction of having people with distinguished literary sense and cultural artists.

# Samba Police honours special achievers among siblings of police martyrs'



Samba Police along with meritorious students and their parents.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**SAMBA:** Samba Police on Sunday honoured special achievers among siblings of police martyrs at a grand felicitation ceremony organized at District Police Headquarters Samba where hundreds of officers and officials of police were present. SSP Samba Benam Tosh, Additional SP Samba Surinder Choudhary, Deputy SP Garu Ram, SDPO Bari Brahmana Rahul Nagar, SDPO Vijaypur Rohit Kumar, SHO Police Station Vijaypur Sandeep Charak, SHO Police Station Ghagwal Bharat Bhushan, Chowki Officer Supwal Deepika Jaloree and Chowki Officer SIDCO Priya Rani honoured the position and distinction holder students of

martyrs' families with cash rewards of Rs. 5,000 each, certificates and bunches with a view to encourage them to strive for more excellence in studies in days to come. Brilliant students and others belonging to police martyrs' families who were honoured on the occasion included :Isha Devi, Kanav Baskotra, Palak Hansa and Neik Ram. Felicitations ceremony was held amid patriotic music, slogans and band beatings followed by national anthem. An exhibition of martyrs' achievements was also displayed on the occasion.

The family members of police martyrs of Samba district were also present at the impressive felicitation ceremony.

On the occasion SSP Samba Benam Tosh said that police is proud of the brilliant students of the police martyrs' families of Samba district who are scoring positions and distinctions in various academics exams and are also having achievements in other fields like sports and social services. SSP further said that police would groom brilliant students belonging to the families of police martyrs in Samba district so that they are able to get through in various competitive examinations. Benam Tosh wished the special achievers all the best and said that police would be looking forward seeing them occupying the highest positions in administration of the UT of J&K as well as country.

# SMVDU distributes creative charts at GHS Sirah



NSS unit of SMVDU along with school faculty and students.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**KATRA:** NSS SMVDU keeps organizing various events in nearby Government schools from time to time. This time NSS volunteers distributed creative charts in Government High School, Sirah.

NSS volunteers were assigned the responsibility of making creative charts for the school classrooms.

The idea was to help school students to learn different topics effectively. The various topics covered in the creative charts were Months' names, alphabets, parts of the body, different seasons, Air pollution, Parts of flowers, Trigonometry, personal hygiene practices, etc.

More than 40 charts were donated to the school. Headmistress Rachna and

other school teachers appreciated the efforts of University students. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, NSS Programme Coordinator of the University also accompanied volunteers for the event. The university team also visited the play school wing on the school premises. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of the NSS SMVDU team.

# One should not wait for tomorrow to remember Krishna Naam: Vishwatmanand

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**RAJOURI:** Shri Krishna Janam Leela Mahotsav, incidents like the austerity of King Bali, the pastimes of Ranji, the religion of Grahastha Ashram, Vaman, Kashap, Mashaya incarnation etc. were described by his His Holiness Atal Pethadishwar Rajguru Acharya Mahamandaleswar Shri Shri 1008 Shri Swami Vishwatmanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj in the fourth day of Shrimad Bhagwat Katha held at SVS Gyan Ganga Ashram, Rajouri

Swamiji said that despite everything, if the nature is not good then nothing can happen to a person. By looking at the nature of a person, we can know whether he is happy or unhappy. A person who is not satisfied, give him everything in the world, still he will not be satisfied, Swamiji said while narrating the incident of Vaman and King Bali

In the end, Shri Krishna's Janam Mahotsav was celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm through the medium of Bhagwat Katha. One who has settled God in his mind, attains supreme happiness. No one belongs to anyone else in this



Shri Krishna Janam Mahotsav celebration in ongoing Bhagwat Katha at Rajouri.

world. This ocean of existence can be overcome only by establishing a relationship with God. One should not wait for tomorrow to remember Hari Naam. Every person should move forward in life through action. A large crowd of devotees were present on this occasion.

# Army organises medical camp

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**BANIHAL:** Army organised a medical camp in the remote village of Ashar in the Banihal tehsil of Ramban district. The camp was assisted by the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Banihal, which provided specialist doctors including gynecologists, orthopedists, and general physicians. Doctors from the Ayush department also participated in the camp. The event aimed to provide medical check-ups, collect blood samples and distribute free medicines to more than 450 elders, women and children. The camp was a resounding success, with the populace welcoming the initiative and lauding the Indian Army for its commitment to the welfare of the awam and the importance of humanitarian

aid in fostering a healthy life. In addition to providing essential medical services, the camp also served as an opportunity for the Army to connect with local community. The soldiers interacted with the villagers and learned about their needs and concerns.

They also distributed educational materials on health and hygiene and encouraged the villagers to adopt healthy lifestyle. The Indian Army's commitment to the welfare of the people in the hinterland is commendable. Such medical camps play a vital role in providing much-needed healthcare services to people living in remote and underserved areas.

The Indian Army's efforts to build trust and connect with the local community are also noteworthy.

# Army holds Quami Ekta Meet

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**GAHAN:** In continuing with its endeavor to promote everlasting peace and tranquility and to evolve an environment of brotherhood and harmony amongst the resident population a Quami Ekta Meet was organised by Indian Army at Gahan. The nation consists of people from diverse cultures, religions, traditions and ethnicity, all co-existing within one entity.

The event was graced by an approximate gathering of 35 prominent personalities from the nearby villages. During the course of interaction initiatives being undertaken for development of the region and problems being faced by the populace were discussed and solutions were sought. The aim of this meet was to engage with the local communities in a positive manner thereby defeating the nefarious design of adversary. Quami Ekta acts as a binder for National Integration to keep these diversities together. The scope of this meeting was to include analysis of the communal and ethnic milieu existing in the region and the role of various pillars of society in promoting everlasting brotherhood, National integration and Communal Harmony. The local leaders themselves brought out the need and importance of harmony which is a clear sign of the bonhomie present at Gahan region.

The meet was well received and the local leaders greatly appreciated and applauded the support provided and stated that constructive efforts by the Indian Army in all spheres will go a long way in promoting brotherhood and Communal Harmony in the Kishitwar region.

# Construction work on much awaited Road from GHSS Degwar to New Betar Bridge to start soon: Poonch Admin

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**POONCH:** All set to provide major relief to the residents of village Degwar, the district administration Poonch has received the authorisation for construction of Approach road from GHSS Degwar to New Betar Bridge.

It has been a long pending demand of the people of village Degwar and nearby Panchayats.

Earlier, a 165 Mtr Steel Girder Bridge was constructed at Dalhan over Betar Nallah along with 450 Mtr approach by Jammu & Kashmir Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA) in the year 2021-22.

The bridge is not fully functional as a 1080 Mtr stretch connecting the bridge with main road is yet to be up-graded/constructed. The inhabitants of the area were demanding immediate completion/up-gradation of 1080 Mtr stretch between right approach of the bridge to the Higher Sec. School Degwar to make the bridge fully functional and traffic worthy.

The residents of Degwar village have expressed great happiness over the efforts of the district administration for the construction of this road. "We hope that there will be more developmental works in the area and the people will gain confidence that the current administration is executing works as per the aspirations of the people," they said.

It is pertinent to mention that the village Degwar is a border village and this road will reduce the commuting distance from the district headquarters and benefit a population of 20 thousand by connecting ten Panchayats.

As per the Order issued by the Chief engineer PWD(R&B) Jammu technical Sanction has been accorded for the work at an estimated cost of Rs.189.28 lakh.

Further, Deputy Commissioner Poonch has directed the executing agency to immediately float tenders for the road so that the work could be completed well in time.

# Army organises "Interaction With Veer Naris/ Mata, Widow and Veterans

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**KISHTWAR:** In an endeavour to reach out to veterans of the region, Indian Army organised Ex-Servicemen Meet at Bhandarkut, Distt-Kishtwar (J&K). 48 Veterans, 21 Veer Naris/ Mata & Widow and 29 dependents attended the event.

During the event, Indian Army Officials info the veterans about various schemes and programmes which are beneficial to them and their families. The event was aimed to address issues concerning the veterans and acquainting them with various schemes and plans for enhancing quality of life and reducing hardships even after retirement.

During the meet, routine medical check-up was carried out by Regimental Medical Officer and essential medicines were also provided free of cost. The veterans, Veer Mata/ Naris & Widow were felicitated during the meet. The Meet culminated with National Anthem, followed by lunch with all Ex-servicemen & their dependents.

# GDC Ramban organises district level inter-college competitions

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**RAMBAN:** The NSS Unit in collaboration with Debate and Seminar Committee, GDC Ramban organised district level inter-college competition in Essay Writing, Photography, Videography and Painting in connection with UT Foundation Day celebrations 31st October, 2023 with the theme "Badalta Jammu Kashmir, Amanaur Taraqqi ki Nai Tasveer" on 27th and 28th October, 2023 at Govt. Degree College, Ramban under the patronage of Prof. Archana Kaul, Principal of the college. Students from GDC Ramban, GDC Gool, GDC Banihal, GDC Ukhral and GDC Batote participated in different categories of competitions mentioned above.

In essay writing competition, Ranjit Singh from GDC Ramban secured first

position whereas Mohd. Umar from GDC Banihal and Priya Devi from GDC Batote secured second and third position respectively. In painting competition, Sunaina Bhat from GDC Ramban, Pinky Devi from GDC Batote and Sunil Singh from GDC Ukhral secured first, second and third positions respectively. Virmal Singh from GDC Ramban, secured first position, Mohd Aliyas from GDC Banihal secured second position and Surender Singh from GDC Ukhral, secured third position in photography competition. In last category of videography competition, Shadab from GDC Batote secured first position, whereas Rahul Singh from GDC Ramban and Mohd Aliyas from GDC Banihal secured second and third position respectively. All the contestants were

given certificates of participation whereas the winners of the competition were given mementos and medals. Prof. Vijay Sharma conducted the proceedings of the event. Prof. Vicky Rattan, Programme Officer NSS, GDC Ramban, monitored the overall conduct of activities related to the event. The other faculty members present in the programme include Prof. Neetu Sharma, Prof. Chankaya Sharma and Prof Sameer Ahmed. The jury members of the event were Prof. Vijay Sharma, Prof. Ram Prakash, & Prof Chankaya Sharma from GDC Ramban, Dr. Sajad Ahmed from GDC Ukhral and Dr. Abbas Wani from GDC Batote. The programme culminated with the concluding remarks presented by Prof. Archana Kaul Principal, GDC Ramban.

# JK UT Foundation, National Unity Day celebrations: MVD, Health, other Departments organize host of events across Ramban

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**RAMBAN:** Different departments of the Ramban administration on Sunday organised a series of activities across the district as part of ongoing JK UT Foundation Day and National Unity Day, 2023 celebrations. The Motor Vehicle Department, led by Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Saminder Singh conducted an awareness camp to sensitise the transporters and other stakeholders about facilities of faceless online services available in the ARTO offices for

the conveniences of the general masses.

The Tehsildar Gool also organized a camp at village Salballah to sensitize the people about online services pertaining to Revenue and other line departments launched by the Government to provide transparent and corruption free governance at their doorsteps.

To empower the community, an awareness camp was held at the Tehsil office Batote to promote online services of the Revenue Department.

Meanwhile, Swachhata Drive was carried out in Deputy Commissioner Office Complex Ramban as part of Special Swachhata Drive 3.0.

Similarly, the Health Department launched cleanliness drives at District Hospital and other health institutions across the district.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports organized a Run for Unity as part of National Unity Week celebrations which was flagged off from Govindpura to Maitra by the famous Singer, Jeevan Singh Pahari.

# Around 2 thousand children get Health, Nutrition Support in Kishtwar

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**KISHTWAR:** Around 2000 students across Kishtwar district were provided nutritious juice packets under a special week long Health and Nutrition Support program launched by Social Reforms & Charitable Organisation Kishtwar (SRCO) and Dabur India Ltd.

One of the program's highlights was the distribution of juice packets at Adarsh Bal Niketan High School Kishtwar, coinciding with the school's Foundation Day. The event was graced by Ex Minister Sunil Sharma as the chief guest in presence of other prominent personalities of the District.

The Ex Minister Sunil Sharma commended the initiative and spoke highly of the Social Reforms & Charitable Organisation Kishtwar and Dabur India Ltd. He hoped for more such noble initiatives in the future.

The primary objective of this program is to benefit students of schools and orphanages, focusing on their health and nutrition needs. In another instance, the distribution

initiative was led by DPO ICDS Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma and Tehsildar Headquarters Chandher Shekhar Sharma as part of the Ekal Abhiyan program. Nutritious juice packets were generously distributed among Ekal Abhiyan members and students during this event.

The program is scheduled for a week with an estimated outreach to approximately 20,000 individuals, including youths and students.

**DISCLAIMER**  
"STATE TIMES" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."