

# Gurpurab celebrated with religious fervour

Guru Gobind Singh fought religious atrocities, stood for freedom of religion: Ravinder



Panj Piyaare leading the Nagar Kirtan at Akhnoor.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: An impressive 'Nagar-Kirtan' was taken out by the Sikh community people supported by all communities on eve of Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj, the 10th Guru of Sikhism, who laid down his own life and sacrificed his father, mother and sons for the sake of humanity and protection of right cause of community. Mohan Lal Bhagat, SSP, Dy. Director (Indoor) SKPA Udampur was the special guest who also paid his obeisance to the great Guru and joined the religious procession en-route.

The 'Shobha Yatra' started from Amar Palace Daskal which marched through Nirdosh Chowk, Bus Stand Akhnoor and culminated at

Sant Baba Sunder Singh Gurdwara in Akhnoor.

A large number of people from Hindu community also paid their obeisance to the great Guru and joined the religious procession en-route. The Sikh youth played Ghatka and showed many feats during the Nagar Kirtan. A large number of devotees were sweeping the roads, where from the Nagar Kirtan was being taken out. Besides, the stalls with food items, fruits, water and juice had been raised by the people from different sections of society at various places to serve the devotees taking part in Nagar Kirtan.

The proceedings of Nagar Kirtan was conducted by Sr. Mohinder Singh Joint Secretary of District Gurdwara Parbandhak

Committee Jammu. Master Surjit Singh, President, Sant Baba Sunder Singh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Akhnoor congratulated the devotees and said that Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj saved the humanity and spread the message of love, equality and worship among whole world.

SSP Mohan Lal Bhagat while addressing the gathering greeted people of Jammu & Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Gurpurab.

**SUNDERBANI:** Guru Gobind Singh fought against religious atrocities and sacrificed and stood for religious freedom stated Former MLC Ravinder Sharma while remembering the unparallel contribution and sacrifices of Sikh Gurus in the history of mankind.

Addressing Gurupurab celebrations at Thandapani , in Sunderbani, Chief Spokesperson JK Congress Ravinder Sharma said that Guru Gobind Singh sacrificed his father, four sons and lost mother to protect freedom of religious pluralism. The sacrifices of Sikh gurus are unparallel in history and lauded the sikh community for carrying forward the mission of service to humanity

and standing against injustice.

Seeking religious minorities rights and political representation for sikh minorities in Jammu and kashmir , he recalled that their role in nation building and maintaining pluralistic culture of the country,is immense in the pre and post independence periods.

Sharma pointed out lack of government facilities at and near important religious places and urged for the augmenting infrastructure facilities like connectivity, toilet complexes, halls, proper water and power facilities on government expense, especially of minorities as part of promotion of pilgrim tourism and harmony in the society

**RS PURA:** The birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru of Sikh community was celebrated with great devotion in Sub-District RS Pura on Wednesday.

On the occasion of Guru Prakash Utsav, a religious program was organized at Gurdwara Singh Sabha Kool Kalan RS Pura in which thousands of people from all walks of life participated. Shabd Kirtan was organ-

ized in the Gurudwara in which the life of Guru Gobind Singh Ji was highlighted through Bani by Ragi Jathia and the Sangat was inspired to follow the path shown by Guru Ji. During this, light was also thrown on the life of Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj through poems and words by the small girls of the Panchayat.

On this occasion, District Development Council member RS Pura, Prof Garu Ram Bhagat and BDC Chairman Tarsem Singh also paid obeisance at the Gurudwara and greeted the Sangat presented on the occasion of Prakash Utsav of Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj.

During this, the members of the Gurdwara Management Committee under the chairmanship of Sarpanch Gurdeep Singh Saini honored by presenting Siropa.

Among those who were present include Gurdwara Management Committee Chairman Avtar Singh, Principal Joginder Singh, Treasurer Paranjit Singh, Hardeep Singh, Harjit Singh Chairman Darshan Singh, Kewal Krishna Saini, Harjinder Singh and Surinder Singh.

## Two-day NSS cleanliness camp concludes at GDC Pouni

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POUNI: Two days Cleanliness camp organised under the aegis of Clean India Campaign by NSS Unit and Department of Environment Sciences of Government Degree College, Pouni concluded on Wednesday. The whole camp activities were planned and organised by Prof. Balbir Kumar, NSS Co-ordinator and Prof. Bindu Sharma, HOD, Environment Sciences under the guidance of principal Prof. Rajni Bhagat.

During this camp 30 most active NSS Volunteers were participated. Under this camp, cleanliness campaigns were conducted in which NSS Volunteers covered two near by streams at Boulyian Panchayat of Block Pouni of

district Reasi on 2nd January 2022 and while baradari area of Panchayat Talwara situated on the left bank on river Chenab of block Reasi covered on 3rd January 2022. They also covered one village namely kothian just 2 km away from College campus. The main objective of organising this programme was to make students familiar regarding importance of Cleanliness in their own life and may act as social messengers to make aware others too. It is Rightly remarked 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness'. The others faculty members who voluntarily contributed to make this event successful were Prof. Jaspal Singh, Suresh Kumar, and Prof. Sangoita Kumari.

## J&K Forest Department initiates production of pine fuel briquettes to promote Rural Livelihood

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Forest Department of J&K has initiated making fuel briquettes from Chir pine needles which are available in plenty in Chir forests during summer.

A program cum awareness campaign on "Livelihood generation: Pine needle to Bio briquettes" was inaugurated by Dr. Mohit Gera, Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), J&K at Forest Information Centre, Bikram Chowk Jammu. The program was attended by 25 numbers of women Self-Help Groups. The dry & fallen leaves of ChirPine trees are one of the major causes of forest fires which adversely impact the protection & conservation efforts of the Forest Department.

Forest department carry out control burning of Chir Pine needles for prevention of forest fires which leads to Carbon dioxide emissions which add to global warming. Hence, the forest department has initiated utilization of Chir Pine needles for various eco-friendly products with active involvement of Self-Help Groups. Forest department, in collaboration with IIT Roorkee is establishing Five "Bio briquetting machines" in Nowshera Forest Division to be utilized by women SHGs for production of fuel briquettes which have high demand in market.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Mohit Gera, PCCF (HoFF), J&K informed that Forest department is working towards the priority of the

government on creation of livelihoods, and introduction of briquette making machines is a step towards this direction particularly for women SHGs. He also informed that the process of converting Chir Pine needles into a useful resource for energy has great potential to not only provide income generating opportunities to the local communities but also to mitigate forest fires & climate change. This initiative of bio briquetting through manually driven machines and other such interventions have also immense potential for forest improvement and active involvement of people in forest management. He also informed that the Forest Department plans to scale up these initiatives.

K. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Conservator Forests Jammu, said that a pilot project is being initiated in Nowshera Forest Division, for generation of livelihood for locals by engaging them in briquette making and increasing their participation in Forest management, and protection besides making them stakeholders in promoting the environmental cause.

Divisional Forest Officer, Neelima Shah gave a detailed description on the pilot project to be run at Nowshera Forest Division.

The demonstration and detailed presentation of the bio-briquetting machine was given by Dr. Rajat Agrawal and Dr. Vinay Sharma, Professors of department of Management Studies, IIT

Roorkee especially to women SHGs participating in the event. They informed the participants that the machine is completely eco-friendly as it does not use any fuel or electricity and does not create any carbon footprint while operating. The portable machines designed by IIT Roorkee are easy to use besides posing no risk to its operator and surrounding. Briquettes made out of it are blocks of "compressed pine needles" used as alternative fuel for cooking or heating purposes. They will have high demand in cold areas like Kashmir Valley.

It is noteworthy to mention that in last few months J&K department has taken many initiatives to connect the forests management with the lives of common people by means of promoting ecotourism, trekking through the pristine forests, plantation in PRIs/local & religious institutions, campaign on "Har Gaon Haryali", opening of Forest Huts for public, imparting training to women Self-Help Groups in making of handicrafts utilizing Chir Pine needles etc.

Conservator of Forests West Circle, Rajouri, Vivek Verma, presented the vote of thanks to PCCF (HoFF) J&K,CCF Jammu, Professors of IIT Roorkee, women Self-Help Groups, representatives of PRIs, Officers of Forest Department. He also acknowledged the teamwork by DFO Nowshera for initiating the bio pine briquette making intervention in Nowshera.

## District Kishtwar records 81.11 pc fund utilisation under Capex Budget 2021-22

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Additional District Development Commissioner Kishtwar Sham Lal on Wednesday chaired a meeting of district and sectoral officers here at conference Hall DC office and reviewed the progress of works undertaken for the fiscal year 2021-22 under District capex budget and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning, Mohammad Iqbal; ACR Akhter Hussain Qazi; ACD Kishore Singh Kateoch; ACP Zakir Hussain Wani; DPO Sunil Bhutyal besides BDOs and other concerned. At the outset, the meeting was apprised about the sector wise physical and finan-

cial status of the works taken under District Capex Budget and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the financial year 2021-22.

It was informed that the district has recorded an expenditure of Rs 158.61 crores against the total Rs 195.55 crore, which accounts for the 81.11% of total funds available.

Further it was enlightened in the meeting that the works amounting to Rs 54.80 crore have been completed so far which marks 35.51% of the works targeted.

Meanwhile, the Additional District Development Commissioner also reviewed the action taken report on the decisions taken in the last District Development Council meeting.

He stressed the executing agencies and the concerned officers to ensure judicious utilisation of the funds.

While taking review of the physical and financial commensurate, he stressed the concerned officers to strictly adhere to the timeline and the guidelines prescribed by the government.

Furthermore, he directed all the departments to pull up their socks and improve the progress by mobilizing the men and machinery to complete maximum works within the timeline.

Besides, the ADDC stressed to avoiding the lapse of the funds and warned that the heads of the departments will be held responsible and would face disciplinary action.

## Panchayat-level FRC meetings held across Rajouri district

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RAJOURI: Panchayat level Forest Rights Committee meetings were convened on Wednesday across Rajouri district to facilitate speedy procedure for the clearance of individual and community claims.

The committees verified 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 of the claims.

Field functionaries of the concerned departments also educated the public about the Forest Rights Act and made the Panchayat members aware about their duty to conserve and preserve the forest cover.

The District Level Committee has settled 895 cases till date benefitting over 4772 families. District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal has directed the ADCs and SDM to expedite the disposal of FRA claims pending at their level and provide full support to FRCs to conduct meetings on regular intervals.

## Army providing assistance to students of border areas



Army official handing-over books to a girl student.

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POONCH: Army has been working towards upliftment of the society through multiple initiatives. One of the focus areas has been to provide quality education to children of the region. Indian Army at Basoni undertook sponsoring of Uniforms, Books and Stationery for 80 students, who are studying at Pine Wood School, Sabra in District

Poonch (J&K). The students of economical weaker families quit studies due to financial constraints for school fees and expenditure towards study material. To overcome this trend of declining education standards, the students were provided with study material including books and stationery items. This is a positive step towards encouraging and promoting education in the region.

The efforts of the Indian Army will contribute towards the interest of students in their academics and will also support them and their families towards saving on education expenditure. This initiative by the Indian Army also gave a boost to the Govt of India scheme, 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' in the border area schools. Headmaster, Teachers and Parents of the students present during the event appreciated and lauded the efforts of the Indian Army in assisting the students of border areas towards making their future brighter.

## Army provides blankets, sports kits to inmates of Bal Ashram



Army officials along with inmates of Bal Ashram at Poonch.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Army on Wednesday provides blankets, sports kits to inmates of Bal Ashram Poonch in a simple but impressive function.

To provide better heating and sports facilities to children of Bal Ashram Poonch 182 Light Regiment today provided blankets and sports kits to childrens of Bal Ashram Poonch.

Mukesh 21C 182 Light Regiment said Army is

always ready to help peoples of society. He said we see that there was requirement of blankets and sports kits in this bal ashram that's why we are providing these items to Bal ashram so that children's will use these blankets in theses chilling days.

Nusrat Jabeen Warden Bal Ashram Poonch thanked army for this cooperation she said we needed sports kits and today we received these from Army.

## KVK Reasi promotes organic vegetables cultivation

### ■ 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 promoting the organic vegetables cultivation in Reasi distt. of J&K to produce the quality fresh organic vegetables and to enhance the income and employment of the farmers. JKrishvi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi is imparting skills on commercial cultivation of organic vegetables to the farmers of hilly areas so that chemicals free quality organic vegetables can be produced



KVK Reasi scientist observing results of organic vegetable cultivation at village Granmore in Reasi.

and nutritional security can be mitigated amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Farmers are regularly guided on organic formulations such as vermicomposting technology, cow urine, Panhegavya, bee-jamrit, jeevamrit, ferment-

ed butter milk preparations etc. by utilizing the local resources. Farmers are also guided on the use of Neem Cake, fruitfly traps, Pheromone Traps, sticky traps, Neem Oil, biofertilizers etc. to utilize the organic vegetables

for more yields and returns. According to Scientist & Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi, Dr. Banarsi Lal, commercial cultivation of organic vegetables can play a key role in increasing the income and employment among the farmers' of hilly areas. According to him organic farming helps to improve the health status of the soil and organic farm produce is helpful to improve the health status and create immunity of the human beings. He expressed that organic farming is helpful in the production of safe and healthy food by reducing the cost of cultivation.

## Tributes paid to Naik Rajinder Kumar on his 4th martyrdom day



Family members and others paying tributes to Martyr Naik Rajinder Kumar at Samba.

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SAMBA: Tributes were paid to martyr Naik Rajinder Kumar on his 4th Martyrs' Day at Chak Bhagta, a border village in Samba district. Naik Rajinder Kumar 17th Jakli CO-56 APO was martyred on 05 Jan 2018 in Kupwara Sector of Jammu and Kashmir. Today, on his martyrdom day, tributes were paid at his memorial located in his native village Chak

Bhagta, Jarain.

On this occasion, people of the village including BDC Chairman, Radhey Sham Sharma, DDC member Asha Rani, martyr's father Tara Chand, mother Santosh Kumari, Ex-Sarpanch Dharampal, Rajesh Jasrotia, Raman Sharma, Subhash Sharma and others paid tribute the memorial of martyr Naik Rajender Kumar. On this occasion, DDC member Asha Rani while paying

tribute to the martyr said that blessed are the parents who gave birth to such a son. He told how martyr Rajinder Kumar got martyrdom, after which his family had to face the circumstances. Only the family knows. BDC Chairman, Radhey Sham Sharma said that there are many such martyrs in Samba district, who have laid down their lives for the service of the country. We should always remember them.

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