

Dr Karan Singh, Ranvijay pay obeisance at Raghunath Temple; pray for peace prosperity of J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairman Trustee of J&K Dharmarth Trust, Dr Karan Singh along with Ranvijay Singh, Trustee today paid obeisance at the Shri Raghunath Temple here and prayed for the peace, progress and prosperity of the Union Territory.

On the occasion, Brig R.S Langeh, President of the Trust, Ashok Kumar Sharma (SSP Rtd), Secretary and employees of the Trust gave a warm welcome to the Chairman Trustee by presenting him a bouquet amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras by the Temple Priests. Dr Karan Singh along with Ranvijay Singh performed Aarti at the Main sanctum of Raghunath



Chairman Trustee of JKDT, Dr Karan Singh along with Ranvijay Singh, Trustee paying obeisance at Shri Raghunath Temple.

Temple. He also performed Pooja at Natraj ji Temple and also visited various temples situated in the premises of Shri Raghunathji Temple.

Dr Karan Singh along with Ranvijay Singh went through the Mandir Complex and enquired about the facilities being provided to the devotees.

He expressed satisfaction over the facilities and gave necessary instructions on the spot.

The Chairman Trustee asked Pujaries and Trust's employees to work with more zeal and dedication and make all possible efforts in providing adequate facilities to the visiting pilgrims.

He also interacted with the devotees, graciously listening to their concerns. The devotees, inspired by his presence, eagerly shared their experiences about their visit to this ancient temple. Amidst the sacred ambience of the temple, the devotees took several selfies with the Dogra seion Dr. Karan Singh, capturing cherished moments of spiritual communion and reverence.

Ranvijay Singh, Trustee, also directed necessary repairs in the temple complex and instructed the temple staff to provide hassle-free facilities to devotees, ensuring a seamless pilgrimage experience.

Later, Dr. Karan Singh along with Ranvijay Singh also inspected the ongoing renovation works at Rani Samadhi's complex in Jammu. He directed the officials accompanied to ensure that the cultural heritage of the site is safeguarded for future generations.

Earlier, the Secretary has briefed the Chairman Trustee about the ongoing renovation works at the Samadhi's complex.

PM Housing Scheme beneficiaries thanked former Councillor of Ward 3

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Families, whose houses were built under the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme in Ward 3, expressed their gratitude towards Narottam Sharma, the former Councillor of the area and a senior leader of the BJP.

Sharma, in turn, encouraged the beneficiaries to share their experiences and any issues they faced with the housing scheme, assuring them of swift resolution of any outstanding installations. Amit Khanna, the president of BJP Ward 3, joined Narottam Sharma in the program. Together, they listened to the beneficiaries and assured them of continued support.

During the event, the beneficiaries also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for enabling the construction of their homes and wished him success in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.



Former Councillor Ward 3, Narottam Sharma and others.

They expressed their support by blessing him with a massive victory, hoping for the BJP to secure 370 Lok Sabha seats.

Narottam Sharma further appealed to the locals present at the programme to vote for the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, emphasizing the party's commitment to welfare initiatives like the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme.

Kashmiri Pandit Sabha celebrates Hurra Ashtami

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Hurra Ashtami was celebrated in Monday at KP Sabha, Ambphalla were Puja Archana was performed in which large numbers of devotees participated in which traditional Bhajan and Kritan was held.

Thereafter, Samohik Aarti led by K. K. Khosa, President KPS was performed. Later, Prasad was distributed among the devotees. The puja was performed in traditional manner.

The members present on the occasion were Deepak Dhar, S. L. Bagati, G. J. Kampassi, Ashok Kher, Jitender Parmoom, T. N. Bhat, B. L. Rawal, Smt. Asha Kitchloo, Vinod Bhat, Dr. Usha Tikoo, V. K. Mukhi, Dr. Sujata Sathoo, Rajinder Tikku, and others.

BVP elects office bearers for 2024-25

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) on Monday conducted J&K Prant Election year 2024-25.

Arun Kumar Sharma, Regional Joint Secretary North 1 as a Observer conducted the Election of J&K Prant President, Prant General Secretary, Prant Finance Secretary for the of 2024-25.

Election conducted in presence of Dev Raj Sharma Regional President North 1, Amita Sharma Regional Secretary North 1 (Mahila and Bal Vikas), Gopal Sharma Regional Secretary (Sanaskar) North 1, Dr. Santosh Gupta Prant Patron. President, Secretaries and Treasurers of branches of J&K Prant were participated in election.

Bharat Bhushan Sharma re-elected as Prant President, Shiv Ram Sharma as Prant General Secretary and Sunita Gupta as Finance Secretary.

Training Session of Police Officers/Officials posted in different Women Police Stations/Cells organized



Dr. Sunil Gupta, DIG JKS Range chairing training session.

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JAMMU: Dr. Trupti Jhaveri Panchal, faculty at TISS and Balwant Singh, Coordinator, RCI-VAV, TISS Mumbai facilitated a session through participatory mode where the concept of 'Social Construction of Gender and Violence against Women' was discussed.

Several myths and misconceptions around violence against women were dispelled with participants sharing their views.

Dr. Sunil Gupta, DIG JKS Range focused on how Women Police Station officials as important interveners only next to the doctors who can intervene on the issue of violence in positive way and maximum relief can be provided to the survivors.

He stressed on the coordination between multiple agencies such as Special Cells for Women (Implemented by TISS Mumbai in collaboration with J&K Police) and One Stop Centre (OSC), DLSA etc with the Police to provide a more holistic support of women survivors.

Vishal Manhas, SO to ADGP, Jammu Zone, Narinder Singh, DySP (M) ZPHQ Jammu, Saima Shah, Coordinator, Special Cells for Women, Kashmir Division, Priksha Sharma, Coordinator, Special Cells for Women, Jammu Division were also present at training session.

Randhawa conducts tour of flood affected areas, gets first-hand information about losses

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Legislator and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Vikram Randhawa conducted an extensive tour of flood affected areas to get first-hand information about the losses caused to life and property due to the incessant rains in the region.

Randhawa visited the flood affected areas of of Upper Gadigarh in RS Pura-Jammu South Assembly segment to access the damages to the houses and other structures of local residents due to incessant rains.

Former Legislator directed the officers of the concerned department to assess the situation and come out with solutions for immediately restoring the affected areas and preventing further damages.

He directed for keeping a close vigil on the situation and taking appropriate measures to deal with any exigency.



Former Legislator Vikram Randhawa conducting tour of flood affected area.

Randhawa directed for taking short and long term steps before heavy monsoon to prevent floods including developing concrete embankments to prevent any loss to life and property.

He directed the engineers to identify the areas prone to floods and prepare the DPRs for plugging the gaps.

Randhawa said that the work of under construction culverts have been abandoned by the contractor, the reason best known to the concerned authorities.

He demanded immediate completion of the under construction culverts for the benefit of the people.

He also directed the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and other departments to remove encroachments as this is the main hindrance due to which rain water enters residential houses and creates problems for the people.

While speaking further, Former Legislator Vikram Randhawa said that a list of the rainfall affected people will be made and same will be submitted to the concerned departments for redressal.

World Wildlife Day-2024: Function held at Nature Interpretation Center, Dachigam National Park

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: On the occasion of World Wildlife Day 2024, celebrated every year on March 4, a ceremony was organised at the Nature Interpretation Center of Dachigam National Park.

The function, organized by the Central Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife Protection was presided over by chief guest, Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir, Pradeep Chandra Wahlu.

This year the theme of 'World Wildlife Day' was 'Connecting people and Planet, exploring digital innovation in Wildlife Conservation.'

Dr. Mohsin Ali Gazi, Wildlife Veterinarian, besides other invitees including Executive Director, WCF and learned Amicus Curiae, Head Wildlife SOS; Members of Wild Life Trust of India, WRCE; Director, PHAAG Dev. Forum; Ali Mohammad Rather; DDC Member; students of Darul-Uloom Kousaria, researchers/ teachers and students from various schools attended the event.

Addressing the event, the chief guest highlighted the power of digital innovation using drones for anti-poaching, engaging social media for educational outreach. He also emphasized the collaborative nature of digital conservation efforts and mentioned about partnerships and initiatives with non-government organizations, local communities, resourceful persons and students in Wildlife Conservation Management.

Earlier in the inaugural session, Pervaiz Ahmed Wani, DCF (Wildlife Warden, Central Division) highlighted the crucial role of technology in protecting our precious wildlife and promoting harmonious coexistence with nature. Further, he added that increase in the Hangul population is worth rewarding but is a challenging endeavor.

He laid stress on Wildlife experts and Researchers to work in scientific way for Habitat Improvement, Enrichment of Predator Prey base, Genetic Diversity and Reproductive Health etc.

A detailed presentation was given by Dr. Mohsin Ali Gazi, Wildlife Veterinarian emphasizing the importance of wildlife, highlighted the latest modalities in disease diagnosis and advances in health care and management of wild animals. He also elaborated the use of technology and machinery available in Wild Animal Health Care cum Diagnostic lab at Dachigam National Park.

About 250 participants irrespective of age, gender, profession participated in the programme. Further a debate and Quiz competition was also held among the school students who participated in celebration of World Wildlife Day, 2024.

The chief guest awarded trophies among the winners/runner ups, while participation certificates were also distributed among all the participants. Certificates of recognition were also distributed among Paryavaran Mitras.

SAD (B) advocates for redressal of Sikh Community grievances in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiromani Akali Dal (B) expressed deep concern over the treatment of the Sikh community in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The party feels that the Sikh community has been neglected by the Governor Administration, despite repeated demands for redressal. They perceive assurances given by the administration as empty, with no concrete actions taken to address the community's issues.

There's a concern about the lack of efforts to promote the Punjabi language in the UT, leading to its decline. They believed that the language is losing its historical significance and urged for measures to revive it.

The party alleged that promises were made to announce a rehabilitation policy for unemployed Sikh youths in the Kashmir Valley similar to the one for Kashmiri Pandits, but no such policy has materialized.

The party also highlighted the long-standing issue of refugees from 1947 and asserted that their grievances have been ignored for decades. They advocated for addressing the concerns of these refugees.

The party expressed dissatisfaction with the decision to shift the proposed site for the installation of a statue of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, a Sikh icon, and demanded that the original site be honoured as approved by the JMC House.

The Sikh community feels alienated and deprived of political reservation, despite their significant population and contributions to the state's development and communal harmony, Party stated and demand political representation to voice their concerns effectively.

The Shiromani Akali Dal (B) strongly advocated for the resolution of these issues affecting the Sikh community in the UT, emphasizing the community's historical sacrifices and contributions to the region.

Expeditioniously frame guidelines to issue ST certificates to Pahari Tribes: BADC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JKBADC), a registered organization working for the welfare of border residents & Schedule Tribes of J&K has urged the Jammu and Kashmir Government to expeditioniously issue guidelines so that ST category certificates to Pahari tribes are also issued without any hurdle.

Pressing for its demand the organization informed that though the Parliament of India has passed the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 2024 and have included the Gadda Brahmin, Pahari Ethnic tribe, Koli and Paddari community in the schedule list of tribal communities, moreover the gazette



notification of the said act has been published last month but the necessary guidelines by the J&K administration for issuance of ST category certificates to newly inducted communities are awaited.

Dr Shazad Ahmed Malik, Chairman of the BADC and former Vice Chancellor averred that his organization is receiving dozens of queries on daily basis from the youth of the newly inducted communities about the procedure, guidelines and check list of documents required to get their ST Category Certificates.

The BADC Chairman requested the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary J&K, Secretary Social Welfare Department and administrative Secretary J&K Tribal Affairs department to expedite the process and issue necessary guidelines in this regard so that the members of the newly inducted communities in the ST list are able to get their Category certificates promptly.

The former VC asserted that it would be most appropriate and just that these ST Category certificates to the newly inducted communities are issued before the start of new academic session so that they may avail the benefits of relaxations of the same.

HC holds in case of ex-serviceman, upper age limit prescribed for entering into Govt service is 48 years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Sanjeev Kumar of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court set aside the Government Order No.1775-Home of 2017 dated December 14, 2017 whereby the case of the petitioner for regularization as Warden in the Prisons Department, in terms of order dated August 6, 2010 passed by this Court in SWP No. 802/2008, has been considered and rejected.

While allowing the petition filed by Nand Kumar Singh, Justice Sanjeev Kumar observed that The order impugned is set aside and a direction is issued to the respondents to regularize the services of the petitioner as Warden from June 18, 1998 when the writ petitioners of SWP No. 1234/2000 titled 'Parhlad Singh and others vs State and others' were so regularized. This would be followed by all the consequential benefits that would inure to the petitioner. Needless to say that the consequential benefits would include the arrears of salary, payment of pension and other service benefits available to the petitioner under relevant service rules.

While allowing the petition, Justice Sanjeev Kumar observed that indisputably, the petitioner herein and the petitioners of SWP No. 1234/2000 were ex-servicemen and were engaged as Warders as such and, therefore, for considering the upper age limit prescribed, the prescription for ex-servicemen in Article 37 Note-5 is required to be taken note of. There is, thus, inherent fallacy in applying the provisions of Article 37 to the case of the petitioner. On both the counts, the order impugned is bad and, therefore, cannot sustain.

SSP Crime adheres rank to newly promoted Pvt. Secy



SSP Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh adhering rank to the newly promoted Private Secretary DySP (S) Puran Pandita.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh on Monday adhered rank to the newly promoted Private Secretary-DySP (S) Puran Pandita

here. Senior officers of Crime Branch Jammu were present on the occasion who showered well wishes upon the Puran Pandita, who recently promoted to the well-deserved prestigious gazetted rank of Private

Secretary. SSP Crime Jammu appreciated the role of Puran Pandita as PA to SSP Crime Branch Jammu and congratulated the promoted officer and his family on elevation to the dignified rank.

ANTF Jammu arrests notorious drug peddler under PIT NDPS ACT

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) in Jammu detained a notorious drug peddler under the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT NDPS) Act.

The detained individual has been identified as Mohd. Arif, also known as Kaka Billa, son of Mashoor Ali from Kordli Thyal, Tehsil Ramkote District, Kathua. Mohd. Arif has been implicated in numerous Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) cases in the past.

Despite being involved in multiple FIRs, he continued to promote drug abuse by supplying drugs to youths, managing to evade arrest for several

months within the Jammu Zone.

The successful operation leading to the arrest of Mohd. Arif was conducted by a police team from ANTF Jammu, headed by Inspector Sanjeet Sharma and Inspector Nayat Ali, under the direction of Tanveer Ahmed, Deputy Superintendent of Police, ANTF Jammu.

The operation was conducted under the overall supervision of Raj Kumar JKPS, Senior Superintendent of Police, ANTF J&K.

ANTF J&K Jammu has urged the general public to provide any relevant information related to drug activities, aiming to completely eradicate this menace from society and safeguard the younger generation from its harmful effects.

DB directives in PIL regarding illegal religious structures come up by way of encroachment on public land

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a suo-moto Public Interest Litigation regarding illegal religious structures come up by way of encroachment on public land i.e public streets, public parks and public places, A Division Bench of Jammu &

Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice N Kotishwar Singh and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal observed that in terms of the directions of the Supreme Court, the Administration is supposed to constitute a committee to examine these issues as also observed by us on December 6, 2023.

DB directed that a copy of constitution of the committee be placed before this Court on the next date of hearing as non-constitution of committee to consider the issues relating to unauthorized structures including religious structures in terms of the directions passed by the Supreme Court would tantamount to disobeying the order of the Supreme Court which we have been directed to monitor.

Unauthorized structures including religious structures in terms of the directions passed by the Supreme Court would tantamount to disobeying the order of the Supreme Court which we have been directed to monitor.