

Dussehra celebrated with great enthusiasm, communal harmony across region



DC Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma participating in Dussehra.

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: The festival of Dussehra was celebrated with great fervor and enthusiasm in Rajouri today, marking the triumph of good over evil.

A large gathering of people from all walks of life assembled at the Ram Leela Ground to witness the grand celebration, which underscored the communal harmony.

The event was graced by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, who attended as the chief guest. In his address, he emphasized the importance of festivals in promoting unity, peace, and brotherhood among people. He said that Dussehra reminds us of the eternal victory of righteousness. It is a festival that not only celebrates our culture but also strengthens the bonds of communal harmony, he added.

DC Sharma commended the organizers for maintaining the cultural and traditional values of the festival.

A key highlight of the celebration was the traditional Ram Leela performance, depicting scenes from the epic Ramayana, which was followed by the symbolic burning of the effigy of Ravana, signifying the defeat of evil. The performance captivated the audience, drawing loud applause and cheers.

People from all communities actively participated in the festival, a testament to Rajouri's deep-rooted tradition of unity and coexistence.

Adequate security and traffic arrangements were put in place by the district administration to ensure a smooth and peaceful celebration. The police, under the supervision of SSP Rajouri, Randeep Kumar, played a pivotal role in managing the large crowd and ensuring that the event passed off without any untoward incidents.

The celebrations saw participation from senior officers of the

district administration, representatives from various religious and social organizations, and a large number of locals.

POONCH: On the auspicious occasion of Dussehra, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, along with Senior



Effigies of Ravana, Meghnath and Kumbhkarana set on fire at Poonch.

Superintendent of Police, Mumtaz Ahmed, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik and other officers participated in a vibrant celebration held at the Sports Stadium Poonch.

The event commenced with a traditional pooja conducted by the officers, honoring the cultural significance of the festival. Following the rituals, the symbolic effigy of Ravana was ignited, signifying the triumph of good over evil.

Deputy Commissioner & Senior Superintendent of Police expressed their heartfelt wishes to the residents of Poonch, emphasizing the importance of unity and cultural heritage during this festive season. The celebration witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local community, bringing together families and friends in the spirit of joy and festivity.

BEHADERWAH: The celebration of Dussehra festival was held in Additional district Bhaderwah with religious fervour on Saturday evening amid tight security arrangements.

Like other parts of the country, Dussehra festival which marks the victory of good over evil, was celebrated with great enthusiasm, gaiety and religious fervour by both communities (Hindus and Muslims) of Bhaderwah where effigies of Ravana, Kumbhkarana and Meghnath were burnt.

The celebration was held in New Bus Stand Kotli Bhaderwah, where people watched the burning of sky high effigies of demon king Ravana, his brother Kumbhkarana and son Meghnath to mark the culmination of good prevailing upon evil.

It is notable that since last year, the effigies are being brought from outside the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

MLA Bhaderwah Dalip Parihar, President Sanatan Dharam Sabha Bhaderwah Varinder Razdan, Neeraj Singh Manhas and others participated in the programme of Dussehra also known as Vijaya Dashami.

DC Doda Harvinder Singh along with SSP Doda Mohd Aslam, SP Bhaderwah Vinod Sharma, SDPO Wasim



People witnessing Ravana Dehan at Bhadarwah.

Hamdani, Tehsildar Kamalpreet Singh and others were also present on the occasion and they greeted all on this auspicious occasion.

On the occasion, a victory march was taken out from Seri Bazaar to new Bus Stand Kotli Bhadarwah with tableau of Lord Rama, depicting the scenes and characters from Ramayana, to mark the return of Lord Rama after killing the demon king. Thereafter, the tall effigies of Ravana, Meghnath and Kumbhkarana were set on fire, amidst bursting of loud fire crackers.

Muslims also greeted their hindu Brethren on the occasion and participated in large numbers to give message of communal harmony and brotherhood in the area since decades.

Security arrangements were beefed up in all areas. DC Doda Harvinder Singh like every year, different activities mark Dussehra celebration across District Doda.

"Huge participation of people from all sections of the society depicts strong bonds of brotherhood and communal harmony in the area," DC added.

SSP Doda Mohd Aslam said that in view of celebrations, tight security arrangements were made in and around all the venues of celebration across District.

SAMBA: Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, the current MLA



MLA Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal participating in Dussehra celebrations at Samba.

of Ramgarh and former Health Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, attended the vibrant Dussehra celebration organized by the Krishna Ram Leela Club Diani today. This annual event, deeply rooted in cultural tradition, attracts residents from across the region to celebrate the triumph of good over evil.

In his address, Dr. Manyal highlighted the significance of Dussehra, emphasizing its role in promoting communal harmony and cultural values. "This festival symbolizes the victory of righteousness. It is a time for reflection, renewal of faith, and a reminder to uphold the values of justice and integrity in our lives," he stated.

The celebration featured traditional performances, including Ramlila, cultural dances, and a display of fireworks, drawing enthusiastic participation from the local community. Dr. Manyal expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the Krishna Ram Leela Club in organizing such a grand event, which fosters unity and showcases the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Adv. Nar Singh Manyal, Legal Advisor to the NDA who shared his insights on the importance of cultural events in strengthening community bonds. He praised the efforts of local organizations in preserving and promoting traditions that unite people across different backgrounds.

The event concluded with a call for collective efforts to ensure that the spirit of Dussehra transcends beyond the festival, inspiring positive change in society. Dr. Manyal reaffirmed his commitment to supporting initiatives that enhance community engagement and cultural preservation.

Present at the occasion was BDC's and DDC's Samba, Ramgarh and Rajpura, Rajesh Manyal, Sunil Manyal, Rinku Choudhary, Shiv Choudhary Mandal President Ramgarh, Kulbhushan Singh Jasrotia Mandal President Rajpura.

KVK Reasi empowers Rural Youths through Commercial Floriculture

STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi under the administrative control of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu is empowering the rural youths through commercial floriculture under the ARYA (Attracting and Retaining Youths in Agriculture) project. KVK, Reasi is working under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. B.N. Tripathi and able guidance of Director Extension, Prof. Amrisha Vaid of SKUAST-J. Dr. Banarsi Lal, Chief Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi said that the major objective of ARYA project is to develop agri-entrepreneurship among the rural youths and make them self-reliance. He said that monkey menace infestation has increased in the area causing a loss the crops such as maize, vegetables, pulses etc. He expressed that marigold has been found as the viable crop in the area and by the adoption of commercial floriculture rural youths can enhance the income and employment. He



stressed on the adoption of the latest innovations in floriculture. He said that Reasi dist. Of J&K has an immense potential in floriculture and KVK is providing the technical assistance to the rural youths on scientific cultivation of floral crops. He further said that KVK is guiding rural youths on Integrated Nutrient Management and Integrated Pest Management in marigold crop for more farm returns. He informed that KVK also guides rural youths on the value addition in floriculture as it can open some new avenues of sustainable income and employment among them in the rural areas. He emphasized on the floriculture nurseries for quality planting material. He expressed that

KVK is guiding rural youths on efficient marketing management practices. He added that KVK is motivating the rural youths by exemplifying the successful agro-entrepreneurs in the area and encouraging them for scientific floriculture. Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi is endeavouring to enhance the income and employment opportunities in the rural youths of Reasi district by the scientific farming. This can prevent the rural migration as the rural youths can get the income and employment avenues. By observing the successful results of rural youths in the district, many new rural youths are also coming forward for the adoption of commercial floriculture.

IOCL, SMVD Shrine Board make strides in support of deaf children

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The commitment to improving the lives of children with hearing impairments in Jammu and Kashmir has received a significant boost through the collaborative efforts of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB). Under the expert guidance of Dr. Rohan Gupta, a Consultant ENT and Cochlear Implant Surgeon at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, Katra groundbreaking Cochlear Implant Program has been transforming the lives of children affected by profound deafness in the region.

Cochlear implants are revolutionary biomedical devices that provide critical auditory access to children with severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss. The device comprises an internal implant and an external sound processor, which channels sound into meaningful auditory signals. In tandem with the surgery, patients undergo extensive



Doctors along with operated patient and his parents.

speech therapy to facilitate language development, significantly enhancing their quality of life.

Thanks to the dedication of Dr. Rohan Gupta and his team, dozens of successful surgeries have been performed at SMVD NH, eliminating the need for families to travel to distant locations like Chandigarh or Delhi for treatment. Moreover, the Shrine Board has stepped in to alleviate the financial burden on low-income families by providing Cochlear Implant devices at no cost.

In February 2024, when the Cochlear Implant program faced a funding shortfall, Dr. Rohan Gupta appealed to the Shrine Board for additional sup-

port. Responding wholeheartedly, IOCL generously contributed over ₹75 lakhs to the initiative, enabling 11 children to access this life-changing technology. Dr. Rohan Gupta emphasized the importance of timely intervention for congenitally deaf children, advocating for treatment procedures to be performed as early as 1 to 1.5 years of age to optimize outcomes.

Dr. Rohan Gupta expressed profound gratitude to IOCL for their invaluable support, referring to them as "messiahs" for the children of J&K. He urged them to continue their mission to extend assistance to more families in the future, highlighting that the

burden of deafness affects not just the child but reverberates through their entire family and community.

Dr. M. Muthumathavan, Facility Director of SMVD-SNH, reiterated the hospital's commitment to ensuring that every patient receives top-notch healthcare, regardless of their financial circumstances. He praised the hospital's recognition as one of the best in the region and encouraged Dr. Rohan Gupta to persist in his outreach efforts to identify children with hearing loss early and promote awareness around newborn screening and treatment.

To further enhance accessibility, Dr. Rohan Gupta will conduct outreach clinics in Srinagar at Kashmir Clinics Central, Karan Nagar, on the second Monday of each month. This initiative aims to address the higher prevalence of congenital deafness in the region. Moreover, the Hans Foundation has pledged financial assistance to support Cochlear Implant surgeries for underprivileged children in J&K.

Dr. Yashpal Sharma,

Executive Director, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence, affirmed the Board's unwavering commitment to supporting needy children, promising to engage more corporate partners to promote corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives for such noble causes. He highlighted the success stories of children who have benefitted from Cochlear Implant surgeries, showcasing their joyful moments and newfound abilities.

"The transformation we witness in these children's lives is monumental. With continued support and partnerships, we hope to ensure that every child with hearing impairment has the opportunity for a brighter future," Dr. Yashpal Sharma stated passionately.

The collaborative efforts of IOCL, SMVDNSH, and the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board stand as a testament to compassionate service and collective action, exemplifying how dedicated stakeholders can come together to make a profound impact on the lives of those who need it most.

GDC Vijaypur organises two days awareness cum cleanliness drive at Har-Ki-Pauri

STATE TIMES NEWS

VIJAYPUR: EcoClub (Green Warriors) and Department of Environmental Sciences of Govt. Degree College Vijaypur in collaboration with Jammu Municipal Corporation and DISHA Volunteer Organisation under the guidance of the Principal of college, Dr. Vandana Verma organized awareness cum cleanliness drive on the banks of Suryaputri Tawi near Har-Ki-Pauri on October 11 and 12, 2024.

The drive aimed to engage participants in eco-friendly practices and raise awareness about environmental issues.

The convener of the Ecoclub, Prof. Poonam Kundan (Head, Department of



Faculty members along with students during the drive.

Environmental Sciences), played a pivotal role in the drive, shared her views on various aspects of waste management, particularly the importance of waste segregation.

She emphasized that effective waste segregation at the source is crucial in minimizing environmental impact and enhancing recycling efforts. Through interactive sessions and informative materials, Prof. Kundan engaged participants, helping them understand how simple changes in their daily habits can contribute to a cleaner environment.

This initiative aimed to foster environmental consciousness and promote sustainable practices within the community.

Further the students were also briefed by Mr. Anil Sharma founder, DISHA Volunteer organisation about the importance of water bodies and said it is the responsibility of all the society members to participate and to aware people about the importance of environment.

Thirty Green Volunteers of the college actively participated in the two days awareness cum cleanliness drive at Har-Ki-Pauri where they were involved in different types of activities. They were involved in sensitising the general public regarding ill effects of plastic and other waste materials in the water bodies. Some volunteers were involved in the segregation process where they segregated different categories of the

waste materials.

Dr. Vandana Verma, the principal of GDC Vijaypur, expressed pride in the team's commitment to this noble cause. She congratulated the Ecoclub members for their hard work and dedication, highlighting the significance of such initiatives in instilling a sense of responsibility towards the environment among students and the community at large. Dr. Verma emphasized that events like these not only promote cleanliness but also serve as a reminder of the vital role each individual plays in protecting our planet.

This drive served as a vital reminder of the collective responsibility to protect and preserve our natural and cultural heritage for future generations. The drive successfully created a ripple effect, encouraging attendees to adopt eco-friendly practices in their personal lives.

The drive was coordinated by Prof. Poonam Kundan and co-ordinated by Dr. Naseem Choudhary (HOD English). Refreshment was also distributed to all the volunteers.

Illegal mining: 2 vehicles seized

STATE TIMES NEWS

SHOPIAN: In order to review the enforcement departments and agencies efforts to curb illegal mining in the district, Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar on Saturday visited Darazpora and Heff village of Shopian district.

The visit was taken to see the on-the-spot ground situation of the area and take comprehensive assessment after his last night visit to the area during which the

authorities had executed a crackdown in the Heff against the illegal mining and seized two vehicles involved in unauthorized excavation of minor minerals in the village.

The DC during his visit emphasized the district's commitment to preserve its natural resources and ensure sustainable mining of minor minerals as per laid norms and practices.

He urged the public to report any suspicious mining activities to the dedicated

District Control Room, and assured that stringent action will be taken against those found violating mining regulations.

The visit was also aimed to strengthen on-ground law enforcement against the malpractice of certain individuals where he directed for constituting the joint team of civil and Police officers to check the illegal mining in the district.

While interacting with the locals, the DC also took stock of the traffic stalemate in the

Trenz area due to road bottlenecks. He directed for immediate removal of encroachments at Darazpora to facilitate the smooth traffic movement in view of the annual harvesting season of the Apple.

The DC was accompanied by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, district officers associated with the enforcement activities including DMO, Ex. Engineer, Tehsildar and Police officers.

International Girl Child Day celebrated with enthusiasm across Doda

STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: In a vibrant and heartwarming celebration, International Girl Child Day was observed across various locations in Doda district including Thathri, Gandoh and GHSS Doda.

The day was marked with activities aimed at raising awareness about the significance of the girl child, alongside events promoting their empowerment, health, and education.

At GHSS Thathri and Gandoh, the day began with awareness sessions, highlighting the critical role girls play in society. Students and local attendees were reminded of the importance of pro-



Winner students being felicitated at Doda.

tecting the rights of girls and fostering an environment where they can thrive.

As part of the event, sanitary napkins and refreshments were distributed to students, emphasizing the importance of health and

hygiene for young girls.

The celebrations at GHSS Doda saw an outpouring of enthusiastic participation in a series of events. Students engaged in a debate and painting competition centered around the theme "Bet

Bachao, Beti Padhao" (BBBP), reflecting on the national campaign's message of saving and educating the girl child. Girls from Pareesha added a lively touch to the celebration with singing and dance performances, also centered on the theme of BBBP, which were met with applause from the audience.

Winners of the academic and painting competitions were felicitated in a ceremony that acknowledged their hard work and talent.

The entire event was organized under the guidance and supervision of the District Social Welfare Officer Doda.

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