

## PCCF reviews stabilisation works on Udhampur - Ramban Highway stretch



Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, J&K, Dr. Mohit Gera conducting tour of forest areas.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAMBAN: Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, J&K, Dr. Mohit Gera conducted an extensive tour of forest areas of Forest Divisions, Ramban and Batote along with CF Chenab Circle, Dr Jitendra Kumar Singh.

The PCCF was also accompanied by DFO Ramban, Dr

Rajan Singh, DFO Batote, Kuldeep Singh and PO NH, Raj Kumar.

The PCCF inspected the ongoing NH-44 stabilization works from Udhampur to Ramban and issued directions regarding slope stabilization by modern Biological measures using geotextile mats and coir fibre logs.

The PCCF appreciated the NH 44 stabilization works being made by the both Batote and Ramban Forest Divisions and National Highway Project Division.

Meanwhile, an interactive session was held with PRIs at Batote Forest Hut in which attended by the Chairperson, BDC Batote, DDC Councillor, Batote, Sarpanches and other PRIs. The PRIs thanked PCCF for outreach umbrella program Green JK Drive, One Beat Guard one village programme under Har Gaon Haryali Campaign.

The issues were raised like providing timber to PMAY beneficiaries, settlement of Ladha Dhar tribal issue. Directions were issued to DFO Batote for readdressal of the grievances.

## Langeh pays tributes to Bharat Ratan Dr B R Ambedkar

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: BJP Ramban unit celebrated Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti as Samrasta Divas in a programme held at BJP Office Ramban and Panchayat Sana. On the occasion, Neelam Langeh, senior BJP leader and former MLA along with party cadres paid tributes to the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and said that his ideas and ideals have taught a way of life to all the sections of society.

Neelam Langeh said that the Nation will always be indebted for his contributions. Conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, Baba Saheb will continue to be a role model for the millions for centuries to come. He said that it was a pity that a person with

such a strong persona was not given due recognition by earlier Congress led governments and said that BJP has ensured that contributions of Baba Saheb are remembered at the booth level.

Neelam Rao Ambedkar termed Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar as the iconic social revolutionary of modern times who continued his mission of struggle throughout his life.

Speaking on his life, Langeh said that born on April 14, 1891, Baba Saheb was an Indian jurist, economist, politician and social reformer who campaigned against social discrimination towards every oppressed class. He urged all to ensure that their future generations do remember contributions of such great personalities so that the society never loses its track.

## GCW Kathua launches plantation drive



Faculty and students during the plantation drive.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: A plantation drive was organized by NSS unit of Govt. Degree College for Women, Kathua on Thursday. On this occasion, principal, Dr.M.S Pathania planted a sapling in the college campus. During his address he spoke about the importance of Plants, natural life saving unit, only source of natural oxygen. Trees are the treasure not personal to anyone but served everyone in a equal way. He told everyone of us

should make a habit to plant trees, during every remarkable day to make it special. Trees are the only source to eradicate pollution from the environment. Also these Trees enhance the beauty of Place, Imparting soothing effect to the eyes of the observer. Dr. Arun Dev Singh, NSS programme officer encouraged Volunteers to show mass participation in such event as these likely to serve the community as well as nation in a un-comparisonable way.

He stressed that these trees never worth less than jewels and urged the volunteers that they should carry this drive to every nook and corner of the society so that a nation where we live should become an exemplary Pollution free nation. Various Faculty members namely Prof. Ashwani Khajuria, Prof. Vijay, Prof. Nareish, Prof. Pallavi, Prof.Surekha, Prof. Ajay Sanotra, Prof. Varchaskam enhanced the grace of the occasion.

## Cultural & Craft Festival concludes at Bani, scintillating presentation enthralled audience

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANI: On the concluding day of Cultural and Craft Mela organized by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, scintillating performances by the seasonal artists were showcased which enthralled the august gathering. The main aim was to celebrate the auspicious Baisakhi Mela in scenic Bani valley which proved to be the crowd puller. Additional Secretary J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages Sanjeev Rana while addressing the gathering shared that the main goal of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages is to take the culture to every household so that the young guns get to know their roots. Further he said that we are all putting all out effort to showcase the rich culture of Jammu and Kashmir. He also thanked Joginder Singh Jasrotia SDM Bani, Media and Police department for their unconditional support. The Mela was organized with the support of District Administration, Kathua.

For the promotion and



Artists performing folk item during the fest.

preservation of the traditional and cultural festivals of Jammu & Kashmir; a scheme by the name: "Scheme for Promotion of Traditional and Cultural Festivals of Jammu & Kashmir" has been introduced by the Government in the Department of Culture. In this series, Bani was the first to witness Cultural Festival in the series of events.

Two day Mela which was inaugurated yesterday by Sanjeev Rana (JKAS) Additional Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and Joginder Singh Jasrotia, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Bani was a grand success on

both the days which received huge applauds from the august gathering of picturesque Bani. On the first day, series of performances were showcased which reflects the cultural ethos of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. They include Geetru, Kud, Nati, Jattar, Padri Dance, Haran, Pahari Kud, Kashmiri Rouf, Dogri Dance etc. On the concluding day of the Cultural and Craft Festival various folk dance and music forms were showcased these include Geetru, Dogri Dance, Kashmiri Dance, Padri Dance, Kud, Haran, Jattar, Nati Dance and the singing by Suman Lata, Poonam Choudhary,

Revi Devi and Johny.

The festival showcased various local folk music and dance forms which spread cross-cultural awareness amongst the visitors, and the locals, followed by the display of traditional craft and cuisine forms. Since food has been an integral part of any festival celebration in the region, the local cuisine was also promoted via multiple food stalls - operated by the local people. These food stalls served the authentic taste of the local dishes on a payment basis which help the localities to generate revenue.

The people of Bani congratulated the efforts put by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages; and thanked the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary A K Mehta, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Raghav Langer, Secretary Culture Sarmad Hafeez and Secretary of J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages Rahul Pandey; for taking an initiative to promote their craft and culture. They further requested Lieutenant

Governor Manoj Sinha to make this kind of event an annual happening so that craft and culture of Bani can be preserved.

A total of 150 festivals, comprising 75 Sufi festivals and 75 Traditional & Cultural festivals are happening in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and the Bani Valley is witnessing the first in the series: a two-day Cultural and Craft Mela. The attempt is to revive our age-old traditions through art and craft forms. Therefore, along with performing arts, the showcasing of associated cultural components becomes an integral part of all traditional and cultural festivals.

The festival was done with overall supervision of Sanjeev Rana Additional Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages along with Daksh Dev Lieutenant Governor's Fellow. Sanjeev Gupta SOCA Kathua and Pankaj Sharma Technical Head have left no stone unturned to make the Cultural and Craft Festival a grand success with their flawless coordination.

## B R Ambedkar's Birthday celebrated at Ghagwal

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GHAGWAL: Dr. B.R Ambedkar Charitable and Welfare Trust Ghagwal celebrated the 131st Birthday of Baba Sahib Bharat Rattan Dr. B.R.Ambedkar at Mela Ground Ghagwal with full joy and fervor. On the occasion Adv. Dharam Vir was the Chief Guest and the function was attended by atleast 400 people.

On the occasion, Chief guest Adv. Dharam Vir highlighted the biography of the Baba Sahib and has stressed upon the education as the education is the only tool which opens all the doors of the world. He also appealed to the people to get united and get ready for agitation.

## Iftar party organised at Gurudwara Santpura Nangali Sahib Poonch



Muslim brethren participating in Iftar party.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Sikh community of Poonch on Wednesday organised Iftar Party at Santpura Gurudwara Nangali Sahib Poonch on eve of Baisakhi Festival, where a large number of Muslim took

part and broke their fasting in evening. This programme boosted the communal harmony among religious and brotherhood, which is traditional in Poonch for decades.

Speaking on the occasion organizing committee of Dera

Santpura Nangali Sahib said that this is an example of Hindu-Muslim-Sikh unity, which is tradition of Poonch and said a large number of Muslim brothers apart from different areas took part in this party and took Iftar.

Speaking on the occasion Muslims brothers, who were present on the occasion said that, they were invited by their Sikh brother to break their fasting for which they thanked them. The example of Muslim-Sikh unity has been set by Poonch Sikhs especially the organizing committee of Dera Santpura Nangali Sahab, which has been appreciated by everyone in Poonch.

## GDC Ramgarh organises various activities to celebrate Baisakhi

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMGARH: Department of Punjabi, Govt. Degree College Ramgarh, organized various activities to commemorate the Baisakhi festival. Various literary and cultural online activities were organized from April 10 to April 13 under the Patronage and guidance of Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, GDC Ramgarh. Prof. Risha Kumari, Assistant Professor, Deptt of Punjabi and Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Assistant Professor, Statistics organized the whole event scrupulously. Students of the College participated with great fervor and zeal in the event.GDC Ramgarh gave celebration of Baisakhi a whole new hue by conducting various

activities for the student from their home.

A congratulatory message on the occasion was sent by Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, Principal of the College. The festival symbolizes the beginning of the harvest season, a celebration of the fruits of the farmer's toil and a thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest. For the Sikhs, it also marks the founding of the Khalsa panth by Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

Self Composed Poem Recitation, Singing and Dancing activities were conducted for the Students of GDC Ramgarh. The students showed great enthusiasm and excitement by participating in most of these

activities.Dressed in typical folk attire, students of theCollege danced to the tunes of 'Bhangra' and 'Gidhha'. The results of the competition were declared today in which the first prize was bagged by Komal, B.A.Sem. III ; Avinash Kour; B.A. Sem III secured the secong position; Raghunandan, B.A. Sem.I clinched the third prize and Anuj Pangotra, B.A. Sem.III won the consolation prize.. E- Certificates of Participation shall be given to all the students to encourage them to participate in such events.

The principal of the College appreciated the students' initiative and encouraged them to come up brilliantly with their creativity and respect all festivals.

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## Nowshera forest division distributes fruit plants

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NOWSHERA: On the eve of Baisakhi, a plants distribution stall was organised here at 'Gurdwara Sahib' Tanda of Forest Block Kangri. About 400 fruit plants were distributed among the people under the theme Har Gaon Hariyali.

Speaking on the occasion, Neelima Shah Divisional

Forest Officer Nowshera, told that her team is committed towards making the people aware about the importance of plants. Keeping in views the theme Har Gaon Hariyali, Nowshera Forest Division is organising such camps on all the religious, cultural and social events.

Rakesh Verma Range

Forest Officer Sunder bani said that our theme is to aware the people about the religious and cultural importance of plants, besides distribution of plants fire fighting equipments were also demonstrated among the people by organising. Stall in the Gurdwara Premises. He also appealed the people to help forest department in

combating the forest fires. He said that our control rooms are always ready with quick response teams, you can send the message at any time so that forest fire if a y could be timely controlled.

The whole event was organised under the direct supervision of Vivek Verma Conservator of Forests West Circle Rajouri.

of this innovative programme and can start entrepreneurship on bamboo crafting. She added that Bamboo crafting can be a source of income and employment for the rural people. She stressed on group formation approach for the rural development.

The Bamboo lady of India, Neera Sarmah guided the participants on Bamboo crafting and demonstrated different kinds of products made up ofBamboo. She also stressed on biodiversity conservation and environmental protection through Bamboo cultivation. She added that value addition in

Bamboo crafting can open some new avenues of the income and employment among the rural women. She also stressed on agro eco-tourism. Earlier Dr.Banrasi Lal, Sr. Scientist and Head KVK, Reasi welcomed the dignitaries and urged the participants to adopt the Bamboo crafting so as to increase the income and employment of the rural women. He stressed on SHGs/FPOs for rural development

Dr.Lalit Upadhyay scientist, Agroforestry spoke on production technology of Bamboo. KVK Reasi also put up an exhibition stall

depicting different technologies. The farmers showed keen interest in the technologies and highly appreciated the KVK efforts.

The dignitaries applauded the KVK, Reasi for the endeavours of KVK for welfare of farmers. Dr. Sanjay Koushal, Dr. Suja Nabi Qureshi, Dr. Arvinder Kumar, Dr. Lobzang Stanzen, Munshi Ram (Tehsildar), Priyanka Bharti (Naibtehsildar), Yougal Kishore Sharma (Nodal officer NRLM), Sarpanch Sukhdev Singh and others were also present. The programme was assisted by Manohar Lal.