

Com Secy GAD for protection of fragile ecosystem; logical fight against substance abuse at village level

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADERWAH: Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), Sanjeev Verma on Wednesday visited Butlla panchayat in Bhaderwah and conducted a public darbar to take stock of issues and concerns of inhabitants of Tribal Cluster village Butla.

DDC Chairman, Doda, Dhananther Singh, ADDC, Pran Singh, ADC, Dr R K Bharti, ADC Bhaderwah, Chowdhary Dil Mir, CEO BDA Bal Krishan, along with various district, tehsil, and block-level officers were present on the occasion.

Display of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Van during the programme showcased the developmental activities, welfare schemes, and government's vision to transform India into a developed nation by 2047 with the active involvement of citizens of the country.

During the public darbar,



community members raised a range of issues, grievances, and demands.

The issues revolved around upgradation/ augmentation of schools, health institutions, roads, electricity, and other infrastructure related concerns. These included grid station for the area, Police Post at village Bheja, release of land and infrastructure compensation acquired for various developmental projects, doctors in Healthcare centres, Naiabat building, solar lights for tribal areas and other such demands.

While addressing the gathering, Sanjeev Verma pitched for protection of fragile

ecosystem, formulation of village wise yearly sports calendar, and logical fight against substance abuse at village level.

On the occasion, Commissioner Secretary participated in a plantation drive conducted in the village, organised by Forest Division Bhaderwah.

Commissioner Secretary also witnessed a colourful cultural programme. Additionally, he graced the inaugural function of Vibrant Bhaderwah Winter Festival at Bhaderwah Fort, showing his support for the promotion of the region's tourism, arts and local talent.

CEO SMVDSB launches accommodation management system for pilgrims

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: Adding another technology driven initiative for providing an optimal pilgrimage experience to the devotees, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Anshul Garg today launched accommodation management system at Enquiry & Reservation Counter at Katra for the benefit of devotees visiting the Holy Shrine as per directions of the Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT) which shall be available at all Reservation Counters of SMVDSB.

With the robust accommodation management system in place, the check-ins and check out of the pilgrims would become easier and less time consuming. Besides, the financial transactions pertaining to payments on account of reservations would be secured. In addition, it will also increase the room allotment efficiency of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, thus benefiting



more number of pilgrims.

Recently, Chairman, SMVDSB inaugurated an online booking facility for the passenger ropeway from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan to the Bhairon Ji Temple for the convenience of the visiting pilgrims. The facility has been widely appreciated by the pilgrims and based on the warm response, the online quota has been increased to 3,000 tickets per day from January-2024 onwards. Noteworthy that the Shrine Board has made concerted efforts for adoption of a number of emerging technologies and response mechanisms for state-of-the-art facilities.

ances received from pilgrims. Pertinent to mention that over 20,000 pilgrims are being facilitated every month by the Call Centre.

This facility has been providing all the relevant information on services/facilities provided by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board to pilgrims at the click-of-a-button. On similar lines Shrine Board has integrated digital payments in the various sale units of the Board to minimize the cash transactions by installation of Self-Serve Kiosk machines, QR codes, EDC machines, UPI payments and also onboarding to popular digital platforms for donations and sale of Prasad.

The digitalization of the front-end services of Helicopter, Battery Car bookings, RFID yatra access cards and their real time tracking with the dedicated RF Network and over 700 CCTV cameras by Shrine Board has facilitated the pilgrims and also improved administrative efficiencies through digital records and real time reporting.

GDC Vijaypur creates Selfie Point

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: In view of various activities being organised under Viksit Bharat@2047, a selfie point was created in the college campus to carry out our Prime Minister's vision to actively involve the youth of the country in the formulation of national plans, priorities and goals for India.

'Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth', is an initiative that provides a platform to the youth of the country to contribute ideas to the vision of making India developed and self reliant nation by 2047.

Keeping in view the importance of the event, Faculty members and students including NSS volunteers took selfies with the banner of Viksit Bharat@2047 to show their interest towards development.

5-day winter festival- 'Vibrant Bhaderwah' starts in Bhadarwah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADERWAH: To attract more tourists by promoting winter tourism in a big way to make Bhaderwah round the year tourist destination, a five-day winter festival 'Vibrant Bhaderwah' is being organised in different tourist destinations of Jammu and Kashmir's Bhadarwah, which was inaugurated on Wednesday from Bhaderwah fort.

The Vibrant Bhaderwah Winter Festival reverberated with colourful activities is being jointly organised by Bhaderwah Development Authority (BDA), Administration, Tourism Department and Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages (JKAA-CL).

The winter festival was

inaugurated by chief guest Commissioner Secretary GAD Sanjeev Verma along with DDC Chairman Doda Dhananther Singh Kotwal in presence of Dy Director Tourism Abdul Jabbar, SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom, CEO BDA Bal Krishan, ADC Bhaderwah Dilmir Chowdhary and others.

Started with cultural event and establishment of different stalls from Bhaderwah fort, the mega winter festival will have several colourful activities including display of art and craft, snow games, ATV Rides, Hot Air balloon, Ziplining, Ethnic Food Festival, Movie Screen, cultural performances and performance by celebrity singers and much more in Jaie Valley, Guldanda and New Bus Stand till 31st December.



Artists performing during the fest at Bhadarwah.

On his arrival, Chief guest inspected the stalls and inaugurated the event by lightning the traditional lamp.

Beside traditional folk dance by Natrang Group from Jammu showcasing the traditions and culture of Jammu and Kashmir, local artists also present their performances.

Chief guest Sanjeev Verma said the festival is being conducted to boost

the tourism sector and to promote the popular destinations of Bhaderwah for the winter season also.

"We are promoting Bhaderwah as world class winter destination, offering tourists a slice of it's world class meadows, sports, cuisine and culture. In short we are offering, a Switzerland like experience at an affordable cost," Verma added.

Hundreds of tourists who are enjoying the winter stay in Bhaderwah valley beside large number of locals and students con-

verged at Bhaderwah fort to attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO BDA Bal Krishan said the festival is a part of the department's initiative to promote Bhaderwah as a winter destination and also display rural flavours to the visitors.

"Bhaderwah is primarily a summer destination but we want to invite tourists in the winter months also which looks so beautiful during snowfall. Though the Gulmarg ski resort is most sought after during winter months, this event will attract travelers from across the country to Bhaderwah also during these months," CEO added.

According to the data issued by authorities, at least 10,000 visitors converged at Bhaderwah fort on first day of the five days Vibrant Bhaderwah Winter festival.

Former Govt's looted public money: Khatana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: In a scathing critique, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Rajya Sabha, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, lambasted the National Conference, Congress, and Peoples Democratic Party for their misuse of state funds during their respective tenures.

Addressing a gathering of party workers in the hilly and remote district of Reasi at Mahore, MP Gulam Ali Khatana expressed deep concern over the sorry state of affairs in the area. Prominent among those present were Pardeep Singh Bali, Seh Prabhari, BJP Reasi, Ch. Mohd. Akram, Smt. Shaista Bano, BDC Gulabgarh, Bansi Lal, Haji Abdul Rashid, Ch. Gulzar Ahmed, VP ST MOrcha, J&K. More than 100 workers of PDP, NC, Cong joined BJP in the presence of MP Khatana and pledged to work for expanding the party activities.

MP Khatana asserted that the previous governments



MP Rajya Sabha, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana along with BJP workers at Reasi.

exploited the state exchequer, diverting public funds for personal gains and leaving the common people bereft of the benefits of development and growth. He highlighted instances where public money was allegedly misappropriated for the personal comfort and asset building of those in power. He asked the district administration to fix the responsibility for the delay in the works and if contractors are responsible, they be blacklisted and if the officers are then they should be penalised for the delay.

During the party workers meeting, MP Gulam Ali

Khatana expressed concern over the apathetic infrastructure in roads, health services, and overall development during past 70 years of dynastic rulers. He noted that numerous developmental projects initiated two decades ago are yet to reach completion, leaving the local populace in a state of anticipation in Mahore, Chassana, Thuru blocks.

He urged the LG administration and district administration to speed up the ongoing developmental works so that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of serving the last man in the row is realised.

Toll Mafia's motive only looting public money: DPAP leader

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAMBAN: Shahrulk Bhatti Councillor and DPAP General Secretary, (Chenab Zone), has questioned NHAI for their abrupt increase in toll prices at Nashri-Madh toll plaza. Addressing media Bhatti said that the toll prices have been doubled without any reasonable justification of the same and it seems like there is a toll mafia with only motive of looting public money.

The locals have to travel via tunnel on a daily basis for their job and for earning their livelihood. He demanded that the toll should be made free for residents of Batote.

Shahrulk Bhatti



Shahrulk Bhatti, DPAP General Secretary, (Chenab Zone) addressing press conference at Ramban.

appealed to the LG and Chief Secretary J & K to kindly look into the matter and it should be checked how the toll has been doubled so arbitrarily and the necessary relief to the local population should be provided.

Jagdish Chand DPAP Sr Vice President Ramban, Vice President SC Morecha Chet Ram, Block President Atta Mohd Zargar, Sr VP Block Batote Abdul Rashid and Shahir Aktab were also present in the present.

Secretary Health visits Rajouri; inaugurates vital healthcare facilities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Bhupinder Kumar on Wednesday inaugurated vital healthcare facilities during his visit to Rajouri district.

He also took a comprehensive review of patient care services being extended to the ailing in the district.

One of the notable initiatives during the visit was inauguration of blood components centre at GMC and AH Rajouri, aimed at fortifying blood transfusion services within the institution.

Recognizing the importance of community involvement, Secretary directed the Chief



Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Bhupinder Kumar inaugurating healthcare facility.

Medical Officer to actively promote voluntarily blood donation throughout the district.

Secretary also inaugurated a thalassemia care centre

besides launching the District Early Intervention Centre Under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram.

Bhupinder Kumar also presided over a meeting with

faculty members, delving into a thorough review of patient-care facilities. The staff apprised him of the challenges they are facing, receiving assurances that their concerns would be promptly addressed to ensure the delivery of high-quality services to patients.

Secretary lauded the staff for their unwavering dedication and encouraged them to further elevate patient care services, emphasizing the need to meet the expectations of the general public.

Subsequently, Bhupinder Kumar conducted a tour of Government Medical College Rajouri, directing the department to expedite the pending

works on the building. He interacted with the staff obtaining valuable insights into the operational aspects of the institution.

Overall, the visit underscored a dedicated stride toward enhancing healthcare facilities in Rajouri district, with the inauguration of various healthcare initiatives and a meticulous review of patient care services poised to significantly improve the health outcomes for the local populace.

Principal GMC Rajouri, Dr Amar Jeet Singh, CMO Mohammad Khurshid, SPO DH Dr Mehmood Bajar, CMO Dr Rajinder Sharma, and other officer were present on the occasion.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra gains momentum across Jammu division

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: The district Reasi witnessed varied activities



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma attends Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra programme in Reasi.

as part of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, the government's ambitious initiative to reach out to all the beneficiaries of the flagship

schemes.

The event was inaugurated by Member of Parliament

School Reasi and Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School Reasi respectively present their captivating performance.

The Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma also distributed ayushman Card, Pension Sanction Letters and Kissan Credit Cards to the beneficiaries.

ADD Jyoti Slathia, ADC Abdul Star, ACP Pardeep Kumar, DIO (Info), Xen PHE and PWD, Tehsildar Reasi and other district Officer were present.

KISHITWAR: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) Information,

Prime Minister. The message emphasized the profound impact of Citizen Centric Schemes and inspired citizens for the Vision of a Developed India by 2047, presented at prominent locations within the district.

RAJOURI: As part of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra initiative, the IEC vans equipped with information, education, and communication materials are traveling throughout the district based on a pre-defined schedule.

Apart from overseeing the Viksit Bharat Sankalp

event held at BDC Complex Billawar, DDC Chairman Kathua Col (Retd) Mahan Singh, actively participated in the live telecast/broadcast of Viksat Bharat Sankalp Yatra where in PM Modi interacted directly with Beneficiaries. The distinguished gathering included DDC Members Vikram Singh, Neeru Rajpur, BDC Chairpersons Ashok Sharma, Nisha Devi, Reeta Devi, Abhay Jasrotia, ADC Billawar Vinay Khosla, Tehsildar Pankaj Sharma, BDO Billawar Shahbaz Chaudhary, Omakant Basotra, former President MC Billawar, along with numerous Sarpanches, PRI Members, Officers, Officials, prominent citizens, and media persons.

DANSAL: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra campaign to inspire people to make India a developed nation by 2047, visited panchayat Samwan of block Samwan and panchayat Kishanpur of block Dansal.

The local leaders, officials and residents of both the panchayats gave a warm reception to the special VBSY Van,



which carried the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his vision for the country.

KATHUA: Poonam Singh, an auto driver from Village Chak Sona Nupa in Kathua experienced firsthand hardships brought upon her by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, his life took a remarkable turn when he found solace and support through the PMGKAY scheme initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Poonam Singh's story showcases how this unique initiative brought hope and stability to his life, proving the transformative power of government welfare programs.

UDHAMPUR: The ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) has made remarkable strides in the Udhampur region, high-

lights by the impactful presence of the Special IEC Van. The initiative has successfully reached key areas, including BDO office Kallar, Panchayats Chari, Bilaspur & Kaghote-B.

The IEC Van effectively conveyed Prime Minister



Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra covers 3 more blocks of District Samba.

Narendra Modi's Call to Action, urging local residents to actively contribute to the nation's progress. The com-

in Block Samba, Panchayat Blatter, Block Sumb and Panchayat Vijaypur of Block Vijaypur.

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