

National Seminar on Maharaja Gulab Singh at JU marks visit to Jia Potta, panel discussions

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JAMMU: Second day of a three-day National Seminar on 'Revisiting Life and Legacy of Maharaja Gulab Singh' Thursday marked visit to the coronation site of Maharaja at Jia Potta, Akhnoor.

Besides paper presentation by participants, an exclusive panel discussion on different facets of the life of Maharaja Gulab Singh was also witnessed on the second day of the event, which has been organised by the Department of History, University of Jammu in collaboration with Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), Jammu Kashmir Study Centre and Maharaja Gulab Singh Research Centre.

During a visit to the Jia Potta Akhnoor, renowned historian and former Vice Chancellor of Central University of Himachal Pradesh-Prof Kuldeep Chand Agnihotri threw light on the contribution of Maharaja Gulab Singh in integrating India.

"Gulab Singh has laid the foundation of Jammu and Kashmir by apparently snatching part of Sapt Sindhu from clutches of Britishers," he said and added that youth should be made aware about the vision



A speaker sharing his views during a panel discussion at JU.

of Maharaja.

He shared that when kings across the Indian subcontinent were involved in revenge wars, Maharaja Gulab Singh took initiative to integrate and safeguard Indian borders.

"Maharaja Gulab Singh was assiduous, handsome and robust-the qualities which earned him the admiration of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. He also possessed a character which could both charm and retaliate," said Prof Kuldeep Chand Agnihotri, adding Maharaja Gulab Singh and Maharaja Ranjit Singh successfully fought nefarious designs of Turks, Mughals and Afghans.

He maintained, despite the high rate of conversion during the invasion of outsiders across North West India and other parts, Maharaja Gulab Singh managed to keep people connected to their roots.

"Such was the aura of Maharaja Gulab Singh that Sikh emperor-Maharaja Ranjit Singh travelled to Jammu to coronate him," said Prof Agnihotri.

The day concluded with a colorful cultural evening, in which students of the University presented different kinds of cultural events, particularly pertaining to the culture of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, paper presentation was followed by an exclusive panel discussion, chaired by Prof Shyam Narayan Lal, wherein Prof KN Pandita spoke about 'Maharaja Gulab Singh and his times', Captain Alok Bansal talked about 'Maharaja Gulab Singh and his contributions to establishment of India's Northern Frontiers' and Advocate Rajeev K Pandey provided an insightful lecture on 'Integration Process of Jammu and Kashmir.'

Sham, Rana listen to public grievances at BJP headquarters

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JAMMU: Sham Lal Sharma, J&K BJP Vice-President & former Minister along with Devender Singh Rana, former MLA and accompanied by Rekha Mahajan, Secretary, J&K BJP listened to the public grievances at BJP head-quarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Numerous individuals and deputations representing various quarters of society visited BJP head-quarter to present their concerns regarding various issues comprising development, administrative and personal issues.



Former Minister Sham Lal Sharma & prominent BJP leader, Devender Singh Rana listening to grievances of people.

Many deputations presented their issues regarding electricity, water supply, road connectivity etc. A deputation of teachers presented their resentment against the transfer policy alleging anomalies. Besides, deputa-

tions of SIDCO and West Pakistan Refugees also presented their issues.

BJP senior leaders listened to their issues patiently and telephonically talked to the concerned departmental officials and

Shuhul Hyundai launches new Hyundai Venue

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JAMMU: The 'New Hyundai Venue' was unveiled by Guest of Honour Ghulam Mohammad Guroo Chairman Shuhul Group Of Companies, and the Chief Guest was Joginder Singh Chib SHO (Police Station Gangyal), Harish Chander PP Incharge (Greater Kailash), in presence of Akshay Singh Jamwal (TSM HMIL) , Mushtaq Guroo, MD Shuhul Group, Bilal Guroo & Owais Guroo, Directors Shuhul Group, Mian Adil Aslam, CEO Shuhul Group, Ankush Badyal General Manager Shuhul Hyundai, Vipul Sharma



Dignitaries launching new Hyundai Venue at Shuhul Hyundai, Jammu.

Manager Sales along with the members of staff civil society media and valued customers. According to a company press release, commenting on the

launch of the new Hyundai VENU', Unsoo Kim, MD & CEO, Hyundai Motor India Ltd., said, "The new Hyundai VENU' has been developed to

personify the aspirations of our beloved customers. With a keen focus on Design, Technology,

While listening to the public grievances, BJP leaders said that people individually and in the form of deputations raised their concerns about their individual and public issues and they have sincerely tried to give reasonable solutions to their issues while taking immediate steps wherever needed by talking to concerned authorities. They said that the senior BJP leadership is sincerely working to address their problems. They maintained that BJP is serving the society with dedication and up to the satisfaction of the masses.

Functionality and Space, the new Hyundai VENU' is here to elevate customer experiences and amplify the Hyundai SUV Life. Being India's No.1 SUV maker of 2020 and 2021, we are immensely grateful to our customers for placing their love and trust in brand Hyundai.

The new Hyundai VENU' will build further on the legacy of this brand and thrill customers with its Bold and Dynamic persona, while enabling the next level of comfort, connectivity and convenience."

DLSA Udhampur organises awareness programme on Child Labour



Secretary DLSA, Rajni Sharma along with others during an awareness programme.

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UDHAMPUR: In connection with the celebration of Elimination of Child Labour Week, District Legal Services Authority, Udhampur under the guidance and overall supervision of Secretary DLSA Rajni Sharma (Sub-Judge) on Thursday organ-

ised an awareness programme on Child Labour in Collaboration with the Labour Department at Sona Brick Kiln, Jib, District Udhampur. The aim of the Programme was to raise Awareness about the Child Labour and educate the masses especially Children

about the various provisions provided under Law against Child Labour. The resource persons ensured that no child is engaged as Labour in the Brick kiln. The Resource persons of the Programme were Panel Lawyers Adv. Akhil Dubey and Adv. Pawan Gupta. The Programme was

also attended by Assistant Labour Commissioner Udhampur Pradyot Gupta and Sham Lal Khajuria (Senior Assistant) from the Labour Department Udhampur. Later, Secretary DLSA Udhampur Rajni Sharma (Sub-Judge) thanked the Staff from Labour Department present in the program and all the participants for the smooth conduct of the Awareness Programme.

She also interacted with the participants of the programme and apprised them that the doors of District Legal Services Authority Udhampur are always open for the downtrodden sections of the society.

Billawaria starts construction work of shed at Maa Vaishno Devi temple Raipur

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JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader Baldev Singh Billawaria on Thursday started the construction work of tiles and shed in the lane of Maa Vaishno Devi temple located in Raipur Satwari, Jammu South-RS Pura constituency. On this occasion, Veda Mantras were recited by Pandit.

Speaking on the occasion, Billawaria said that on completion of 8 years of Modi government, he had to meet the members of Maa Vaishno mandir committee during the public relations campaign under the fortnight of "Seva, Sushasan, Garib Kalyan" programme. He said that the mandir committee was apprised about the



Senior BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria along with others after inaugurating construction work.

problems being faced by the broken lane and lack of shed in the temple. He said that the demand of the temple committee has been fulfilled here today. He said that the completion of the construction work of the lane and shed, the devotees coming to the temple will get a

lot of relief. He further said that the Modi government has done many development works and has also protected the Sanskriti along with them, whether it is the construction of a grand Ram temple, the grand and divine Kashi, the development of the Somnath

temple and the Statue of Unity has also become an attractive center of India's history since modern times.

Naib Sarpanch Avtar Singh Chib, Hans Raj, Ranjit Singh, Mulkh Raj, Surjit Singh, Harpal Singh, Sanjay Bhan, Ajay Sharma were present.

Penalty imposed without declaring petitioner guilty in regular enquiry abuse of power: HC

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JAMMU: Justice Mohd Akram Chowdhary of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court at Srinagar wing, while quashing order No.538-B of 2009 dated 28.07.2009 (for short 'impugned order') issued by the Secretary J&K State Board of School Education Srinagar (respondent No.2 herein), whereby the petitioner was debarred from any further promotion for a period of two years with effect from the date, he becomes eligible for the next promotion, observed that the penalty of withholding promotion of the petitioner herein from the date he becomes due for next promotion, is arbitrary and is not

sustainable for reason that no departmental regular enquiry was conducted into alleged misconduct. The petitioner is stated to have superannuated and there is no question of conducting any enquiry against him at this stage. "The penalty imposed on the petitioner in absence of being held guilty in regular enquiry is the abuse of power by the respondents and this arbitrary action on the part of the respondents cannot be upheld," the Court observed and held that the impugned order, having been passed in arbitrary manner without conducting disciplinary enquiry into the alleged misconduct against the petitioner, is not sustainable and allowed the petition.

Court acquits accused facing trial in Kishtwar riots case

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JAMMU: In much publicized Kishtwar Riots case of 2013, Principal Sessions Judge Kishtwar Y P Kotwal acquitted Shabir Ahmed, in absence of any legal evidence on record for connecting accused with the offence with which he has been charged.

As per the case, on August 9, 2013 at 10.30 AM, a procession was proceeding from Hullar towards Chowgan for prayers but on the way, a Constable namely Ravinder Singh came from Dak Bunglow side on his bike after which few persons of procession started beating Ravinder Singh. The CRPF officials, who were present on the spot, saved Ravinder Singh, after which some persons started pelting stones. The constable Ravinder Singh went to Kuleed and returned back along with 8-10 persons and started pelting stones at the procession after which members of a particular community also pelted stones and started burning shops, houses, vehicles, due to which many per-

sons got injured. The accused namely (1) Adil Aslam Waza (since acquitted) (2) Yasir Hussain, (3) Ghulam Hussain, (4) Shabir Ahmed Sarwal (accused herein) and (5) Arif Hussain (since acquitted) with a common criminal intention to commit murder resorted to firing, due to which one Arvind Raj received bullet injuries and he died. Rinku Kumar, son of Budhi Singh, (2) Sunil Kumar, son of Lassu Ram, (3) Sandeep Kumar, son of Shambu Nath and (4) Anju Singh, son of Shadi Lal also sustained grievous injuries.

Accordingly, charge sheet for commission of offences under Sections 302/307/148/149/201 of RPC came to be presented against five accused persons. Accused Adil Aslam and Arif Hussain (since acquitted) were arrested, whereas accused Yasir Hussain, Ghulam Hussain and Shabir Ahmed, accused herein, were absconding, as such, proceedings under Section 512 CrPC were initiated against

them. Through an order passed by the Court, charges for commission of the offence punishable under Sections 302, 307, 147, 148, 149, 201 of RPC was framed against accused Adil Aslam and Arif Hussain.

Principal Sessions Judge Kishtwar Y P Kotwal, after hearing both sides, observed that in absence of any legal evidence on record for connecting the accused with offence with which he has been charged, accused is required to be acquitted without asking him to enter upon his defence. With these observations, Court dismissed the challan and acquitted accused Shabir Ahmed from the charge under Sections 302/307/148/149/201 of RPC. He is also discharge from surety and personal bonds. "As other two accused namely Yasir Hussain and Ghulam Hussain are still absconding, therefore, file should be consigned to records till they are apprehended by Police or surrendered," the Court observed.

Vikramaditya meets Yuva Rajput Sabha, assures support on issues



Former MLC Vikramaditya Singh along with office bearers of Yuva Rajput Sabha.

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JAMMU: Former MLC and scion of Dogra Royal Family, Vikramaditya Singh, on Thursday met team of Yuva Rajput Sabha [YRS] members led by Rajan Singh Happy, President YRS at Amar Mahal Palace and discussed issues related to the demand of holiday on the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh and the celebration of 200th Raj Tilak Divas of Maharaja Gulab Singh, founder of erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir State. The delegation of Yuva

Rajput Sabha, led by Rajan Singh Happy, President YRS, met Vikramaditya Singh and urged him to take up the matter of Maharaja Hari Singh's Birth Anniversary holiday with the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during his ongoing visit to Jammu for the 200th Raj Tilak Divas celebration hosted by the Dogra Royal Family at Amar Mahal. Rajan Singh Happy said that the 200th coronation day of Maharaja Gulab Singh would be most appropriate and a fit occasion for announcement of the holiday of Maharaja

Hari Singh by the honorable Defence Minister of India.

Vikramaditya Singh gave a patient hearing to the YRS deputation and assured them that he would take up their issue of holiday of Maharaja Hari Singh with the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during his ongoing two-day visit to this Union Territory.

The YRS delegation comprised of Rajan Singh Happy, Mandeep Singh, Balkan Singh, Balbir Singh and Vikramjeet Singh.

GCW Kathua celebrates Dogra festival

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KATHUA: Govt. Degree College for women Kathua celebrated Dogra festival " Raade " with great zeal and enthusiasm in a traditional manner under the headship of Principal Dr. Sangeeta Nagari. This festival commenced on Aashadsankranti and coincides with "Tamdey" on which Dogras gift vessels, containers, sugar, fruits, sweets, hand fans etc to their daughters. This is a festival of colour and hues which is celebrated for longevity and pros-



Faculty and students of GDC Kathua during an event.

perity of family members. As per tradition, girl students of Govt Degree College for Women Kathua sow Raade i.e seeds of five different crops like maize, bajra, Uradete on

ground with in digged broken necks of earthen pots. The number of Raadae can be as many as number of family members and one extra Raada is inserted to pray God to add

new member to the family. The students will take due care of these raade by watering them everyday and colouring them every Sunday by making rangoli using organic colours

which signifies growth and multiplication of the family and will pray to God for colourful and joyful life ahead. Girls sing traditional songs, make Dogra quines like qeaur, rutt etc. On the occasion renowned Dogri Poet Vijay Sharma gave information about the Duggar culture to the students and told them about the importance of Raade in Dogra culture.

The programme was organized by Prof. Ritu Kumar Sharma Head department of Dogri and Prof.Vaishno Devi Assistant professor in Dogri.

Dr Karan Singh pays obeisance at Raghunath temple; prays for peace prosperity of J&K

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JAMMU: Chairman Trustee of J&K Dharmarth Trust, Dr Karan Singh on Thursday paid obeisance at the Raghunath Temple here and prayed for the peace, progress and prosperity of the Union Territory.

On the occasion, Adv Ajay Gandotra, President of the Trust along with Dr Gopal Parthasarathi Sharma, Secretary, Dr Shiv Kumar Raina, Chairman of J&K Dharmarth Trust Advisory

Aarti at the Main sanctum of Raghunath ji Temple. He also performed Pooja at Natraj ji Temple and also visited various temples situated in the premises of Shri Raghunathji Temple.

Dr Karan Singh went through the Mandir Complex and enquired about the facilities being provided to the devotees. He also visited the newly constructed waiting lounge in the temple complex. He expressed satisfaction over the facilities and gave necessary instructions on the spot.



Chairman, JK Dharmarth Trust, Dr Karan Singh paying obeisance at Raghunath Temple, Jammu.

Committee and staff of the Trust Gave a warm welcome to the Chairman Trustee by presenting him a bouquet amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras by the Temple Priests.

Dr Karan Singh performed

Later, he had a meeting with the senior functionaries of the Trust and asked them to work with more zeal and dedication and make all possible efforts in providing adequate facilities to the visiting pilgrims.