

Rana, Dhar express anguish grief over death of pilgrims

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/KATRA: Senior BJP leaders Devender Singh Rana and Surjeet Singh Slathia this morning visited the holy township of Katra and met the victims of the tragedy and expressed shock and grief over the tragic demise of pilgrims in unfortunate incident of stampede near Gate 3 of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji Shrine in the wee hours.

Describing the tragedy as very grave, Rana said the people of Jammu and Kashmir, as also the country are shell-shocked over the incident, first of its kind at the shrine, and are praying for peace to the departed souls and speedy recovery of those injured.

To questions by the



Prominent Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana interacting with victims at Katra.

J&K Batwal Sabha honours COVID Warriors at special function

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha held its special function at Hazuri Bagh.

SSP M.L. Kaith who graced the occasion as Chief Guest greeted the Batwal community members and special invitees from other communities on New Year and wished them good health, good fortune, happiness and success.

Kaith also presented the Certificates of Commendation' to Covid Warriors namely Naib Subedar Rachpal Chand Bassa and Lt. Sanjeev Kumar Motan for their contributions in fight against Covid-19 Pandemic.

As the threat of COVID-19 is still prevailing with the emergence of OMICRON, Kaith appealed the community members to take all precautions by following COVID Appropriate Behavior- wearing a mask, maintaining social-distancing and washing hands frequently even if fully vaccinated.

Besides, the Batwal Sabha members were administered the oath of their offices at Guru Gyagi's Smadhi in Shahzadpur by the JMC Corporator Rashpal Bhardwaj.

Among those who were present on the occasion were Messrs Dilay Ram Kaith, Rashpal Kaith, R.L. Kaith, Sub. Maj. Thori Ram Mandi, Sub. Bishan Dass Kaith, Hav.

Des Raj Kaith, Hav. Ghari Lal Lakhota, Panceh Joginder Sargotra, Panceh Joginder Kaith, Darshan Motan, Hans

Raj Loria, Tilak Raj Bassa, Bishan Lal Tugga, Bua Ditta

Kaith, Ved Parkash Sargotra, Gharu Ram Kaith, Birendra Kaith, Girdhari Lal Tugga, Baljeet Kaith, Ravinder Motan, Daya Ram Kaith, Tarsem Lal Tugga,

Suraj Parkash Sargotra, Mahesh Bhardwaj, Ram Dass

Kaith, Bishan Lal Lakhota, Banarsi Lal Lakhota, Jagdish Mandi, Darshan Lal Kaith, Diwan Chand

Nandan, Kamal Dev Kaith, Sukhdev Raj Kaith, Madan

Lal Kaith, Bua Ditta Lakhota and Darshan Lal Tugga.

Special invitees were Paramjeet Singh, Vikram Singh Chib and Gopal Sharma.

SCERT's 3-day workshop on media reporting concludes

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A 3 day workshop on "Essentials of Media Reporting" for teacher educators organised by the State Council of Education Research and Training (SCERT) concluded here. The workshop, which was organized by the media wing of SCERT, was attended by Nasir Mirza, Former Professor, Media Education Research Centre (MERC), Dr. Ruheela Hassan Sheikh, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Traffic, Srinagar; Dr. Rabia Mughal, senior academic officer, SCERT, Farooq Shah, coordinator of the workshop, Javed Kirmani, in-charge radio programs, SCERT, Dr. Shabnam, HOD, Education in Languages, talked about the traffic scenario of the city in the discussion. Some participants filmed the discussion on their mobile phones while others wrote notes on their diaries. The coordinator screened news articles directly from their source while explaining them in the light of 5Ws1H and the inverted pyramid scheme. Later, the coordinator explained all the terms in the glossary of journalism. Zarif Ahmad Zarif, who was the guest of honour on the closing ceremony, said the teachers have got to adorn their nature with the virtues of truthfulness, honesty and objectivity.

Dr. Ruheela Hassan, while appreciating teachers for contributing to education through radio programs, underlined the importance of radio education and urged the participants to learn the fundamental skills involving use of televi-

sion, radio and internet in the field of education. Prof Mirza, while giving the example of "Mann Ki Baat" seconded Dr. Hassan in her assertion that radio still occupied a significant role despite availability of all the latest technologies of communication. The workshop included a segment wherein a panel discussion was arranged as an example for the participants to report on. Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, SSP Traffic, Srinagar; Dr. Rabia Mughal, senior academic officer, SCERT, Farooq Shah, coordinator of the workshop, Javed Kirmani, in-charge radio programs, SCERT, Dr. Shabnam, HOD, Education in Languages, talked about the traffic scenario of the city in the discussion. Some participants filmed the discussion on their mobile phones while others wrote notes on their diaries. The coordinator screened news articles directly from their source while explaining them in the light of 5Ws1H and the inverted pyramid scheme. Later, the coordinator explained all the terms in the glossary of journalism. Zarif Ahmad Zarif, who was the guest of honour on the closing ceremony, said the teachers have got to adorn their nature with the virtues of truthfulness, honesty and objectivity.

The program was presided over by Advocate P.S. Chandel, in-Charge J&K State and Ratan Kapoor, J&K President. The programme was conducted by State General Secretary Dr. Vikas Bhardwaj were also present.

Among those who were assigned the responsibility of Jammu District body namely Parveen Gupta as Jammu District Vice President, Sonu Lal and General Secretary

manner and the injured go back to their homes cured.

He said Mata Vaishno Devi Ji is a matter of faith for millions across the globe and no politics must be played here and all must uphold the sanctity of the Shrine.

Earlier, the Devender Rana and Surjeet Singh Slathia made enquiries at Narayana Hospital about the health of those injured and spoke to doctors about the status of the injured.

The BJP leaders were accompanied by Som Nath Khajuria, Dharamveer Singh Jamwal and other party colleagues.

Meanwhile, Senior Kashmiri Pandit leader Anil Dhar expressed deep anguish

and grief over the tragic stampede incident at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

"It is a heart wrenching incident, unheard of at the Bhawan of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and our hearts go to the families who lost their dear ones in the tragedy", Dhar said in a statement, issued here.

He expressed sympathies with the bereaved families, prayed for peace to the departed souls and wished speedy recovery to the injured.

Dhar hoped that Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board will take all necessary measures to avert recurrence of such painful incidents in future.

Natrang stages 'Mulaqaat'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 'Mulaqaat' a play based on Vaclav Havel's 'Audience' which was adapted in Hindi by Naveen Pant & Dr. Sharada Yadav marked Natrang's first performance in the year 2022. The play was directed by Mohd. Yaseen who has an experience of many years in acting and allied theatre works. Yaseen is also a National fellowship and Scholarship holder from Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. The play was appreciated by the audience for its content, acting and treatment.

Prominent amongst those who witnessed the play included V.K. Singh IPS (Retd.), Suresh Kumar, Anil Tickoo, Arvind Anand, Sumeet Sharma and more.

The play revolves around a meeting between a brewery manager and an employee 'Vanek'. While the manager is clearly opening too many beers and inducing binge drinking, it is less clear what he wants from Vanek. 'Audience' was the first of Vaclav Havel's partly autobiographical one-act plays known as the "Vanek Trilogy" based on his experience of



A still from the play 'Mulaqaat' directed by Mohd. Yaseen staged at Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu.

being subject to forced work while under constant harassment from the then system. The character of 'Vanek' was closest to Havel himself, it tells of a dissident writer who is forced to work in a brewery, so that he can contribute to society rather than be an intellectual bourgeois burden. In a friendly talk, or possibly an interrogation, it was clear that the brewery manager desperately wants something, but it was not at all clear what that something is. The play 'Mulaqaat' in a dramatic way, depicts a rendezvous of two different identities with different background and social status which yields a conversation which is nonfigurative yet concrete in certain manner.

At the end of the play, which carried many symbolic and partially direct references to the oppression of that time, the brewery manager was so drunk that he even forgets that they ever have had a meeting and he greets and treats 'Vanek' as if he has just arrived.

Brijesh Avtar Sharma as 'Foreman' and Sushant Singh Charak as 'Vanek' were at their best in portraying the characters assigned to them and presented the long, text-based play with the requisite versatility. The lights were designed and operated by Shivam Singh and the Music was rendered by Satyam Mehra. The presentations were done by Meenakshi Bhagat.

In statement issued today jointly by many Kashmiri leaders, they said that they are not against streamlining the whole affairs in the Relief Organization if the Government would have issued one go order for streamlining the whole affairs rather than issuing these frequent continuous

Malik lambast administration for its failure to provide basic amenities



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prominent political workers from Kashmir joined Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) 'Ram Vilas' and were welcomed into the Party folds by Rafiq Malik, LJP J&K president.

He also said that from last few years unemployed youth is worst suffer. Malik appealed people to join LJP for change.

On the occasion Malik appointed Mohammad Afzal Lone as District President Budgam, Mohammad Rafeeq Sofi as district Vice President Budgam, Umair Ahmad Sofi as General Secretary District Budgam, Mohammad Jabbar as Block President of Keller Shopian, Gh. Azad Mir as JKUT Vice President.

'Govt putting un-necessary pressure on KPs regarding relief matters'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Various political and social leaders of Kashmiri Pandit community expressed great surprise and shock over repeated orders being issued by the Relief Commissioner Migrants J&K Jammu one after the other thus putting the benefit holders in the migrant quota are genuine like self attestation which would be accepted to all.

They exhorted that authorities need to put in place a simple and user friendly mechanism to determine whether all the benefit holders in the migrant quota are genuine like self attestation which would be accepted to all.

They also said that it is due to tedious and lengthy M form system introduced by the Government decades back that Kashmiri Pandits living in exile are unable to exercise their franchise in exile thus got debarred from voting system which too need to be removed forthwith.

The leaders asked Relief

commissioner not to conduct experiments on the Kashmiri Pandit community and desist from issuing such unwarranted circulars to harass the community and with draw the recent order dated January 1, 2022 forthwith which is quite unjustified.

The prominent KP leaders who have expressed anguish and resentment on the issue were M.K. Yogi, Prof. A.N. Sadhu, Vinod Pandita, Anil Bhan, T.K. Koul, Ashok Dhar, Comrade Mohan Lal, Tej Krishan Dhar, Anuji President of Kashmiri Pandit United Coordination Committee J&K UT.

rules in true letter & spirit.

He further requested the government to issue strict instructions to the Police Department to prevent illegal transportation of cattle and animals as well as cruelty to cattle, besides taking stringent action against the persons involved in such illegalities.

Among others who were present include Jitinder Sharma, Rajinder Gupta, State Secretary Sanjay Pargal, Sham Gupta, Rajesh Gupta, State Advisor Roop Krishna Kakroo, State Executive Member Pawan Goswami, Ajay Mishra, Sunil Manwa, Youth Vice President Jitinder Sharma, Chandrakantia, Abhishek Gupta, and executive members of the Foundation.

ABGGRF constitutes Jammu District body

Thwart illegal cow smuggling, cruelty against cattle in J&K: Adv Chandel asks Govt



Newly framed body members of ABGGRF.

Jatinder Sharma, National Youth Secretary and Sanjok, Jammu and Kashmir, Sunil Sharma, State Vice President Sham Lal and General Secretary

Dr. Vikas Bhardwaj were also present.

Among those who were

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Advocate Chandel raised

serious concern over the

rising bovine smuggling cases

in the Jammu and Kashmir. He

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