

# Katra would be developed as major Marriage Destination: Vishesh

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Vishesh Mahajan in his endeavour to make Reasi district as hub of Tourism held a meeting with Hotel & Restaurant Association,Katra and especially of hoteliers who cater to high end Tourists and said that every effort is being made to develop Katra as major marriage destination and for that a joint strategy involving department of culture, SMVD Shrine Board, Local host community and other stake holders is required and because he wanted to have marriages on the pattern of Sri Lanka, New zealand, Rajasthan,Goa etc. in Reasi district and Bhimgarh Fort,Banks of River Chanab, Chankah, Katra, Deva Mai, Shiv Khori and with limited people if feasible at Bhawan even, are best places and for that cooperation of all is the need of



Deputy Commissioner Reasi Vishesh Mahajan chairing a meeting.

hour.He said that at Katra where we are having the edge of having good accommodation at Katra,Reasi District has got the distinction of having these spots over here,which are a big craze for people all over the world and can become a major source of economy of J&K and Reasi District in particular. SDM Katra Piyush Dhotra,Tehsildar Katra Jitender Singh,Hotel & Restaurant Association, Katra President Rakesh Wazir ,Chairman Shyam Lal

kesar, Sr.Vice President Virender Kesar,Vice president Kuldeep Sharma, Sumit Khajuria, Nishant Sharma, Executive member Bhushan Gupta besides owners and General Managers of Marriott,Vivanta,Sarovar Portico,White a member of Radisson Individual,ITC Welcom, Lemon tree, Ginger, Fortune, Holiday Inn, Ramada, Best Western, Clarks Inn etc.were prominently present in the meeting. Wazir while speaking on

the occasion besides thanking Deputy Commissioner for taking steps with regard to development of Tourism and redressing the water crisis at Katra further requested for opening up of more water tanker filling points besides improvement in the path of recently opened water point near Kakryal. He also requested for early start of helicopter service to Shivkhori besides telecasting of its live Aarti. Shyam Lal Kesar & Virender Kesar asked for publicizing of places of

Tourist interest around Katra in a bigger way and suggested for providing of pen drives so that hoteliers may be able to play that publicity material in their hotels. They also requested for improvement in the facilities at new Bus Stand Katra.

Mahajan listened the Hoteliers patiently and elaborated them that to tap the full potential of Maa Vaishnodevi Ji Yatra & Shiv Khori pilgrimage work on helipad at Katra is started and very soon pilgrims will be having the privilege of darshans of Shiv Khori through helicopter also.He said that options are also explored for opening of Meditation centers around Katra.He assured them that each and every point will be taken up sympathetically and the points which pertains to others will be taken up with them.

# KVK Samba organises Workshop on Promotion of Agroforestry Models

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Krishi Vigyan Samba, under the leadership of Professor B.N Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu and also under the guidance of Dr. Amrish Vaid Director Extension SKUAST Jammu, organized one day workshop on Promotion of Agroforestry Models, here on Wednesday.

The programme was attended by sixteen officers from the Department of Agriculture, Samba.

The programme was inaugurated by Chief Scientist and Head KVK Samba Prof. Sanjay Khajuria.

In his address, Prof. Sanjay Khajuria explained the importance of agroforestry for sustainable development. He laid thrust on promotion of horticulture based agro forestry in district Samba to triplicate the farmers' income thereby maintaining the ecology of the region.



Dr. Sanjay Khajuria, as the coordinator of the training programme, deliberated in detail about the utilization of interspaces within the orchards in Samba shivaliks for the upliftment of the rural farmers. He stressed upon the field functionaries to chalk out a comprehensive plan for the Agroforestry Interventions in Kandi zones of Samba for the benefit of the farmers as well as to save the soil from erosion, overgrazing, deforestation etc. He also requested the officers to chalk out a comprehensive plan for water conservation as well as plantation of common agroforestry sampling in the

coming Monsoon to increase the green cover in the district. Initially, the welcome address was presented by Dr. Saurav Gupta Sr Scientist Entomology, in which he welcomed all the officers of the line department. He also delivered his detailed lecture on Management of FAW in the maize crop. Dr. AmitMahajan delivered his lecture on weed management in various agroforestry systems. Dr. Shalini also spoke on the various soil measures to increase the health of the soil. At the end, vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Shalini Khajuria.

# Annual Chandi Mata Yatra reaches Dudu Basantgarh

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The Annual Chandi Mata Yatra from Chinote Bhaderwah today reached Dudu amid a warm welcome by the local community. A large number of devotees paid obeisance at the Baba Vasuki Nag temple and participated in the traditional cultural dance, "Kud." Local residents arranged langars at various locations, including Latti, Jakhed, Dudu, and Kirchi, providing food and refreshment to the pilgrims. As per SDM Dudu, Dr. Manmeet Kumar, various departments such as Health and Medical, PDD, Revenue, Jal Shakti,



Locals along with devotees at Dudu Basantgarh.

PMGSY, PWD, RDD&PR, Food and Civil Supplies, Police, and Security forces are actively working to ensure the smooth conduct of the Yatra. The pilgrims will have an overnight halt at Dudu and

Kirchi before proceeding further tomorrow morning. Devotees have expressed their happiness with the arrangements made by the Administration and the local public of Latti and Dudu.

# Weekly Block Diwas: DC Rajouri addresses public grievances at Peeri area of block Budhal Old

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: In an earnest endeavor to promptly address public grievances in the remote areas, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat on Wednesday chaired a public outreach camp at Peeri area of block Budhal Old. A wide range of demands were raised by the local residents seeking renovation of roads, upgrading of government institutions, augmentation of water supply, healthcare infrastructure, check on inflated electricity bills etc. The event also provided an opportunity to the government functionaries to inform the public about various schemes and programs being implemented by their respective departments. Attendees



DC Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat speaking at Public Darbar.

were encouraged to take the benefit of these initiatives for their betterment. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner affirmed the unwavering commitment of the District Administration to provide

essential services to the citizens at their doorstep. He recognized the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders in achieving the developmental goals of the district. The Deputy Commissioner assured the public that all

their concerns are properly documented and each genuine issue would be addressed through the intervention of the respective departments in a phased and time-bound manner. In a spirit of collaboration, the Deputy Commissioner also acknowledged the contribution of all stakeholders who have played a vital role in achieving the objectives of government schemes. Instructions were issued to the concerned departments to prioritize and resolve the issues flagged by the public. Notably, several issues were resolved on the spot with the prompt intervention of the concerned departments. Regarding the ongoing developmental projects, Deputy Commissioner

Rajouri directed the concerned officers to expedite progress and ensure timely completion. Recognizing the pivotal role these projects play in the growth of the region, he stressed the significance of efficient execution to bring tangible improvements to the community. Among the others, ADDC, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa; ADC Koteranka, Dil Mir; ACP, Sheraz Chowhan; Education-CPO, Maqsood Ahmed; CEO Mohammad Mushtaq; CAHO, Dr Khalid Hussain; LDM, Sanjeev Bhasin; EXEN Jal Shakti Rajouri Ashwini Sharma; EXEN PMGSY Budhal, Intiaz Mir; EXEN PDD Rajouri, Mohammad Rashid and other concerned officers.

# SMVDSB, CGPWA join hands to promote green initiative

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's (SMVDSB) eco-friendly initiative has received a significant boost with the Central Govt. Pensioners Welfare Association, Jammu (CGPWA) extending its support to the noble initiative. This collaborative effort seeks to address pressing environmental issues by promoting eco-friendly practices and enhancing green cover in the region besides, aligning with the shared values of environmental stewardship and community service. In the endeavor, Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in the presence of esteemed members of the Central Govt. Pensioners Welfare Association, Jammu today inaugurated 2nd Plant's Sale Counter of Shrine Board namely 'Vaishnavi Vatika' at Vaishnavi Dham, Rail Head



Anshul Garg, CEO SMVDSB and others during the event.

Complex, Jammu. The Counter offers around 38 indigenous species of plants reared in the Board's high-tech nursery at village Kunia in Panthal area near Katra. Speaking on the occasion, CEO said that the Shrine Board is delighted to have the CGPWA on board as with their vast network of members and reach will play a crucial role in spreading awareness about the impor-

tance of eco-protection and promoting sustainable practices among the local community. He added that in alignment with the Prime Minister's visionary directive the Shrine Board has been adopting the campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'. Besides, under the guidance and directions of Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT), the Shrine Board has been at the forefront of

environmental conservation efforts in the region and devoting high attention to conserve the environment and ecology by carrying out the greening of Trikuta Hills and the spaces along the tracks leading to the Shrine by rearing and planting more than 1.50 lakh seedlings every year for soil and water conservation. This initiative not only serves as a major contributor for increasing the green cover in the region but also strengthening the ecology and building a healthier society, he said. CEO underscored that the recent initiative of the Shrine Board by distributing plants as souvenirs to the devotees through Plant sale counter at Niharika, Katra has been met with overwhelming appreciation from the pilgrims. Now, with the joint venture of the Shrine Board with CGPWA the green initiative will further strengthen. He said that apart from locals, the Jammu

based Plants Sale outlet shall facilitate Yatris embarking upon the Shri Amar Nath Ji Shrine slated to commence from June 29. Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member, SMVDSB and CGPWA emphasized the importance of environmental conservation, saying we are committed to contributing to the eco-friendly initiative of the SMVDSB. In collaboration we can make a meaningful impact on the environment and create a sustainable future. He exhorted that following a motto of "EACH ONE PROMOTE TEN", the CGPWA will strive to create awareness and popularize plantation, help procuring quality plants for individuals and institutions. On the occasion, CEO alongwith members of CGPWA and other senior officers of Shrine Board also planted saplings of different species around the Vaishnavi Dham and distributed a variety of plants to the participants.

# Gaddi Sippy hostel deputation calls on Tehsildar



Deputation members calling on Tehsildar Jai Singh.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A deputation of students of Gaddi Sippy hostel Udhampur led by Kuldeep Kumar UT Youth President met Jai Singh Tehsildar Udhampur today. Deputation highlighted the genuine issues of students. Kuldeep appraised provision of permanent staff

to Gaddi sippy hostel Udhampur, Provision of food material in the hostel, continue stay of students in the hostel. Hostel should open twelve months in year, as the order issued by secy tribal affairs department already. However Tehsildar patiently and assured to

redress the issues at the earliest. Others who accompanied present the deputation were Manoj Kumar, Ganesh Kumar, Arun Kumar, Ajay Kumar, Naresh Kumar, Ajay Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Ajay Brahamnu, Parshotam Kumar, Ajay Kumar and Uangesh Kumar.

# DDC member starts water supply scheme worth Rs 5.27 crore under JJM

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: In a significant stride towards improving Rural Water supply infrastructure, BJP senior leader & DDC Pandit Suresh Sharma, today inaugurated the digging work of water supply scheme sathar in village of Nardi Panchayat of Block Maira Mandrain. This ambitious project valued at Rs 5.27 crore , is a vital component of the 'Jal jeevan Mission' initiative aimed at ensuring sustainable and reliable water supply to kandi Area households.

The water supply scheme Nardi includes the construction of two tube-wells, Three overhead tanks, pump room building, new pipeline new machinery etc. These facilities are expected to dramatically improve the water supply situation in Whole nardi Panchayat, from this scheme Upper nardi lower nardi Bala sathar Dhanna and surrounding areas providing clean and safe drinking water to Hundreds of Residents. Addressing the gathering



DDC Suresh Sharma starting developmental work.

DDC Pandit Suresh Sharma express the gratitude to the local community, he Emphasized the government commitment to providing essential services and improving the quality of life for rural residents under JJM. He started the water supply scheme in everyone house hold. DDC Suresh Sharma said that under the prime minister Narendra Modi led union Government jal jeevan Mission' every house hold across the nation will get tap water .He said that it is the exceptional vision-

ary Qualities of PM Modi that this Government is primarily focused on providing basics amenities to the common man who have suffered a lot due to the wrong policies of the regimes that ruled the roost for decades. On this occasion BJP mandal president Dr Ram Lal sharma, Bjp senior leader Master Sansar Singh , Gen secc. Chanchal singh, Gurpal singh, Retd. Lecturer vikramjeet singh , Mayor Singh Darwara Singh, Ashok singh, Ramdhan, Rashpal Dass, Jagga ram, Sham Lal , Engineers of the jal Shakti (PHE) ;Ground water Department and Other Dignitaries were present.

# GDC Vijaypur observes Int'l Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: To generate awareness among the students and general masses regarding drug abuse, a seminar on the theme "Invest in Prevention of Drugs" was organized on Wednesday by Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan Committee and NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of Government Degree College Vijaypur in collaboration with District Social Welfare Office, Samba.



Faculty members along with students during the event.

NSS volunteers and college students participated in the seminar with great enthusiasm, zeal and fervor. Proceedings of the event were carried out by Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (NSS PO). Welcome address was presented by Dr. Anoop Kumar Bhagat (Nodal Officer, Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan Committee). Dr. Anoop Kumar Bhagat, in his welcome address stated that together we can amplify our efforts to combat the global drug problem, guided by the principles of science, com-

passion, and solidarity. Through collective action and a commitment to evidence-based solutions, we can create a world where individuals are empowered to lead healthy, fulfilling lives. He further stressed upon the need of holding such awareness programmes in an institution where young youth is being imparted all-round development. Chief Guest, Dr. Ruchi Thakur, District Mission Coordinator, District Social Welfare Office Samba highlighted that international

cooperation must be promoted to combat Drug Abuse. She further added that collaboration among governments, organizations, and communities to develop and implement evidence-based strategies for combating drug trafficking and organized crime, recognizing the global nature of the drug problem and the need for coordinated action is the need of the hour. The whole event was organized under the guidance of the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Vandana Gupta. While

speaking on the occasion she said that we must raise awareness about the importance of community engagement and participation in designing and implementing effective drug prevention programs, empowering communities to take ownership of prevention efforts. The programme ended with the taking of Anti-Drug pledge by all the staff members as well as students and officials from the District Social Welfare Department, Samba. The pledge was read out by Mansi Abrol (Gender Specialist, District Social Welfare Department, Samba). The event was coordinated by Dr. Anoop Kumar Bhagat (Nodal Officer, Nasha Mukta Committee) and Dr. Naseem Chowdhary and co-ordinated by Prof. Poonam Kundan, Dr. Manoj Heer and Prof. Meetu Sharma. Formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Naseem Chowdhary, NSS PO.

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