

MLA Mohan Lal inaugurates Jio Pota Ghat revamp; major push to develop Akhnoor as tourism hub

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: In a significant step towards promoting heritage and religious tourism in the Akhnoor town MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal Bhagat on Sunday kick-started the beautification, renovation and redevelopment work of Jio Pota Ghat. The project forms part of a broader plan to develop the Chenab riverfront as a tourist destination, expected to boost local trade and strengthen the regional economy.

The ghat had suffered damage during recent floods, and its restoration has been taken up on priority. The inaugural ceremony was attended by XEN PWD Sanjeev Sharma, Executive Officer Municipal Committee Akhnoor Mohd Yaqoob, AEE Sunil Baogia, Banwari Lal Sharma and other officials.

Later, a public gathering was held at the old Sub-District Hospital building in Akhnoor Bazaar, where locals expressed gratitude to the MLA for taking a firm



MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal Bhagat inaugurating beautification and redevelopment work of Jio Pota Ghat in Akhnoor.

stand to restart the long-closed building. It was announced that six departments - ENT, Eye, Dental, Physiotherapy, Family Welfare and Immunization - will soon function from the premises, providing much-needed relief to the public.

Prominent citizens present included Vijay Gupta (Pahadia), Ashok Gupta, Thoru Ram Sharma, Pawan Verma (President, Jewellers Association Akhnoor), Sudeh Magotra (President, Brahman Sabha Akhnoor), Mahant Parmeshwar Dass, senior BJP leader Ashok

Mishra, Kuldeep Singh (Ex-Sarpanch), KD Sharma, Anil Sharma, Aman Mahajan, Rahul Langer, Anav Langer, Ranjeet Rohmetra, Rajinder Sharma, Sachin Gupta (President, Rotary Club Akhnoor), Parshotam Pawar, Pawan Sharma, Kishore Kumar, Gourav Sharma, Ashok Magotra, Shambu Magotra, Suraj Mahajan, Vishal, Ram Krishan, Rajesh Khanna, Ankush Gupta, Ramesh Sharma, Jaipal, Vishal Sangral and Mohit Sharma, among others.

Addressing the gathering, Vijay Gupta Pahadia, Parshotam Pawar, Sudeh Magotra, Ashok Mishra, Suraj Mahajan, Anav Langer and Gourav Sharma raised public demands and extended gratitude to the MLA on behalf of the market.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat said the revamp of Jio Pota Ghat was an urgent necessity after flood damage and emphasized that Akhnoor possesses immense potential

in religious and heritage tourism. He stated that during his tenure, he is committed to establishing Akhnoor's identity as a prominent tourism destination in Jammu & Kashmir.

The MLA further informed that the tender for the incomplete Maharaja Gulab Singh Library at Nirdosh Chowk has been floated, and students will soon get a Government library in town. He assured installation of adequate streetlights in dark areas and CCTV cameras for public safety.

Bhagat announced that repair of lanes and drains worth ₹60 lakh will begin shortly, while ₹50 lakh more will be spent on town beautification. He also disclosed that the revamping of ghats and walkways from Baba Sunder Singh Gurudwara to Hari Mandir Ghat, estimated at ₹1.34 crore, will start within days. Multi-storey parking, he said, remains part of his long-term development plan, along with an overall facelift of the town and bazaars.

Despite snowfall, rain and harsh weather, devotees took out colourful Jhankies from several areas including Dalain, Chinta, Chakk, Dhara, Sungli, Sarol Bagh, Hanga, Manthla, Rounda and other localities on the auspicious occasion.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutiyal,

649th Guru Ravi Dass Jayanti celebrated across Chenab valley despite snowfall

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADERWAH: Like other parts of the country and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Guru Ravi Dass Jayanti was celebrated with religious fervour and great enthusiasm across the Chenab Valley on Sunday, despite snowfall and inclement weather conditions.

In Bhaderwah, devotees celebrated the 649th birth anniversary of Guru Ravi Dass Maharaj as Prakash Utsav. People from Bhaderwah town and adjoining areas gathered at the Lakshmi Narayan Temple, from where a religious procession proceeded towards the ancient Vasuki Nag Temple at Ghatha, where the main function was organised.

Despite snowfall, rain and harsh weather, devotees took out colourful Jhankies from several areas including Dalain, Chinta, Chakk, Dhara, Sungli, Sarol Bagh, Hanga, Manthla, Rounda and other localities on the auspicious occasion.

Addressing the gathering, religious leaders described Guru Ravi Dass Ji as a great social reformer who worked tirelessly for the upliftment of the downtrodden and underprivileged sections of



society. They said his teachings of peace, harmony, love and compassion continue to inspire generations towards equality and social justice.

On the occasion, Langar and Prasad were also served to devotees. Security arrangements were strengthened in and around Bhaderwah town to ensure smooth conduct of the celebrations.

According to reports, Prakash Utsav celebrations marking the 649th birth anniversary of Guru Ravi Dass Maharaj were also held at Premnagar, Doda, Marmat, Assar, Ramban, Kishtwar and other parts of the Chenab Valley, with large participation of devotees despite adverse weather conditions.

Students from Doda visit IIT Jammu under BBBP programme



Doda girl students during visit to IIT Jammu under BBBP programme.

admission processes, emerging fields and the importance of discipline, innovation and hard work.

The students shared their experiences, stating that the exposure visit enhanced their confidence and inspired them

to aim for premier institutions like IITs. They expressed sincere thanks to the Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh for his support and encouragement in organizing such a meaningful initiative.

The visit proved to be an eye-opening experience, reinforcing the objectives of the BBBP programme by promoting education, empowerment and equal opportunities for girls through real-world exposure and guidance.

DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range honours outstanding investigating officers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: In order to recognize quality investigation and timely disposal of cases, the best Investigating Officers of District Udhampur were felicitated at DPO Udhampur.

The officers were honoured by DIG, Udhampur-Reasi Range Ms. Sarah Rizvi -IPS, along with SSP Udhampur Sh. Amod Nagpure -IPS in the presence of Addl. SP Udhampur Sh. Sandeep Bhat and IPS (P) Sh. Abhijeet Sirohi.

The officers honoured include PSI Yogeshwar Manhotra, ASI Abdul Rashid, HC Ved Prakash, HC Parkash Singh and HC Pawan Singh.

The IOs were recognised for their quality investigation, timely disposal of cases and overall contribution to professional policing.

While commanding the officers,



DIG Sarah Rizvi and SSP Amod Nagpure along with Investigating Officers at DPO Udhampur.

DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range appreciated their dedication and professionalism and urged all police personnel to continue upholding the highest standards of policing and public service.

SSP Poonch, district police bid farewell to transferring cop



outgoing officers, providing an opportunity for colleagues to share memories, express gratitude, and acknowledge the significant contributions made by the transfees during their tenure in the district. The occasion was not merely a formal send-off, but a celebration of exemplary service,

resilience, and commitment to duty under demanding circumstances.

While addressing the gathering, SSP Poonch lauded the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors for their unwavering dedication, professionalism, and exemplary conduct. He particularly highlighted their pivotal role

during Operation Sindoor, a high-stakes and sensitive security operation which required exceptional courage, operational preparedness, strategic planning, and round-the-clock vigilance.

"These officers have been the backbone of the district's security framework," SSP Poonch remarked. "Their tireless efforts in maintaining law and order, countering security challenges, strengthening community policing, and executing complex operations with precision and integrity have left a lasting imprint on the policing landscape of Poonch."

The SSP further acknowledged their role in fostering public trust, guiding young officers, and maintaining high standards of discipline and operational efficiency, especially in border and hinterland areas facing multifaceted security challenges.

Extending his best wishes, SSP Poonch urged the outgoing officers to continue upholding the core values of the Jammu and Kashmir Police in their future postings. "Poonch will always remember your invaluable contributions. We wish you success, safety, and professional fulfillment in all your future assignments," he stated.

The ceremony concluded on an emotional note with the exchange of mementos, group photographs, and personal tributes by colleagues, reflecting the respect and affection earned by the outgoing officers. The event reaffirmed the ethos of District Police Poonch - marked by unity, resilience, professionalism, and excellence in public service.

Shri Guru Ravidas Jayanti celebrated



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Shri Guru Ravidas Ji Jayanti Celebrated by Shri Sanatan Dharma Sabha District Poonch at Shri Gita Bhawan Poonch.

Large number of people from all walks of life attended this programme.

This was the 649th birthday of Shri Guru Ravidas Ji. He was born at Varanasi Kashi

all are created by same God there is no any inferior or superior all are equal. That person is good who's karmas are good. The programme started with Bhajan Kirtan by Sanjay Sharma and Shanker Sharma.

The speaker those who speak on the occasion are Sanjay Raina Advocate, Surjan Singh, Dr Darminder Shashtri, Rajan Kumar, Bhanu Partap Sharma, Amresh Kumar Sharma, Mahatma Ji, Rajinder Prasad Shashtri and two school students Miss Rishika and Yuvika Chandan at the end President Sh Khatpal Sharma said that we shall walk on the teaching of Shri Guru Ravidas Ji. He thanked all the people to congratulate to all people on the birthday of Shri Guru Ravidas Ji.

Madhu Paramhans delivers religious sermons on Purnima



Today, when you tell someone to go to a guru, they refer to those incidents, saying, "Look at what so-and-so did."

Then I observed and found that no one was talking about the fundamental truth. Sage Vashishtha gave Lord Rama the teachings about the soul. He said that the attainment of the self-element is possible only by conquering the mind. This is the main point. No one is talking about this. Otherwise, there is no other means. Vashishtha is talking about the mind. He is giving teachings to Lord Rama. If you look at the essence of Yoga Vashishtha, you will find Sahib (the Supreme Being).

Now, how to control the mind? Sahib mainly spoke on 5 things. First, he spoke about that Supreme Being. He spoke about Sahib, the Lord of the immortal realm. He said that the Vedas and scriptures do not

know that realm. He called it Begampur. There is a train named Begampur, after Sahib, which runs from Kashi. Then he spoke about the mind. He spoke about Maya (illusion). He spoke a lot about the Name. That Name is completely different from the names known in the world. Only that Name can take the soul to the immortal realm. Others cannot. That Name cannot be spoken or written. It is a living Name. It is only with the saints who have reached the immortal realm. Only a rare few know it. Dharmadas Ji told Sahib that he was also chanting the Name. Sahib said, "No Dharmadas, the Name I am talking about is secret. The world does not know it." It cannot be attained without a perfect Guru.

Vashishtha Ji is saying that the mind must be controlled. But this man cannot control his

mind even with Herculean efforts. This mind will only be controlled by the power of the secret name.

So, not a single saint out of 724 spoke about the mind. The mind is like a banyan tree. The entire world is made of the mind. The mind is vast. It has made even great sages dance to its tune. But when the true name comes, the mind bows down.

The Master is saying that not one, but millions of names are being chanted by people in the world. But liberation will not be attained through those names. That name is the one that the Satguru, after going to the immortal realm and merging with the Supreme Being, brings back and implants within the disciple; that is the secret essence of the name. Without that name, no living being can cross the ocean of the world.

Seven-day special winter camp concludes at GDC Neeli Nallah



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR:

A Seven-Day Special Winter Camp was successfully concluded by the National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of Government Degree College Neeli Nallah, Udhampur, under the able guidance and leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Seema Arora, Principal of the College. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from NSS volunteers and was aimed at promoting social awareness, environmental protection, cultural preservation, national integration, and the holistic development of students. The camp commenced with a formal inaugural ceremony, setting the tone for a week filled with meaningful community engagement and learning. Throughout the seven days, a wide range of activities were conducted to instill values of discipline, social responsibility, leadership, and teamwork among the volunteers.

Key activities of the camp included an essay writing competition to encourage critical thinking and expression among students, cleanliness drives to promote hygiene and environmental responsibility, and a plant

drive emphasizing the importance of ecological conservation and sustainable development. NSS volunteers actively participated in beautifying the surroundings and spreading awareness about cleanliness and environmental protection among the local population. The camp also featured cultural programmes showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, which not only entertained the spirit of cultural pride and unity. An educational outreach programme was organized at a nearby middle school, where volunteers interacted with students, motivated them towards education, and

shared messages on social values and civic duties. A yoga session was also conducted to emphasize the importance of physical fitness, mental well-being, and a balanced lifestyle. The primary objective of the Seven-Day Special Winter Camp was to nurture a sense of community service, environmental consciousness, national integration, and social commitment among students. The initiative proved to be highly beneficial in strengthening the bond between the institution and the local community, while also enhancing the leadership qualities, cooperative spirit, and organizational skills of the NSS volunteers. The camp concluded successfully with the active involvement of students, faculty members, and members of the local community, leaving behind a positive and lasting impact. The event was meticulously organized under the supervision of Prof. Shaista Yasmine, NSS Programme Officer, with the dedicated support of Prof. Rekha Sharma, Dr. Akhter Hussain, and Dr. Bilal Ahmed, who were key members of the organizing team. The successful completion of the camp stands as a testament to the commitment of GDC Neeli Nallah towards nation-building, community development, and values-based education.