

# MLA Randhawa, JMC Com review Navratra arrangements at Bahu Fort

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In anticipation to the upcoming Navratra festival, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Vikram Randhawa along with Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav on Wednesday visited the Bawe Wali Mata Temple at Bahu Fort to review the arrangements put in place for the festival.

During their visit, they assessed various arrangements, including security, sanitation, lighting, and crowd management, ensuring a smooth and safe experience for devotees.



MLA Vikram Randhawa with officials visiting Bawe Wali Mata Temple at Bahu Fort.

MLA Vikram Singh Randhawa emphasised the importance of well-coordinated efforts among differ-

ent departments to facilitate a seamless celebration of the festival. He directed the authorities to ensure the

uninterrupted power and water supply, one way traffic regulation on the said road during the Navratra festival.

Dr. Devansh Yadav instructed officials to ensure cleanliness in and around the temple premises and maintain essential services for devotees during Navratra.

The dignitaries also interacted with temple authorities and local stakeholders to address any concerns regarding arrangements.

The administration reaffirmed its commitment to making the festival a grand and hassle-free event for

devotees and urged citizens to cooperate in maintaining cleanliness and law and order during the celebrations.

Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anasuya Jamwal, Joint Commissioner (R&E) Rakesh Gupta, Joint Commissioner (H&S) Abdul Star, Joint Commissioner, (W) Firdous Ahmad Qazi, Deputy Commissioner (N) sanjay badyal , Deputy Commissioner (S) Lal Chand and besides, representatives from PWD, JDA and line departments accompanied during the tour.

# Arrangements finalized for Shab-e-Qadr, Jamat-ul-Vida, Eid-ul-Fitr

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan on Wednesday finalized the arrangements for the upcoming religious events of Shab-e-Qadr, Jamat-ul-Vida, and Eid-ul-Fitr here at a joint meeting of officers from different line departments and members of the Shoura Committee.

At the outset, the Shoura Committee projected various demands seeking clean and hygienic surroundings in the town and around religious places hosting special prayers on Shab-I-Qadr; Jumat-ul-Vida, and Eid-ul-Fitr.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to put in place all arrangements assigned to them, while asking for utmost dedication and sincerity to ensure the events are celebrated smoothly.

The ASP informed the meeting that fool-proof security arrangements have been put in place to ensure the smooth and safe celebration of the festival.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner also

directed officers to ensure the availability of adequate drinking water; power; mutton, poultry, ration, LPG, and other essential items in the markets.

The meeting also discussed arrangements for transport, traffic regulation, security, and cleaning drives around mosques and shrines.

The designated enforcement teams were asked to conduct frequent market checks throughout this week to ensure that no sub-standard articles are sold in the market.

Additionally, necessary directions were given to the Fire & Emergency Services and Health Department to ensure their services.

The meeting was attended by ASP Pawan Sharma, PO ICDS/CEO KDA Rishi Kumar Sharma, ACR Idrees Lone, EO Municipality Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, AD FCS&CA Shafqat Ali Keen, ARTO, Tbsildar, DFO, besides members of Majlis-e-Shoura and other district officers from Jal Shakti, AYUSH,PDD, Health, Animal Husbandry, Traffic, Fire and Emergency and Legal Metrology.

# Brig Pandey concludes 2-day visit to 10 JK NCC Battalion



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADERWAH: Group Commander Jammu Brigadier DN Pandey on Wednesday concluded his two-day visit to 10 JK NCC Battalion Bhaderwah. He had an insightful engagement with NCC officials and cadets. Brig Pandey emphasized the importance of leadership, discipline, and national service, encouraging cadets to become a source of motiva-

tion for societal develop-

ment. As part of his tour, Brig Pandey visited Government Degree Colleges (GDC) in Bhaderwah and Doda, where he interacted with Dr. Attar Singh Kotwal and Dr. Javed Iqbal Zargar, the Principals of the institutions. Addressing the students, he delivered a motivational talk, urging them to take an active role in nation-building and con-

tribute to India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

The Group Commander also met Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh to discuss an upcoming mega medical camp in the Chenab Valley being organized by Rotary Club J&K. The initiative aims to provide specialized medical care to rural communities, addressing their healthcare needs. As a gesture of appreciation, Brig Pandey presented mementos to the Deputy Commissioner and college principals and awarded medallions to outstanding NCC cadets. He commended the unit's dedication to nurturing young cadets and fostering positive societal change in the Chenab Valley.

# 5-day residential training on natural farming concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The five-day residential training program on Natural Farming, organized under the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) for Krishi Sakhis on Wednesday concluded in Udhampur. The training aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of Krishi Sakhis in sustainable and eco-friendly farming practices.

The five-day training provided a valuable platform for knowledge-sharing and skill development, equipping the Krishi Sakhis with practical strategies to promote natural farming and contribute to a more sustainable agricultural future.

Chief Agriculture Officer Sanjay Anand was the Chief Guest at the valedictory function. He distributed certificates to the Krishi Sakhis who participated in the train-



Krishi Sakhis with officials posing for a photograph at closing ceremony of training.

ing. He emphasized the significance of Natural Farming in promoting soil health, reducing dependency on chemical inputs, and ensuring long-term agricultural sustainability. He encouraged the Krishi Sakhis to adopt and promote natural farming techniques within their communities.

Associate Professor Dr. Lalit Upadhyaya provided an insightful overview of

Natural Farming, explaining its principles and benefits. He also interacted with the Krishi Sakhis, gathering their feedback on the training program and addressing their queries related to the implementation of natural farming methods.

District Program Manager (DPM), JKRLM Vikas Rajput delivered an informative session on the National Mission on Natural Farming,

outlining various government initiatives and schemes designed to support farmers in transitioning to sustainable agricultural practices.

District Officer Agriculture Department S. Sukhbir Singh also addressed the gathering, sharing valuable insights into the role of natural farming in improving crop productivity and ensuring environmental sustainability.

The event was further

enriched by the presence of Dr. Arvinder Kumar and Dr. Muneesh Sharma, Programme Assistants from KVK Reasi, along with representatives from the Directorate of Extension. They provided additional technical guidance and emphasized the importance of community-based learning in adopting natural farming methods.

The training program concluded with a valedictory function, where Dr. Sanjay Koushal delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks. He expressed gratitude to all the dignitaries, trainers, and participants for their active engagement in the program. He particularly appreciated the enthusiasm and commitment of the Krishi Sakhis, acknowledging their vital role in disseminating knowledge about natural farming within their respective communities.

# Cooperative, SHD join hands to revitalize wool sector in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step towards strengthening the wool sector and promoting sheep and wool-related cooperative societies in Jammu and Kashmir, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Wednesday between the Department of Cooperatives and the Department of Sheep Husbandry here at the Registrar Cooperative Societies Complex, Bantala.

The MoU was formally signed by Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies Jammu, Bal Krishan and Joint Director Extension, Sheep Husbandry Department, Jammu, Dr. Tara Chand in presence of Priyanka Bhatt Joint Registrar (Audit), Cooperative Societies, Deputy Director Sheep



Adtl Registrar Cooperative Societies Jammu, Bal Krishan and Joint Director Extension, Sheep Husbandry Department, Jammu, Dr. Tara Chand signing MoU.

Husbandry Jammu, Deputy Registrar (HQ) Cooperative Societies Jammu, Assistant Registrar (HQ) Cooperative Societies Jammu, and other officials from both departments. This agreement aims to revitalize the wool sector in Jammu Division by leveraging cooperative enterprises. The focus will be on facilitating the registration of Village Cooperative Societies (VCS), providing infrastruc-

ture and financial support, streamlining wool collection and marketing, and creating a structured three-tier cooperative system at village, district, and divisional levels.

Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies, Jammu, emphasized the synergy between the two departments, with Cooperatives providing an institutional framework and Sheep Husbandry offering technical

expertise. He also spoke about the role of women cooperatives in traditional wool-based activities, referencing the Charkha as a symbol of self-reliance and economic empowerment. Additionally, he underlined the value addition opportunities in the wool sector, stressing that wool products, unlike perishable goods, have longevity and market sustainability. He further elabo-

rated on how cooperatives can leverage their extensive social base and align with schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Sheep Husbandry Department to boost rural economies and unlock the sector's untapped potential.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Tara Chand, Joint Director Extension, Sheep Husbandry Department, highlighted the current status of the sheep and wool sector in J&K, the challenges posed by competition from synthetic fibers, and the potential of value addition and technical support to rejuvenate the industry, especially in far-flung areas.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Deputy Registrar (HQ), Cooperative Societies Jammu.

# DC hands over Fire Tender to F&ES Dept



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas, on Wednesday handed over keys of a modern fire tender to the Fire and Emergency Services Department to enhance the district's emergency response capabilities. The fire tender, acquired under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, is equipped with state-of-the-art firefighting technology and will strengthen the department's ability to respond effectively to fire-related emergencies across Kathua. This addition is expected to play a crucial role in safeguarding lives and property in the region. During the handover ceremony, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas underscored the vital role of collaboration between the administration and corporate partners in tackling critical community needs. He emphasized that the

newly acquired fire tender, secured through a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, will significantly bolster the district's firefighting capabilities, ensuring a swift and efficient response to emergencies. The DC thanked the CSR contributors for their generous support, emphasizing that such partnerships are vital for the district's development. The event was attended by ADC Kathua Ranjit Singh, Sr. Manager NHPC Dhiraj Kumar, CPO Kathua Ranjit Thakur besides the officials from the Fire and Emergency. The newly acquired fire tender will be deployed immediately to serve the residents of Kathua.

The Kathua Administration remains committed to improving infrastructure and emergency services, ensuring a safer and more secure environment for all.

# DC conducts on-site inspection of Infra projects

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal on Wednesday visited Village Sanai in the Sub Division of Surankote and inspected progress of work on infrastructure projects aimed at fostering road connectivity.

Accompanied by local SDM Farooq Khan, Xen PWD, Manoj Gupta, along with concerned AEEs, JEs, and other officials, the Deputy Commissioner inspected crucial infrastructure developments in the area.

During the visit, he assessed the progress of the under-construction Bailey type 22-meter span motorable bridge at Bela Sanai Mohalla Drogian on Shah Kareem Ziarat under UT Capex, which is vital for connecting Mohalla Dogrian.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed



DC Vikas Kundal with officials visiting Village Sanai.

progress of work on the 152-meter motorable bridge, which includes an additional span and the approach road

from the main road to Ziarat Sayeed Kareem Shah at Sanai, funded under the NABARD RIDF scheme.

This bridge is essential for connecting Kallar Kattal, Nadyali,Marhote and Pamrote.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned executing agencies to expedite the work, ensuring that local residents enjoy improved accessibility and convenience.

Moreover, the Deputy Commissioner took the opportunity to engage with the locals, inquiring about essential services such as ration distribution and other facilities provided during the holy month of Ramzan.

# GCOE organises 1600th Tree Talk

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Innovation Cell and Nature Club of Government College of Education Canal Road successfully organized 1600th Tree Talk here on Wednesday. The Resource Person was O.P. Sharma (Retd IFS and Member of J&K Biodiversity Council).

The event was held in two sessions. The first session was attended by the College Principal Dr. Jyoti Parihar. IIC Convener and HOD Sciences Prof. Sunanda Rani formally welcomed the Resource person. The session was very informative and provided an overview of

different significant plants, their medicinal properties and ethical values.

Faculty members including Prof. Satish Kumar Sharma, Prof. Balwan Singh, Dr. Rakesh Bharti, Prof. Chanchal Singh Manhas , Dr. Shalini Sharma (Nature Club Convener ) and Dr. Suraj Prakash along with non- Teaching Staff and one Hundred students (100) actively participated in the interactive session. Students also relished various plant based delicacies prepared and served by Sardar Manjeet Singh, a Nature lover.

The second session was held at IIIM, Jammu and

chaired by Director IIIM, Jammu, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed. O.P. Sharma gave a powerpoint presentation on various medicinal and rare plants of J&K.

The speaker emphasized on the importance of preserving rich Biodiversity promoting environmental awareness. This milestone event inspired students and faculty to appreciate and protect the invaluable flora that sustains our ecosystem. The valedictory function concluded with a vote of thanks, appreciating the collective efforts of the organizers, trainers, and participants in making the event a grand success.

# DH Kishtwar hosting 7-day Multi Speciality Surgical Camp from April 17

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan (Chairman District Red Cross Society) on Wednesday convened a crucial meeting to discuss preparations for Multi Speciality Surgical Camp going to be organized by the Rotary International at District Hospital Kishtwar.

The Chief Medical Officer informed the meeting that the one week camp will commence from April 17, 2025 and all BMOs have been directed to encourage patients to take advantage of the same.

The BMOs were directed to nominate one officer / official as Nodal Officer



from each block who will coordinate the mobilization of the patients with the authorities of District Hospital.

Medical Superintendent and all the BMOs were directed to get the investigations and Pre-Anaesthetic check-up of patients done well in advance preferably two weeks in advance.

The District Hospital management was directed to prepare the Operation theatres and post-operative as per protocol and also keep all the staff in readiness for the camp.

The Block Medical Officers apprised that they are already in the process of screening the patients for this camp for more than three weeks. They

were further directed to screen the maximum number of patients who can benefit from this camp.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Dy. Director Dentistry, (Rep. of Directorate of Health Services, Jammu); Dr. Rajinder Kumar, Chief Medical Officer; Dr. Yudhvir Singh Kotwal, Medical Superintendent, District Hospital; Dr. Dushyant Chowdhary (Representative of Rotary International); Dr. Anil Kumar Sharma, Block Medical Officer Kishtwar; Dr. Saima Agoo, Block Medical Officer Chatroo; Dr. Waseem Ahmed Kamal, Dr. Sajad Hussain Waza besides other concerned staff.

# Service providers san cards barred from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi track

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Sub- Divisional Magistrate Katra, by virtue of powers vested under section 163 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), has imposed restrictions on the service providers plying without card on the track of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi within

the jurisdiction of Sub Division.

An order issued today stated "Appropriate necessary action as mandated under relevant rules/Aet shall be initiated against the violators of the order.

"No service provider (Pony/Pithu/Palki) shall be permitted to ply on the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi

Shrine Track within the jurisdiction of Sub Division, Katra without possessing the valid and registered service card issued by this office in the year 2024. No service provider (Pithu/ Palki/ Pony) shall be permitted to ply on other person's card. Regular inspections and verification of the cards

shall be carried out at designated points on the shrine track to ensure compliance with these restrictions. Service providers must carry their valid card with them at all times while operating on the track," the order directed.

The order shall take effect immediately and will remain in force from now.

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