15,000 devotees converge at ancient Subar Nag temple to celebrate Baisakhi festival

STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: To welcome the spring after prolonged harsh winters, thousands of Nag devotees converged at ancient high altitude Subar-Nag temple in Jammu and Kashmir's additional district Bhaderwah to celebrate country's first Baisakhi festival on Thursday.

Located at a height of 12,000 feet from the sea level, the doors (Kewaar) of the 1600 years old temple were opened today on the eve of Baisakhi festival.

The ancient festival which marks the beginning of spring in this hilly region, symbolising the ancient Naga culture of Bhadarwah is considered the first Baisakhi festival in the country, as in other parts of the state or elsewhere in the country, the spring festival will be celebrated tomorrow.

The traditional celebrations started early in morning with the opening of doors of the 1600-year-old temple at Subar Dhar, 35 Km from Bhadarwah town followed by sacrificing of rams.

Hundreds of devotees converged at hill top meadow surrounded with snow peaked mountains after trekking 12 km steep hill to pay their obeisance to the Lord Subar Nag. Our District Correspondent Raja Rehber Jamal after covering 12 KM



Devotees in queue to pay obeisance at Subag Nag temple. (Pic by Raja Rehber Jamal).

steep hill by foot reached the ancient Temple to cover the mega event.

On this occasion dozens of sheep were sacrificed as per ancient cus-

"This festival has not only the religious importance but this is also the most ancient festival of this area. Devotees from the different parts of the valley including Chinta, Bhalra and Sharora arrive here with holy mace to have blessings of Lord Subhar Nag.

"The doors of 1600 year old tem-

ple were thrown open for the devotees this morning," Anil Kumar Raina, head Priest of the historic Temple said.

Locals demanded that the ancient spring festival which is celebrated since time immemorial be brought under pilgrimage tourism.

"This is not only ancient and historic festival symbolizing the unique Nag Culture but the temple is also located amdist lush green grasslands surrounded with snow peaked mountain," said Phulail Singh (61)

head organiser of the mela.

"Having all the ingredients to attract devotees and tourists from across the globe, the tourism department and BDA (Bhaderwah Development Authority) has done nothing concrete so for to project it as pilgrimage destination," Phulail Singh added.

"After four months of dull life, during which we mostly remain indoors due to harsh climatic conditions and snow, this festival which marks the new spring season, not only rejuvenates us but also gives us a chance to meet our relatives and friends. "Besides all our wishes are full filled by Lord Subhar Nag," a young devotee, Diksha (21), said.

SP Bhadarwah Kameshwar Puri said that elaborate security arrangements were made to facilitate the smooth conduct of the spring festival.

"A total of 15,000 devotees, including 9,500 women visited the ancient temple. To keep the high altitude meadow clean and free from plastic waste, BDO Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar has deployed men and collection kiosks to collect polythene and plastic waste," said Kameshwar Puri SP

Rich tributes paid to General Zorawar Singh on 237th Birth anniversary



DC Babila Rakwal, prominent citizens and other civil society members during the programme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: District Administration Reasi, along with General Zorawar Singh Memorial Education Trust Reasi, organised a tribute paying function to mark the 237th birth anniversary of General Zorawar Singh.

On the occasion, floral tributes were offered to the statue of the great warrior by Deputy Commissioner Babila Rakwal , Prominent Citizens and other civil society mem-

GOC Mukesh Trivedi, SMCIF (R) was the chief guest and DC Reasi was the Guest of Honour on the occa-

In his address, Mukesh

Zorawar Singh was known for his valour and he conquered and expanded the Dogra state upto Lahsa and established strategic forts at Reasi, Leh and constructed Mata Chandi Temple at Kishtwar, Machail. GOC also remembered the martyrs and freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the mother India.

DC Babila Rakwal said the sacrifices and devotion for the motherland is still relevant and everyone should follow the path laid down by legends like Gen Zorwar Singh.

The DC also threw light on the life history of General Zorawar Singh and said it was Gen Zorwar of the Dogra Army who with his sword drew tory upto Lahsa. "To commemorate the valour, selfless service and sacrifice of Zorawar Singh, his birth anniversary should be celebrated every year" she added. Folk Dance, Cultural programme and a short film

and included Ladakh, Skardu,

Baltistan and conquered terri-

depicting life history of General Zorwar was also screened at the DC office complex auditorium. On this occasion, Brig. Vijay

Sagar, DIO Rajinder Digra Tehsildar Reasi Suresh Singh, AD Handloom, Social Activist and prominent Citizens were present. Handloom and Handicrafts department's Bamboo jewellery Stall was a major attraction of the day.

Voters' awareness rally held at Majalta

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A voters' awareness rally was held at Government Higher Secondary School Majalta to educate the public about the importance of the election process in democracy. The rally was organised under the Voters Systematic Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)

Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Udhampur and Electoral Registration Officer for Udhampur West-59 and East-60 Constituencies, Rafiq Jaral;BDCChairman, Dina Nath; DDC Member, Amit Sharma; and Tehsildar. Majalta Uttam Palsar par-

programme.

ticipated in the rally along with representatives of other departments, students, staff members and

the general public. The objective of the rally was to disseminate information about Special Summary Revision 2023 to achieve 100% enrollment of eligible voters. The focus is on registering all youth who have attained the qualifying age of 18 years on 1st April 2023. Prospective voters who will attain the age of 18 years on 1st July 2023 and on 1st October 2023 may also submit their documents for enrollment.

The Summary revision commenced on 5th April and will culminate on 20th

GDC Neeli Nallah celebrates Birth Anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar under mission G20 awareness

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: To commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, NSS Unit, Government Degree College Neeli Nallah, Udhampur organized a symposium on the topic "Contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar towards Indian Society" under the banner

The program started with the floral tribute to Dr. B. R Ambedkar by the Principal, staff members and students of the college. The whole event was conducted under the guidance of Principal of the College, Prof. Hans Raj.

In the symposium, students elaborately expressed



Principal of College, Prof. Hans Raj paying tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

their views on the theme Simran Roy, student of sem- IV secured 1st position, Rekha Devi, student of sem- VI secured 2nd position and Ramneek Sharma, student of sem -II secured 3rd position

Imitiyaz Ahmed Bhatti,

Lecturer Science, also spoke about the contribution of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in drafting the Constitution of India.

The Principal of the college, Prof Hans Raj, emphasised "We should not forget the contribution of Dr. B. R Ambedkar in building India today. He is a great inspiration to all the vouth and the lawvers of India." He also said that we should maintain equality among masses which will put the nation on the path of progress, peace and pros-

Manisha Kanchru and Pratiba Heer and Dr. Parul Chhibber were the judges on the occasion. Dr. Radha Rani was the convener of the programme. The organizers of the event were Prof. Swati Dutt and Prof. Shaista Yasmeen. Others who present were Ms. Shalu Jamoria, Imtiyaz Ahmed Bhatti and Riya Khajuria.

Change of Land Use: DLC approves 2 cases in Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: The District Level Committee (DLC) on change of land today approved two cases of conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural use here at its meeting.

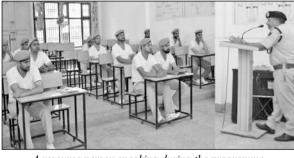
The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, which held a thorough discussion on the applications received online from across the district. The Committee, after a discussion, threadbare approved 02 cases of conversion of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes

directions Necessary

were also issued to the concerned departments to ensure timely issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) after proper verification of documents and rules under land conversion Regulations, 2022.

Officers who attended the meeting included DFO Rajouri, Arshdeep Singh; ADC Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria; CEO RDA, Vivek Puri; ACR, Imran Rashid Kataria; SE PWD(R&B), Kamal Kishore; SE Hydraulics, Bharam Jyoti Sharma; DO PCB, Anupam Koul; Sohan Singh and other concerned officers.

PTTI Vijaypur conducts photography refresher course for cops



A resource person speaking during the programme.

VIJAYPUR: Two weeks "Photography Refresher Course" organized by Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur concluded in which 14 police personnel of Photography Cadre participated. The objective of this course was to enhance the capabilities of Police officials of Photography Cadre to handle and operate modern photography gadgets and equipments

occasion Valedictory function was organized which was Shiv Kumar, SSP, Principal PTTI Vijaypur who emphasized the importance of Photography Course in investigation of cases and coverage of important events. Principal PTTI Vijaypur further said that this course would definitely help these Police personnel in performing their field duties more effectively as they have been trained in handling/functioning of professional video/still

recordings & footages in Computer System, adobe photoshop, reader video editing, casting, dubbing of sound and video clips on system, photography of road accident cases by using DSLR camera & professional video camera, collection of Photography evidence viz. finger prints, foot prints, bloody fluids, hair, fiber, tyre marks, skid marks, weapon, ammunition, tool marks wounds marks & other clues/evidence. In addition, the trainees were also imparted special training for capturing photographs & videography through drones to meet the new challenges in present era being faced by the Police department.

Among others, Kuldeep Raj, DySP (Indoor/Tech), Devinder Gupta, Dy.SP (R&D), Inspr. Pawan Kumar (Course Coordinator) were present during valedictory function.

DLSA Kathua hosts sensitisation programme on 'Early Access to Justice at Pre-Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Under the aegis of NALSA and as per the Action Plan issued by J&K Legal Services Authority, (JKLSA) for April, 2023 and also under the supervision of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Kathua, (also Principal District and Sessions Judge Kathua) Jaffer Hussain Beg, a Sensitisation program on "Early Access to Justice at Pre-Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage" was organised by District Legal Services Authority Kathua at ADR Centre, District Court Kathua today.

The program was organised in collaboration with Department of Police Kathua. Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Kathua Advocate Puneet Kumari, was the resource person in this program. The resource person explained in detail about the NALSA SOP on Early Access to justice at Pre-Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage to the needy suspects and arrestees during interrogation and other early stages of investigation, to decrease the vulnerabilities of suspects and arrestees, to assist in avoiding unnecessary arrests and to assist the arrestees in filing bail applications and furnishing bail bonds. She also discussed the guidelines/directions issued by the Hon'ble Apex Court in case titled Arnesh Kumar Vs State of Bihar Citation 2014 (8) SCC 273. Secretary, District Legal Services Authority Kathua Rekha Kapoor Nischal, also spoke on the occasion. The proceedings of the program were conducted by Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel Adv. Neeraj Kumar. The program was attended by Incharge CPO DPO (SSP) Office Kathua Munish Kumar, Investigating Officers of Police Department Kathua, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA, Kathua.

Deputy Commissioner pays rich tributes to martyrs on Rajouri Day

RAJOURI: Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal on Thursday visited ALG ground to pay tributes to the brave civilians who sacrificed their lives for the liberation of Rajouri from Pakistani invaders, marking the occasion of Rajouri Day.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the families of the fallen heroes as well as with the civilians and Army officers present at the event. He expressed his gratitude for their contribution towards the overall development of the region and emphasized the importance of unity and cooperation among all stakeholders for maintaining peace and harmony in the district.

"Rajouri Day is a solemn occasion to honor the memory of the brave civilians who fought valiantly for the liberation of Rajouri. Their sacrifices will always be remem-



DC Rajouri, Vikas Kundal laying wreath.

bered and serve as an inspiration for generations to come," said Deputy Commissioner Kundal.

The event was attended by

DDC Member Rajouri, Sai Abdul Rashid, Army officers, PRI members, veterans, and the public in large numbers, highlighting the significance of Rajouri Day in the hearts and minds of the people.

The Deputy Commissioner's call for collaboration towards the region's development is a timely reminder of the impor-

tance of unity and cooperation in achieving progress. Rajouri Day is not only a day to honor the sacrifices of the past but also a day to pledge our commitment to working towards the development and progress of the region. The day concluded with a

solemn ceremony, paying tribute to the fallen heroes with a promise to continue their legacy of bravery, and with a renewed determination to work towards the prosperity and well-being of Rajouri.

GDC Ramgarh organises seminar on Mental Health, hazards of drug abuse

cameras, Handling/operation

of CCTV cameras, saving of

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Eco Club & RRC of Government Degree College Ramgarh on Thursday organized a Seminar on Mental Health and fallout of drug abuse to commemorate India's presidency in G20.

The event was organized under the leadership and supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Satinder Kaur, the Principal of the College.

In her address, she laid emphasis on the three sides of the Health Triangle- social, physical and mental. She said that social health is about our

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neir own before acting there upon

relationships and how we communicate with those around us, physical health is our body's ability to function normally, and mental health is our ability to manage thoughts, emotions and behaviours. She added that ultimately, social, physical and mental health requires physical activity or exercise. She also said that the conceptual foundations of drug abuse prevention historically have been imported from behavioral and social science research and public health promotion.

Large differences in the scale and nature of severe drug problems experienced in different communities makes the community-specific approach seem especially applicable to drug abuse prevention, insofar as it is oriented to investigating population differences and community variations, and to mobiliz-

ing resources accordingly. Dr. Yogesh, Medical officer, CHC Ramgarh, the resource person of the occasion, in her lecture said that the World Health Organization defines health as a "State of complete

physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. At times of mental health issues most of us do not think of exercising. Sometimes our reactions to emotional stress are the farthest from physical activity Individual Substance Abuse Prevention, also known as drug prevention involves numerous different sessions depending on the individual to help cease or reduce the use of substances. The time period to help a specific individual can vary based upon many aspects of an individual.

A question-answer session was held in the end. The event was attended by the faculty members and a large number of students of the College.

The event Concluded with the oath that to keep away from drugs and also to make society aware to keep aware about 'Say to No to Drugs'. The faculty members present were:- Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Prof. Seema Sharma, Dr. Shamsher Lal, Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Prof. Risha Kumari.

Govt initiates tendering process of Rs 375 crore Gandola project for Bhadarwah; locals, BJP workers celebrate



Locals and BJP workers during celebrations.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: To express their gratitude towards Government especially Nitin Gadkari and Dr Jitendra Singh, Hundreds of BJP workers and locals of Bhadarwah constituency converged at Bhadarwah to celebrate the initiating tendering process of prestigious 375 Cr Gandola (Rope way) project in Bhadarwah by Union

Government. Hundreds of BJP workers and office bearers led by ex MLA Daleep Singh Parihar assembled in BJP Mandal office Bhadarwah and took out gratitude rally towards Lakshmi Narayan Chowk Bhadarwah

DDC Chairman Doda Dhananter Singh, DDC Councillor Yudhvir Thakur Secretary General Sanjay Saraf along with other senior party workers participated in the rally and expressed gratitude to Union Minister Dr Jatinder Singh and Minister of surface Transport and highways, Nitin Gadkari for initiating tender process to the much awaited prestigious project of Seoj Gandola Project in Bhadarwah to boost pilgrim-

The workers raised slogans in favour of BJP party and PM Narinder Modi for providing all sort of help to boost the economy of the region by initiating different development projects.

While addressing Media, Ex MLA Daleep Singh Parihar said that the Seoj Gandola (Ropeway) project will boost pilgrimage tourismBhadarwah. It was a long pending demand of the people and with tendering process of this project, it will change the fortunes of the region espe-

cially of Bhadarwah. Parihar said that "it's really a dream come true for the residents of entire Chenab Region in general and people of Bhaderwah in particular as this project will open new avenues of opportunities especially unemployed youth will get job in this mega project." They also express their gratitude to Dr Jatinder Singh for his untiring efforts to get the tendering of the project.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav: DYSS Samba organises cycle rally



DYSSO, Chander Kanta Sharma flagging-off rally.

SAMBA: A mega cycle rally was today organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports Samba here in Zone

Ghagwal under the banner of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. The event was held as part of the annual Activity Calendar circulated by the YSS Directorate and under the overall supervi-

sion of DYSSO, Chander Kanta Sharma. The cycle rally aimed to promote fitness, health, and the spirit of patriotism among the youth. It was a part of the ongoing Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, which commemorates the 75th anniversary of India's independence. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of local youth, sports enthusiasts, and members of the community.

Earlier, the cycle rally was flagged off by DDC Ghagwal Suresh Kumar, along with other prominent dignitaries. The participants started the rally from the main chowk Ghagwal and rode through the village Randhwal before returning to Narsingh Temple Ghagwal. The event was organized in adherence to all the necessary COVID-19 safety protocols, including social distancing and wearing masks. The Department of Youth Services and Sports Samba expressed gratitude to all the participants, dignitaries, and the community for their enthusiastic participation in making the cycle rally a grand success.