

Special Ganesh Poojan, Hawan organized at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has organized a special Ganesh Poojan and Hawan at Bhawan, commemorating the sacred Magh month. The special Poojan and Hawan were performed to seek the blessings of Lord Ganesha and Mata Vaishno Devi Ji for the peace, welfare and prosperity of humanity and seek forgiveness for any errors or omissions in the conduct of Poojan/Rituals.

The event was conducted by pujaris who meticulously followed age-old Vedic traditions including chanting sacred mantras, offerings to the holy conflagration and prayers for divine blessings and spiritual harmony. The event held at the holy Yagshala near Atka area as per the guidance of



Chief Executive Officer SMVDSB, Anshul Garg performing Hawan at Bhawan.

Padma Shri Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, aimed to uphold the sanctity and traditional essence of the rituals while ensuring their alignment with established religious practices.

Speaking on the occasion, Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer said that the Magh month is considered highly sacred and a special Poojan and Hawan is being organized for the benefit of the devotees. He underscored that the Head Pujari has been instructed to regularly review and oversee the rituals for ensuring that they remain true to their spiritual and cultural roots. The natural cave shrine has been open to devotees since Makar Sankranti with approximately 4,000 to 5,000 pilgrims having darshan of the sanctum sanctorum from the old cave daily, said the CEO.

Notably, the Shrine Board has been consistently organizing various Hawans, Yagyas and other spiritual activities on significant occasions including the sacred Shat Chandi Maha Yagya twice a year during the auspicious Navratras. A large number of pilgrims are availing the facility of Hawan and Nav Chandi Path at the new Yagshala on a routine

basis. Additionally, the daily Hawan Poojan at Adhkuwari Temple also commenced on Makar Sankranti, offering devotees another opportunity for spiritual enrichment. For convenience, devotees can book Poojan services online through the official website of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB).

The event witnessed participation from officers and staff of Shrine Board and a large number of devotees all of whom expressed their deep reverence for the initiative. Special arrangements were made to ensure a smooth and spiritually uplifting experience for all attendees and for continuing their unwavering faith in maintaining the sanctity and legacy of the Shrine.

Trekking-Based MDP for Leadership Skills for NTPC Managers concludes at IIM Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu concluded the valedictory ceremony of the trekking-based Management Development Programme (MDP) for NTPC's young leaders on Wednesday.

The event, held at the Prahalad Classroom, marked the culmination of a transformative three-day program designed to enhance leadership skills through experiential learning in the scenic lower Himalayas.

The program, which ran from January 20 to 22, 2025, featured seven meticulously designed sessions focusing on themes such as team building, conflict resolution, strategic thinking, sustainability, and digital transformation.

A key highlight of the program was a trekking expedition to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, which offered participants a unique platform for field-based experiential learning.

The valedictory ceremony commenced with a warm welcome, followed by a detailed program report presented by Dr. Rambalak Yadav, Program Director.

Participants shared heartfelt reflections on their journey, highlighting the program's role in enhancing their leadership capabilities and personal growth.



A participant receiving certificate at IIM Jammu.

Dr. Pratik Maheshwari, Co-Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu, provided an overview of the Institute's training programs, congratulated the participants on successfully completing the MDP, and encouraged them to apply their learnings for impactful professional outcomes.

The event concluded with a formal certificate distribution, followed by a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Anuja Akhouri, Program Director.

Awareness seminar on PM Surya Ghar Muft Bilji Yojana held

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Government Polytechnic Jammu, in collaboration with Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited (JPDC) organized a seminar cum workshop on PM Surya Ghar Muft Bilji Yojana here on the college campus on Wednesday.

The seminar was conducted under the supervision of the Principal of the Institution Talat Mahmood.

The main aim of the seminar was to create awareness about the benefits of the rooftop solar plant and the subsidy given by the UT of J&K and MSRE to the applicants.

Assistant Executive Engineers Vinod Kumar, Rohit Gupta, Garu Ram and Accounts Officer



Tirath Ram from JPDC, besides faculty members Er Sukhdeep Singh HOD Civil Engineering Department; Er Raj Kumar HOD Mechanical Department and staff of Government Polytechnic Jammu were the part of the workshop.

Two-day awareness, training, seed distribution programme commences at CSIR-IIIM

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Under CSIR Floriculture Mission, a two-day awareness, training, and seed distribution programme focusing on the production and crop management of Marigold was successfully organized at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu.

The event involved convergence of 176 farmers of different zones of district Jammu. The event that aims to enhance awareness, capacity building and dissemination of knowledge about scientific and commercial floriculture practices was inaugurated by Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu as Chief Guest.

Among others present at the event were Er. Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist,



Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed lighting ceremonial lamp.

of the mission in elevating India to a leadership position in global floriculture and enhancing the livelihoods of farming communities.

Tejinder Wazir, Member of the J&K State Kisan Advisory Board, lauded the efforts of the CSIR Floriculture Mission in fostering prosperity among farmers through floriculture farming. He underscored the significance of empowering women by imparting skill-based training for developing value-added products.

Wazir also made a fervent appeal to authorities for the establishment of a School of Gardening to support this growing sector.

Er. Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist, CSIR-IIIM stressed that modernizing floriculture farming with cutting-edge CSIR technologies can significantly enhance farmers' incomes and create sustainable employment opportunities.

He also emphasized the importance of crop diversification in achieving these objectives and securing livelihoods.

In his presidential address, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed highlighted the achievements and societal impact of various programmes implemented by the institute.

Dr. Ahmed noted that farmers in the region have greatly benefited from CSIR technologies and encouraged them to leverage these innovations to increase crop production.

He further emphasized the optimal utilization of underutilized land by cultivating market-driven cash crops, adopting vertical farming technologies, and undertaking secondary processing of waste for value addition.

The proceedings of the event were carried out by Dr. Maliqa Majid, who provided an insightful overview of the activities under various verticals of the CSIR Floriculture Mission.

The programme featured technical sessions and practical demonstrations by Dr. Shoaib Mubashir. The presentations and practical demonstrations covered scientific crop cultivation, nursery production, and the management of diseases and pests in marigold and other floricultural crops.

The event concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Suphla Gupta, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-IIIM.

Neelam Langeh elected BJP's Ramban District President

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Neelam Langeh got elected BJP's Ramban District President after the party's organizational election process, this was communicated by Rakesh Mahajan, Returning Officer for the BJP's organizational elections.

Neelam Langeh, who was the former MLA of Ramban, has also served the party as its SC Morcha State President till now.

Lotra Brahman Biradari congregation on Feb 2

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Annual congregation of Lotra Brahman Biradari is being held on February 2, 2025 (Sunday) at Jai Raja Mandlik Ji, Kul Dev Asthan, Patoli Brahmana, Jammu.

The Members of the Jai Raja Mandlik Ji Development Committee has appealed to all the Lotra Brahman Biradari to participate in the mail on aforesaid date and place along with their families and seek blessings of the Kul Devta Jai Raja Mandlik Ji. The programme shall start at 8:00 AM with Hawan and thereafter Bhandara from 1:00 PM onwards.

BJP to elect J&K President on Jan 24

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) notified the election schedule for its Jammu & Kashmir President. Sanjay Bhatia, Returning Officer for State President Election, Jammu & Kashmir notified the election schedule on 22nd of January' 25. The notification reads 23rd of January' 2025 from 12 noon to 04:00 PM as the date and time of filing of forms for the election of BJP state president.

The time of the scrutiny of forms is from 05:00 PM to 07:00 PM on 23rd of January' 2025.

The date of election for the post of state president is on 24th of January' 2025.

The result of the election for the state president of J&K BJP will be declared on 24th of January' 2025 at 12 noon.

Dy CM holds Public Darbar, lays foundation stone for Galli to Kateri road project

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAMBAN: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Wednesday held a public darbar and laid foundation stone for improvement and upgradation of Galli to Kateri road project.

Spanning over a length of 2.60 kilometers, this vital project is being executed by the Public Works Department (PWD), R&B Division Ramban, at an estimated cost of Rs 872.84 lakh. The project aims to strengthen road connectivity from Nashri to Sanasar, a renowned tourist destination in Ramban district. This improved connectivity is expected to significantly boost tourism and local economic activities, benefiting the region's population.

The foundation stone laying ceremony was attended by Chairperson District Development Council (DDC), Dr. Shamshad Shan; MLA Ramban, Arjun Singh Raju; Chief Engineer PWD Batote, Ashok Kumar; ADC Ramban, Varunjeet Singh Charak; DDC members; senior officers and prominent citizens.

Speaking at the event, the Deputy Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment, under the leadership of Chief Minister, to deliver governance at the people's doorstep. He stated, "the government is making every effort to resolve public issues and fulfil its commitments for betterment of Jammu and Kashmir."

Surinder Choudhary directed the officers to conduct frequent visits to rural areas to ensure effective implementation of government schemes. Stressing the tourism potential of the region, he assured that significant steps will be taken to enhance tourism infrastructure, including upgradation of Nashri-Sanasar road.

During the public darbar, the Deputy Chief Minister addressed issues raised by locals, led by the DDC



Dy CM, Surinder Choudhary laying foundation stone for upgradation of Galli to Kateri road.

Chairperson and MLA Ramban. He issued strict instructions to the officers to resolve the concerns promptly and implement all directives in letter and spirit for welfare of the public.

"Taking stock of implementation of various public welfare schemes and projects in sectors such as Education, Health, Labour, Jal Shakti, Animal Husbandry, PWD and PMGSY, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasised that any misappropriation of funds or lack of seriousness in duty will not be tolerated.

The dignitaries and locals appreciated the initiative, expressing hope for timely completion of the project and its positive impact on district's socio-economic development.

Court rejects bail of NDPS smuggler

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Special Judge NDPS Court Jammu Sunil Sangra rejected the bail application of one Mohd Maqbool who was arrested by the NCB in Narco Trade case.

As per the allegations levelled in Crime Complaint No. 02/2024, during investigation of the crime complaint No 02/2024 a raid was made in the house of accused Mohd Sabir (accused no. 2) by Koushal Kumar, Intelligence Officer

and arrested petitioner-accused Mohd Maqbool (accused no. 3), when petitioner entered into the house for delivery of the consignment 150 bottles of Coerex Codeine base cough syrup (100ml each) kept in a box as per the demand of accused no 2. Intelligence Officer opened the box, in which 150 bottle of Coerex Codeine Tripropilidone Hydrochloride and Codeine Phosphate syrup, batch no. VHL 2401038, manufacture date 01/2024 and expiry date 06/2025 were found without any bill/ legal documents, then above recovered drugs 150 bottles were seized by Intelligence Officer and petitioner-accused was arrested.

Special Judge NDPS

Court Jammu Sunil Sangra after hearing both the sides while rejecting the bail application, observed that accused persons have charged under Section 8, 21, 22, 26, 27-A, 29, 38 and 60 of the NDPS Act for possession of commercial quantity manufacture drugs without any document, permit or authorization. I am therefore of the opinion that in the face of overwhelming inculpatory allegations and documentary evidence available in the complaint it is not possible to give the finding envisaged under Section 37 of the Act for the grant of bail that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the petitioner-accused Mohd Maqbool is not guilty of the offences alleged.

JKRERA, Revenue Dept to conduct joint inspections to curb growth of illegal colonies

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: To curb the growth of illegal colonies in Jammu district, the Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA) will conduct joint inspections with the Revenue department.

The decision was taken on Friday during a meeting of Deputy Commissioner, Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaisya with Chairperson, JKRERA, Satish Chandra.

During the meeting, the issue of development of illegal colonies in the district was discussed in detail.

The Deputy Commissioner apprised the Chairperson of the actions being taken by the district administration against unauthorised constructions.

"Notices will be issued to the defaulters and strict action will be taken against those who fail to comply with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 and the rules and regulations made thereunder," said the Chairperson JKRERA. He added that this move is aimed at ensuring planned development, protecting homebuyer's interests and preventing unauthorised constructions in Jammu district.

Sakeena reviews implementation of ICDS (POSHAN), Mission Shakti, Mission Vastalya, PMMVY

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review progress on implementation of various schemes of Social Welfare department like ICDS (POSHAN), Mission Shakti, Mission Vastalya, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna (PMMVY) and other schemes. Sanjeev Verma, Mission Director ICDS; District Programme Officers; representatives of Mission Shakti, Mission Vastalya and officers of SWD were present on the occasion. During the meeting, the Minister reviewed the status of fund utilisation under CAPEX, recruitment of Anganwadi workers and helpers, physical and financial position of Anganwadi Centres and other issues of the ICDS project.

Sakeena emphasised the critical role of POSHAN Abhiyan in addressing malnutrition and promoting holistic health among children, pregnant as well as lactating women. She highlighted that these schemes align with the Omar Abdullah led government's broader vision of ensuring sustainable development and health equity across Jammu and Kashmir. While reviewing the functioning of Anganwadi Centres, the Minister stressed upon the DPOs for maintaining cleanliness and proper hygiene within the centres. She delved upon the officers for maintaining regular supervision of these centres within their respective districts to maintain quality of nutrition provision for the beneficiaries. "Conduct surprise visits on regular basis to ascertain the quality of nutrition as well maintaining accountability of these centres", she asked the officers. The Minister, while reviewing other aspects of these schemes, asked the Mission Director POSHAN for use of digital tools for real-time monitoring of beneficiaries. She advised them to develop a mobile application for monitoring of beneficiaries as well as officials on ground.

FOIJ appeals for revival of Fiscal Incentives for J&K Industries

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lalit Mahajan, Chairman of the Federation of Industries Jammu, has raised serious concerns over the plight of existing industrial units in Jammu & Kashmir, which are facing severe hardships due to the dilution of fiscal incentives following the abrogation of Article 370. This reduction has led to fears of widespread industrial closures and large-scale retrenchment of workers.

Since August 2019, the fiscal incentive allocation for industries in Jammu & Kashmir has been slashed from Rs. 1800 crores to

approximately Rs. 500 crores annually. This drastic cut, based on unrealistic budget projections, ignores the unique challenges faced by industries in the region, such as limited market access, high raw material costs, and stiff competition from neighboring states.

The Central Package of Incentives 2021, which allocated Rs. 28,400 crores to new industrial units, does not provide similar support for existing units, causing widespread resentment among local industrialists. Despite the importance of these industries in provid-

ing employment to around 400,000 people, no provisions for GST reimbursement or fiscal support have been made for them.

The Federation of Industries Jammu has called on the Prime Minister, Union Ministers, and the Jammu & Kashmir government to intervene and provide essential fiscal support, including turnover incentives, GST reimbursement, and interest subvention on working capital loans. These measures are crucial to ensuring the survival and growth of existing industrial units in Jammu & Kashmir.

NOTICE
 I Banarasi F/O Mehak my do hereby declare that name has been wrongly written in my daughter's 9th class marks bearing roll no 9700245 Registrations no GN-070-20-VIII000224 Session 2021-22 My name has been wrongly as Banarsi instead of correct Banarasi. I have applied for above Correction in the office of Principal DIET Jammu. Objection if any may kindly be conveyed to the principal DIET Jammu within seven days.