

## Historic three-day Baisakhi Devika Mela concludes; over 40,000 visitors & devotees throng site



Artist presenting a folk item during the Mela at Udhampur.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: The 3-day Historic Baisakhi Devika mela which commenced on 14th of April 2022, on the bank of holy Devika rivulet in Udhampur town on Saturday culminated with overwhelming participation of over 40,000 visitors and devotees, who thronged the mela site from different areas of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Tehsildar Udhampur Amit Verma who is also the mela

officer was the chief guest while Field Publicity Officer, Udhampur Khurshedd Yousuf was the guest of honour at the valedictory day. The mela was organized under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Indu Kanwal Chib. For the successful culmination of the three-day festival, the district Administration Udhampur had made elaborate arrangements of security, drinking water, power supply,

Medicare, traffic regulation etc.

Number of temporary sweet shops, toy shops and other eatable corners by the locals as well as outside vendors were the main attraction for the general public visiting the mela site.

The mela also featured variety of cultural programme based on rich folk Dogra culture organised by District Information Centre, Udhampur under the supervision of District Information Officer, Rajinder Kumar Digra in collaboration with Field Outreach Bureau Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India.

On concluding day, students of Dhoom Academy of Dance including local Artists of the District presented Folk song and dance which was applauded by every one.

## Army organises cultural evening on communal harmony

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAMBAN: Army in active collaboration with Patnitop Development Authority (PDA) celebrated Sham-e - Mohabbat, a cultural evening on by the pristine Sanasar lakeside. The event was organised to promote the message of cultural and religious harmony for strengthening National Integration.

The day long event began with a Mini Cycling Marathon from Patnitop to Sanasar: 104 youth from Udhampur and Ramban districts participated in the mini marathon which included as many as 30 girls. The mini marathon was jointly flagged off by Commander 11 Sector



Major General Ajay Kumar, GOC Counter Insurgency Force (DELTA) lighting the ceremonial lamp.

RR, Sher Singh CEO, Patni Top Development Authority and Swarn Singh, Principal, Higher Secondary School Batote, in a vibrant and patriotically charged environment amidst slogans of 'How's The Josh - High Sir'. The participants covered 19 km distance with steep climbs in a display of physical fitness and will power, aligned with

the theme of 'Fit India Strong India'. It took them approx 1.15 hours to finish the mini marathon. Cyclists were welcomed at Sanasar with refreshments and later took rest in the camp beside the Sanasar lake, established by the Army with assistance from PDA. Later in the evening, the marathoners enjoyed games and enthusi-

## Army's adopted village Chingam in Kishtwar district becomes 100 pc vaccinated

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KISHTWAR: Kishtwar is the largest district of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which includes a large no of remote location. With dedicated efforts of Army, Administration and Awam, remote Chingam village (adopted by Army), has become a model village with achieving of 100% COVID vaccination.

The challenges thrown by COVID-19 pandemic to such places necessitated attention in terms of medical support and awareness to the local populace. With proactive approach, necessary liaison and coordination was carried out by local Rashtriya Rifles unit with Civil Administration and local medical authorities to enhance the medical infrastructure and augmentation of efforts in the fight against COVID-19.

Village Chingam which is located 50 Km away from town of Kishtwar has been adopted by Indian Army with an aim to reduce the hardships of the people and ensure implementation of COVID-19 protocols thus saving the precious lives and breaking the chain of Corona Virus.

A Campaign was launched to spread awareness of protection against COVID-19. Continued awareness among the local population has resulted in Zero case of Corona Virus. Chingam village has become the first one in the region to achieve 100% vaccination of people to include 12 to 14 year age category. This drive was highly appreciated by the locals and civil authority, which was evident from the overwhelming response. The locals expressed their gratitude towards Army for this drive.

## SSP Kathua conducts PCPG meeting

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: As a part of public outreach programme, a Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meeting was conducted in the jurisdiction of Police Post Nagri in which large number of respectable citizens, Naib Tehsildar and general public including various ward Members, Sarpanchs, Panchs, Ex-Panch Ex-Sarpanch, Chowkidar, Namberdar and other respectable persons of the villages viz. Phalote, Sumwan, Padyari, Mahi Chak, Trilhara, Buddhi, Measth, Nihapur etc were participated in Police Community Partnership Group(PCPG) meeting.

The meeting was chaired by SSP Kathua R C Kotwal along with DySP Headquarters Kathua Shammi Kumar, SHO



SSP Kathua R C Kotwal addressing locals.

Kathua Police Station, IC PP Nagri, and other officials.

During the meeting, participants raised some grievances regarding proliferation of drugs among Youth, NHAIs Accidents issue, illicit liquor, illegal mining etc. They were patiently heard and were assured by SSP Kathua that their genuine grievances shall be addressed as soon as possible so that

more and more conducive and peaceful environment can be created in the society. The aim of the meeting was to bridge the gap between public and police administration and to interact with the general public.

SSP Kathua thanked people for participating in the meeting and assured that such meetings shall be continued to be held more frequently in near future.

## Teli urges NC cadre to further intensify mass outreach

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: Abdul Gani Teli Provincial President OBC Cell J&K National Conference addressed workers meeting at Nailpur (Barnoti) in District Kathua. The meeting was organized by Vijay Kumar.

While addressing the meeting, Teli said that National Conference is the only party which ensured equitable development and welfare of masses. J&K have been suffering badly due to mis-governance and there is nobody who listen the grievances of public. He said that rising prices is the major concern of the people and BJP led government has miserably failed to contain price rise and provide jobs to the unemployed educated

youth in the J&K.

Teli said that BJP has miserably failed to address the genuine issues of the OBC. He said the time has come to unite and get aware about the policies and programmes of the BJP who are dividing the people on religion and region. Exhorting the people to strengthen National Conference at the gross root level, Teli urged the workers to fan out in their areas and help the masses in getting their grievances redressed.

On this occasion Teli nominated Sunil Kumar Verma District President Kathua Rural OBC Cell and Vijay Kumar has been nominated as Vice President.

The following Block

Committees OBC Cell Block Barnoti has been announced Vijay Kumar will be Block President Barnoti OBC Cell, Yog Raj as Vice President, Ajay Kumar as Secretary and Kuldeep Salaria as Joint Secretary.

Those who were present in the meeting included: Sham Narian Mehta District President Kathua Rural, Devi Ditta, Sunil Kumar, Kuldeep Raj, Sham Lal Verma, Ch. Karam Din Chopra Adv, S. Harjeet Singh, Ashu Rajput, Dr. Janak Raj, Adrash Kumar Adv, Devinder Kumar, Madan Lal Bhagat, Jankar Chand, Romal chand, Kewal Krishan, Nimo Devi, Suraj Parkash Bhagat, Ratno Devi and others.

## Block Health Mela at Reasi on April 21

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

REASI: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is going to organise Block Health Melas in Jammu and Kashmir. In order to set tone for conducting Block Health Diwas at Reasi next week, Block Medical Officer, Dr Mohd Saleem Khan organised a meeting to discuss its modalities today.

The mela would be organised at Government Higher Secondary School Reasi on April 21 to educate the public and to generate awareness about various schemes being run by Health and Medical Education Department.

Deputy Chief Medical Officer and representatives from Education, Ayush, Women & Child Development, RDD & Panchayati Raj, Information and Youth Services & Sports departments also participated in the meeting. The meeting was called under the directives of CMO, Rajeev Kumar.

## Ashok stresses to boost working in remote areas during 4-day Kishtwar Pravas

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

KISHTWAR: Bharatiya Janata Party senior leaders led by J&K BJP General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Kaul accompanied by BJP All Morcha Incharge & Prabhari District Kishtwar Munish Sharma addressed several organizational meetings at Kishtwar, Parder, Nagseni, Atholi, Sohal, Gulabgarh, Tattapani, Dossa, Chamoti, Bhonjva and other places during their 4-days Pravas (tour) of District Kishtwar.

J&K BJP General Secretary & former Minister Sunil Sharma, Secretary Tariq Keen, District President Pardeep Parihar, Parliamentary Constituency Organization Secretary Vipan Sharma,



J&K BJP General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Kaul during visit to Kishtwar.

District General Secretary Lalit Sharma, Harbans Singh & Gulab Chand Bhagat, Mandal Presidents and other party leaders also addressed the meetings.

Many prominent political and social activists including retired government officials also joined BJP in the presence of senior BJP leaders.

Ashok Koul while addressing the meetings stressed on strengthening the organization at the ground level especially in the remote areas of the District by boosting the public working there. He said that the remote areas often remain ignored in terms of development in all areas. He lamented that earlier political parties ignored the

requirements of these areas. Locals from these remote areas felt hoodwinked on the behest of parties like NC, Congress and PDP.

Koul, during his 4-days tour, addressed several focused meetings of local party leaders and asked them to acquire the complete knowledge of public welfare schemes funded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Union Government.

Munish Sharma interacted with the Morecha leaders during the meetings and asked them to strengthen the Morecha teams at the ground level. He also focused on the role of Morecha in the organizational working.

astically participated in the adventure activities organised by the PDA, without a trace of cycling induced fatigue.

Major General Ajay Kumar, General Officer Commanding Counter Insurgency Force (DELTA), was the chief guest for the Cultural Evening. The event was embellished with songs and dances by local artists and students of schools of Batote and Ramban. Traditional Thali Dance by Heritage Group of Ramban was one of the main attractions. The programmes were based on the theme Unity in Diversity and Communal Harmony. The pipe band and jazz band of the army also continued to entertain the audience throughout the event. Other esteemed guests who graced the occasion were

Sher Singh, CEO PDC, Harbans Lal, ADC Ramban, Jagvir Das, DDC Batote Fayaz Ahmed, DDC Ramsu B and BDC Batote Yogeshwar Singh. A huge crowd of 1000 turned up to witness the grand evening. The Chief Guest later felicitated the participants for the spirited show put up by them. In his address towards the end, the Chief Guest emphasised upon Unity and Bond of Brotherhood amongst all communities and urged the youth to channelise their latent potential in society building. He also laid stress upon Women Empowerment and exhorted the girls and their parents to take the lead in Nation Building. He thanked the Civil Administration of Ramban and Udhampur for assistance in organising the event.

## Poetry competition organised at GDC Kathua



Faulty along with participants during the event.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: Centre for Women Studies, Government Degree College Kathua organized Mushaira cum Poetry competition in collaboration with Departments of Dogri, Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi of the college.

Program was organized under the supervision of Principal Prof Raj Kiran

Sharma.

Over 20 students as well as teachers of the different department of the college participated in the programme who expressed their ideas in the form of poems, song and shayari.

The program was to commemorate 131 birth anniversary of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

Principal of the college

## Army's Symphony Band performs for border residents in Poonch

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Army's Symphony Band for the first time performed for the civilian population near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesman said on Saturday.

The mega musical evening was organised as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahatsov' in the open at Jhullas village in Krishna Ghati sector on Friday, attracting a large gathering from adjoining areas, he said.

The spokesman said the Symphony Band played patriotic music, nostalgic tunes and foot tapping Bollywood songs.

The event was attended by prominent personalities from nearby border localities and civil administration officials including the district commissioner and the superintendent of police of Poonch district, he said.

He said the grand finale was the song Sare Jaha Se Achha' which infused a strong patriotic fervour in the environment and among the youth present there.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NOWSHERA: With an aim to enlighten students on acts of bravery and life stories of personnel of Armed Forces thereby motivating them to join the Armed Forces, Kalal Rashtriya Rifles is organising a series of lectures by Gallantry award winners in schools within its area of responsibility.

On Saturday, Kalal Rashtriya Rifles conducted a motivational lecture by Havaldar Mohender Lal (Retired), Shaurya Chakra at Government Middle School Kalsiyan. The gallantry award winner



Army officials along with students during the event.

Havaldar Mohender Lal Retired Shaurya Chakra further impressed upon the role of the Armed Forces followed by their glorious history, rich traditions and his experience.

## DDC Poonch inaugurates 100-hectare area expansion prog under Rajmash



DDC Inder Jeet inaugurating area expansion programme.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

POONCH: District Development Commissioner, Inder Jeet on Saturday inaugurated area expansion programme under Rajmash organized by the Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare at Mandi in presence of BDC Chairperson Shamim Ahmed Ganai under CAPEX Budget.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that introduction of Rajmash commonly known as Mandi Loran Rajmash under area expansion will also cater the needs of creation of employment opportunities, better cropping management through improved technology which ultimately results in enhancing farm level economy to restore confidence among the farmers.

While interacting with the farmers, he also exhorted upon them to get the benefits of the schemes in vogue of the department and also advised the farmers to go for diversification of Agriculture

by adopting protective vegetable cultivation, mushroom growing, bee keeping and vermi-composting along with cultivation of traditional crops for doubling their income.

Earlier, Chief Agriculture Officer Poonch, Rakesh Sharma apprised that about 438 number of beneficiaries hailing from villages Galli Pindi, Galli Nag, Jandrola, Fatehpur, Bedar, Dunugam, Atoli, Chhela, Dhangri, Chambar Kanari, Chikriban and Palera of Sathra, Mandi and Loran Blocks were identified and provided 5 qtls free of cost rajmash seeds after its procurement from local farmers of Loran and Mandi during kharif 2021. Proper grading, sorting, refinement and seed treatment was ensured before supplying the procured seed to the farmers for sowing as a mixed crop with maize in ensuing kharif season with the objective to preserve local germ-plasam, increasing production through area expansion and productivity thereby restor-

ing soil fertility and production at individual farmer level. Chief Agriculture Officer also expressed his gratitude for providing compensation and relief under SDRF amounting to Rs.3.06 lacs to 153 number of farmers of Poonch district for the agricultural crops damaged by hailstorm on 11th June 2021.

## Army provides skill training to youth of Doda & Kishtwar

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

BHADARWAH : Army has been constantly undertaking a variety of programmes for the locals of the region with special focus on employment generation by providing them skill training. In continuing with the same spirit, Indian Army's Rashtriya Rifles based at Kishtwar conducted a three months Carpenter Course at Thathri under Operation Sadhbhavana, closing ceremony of which was held here on Saturday. This three-month training programme was inaugurated on 17 January 2022 and was attended by 11 candidates hailing from far flung areas of Doda and Kishtwar districts from varied backgrounds including members of those families who were affected by terrorism.

The course was conducted in collaboration with National Skill Development Corporation under competent instructors and was designed to equip candidates with adequate knowledge, technical skills and attitude necessary in this field.

The aim of this course was to generate employment/self upliftment opportunities for the locals.

The candidates were awarded certificates from NSDC at the end of the course and were also provided with carpenter tools so that they can have some gainful employment.

Subsequently, the students were also provided employment opportunities within the Districts in which one student will be earning approximately Rs. 9,000 to Rs. 10,000 per month.

Speaking on the closing session, the trained youths expressed their gratitude towards the Army for the noble initiative and providing them an opportunity to acquire skills for employment which can further help them to earn a decent livelihood. They said that the conduct of such training will go a long way in helping the unemployed youth of the area to find gainful self employment and also encourage entrepreneurship amongst participants.

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