

# 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.



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

"We also join the compatriots in sharing the agony and expressing solidarity with the families who have lost their kin in the tragedy", Rana said while interacting with the media persons at Katra Hospital.

To questions by the

reporters, Rana said that this is not the time to indulge in blame-game. The administration and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board are taking all necessary measures to ensure that the mortal remains of the deceased reach their homes in a dignified

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 Bhavan of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji 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 Deviji Shrine Board will take all necessary measures to avert recurrence of such painful incidents in future.

# Malik lambast administration for its failure to provide basic amenities



LJP J&K President Rafiq Malik welcoming new entrants into party fold.

**■ 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.

The new entrants welcomed into LJP were Mohammad Afzal Lone, Rafeeq Sofi, , Umair Ahmad Sofi, Mohd Jabbar and Gh. Azad Mir. Malik said that doors of LJP are open for honest people.

He claimed that youth, stu-

dents and right thinking people want to work for LJP.

The LJP leader said that time has come to unite and defeat communal forces which are befooling poor with false slogans.

Lambasting Jammu and Kashmir administration, Malik said that today every section of the society is on road due to record price rise.

He said people of Jammu Kashmir witnessing worst power cuts while bills are in thousands.

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 appoint 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.

## 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 Er 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 Smadh 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.Thoru Ram Mandi, Sub. Bishan Dass Kaith, Hav. Des Raj Kaith, Hav. Ghari Lal Lakhotra, Panch Joginder Sargotra, Panch Joginder Lal 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 Lakhotra, Banarsi Lal Lakhotra, Jagdish Mandi, Darshan Lal Kaith, Diwan Chand Nandan, Kamal Dev Kaith, Sukhdev Raj Kaith, Madan Lal Kaith, Bua Ditta Lakhotra and Darshan Lal Tugga. Special invitees were Paramjeet Singh, Vikram Singh Chib and Gopal Sharma.

## 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.

## '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 whole community living in exile for last more than 32 years on deliberate procedural cumbersome.

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 issuing these frequent continuous

orders to put un-necessary pressure and metal agony on the whole community.

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 Governments 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 repeated circulars to harass the community and with draw the recent o r d e r RRCM/Acetts/1748-54 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, Anu ji President of Kashmir Pandit United Coordination Committee J&K UT.

## 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 and Zarif Ahmad Zarif, a noted satirist, poet and historian. Prof Mirza, while describing media as most precious gift of twentieth century to the twenty first', said all stakeholders must endorse your hard work to understand the importance of the task borne by the teachers.

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 "Mam 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.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Akhil Bharatiya Gurukul & Gaushala Research Foundation (ABG-GRF) on Sunday constituted a Jammu district body by appointing Rajesh Sharma as its President during a programme here.

The Jammu district unit was constituted on the instructions of Param Pujya Guru Ji Gautam Rishi, National President of All India Gurukul and Gaushala Research Institute. The programme commenced with praying in front of Gau Mata.

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



Newly framed body members of ABGGRF.

Jatinder Sharma. National Youth Secretary and Sanjojak, Jammu and Kashmir, Sunil Sharma, State Vice President Sham Lal and 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

Verma as District General Secretary; Ashok Sharma, Rakesh Sharma and Aniket Sharma as Secretaries, Saurav Kumar as Media Secretary, Ravi Kumar and Sham Kumar as Social Media Secretaries.

Advocate Chandel raised serious concern over the rising bovine smuggling cases in the Jammu and Kashmir: He observed there are certain

elements in Jammu and Kashmir who are hell bent upon to destroy the century old communal harmony and brotherhood by promoting smuggling in various parts of the Union Territory.

He said that steps taken by the police were not adequate in curbing cow smuggling cases. Therefore, he appealed to the J&K Government to implement cow protection

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, Chandrakantji, Abhishek Gupta, Narendra Gupta and executive members of the Foundation.

## Tour operators hold discussion on 'Brand India: Road to Recovery'

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The 36th Annual Convention of Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) was held at Hotel The Leela, Gandhinagar. Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the convention.

Tourism Secretary to the Government of India Arvind Singh, Tourism Secretary of Gujarat Hareet Shukla and other dignitaries were present at the inaugural function.

Tour operators from across India came to Gujarat to attend this 36th Convention of IATO. They had discussions on 'Brand India: The Road to Recovery' during the three-day convention.

Various business sessions were held during the 3-day convention on various subjects, including Brand India - The Road to Recovery for Revival of Business, Hotels in the New Normal, Connectivity: New Frontiers, SEIS: New Policy under FTP 2021-2026,



Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel and other traders during a convention.

Responsible Tourism, Automation and Digital Marketing, Preparedness under New Normal etc.

Climate change is the biggest challenge faced by the world today. We are in a time when protecting the environment is our top priority. Considering this, we are moving forward on the path of sustainable development to advance the development journey of the country and Gujarat while protecting the environment.

So, it is necessary to pro-

mote sustainable tourism as well. Earlier this year, the Government of Gujarat announced a new tourism policy to develop Gujarat as a clean tourist destination by promoting sustainable tourism. The tour operators also discussed sustainable tourism during this three-day convention.

In this three day convention, state presentations on the tourism of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu-Kashmir, Kerala and other

states of India were also presented. Officials of the Tourism Department of Gujarat gave a presentation on Gujarat Tourism, which provided detailed information about various diverse tourist destinations like coastal areas, forests, deserts and hilly areas of Gujarat. Tour operators from Uttarakhand gave presentations on various tourist places of Uttarakhand.

A presentation was made on the scenic hill stations and snow-capped Himalayan sites of Jammu and Kashmir. Tour operators from Kerala gave presentations on scenic tourist destinations of Kerala. Various other state tourism presentations were also presented during the 3-day convention.

IATO President and officials of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, gave a presentation on 'Dekho Apna Desh' at the convention.

This convention aimed to discuss the measures to

revitalize the tourism sector after the Covid-19 pandemic. This program will help in boosting the tourism sector of Gujarat and India. The business sessions held at the event gave rise to many new ideas for the development of the country's tourism sector as well as for the creation of Brand India.

The conference provided a platform for B2B marketing to the tour operators in India. The tour operators discussed various topics with each other, which also gave them information about the tourism industry of other states. After that, tour operators from other parts of the country visited various tourist destinations in Gujarat.

Officials from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, officials from various state tourism departments, tour operators from across the country and other dignitaries attended this 3-day annual convention of IATO.

## AHD Jammu organises exposure visit of dairy farmers to Pune



AHD Jammu officials along with dairy farmers.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: To acquaint the dairy farmers with the latest trends and machinery involved in Milk and Dairy Products Processing cum Marketing, the Department of Animal Husbandry Jammu organised a five day Interstate Dairy Farmers' Training cum Exposure Visit to Pune (Maharashtra.)

The said tour programme has been organized under the guidance of Director Animal Husbandry Jammu Dr. Sagar D. Doifode and dairy farmers representing differ-

ent districts of Jammu division will be participating

During the tour, the dairy farmers will get an opportunity to interact with experts and their counterparts in the state of Maharashtra to get the latest know-how about the innovations in Dairy Processing and Marketing. The tour programme shall provide dairy farmers an opportunity to get well equipped with the latest skills, knowledge and techniques for boosting the milk production

In line with the thrust of

the UT administration over popularizing the culture of Cooperatives within the UT, the tour programme also includes visits to some of the renowned Cooperative organisations in and around Pune district enabling touring farmers to have practical experiences about the working as well as benefits of Cooperative societies or groups.

Dr. Shadab Hussain and Dr. Sandeep Kumar will accompany the dairy farmers as Training Officers during the entire tour programme.