

Three -day Annual Shiv Khori Mela commences

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: The annual three day Shiv Khori Mela was inaugurated on Thursday by District Commissioner Reasi Vishesh Mahajan (Vice Chairperson Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board), here at Ransoo amid religious fervor and enthusiasm.

The mela, which is a significant cultural and religious event, attracts devotees and tourists from far and wide.

The inauguration ceremony was marked by the performance of traditional jhankies, which showcased the rich cultural heritage of the region.

These performances, featuring vibrant costumes and rhythmic dances, added to the festive atmosphere of the mela. An impressive Shiv Baraat was taken out led by chariot of Lord Shiva and followed by various Jhankies. One of the highlights of the event was the performance of jhankies with bhuts and rakshaks. The performers mesmerized the audience with their skillful and energetic perform-



District Commissioner Reasi Vishesh Mahajan inaugurating Mela.

ances, receiving thunderous applause.

The Shiv Parvati Vivah performance, characterized by devotional songs and dances dedicated to Lord Shiva, drew a huge crowd of devotees and tourists alike.

Renowned singer Chaman Lehri gave an enthralling performance, captivating the audience with his soulful rendition of Shiva Bhajans, enrapturing devotees and tourists alike by the divine melodies echoing through the surroundings.

The DDC expressed his commitment to ensure the success of the Shiv Khori Mela. He highlighted the

efforts being made by the district administration Reasi to make this year's mela a memorable and safe event for all devotees.

One of the key announcements made was the commencement of helicopter services from Katra to Ransoo. He said, the technical team has conducted a survey to facilitate the start of the heli service, which is expected to provide a convenient and time-saving travel option for pilgrims.

In addition, the DDC Reasi has appealed to all shopkeepers and vendors participating in the mela to refrain from using single-

use plastic. This initiative aligns with the district administration's efforts to promote environmental sustainability and reduce plastic waste in the region.

The DDC has assured that all necessary arrangements are being made to ensure the smooth conduct of the Shiv Khori Mela, including provisions for security, sanitation, and healthcare facilities. The district administration is working closely with local authorities and stakeholders to make this annual pilgrimage a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. DDC inspected the

departmental stalls showcasing different government initiatives. Stalls were set up by the Revenue, Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, and NRLM, providing attendees with valuable information and opportunities to avail themselves of government services.

Attendees were particularly interested in learning about health programs, agricultural schemes and revenue-related services.

In addition to the stalls, a live demonstration of the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) was conducted to educate people on how to use the EVM and cast their votes effectively in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections. The demonstration was aimed at increasing voter awareness and ensuring a smooth voting process during the elections.

Adl. SP Reasi Iftikhar Ahmed, EO SSKSB Pardeep Kumar, Xen Pwd, Chief Agriculture Officer, Tehsildar Pouni and other senior officers and officials were present on the occasion.

SMVDU, 6Bn CRPF organise anti drug awareness campaign



SMVDU officials along with CRPF men during the event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The Anti-drug awareness campaign was organised at SMVDU as a step to make the future generation conscious of the ill effects of drugs in youth, which was attended by more than 800 students. Welcome address was presented by NSS Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar. Various cultural performances by the students were featured during the event which included skits, dances, songs, speeches and poems on the theme. Pre-events were also organized like awareness rally, Rangoli making and Poster making contests pertaining to the theme on the days preceding the event. Prizes were also

presented to the winners of these competitions. The Commandant 06-BN CRPF, Y. R. Bunker shared his insights on the vices drug addictions could bore.

In his address, the Commandant sternly cautioned students against the perils of drug indulgence, emphasizing the paramount importance of prioritizing their well-being and academic pursuits over substance experimentation. Chief guest of the event, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar graced the occasion and elucidated on the importance of being free from recreational drugs in a student's life. The event was coordinated by Dr. Varun Dutta, Dr. Rajiv

Kumar and Dr. Kamaldeep. Pledge was also taken by the students of University, which was administered by NSS volunteer Sadhvi Sharma, against the Drug abuse. Registrar, SMVDU, Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma (JKAS), Dean Student Welfare, Prof. R. K. Mishra, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Balbir Singh, Finance Officer, Sh. Neeraj Gupta (JKAS), Training & Placement officer, Sh. B.K. Bhatia, Second-in-Command, 06 BN CRPF, Sh. Rajpal and Sh. Rajesh Sharma were also present during the event. The event ended on a patriotic note with the euphony of the national anthem.

CBC Doda concludes two-day Photo Exhibition and Outreach Programme



Officials during the programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Doda, under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, successfully concluded its two-day Photo Exhibition and Outreach Programme today at the Government Model Higher Secondary School (GMHSS) in Batote.

The event witnessed a large turnout of citizens eager to learn about various national initiatives.

The captivating photo exhibition showcased key national themes such as Viksit Bharat, Ek Bharat Shreshthta Bharat, Mission Life, Swachh Bharat Mission, and the Agnipath Scheme. Visitors gained a comprehensive understand-

ing of the progress and impact of these transformative initiatives through the informative Pictures.

Distinguished speakers delivered insightful presentations on a variety of topics. Dr. Shuaib Balwan shared valuable insights on "Mission Life: Lifestyle for Living - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle," emphasizing sustainable living practices. Dr. Rajesh Kotwal shed light on the significant aspects of the Ayushman scheme, highlighting its importance in providing accessible healthcare to all citizens. Satish Singh from 23RR elaborated on the Agnipath scheme, showcasing its impact on rural development and empowerment. Vinod Kumar discussed "Ek Bharat Shreshthta Bharat,"

emphasizing national unity and cultural diversity. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of the Chief Guest, Principal Government Higher Secondary School Batote Dev Raj, who shared inspiring thoughts on the event's themes. He commended the efforts of the CBC Doda for organizing such a grand event aimed at educating and empowering the community.

Earlier, Vikram Uppal from CBC Doda presented a welcoming address, providing a brief overview of the bureau's role in disseminating information and promoting public engagement. Executive Officer MC Batote Rajesh Sharma also graced the occasion with his presence. The two-day Photo Exhibition and Outreach Programme proved to be a resounding success, fostering public understanding and encouraging participation in national development endeavors. The CBC Doda remains committed to facilitating open communication channels and empowering citizens through informative initiatives.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: In a vibrant celebration marking the week-long observance of International Women's Day, a special event was organized at Bhaderwah Campus of the University of Jammu.

The occasion saw an assembly of esteemed guests, faculty members, and students coming together to honor and acknowledge the achievements and contributions of women in various fields.

The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the Rector Bhaderwah Campus and other distinguished guests, including I/C Heads of different departments, Assistant Registrar, and both teaching and non-teaching staff.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs University of Jammu, and the Guest of Honor was Prof. Poonam Choudhary Director and Head Department of Muscology University of Jammu.

Prof. Anju Bhasin, in her illuminating address to the gathered audience, not only expounded on the significance of International Women's Day but also delved into the pro-



Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs JU and others during the event.

found importance of women's empowerment. With a compelling emphasis on the concept of "Nari Shakti" or the strength of women, she painted a vivid picture of the transformative impact that empowered women can have on society at large. Prof. Bhasin articulated that recognizing and harnessing the inherent strength of women is not just a matter of equality but a strategic imperative for the progress and prosperity of any community.

Highlighting the strides women have made in various domains, she shared inspiring anecdotes of women who have overcome obstacles to emerge as leaders and trailblazers in their respective fields. Prof. Bhasin underscored the need for continued efforts to break down barriers and create an

environment where women can thrive professionally and personally.

The Rector of Bhaderwah Campus, Prof. J P Singh Joorel, expressed gratitude to the distinguished guests for gracing the occasion and urged participants to carry out their responsibilities with dedication and commitment.

Rector Bhaderwah Campus, Prof. J P Singh Joorel, took the opportunity to underscore the pivotal role of women in contemporary society. In his address, he lauded the remarkable strides that women have made across various fields, emphasizing that in today's world, women are creating wonders and achieving excellence in every sphere of life. He commended their resilience, intellect, and determination, highlighting that their accom-

plishments serve as a testament to their invaluable contributions to the progress and development of society.

Moreover, Prof. Joorel encouraged the audience to recognize and celebrate the diverse talents and capabilities of women, asserting that fostering an environment of gender equality is crucial for the holistic growth of any community. He expressed confidence in the potential of the female students at Bhaderwah Campus, urging them to pursue their goals with passion and determination, thereby contributing to a more inclusive and empowered society. Prof. Joorel's words resonated with the audience, reinforcing the commitment of the campus to promote gender equality and acknowledge the pivotal role that women play in shaping the future.

Prof. Poonam Choudhary, offering insights into the role of women in the modern era, spoke at length about their contributions to various spheres of life. "The International Women's Day event at JU's Bhaderwah Campus proved to be an inspiring and empowering occasion, fostering a sense of unity and appreciation for the

invaluable contributions of women in academia and beyond," She added

Moreover, she urged the audience to champion the cause of women's empowerment beyond the confines of International Women's Day, advocating for sustained support and equal opportunities for women in education, employment, and societal participation.

The event reached its pinnacle with a vibrant cultural program presented by students from different departments of Bhaderwah Campus. The performances showcased the diverse talents and capabilities of the women associated with the campus.

The celebration not only honored the achievements of women but also served as a platform to inspire and encourage the students to embrace their roles in society with a sense of purpose and determination," he added

On the occasion Participants and other staff of Bhaderwah Campus were presented gifts as a token of love.

Bablu Sharma, Salma Sheikh and Dr Rashida Gani Conducted the proceedings while Ms Bandana Lahiri presented a formal vote of thanks.

Weekly Block Diwas camp held at Panchayat Baderi in Block Samba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: District Development Commissioner Samba Abhishek Sharma held a weekly Block Diwas/ Grievance Redressal camp at Panchayat Ghar Baderi, Block Samba.

ADD C Samba, Rajinder Singh and all district officers were present on the occasion.

The session commenced with a thorough review of the progress report from the previous Block Diwas, with a notable focus on water-related issues, particularly the additional sanctioned schemes of Jal Jeevan Mission.

The DC patiently listened to the concerns of locals regarding irregular power supply, maintenance and construction of rural roads, social security scheme coverage for left-out families and other issues.

The DC directed the concerned departments to ensure speedy and quality disposal of the grievances in a time bound manner.

Seeking department-wise responses to the issues raised during previous Block Diwas, the Deputy Commissioner promptly elicited on-the-spot responses from the concerned District Officers, establishing a direct and efficient channel for grievance resolution. DC reiterated the commitment to prioritize and promptly address all genuine demands and concerns.

Doda police celebrates International Women Day



Police officials along with women folk during the event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Doda Police organized a special event at Women Police Station Doda to celebrate International Women Day. The event was organized by Shakeel Rehman Bhat Adl SP Hqrs Doda under the guidance of Javaid Iqbal, SSP Doda.

On this occasion, students of GMC Doda, newly selected lady Sub-Inspectors were the special invitees and the event was marked by insightful empowering

speeches and recognition of the invaluable contribution made by women in various fields. Number of participants spoke on this occasion and emphasized the importance of women's empowerment in society. The event also witnessed interactive sessions in which participants shared their thoughts and experience on women issues, challenges and success. The celebration also provide a platform to foster dialogue, raise awareness

and promote empowerment of women.

The event concluded with a round of applause for the women present, acknowledging their dedication and commitment in making a positive impact, pivotal role and outstanding contribution in the community. Among the officers, Ajay Anand, DySP Hqrs Doda, SHO Women PS Doda and other officers of Police and Civil department were also present on this occasion.

DC Kathua flags off students rally to commemorate Int'l Women's Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: To commemorate International Women's Day, Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, ceremoniously flagged off a vibrant student rally from the DC Office Complex, here today.

The rally, a part of the Administration's endeavour to promote women empowerment, resonated with fervent enthusiasm as students and educators alike congregated to champion the cause of gender parity and social justice.

The rally, comprising a diverse contingent of students representing different educational institutions of Kathua, embarked on a spirited procession through the thoroughfares of the district, adorned with banners, placards, and slogans echoing the clarion call for gender inclusivity and women's rights. The procession served as a poignant reminder of the collective resolve to dismantle barriers and foster a society where every individual, regardless of gender, can thrive and flourish.



DC Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas flagging off rally.

Speaking on the Occasion, the DC Kathua underscored the pivotal role of youth in driving positive societal change and advocated for the active participation of students in advancing the cause of women's empowerment.

Emphasising the transformative power of education in challenging gender stereotypes and fostering a culture of inclusivity, the DC urged the students to become torchbearers of change and advocates for gender equality within their communities and beyond.

Participants pledged to

uphold the principles of equality and justice in their everyday lives. As the echoes of the rally reverberated through the district, the DC Kathua reaffirmed the administration's unwavering commitment to championing the rights and dignity of women, not just on International Women's Day, but every day. He commended the students for their unwavering zeal and urged them to continue their efforts in building a more equitable and inclusive society for all.

The DC said, Women nowadays are making their mark in

every sphere and breaking the glass ceiling besides fostering a culture of inclusion, inspiring other women to pursue their aspirations and helping to dismantle the systematic barriers that hinder progress.

Later, DC gave away Bags and Books among the participants as a token of commitment of the administration to encourage and support the education of the girls.

Among others, ADC Kathua, DSWO Kathua, Staff of Social Welfare Department besides other officers were present on the occasion.

Animal Husbandry Department organises awareness camp across Ramban

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: The Animal Husbandry Department Ramban, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, today conducted an awareness camp at Ind area of Subdivision Gool.

The main objective of the camp was to educate farmers about various departmental schemes such as IDDS, IPDP, HADP and IFFD. Additionally, the importance of vaccination and deworming in controlling animal diseases was emphasized by Dr. Zaid Bashir and Dr. Ilyas Ahmed.

Under the leadership of CAHO Ramban, Dr. Suhail Kawoosa the programme was efficiently conducted with Dr. Zaid and Dr. Ilyas oversaw the proceedings.

CAHO said that these awareness camps play a vital role in disseminating knowledge, empowering farmers, and promoting sustainable practices in animal husbandry. The sessions featured insights from progressive farmers who shared their firsthand experiences as beneficiaries of government-sponsored schemes, highlighting the positive impact on their livelihoods.