

# Tourism Deptt organises 'Pracheen Marg Yatra' to revive traditional route of Vaishno Devi pilgrimage from Kol Kandoli

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the occasion of fifth day of holy Chaitra Navratra, the Directorate of Tourism Jammu organized 'Pracheen Marg Yatra' which was flagged off from the ancient Mata Kol Kandoli Temple Nagrota on Sunday.

The traditional Yatra was organized from Nagrota and culminated at Oli Temple Chappanno which further connects to Deva Mayi Temple Katra.

The Yatra was flagged off by Sunaina Sharma Mehta Joint Director Tourism Jammu along with Devender Singh Rana senior BJP leader and former MLA Nagrota constituency, S.M Sahni (Regional Director, INTACH Jammu Chapter) along with local stakeholders, members of INTACH Jammu Chapter, prominent citizens of Nagrota and tourism stakeholders.

The Yatra carried the holy 'Jyot' in the form of 'Chhari' which started from Kol Kandoli Temple, also the first Padaav of Maa Vaishno Devi Yatra.

The Yatra was attended by hundreds of devotees and

## Rana for promotion of heritage route



Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Sunaina Sharma Mehta along with Devender Singh Rana senior BJP leader and others participating in traditional Yatra.

pilgrims amid chanting 'Jai Mata Di' and was received with a grand reception at Mata Jagdamba Temple, Jagti with mesmerizing beats of dhols and traditional drum beaters.

The Shobha Yatra was led by cultural troupes in traditional attires doning the Dogri Pagri and Mata ki Chunari while performing the traditional kud and other folk performances.

The Yatra further reached Pangali from where it started its onward holy journey towards Shiv Temple Drabi and Gundla, further reaching Shiv Temple Bamyal and finally culminating at Mahalakshmi Temple Oli Chapanoo.

Speaking on the occasion, Sunaina Sharma said that

the Directorate of Tourism Jammu is committed to revive the traditional Yatra Route of Maa Vaishno Devi Yatra and shall take more steps to organize awareness amongst the younger generation regarding the significance of this traditional route and also popularize it amongst the visiting pilgrims.

She further added that Department of Tourism shall soon popularize the pilgrimage circuits across Jammu region like the 'Shiv Shakti Circuit', 'the Rudra Pilgrimage Circuit' among others and special emphasis shall also be laid on the Jammu based tourist destinations so that the tourists visiting can plan their itinerary well in advance and visit

various exquisite tourist places of Jammu region.

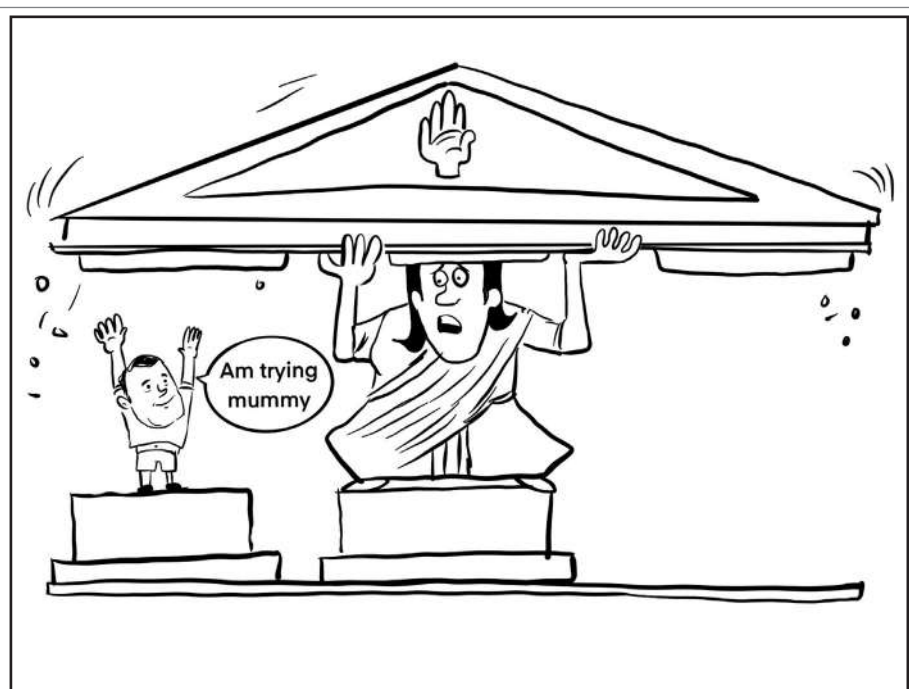
Speaking on the occasion, Senior BJP leader, Devender Singh Rana on Sunday said that promotion of the ancient heritage route to Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji Cave Shrine from Kol Kandoli Temple in Nagrota will bestow added spiritual bliss to pilgrims thronging from across the country and abroad and give renewed impetus to the Jammu economy.

Devender Rana appreciated the organizers Harbans Lal, Randeep Singh, Pt. Jagdish Raj Sharma and all their team members, saying the effort will go a long way in promoting the ancient route, rich with spiritual bliss.

Among others present on the occasion were Ambika Bali Assistant Director Tourism, Kali Dass Verma President All J&K Tempo Traveller Owner Union, Shamsher Singh Chairman All J&K Tempo Traveller Owner Union among other tourism stakeholders including travel agents of Jammu region and officials of Tourism Department Jammu.

It is pertinent to mention here that INTACH Jammu Chapter is trying to revive the traditional yatra route by working on revival and upkeep of these traditional temples and bowlis falling on the Old Yatra Route till Deva Mayi Temple Katra.

It is worthwhile to mention here that the Yatris have been walking on the traditional Yatra route since many centuries now when there was no proper road network and these temples were strategically built at places which could provide night halt and shelter to travellers and pilgrims along with facilities for resting with natural water resources around these places.



# IIM Jammu to organise 'Community Leadership Executive Course' from today



DC Kishtwar with students and others during flagging-off ceremony.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: IIM Jammu as part of its CSR initiative for the people and community of Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with District Administration, Kishtwar, Mission Youth and Govt. of Polytechnic College, Kishtwar will be organizing a "Community Leadership Executive Course" from March 27 to 31, 2023 at Canal Road Campus, IIM Jammu.

This leadership training program, a CSR Initiative from IIM Jammu, is designed to provide visionary leadership and strategic thrust to the youth by sharp-

ening their leadership skills by fostering teamwork and communication within an organization. Dr. Devansh Yadav, DC Kishtwar flagged off 30 students on Sunday from Kishtwar District to attend a five day "Community Leadership Executive Course" at IIM Jammu. He further mentioned that the leadership programme will enhance the skill sets of the youth of Kishtwar paving the path of sustainable development and growth in the union territory of J&K.

He expressed his happiness for the kind support extended by IIM Jammu for such

an initiative.

The "Community Leadership Executive Course" for the Youth of Kishtwar will be inaugurated on 27th March by Shri Sudershan Kumar, JKAS, in presence of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu at their Canal Road Campus.

The programme is being coordinated by Dr. Vaseem Akram, and Dr. Bijoy Rakshit and it is being facilitated by Executive Education and Consultancy wing of IIM Jammu headed by Dr. Pankaj. K. Agarwal, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE & C), IIM Jammu.

# ADGP Security decorates newly promoted Inspectors, ASIs of JKP



ADGP Security posing with newly decorated Inspectors and others during pipping ceremony.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The piping ceremony of recently promoted police officers to different ranks as Inspectors and ASIs was held at Security Headquarters here, during which the ADGP Security, decorated the officers with their new ranks.

The officers decorated on the occasion are Inspector Anurag Singh, Inspector Vishal Kumar, Inspector Manoj Kumar, Inspector Riyaz Ahmad, ASI Naresh Kumar and ASI Parvinder Singh.

On the occasion, the ADGP congratulated the promoted

officers and their family and advised them to work with more enthusiasm and highest degree of dedication.

The promoted officers on the occasion expressed their gratitude towards Police department for conferring their next rank and timely promotion.

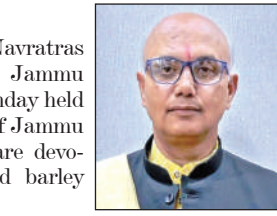
# Mayor asks seers, priests to aware devotees avoid Saakh immersion in Tawi

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As the auspicious Navratras proceed their culmination, the Jammu Mayor, Rajinder Sharma on Sunday held meeting with seers and priests of Jammu and sought cooperation to aware devotees to avoid Saakh (sprouted barley seeds) immersion in Tawi river.

Sharma asked the seers and priests that the devotees should immerse the Saakh in Ranbir Canal instead as accumulation of Saakh at Tawi river affects the intake capacity at the filtering plant which leads to shortage of water supply in the city.

The Mayor also stressed on avoiding polythene bags during the religious days and informed that Indore became a clean city only because of cooperation from the aware public there and the public in Jammu is also expected to display awareness of such a level to make the city of temples a neat and clean city. "NSS volunteers shall remain stationed at all the four bridges of river Tawi to aware the devotees to avoid Saakh immersion in the river and stop polythene bags into the same," Sharma maintained. The priests and seers assured that Mayor that they will surely aware the devotees in the greater interest of environment and public welfare.



# DIPR releases 13th episode of 'Inspire Gen Z' with former Int'l Cricketer Suresh Raina

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Adding another inspirational story of the change makers in the "Inspire Gen Z" programme, the 13th episode with the former Indian and international cricketer, Suresh Raina has been released on Department of Information and Public Relation's (DIPR) all Social Media Handles and its official website.

"Inspire Gen Z" is a digital show created by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) to engage, entertain and inspire the youth of J&K.

Suresh Raina in a candid interview with the host of



the show Rashid Andrabi, has shared his experiences as a cricketer, his journey and emotional connection with Jammu & Kashmir, Suresh Raina was born and brought up in Lucknow but his family belongs to Rainawari area of Kashmir.

In the conversation, Suresh Raina talked about his areas of interest and said that he loves singing, cooking and spending time with the kids. While talking about the bad phase of his life after he got knee injury in 2005, Raina said that the one year of rehab

period after my surgery was the toughest part of my cricket life. I remained positive and learnt a lot from my father and successfully came out of that difficult phase. My father was my coach, friend and much more to me, he guided me throughout this difficult time, Raina added.

Calling Jammu & Kashmir as the most beautiful place in the world, Suresh Raina said the hospitality of the people of J&K is excellent and have spent long time in Kashmir with family and friends.

Talking about his writing passion and recently launched book 'Believe:

What Life and Cricket Taught Me' along with cricket writer Bharat Sundaresan, he said that the motive behind this book was to tell my story to everyone how a small town boy realized his dream of being a successful cricketer and people must learn from my journey. I am really thankful to the people that they liked my book.

As a message to the budding cricketers and other sportspersons, Suresh Raina advised them to only do hard work as there is no shortcut in the life. If you seriously want to achieve your dreams, just follow your passion and believe in yourself, he added.

# First-of-its-kind 'Saras Aajeevika Mela' concludes at Srinagar

## ■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: The second edition of Saras Aajeevika Mela concluded in Srinagar, which featured products manufactured by over 300 rural craftsmen associated with Self Help Groups of day NRLM, marking it as the first-of-its-kind 11-day women-led fair in Srinagar. The Mela was meant for women empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir as at present unemployment is emerging as a major challenge for young educated girl. But now defeating many odds, the girls have not only stood against the critics, but also managed to break the stereotypes in the valley by preferring the 'male-dominated' jobs, receiving appreciations from every nook and corner.

The girls from Ganderbal District served 'Wazwaan' to people on special occasion. Preparing of world famous dish is earlier only male-dominated job "It was some-thing new for people. We were criticized and faced many odds," said Shaista. These girls got appreciation during 11-days SARAS Mela. At the food court, other traditional delicacies and street favourites were also served. There were Vada Pav from Maharashtra, Momos from Sikkim, and the most liked Shahi Kheer from Uttar Pradesh. "It was all with the support of NRML's Umeed that we achieved our goals and became an example for the society," girls said.

Beside this, the Mela hosted artisans from all over the country and offered a wide variety of the

finest handcraft and handloom products from the remotest areas of rural India to the visitors. The Mela, which began at the banks of Dal Lake on March 15, offering a myriad collection of handmade products and cuisines from across the country to visitors. More than 170 women artisans from different parts of rural India participated and showcased their products on 70 stalls provided by JKRLM for exhibition and sale. Women from self-help groups from 17 states/UTs displayed handicrafts, handloom, and natural food items from different rural areas in the vibrant stalls handled and managed by Women SHG members. Some of the eminent items of handcraft displayed at the stalls were handmade cloth from Jammu-Kashmir with Sozni and Aariwork, antique coin jewellery from Maharashtra, organic soaps, and herbal cleaning agents from Sikkim, Phulkari suits from Punjab, Chikankari kurtis from Uttar Pradesh, handmade jewellery from Himachal, handloom from Bihar, and many more.

Addressing the valedictory function Additional Mission Director Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) said, "Organizing Saras Aajeevika Mela is a remarkable feat achieved by JKRLM as being the host of a huge event where in participation of SHG members from 17 States/ UTs was made possible". He thanked all line departments for their contribution to making the Mela a success.

# DDC Chairpersons, Chairperson Nirbhay Bharat Foundation call on LG



DDCs Chairpersons from Jammu Division calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairpersons of various District Development Councils from Jammu Division met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Sunday.

Saraf Singh Nag, DDC Chairperson Reasi; Bharat Bhushan, DDC Chairperson Jammu; Keshav Dutt Sharma, DDC Chairperson Samba; Col. (Rtd) Mahan Singh, DDC Chairperson Kathua; Lal Chand, DDC

Chairperson Udhampur and Dhananther Singh, DDC Chairperson Doda discussed with the Lt Governor various matters pertaining to the development and strengthening of PRIs.

They further apprised the Lt Governor about their District-specific issues and sought his intervention in the early redressal of the same.

The Lt Governor reiterated the government's

commitment to empower the Panchayati Raj Institutions, and facilitate cooperation & coordination between the administration and the PRI representatives. He assured the DDC Chairpersons of due consideration of the issues projected during the interaction.

Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Department of Rural

Development and Panchayati Raj was also present in the meeting.

Meanwhile, Er. Abdul Ghani Kohli, former minister also called on Lieutenant Governor and discussed with him various issues of public importance including smooth facilitation of tribal community during their seasonal migration.

Later, Tarun Uppal, Chairperson, Nirbhay Bharat Foundation also met the Lt Governor and discussed with him various issues pertaining to promotion of art, culture and sports.

The Lt Governor assured the former minister and the chairperson Nirbhay Bharat Foundation of appropriate redressal of the genuine issues and demands put forth by them.

# Tribal Youth Exchange programme concludes in Jammu

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme, sponsored by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs concluded on Sunday with a plantation drive organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra Jammu.

The closing ceremony was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Jammu, Romesh Chander, as the chief guest and DDC Member Phallaina Mandal, Geeta Aulakh as the guest of honour.

During the ceremony, the ADDCs spoke about the opportunities provided by the Tribal Youth Exchange Programme for tribal youth to learn about the rich culture and traditions of Jammu. He also mentioned the government's focus on promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship.

State Director Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan for Jammu and Kashmir and



ADDC Jammu, Romesh Chander presenting group photograph to participants.

Ladakh, Nisar Ahmed Butt highlighted the various activities undertaken during the seven-day event, including awareness sessions, cultural events, speech contests and educational tours.

President of Tawi Welfare Society, Kavi Raj spoke about the work of Tawi Welfare Society in improving the social and economic status of local communities.

District Youth Officer Rajouri-Poonch, Nitin Hangloo motivated the tribal

youth to take their experiences from the programme as a long-lasting memory and act as ambassadors for their region. He also encouraged them to pursue self-employment and entrepreneurship.

A plantation drive and cleanliness drive were also held as part of the closing ceremony. Cultural performances were presented by participants from different states who shared their experiences from the seven-day

youth exchange programme. The programme was attended by 220 tribal youth including escorting staff from paramilitary forces. At the end of the ceremony, all participants received certificates of participation and a group photograph as a souvenir. The proceedings were successfully conducted by Samriti Salathia.

Among others, General Secretary, Yashpal Mangotra was also present at the occasion.