

3-day Shivkhori Mela commences at Ransoo-Reasi

MP Jugal Kishore inaugurates religious Fest amid religious fervor, gaiety



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and others during inauguration of Mela at Reasi.

STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: The annual three-day Shivkhori Mela coinciding with Maha Shivratri festival commenced today at Ransoo, Reasi amid spiritual fervor and gaiety.

The religious festival was inaugurated by the Chief Guest- Member Parliament Jammu-Samba-Reasi Jugal Kishore Sharma in presence of DDC Chairman Reasi Saraf Singh Nag; MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey; MLA Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Baldev Raj Sharma, DDC Member Reeta; DDC Member Kewal Krishan, religious and community leaders and a large number of devotees coming all the way from across the Country.

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik extended a warm welcome to MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, other guests and devotees. The inaugural ceremony commenced with a grand Shobha Yatra and Jhanki, which began from Tridev Hotel and proceeded to Darshan Deodi, creating an aura of devotion and festivity. The chief guest, along with other dignitaries, lit the traditional lamp, marking the formal beginning of the mela. A vibrant cultural program followed, featuring folk dances, bhajans, and devotional songs, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Director Tourism Vikas Gupta; ADDC Sukhdev Samyal; SSP Reasi Paramvir Singh; EO SSKSB Pardeep Kumar; ACR Anshumali Sharma; AD Tourism and other government functionaries were also present. In his inaugural address, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma extended Maha Shivratri greetings to the people and lauded the District Administration Reasi and Tourism Department for making elaborate arrangements for the convenience of the visiting devotees. He praised the enthusiastic

Jhanki procession and cultural programs, emphasizing the spiritual and cultural significance of the region. The MP assured the people of holistic development in the area, pledging to address local issues at a faster pace. He stressed the importance of bringing Shivkhori under the PRASHAD scheme, which would ensure the comprehensive development of the pilgrimage site and surrounding areas. He reiterated the commitment of the union government, local administration, and all departments towards working collectively to provide devotees with the best possible experience at the holy shrine. The Shivkhori Mela will continue for three days, attracting thousands of devotees and tourists, offering them a blend of spiritual enrichment, cultural immersion and festive celebrations.

GDC Neeli Nallah imparts HIV/AIDS awareness



STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Red Ribbon Club Government Degree College Neeli Nallah, Udhampur with IQAC, organized HIV/AIDS awareness programme under Red Ribbon Club in collaboration with J&K Aids Control Society in which a Poster making competition and a Debate Competition were organized. The objective of the program was to educate students about the causes, symptoms and prevention of HIV/AIDS. The event was conducted under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Seema Arora, Principal of the college. While addressing the students, the Principal praised the students for their active participation. She focused on the importance of education and awareness campaigns to control the spread of misinformation and asked students to create awareness among the masses about this deadly disease. A poster making competition was organized in which students depicted their ideas through

their posters. Nilakshi Devi, Sabia Akhter and Banshika Devi secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively. A debate competition was also organized in which different students participated. In debate competition, students shared their views about the stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV AIDS. Himanshi Sharma, Shreya Sharma and Nilakshi secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively. Certificates were also distributed among the students for their active participation. In the end, the Principal lauded the efforts of the participants and congratulated the convener of the events for conducting such activities. The different activities were convened and organized by Dr. Sumit Tanooch, HOD Sociology, Convener of Red Ribbon Club. The members of the organizing committee Dr. Akhter Hussain, Dr. Mohd Mubariq Mahire were also present.

JKAP-8th Bn carries out route march

STATE TIMES NEWS
BISHNAH: A route march was carried out on Tuesday by the Jawans and officers of JKAP-8th Bn, Miran Sahib, Jammu. The route march started from Bn. Hqrs to Tanda and back to the Bn. Hqra covering approximately 10 km of distance 118 officers and other officials from the unit participated in the route march. The main objective of the route march was to improve/strengthen police-public relations in the area besides familiarizing the jawans and officers with the topography and conditions of the area. The route march was conducted under the overall supervision of Suram Singh (SSP) Commandant JKAP-



Officers and jawans during route march at Bishnah.

8th Bn. He, while speaking on the occasion apprised that these events are very important in order to improve the overall health condition of the Jawans and also to develop/boost suong

bond between Police and Public. Among other officers, Bupinder Singh-Dy SP and Insp. Remy Khajuria also took part in the said route march.

Musical event enthralled audience at Pir Panjal Winter Festival-2025

STATE TIMES NEWS
SURANKOTE: The Pir Panjal Winter Festival, organized by the Indian Army, witnessed a spectacular Musical Event, leaving an audience of over 2,000 people spellbound with an afternoon of soul-stirring melodies and electrifying performances. The event, held as part of the Festival's grand celebrations, brought together music lovers from across the region, fostering joy, unity, and cultural appreciation. Renowned local singer Waqar Khan captivated the crowd with his dynamic stage presence and an eclectic mix of Pahari, Gojri, Punjabi, Qawwali and Hindi soulful tunes and



Organisers along with winners posing for photograph.

high-energy tracks. The concert created an electrifying atmosphere, with enthusiastic attendees swaying to the beats, singing along, and immersing themselves in the magic of live music. Organized by the Indian Army as part of its ongoing

efforts to promote peace, harmony and community engagement, the Pir Panjal Winter Festival continues to serve as a beacon of cultural vibrancy and artistic expression. This grand Musical Event not only entertained but also reinforced the Festival's mission of bring-

ing people together through the universal language of music and folk dance. In addition to the musical extravaganza, the festival also recognized and celebrated local talent. Prizes were awarded to the winners of the Pir Panjal Sports Festival, which fea-

tured Cricket and Volleyball for boys and girls, as well as Kho-Kho for girls. A Talent Hunt Competition showcased the region's artistic and creative excellence, further highlighting the festival's commitment to nurturing local talent. The event concluded with a heartfelt appreciation for all the artists as well as gratitude toward the Indian Army for curating such a memorable experience for the local population amidst the chilling Winter season. As the Pir Panjal Festival progresses, it remains a testament to the power of music, art and sports in strengthening bonds and celebrating the rich heritage of the region.

MLA Mohan Lal flags off free Ganga pilgrimage for devotees

STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: In a remarkable initiative to facilitate spiritual fulfillment, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat flagged off a free pilgrimage to the Ganges on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri and Amavasya. This initiative was specially arranged for individuals who had never experienced the sacred ritual of Ganga Snan (holy bath in the Ganges). The pilgrimage, organized by Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust, saw 50 devotees from various villages of the Akhnoor constituency embarking on this spiritual journey. The entire arrangement, including transportation, accommodation, and meals, was provided free of cost by MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat and Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust. The flag-off ceremony witnessed the presence of sever-



MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat flagging off pilgrims.

al distinguished personalities, including BJP District President Kuldeep Sharma, DDC Member Bhushan Baral, former Sarpanch Shamsher Singh, former Sarpanch Kuldeep Singh, Gullu Ram, Daler Singh, Mandal President Akhnoor Deepesh Singh, Mandal President Singal Shamsher, Mandal President Pargwal Gaurav Singh, Anil Sharma, Ramesh Chandra, Sudarshan Sharma, Vinay Sapolia, Suman Chib,

Kuldeep Sharma, Sonia Verma, Surinder Singh, Jagdish Sharma, and several other notable figures. Addressing the devotees, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat emphasized the significance of Ganga Snan in Hindu tradition and expressed his dedication to ensuring that even the underprivileged get to participate in this sacred practice. "It is both my duty and moral responsibility to facilitate this pilgrimage for those who have never had the

opportunity to visit the Ganges. In Hinduism, bathing in the holy river is considered highly auspicious, and its importance is magnified on occasions like Maha Shivratri and Amavasya," he said. He further assured that all necessary arrangements, including comfortable accommodation, nutritious meals, and travel facilities, had been meticulously planned to ensure a hassle-free and spiritually enriching experience for the devotees. The entire journey is free of cost, ensuring that financial constraints do not become a barrier to one's faith. MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat also announced that this initiative would not be a one-time event. "Next year, we will organize this pilgrimage once again, and in the future, we aim to make it a regular service so that more and more people can benefit from this divine experience," he added.

Before the departure, all devotees were served refreshments and blessings, marking the beginning of their sacred journey. MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat extended his heartfelt wishes, urging them to embrace this pilgrimage as an opportunity for spiritual cleansing and self-purification. He reiterated that this was not merely a travel experience but a profound step towards attaining inner peace and enlightenment. Concluding his address, he expressed his hope that such initiatives would inspire others to contribute to religious and social welfare, fostering a stronger sense of faith, community, and selfless service. With prayers and good wishes, the free pilgrimage was officially flagged off, as devotees embarked on their journey to the holy Ganges, a step towards spiritual awakening and divine blessings.

SPPND GDC Samba signs MOU with GDC Kathua

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBA: SPPND GDC Samba has reached a significant milestone by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government Degree College, Kathua. This partnership is designed to strengthen collaboration in skill development, sports education, tournaments, training sessions, coaching clinics, and faculty exchange programs, ultimately benefitting the students of both colleges. The MoU was formalized during a ceremony at GDC Samba, attended by senior faculty members from both institutions. The signatories included Prof. Seema Mir, Principal, GDC Kathua and Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Principal, GDC Samba. Dr. Twinkle Suri in her welcome address highlighted that this synergy between two regional colleges will reinforce institutional frameworks for sports, skill development, and holistic education. She further emphasized the importance of bridging the gap between academia and industry, noting that the partnership opens new horizons of experiential learning for students. In her remarks, Prof. Seema Mir under-



scored the collaboration's potential to create fresh opportunities for both colleges by sharing best practices, mobilizing resources, and fostering new learning avenues. She also expressed confidence that the Sports Departments of both institutions would continue to spearhead further initiatives in this domain to channelize the young minds in the positive direction towards fostering physical fitness and mental well-being. The event was coordinated by Assistant Professor Ms. Rubeena Kouser.

Huge influx of devotees expected at Purmandal Shiv Temple on Maha Shivratri



DC Samba Rajesh Sharma during visit to Purmandal.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBA: Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma on Tuesday visited Purmandal to assess the arrangements and ensure a hassle-free experience for devotees during the Maha Shivratri festival. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of essential facilities, including traffic management, water and power supply, sanitation, and medical aid. He directed the concerned departments to ensure all necessary measures were put in place for the smooth conduct of the festival, which witnesses a significant influx of devotees at the historic temple. Emphasizing the importance of seamless movement of pilgrims, DC Sharma instructed the traffic department to regulate vehicular flow efficiently and create necessary parking space. He also

directed the PHE (Jal Shakti) and Power Development Department (PDD) to ensure uninterrupted water and electricity supply, especially during peak hours of the celebrations. The Health Department was asked to deploy medical teams and set up emergency aid camps to address any health concerns of visiting devotees. Additionally, the Municipal Committee was instructed to maintain cleanliness in and around the temple premises, ensuring a hygienic environment. DC further emphasized the importance of security arrangements and directed law enforcement agencies to strengthen vigilance, deploy sufficient personnel, and install necessary monitoring mechanisms to prevent any untoward incidents. Interacting with local authorities and temple management, the Deputy Commissioner urged all stakeholders to work in close coordination to ensure a peaceful and spiritually enriching experience for devotees.

DC Samba Rajesh Sharma during visit to Purmandal.

Notorious drug peddler arrested with poppy straw, cash

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a major crackdown on drug trafficking, police apprehended a notorious drug peddler at Ring Road Kantwala in Kanachak. During a routine vehicle check, a Toyota bearing registration number JK02AU/9945, coming from Jammu towards Bhawal via Ring Road, was intercepted. Upon checking, the police recovered 1.54 kilograms of poppy straw and Rs 48,000 in cash from the vehicle (Conscious possession). The driver was identified as Shoket Ali, son of B a s h i r Ahmed, a resident of K a n g e r, T e h s i l B h a l w a l, Jammu. Following the recovery, an FIR was registered under the NDPS Act, and further investigation is underway. The aforesaid accused is a repeat offender and was previously arrested in a similar case by Nagrota Police Station in 2022 (FIR No. 151/2022 under Section 8/15 NDPS Act). Jammu Police continue their efforts to curb drug trafficking, urging citizens to report any suspicious activities to help in the fight against narcotics.



Deputy Chief Minister holds review meeting at Sunderbani; assesses public grievances



Dy CM Surinder Choudhary addressing gathering during a programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary on Tuesday chaired a review meeting regarding functioning of various departments at Sunderbani. The meeting focused on addressing the issues and grievances of the general public relating different departments. The Deputy Chief Minister directed the concerned officers to resolve the public grievances on priority basis, ensuring swift and effective solutions to the concerns of the local residents.

During the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister also had a comprehensive review of the progress on various schemes of different departments. He emphasized the importance of raising public awareness about various government schemes and programs. He instructed the District Social Welfare Officer and Assistant Labour Commissioner to organise special camps in the district, particularly in Nowshera and Sunderbani, to educate the public about their initiatives and ensure maxi-

mum coverage. The meeting was attended by ADC Nowshera, Babu Ram Tandan; ADC Sunderbani, Rajeev Magotra; SE PWD(R&B), Devi Dayal; ACD, Vijay Kumar; DSWO, Abdul Raheem; DMO, Mohd Sayeed; ALC, Pradyot Gupta and other officers. Later, the Deputy Chief Minister also attended a mega event organised at Guru Ravi Dass Ji temple at Dheri, marking his continued commitment towards community welfare and spiritual engagement.

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