

Three-day historic Mounгри Mela concludes; Over 30,000 devotees attend festival



Dignitaries during the valedictory function of festival.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
UDHAMPUR: A large number of Men, women and children of all faith attended 3-day historic Shiv Parvati Mounгри Mela observed at Sar Dabar in tehsil Mounгри of district Udhampur, which concluded amid traditional fervor and gaiety on Monday.

As per the organisers around thirty thousand devotees attended the 3-day festival organised every year.

On concluding, DDC Councillor, Panchari Jasvir Singh was the chief guest, while SSP 19th Battalion

IRP Kathua Commandant Benam Tosh was the guest of honour.
Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest appreciated the organizers for holding such types of local fairs in far flung areas of the District. He said that these fairs are a symbol of 'our diverse culture and these not only attract tourists but also help in the economic development of the area.'

Hailing sports events organised during the Mela, he said that sports play a vital role in the overall personality development of the youth besides

channelizing their positive energies in the right perspective.

He hailed the Youth Services and Sports Department for organising rural sports competitions and cultural programmes by involving different schools of the area.

The cultural troupes drawn from different educational institutions presented folk dances and cultural programmes depicting the tradition of the areas which was highly appreciated by the round of applause. For the successful conduct of the three-day mela, the district administration Udhampur had made elaborate arrangements of security, drinking water and power supply, Medicare, traffic regulation, additional bus services and stock of commodities etc.

Later, the chief guest distributed prizes and certificates among the participants on the occasion.

Shiv Sena demands strengthening security; installation of fire extinguishers in public transport vehicles

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATRA: Shivsena Jammu and Kashmir unit has warned the terrorist organizations operating in Jammu and Kashmir to desist from their nefarious activities or else face the consequences. The warning was issued in a press statement issued on Monday after surfacing of evidence of terrorist conspiracy in the Katra bus blast and a terrorist organization named JKFF owning responsibility for the attack. The party has also demanded adequate strengthening of the security of the devotees of Shri Mata Vaishnodevi and installation of fire extinguishers in public transport vehicles that would prove to be beneficial in case of any eventuality due to blaze.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sainiks of Jammu and Kashmir unit under the leadership of party state chief Manish Sahni staged a strong protest cum demonstration in the holy city



Shiv Sainiks staging protest at Katra.

of Katra raising vociferous slogans against the terrorist organizations besides demanding optimum security to pilgrims in addition to making provision of fire extinguishers in public transport buses.

While addressing the Shiv Sainiks as well as the media persons present on the occasion, the Shiv Sena state chief Manish Sahni urged the Central Government as well as the J&K Union Territory Administration to become proactive and step up the security system especially for the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and Amarnath Yatra pilgrims.

Sahni lamented that the government had adopted a callous attitude on security despite having intelligence inputs regarding the use of sticky bomb attacks. He said that it is an irony that no concrete steps are being taken for the safety of the passengers. He added that the absence of fire extinguishers in the passenger buses further proves how much the government is concerned about the general public commuting in public transport vehicles. Sahni said that for the last several years, 150-200 terrorists are claimed to be active in Jammu and Kashmir every year; one

fails to understand that how despite the claim of killing 2-4 terrorists daily, the figure of active terrorists remains intact even today. He said it is a matter of great concern as either the government claims are wrong or else the fresh terrorists keep sprouting on a daily basis.

Sahni said that in order to restore peace in Jammu and Kashmir, the factory of terrorism will have to be dismantled in totality. He said that any nefarious act by the terrorists on the Shree Mata Vaishnodevi and Shree Amarnath Yatra will not be tolerated at any cost.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Udhampur-Katra prabhari Ashwani Prabhakar, Youth Secretary Rajesh Handa, Katra Tehsil president Vikal Abrol, Sumit Sharma, Saurav, Panjaj Verma, Sumil and many Tehsil leaders and activists were present.

390 vaccinated, 1,424 samples collected in Ramban

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAMBAN: As per District Immunization Officer, Ramban, Dr. Suresh, the Health Department on Monday administered Covid vaccine doses to 390 persons including 140 children in the 15-17 year age group and 222 in the 12-14 year age group in the district.

Continuing the enforcement drive to implement Covid protocol, the Enforcement teams urged the people to wear face masks and maintain physical distance besides taking Covid vaccination doses at their nearest CVC.

As per daily bulletin issued by the Chief Medical Officer, Ramban, Dr. Mohammad Fareed Bhat, the Health Department has collected 1424 samples including 481 RT-PCR and 943 RAT samples.

Army organises medical camp for Veer Naris, widows & ex-servicemen

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

DODA: Army is known for genuinely caring about families of its fallen soldiers. In pursuance of the same a Monthly Medical Camp for Veer Naris, Widows and Ex-Servicemen of District-Doda organised by Indian Army in Bhadarwah in conjunction with ECHS, Doda.

Army medical team comprising of 10 Medics incl one Indian Army doctor with 01 Indian Army Nursing Assistants, one Civil Medical Officer, one lady attender Nurse, one Dental Officer, one Lab Technician, one Computer Operator, one Nursing Assistant, one Pharmacist and one Driver provided the much needed med cover for the event. 01 Veer Nari, 04 Widows and 75 Ex-Servicemen/Dependent of Servicemen from far-flung areas from Nalthi, Bhalla, Bhaderwah, Dhara, Seri, Butla, Bajja, Cheka, Gatha and Manthala turned up for the medical check-up during the camp. During this medical camp Routine Medical Checkups, Blood and Urine investigations and Blood Glucoses were carried out. Each Veer Nari, Widow and Ex-Serviceman were approached in person to ensure that max Veer Naris, Widows and Ex-Servicemen are able to avail the benefits of this opportunity.

Archives Deptt conducts assessment survey at Purmandal

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBHA: On the initiative of Saving Environment and Activism for Restoration of Culture and Heritage (SEARCH), which is a Jammu based NGO, Department of Archives conducted assessment survey of Purmandal.

Suneel Mahajan, NGO Chairman and Kranti Bhushan, its General Secretary, had written to Director Archives, Archeology and Museums, to enlist Purmandal and other neglected structures, as Protected Heritage sites and conserve, restore Purmandal to its ancient glory.

A team from Department of Archives, Archeology and Museums, comprising of Assistant Director, JE Rakesh Kumar and Daksh Dev, as follow up to the direc-



Teams carrying out survey at Purmandal.

tions from LG UT of J & K, carried out a comprehensive survey of Purmandal Temples, Havelis and river Devika.

The team, along with the members of NGO, visited most of structures on the banks of Devika and made observations of archival land cultural background of this place of pilgrimage and tourist attraction. J.L. Baru who has been working on this

issue since so many years was also present on the occasion to brief the team about the history and some other aspects about the place.

SEARCH, the said NGO, has been pursuing the cause of saving Purmandal from erosion and manmade destruction, and approaching the authorities to include Purmandal in the list of protected precincts and monuments, guided the team to

the entire area of Purmandal and showed several neglected and dilapidated structures and monuments, which are on the verge of extinction. The team also expressed concern on the absence of any sewerage treatment system and drainage network as the entire waste of the surrounding is released into Devika, which is a pious under ground flowing river for centuries and whose water people use to take away for their religious rituals. The open cremations taking place in Devika is also a matter of concern and is spoiling the sanctity and hygiene of the river.

SEARCH impressed upon the government team to take appropriate action to save this Heritage site from further destruction and improve the infrastructure so as to minimize the pollution.

After Kashmir, Omar misleading Rajouri-Poonch: Vibodh



Former MLC Vibodh Gupta during a public meeting at Panhar.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAJOURI: Accusing former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah of spreading lies on Article 370 and issuing communal statements while in his tour to Rajouri-Poonch, BJP J&K general secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta strongly asserted that this is a deliberate attempt of

National Conference to disturb peace in the twin border districts to polarize voters on religious lines. He was speaking during a public meeting organised at remote area Panhar in Kalakote.

Vibodh said, "BJP strongly condemns the mischievous, false, motivated and completely irresponsible statement by former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. General public has also strongly condemned his communal remarks and has expressed anger against him." He further alleged that his statements have encouraged mischievous elements to steer commu-

nal tensions in the region which is unfortunate and unacceptable.

Vibodh further congratulated people of Panhar for completion of Solki-Panhar Road which will benefit about five thousand people and also assured that widening of Siot-Kalakote road shall be started soon.

He ensured that every region of J&K will flourish under the visionary leadership of PM Narendra Modi.

Co-convenor Swach Bharat Abhiyan Baba Amrik Singh also highlighted various achievements of Modi government. He accused previous governments for ignoring the aspirations of the people. He strongly asserted that BJP is committed to overall development of Kalakote especially remote areas. Others who spoke on the occasion were Yuvraj Singh, Capt Ram Singh, Advocate Asif, Sarpanch Nasir Hussain, Rajan Singh, Thakur Dass and others.

DIPR hosts cultural programme at Mounгри Mela

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

UDHAMPUR: Cultural Wing of Department of Information and Public Relations and DIC Udhampur on Monday organized a Cultural program at three Day Shiv Parvati Mela Mounгри.

Artists of Cultural Wing Jammu and DIC Udhampur presented patriotic and folk songs which were highly applauded by the audience.

The artists who performed in this program were Mohinder Kumar, Balbir Singh, Amit Kumar and Rakesh Kumar.

Congress flays back-door entries by SMVDU

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

UDHAMPUR: Senior Congress leader Sumeet Magotra strongly flayed administration of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) to adopt corrupt practice while promoting back door entries in employment at local levels.

While addressing the media persons on Monday in Udhampur, Magotra highlighted the bungling in SMVDSB while making the recruitment in boards. He said that SMVDSB has published a publication for several jobs with last date of submission of application forms and in this connection thousands of unemployed youth have applied for job in Board. Magotra further said that as per a sources, a female applicant is appointed directly without any selection process. He expressed that LG of J&K UT is claiming



Senior Congress leader Sumeet Magotra briefing media.

corruption free administration and corrupt practices in Board is fair example of corruption. He demanded an inquiry in this back door appointment by constituting a committee.

Budh Purnima: DC Poonch pays obeisance at Baba Lohar Devta Shrine

Poonch: On the occasion of Holy festival of Budh Purnima, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Inder Jeet paid obeisance at Baba Lohar Devta Shrine at village Ghani where he performed the Havan.

The Commandant of KG 10 Brigade, Rakesh Nair also performed the Havan.

The officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner including, Chief Executive Officer, PDA, Dr. Mohd. Tanveer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Abid Hussain Shah, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Rajesh Sethi, Executive Engineer JPDCL, Irshad Hussain, District

Culture Officer, Dr. Alamdar Adam besides BDC Member, Chowdhary Anamullah, Members of Committee, Rajinder Singh(PP) and other concerned officers.

The management Committee of Mandir warmly welcomed and greeted the Deputy Commissioner and the team of officers of District Administration Poonch.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner met with the committee members of mandir and raised various issues including installation of transformer for better power supply, adequate provision of drinking water, new water schemes, jurisdiction of shrine road and other arrangement.

After responding to the demands, the DDC assured the members of committee that all their genuine demands would be addressed in a time bound manner.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Xen PDD to install the transformer and also asked the xen PHE that uninterrupted supply of water.

DC told the CEO PDA that this Shrine is a Heritage, it should be brought to the tourist hub.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner along with Commandant KG 10 Brigade also visit the border belt.

DIET Kud completes registration on STEER portal

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

UDHAMPUR: District Institute of Education and Technology (DIET Kud) has completed the process of Registration Cum Mapping of Primary Schools on STEER Portal under the Guidance of Principal DIET Mrs Gulzar Begum. STEER stands for Students Teacher Engagement and Educational Reinforcement which is an initiative of Samagra Shiksha being headed by State Project Director Samagra Shiksha Deep Raj.

STEER Portal is going to bring a visible Changes at Primary level of Education in Entire Jammu and Kashmir UT. Strengthening of Primary Education is the need of Hour as Students at this level can learn many creative things. So far as District Udhampur is Concerned as many as 85 Clusters, 843 Primary Schools, 1535 Teachers and 14973 students were Registered and also mapped on the Portal. A team of 24 Zonal coordinators have worked tirelessly to achieve the requisite Goal in first Phase. Principal DIET appreciated the hardwork done by the entire Faculty members of her office for achieving aim. She stressed upon the Heads of the Primary Schools and their Teaching Staff for the implementation of STEER Portal for the ultimate beneficiary of the Scheme.

MD JKRLM visits Rajouri; interacts with SHGs

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAJOURI: Mission Director Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), Indu Kanwal Chib on Monday visited Rajouri to take stock of the program activities in different Blocks of the district.

She interacted with Self Help Groups and assessed the implementation of the activities going on in the blocks.

During the interaction, the MD stressed upon the SHG members to avail the benefits envisaged under the Mission and strive for their economic upliftment. She said that the



Mission Director JKRLM Indu Kanwal Chib chairing a meeting.

main pbjective of JKRLM (UMEED) is ensuring organised development of women, particularly in rural areas, by upgrading their economic and social status. The MD urged the officers to identify different

business models that could be recast and replicated in the villages and offered to women for taking up as enterprises. She directed the officers to assist these women in channelizing their efforts in carving out suc-

cessful businesses. The Mission Director said that apart from focusing on the handicraft, handloom, food processing activities as the source of livelihood generation, the JKRLM intends to let the SHG members take up the service sector as a means of their livelihoods. She further elaborated that the SHG members will be trained in the service sector through training partners. District programme Manager, Mohammad Owais Karni, informed the chair about the achievements of Mission in Rajouri District. It was informed that 3000 Self

Help Groups have been formed in the District where as an amount of Rs 9.33 crore has been provided to the SHGs as capitalization from the Mission.

In addition, the SHGs have been credit linked with the banks to the tune of Rs 1450 crore. The amount has been invested by the members in different Livelihoods like Dairy units, food processing units, Handicrafts, Livestock and poultry farming besides under convergence, various Livelihood initiatives have been successfully initiated with the help of line departments.

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