

Dr Ritu Singh leads Special Pooja & Rudra Abhishek at Purmandal



Dr Ritu Singh participating in Special Pooja at Purmandal.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBA: Reviving age-old traditions and keeping aged-old sacred spiritual heritage alive, Kunwarani Dr Ritu Singh on the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri led a Special Pooja and Rudra Abhishek at Purmandal, one of the most revered pilgrimage centres of the Jammu region. The sacred observances were marked by deep devotion, Vedic chants and traditional fervour.

Earlier, Kunwarani Dr Ritu Singh ceremonially welcomed the traditional Shiv Baraat at Purmandal and offered prayers at the historic Umapati Mahadev Temple, situated on the holy banks of the Devika River. The celebrations reflected the continuation of time-honoured spiritual practices that have defined Purmandal's religious legacy for centuries.

Recalling the rich heritage of the Dogra rulers, she said that Purmandal was developed as Uttar Kashi (Mini Varanasi) by Maharaja Gulab Singh and Maharaja Ranbir Singh with the vision of establishing a prominent spiritual and cultural centre in North India. She noted that the development of ancient Shiva temples, preservation of Dogra architectural traditions and the institution of the annual Purmandal Mela have given the region its enduring spiritual and cultural identity.

Dr Ritu Singh appealed to the people to actively participate in preserving and promoting the invaluable spiritual heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. She also urged the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and J&K Government that Purmandal be further developed on the lines of Uttar Kashi to enhance its religious, cultural and pilgrimage potential, benefitting devotees and the region alike. She informed that ini-

tiatives are also being planned to introduce Maha Aarti traditions at Raghunath Ji Temple and Purmandal, strengthening Jammu's spiritual landscape.

Later in the evening, Kunwarani Dr Ritu Singh joined the Grand Maha Aarti at the ancient Shree Ranbireswar Temple, where she offered prayers for peace, harmony and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir. The atmosphere resonated with Vedic hymns, devotional chants and participation of a large number of devotees.

Sharing her reflections after her visit to Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga, she said that symbolic elements such as the Damru have been added during the Maha Aarti with the aim of deepening spiritual engagement and reconnecting devotees with the profound traditions associated with Lord Shiva.

MLA Bishnah starts development works worth Rs 1 cr across constituency



MLA Bishnah Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat inaugurating dev work.

STATE TIMES NEWS
BISHNAH: Continuing his commitment towards strengthening infrastructure and improving civic amenities, Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat, MLA Bishnah, today visited several areas of his constituency to formally kickstart multiple developmental works worth over Rs 99 lakhs.

During his visit, the MLA toured Chumbian Brahmana, Bishnah Town, Lalayana Panchayat (Chorli), Jagtu Chak, and Harsha Dabber. The works initiated include macadamisation and blacktopping of roads, construction of a community hall, lane and drain works, and construction of culverts aimed at improving connectivity and public convenience.

At Chumbian Brahmana and Bishnah Town, blacktopping of roads has been taken up under the City and Town Plan at an estimated cost of Rs 30 lakhs and Rs 35.34 lakhs respectively. These road projects are

expected to significantly enhance transportation facilities and ensure smoother connectivity for residents and commuters.

Under Constituency Development Funds, construction of a Community Hall at Nag Devta Dev Sthan in Lalayana Panchayat (Chorli) has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs 7 lakhs. Additionally, lane and drain works amounting to Rs 10 lakhs have also been started in the same Panchayat to improve sanitation and drainage facilities.

Further, lane drain works and construction of a culvert have been initiated at Jagtu Chak and Harsha Dabber costing Rs 5 lakhs and Rs 2.20 lakhs respectively.

On the occasion, Dr. Bhagat also paid obeisance at Nag Devta Dev Sthan and sought blessings for the prosperity and well-being of the people of Bishnah constituency.

Local residents expressed gratitude to the MLA for addressing their long-pending demands. They appreciated his proactive efforts and stated

that these projects would not only improve infrastructure but also enhance the overall quality of life in the area. People expressed hope that the works would be completed within the stipulated time-frame.

The MLA was accompanied by Rafiq Ahmed (AEE R&B), Pankaj Bovria (AE R&B), Inspector Kewal Krishan, Iqbal Singh (JE RDD) Pt. Narayan Dutt Sharma, Sumit Sadotra (Mandal President BJP Bishnah), Abhishek Jamwal (Mandal President Bishnah Rural), Surjeet Singh (General Secretary BJP Border), Surinder Singh (Ex-Sarpanch), Surjeet Singh (Ex Sarpanch), Rajan Sharma (Ex-Chairman Bishnah Municipality), Naib sarpanch Uttam Chand Sharma, Arjun Charak (Mandal General Secretary Bishnah Rural), Rajinder Sharma (IT Incharge Jammu Border), Vishal Sharma and other senior party leaders.

GDC Nowshera organizes campus rally to promote awareness about traffic rules



Principal Dr. Farooq Ahmed flagging off rally.

STATE TIMES NEWS
NOWSHERA: Government Degree College (GDC) Nowshera organised a vibrant and impactful campus rally under the theme "Road Safety: A Shared Responsibility, A Collective Commitment" to spread awareness about traffic rules and responsible road behaviour among students under the guidance and supervision of Principal Dr. Farooq Ahmed.

The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from 100 students, 20 faculty members, and 20 NSS volunteers who carried placards with powerful slogans such as "Speed Thrills but Kills," "Wear Helmet, Save Life," and "Follow Traffic Rules, Ensure Safe Journeys."

The rally commenced from the college premises and covered key areas around the campus, drawing the attention of the public towards the importance of road safety measures.

The Principal of the college emphasized that road safety is not only the responsibility of traffic authorities but a collective duty of every citizen. Dr. Sunil Dutt Sharma, Nodal

Officer of Road Safety Club highlighted the alarming rise in road accidents and urged students to become ambassadors of safe driving practices in society. The faculty members also sensitized participants about the importance of wearing helmets, fastening seat belts, avoiding mobile phone usage while driving, and strictly adhering to traffic regulations.

The rally aimed to instill a sense of accountability, discipline, and civic responsibility among students so that they contribute towards building a safer and accident-free society. The programme concluded with a pledge-taking ceremony wherein participants pledged to follow traffic rules and promote road safety awareness in their communities. The event proved to be a meaningful initiative, reinforcing the message that road safety is indeed a shared responsibility requiring collective commitment from all sections of society.

DLSA Reasi organises awareness programmes on mediation, girl child welfare, Lok Adalat

STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: Under the leadership of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Reasi and Principal District Sessions Judge, Khalil Choudhary and the guidance of Secretary DLSA Reasi, Pooja Gupta, an awareness programme on 'Mediation for Nation 2.0' was organised by Para Legal Volunteers of Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Mahore at Mahore Court Complex today.

Participants were sensitised about the importance of mediation as an effective Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism. The gathering was informed that mediation is a voluntary, confidential and speedy process that ensures justice in an accessible and less adversarial manner. The programme aimed to educate the general public about the concept and benefits of mediation.

Separately, an awareness programme on 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' was

conducted by Para Legal Volunteers of TLSC Katra at Village Buttan, Katra. The programme highlighted the scheme and elaborated on various government initiatives for the welfare, education and empowerment of girls, including scholarships, health benefits and legal protections.

Additionally, an awareness programme on Lok Adalat was organised by Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Reasi at various locations in the district under the guidance of Secretary DLSA Reasi, Pooja Gupta. The drive aimed to spread awareness regarding the significance of Lok Adalat as an effective dispute resolution mechanism. PLVs sensitised participants about the upcoming Lok Adalat, its objectives and the types of cases that can be amicably settled including bank recovery matters, matrimonial disputes, MACT cases, electricity and water bill disputes, compoundable criminal cases and other civil matters.

GDC Khour starts seven-day special winter camp

STATE TIMES NEWS
KHOUR: NSS unit of Government Degree College Khour started seven day long winter special camp. The camp was inaugurated by the Principal of the College Prof. Dr. T.K Sharma in presence of the NSS volunteers, teaching and non-teaching staff of the college.

The function started with the welcome address by Prof. Himanshu Khajuria, NSS Programme Officer in which he outlined the details of activities to be carried out inside college campus as well as at adopted villages by the NSS volunteers to render community services.

The camp would cover various activities like beautification drives, awareness rally on Road Safety, lecture on health and hygiene, door to door campaign on Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan, cleanliness of local pond in adopted village Naryana, Plantation drive etc.

On the first day of the



Faculty and students during the programme.

camp an orientation programme was conducted for all the newly registered NSS volunteers. Senior volunteers sang NSS song and also shared their experiences in NSS with the freshers.

Thereafter a cleanliness drive was conducted by about 40 NSS volunteers where they devoted their time to the beautification and maintenance of the NSS Park in the College campus.

The Principal of the

College stressed upon the volunteers to follow the NSS motto "Not Me But You" and inspired the students to inculcate sense of leadership and commitment towards environmental awareness and social responsibility.

Prof. Khalid Sajad Bohra, Prof. Shaiber Ahmed, Prof. Sunil Kumar, Prof. Sunil Kumar (PTI) and Dr. Pooja Kumari were also present in the event and appreciated the efforts of the NSS unit in organizing such a meaningful and engaging camp.

SSP Samba holds Thana Diwas

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBA: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Samba presided over Thana Diwas at Police Station Purmandal. The programme witnessed active participation of persons belonging to various sections of society.



SSP Samba presiding over Thana Diwas at PS Purmandal.

The meeting aimed to engage with the general public, understand their concerns and build confidence that Samba Police is committed to public safety & security and is sensitive towards redressal of their genuine grievances.

During the interaction, SSP Samba reiterated the firm commitment of Samba Police to combating crime and ensuring a safe and secure environment for law-

abiding citizens. He warned of strict action against those involved in drug trafficking, bovine smuggling, and other criminal activities.

SSP Samba also appealed to the public to cooperate with the Police in eliminating the menace of drug abuse from society and to promptly inform the Police about any

suspicious movement in their respective areas, assuring that the identity of informers would be kept strictly confidential. He further added that various drug abuse awareness and youth engagement programmes are being conducted across the district by Samba Police to keep the youth away from drugs

besides conducting Cyber Awareness programmes.

On the occasion, SSP Samba advised citizens to remain vigilant and install CCTV cameras in their residential as well as commercial premises to enhance security. He further urged citizens to ensure tenant and worker verification through their nearest Police Stations.

During the course of the meeting, SSP Samba patiently heard the issues and concerns raised by the participants and assured them that their genuine grievances would be addressed. The meeting concluded with the chairing officer thanking the participants for sparing their valuable time and actively participating in the programme.

DHS Jammu conducts comprehensive visit to CHC Thathri

STATE TIMES NEWS
DODA: Director, Health Services Jammu (DHSJ), Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar conducted a comprehensive visit to Community Health Centre (CHC) Thathri in District Doda to review healthcare delivery and assess infrastructure facilities.



DHSJ Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar during visit to CHC Thathri.

During the visit, DHSJ inspected various sections of the hospital including OPD, IPD wards, Labour Room, Newborn Care Corner, Emergency Unit, Operation Theatre, Laboratory, Pharmacy and registration counters. He reviewed patient attendance registers, drug availability records, duty rosters and biomedical waste management practices.

DHSJ interacted with patients and attendants to obtain first-hand feedback regarding quality of services, behavior of staff, waiting time and availability of medicines. He stressed maintaining punctuality, discipline and patient-friendly services within the institution.

The Director also reviewed

the status of manpower and directed the concerned authorities to address gaps wherever required. He instructed the Medical Officer Incharge to conduct regular internal reviews and ensure accountability at all levels.

The hospital administration briefed the Director

about ongoing health initiatives, challenges faced due to geographical constraints and steps taken to improve service delivery in the region.

The Director appreciated the dedication of doctors, paramedics and support staff working in difficult terrain conditions and reiterated the commitment of the Directorate of Health Services Jammu to strengthen healthcare infrastructure in remote and underserved areas.

The visit concluded with directions for sustained monitoring and improved coordination to provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to the people of Thathri and adjoining areas.

Samba police organizes debate competition on drug abuse



Police officials along with participants.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBA: In a proactive step towards spreading awareness

against drug abuse, Samba Police today organized a debate competition on drug abuse at Central University Jammu, Rahya Suchani district Samba which witnessed enthusiastic participation from large numbers of students, teaching faculty and other members of the university management.

The event conducted under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) was presided over by SSP Samba, who was accompanied by Adl. SP Samba, SDPO Vijaypur, SHO PS Vijaypur and other police officers.

A total of twelve students from Central University Jammu participated in the said debate competition. At the conclusion of the event, SSP Samba presented mementos, medals, school bags and certificates to the first, second and third prize winners, while the remaining nine participants were also felicitated with certificates and mementos for their commendable efforts.

Addressing the gathering, SSP Samba said that Samba Police is making all-out efforts to eradicate the drug menace from the district by taking stringent legal action against drug smugglers and suppliers. He advised the students to stay away from drug abuse and focused on their academic goals. The initiatives of J&K Police in raising awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse were widely appreciated by the university management and all the attendees.

Awareness cum outreach programme under RAMP held in Udhampur

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: As part of the ongoing initiatives under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance Programme for the year 2025-26, the District Industries Centre, Udhampur today organized an awareness cum facilitation camp at SICOP Industrial Estate, Battal Ballian, Udhampur, focusing on promotion and on-spot facilitation of Udyam Registration for MSME units, traders and aspiring entrepreneurs.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of the General Manager, DIC Udhampur, Kishore Singh Katoch and was formally led and coordinated by Jagdeep Singh, Functional Manager, DIC Udhampur along with the departmental staff.

The camp was organized with active support and coordination from Ravinder Kotwal, Manager, SICOP, Udhampur. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from indus-

trial unit holders, traders and other MSME stakeholders operating in the Battal Ballian industrial area.

During the programme, participants were sensitized about the importance, process and benefits of Udyam Registration under RAMP including access to government incentives, credit facilitation, policy support and formal recognition under the MSME framework.

Detailed awareness sessions were conducted on the procedural aspects and advantages of formalizing enterprises through Udyam Registration. On-spot registration support and handholding were also provided to unit holders and beneficiaries, ensuring immediate facilitation and resolution of queries.

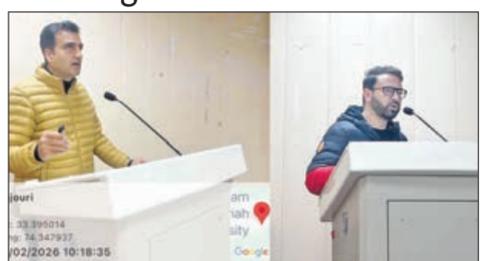
The programme concluded with a strong response from stakeholders and reaffirmed the department's commitment to outreach-driven implementation of MSME development initiatives under RAMP.

Mission Yuva: "Udyam Jagriti 4.0" week-long programme begins at BGSBU

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: A week-long programme under MISSION YUVA titled "Udyam Jagriti 4.0" commenced today at Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University. Scheduled from 16-20 February 2026, the programme aims to promote entrepreneurship and startup culture among students, encouraging them to become job providers rather than job seekers, in line with the vision of Vikshit Bharat 2047.

On the inaugural day, students from the Departments of English, Arabic, Sociology, History, and Political Science & International Relations actively participated.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Jawaid Iqbal in his message appreciated the initiative and lauded the efforts of the organizing team. He emphasized collective responsibility and sustained commitment from all departments to nurture an entrepreneurial mindset among students.



Registrar Abhishek Sharma speaking at a podium.

Registrar Abhishek Sharma, expressed satisfaction over the enthusiastic participation of students and faculty and assured full administrative and institutional support for Mission YUVA initiatives. The programme featured expert sessions by Dr. Malik Mubasher Hassan, Nodal Officer, Mission YUVA, and Dr. Shaqfat Nabi Mughal, Principal, University Polytechnic. A detailed presentation, along with informative videos and live demonstrations, acquainted students with the objectives of

Mission YUVA, the app registration process, assessment link, and feedback mechanism.

Among the faculty members and staff present were Dr. Qamar Rayees, Dr. Parvaiz Abdullah, Dr. Javed Iqbal, Dr. Asim Mir, Dr. Adil Laway, Dr. Jatinder Kumar, Mohammad Abas Malik, Dr. Tanvir Ahmad, Dr. Ikhlaq Ahmed, Dr. Shabir Ahmad Punzoo, Dr. Rizwana Choudhary, Dr. Asif Ali Malik, Zakir Hussain Bhelisi (Training and Placement Cell), Zaheer Usman, and Mohd Amin.

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