

# JKAACL Kathua organises Music, Dance programme at Samba Fort to mark Baisakhi celebration

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: To celebrate the Baisakhi festival, Sub Office of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Kathua today organised a colourful Music and Dance programme at the majestic Samba Fort, here today.

The programme was organised in collaboration with the Civil Society of Samba. Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba Benam Tosh, was the chief guest, while Pawan Kohli, President Municipal Council, Samba was the guest of honor.

In his address, the Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba said that such a programme let people know their roots. He congratulated JKAACL for organising such a beautiful event in the district.

While appreciating the mesmerizing programme, he hailed the magical performance of the artists.

The programme started



Artists performing during the programme at Samba.

with the power packed performance of the Song 'Ass Dogre Aan, Aakhne Aan Shaane Kaane' by Raman Salathia and group, who created a crescendo through their unique style of chorus singing. This was followed by the Punjabi Dance performance by Harman Cultural Group, Chingga by Prem Nath and party and Dogri Folk Songs by Sachin Kattal and Party. They all added some flavor of culture but the treat of the day was 'Hern' presented

by C.D. Magotra and party. The group of performers with Hern (Deer) as its central character supported by a group of folk dancers in traditional attire, local drum players and the prominent characters like 'Raja', 'Wazir', 'Sadhu', a caretaker of Hern move in a carnival. This mobile traditional theatre moves from house to house covering the entire village. Singing and dancing, this group of performers reflected upon the socio, economic and politi-

cal state of the area through small satirical acts.

The Raja represents the Ruler; the Wazir represents the bureaucracy, and the co-dancers, the public. There begins the caricature of the rule, the wisdom behind and the sufferings of the common-man.

Two actors, wearing a mask of the deer, through their body language, created interesting rhythmic moves. The traditional play moves at the will of the movement of 'Hern'.

The change of the postures of the Hern gives new twists to the story line and all performers judiciously follow that.

C D Magotra himself played as King and made interesting comments on the contemporary socio-economic and political status of the State which was highly applauded and appreciated by the audiences.

Earlier, speaking on the

occasion, SOCA Kathua shared that this is our wonderful initiative to promote the diverse culture of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

Bharat Singh, JKAS Secretary of JKAACL is taking a proactive approach to ensure that the culture is shared and celebrated throughout the region. Organizing cultural events in different districts is a great way to engage the local community and showcase the unique traditions and practices of each area. It can also promote tourism and encourage people to explore and learn more about the region's history and heritage. I hope that these events will be successful and inspire more people to appreciate and preserve the cultural richness of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

The programme was ably conducted by Sat pal Singh.

# Special Summary Revision 2023: DEO appeals eligible youth to register as voters

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: District Election Officer, Ramban Mussarat Islam on Saturday visited different polling stations to inspect the Special camps organized across the district as part of the ongoing Special Summary Revision 2023.

Interacting with the participants at the polling stations, the DEO said that the Special camps have been envisaged to register all new eligible youth as proud voters and to ensure that no eligible voter was left behind.

The Booth Level Officers and Supervisors were present at their respective polling stations with electoral rolls and requisite forms during the Special Camps to facilitate enrollment of the eligible youth who have attained the age of 18 years on April 1st, 2023.

Dwelling in detail the initiatives taken by the Election Commission of India for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and 80+ year voters, the DEO directed the Booth Level Officers to mark the



DEO Ramban Mussarat Islam chairing a meeting.

Persons with Disabilities and 80+ years voters in the electoral rolls as per the ECI directions. He asked them to work with dedication and caution while making additions, deletions, and corrections so that an error free and healthy electoral roll is prepared, he added.

Appealing to the public in general and eligible youth in particular, the DEO asked them to avail opportunities to enroll themselves as proud voters. He also asked them to exercise the right to franchise and contribute to the development of the country.

Meanwhile, Deputy District Election Officer, Lal Chand along with AERO (Tbhsildar)

Batote Vijay Sharma also visited different Polling Stations, which include polling Station no, 149, 150, 152, 153 and 155, of Assembly Constituency AC-54-Ramban and took stock of the registration process at these Polling Stations.

Similarly, EROs AC-54-Ramban, AC-55-Banihal, and AEROs of both the Assembly Constituencies also conducted an extensive tour of their respective Constituencies and oversaw the registration process during the Special Camps.

It is pertinent to mention here that the eligible youth have shown enthusiasm to register themselves as new voters during the Special camps.

# Progress of JJM, PHE sector schemes reviewed in Reasi



DC Reasi Babila Rakwal chairing a meeting.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: A meeting to Review progress achieved in implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in District Reasi was held jointly by Deputy Commissioner Reasi Babila Rakwal and Mission Director JJM, Dr. JN Itto,

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Jammu, Hanesh Manchanda; Superintending Engineer Jal Shakti Meh Rural Circle Jammu, Bodh Raj; Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Udhampur, R.K.Mahajan; Executive Engineer Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Reasi, Executive Engineer

MIDD along with AEEs and JEs, Nodal Officer Water Quality.

At the outset, Superintendent Engineer Hydraulic apprised the Deputy Commissioner about the financial and physical progress achieved under JJM in the district.

Dr. G.N. Itoo directed xen MID Dharmari to complete and commission 03 schemes by May 10, 2023. The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Reasi was directed to monitor the daily progress of allotted works and complete the process of allotment of balance works to ensure the completion within the targeted time of 30th June.

The directions were issued to concern

AEEs and JEs to identify the alternate sustainable water sources for pending schemes and submit the revised proposals for approval within a week time.

The District Development Commissioner (Chairman DJJM) directed Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Reasi/Dharmari to hold weekly meetings every Saturday to review the progress on the ongoing schemes.

The DPMU and lab staff were directed to conduct regular water tests and cover all the left out villages, while the ISA was directed to conduct IBC activities and train women in water testing.

Underlining the need to achieve the financial progress within the set timeline, the DC called upon the engineers to speed up the works so as to rule out any chance of carrying forward any financial liabilities.

The DC also took a detailed review of all ongoing projects under Ground Water, Irrigation, and Flood Control and laid thrust on completing all projects within the stipulated time frame.

# DDC Kathua starts JJM projects worth Rs 6 cr in Panchayat Damra East

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: District Development Council Chairman Kathua, Col Mahan Singh (Retd), on Saturday started JJM Project worth Rs 6 Crore in Damra West Panchayat of Mahanpur Block, the other day. The work started with the formal foundation laying ceremony where PRIs and a large number of locals were also present.

Project encompasses two OHT of 30000 gallons each, two bore wells of 12 inch capacity each with 5000 gallons per hour capacity, two sump tanks of 10000 gallons capacity each, lying of more than 25 KM water pipe of various sizes etc. The scheme on completion will cater to



DDC Chairman Kathua, Col Mahan Singh starting developmental works.

the safe drinking water needs to more than 500 houses of Damra East Panchayat

Speaking on the occasion DDC Chairman thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, LG Manoj Sinha, Dr Jitendra Singh MoS PMO for implementing JJM Scheme to cater for drinking water to each household

in the country.

DDC Chairman asserted that Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme is being executed in district Kathua at a fast pace as Rs 1400 Crore has been earmarked to execute more than 700 projects under which drinking water supply will be provided to every household. "This

along with around 700 new handpumps installed during the last two years will resolve drinking water problems in the district, particularly in the Kandi region of the district, Col Mahan added.

XEN PHE Kathua Vikram Dogra, AEE Billawar Sub Division, Sarpanch of Damra Chander Prabha Pathak, Sarpanch Dhamlad Sher Singh, Shanti Bushan and residents were present in large numbers.

Sarpanch Damra Chander Prabha also applauded the developmental work of Modi Govt at the Centre and LG Administration and special focus being given to remote areas.

# Arrangements for Jamat-Ul-Vida, Eid-Ul-Fitr reviewed in Rajouri

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal on Saturday chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for Jamat Ul Vida and Eid Ul Fitr in the district.

During the meeting held with the officers and members of religious organisations and traders, he asked the concerned departments to take advance measures for uninterrupted water and power supply, medicare facilities, parking and transport and other necessary arrangements.

The Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal emphasized the need to provide all essential facilities to the public, including drinking water, sanitation, medicare, transport, and uninterrupted power and water supply etc.

He directed the police authorities to deploy ade-

quate personnel to ensure public security, while the traffic authorities were directed to prepare traffic management and parking plans to facilitate hassle-free movement of vehicles on the scheduled days.

The concerned officers from the PDD and Jal Shakti Department were instructed to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply to the general public during the festive days. The fire and emergency department was directed to keep their fire tenders on alert 24/7, while the EO MC was directed to ensure cleanliness in the town during the festivals.

Furthermore, the Health Department was instructed to keep all medicare facilities available to the public to meet any emergencies, and the concerned officer from FCS & CA was directed to

intensify market checking to prevent overpricing, profiteering, and black-marketing.

The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized the importance of putting all necessary arrangements in place well in advance to avoid inconvenience to the public during the auspicious occasions.

Among the others, ACR, Imran Rashid Kataria; CMO, Dr Rajinder Kumar; ExEn PDD Rajouri, Tasadaq Hussain; AD FCS&CA, Arief Lone; AD Fire and Emergency service, Nitin Gandotra and other concerned officers attended the meeting. Religious leaders and traders including President Beopar Mandal, Rajesh Gupta; Shafqat Mir; Tazheem Dar; Asief Bhatt; Molvi Farooq; Yasir Lone; Youisf Dar were also present in the meeting.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Underscoring the importance of preserving our traditions, rich culture and festivals in the teeth of so-called trend of modernity, Juhi Manhas Pathania, Vice Chairperson DDC Udhampur threw open traditional Baisakhi Mela at Devika (Nainsoo).

Anwar Choudhary, Addl SP Udhampur; Dalip Abrol, CEO Udhampur; Raghubir Singh, SHO Udhampur; Sham Singh, NT Ramnagar, and other senior officers of Tehsil and Police administration, besides prominent people and general public were present.

The Mela was organised by the Shiv Mandir Devika Mela Prabhakar Committee, Nainsoo with the active support of the District administration.

Every year a 3-day Baisakhi Mela is organised on the bank of holy Devika River. The Mela concludes



Juhi Manhas Pathania, VC DDC Udhampur inaugurating Mela.

with a grand Dangal on flanks of river Devika where wrestlers from various parts of State as well as adjoining states participate. People from different parts of Udhampur and adjoining areas attend this historic Mela.

The historic Baisakhi Mela or 'Basoa' as it is called in local parlance, is an annual event organised on the eve of first Baisakh, on the bank of holy Devika river in Udhampur.

According to legends,

# DDC Vice Chairperson inaugurates Baisakhi Mela at Devika

historic and popular Mela attracts visitors, vendors, traders and devotees from within and outside the state in large numbers.

A number of temporary sweet shops, toy shops and other eatable corners set up by the locals and outside vendors were the main attraction for the general public visiting the mela site.

While speaking on the occasion, Pathania extended her warm greetings to the people on the auspicious Baisakhi day and hoped that the festival will bring peace, prosperity and harmony in J&K. She stressed on the importance of these traditional festivals and melas to maintain the harmony amongst all the sections of the society as such events bring people closer.

She said that these festivals/Melas are an inseparable part of our culture and help a lot in showcasing the rich cultural heritage that

has been bequeathed to us by our wise forefathers. She further said that the festivals would offer the visitors and tourists an exciting experience of knowing about the cultural heritage, folklore, local Art, Culture, craft and traditions. These Melas also help in promoting the rich culture, beliefs and traditions of Dogras at national and international level. It is a feast to the eyes, ears and soul to watch the rich Dogra art and culture live in these melas. All this adds to the colour and vibrancy to the drudgery and monotony of everyday life and thus, brings novelty to our life.

Nisha Mahajan, Arti Sharma Sarpanches, Mannohan Raina Sarpanch, Subash Sharma, Mandal Pardhan, Mithun Kumar, Angrej Chand and others remained present and addressed a sea of people having assembled over there.

# GDC Chatroo organises quiz competition on Constitution of India

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: NSS Unit of Government Degree College Chatroo on Saturday organized an Inter-Semester Quiz Competition on Indian Constitution and Electoral process. The quiz was organized to promote the knowledge of students about Indian Constitution under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The quiz was conducted by Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Associate Professor, under the supervision of Dr. Ved Kumar Principal of the College.

Five teams of different semesters participated in the quiz competition. Dr. Ashaq Hussain along with Nasir Hussain (Lecturer) and Mussavir Hussain (Teaching Assistant) as scorer conducted the quiz in a very interactive way and the teams participated with great enthusiasm.

The participants skillfully answered the questions asked. Though some of the questions were very tricky, the teams tried to answer them with confidence. The questions put forth to the teams were intriguing and exciting. The audience also got the chance to participate.

Team E led by Abuzar of 4th semester with members Mujeeba and Masoofa were the winners of the quiz. Team A led by Sangeeta of Semester 4 with team members Sania, Dilshad and Amir Reshi secured 2nd Position.

Congratulating the participating teams and the organizers of the quiz the Principal of the College termed the Quiz as very informative and knowledge enriching for the participants as well as for the audience.

He added that the students displayed ecstatic spirit and enjoyed the quiz to the fullest. Such type of competition enhances eagerness among students to participate in different programs.

Among others who witnessed the quiz include Prof. Ajeet Kumar, Prof. Chander Parkash, Prof. Waseem Rasheed, Dr. Muddassser Nazar, Mr. Muddaser But and Surakhshit Chandail.

# GDC Udhampur celebrates Baisakhi Parv 2023

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The NSS Units of GDC Udhampur on Saturday organised Baisakhi Parv in the college conference hall to mark the significance of this festival. The programme was organised by the NSS POs Dr Rippy Bawa and Dr Ajay Sharma under the overall supervision of the Principal Prof( Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta.

The programme commenced by the lighting of the traditional lamp by the principal GDC Udhampur Prof (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Nss POs Dr Rippy Bawa and Dr Ajay Sharma, HoD Geography Prof Rajan Bharti and invoking of Goddess Saraswati. The welcome address was given by

Dr Ajay Sharma who formally welcomed the audience for the day's event. Thereafter who formally welcomed the audience for the day's event. Thereafter the volunteers started with the cultural show which began with a Bhangra, a folk dance of Punjab which enthralled the audience. It was followed by a duet by two girl volunteers, Ambica Thakur of Semester 2 and Diksha Devi of Semester 2 who sang a punjabi folk song. Following this, Amandeep Singh of Semester 6th and Akshay of Semester 2 gave a speech on the cultural significance of Baisakhi. The last performance was of Laksh of Semester 2 who sang a melodious punjabi song, Maa de bagair koi

dinda nyi o loriyan... which touched all hearts.

Speaking on the occasion Dr Rippy Bawa, deliberated upon the need of conducting such cultural events marking the significance of Indian festivals on the lives of the present generation. She also gave an insight into the various achievements of the Nss Units of the college. At the end of the event the principal Prof (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta spoke on the occasion and deliberated upon the significance of Baisakhi in the whole of the country. He also appreciated the NSS Units for organizing such programmes and also motivated all the volunteers for their tremendous performances.

# GDC Ukhral organises symposium on 'Life and Works of Dr B R Ambedkar'

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College Ukhral, in Collaboration with Department of Political Science and IQAC, on Saturday organised a symposium on the theme 'Life and works of Dr. B. R Ambedkar' under the aegis of Azadi Ka AmritMahotsav and G20

Presidency of India. The event was organised with the motive to familiarise the students about the landmark contributions of the Principal Architect of Indian Constitution. At the outset, Prof Suresh Chander, HoD Dogri, presented the welcome address. The resource person on the occasion, was Prof Zakir Hussain

Naik, HoD Political Science. He extensively threw light on the life and works of Dr. B. R Ambedkar and his immense contribution in the framing of Indian Constitution. He said that Baba Sahib's noble ideals are the beacon of hope and source of inspiration to strive equality, justice and humanity in the society. Large

number of students participated and presented their views about the philosophy of Dr. Baba Sahab Ambedkar. A short documentary on the life and contribution of Dr. B. R Ambedkar was also screened for the students on the occasion. Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr) Shallu Samyal in her mes-

sage said that Dr. B. R. Ambedkar played a key role in the development of the nation and congratulated the participants and the organizers for making the event a grand success. The programme concluded with vote of thanks presented by Dr. Shafiq Ahmed Katoch, HoD Urdu.



Deputy Commissioner Doda Vishesh Mahajan during a review meeting.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Deputy Commissioner Doda Vishesh Mahajan on Saturday sensitised the officers about the timely disposal of the online grievances forwarded to them by DC office.

The DC directed the district heads of line departments not to act mere as post office and look into the genuineness of the reply submitted by their subordinate offices.

The DC also interacted with the complainants

and responding officers virtually and discussed the issue/grievance in depth. He emphasized on timely and quality disposal of grievances and asked the Grievance Cell of DC office to inform the nodal officer of the response received and disparities if any therein.

The Nodal Officer was asked to take the cognizance of the non-genuine responses and review the status fortnightly. The DC also decided to review the status on monthly basis henceforth.