

# DC Kathua inaugurates Bhandara for Amarnath Yatris at Gurah Mundian



Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rakesh Minhas inaugurating Bhandara for Shri Amarnath pilgrims.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rakesh Minhas, on Sunday inaugurated a Bhandara organized for Amarnath Yatris at Bhagwan Shree Parshuram Dham Gurah Mundian, located in Tehsil Hiranagar.

The event was meticulously arranged by the Bhagwan Shree Parshuram Management Committee, Gurah Mundian.

The inauguration took place within the premises of Parshuram Mandir, where festivities began with soulful Bhajan Kirtan performed by Virender Shashtri from Ghagwal.

Following the devotional music, a Kanjak Poojan and Aarti of Bhagwan Radhey Krishan were conducted, with the Deputy Commissioner himself participating in the rituals. Subsequently, the Bhandara

was officially opened, symbolizing the community feast offered to pilgrims.

Madan Lal Toofan, the former President of the Mandir Management Committee, extended a warm welcome to all dignitaries and VIPs present.

He provided a brief historical overview of Bhagwan Shree Parshuram Dham Gurah Mundian during the event. Har Dat Sharma,

Chairman, and Arun Sharma, President of the Mandir Management Committee, honoured Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas by presenting him with a memento.

Other esteemed guests, including SDM Hiranagar, SHO Hiranagar, Prof. Ram Murti Sharma, Suresh Kumar 'Falli' (DDC Ghagwal), Rachhpal Varma (former MOS), Prem Dogra, and Suresh Kumar

Sethu, were also acknowledged and felicitated by the management committee.

Several prominent individuals attended the event, including Surinder Sharma, Mukerjeet Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Des Raj Sharma, Rajni Kant Sharma, Mohinder Master, Madan Master, Radhey Shyam, Attar Singh, Pitamber Sharma, Sohan Lal Sharma, Gulzari Lal and Chhotu Pandit. The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Har Dat Sharma, expressing gratitude to all participants and contributors.

The event not only celebrated the spirit of community and devotion but also underscored the cultural significance of Bhagwan Shree Parshuram Dham Gurah Mundian in fostering communal harmony and religious tolerance among the attendees.

# Thakur Sabha Bani demands Pahari ST Status ahead of Assembly Election



People raising slogans during a protest at Bani.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANI: Thakur Sabha Bani has reiterated its demand for Pahari Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the Bani region, similar to that granted to Rajouri and Poonch. This demand was voiced during a meeting held in Village Annota of Panchayat Chandal, attended by key community leaders and a large gathering of Thakur community members.

The meeting was led by Thakur Sabha Bani President, Darshan Manhas, who was joined by Sushil Kumar, former Sarpanch of

Gatti, Roshan Manhas, former Sarpanch of Panchayat Chandal, Bindra Ban, former Sarpanch of Panchayat Sitti, and Jaswant Singh, former Naib Sarpanch of Bani.

These leaders highlighted the socio-economic challenges faced by the Bani region, emphasizing its remoteness and the pressing need for ST status to ensure equitable development.

"Just like Rajouri and Poonch, Bani is a remote and predominantly Pahari area that deserves ST status," stated Darshan Manhas.

"We urge the government to

address our demand before the upcoming Assembly elections. If our plea is ignored, Thakur Sabha Bani will decide its future course of action in the next Sabha meeting."

The Thakur Sabha Bani community stressed that the recognition of Bani as a Pahari ST area is crucial for addressing long-standing issues and promoting the welfare of its residents. The community stands united in its resolve to achieve this status and seeks the government's prompt and positive response.

# NC MPs to vociferously raise voice for J&K's burning issues in Parliament

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Rattan Lal Gupta, the Provincial President of J&K National Conference (NC), criticized the BJP for making promises that have not been fulfilled.

Specifically mentioned is the commitment to provide 5 Marla plots at safer locations, which according to the NC leader, remains unfulfilled.

This failure to deliver on promises is cited as a reason for the diminishing popularity and trust in the BJP among the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the convention in Samba, Gupta highlighted several pressing issues faced by the local population.

"Severe shortage of water, which is a critical issue affecting daily life and agriculture besides frequent power cuts disrupt daily activities and economic stability," he said adding that inadequate healthcare



Provincial President NC, Rattan Lal Gupta speaking at a meeting.

infrastructure, leading to hardships for residents seeking medical care.

The NC, under its leadership, pledges to actively address these issues. Newly elected MPs from the NC vow to raise the voices of Jammu and Kashmir residents in Parliament.

They promise to take concrete steps to improve public welfare and resolve the burning issues faced by the people. Leaders at the convention

appealed to the people of Samba district and beyond to support the NC in upcoming elections. They urged the community to rally behind the NC leadership of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, promising a brighter future for Jammu and Kashmir under their governance.

The goal is to secure a decisive victory in the Assembly polls to realize the aspirations of the people and ensure prosperity and peace in the region.

# JU team visits GDC Thannamandi for inspection to introduce new subjects

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

THANNAMANDI: A team of Professors and officials from University of Jammu led by Prof. Rajiv Rattan, Director Colleges Development Council (CDC) visited Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi for inspection to introduce Environmental Sciences, Biotechnology and Agriculture Technology as new subjects from academic session 2024 - 25 here on Saturday.

The team of experts led by Prof. Rajiv Rattan, Director CDC including Prof. Sushil Verma, Head Department of Botany, Prof. Piyush Malaviya, Head, Department of Environmental Sciences, Prof. B.K. Bajaj, head of Department of Biotechnology and Ramesh Chandra, Assistant Registrar CDC who visited



Dignitaries planting a sapling.

the College in connection with inspection (affiliation) to start new subjects received a rousing welcome by Principal of College Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed and other faculty members.

Upon arrival, each team member planted a plant sapling as part of ongoing

summer plantation drive in the college campus. While speaking on the occasion Prof. Farooq explained the need of introducing these subjects which will not only improve socio-economic conditions of the area by opening new vistas of employment for youth and students, but

equip them with modern skills in the fields of Biotechnology, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. He expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude towards the team to visit this far-flung college. Dr. Ashaq Malik, Co-ordinator IQAC of College made a presentation detailing the importance as well as facilities and infrastructure available in college to introduce newly proposed subjects viz. Environmental Sciences, Biotechnology and Agriculture Technology.

Later the team along with Prof. Farooq Ahmed and other faculty members went around the college Campus. They visited labs and Departments designated for proposed subjects and took stock of facilities and infrastructure available to start new subjects. The head Departments of Chemistry

(Dr. Naseem Ahmed), Botany (Dr. Ashaq Malik), Zoology (Dr. Shiraz Ahmed) and Environmental Sciences (Dr. Junaid Ahmed) answered the queries raised by expert members from University of Jammu. The team appreciated the college administration for proactive approach and readiness as well as facilities and infrastructure available, however, recommended to procure some more materials to start these courses from current session.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Prof. Asif Ajaz Lone, Rakesh Puri, Prof. Supriya Gupta, Dr. Goher Iqbal, Prof. Fatima Parveen, Anuj Bali, Dr. Ather Aziz Raina, Prof. Rummy Dar, Dr. Nagina Kouser and Prof. Rizwana Kouser.

# DC, SSP Ramban conduct review of SANJY 2024 arrangements to ensure pilgrim safety & comfort

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Ramban, Anuj Kumar, conducted a comprehensive review of the security, boarding, and lodging arrangements for Yatris at Lamber Banihal for SANJY 2024. The visit focused on ensuring that all necessary measures are in place to guarantee the comfort and safety of the pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner was received by Sub-Divisional Magistrate



DC Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary Anuj Kumar conducting comprehensive review of the security.

Banihal, Rizwan Asgar, Tehsildar Banihal, Intiaz Ahmed, and various other concerned officers.

During the inspection,

Deputy Commissioner and SSP assessed the effectiveness of the current facilities and interacted with the staff to ensure smooth operations.

They also took the opportunity to meet with the Yatris, gathering valuable feedback to address any concerns promptly.

The Civil and Police administration are committed to ensuring elaborate arrangements for SANJY 2024. By meticulously reviewing the security measures, we aim to provide a safe and seamless experience for all Yatris," stated Deputy Commissioner Chaudhary.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, reinforced this commitment by highlighting the importance of robust security protocols to maintain

tain a secure environment for the pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the district administration is working diligently to ensure that Yatris receive the highest level of care and support during their pilgrimage.

Directing the Team to adopt a proactive approach, reflecting the administration's dedication to the successful and smooth conduct of SANJY 2024, the DC said that district will continue to monitor the arrangements and make necessary steps to ensure the success of the event.

# Progress on PMGSY projects in Poonch reviewed

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: District Development Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary on Sunday convened a review meeting to assess the progress under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the district. During the meeting, SE PMGSY, Er. Ajay Kapahi provided a detailed update on the works undertaken under the scheme. The Chief Engineer PMGSY, Er. Rajan Mengi also joined the meeting through online mode. The Deputy Commissioner thoroughly reviewed the physical and financial progress achieved, directing the concerned officials to expedite the

execution of pending projects.

The concerned authorities were asked to float tenders for the permanent restoration of identified roads, including Ziarat Sai Baba Miran Sab to Shahpur, Arai to Arai Upper, and Janiyar to Dingla, within the next 3-4 days. He also emphasized the importance of maintaining the existing bridge on Boniketh to Chanasar and the Chamber Kinari road by filling potholes.

The DC warned that any contractor failing to maintain the roads would be blacklisted. He also directed the concerned Executive Engineer to accelerate the work on the 63.4 km Bufliaz to Mandi Fagla road and the two bridges on the Mandi to Bufliaz road.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the concerned officers to ensure the time-bound execution of the works so that the local population can benefit from the improved connectivity.

The meeting was attended by the Superintending Engineer of PMGSY, Er. Ajay Kapahi, Chief Planning Officer, Mohd. Rafi, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Qadeer Ul Rehman, Executive Engineer of PMGSY, Er. Intiaz Khan, and other concerned officials.

# SNM Rajouri unit organises 15th Blood Donation Camp

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation Rajouri, the social wing of Sant Nirankari Mission (SNM), held its 15th blood donation camp at Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan Rajouri.

The camp saw the participation of numerous donors, contributing a total of approximately 65 units of blood. District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat, along with Sant B.P. Singh inaugurated the camp and commended the Mission for its efforts in organizing such a noble initiative.

Om Prakash Bhagat set an example by personally donating blood at the camp, emphasizing the importance of voluntary service for the betterment of society.

Dr. ML Rana, Chief Medical Officer of Rajouri, also joined in by donating blood, further encouraging others to participate.

Sant B.P. Singh, Zonal Incharge Udhampur Zone 1-A, shared the teachings



A volunteer donating blood at a camp.

of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, emphasizing the philosophy that human life should be dedicated to humanity.

This sentiment reflects the mission's broader goal of fostering benevolence and solidarity within society.

The blood donation camp is part of the annual Manav Ekta Diwas celebrations, which commemorate the humanitarian services of Baba Gurbachan Singh Ji.

These celebrations begin on April 24th each year, marking the start of numerous blood donation camps organized by Sant

Nirankari Mission across India and globally since 1986.

SNM Rajouri Convenor, Anil Kapoor, expressed gratitude to the District Administration, Government Medical College, Associated Hospital Administration, Blood Bank Staff, Police Administration Rajouri, and media personnel for their cooperation and support.

Special attention was given to pre-donation check-ups, cleanliness, and providing refreshments for donors, ensuring a safe and comfortable donation process.

# Annual Gurmat Samagam, free medical camp organised

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: An annual Gurmat Samagam was organized alongside a free medical camp at Gurdwara Yaadgar Sant Bhai Bahadur Singh Dharmasal Kharri, where an annual Gurmat Samagam was organized alongside a free medical camp.

This event, inaugurated by Sandesh Kumar, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Poonch, included a Keertan Darbar led by Sikh women organizations, particularly the Istri Satsang Sabhas of Poonch.

The Gurmat Samagam serves as an annual gathering aimed at promoting Sikhism and fostering peace and brotherhood among communities. It provides a platform for spiritual teachings and discussions on Sikh history and philosophy.

The medical camp saw the participation of renowned doctors who offered their services selflessly to patients regardless of their region, religion, caste, or creed. Specialists such as Dr. S. Ravinder Singh Ghai, Dr. Rahul Sudan, Dr. Jaspreet Singh Raina, Dr. Najmus Saqib, Dr. Harmeet Singh, and Dr. Mohd Abas attended to patients, providing expertise in urology, gas-



ADC Poonch, Sandesh Kumar inaugurating a Gurmat Samagam.

troenterology, pediatric care, cardiology, emergency medicine, and general surgery.

During the medical camp, free medicines were distributed to patients by S. Randhir Singh Shanti from Isher Medical Hall, along with free medical tests conducted by Larvi Clinical Laboratory. This initiative aimed to provide essential healthcare to those in need, demonstrating a commitment to humanitarian service.

The religious segment of the program featured Raagi Jathas from various Istri Satsang Sabhas and Sikh Students Federation chapters, who recited Gurbaani Keertan and delivered lectures on Sikh teachings. Special mention was made of Bibi Varjeet Kour from Jammu, who led the

Gurbani Keertan recitation.

Harcharn Singh Khalsa, representing the Gurdwara's organizing committee, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all medical personnel, volunteers, and contributors for their efforts. He highlighted the event's role in promoting communal harmony and providing spiritual and medical support to the community.

The final Gurmat Samagam program for the year is scheduled for July 7th, with local Raagi Jathas and the Hazoori Raagi Jatha of Bhai Shokeen Singh ji Darbar Sahib Amritsar set to participate. A distinguished religious personality from Darbar Sahib Amritsar will also be a special guest, underscoring the significance of the event in promoting Sikh values and community welfare.

# Shri Sarthal Devi Annual Yatra commencing from July 14

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: On the directions of Chairman Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Trust, Shri Vikramaditya Singh, a meeting of the Management Council was convened at Kishtwar to discuss the smooth conduct of the Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Annual Yatra, commencing from July 14, 2024.

During this meeting, it was unanimously decided that, as per past practice,

after the culmination of Yagya, the Shobha Yatra will proceed from Shri Gori Shankar Mandir Sarkoot, Kishtwar at 2 PM on July 14, 2024. The Yatra will pass across the Kishtwar town in the form of a religious procession and then board on vehicles, arranged by the Management of Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Trust.

Apart from this, the Management Council also

chalked out all the programmes.

The meeting was presided over by Sanjeev Parihar, Vice Chairman, and was attended by Surinder Sen, President S.D. Sabha Kishtwar, Advocate Kuldeep Sharma, Ram Swaroop Sharma, R.K. Rana, Retd. XEN, Ved Parkash Mahajan, Randeep Bhandari, Jabbar Singh, B.D. Shan and others.

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