

Mindhal Chandi Mata Yatra: DCs flag off devotees from Bhadarwah, Kishtwar



DCs Harvinder Singh and Rajesh Kumar Shavan flagging off pilgrims from their respective districts.

STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh along with Senior Superintendent of Police Sandeep Kumar Mehta on Monday flagged off the holy Mindhal Chandi Mata Yatra here from Panchayat Drudhu-Bhaderwah. The sacred pilgrimage, which attracts hundreds of devotees from different parts of the region, marks a deep spiritual journey to the revered shrine of Mata Chandi located in Mindhal, Chamba (Himachal Pradesh). The event witnessed a vibrant display of devotion as

pilgrims, adorned in traditional attire, carried the Mata's Palki amidst chants of "Jai Mata Di" and soul-stirring bhajans. Addressing the gathering, DC Harvinder Singh highlighted the spiritual and cultural importance of the yatra, stating, "This sacred yatra not only strengthens our spiritual connection but also binds us in the rich cultural fabric of brotherhood and unity. The district administration is fully committed to ensuring a safe and peaceful journey for all pilgrims." He wished for happiness, health and prosperity for all devotees with the divine blessings of Goddess Chandi.

The SSP assured comprehensive security arrangements, with full coordination among police teams to ensure the safety of yatis throughout the pilgrimage. To support the pilgrims, the district administration, in collaboration with the local volunteers, organized a Langar (community kitchen) at Dradhu Panchayat. Pilgrims were served with warm meals and refreshments, reflecting the spirit of service, compassion and shared devotion. The local administration also ensured

seamless arrangements, including transport, medical aid and basic amenities for the yatis. The flag-off ceremony was attended by ACD, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP), BDO Bhaderwah, BDO Ghat, ex-Sarpanch of Panchayat Dradhu and police officials. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today flagged off the first batch of local devotees to Shri Mindhal Mata Yatra here from the historic Gori Shankar Mandir. The yatra is managed and organised by Aadi Shakti

Devi Chandike Sewak Sanstha Doda, led by Pyar Singh Ji Maa Sevak (Chief Patron) and Prof. D. S. Manhas (President). The yatra will proceed via Gulabgarh-Sansari-Himachal road to the holy shrine in Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. The DC requested pilgrims to pray for the well-being of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and District Kishtwar. The annual Shri Mindhal Mata Mandir, located in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh attracts thousands of pilgrims every year.

Army organises medical cum veterinary camp

STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADERWAH: Army has initiated a program to provide free medicare facilities to population residing in remote villages in Bhaderwah under operation Sadhbhavna. This includes medical check-ups, basic healthcare services, and potentially even some specialized treatments.



Doctors examining patients during the camp.

In this regard, despite inclement weather conditions, Army's Rashtriya Rifles unit based at Bhaderwah organized Mega Free Medical cum Veterinary Camp in Jaie area of Bhaderwah under Operation Sadhbhavna.

This initiative aims to address the healthcare needs of communities that may have limited access to regular medical care.

By providing free healthcare and other services, the army hopes to rebuild trust with the local population and demonstrate its commitment to their well-being.

Despite inclement weather conditions, a team of doctors from Army and Bhaderwah Hospital reached out to

locals and provided them Free medicines, Check ups and required treatment for their

Expressing gratitude, a resident Choudhary Abdul Qareem, said "During this harsh weather, the elderly people face many health problems and the Indian Army is providing us health facilities. This is the far-of Bhaderwah. The Indian Army is providing us medicines for free."

"We are grateful to the Indian Army for providing us medicines and proper health care," said another tribal Safoora. Another local Bibi said,

"The Indian Army has set up a camp and the locals are getting proper medical treatment. We are grateful to the Indian Army."

Free medicines were provided to all the civilians along with veterinary medical cover, said the spokesman, adding that over 100 patients availed the benefit of Camp. He said around 20 animals were treated apart from the medicines provided for over 50 animals.

Dr Sheenam Medical Officer SDH Bhaderwah said that these kind of initiatives are much required in these hilly areas.

GAMC Akhnoor organises Yoga Awareness Camp

STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: The Government Ayurvedic Medical College (GAMC), Akhnoor organized a Yoga Awareness Camp at the Government Nursing College (GNC), Akhnoor as part of the ongoing 21-day countdown program leading up to the International Day of Yoga. The event was held under the guidance of the Principal of GAMC Akhnoor and coordinated by the Department of Swasthavritta and Yoga.



Dr. Abhishek Magotra, Associate Professor, addressed the gathering and emphasized the need to incorporate yoga into daily routine to promote a healthy lifestyle. Dr. Sheetal Gupta, Assistant Professor, and Arehna Sharma, Yoga Teacher, demonstrated the complete yoga protocol and guided students through various postures and breathing techniques.

Dr. Raman Kumar Bhagat, Principal of GNC Akhnoor, along with other faculty members, also attended the camp and

encouraged students to actively engage in such wellness initiatives. Among the student participants were Bisma Idrees, Tahir Mehmood, and Zahid Bashir from GAMC Akhnoor, who contributed to the success of the event through their active involvement.

The camp reflected the growing importance of yoga in educational institutions and highlighted the collaborative efforts between medical and nursing colleges in promoting holistic health practices.

DC Reasi inaugurates 26 Day special IEC campaign under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan

STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik inaugurated a 26-day special Information Education and Communication campaign here under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan. The campaign commenced with a volleyball competition and a cultural programme held at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Reasi.

The event was organized by the Social Welfare Department under the leadership of District Social Welfare Officer Sachin Sharma. The initiative aims to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among the youth.



Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik along with participants during the campaign.

The programme began with the lighting of the traditional lamp, followed by an engaging cultural segment in which students showcased their talents through singing and painting on the theme of a drug-free India. A key highlight of the event was the Nasha Mukh Bharat pledge taken by all participants, reinforcing the commitment of

both the district administration and the student community towards eradicating drug abuse.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik emphasized the disastrous consequences of drug addiction on individuals and the society as a whole. She encouraged

aged students to embrace sports and make positive lifestyle choices to avoid harmful influences. She further shared that a comprehensive calendar of events has been planned over the next 26 days, featuring a range of sports and awareness activities across the district.

"Drug abuse destroys lives and futures. Sports, on the other hand, build

strength, discipline and confidence. I urge the youth to embrace physical fitness and strive for excellence," the Deputy Commissioner appealed.

The event concluded with the formal inauguration of the volleyball match by the Deputy Commissioner, marking the beginning of the campaign's sports activities.

The initiative received an enthusiastic response from students and the public alike, reflecting growing community support for a drug-free Reasi. The district administration reaffirmed its commitment to continuing such awareness campaigns in schools and colleges across the region. ASP Iftikhar Ahmed, CEO Deepak Gupta, DYSSO Tarsem Singh and DIO (Info) were also present at the event.

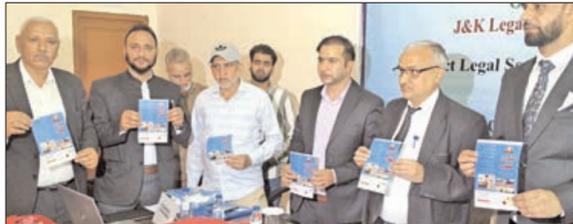
JKLSA, UNICEF organise capacity building programme on child protection

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: A Capacity Building Program on Child Protection and EORE with Legal Service Unit for Children (LSUC)-2024 was conducted by JKLSA in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Poonch and UNICEF.

Ashwani Kumar Sharma Principal District & Session Judge Chairman DLSA Poonch, Rafaqat Hussain Secretary, DLSA Poonch, Sh. Syed Mujtaba Consultant, team of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Poonch including Chief LADC, Deputy LADC, Assistant LADCs and different stakeholders participated in the event.

In the Inaugural Session, the program was started with a welcome address by Sh. Rafaqat Hussain Secretary, DLSA Poonch wherein he formally welcomed the members and participants and gave a brief outlook about DLSA Poonch especially LSUC Poonch.



Welcome address was followed by a keynote address from Ashwani Kumar Sharma Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) Poonch, where Honble Chairman DLSA, appreciated the efforts of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Poonch for organising this event and also raising awareness among the masses in collaboration with JKLSA and UNICEF.

In the first technical session, Syed Mujtaba gave an in-depth presentation on Emergency Outreach Response (EORE), Role of LSUC in awareness among the children and

other stakeholders regarding EORE.

In second session, an Overview of NALSA Child-Friendly Legal Services Scheme was presented by Adv. Bhanu Partap who provided a detailed overview of the NALSA scheme, focusing on its objectives and the provision of holistic legal services for children.

In third session, Sh. Rohit Khajuria Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) delivered a lecture on convergence efforts and plan of action for collaboration under the NALSA Scheme 2024.

The main focus of the lecture was on integrated approaches within departments and the importance of collaborations as means for strengthening the legal service institution for children.

The last Session was a panel discussion on the role of Legal Service Providers and institutions under the scheme was conducted by the members of JJB and CWC, along with panel lawyers, focussing on gathering evidence from the field, exchange of thoughts on the role and future course of action for representatives of Legal Service Unit for Children (LSUC).

All the sessions included Q&A segment to address participant inquiries. The program ended with concluding remarks and a vote of thanks from the Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority Poonch.

He extended gratitude to the Hon'ble Chairman DLSA, Adv. Sunil Sharma president Bar

Association Poonch, resource persons namely Sh. Syed Mujtaba, Advocate Bhanu Partap, Sh. Rohit Khajuria for enriching presentations along with all the participant from One Stop Centre, LADCs, Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Board, Education Department, Special Juvenile Police Unit (JKP), Panel Lawyers, PLVs and Media Persons. The program aimed to equip participants with essential knowledge and skills to enhance child protection mechanisms and legal services for children. It is a significant step towards strengthening the legal framework and support systems for children in need. By fostering collaboration among various stakeholders, the DLSA aims to create a more effective and responsive legal service environment for children.

3000 IEC material was distributed among PLVs for wide dissemination of IEC on EORE at Tehsil Legal Services Committees.

Historic Milestone: DDC member inaugurates Rs 2.79 Cr Salangar Water Supply Project



DDC member Suresh Sharma inaugurating Salangar Water Supply Project.

STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: Marking a landmark moment in the development of rural infrastructure, Senior BJP leader and District Development Council (DDC) member Suresh Sharma inaugurated the Salangar Water Supply Project, constructed at a cost of Rs 2.79 crore, in Panchayat Salyote. The long-awaited project is set to permanently resolve the drinking water crisis in Salangar and Salyote villages-an issue that had troubled residents for decades.

With this inauguration, what was once considered a distant dream has finally become a reality. "This is not just a pipeline it's a lifeline," said Sharma while addressing a large gathering of local residents. "Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, projects that were once stalled or overlooked are now being completed with speed and commitment. This government doesn't make promises, it delivers results. This is the new India that is being built

where no village is left behind."

Sharma also highlighted the rapid progress under the Jal Jeevan Mission, noting that multiple water supply projects in Block Maira Mandrian and Chowki Choura are in the final stages of completion and will soon begin benefiting thousands of residents across the region.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed a heartfelt welcome by the villagers, who expressed deep gratitude for what they called a "historic and life-changing development." Community members hailed Sharma's persistent efforts and unwavering commitment to fulfilling the demands of the people.

Also present at the event were BJP Mandal President Ashok Kumar Sharma, senior leader Baba Purushottam, Captain Daulat Ram, Rajkumar, Ashwani Kumar, Satpal, Ajay Kumar, Naresh Kumar, key departmental officials, and other notable community representatives.

Mission YUVA awareness programme held

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: An awareness programme on Mission YUVA was organized today at Sub-Division Sunderbani to encourage local youth for availing self-employment opportunities under different entrepreneurship development programs of the government. The event was held on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma and coordinated by Deputy Director, District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Mohammad Nawaz. jThe

awareness programme aimed to sensitize the youth, potential entrepreneurs, and stakeholders about the objectives, features and registration process for availing Mission YUVA schemes. The Mission YUVA initiative is designed to nurture entrepreneurial skills, create employment opportunities and encourage self-reliance among the youth. A large number of students, potential entrepreneurs from adjoining Panchayats, PRIs and other stakeholders participated in the programme, evincing keen interest in the opportunities being provided under Mission YUVA. The event was graced by ADC Sunderbani Ramkesh Sharma (Nodal Officer Business Help Desk (BHD) Sunderbani), along with its Members and representatives of RDD. The programme concluded with an interactive session with the participants. The queries of the participants were cleared by the experts from the stakeholder departments.

Dir Agri Jammu evaluates ground impact of intervention schemes in Doda District

STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADERWAH: Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen conducted an extensive tour of District Doda today to review the ongoing agricultural initiatives and interact with farmers and entrepreneurs. He was accompanied by Chief Agriculture Officer Doda, Amjad Hussain Malik and other field officers during the visit.

The tour commenced with a visit to the Herbal Garden at Sungli, Bhaderwah, where the Director Agriculture inspected the cultivation and conservation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs). He shared his insights on the potential of MAPs in improving farmers' income. He asked the officials to strengthen



conservation and promote commercial cultivation to unlock the huge potential of MAPs.

Later, the Director visited the paddy fields to inspect the ongoing transplantation phase. He appreciated a farmer Rakesh Kumar at Village Dhareja for preserving heritage farming techniques, while integrating modern tools. He also inspected the Hi-Tech

Polyhouse established under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) by beneficiary Tanveer Ahmed. The Director hailed the farmer for cultivation of exotic vegetables under protected conditions by using advanced techniques.

Continuing his field tour, the Director Agriculture attended a Viksit Krishi

Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA) programme at Village Bhalra, Prano, where he interacted with local farmers. He emphasized the critical role of scientific and modern agricultural practices, particularly for the Kharif season, to boost yields, improve efficiency and ensure climate resilience in agriculture.

At Village Manwah, Zone Bhalra, inspected the Oil Extraction Unit of Rajat Raina, appreciating the entrepreneurial initiative and the importance of value addition of agri-based produce in rural areas.

In addition, the Director Agriculture attended the Valedictory Function of Lavender Festival 2025, organized by CSIR-IIIM Jammu at Government Degree College Bhaderwah.

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