

# Bhaderwah freezes minus degree as cold wave grips whole Chenab Valley

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BHADARWAH: Bhaderwah recorded the lowest temperature of -1 degree Celsius as a cold wave swept over the entire Chenab valley after Chillai Kalan started its impact, adding to the woes of residents.

According to reports, Water, drainage system and streams has frozen because of the cold wave after higher reaches get covered with heavy snowfall.

The weatherman has predicted even harsher weather in the coming days as winds and a western disturbance are expected to bring down the temperatures further.

ADC Bhaderwah Dilmir



Choudhary said that we are in the middle of exceptionally severe winters as it has peaked with temperature dipping to minus resulting in frozen water pipes and dangerously slippery roads to manoeuvre on.

He appealed people to drive

cautiously in morning hours.

It is notable that in the ongoing 40-day harshest winter period- Chillai-Kalan, the mercury continued to settle below the freezing point across the Chenab Valley.

Reports said the night temperature across the region

dipped several degrees below freezing point with Bhaderwah recorded minus 1 degree Celsius.

Locals also complained about freezing of potable water pipes and appeal Jal Shakti Vibhag to manage the supply accordingly.

According to Meteorological department (MeT), dry weather is expected from December 24 to December 26 while generally cloudy with possibility of light snow over isolated higher reaches is expected on December 27.

MeT has further predicted dry weather conditions from Dec 28-31st, saying that overall no significant

weather activity is expected till ending December.

Pertinently, Chillai Kalan, a 40-day winter period, has commenced on Friday. It is a period when Kashmir and Chenab Valley faces its harshest winter. This period begins on 21 December and ends on 31 January of the next year. It is followed by a 20-day long Chillai-Khurd (small cold) that occurs between January 31 and February 19 and a 10-day long Chillai-Bachha (baby cold) which begins from February 20 to March 2.

Pertinently, Chillai Kalan is a Persian word which means "Major Cold".

# MESBAI holds General Body meeting, highlights issues

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: Military Engineer Service Builders Association of India (MESBAI) branch Udhampur holds general body meeting on Sunday which was chaired by MESBAI chairman Darshan Proach while Hon'y Secy Sandeep Gandotra manage the smooth and satisfactory functioning of meeting.

Proach addressed the house and discussed the strategy for smooth run of house and overall welfare of builders also. Speaking in the meeting Sandeep Gandotra readout agenda of meeting which include launching of new membership drive, raising of donation/welfare funds, con-



MESBAI members during the meeting.

trol very low rates invariably quoted in tenders, delay in finalization of Deviation order and star rates, makes of command not in contract and many more viable issues related to the builder were raised and discussed at threadbare.

However chairman assured the house to do take up their

genuine issue with HQ and Chief Engineer Northern command and other concern quarter for its early redresses. Others who present in meeting were Bikram Slathia, Neeraj Paul, Sanjay Sharma, Raman Kumar, Riaz Mohd, Amit Dogra, Sumeet Kumar, Joginder Singh, Anoop Khajuria and many more.

## Col Mahan inaugurates Purthu tourism project



Col Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman Kathua inaugurating tourism project in picturesque Purthu.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BASOHLI: In a landmark event, Col Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman Kathua on Sunday unveiled a transformative tourism project worth Rs 80 Lakh in the picturesque Purthu, often referred to as Mini Goa.

The project encompasses a 600 meters long and six meters wide riverfront road, the development of a high ground park near

Jetty Point, and the construction of a crucial sanitary complex.

Accompanied by BDC Chairperson Sushma Jamwal, ADC Basohli Ajeet Singh, Tehsildar Sagar Anand, Sarpanch Poli Devi, and a multitude of enthusiastic local residents, Col Mahan Singh celebrated the realization of this much-anticipated tourism development initiative. The implementa-

tion of the project falls under the purview of PWD (R&B) Division Basohli.

Expressing his gratitude, DDC Chairman acknowledged the unwavering support of the Narinder Modi Government and the proactive efforts of the Manoj Sinha Administration in boosting the tourism sector in the hilly region of Kathua District.

Following the inauguration, Col Mahan Singh also kickstarted the Basohli Cricket League Tournament, Late Ravi Soni Memorial Cup 2024, where he distributed trophies to players and honored distinguished personalities in attendance.

This project marks a significant addition to the scenic beauty of Purthu and is poised to elevate its status as a prime tourist destination.

# Slathia terms participatory democracy as Mantra for Atmanirbhar Bharat

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA: Pradesh BJP Vice President and former minister Surjeet Singh Slathia on Sunday underscored the significance of participatory democracy, saying this is the only Mantra for realizing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing the Karyakartas and functionaries at Sangwali Mandi Samba, under the BJP's Jan Samvad Abhyas, Slathia said the public outreach campaign allows for a dynamic exchange of ideas, fostering a culture of inclusivity and responsiveness, the party's core philosophy to involve the people at the grassroots level in the decision-making process.

"By establishing a direct line of communication at the



Pradesh BJP Vice President SS Slathia addressing gathering.

grassroots level, the BJP aims to understand the concerns, aspirations, and feedback of the people", Slathia said, adding that this enables in devising policies and programmes for the uplift of people and holistic development of the various areas. He dwelt in length the milestones achieved by the PM Modi led government during the past over nine years for steering the nation

on the path of becoming an economic power. Already India is the fifth economy globally and given the resolve of the Prime Minister India is destined to become the third economy of the world during the third successive term of Yashasvi Narendra Modi, he added.

Referring to the ongoing campaign, Slathia described it as a significant initiative that embodies the essence of

grassroots democracy and political engagement. It also recognizes that the strength of a democracy lies in the active participation and informed choices of its citizens, he said, hoping that the sagacious people of Jammu and Kashmir will utilize this platform to express their views, share their grievances, and actively contribute to the democratic process. The BJP's commitment to open dialogue reinforces the idea that governance is a collective responsibility and that every citizen's voice matters, he added.

On this occasion, prominent sociologist-political activists Rajeshwar Singh, Arun Singh, Jeevan Singh, Deepak Singh, Ajay Singh, P. D Singh, Arvind Singh along with their supporters joined the BJP.

Welcoming the new

entrants in the party fold, Slathia said that the BJP is a mass movement that stands for national integration and service of the people. This spirit makes the BJP as a party with difference that believes in the concept of 'Nation First'. He hoped that with the joining of the public-spirited activists, the BJP will be further strengthened at the grassroots level.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included President BJP Samba Kashmira Singh, Naresh Singh District General Secretary BJP Samba, Mandal President BJP Samba Ankush Mahajan, Vice President MNC Samba Rajni Sambyal, Corporator Raj Singh, Narinder Singh, Sanjeev Padma, Naresh Amba, Rajeshwar Singh Bika and others.

# NHM employees hold divisional level meet; constitute new divisional level body

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: To mitigate and highlight its various long pending demands and in order to unite all employees on one platform, a divisional level meeting of National Health Mission employees of Jammu Division was held on Sunday, here at Prem Bhawan Banquet Hall Jammu.

The convention was organized under the banner of All J&K NHM Employees Association, which was attended by a large gathering of around 100 employees viz Medical Officers, Paramedics and Management Staff from different districts of Jammu Division.

In his welcome speech, Faizan A Trambo (Sr NHM ) presented the agenda points with regard to organizing the meeting and the activities done by the union in the past.

During the convention, several issues including policy for regularization, transfer policy for those living outside the district, implementation of equal pay equal work, enhancement of salary including outsourced DEOs and in time salaries of NHM employees were highlighted by the speakers besides other issues of the fraternity.

The speakers said that the employ-



NHM employees posing for photograph after the meeting.

ees working under different NHM schemes are doing commendable jobs in the overall delivery system across J&K especially in the remotest and in accessible areas since decades but it is most heartbreaking that yet no mechanism is in place to regularize their services and other genuine issues of them.

Meanwhile, at the end of the meeting, after five years of hiatus and recent resign of Former NHM President Jammu Rohit Seth, a new divisional level body of Jammu Division was also constituted where in the Executive Body, Dr Vikas Sharma as new President, Faizan Ali Trambo

as Sr Vice President, Dr Shazia Shakeel as Vice President, Ajay Sharma as General Secretary, Dr Hamid Parray as Chief Spokesperson, Riaz Malik as Treasurer, Dr Ashish Khajuria as Co Treasurer, Dr Rohit Bhardwaj & Dr Imran Ganai as Coordinators and Mohit Seth as Convenor, whereas in the advisory committee, Dr Pradeep Rathore was elected as Chairman, Pardeep Singh as Vice Chairman, Dr Nasir Masood, Dr Manjeet Singh, Rashmi Singh, Shiv Sandeep Singh, Raza Ganai, Dr Sushant Sharma as members secretary of advisory committee.

Speaking on the occasion, the newly elected President Dr Vikas Sharma thanked all the participants coming from different districts for keeping faith upon them and assured that the new union will turn no stone unturned to mitigate the problems of NHM employees by taking their genuine issues before the authorities. The President also appealed to all employees of the Jammu Division to unite and work together as a team for the genuine cause of NHM fraternity in future.

It is said that NHM Employees Association Jammu Division is the only integrated platform of employees working under NHM which came into being to restore the honor and dignity of employees since many years and said that to strengthen the basic structure of new association and to maintain its unity shall be it's first priority. The members appealed to all Sr Leaders of the NHM Association to stand United and cohesive for immediate redressal of demands of NHM employees and they stressed that we need to reinvigorate the spirit and soul of NHM Association for restoring the dignity and honour of its employees.

## Many join Shiv Sena



Shiv Sena State President Ashwani Gupta along with new entrants of party.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
REASI: Shiv Sena on Sunday organised a Joining function at Panasa Reasi where scores of youths & women joined the party in Presence of State President Ashwani Gupta, State Secretary (Organisation) Sanjay Bhat and State Youth President Ajay Dhar. Program started by observing two minute silence for the Martyrs of Poonch ambush. While welcoming the Youth and other prominent personalities of district Reasi, State President Ashwani Gupta welcomed the new members and said Shiv Sainiks admire BalaSaheb Thackeray, and it is duty of everyone to spread his principles. He further said that Shiv Sena follow the path of service and will be on toes to work for the public. While condemning the unfortunate Poonch ambush, Gupta urged the Central and State Government to take strong action against the culprits responsible for the incident.

Sanjay Bhat said Shiv Sena party is for the public, development is their main agenda & further he said emphasized the need for conducting

skill development programs in the Districts for the benefit of the youth.

While addressing the function Ajay Dhar said that youth's strength is nation's strength and youth should come forward to work for nation building. Mohan Lal District President Reasi welcomed the new entrants and appealed them to work for the betterment of Society.

Vijay Kumar District Youth President said that ShivSena will be the frontrunner in fighting for the rights of public of Jammu & Kashmir.

Vinay Abrol Chairman said that party will contest all elections with full enthusiasm and asked the party cadre to remain ready. The others who were present in the joining program are Rakesh Kumar ( Mandal President ), Sachin Singh , Banu Partap Singh , Ashish Raina , Chander Mohan , Jugal Sharma , Anit Singh , Binny , Hoshiyar Singh , Manav Singh & Hoshiyar Singh . Tara Devi , Anjana , Darshana Devi , Binla Devi , Ritu Devi , Babli Devi , Kamlesh Devi , Chachala Devi , Renu Devi , & Pooja Sharma.

## VBSY continues transformative journey in Pulwama



Officials during the programme at Pulwana.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
PULWAMA: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) is making significant strides in District Pulwama, transitioning seamlessly from rural to urban areas. The Yatra's core objectives, centered around saturating gov-

ernment schemes and fostering public awareness, are gaining traction, ensuring widespread benefits. A pivotal moment unfolded as Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra reached Municipal Committee Khrew. The community actively participated, turning the event into a joyous celebration. Government departments took the forefront, elucidating their schemes and guiding citizens on how to avail themselves of these opportunities. The impactful message from Prime Minister resonated deeply, capturing the audience's attention and instilling a sense of commitment towards progress. The Sankalp pledge became a poignant declara-

tion, with individuals expressing their dedication to the ideals upheld by the Sankalp Yatra. Beyond informative sessions, the event offered essential services, ensuring immediate benefits for attendees. Cultural events infused vibrancy, reflecting the dynamic spirit of Viksit Bharat Yatra. Recognition was not only reserved for Government schemes but extended to achievers, notably women, who were honored for their outstanding contributions.

As the Yatra continues its momentum, it leaves an enduring impact on District Pulwama, epitomizing the essence of a developed and empowered Nation.

## Bhagwat Katha concludes with full religious fervour at Shree Dham, Vrindavan

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NOWSHERA: A week long "Shrimadbhagwat Tatva Gyan Yagya" (Bhagwat Katha) was culminated at Fogla Ashram, Shree Dham, Vrindavan, U.P with full zeal, religious fervour and gaiety. Scores of devotees from across the country and surrounding areas gathered during the seven days programme to listen to the divine acts of lord Krishna and true meaning behinds his divine acts. The programme was commenced on 17th of this month and concluded on 24th of December under the supervision of His Holiness Atal Pithadishwar Rajguru A c h a r y a Mahamandleshwar Shri Shri 1008 Shri Swami V i s h w a t m a n a n d Saraswati ji Maharaj of Sunderbani, J&K. Swamiji paid their obseance to Banke Bihari Temple and also took the Parikrama of

Vrindavan along with scores of devotees

Swamiji started the katha by saying that by listening the Bhagwat Katha, one can change his way of life to large extent. Swamiji further said that our expressions only give birth to falsehood and makes the world untrue ultimately. To carry forward the story, Swamiji said that God is in all, but he is also the most different, he is with us every moment. During the entire function, Swamiji, the main orator of the katha, explained each and every aspect of the life history of Lord Krishna with the help of various characters who played different roles like Vaman, Sudama, Kansa, Raasleela accordingly.

Various incidents like description of curse to King Parikshit, arrival of Guru Sukhdevji, description of origin of Brahmaji, description of Lord's pas-

times and description of Sukhdevji's solution to free King Parikshit from the curse, pastimes of Shri Krishna and the purification of the conscience, including giving the darshan of Krishna's form to mother Yashoda and Vasudevi, and the killing of Putana, Kansa were described. The pride of the Gopis and God's inner meditation and again Krishna Bhava was generated in the hearts of the Gopis and incidents like Maharaasila, description of Sudama Ji Maharaj, King Parikshit being freed from the curse, message by Shri Krishna to the Gopis were also described by Shri Swami ji during the week long katha. On the concluded day, a huge langer was organised at the premises in which large numbers of devotees took parshad and also paid their full obseance towards Swamiji.

## DDC Chairperson Ramban starts work on link road



Chairperson, DDC Ramban, Dr. Shamshad Shan during visit to Gool.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAMBAN: Chairperson, District Development Council, Ramban, Dr. Shamshad Shan on Sunday started construction work on a developmental project in the Sub Division Gool. The Chairperson started construction work on 3 KM Dhar to Kohli link road under State Plan with an estimated cost of Rs. 2.60 crore. On the occasion, the Chairperson said that with the completion of the project, a long pending demand of the area will be fulfilled which will go a long way in easing the life of locals. The Chairperson directed the Engineers of the PWD to ensure quality and timely completion of construction work which will benefit thousands of souls of the area. She asked the PRIs to personally monitor the execution of work to ensure quality and timely completion , besides implementation of all youth and beneficiary oriented schemes in their respective areas. The Chairperson also interacted with the people and listened to their developmental needs. Among others, PRIs, Engineers of PWD and the general public present on the occasion. Later, the DDC Chairperson inaugurated Final cricket match of Dhamam Premier League played between Ababil and the DRS team in presence of PRIs and the general public.

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