

## Rana joins Navratra prayers at Kol Kandoli, Baral Mata; prays for peace

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NAGROTA: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Wednesday joined hundreds of devotees and offered prayers on the auspicious occasion of the first Navratra at Kol Kandoli Temple, the first spiritual destination on the ancient heritage Mata Vaishno Deviji route, and prayed for peace, progress, prosperity, and tranquility in the country.

Rana performed Pujas in spiritual ambience amid recitation of Mantras and Bhaints of The Mata Rani.

Interacting with the devotees, Rana exhorted the people to join the ensuing Yatra on the Pracheen Marg, beginning March 26, from Kot Kandoli to Oli Temple.

The heritage route, passes through Jagdamba Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple - Jagti, Durga Mata Temple - Pangali, Shiv Temple - Thandapani - Drabi, Shiv Shakti Temple, Raja Mandlek Temple- and Raja Nowalgarh Temple - Marh, Drabi, Kali Mata Temple - Gundla Talab, Ram Darbar,



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana talking to reporters after offering prayers at Kol Kandoli Temple on first Navratra.

Shiv Temple- Bamyal and Oli Temple Chhapanoo-Bamyal before reaching the sanctum sanctorum of the Bhavan of Mata Rani on Trikuta Hills.

He expressed gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for instructing the concerned departments and agencies for making necessary arrangements to facilitate this Yatra.

Greeting the people of the country from the foothills of the Bhavan of the Mata Rani on the Navratras, Rana prayed India to emerge as Vishwa Guru as per the vision of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi.

He hoped that the people will observe the Navratras with religious fervour and traditional gaiety. He also hoped this auspicious occasion to spread peace and amity and inspire people to rededicate themselves to the service of humanity and the country.

He invoked blessings of Maa Durga and prayed for universal brotherhood besides well-being of the people.

"Navratras are the auspicious days when we all should submit before Mata Rani, the

divine mother, and seek Her blessings for all. He said the people of Jammu are blessed to be under the footsteps of Mata Vaishno Devi that has all along showered Her divine blessings upon millions of devotees from times immemorial. "We must devote ourselves to the special prayers for Mata to overcome all our difficulties", he said and hoped that Navratras will see Jammu and Kashmir ushering in a new era of peace, progress and development.

Rana exhorted the people of Jammu to maintain their proud hospitality towards the

pilgrims thronging from various parts of the country. He hoped that the blessings of Goddess Durga will see us through all the challenges confronted to humanity.

Later, Rana participated in Chari Yatra of Baral Mata at Baral Mata Temple in Panchayat Sagoon. He also visited the ancient Raghunath Temple in the area and paid obeisance.

Prominent among those who also joined the prayers included Som Nath Khajuria, Sarpanch Lala Kishore Sharma, Pt. Rameshwar Dutt Sharma, Baba Chanchal Singh, Harish Sharma, Sarpanch Bodh Raj, Sarpanch Anil Barsala, Sarpanch Raman Wazir, Sarpanch Kanta Devi, Kulbhushan Singh, Prof Bass Dev Sharma, Subash Singh Advocate, Numbardar Puran Singh, Ajiu, Sukha Pandit, Vandana Sharma, Suman Sharma, Capt Bansil Lal, Natti, Sanjay Sharma, Amiti Sharma, Anita Slathia, Seema Jamwal, Jagdish Khajuria, Bhushan Singh and many others.

## JKPYC intensifies 'Haath Se Haath Jodo' Yatra in Village Thathar



JKPYC members during 'Haath Se Haath Jodo' Yatra on Wednesday.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: J&K Pradesh Youth Congress today intensified its ongoing 'Haath Se Haath Jodo' Yatra in Village Thathar, Ward 63 near Bantalab in Jammu to highlight the issues of general public including property tax, price rise, unemployment and other problems faced by people.

The programme was organized by J&K Pradesh Youth Congress in which Uday Chib, President J&KPYC; Ajaz Choudhary, Secretary IYC and other youth leaders and workers of Youth Congress were present.

Speaking on the occasion, Uday Chib said that this campaign has been initiated with

an aim to reach out to people in the hinterlands ahead of the 2024 general elections. This state-level campaign, he said, will strengthen the Congress' prospects and act as an extension of the Kanyakumari to Kashmir 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' that passed through the politically crucial state recently.

Uday said the 'Haath Se Haath Jodo' campaign is aimed at apprising people at the grassroots level of the failures of the central Government. "The main focus of this programme is to highlight various issues of people like the imposition of property tax, snatching of land from the poor in the name of anti-encroachment drive, unprece-

dent price hike, record unemployment and other arbitrary orders of government," he said.

Ajaz Choudhary said after the successful conclusion of the historic Bharat Jodo Yatra, this campaign is set to bring change and highlight the issues concerning people, which are being ignored by the Modi government in order to hide its failures on all fronts. The campaign has already received an overwhelming response like the Bharat Jodo Yatra received given the Congress Party's constructive role and strenuous efforts to ensure justice for people and bring the country back on the path of prosperity and development.

## Utilise religious events to promote peace, brotherhood, communal harmony: Purnima

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Advocate Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson BJP Jammu and Kashmir and former Deputy Mayor today participated in the 3rd annual religious Charri Yatra of Bral Mata at village Sagoon in Surinsar area. This is the third Chhari Yatra organised on the first Navratra on Wednesday.

The Yatra commenced from the local temple in village Sagoon and after performing the Parikarma

of Devika, the Yatra comprising scores of devotees, the same culminated at the starting point.

Speaking on the occasion, Purnima hoped that this religious pilgrimage would culminate in a smooth and successful note. She appealed to the people to utilize religious events to promote peace, brotherhood and communal harmony in the society besides satiating their spiritual and religious desires. She said that such events are quite signifi-

cant for the younger generation as they get the chance to make a connect with their roots and get firsthand knowledge about their culture and traditions.

Earlier, the Yatra commenced in the presence of Mahant Rajesh, Yatra Committee Members including Parshotam Sharma and Ricky Sharma. Besides, Panchs and Sarpanchs of the area and locals in large numbers also attended the flagging off ceremony.



Spokesperson BJP J&K, Adv Purnima Sharma, participating in annual Charri Yatra of Bral Mata at village Sagoon.

## Govt working on simultaneous projects to change J&K's development profile: Kavinder

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: BJP Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been working on simultaneous projects in J&K to change its development profile and provide all the required amenities to the people at their doorsteps.

This was stated by senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta after inaugurating lane and drain at Jammu Cantonment falling in under Ward No. 5.

Speaking on the occasion, the BJP stalwart leader said with construction of this civic edifice in the area, the people will get respite from the problems being faced by them, particularly in the rainy season. He said this was a long pending demand of the area which has been fulfilled today.

Lauding the role played by Vice Chairman Bharat Bhushan in carrying out this development work, the senior BJP functionary said not only this ward but Bharat is



Former Dy CM, Kavinder Gupta inaugurating lane and drain at Jammu Cantonment.

proactive in realizing development in all the seven wards falling under his jurisdiction.

Later, Kavinder also interacted with the locals and listened to area's development issues. He said the government has launched several development works to improve the overall condition of lanes and drains, link roads, and other amenities in neglected areas and it is now matter of days when the localities in the vicinity would become models for others to follow. He mentioned that development works more than Rs 1 crore has been carried in all the seven wards falling

under Cantonment Zone.

Kavinder Gupta asked locals to identify developmental needs of their respective areas so that the works can be enlisted for execution by the Government on priority. He assured that all pending development works in the area including macadamization of inner roads, repairing and construction of lanes and drains and other development works of the area would be fulfilled in a phased manner. He further assured that no compromise shall be made on quality of construction and asked people to act as ears and eyes of the government to

keep an eye on the things.

The senior BJP leader also stressed upon locals to avail benefits under various flag-ship welfare schemes and programmes launched by the UT and central governments.

Meanwhile, Kavinder also paid obeisance at the Bahu Temple on the auspicious occasion of first Navratra. He prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of J&K and the entire country.

Among those who were present include senior BJP leaders Vinay Gupta, Suraj Rana, Hansraj, Narinder and prominent people of the area were present.



Jammu Mayor, Rajinder Sharma with Corporators and their family members at JDA Park.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Seeking public corporation to make River Tawi clean, Mayor, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Rajinder Sharma appealed Jammuites to not immerse Saakh in river Tawi.

This was stated by Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Sharma, while addressing reporters after witnessing a cultural programme held on the first day of Navratra at JDA Park. The programme was also witnessed by

Corporators with their families. The Mayor appealed to members of Traders Associations, BSF chairman

and families, DDC and Block Development Councils members besides devotees to reach at JDA Park on March 28 to witness a big programme. The Mayor urged the devotees to avoid polythene and immersion of Saakh in River Tawi and immerse the holy Saakh without polythene at Ranbir Canal to avoid blockade in water collection station at Tawi.

He said that all the JMC Corporators are on duty to control the pollution in River Tawi during Navratra period. He said that during nine nights, light and laser show,

cultural activities, devotional songs to adore the Goddess and much more activities will be held in Jammu. He said Aarti will be held there regularly twice a day at Har Ki Pauri besides live Darshan of Mata Aarti from Kali Mata Temple will be provided.

He added that devotees also know about the history of River Tawi and Bahu Fort besides witnessing Musical foundation, Light and sound show and Movie of Mata Rani at Bage-e-Bahu Park. The Mayor with other officials also visited the place and supervise the arrangements.

## 29th Charri Yatra concludes successfully, Dharmarth Trust made adequate arrangements for devotees

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The three-day long 29th Charri Yatra concluded successfully. The Yatra was taken out by Dharmarth Trust J&K in collaboration with Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Trust.

The Charri Yatra commenced from Shri Ranbireswar Temple Jammu in presence of Gulchain Singh Charak, Chairman Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Trust, Senior Advocate Ajay Gandotra, President Dharmarth Trust, Secretary Ashok Kumar Sharma SSP (Retd), Mahant Rishi Ban, Sadhu Samaj and prominent people of Jammu City.

Prior to the start of the Charri Yatra, Pooja - Archana was performed at Shri Ranbireswar Mandir and Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir Jammu. The Charri Yatra after passing through City Chowk, Raghunath Mandir, Durga Temple, Mahadev Temple Gandhi Nagar, Narsingh Temple,



Three-day long 29th Charri Yatra after culmination at Purmandal.

Birpur, Data Ranpat Dev Ji Temple, Birpur and Khara Madan finally reached its destination Purmandal. The Trust has also installed a decorated a gate at the Purmandal Bus stand to welcome the Yatra.

On the occasion, Trustee Vikramaditya Singh donated 40 blankets through the Secretary for the welfare of devotees accompanying the Chhari Yatra.

Ajay Gandotra, President Dharmarth Trust said that Dharmarth Trust always remains instrumental in

organizing religious programmes as it is an over hundred years old institution taking care of temples and shrines in J&K. He informed that the Trust has made adequate arrangements including meals and night stay to ensure comfort and convenience of the participants of the Yatra. Secretary Ashok Kumar Sharma said that the aforesaid Yatra was first started by Chairman Trustee, Dr Karan Singh since the commencement of the Yatra. He said that since that time the Trust has been

organizing this Yatra successfully. He said that such events showcase the cultural vibrancy of J&K and the rich traditions of the Duggar land as religious Yatras and ceremonies always remained part and parcel of the lives of the people in this part of the country.

Gulchain Singh Charak assured that Lakshmi Narayan Temple Trust will continue to accomplish religious programmes in J&K and will act as the guiding force for the people having undaunted faith in religion.

## ICAR-CAZRI Leh plants fruit saplings on 'International Forest Day'

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

LEH: ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Regional Research Station Stakna, Leh Ladakh (UT) observed a two-day Tree Plantation drive at the office campus on 'International Forest Day 2023'.

As many as 100 apple saplings and 50 apricot saplings were successfully planted at the office campus. The Head, CAZRI, RRS Leh Dr. R.K Goyal (PS) initiated the planting of saplings. All staff of CAZRI, RRS, Leh including Dr. M. K Gaur (P. S), Dr. M.B. Noor Mohamed,

Scientist, Er. Changchuk Lamo (Scientist), Jigmat Stanzin (ACTO), Stanzin Landol (STA), Yogendra Singh (T.A), (Sr. Technician) Mohd Raza, Rigzin Dorje and Bhuvnesh Verma (Sr. Clerk) and 15 Field staff participated in the plantation programme. Program was coordinated by Dr. MB. Noor Mohamed, Scientist (Agroforestry) and he emphasized on the importance and role of forest. International forest day is an initiative started by the United Nations in 2014 to celebrate and spread awareness about the



ICAR-CAZRI staff planting fruit saplings.

forests, which are the source of all life on planet earth.

This day is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of conserving forests which not only function as

habitats for living organisms but also the main source of resources for food, fibre, fruits, and fuelwood. Due to an over growing population worldwide forest is being

cleared which is not only causing resource depletion but also contributing to climate change and global warming. Sustainable management of forests was hence introduced to bring out solutions in reducing the exploitation of forests.

The origin of the idea to celebrate world forest day was in the year 1971 at the 23rd General assembly of the European confederation of Agriculture. On this day, participants from diverse ranges come together such as stakeholders, academicians, NGO's, etc, to discuss the

issues such as deforestation, etc, and the ways through which one can tackle these problems.

The theme for the international forest day 2023 is 'Healthy Forests for Healthy People'. Forests give so much to human health. They purify the water; clean the air; capture carbon to fight climate change, provide food and life-saving medicines, and improve our well-being. Various events are promoted by the United Nations such as tree planting, symposiums, art exhibitions, photo competitions, and student debates.

## Moori Kesari Dangal on March 26

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATRA: Peer Baba Dangal Committee Moori is organizing 66th Moori Kesari Annual Vishal dangal (Kanta Kushti) at village Moori, near Government Middle School here on March 26 (Sunday) from 2 pm onwards. As per a handout issued here today, Shiv Kumar Sharma who is also Senior Vice President Indian Style Wrestling Association of India, said about 50-55 wrestlers from different States like Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, HP, Chandigarh in addition to various parts of J&K UT viz Udhampur, Reasi, Kathua, Jammu, R.S Pura, Rajouri, Doda, Domana, Ramnagar, Roun- Domail, Panthal, Panchari, J&K Police, Army and Dangs are likely to participate in the vishal Dangal.

Meanwhile, those interested wrestler of Jammu region have been advised to contact Shiv Kumar Sharma (94191-61880) and Ramesh Chander (78898-00389) to confirm their participation.