

Thousands throng Poonch Shiv Khori Mandir on Maha Shivratri

DC Vikas Kundal pays obeisance at Temple shrine

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: The local Shiv Khori Temple on Wednesday witnessed the influx of thousands of devotees on the eve of Mahashivratri.

Men, women and children adorned in colorful attires filled the temple, taking part in special prayers held on the occasion.

Visitors also enjoyed local cuisine at food stalls set up along the route to the temple shrine, enhancing the festive atmosphere of the day.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal also paid obeisance at the temple shrine and sought the blessings of Lord Shiva.



DC Vikas Kundal at Shiv Khori.

The Deputy Commissioner exchanged Maha Shivratri greetings with the pilgrims. He said that the auspicious occasion embodies the true spirit of India's composite culture,

fostering brotherhood and harmony among all communities.

Earlier, the Management Committee of the temple extended a warm welcome to the Deputy Commissioner.

JKNC Kissan Cell constituted in Udhampur to empower farmers

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UDHAMPUR: In a significant move to strengthen the voice of farmers and address their concerns, Sunil Verma, District President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Udhampur, on Wednesday reconstituted the JKNC Kissan Cell in Udhampur.

The cell aims to work closely with the farming community, ensuring that government schemes and policies for their welfare reach the grassroots level effectively.

The formation of the JKNC Kissan Cell took place in the presence of senior party leaders, including District Vice President Javed Iqbal, Adv. KD Sharma, Amarnath (Retd. Principal), Om Prakash (City President), Akash



Newly constituted Kissan cell at Udhampur.

Verma (District President YNC Udhampur), Mehboob Iqbal, and Attar Chand (Retd. SDM).

The leadership expressed confidence that the newly formed body would serve as a bridge between the farmers and the government, working towards their empowerment and prosperity.

Mehboob Khan Qazi (Retd Tehsildar), has been

appointed as the District President of JKNC Kissan Cell, with Haleem Khan as Senior Vice President and Tirath Singh as Vice President. Romesh Chander Sharma will serve as District Secretary, while Mohd. Kavir has been given the responsibility of Additional District Secretary. Nazar Hussain Rahella has been assigned the role of Joint Secretary, Jeet Singh (Nyb Sarpanch)

Three drug peddlers arrested with 9.81 gms heroin

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REASI: Reasi Police continues its aggressive campaign against drug abuse under Operation Ek Yudh Nashe Ke Virudh, successfully arresting three notorious drug peddlers and recovering 9.81 grams of heroin during a surprise naka checking.

During routine checking at Nangal Katra, a police team from Police Station Katra intercepted an auto-rickshaw (JK14D-6064) traveling from Kakryal to Katra town. Upon frisking the driver, identified as Vinod Kumar, son of Madan Lal, a resident of Paroh, Arli Katra, officers found 1.64 grams of heroin in his left pocket.

Further checks on two passengers led to more significant recoveries. Muntaz



Ahmed, son of Basheer Ahmed, a resident of Serwad, Katra, was found with 1.69 grams of heroin wrapped in pink-colored polythene in his right pant pocket. Meanwhile, Roshan Lal, son of Kartar Chand, a resident of Akhli Butan, Katra, was carrying 6.48 grams of heroin in the left pocket of his blue jeans.

With a total seizure of 9.81

grams of heroin, the police registered FIR No. 50/2025 Under Sections 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act at Police Station Katra, launching further investigations to trace the drug supply network.

Maha Shivratri celebrated with religious fervour across Ramban; Shiv Shobha Yatra taken out

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RAMBAN: The holy festival of Maha Shivratri was celebrated with great religious enthusiasm and traditional gaiety across Ramban district, in line with celebrations across the country.

Maha Shivratri, known as the 'Great Night of Shiva,' holds immense significance in Hindu tradition and is observed on the new moon day in the month of Maagha as per the Hindu calendar.

On this auspicious occasion, temples across the district were beautifully decorated and witnessed a massive influx of devotees from early morning. A grand Shiv Shobha Yatra was also taken out, with participation from members of the Maha Shivratri Celebration Committee, Ramban, including Neelam Langhe, Kunal Magotra, Gopal Raina, and Raju Sharma, along with various religious and political leaders and prominent citizens.



The Yatra commenced from Pracheen Shiv Mandir, Maitra, passing through Govind Pura Maitra, Boli Bazaar, and Main Bazaar, before culminating at Raghunath Mandir. The district and police administration had made elaborate security and logistical arrangements to ensure a smooth and peaceful celebration. People from different communities, including men,

women, and children, stood alongside the procession route, welcoming the Yatra with great devotion.

To mark the occasion, Langurs were organized at Maitra by Sanatan Dharm Sabha and at Ramban by local residents, offering Prasad to devotees. The festival witnessed widespread participation, reflecting the spirit of unity and devotion among the people of Ramban.

Police public meet held at Pouni Chak



PSI Amreek Singh along with locals after the meeting.

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JAMMU: A Police public meet was organised under Police Post Pouni Chak, Jammu and Kashmir. The purpose of meet was to increase the coordination to

curb unlawful activities in the areas. Police will take strict action against those who are doing illegal activities in the area. Both police and public ensured their coordinate support to control

major crimes. The meeting was attended by PP incharge PSI Amreek Singh, Ex Vice Chairman Bittu Rampal , Pardeep Salaria, Bodh Raj, Balbir kumar were also present in the meeting.

Javed reviews functioning of Jal Shakti, Forest departments in Pir Panjal



Minister for Forest and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana during visit to Poonch.

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POONCH: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana emphasised efficient service delivery and timely implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Pir Panjal region.

He made these remarks during his visit to the region conducted to assess the progress on developmental activities including JJM in Pir Panjal region.

Rana emphasised the

need for expediting the water supply schemes in Pir Panjal region and set strict timelines for their completion to ensure safe drinking water for all. He directed the officials to work on a war footing basis, regularly monitor progress while highlighting the need for adherence to laid-down parameters.

He also reviewed the measures to maintain continuous supply of water in remote areas and called for proactive initiatives, including a robust complaint redressal mechanism, to address public grievances effectively.

While reviewing the working of forest department, Javed Rana called for effective strategies that lead to sustainable development while taking into consideration environmental concerns along with economic prosperity.

Rana expressed hope that the forest fraternity shall work in tandem with com-

munities to conserve and protect forests and environment. He exhorted upon the officers to work with dedication and sincerity to solve public issues and concerns. He further said that there is a need to attach high importance to addressing the challenges of climate change. He also laid stress on forest fire prevention and management mechanisms that have gained added significance due to the adverse climatic conditions and mitigation measures need to be taken beforehand.

He directed the officers for optimum utilisation of available resources for revenue generation and sustainable livelihoods created through eco-tourism and forest recreation.

During his tour, the Minister also visited Kotli kalaban in Rajouri, Harni and Galotha villages in Mendhar and interacted with local inhabitants there.

The delegations highlighted pressing issues such as water, forest rights, road connectivity, tribal issues rural infrastructure and healthcare services.

The Minister assured the delegations of government's commitment towards resolving their concerns in a time bound manner, emphasising inclusive and sustainable development.

Maha Shivratri celebrated with religious fervour at Om Shanti Centre

Col Mahan urges devotees to imbibe teachings of Lord Shiva in their daily lives

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KATHUA: Maha Shivratri was celebrated with great religious fervor and enthusiasm at the Om Shanti Ishwariya Centre (Brahma Kumari Ashram) in Basohli and Vasuki Nag Dham at Mahali (Plakh).

The celebrations commenced at Om Shanti Ishwariya Centre with an enlightening discourse by Behan Kamlesh Kumari on the significance of Maha Shivratri and the glory of Lord Shiva. More than 500 devotees affiliated with the center participated in the spiritual gathering.

Among the prominent invitees was Col Mahan Singh (Retd.), DDC Chairman



Col Mahan Singh (Retd.), DDC Chairman Kathua addressing gathering at Kathua.

Kathua, who graced the occasion and lauded the efforts of the Ishwariya Centre, Basohli, in serving the community and fostering spiritual growth in the region.

He also flagged off the Rath Yatra organized as part of the celebrations, further adding to the devotional spirit of the event.

Simultaneously, another grand Maha Shivratri cele-

bration was held at Basuki Nag Dham Temple in Mahali (Plakh), which witnessed a large turnout of devotees. The newly constructed temple, adorned with magnificent black stone idols, became the center of devotion and festivity.

The rituals included Jal Abhishek, Bhajan-Kirtan, and a Langar (community feast), which was attended by people from all walks of life, including elderly devotees, women, and children.

DDC Chairman Col Mahan Singh actively participated in the celebrations at Basuki Nag Dham, where he warmly received devotees, interacted with them, and took part in seva (service) organized by

the Adhinarishwar Sanskrit & Vedic Sansthan Trust, of which he is the President.

Speaking on the occasion, Col Mahan Singh emphasized the significance of Maha Shivratri as a festival that symbolizes the triumph of devotion, self-discipline, and righteousness. He further stated that such religious events play a crucial role in preserving Sanatan traditions and strengthening the moral fabric of society.

Encouraging the devotees to imbibe the teachings of Lord Shiva in their daily lives, he reiterated his commitment to supporting initiatives that foster spiritual and cultural harmony in the region.

Diva International Foundation organises free medical camp at Shiv Khori



Foundation members along with doctors during the camp.

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REASI: Diva International Foundation, a National NGO, in association with Directorate of Health Services, CMO Reasi and BMO Block Pouni on Wednesday organised Free Health Check Up Camp and Medical Camp at PHC, Ransoo, Shiv Khori, here for the benefit of general public and pilgrims on Holy Maha Shivratri Festival. In this health camp near about 576 patients took benefit.

Amardeep Singh Sasan, CEO & Director of Diva International Foundation, thanked local administration, Police Department, Management of Shiv Khori, CMO Reasi, Dr Rajneesh Kumar BMO Pouni, Dr Ashu Rajput MO PHC Ransoo, Dr Tawheed Qadir MO & volunteers for making this camp a grand success.

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RAJOURI: The Indian Army conducted a medical patrol in Thanna, Rajouri District, providing free medical aid and treatment to 29 beneficiaries, including 12 males, 7 females, and 10 children.

The medical patrol was held at Mathiyangala, where Indian army medical personnel offered essential medical services to villagers in need. This initiative is part of the Indian Army's ongoing



efforts to reach out to remote areas and provide

medical assistance to local communities. By doing so,

responsibilities. Such actions have tarnished the reputation of the Department of School Education and adversely affected students.

Recognizing the importance of a clean and transparent examination process, the CEO Doda has leveraged his leadership and managerial expertise to form a five-member committee tasked with monitoring examination staff.

As per order No: CEO/D/38924-32 dated Feb 14, 2025, the committee includes DEPO Doda, Ajay Kumar, Mohd Akhter, Muzafer Iqbal, and Umer Ali.

This step comes in response to previous instances of misconduct.

CEO Doda constitutes Control Room for fairness in SSE Examinations

Notably, in 2024, several Exam Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents were accused of facilitating unfair means during exams and were subsequently summoned by JKBOSE (Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education) under order No: F (UFM-B) JD/2024/38 dated June 8, 2024.

The civil society of Doda has lauded the CEO's bold initiative, recognizing his efforts to uphold the integrity of the examination system. His commitment to combating corruption and ensuring fair opportunities for students has earned appreciation from both educators and the general public.

the Indian Army aims to build trust and strengthen its bond with the locals, while ensuring their health and well-being.

The medical patrol is a testament to the Indian Army's commitment to serving the nation and supporting local communities, particularly in remote and underprivileged areas.

The Indian Army's efforts to provide essential medical services have been well-received by the local popula-

tion, who appreciate the Indian Army's dedication to their welfare.

By conducting medical patrols, the Indian Army is not only providing medical aid but also promoting health awareness and education among the local population.

This initiative has helped to foster a sense of goodwill and cooperation between the Indian Army and the local community, while also ensuring the overall well-being of the people.

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