

Eid Shoppers, Vendors Rejoice as Chenab Valley's oldest open-air market in Bhaderwah bustles despite rains

STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADERWAH: Despite torrential rains and inclement weather, the historic and largest open-air market of Bhaderwah in the Chenab Valley witnessed a massive surge in activity, as Eid shoppers and vendors thronged the market with great enthusiasm.

The famous open-air market of Bhaderwah came alive ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, bringing much-needed relief to the business community that had been worried due to adverse weather conditions. As the auspicious festival approaches, markets and shopping centres across the Chenab Valley—especially the iconic Bhaderwah open market—are witnessing unprece-



dentented footfall, with shoppers rushing to make last-minute purchases.

The market opened early in the morning, while several vendors were seen occupying their spots since midnight to cater to the festive rush.

Shoppers from Bhaderwah, Bhalla, Thathri, Chirala, and

ing Seri Bazaar, Jamia Masjid Market, Khalro Market, Passri Bus Stand, and Sadar Bazaar remained jam-packed, with shoppers moving from one end to another throughout the day.

Interestingly, not only Muslims but also a large number of non-Muslims eagerly participate in pre-Eid shopping, as the open market offers goods at significantly lower prices compared to regular days.

For many villagers, this annual market holds special significance, as they purchase essentials for the entire family—often for the whole year—at highly affordable rates.

Amid the enthusiastic crowd, shopkeepers and vendors expressed joy, as sales have increased manifold despite continuous rains.

Vendors from outside states including Punjab, Ludhiana, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana were also seen doing brisk business.

Alisa, a vendor from Punjab, said that like every year, they have set up their stall in Bhaderwah, as thousands of customers visit the market before Eid in search of better deals. She added that sales during these few days often surpass earnings of several months.

Another vendor, shared that they eagerly wait for the Eid season every year—not only for good business but also to enjoy the pleasant weather of Bhaderwah.

Sanatan Dharm Sabha releases annual calendar



Sabha members releasing calendar at Poonch.

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: Shri Sanatan Dharm Sabha District Poonch today inaugurated its Annual Calendar for Vikrami Samvat 2083, marking the fourth consecutive year of its publication.

The calendar aims to help the public stay informed about festivals and other important dates throughout the year.

On the occasion, the Sabha also commenced the Shri Ramcharitmanas Ji Path series, which will continue

until March 26, culminating on the auspicious day of Shri Ram Navami. A grand Shobha Yatra is scheduled to be organised on the same day, expected to witness participation from thousands of devotees.

President of Shri Sanatan Dharm Sabha Poonch, Sh. Khaterpal Sharma, along with all Sabha members, extended their greetings to the public on the eve of Vikrami Samvat and Navratras.

Among those present at the

event were Sh. Dev Dutt Sharma, Ajay Bhalla, Raj Pal Sharma, Amresh Kumar, Sanjeev Kumar, Ishan Tandon, Avinash Bhalla, Ajay Kumar, and members of the Shri Ramayan Ji Path Mandli. The President and Sabha members urged people to actively participate in the upcoming religious programmes and seek the blessings of Bhagwan Ji.

The event concluded with a message of unity, devotion, and community participation.

DC Samba chairs Block Diwas at Purmandal, listens to public grievances



DC Samba Ayushi Sudan speaking during the event.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan chaired a Block Diwas programme at Mahajan Hall Panchayat Deon, Block Purmandal to address public grievances and review developmental issues of the area.

During the programme, a large number of residents projected their concerns and demands pertaining to road connectivity, water supply and other basic amenities. The Deputy Commissioner gave a

patient hearing to all the issues and assured the public of prompt and effective redressal.

Taking serious note of the grievances, the DC directed the concerned departments to take immediate necessary action and ensure that all works are completed within the stipulated time-frame. She emphasized that any delay in execution of developmental works would not be tolerated and accountability would be fixed. Stress was also laid on maintaining quality

standards in all ongoing and upcoming projects. The Deputy Commissioner specifically instructed the executing agencies to ensure the use of quality materials in the construction of roads and other infrastructure works so as to ensure durability and public satisfaction.

While interacting with the locals, the DC encouraged them to explore self-employment opportunities and actively contribute towards the economic growth and development of their area. She highlighted the importance of community participation in achieving sustainable development.

Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ACR), Ajay Bharti along with other senior officers of various departments, were present on the occasion.

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: The School of Electronics and Communication Engineering (SoECE) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, successfully organized a one-day workshop on "Virtual Labs" in collaboration with IIT Roorkee. The workshop aimed to enhance students' understanding by bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application through advanced digital learning tools.

The session was conducted by Chetan Dhiman and Amit Kumar Sharma, Project Associates associated with the Virtual Labs initiative at IIT Roorkee. The experts delivered detailed presentations and conducted hands-on demonstrations of various virtual experiments. They highlighted how stu-



Officials along with participants during the workshop.

dents can effectively use the Virtual Labs platform to strengthen conceptual clarity and gain practical exposure, even beyond the limitations of physical laboratories.

A total of 121 students actively participated in the workshop, showing keen interest and enthusiasm throughout the sessions. The speakers elaborated on the features and benefits of Virtual Labs developed

under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT), an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Government of India. They explained how virtual experiments can complement traditional lab work, making learning more flexible, accessible, and interactive.

The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Vikram Singh, with valuable support from

Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj and Dr. Neeraj Tripathi, who ensured the smooth execution of the event. Their efforts contributed significantly to creating an engaging and well-organized learning environment for the participants.

Students appreciated the interactive nature of the sessions and expressed that the workshop provided them with meaningful insights into modern educational

technologies. Many participants found the practical demonstrations particularly useful in understanding complex engineering concepts in a simplified manner.

The organizers expressed their sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, the Registrar, Director DQA, and all faculty and staff members of SoECE for their continuous encouragement and support. Their cooperation played a crucial role in the successful conduct of the workshop.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks extended to the speakers from IIT Roorkee for their valuable contributions.

The workshop not only enriched students' academic experience but also encouraged them to explore innovative approaches in engineering education through digital platforms.

Shagun Parihar meets senior BJP Leader Hukum Chand in Kishtwar

STATE TIMES NEWS
KISHTWAR: MLA Kishtwar, Shagun Parihar, along with a senior party leader, had the privilege of meeting veteran BJP leader Captain Hukum Chand at his residence in Kishtwar.

During the visit, MLA Shagun Parihar inquired about his health and well-being and expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to receive his blessings. The meeting was marked by warmth, respect, and meaningful interaction.

Captain Hukum Chand is widely regarded as a dedicated and respected leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party. He has played a pivotal role in strengthening the party's foundation not only in

Kishtwar but across Jammu and Kashmir. His unwavering commitment to public service, visionary leadership, and tireless efforts has left a lasting impact and continue to inspire many.

MLA Parihar acknowledged his immense contribution, highlighting his wisdom, experience, and steadfast dedication to the welfare of the people as exemplary. She extended her heartfelt wishes for his good health and continued strength so that he may keep guiding and inspiring future generations.

The visit reflects the party's deep respect for its senior leadership and its continued commitment to values of service, guidance, and unity.

DC Rajouri conducts surprise inspection; 35 domestic LPG cylinders seized for violations

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, today conducted a surprise inspection across various market areas in the town to check irregularities and ensure strict enforcement of essential commodities regulations.

During the inspection, the team visited a gas agency and reviewed its functioning. Continuing the drive, the Deputy Commissioner directed officials to seize two LPG cylinders from a pizza shop at Salani Market for unauthorised usage.

At Mandi Chowk, three LPG cylinders were seized from a hotel operating under the name "Welcome Hotel" for similar violations. Further, one LPG



DC Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma carrying out inspection.

cylinder was seized from Raju Sweet Shop during the inspection.

The Deputy Commissioner also conducted random market inspection, checking hygiene standards, rates and overall compliance with regulations. He strictly directed all commercial

establishments not to use domestic LPG cylinders and warned that violations will invite stringent action under the law.

Meanwhile, similar enforcement drives were conducted in different subdivisions of the district by Tehsildars under the supervision of respective

ADCs. During these drives, 10 LPG cylinders were seized in Kotranka, 03 in Kalakote, 06 in Rajouri and 16 in other subdivisions. With this, the total number of LPG cylinders seized across the district has reached 35.

The district administration reiterated its commitment to enforcing regulations and urged all business establishments to adhere to prescribed norms, failing which strict action will be taken.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by ADC Rajouri Chander Prakash, Assistant Director FCS&CA, Rohit Kumar; SHO Rajouri, Gaurav and other enforcement officials from concerned departments.

PM Shri HSS Agharjitto celebrates Annual Day

STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: The PM Shri Higher Secondary School Agharjitto in district Reasi celebrated its Annual Day with great enthusiasm and fervour at the school premises, here.

On the occasion, Dr Jagdish Chander Mehra, Joint Director Education Department Udhampur-Reasi, graced the event as the chief guest, while Deepak Gupta, CEO Reasi, attended as the guest of honour. The programme showcased a vibrant blend of sports and cultural activities. While speaking on the occasion, the chief guest emphasized that all students must actively participate in academic, sports, and cultural activities for their overall development. He further urged all government employees to enroll their wards in government schools, highlighting the need to promote trust and strengthen the government education system.

The highlight of the event was an exciting Kabaddi match played between Team Aghar and Team Bawa Jitto, in which Team Bawa Jitto emerged victorious after a spirited performance.

Students also presented colourful cultural items, reflecting their talent and creativity, which were highly appreciated by the audience. During the function, students from various cluster schools who participated in the Science Exhibition were felicitated by the chief guest for their innovative models and efforts.

The event was also attended by the Suresh Gandotra, Zonal Education Officer (ZEO), Reasi. Prominent members, including Romesh Sharma and Sudershan Singh (SMDC Member), were also present on the occasion.

The event was organised under the supervision of Dara Singh, Principal, HSS Agharjitto.

Medical Camp organised at Kalal Village

STATE TIMES NEWS
NOWSHERA: Under the directions of CE (P) Sampark and the guidance of Col. Dr. R. Manhas, a medical camp was successfully organised at Village Kalal under Dett Nonial, Nowshera, on March 17, 2026. The camp was conducted with full logistical support from Lt. Col. Shashank Sekher and Sh. S. D. Nautiyal, 2nd Incharge Officer, 58 RCC, in convergence with the team from SDH Nowshera deputed by Dr. Chander Parkash, BMO Nowshera.

During the camp, sputum samples were collected on the spot for tuberculosis (TB) screening under the

National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP). Haemoglobin testing was also carried out under the Anemia Mukh Bharat Abhiyan. Albendazole tablets and iron folic acid supplements were distributed to borderline anemia cases, while patients were provided with necessary medicines for their ailments.

The medical team included Dr. Rajan, Ravi, Sh. Yogesh, Sh. Dig Pal, Smt. Radha, Sh. H. M. Meena (Nursing Supervisor), Sh. Rabinder Pal (Nursing Supervisor), and Sh. H. L. Kothari.

Special appreciation was extended to Sh. R. K. Patel, AE and Dett Officer, and N. K. Rawal for their efforts in successfully managing the camp. Gratitude was also expressed to Dr. Chander Parkash, BMO Nowshera, for his support and coordination.

The initiative was lauded for bringing essential healthcare services to the rural population and promoting awareness about important health issues.

Market checking drives conducted across Ramban district



Team carrying out market checking at Ramban.

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAMBAN: In line with the directives of Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan, market checking drives were conducted by joint teams of various enforcement departments across the district to ensure adherence to quality standards and fair trade practices.

In view of the festivals, the drive is continuing across Ramban, a team led

under the guidance of Tehsildar Ramban, Deep Kumar carried out intensive inspections of markets with special focus on edible and perishable items. The checking primarily covered fresh consumables including mutton, chicken, cheese and other essential food items.

During the inspection, the team verified the quality, hygiene, pricing and proper display of rate lists. Shopkeepers were directed

to maintain cleanliness, ensure the sale of quality products and strictly adhere to the prescribed norms. Necessary instructions were also issued to avoid overcharging and hoarding of essential commodities.

The enforcement teams advised all traders to comply with the regulations and cooperate with the authorities in maintaining transparency and hygiene in the markets.

Training on Phase-1 House-listing, Housing Census conducted in Reasi

STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: A training programme for Phase-1 of the House-listing and Housing Census was organized in Reasi by Census officials. The session aimed to thoroughly train Charge Officers, Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) and their Census Clerks on all aspects of the upcoming first phase of Census operations.

The training covered critical components of the House-listing and Housing Census, including preparation of the House-list, collection of data on housing conditions, household amenities, assets and infrastructure facilities.

Participants were given hands-on guidance on the use of digital tools, mobile applications and the self-enumeration portal to ensure accurate,

efficient and transparent data collection during the field operations. The programme was graced by the presence of district officers, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Chief Planning Officer (CPO), District Statistics & Evaluation Officer (DSEO) and Accounts Officer to the Deputy Commissioner (AO to DC).

Census officials conducted detailed interactive sessions, practical demonstrations and addressed queries related to roles, responsibilities, timelines and quality control measures for Phase-1 operations. Emphasis was laid on achieving complete coverage, maintaining data integrity and adhering strictly to the prescribed schedules and guidelines.

MLA Ramgarh highlights importance of women empowerment

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAMGARH: In a significant move towards promoting women's self-reliance, MLA Ramgarh Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal, underscored the importance of skill-based programmes during a function at Village Diani. He highlighted that initiatives like these provide women with meaningful livelihood opportunities and help strengthen economic independence at the grassroots.

The programme was organized by the Nations Development Association

(NDA) in collaboration with Anmol Health Care at Village Diani, AC Ramgarh, District Samba. As part of the initiative, Anmol Health Care contributed 10 sewing machines to support skill development and employment generation for women in the area. Addressing the gathering, Dr Manyal encouraged women to make the most of such initiatives, stressing that these programmes could pave the way for establishing centralized platforms for sustainable employment and skill enhance-

ment. Gopal Singh Jasrotia, Proprietor Anmol Health Care, praised the ongoing social work of Sushil Singh Charak and assured continued support for similar welfare programmes. Sushil Singh Charak, Chief Functionary of Nations Development Association, expressed gratitude to Anmol Health Care and reaffirmed the organization's commitment to women empowerment and upliftment of underprivileged communities through skill-based initiatives.

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