

# People celebrate Lohri festival with utmost cheerfulness



People celebrating Lohri at Bhadarwah.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BHADARWAH: Like other parts of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lohri festival was celebrated in Chenab region with utmost cheerfulness and grandeur on Thursday.

Despite snowfall, people celebrated Lohri as a festival of the Sun God and Fire. On the occasion number of rituals were performed by

people like throwing of Walnuts, Groundnuts, Sesame Seeds, Rewaris, Popcorns and several other items into the fire. They dance around it as it basically marks the end of the cold winters that are colourless and depressing and welcomes the season of fruitfulness, spring and the New Year (As per the Bikrami Calendar). All markets were abuzz

with Shoppers on the eve of Lohri. Public appealed all to follow CAB and wear masks to contain the spread of coronavirus and Omicron variant.

On the occasion strong community bond was generated by the people of all communities as they came together, have fun and exchange sweets and greets each other which shows the traditional communal harmony and brotherhood of the area especially in Bhadarwah.

At Bhadarwah, the main function was organized at historic Seri Bazaar, where a huge bonfire was lit and despite recent snowfall and cold wave conditions, people from all sections of the society came together to celebrate the Lohri festival.

However, to thwart any untoward incident, elaborate security arrangements were made in and around



ITBP Jawans celebrating Lohri at Samba.

Bhadarwah town. According to reports, despite cold weather conditions people of Ramban, Batote, Doda, Kishtwar, Gandoh, Drabshalla, Thathri and other areas of Chenab Valley also celebrated the Lohri festival.

**SAMBA:** ITBP personnel under the leadership of Commandant Subhash Chandra Yadav of 47th

Battalion celebrated Lohri Milan programme in Chushul, Leh-Ladakh, during which the soldiers greeted each other on Lohri. Commandant Subhash Chandra Yadav while addressing the soldiers on this occasion said that our Jawans celebrate their festivals in inaccessible area like Leh, Ladakh even at altitude of 15000 feet above sea level



ABVP activists celebrating Lohri with children.

Rewari were distributed to the children to make them for Lohri celebrations. Seeing the happiness of the children, the ABVP workers were very happy and they took a pledge that in future also they will help the needy children. Along with this, while talking to the children, ABVP Jammu University team urged the children and all basti people to apply

mask and use Sanitizers to avoid corona. The team members Anoop Singh, ABVP JU President, Palk Sambyal, State SFS Convenor, Shivani Rajput, ABVP JU Secretary, Arvind Aryan, ABVP JU Vice president, Abhinaash Bhau, Pooja Sharma, Chakshu Sharma, Danish, Aarti Sharma, Palvi Rajput, Ruchi Sharma were present.

## Div Com conducts tour of snow-bound areas in Ramban; takes feedback regarding post-snowfall restoration

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAMBAN: Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer, conducted two day extensive tour of district Ramban and reviewed the progress on snow clearance, water and power supply restoration works & road clearance works in the District post snowfall and rains.

District Development Council Chairperson Ramban, Dr. Shamsad Shan, Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam, President MC, Banihal, Ferooz Ahmed Wani, DDC Councillor, Intiyaz Ahmed Khanday, Senior Superintendent of Police, Mohita Sharma, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harbans Lal, CGM IROCON and other senior officers of Railways, Chief Planning Officer, Dr. Kasturi Lal, and other officers of various departments were present on the occasion.

During his visit to Sangaldan and Banihal, the Div Com appreciated the District Administration for taking effective measure to restore the essential services and supplies in the district. He impressed upon the departments to improve response time in rural areas to ensure minimum inconvenience to the people in such situation.



Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer inspecting snow-clearance operations in Ramban.

He took detailed review of pace of progress on restoration of damaged roads and snow clearance work. The SE PWD briefed the Divisional Commissioner about the status of restoration work on the roads across the district.

Dr Langer directed the PWD and PMGSY Department to ensure snow and road clearance on remaining 160 km roads of their respective departments.

After reviewing the status of water supply schemes of district Ramban, the Div Com directed SE Jal Shakti to ensure restoration of remaining 8 water supply schemes across the district to streamline the supply especially in highly areas.

The Div com informed that total 1560 distribution transformers have been installed in the district out of which 95 are under restoration and

directions have been issued to make these functional at the earliest.

The Div Com asked the concerned departments to ensure early restoration of roads, sufficient stocking of ration in snow bound areas, restoration of healthcare services, drinking water and electricity supply.

He directed the concerned officers to monitor the situation closely and ensure that the essential services are made available in all areas especially rural and hilly areas.

The Div Com also visited Banihal Qazigund Road Tunnel at Banihal and after inspecting control room discussed various issues including security with the concerned authorities. He also visited Railway station Banihal and truck yard established near south portal

of the tunnel. The Div Com & ADGP Traffic also inspected status of NH-44 and directed National Highway Authority of India to clear the landslides on war footing especially at Mehar near Ramban, to fully restore the road.

The Div Com also inspected newly constructed 50 bedded hospital building and 300 LPM Oxygen Generation Plant at Banihal and directed concerned authorities to make it functional as soon as possible to facilitate the locals.

The Div Com visited Power Receiving Station Sangaldan and Dalwa-Budhan Road and took stock of progress on snow clearance of all link roads.

While interacting with the PRIs and locals in Sangaldan, the Div Com enquired about the status of essential services and supplies especially Ration Supplies. The delegations put for their demands for their resolution. The delegations demanded early completion of Higher Secondary School road dalwa, Snow cutters for sub Division Gool and Banihal, Black toping in Sangaldan market and other issues of public concern.

The Div Com passed on the spot directions to the

concerned officers to resolve all the genuine demands on priority. He asked DC Ramban to project requisition of snow cutter machinery to concern authorities.

The Div Com also inspected Railway Station Yard at Sangaldan and took stock of the progress. Senior officials of IROCON & KRCL briefed the Div Com regarding key milestones of this project of National importance.

The DDC Chairperson highlighted various issues and Div Com passed on the spot directions to concerned officer to take necessary action.

The demand for establishment of bus stand at new identified place and car parking and related issues were also projected.

The Div Com also chaired a review meeting at Banihal and took stock of progress on major schemes, besides status of restoration works.

During the meeting the DC gave a brief on measures taken by the administration to expedite the restoration works across the district.

Dr Langer stressed on the officers/Officials to ensure their presence at their respective Stations / Headquarters in view of snow season so that any untoward situation can be dealt with effectively.

## Udhampur Admn revamps COVID care measures amid surge in cases



Deputy Commissioner, Indu Kanwal Chib chairing a meeting at Udhampur.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: District Administration Udhampur has started revamping up covid care system amid the fresh surge in cases.

Deputy Commissioner, Indu Kanwal Chib chaired an emergency meeting of officers of Civil Administration, Police, CRPF, ITBP besides Representatives of different Organization of District Udhampur at Conference Hall DC Office Complex Udhampur.

The meeting was attended by SSP, Udhampur Vinod Kumar; President MC, Jogeshwar Gupta; ADC Mohammad Syed Khan; ACR, Viqar Giri and other officers.

Detailed discussion was

held on provision of home isolation, Contact tracing, Nomination of Nodal Officers, Functioning of Covid Care Centres, Sample collection, Establishment of micro containment zones, Availability of bedding capacity in Covid care centres, Availability of oxygen, Establishment of Covid care centre in each medical block, vaccination of eligible persons, Mass level RT-PCR testing.

The DC stressed upon the enforcement departments to evolve an effective containment strategy to prevent the spread. The BMOs and Tehsil administrations were asked to take effective measures to control the infection in rural areas and

establish Covid care centres. The HoDs were asked to nominate nodal officers for COVID -19 control in their respective departments. BMOs were further directed to activate men and machinery at zonal level and work strictly as per mechanism devised by the health department and latest SOPs issued by central & JKUT government.

The DDC appealed to the people with symptoms and travel history to take the RT-PCR test to prevent the spread. She further appealed to the general public to take vaccination to stay safe. She also gave a brief about the COVID-19 scenario in the District and about measures taken to contain the virus.

## MC starts sprinkling of salt on frozen roads of Bhadarwah

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BHADARWAH: After the recent snowfall, resulting in frozen roads and very slippery conditions, Municipal Committee (MC) Bhadarwah have started sprinkling salt in Bhadarwah on Thursday. Dozens of employees started salt sprinkling in different wards of the town after reports of severe icy and frozen roads posing threat to people in maximum areas of Bhadarwah.

The drive was started from Ganpat Bazaar, Takiya Chowk, Seri Bazaar and Jamia Masjid locality, where people were suffering due to frozen roads and slippery conditions.

Sajid Malik, Employee MC Bhadarwah said that after receiving reports, EO Bhadarwah Municipal Committee directed us to



MC officials sprinkling salt on snow at Bhadarwah.

remove the snow from the by-lanes of the town beside sprinkling of salt on frozen roads due to sub zero temperature since last three days.

People appreciated the initiative of MC Bhadarwah to come as blessing in disguise and we are extremely thankful to them for doing the needful and thereby saving several precious lives.

It is notable that Bhadarwah recorded the lowest temperature of -6 degree Celsius, as cold wave swept over the entire Chenab valley, adding to the woes of residents.

According to reports, Water and drainage system has frozen because of the cold wave after fresh snowfall in the area.

## Doda Police distributes masks among masses

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DODA: To enhance the sense of community and to restrain further spread of Corona virus, Doda Police under the guidance/instructions of SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom, distributed face masks among the general public in the District. Face masks were distributed among the general Public throughout the District by the sub divisional officers as well as SHOs and In-charges of Police Posts in their respective area of responsibility. Besides distribution of masks the people were advised to follow SOPs related to COVID-19 issued by the Government of UT J&K strictly and regularly. However, the main focus was to wear face masks and ensure maintenance of social distancing at work places, religious places as well as shops and also people were made aware about the precautionary measures to be taken to contain the spread of the deadly virus. Community members have appreciated and applauded the role of Doda Police in rendering such services to the general public.



A police officer giving mask to a child.

## AYUSH team distributes Immunity boosters at Kishtwar

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KISHTWAR: Team of AYUSH Kishtwar on Thursday provided immunity boosters to a local NGO here at Drubeel for

further distribution among the needy people. The NGO had approached District Nodal officer AYUSH Kishtwar Dr. Taraq Hussain for the cause. A team of Medical officers and supporting staff was provided the required immunity booster and send to the place. They also spread awareness among locals about the SOPs and covid appropriate behaviour to contain Covid.

This moves and the services from the AYUSH Fraternity Kishtwar was hailed by the general masses in the district at large.

## KVK Reasi guides farmers on hydroponics technology

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
REASI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi under the aegis of Directorate of Extension, S h e r e - K a s h m i r University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) is guiding the farmers on hydroponics technology which is an effective technology for the production of fresh organic vegetables. KVK, Reasi is encouraging and creating awareness on the hydroponics technology among the farmers and many farmers are visiting to KVK, Reasi to know more about this innovative technology. KVK, Reasi has established a hydroponics unit at its campus and demonstrating the know-

how about the technology to the farmers.

KVK has laid lettuce crop in the unit and many people are attracted by the technology and showing keen interest in it. According to Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi, Dr.Banarsi Lal, in hydroponics system plants get balanced water and nutrition and this system saves about 80 per cent of water. He said that this technology has the huge potential as the agricultural land is shrinking and this technology can be the future farming. He added that in hydroponics system, plants are grown without soil and plants are least affected by the insects-pests and diseases. He added that the crops like lettuce, spinach,

tomatoes, capsicum, strawberry etc. can be grown in this system of farming. He informed that the plants are grown in an inert substrate such as the perlite, coco coir, gravel etc. in the hydroponics unit.

Dr.Gurdev Chand, HOD, Division of Plant Physiology, SKUAST-J said that the hydroponics technology can be very useful to produce the fresh organic leafy vegetables especially in the urban and semi-urban areas. He further said that the crop is uniformly grown in the system as each plant gets balanced nutrition and water. He said that this technology is simple to operate and labour, water and nutrients saving.

## Beopar Mandal Poonch decides to follow 'No Mask No Sale' rule to contain 3rd Wave

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: To raise awareness among the stakeholders, Beopar Mandal Poonch today on Thursday a pledge with the message- wear mask, Follow Covid Appropriate Behaviour, Maintain hand Hygiene, avoid crowding in market.

On the occasion, President Beopar Mandal, Rajeev Tandon educated the masses regarding COVID Appropriate Behaviour & highlighted the importance of safety measures for curbing the spread of Covid-19.

He added that Beopar Mandal has decided to follow "No Mask No Sale" rule to deny sale of commodities to customers coming to shops without a mask.

In this regard, he requested the business establishment owners to ensure that those visiting their shops without face masks will not be provided required materials. President Beopar Mandal advised the public as well as shopkeepers and customers to strictly adhere to the SOPs and follow Covid appropriate behaviour. Members Beopar Mandal, Dr. Sukhvinder Singh and Nishu Gupta also appealed the public to wash their hands with soap or use a hand sanitizer and avoid visiting crowded places. Members of Beopar Mandal also distributed Masks and sanitizers among the public in market areas and made them aware about the seriousness of this disease.

## Panchayat level Forest Rights Committee meetings held across Rajouri district

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI: To ensure the expeditious settlement of individual and community claims under the Forest Rights Act, special meetings of the Panchayat Forest Rights committees were convened across Rajouri district here on Thursday.

The meetings were convened on the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal and under the overall supervision of Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Abdul Rashid Kohli.

The committees verified both the individual and community forest rights claims received from the applicants and then passed the resolution. These claims will be sent to the sub-divisional level committees and lastly to the District level committee for settling the claims. District Administration Rajouri is making untiring efforts to cover all the eligible beneficiaries under the Forest Rights Act, besides, the public is also being made aware of their duty towards conservation of the forests.

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