Sharavan Maas: Yudhvir, Priya start seven-day Shiv Maha Puran at Devi Dwara Temple

Dire need to connect young generation with our rich cultural heritage, says Priya

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Priya Sethi, Dharam Chairman ofPrachar Sewa Mandal and former Minister along with Yudhvir Sethi, Advisor of Mandal and J&K BJP Vice President today started the seven-day Shiv Maha Puran on the auspicious occasion of the beginning of the holy Sharavan Maas

The ceremony took place at the Devi Dwara Temple in East Constituency, aims to celebrate this Holy Month and also to reconnect the present generation with the deep-rooted cultural and religious traditions of India.

The Shiv Maha Puran, a revered scripture detailing the tales of Lord Shiva, is a cornerstone of Sanatan Dharma. This week-long spiritual event is set to offer participants a comprehensive understanding of ancient traditions and the divine essence



Priya Sethi, Chairman of Dharam Prachar Sewa Mandal and former Minister along with Yudhvir Sethi, Advisor of Mandal starting seven-day Shiv Maha Puran.

of Hindu culture.

During the programme, Parmodh Kapahi, District President, Vijay Saraf Trust Chairman, Adv Rajesh Gupta, General Secretary BJP District Jammu, Smt Amma ji and Vidya Gupta were felicitated for their services towards the civil society. Speaking on the occasion.

Priya Sethi emphasized the importance of Sanatan Dharam, highlighting its timeless relevance and its role in fostering spiritual wisdom and unity. She noted, "Sanatan Dharam embodies the eternal truths and values that guide us towards righteousness and spiritual enlightenment. This Shiv

Maha Puran recital is a testament to our commitment to uphold and celebrate these sacred teachings.

The former Minister also emphasized the importance of bridging the generational gap to ensure that the younger populace remains connected with India's esteemed cultural heritage. "In an era of rapid modernization, it is imperative that we keep our traditions alive and vibrant. The Shiv Maha Puran not only enlightens us about our religious heritage but also serves as a beacon of cultural unity and spiritual

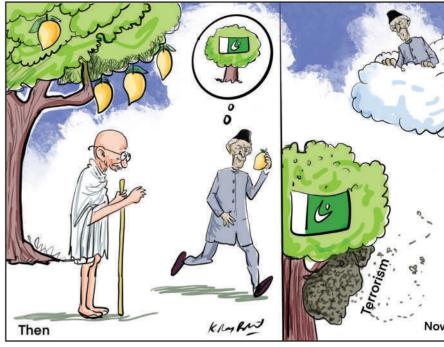
fulfillment," she added. Yudhvir Sethi hoped that the recital of Shiv Maha Puran would inspire greater devotion and harmony among the people. He also laid stressed the need to enhance awareness about Sanatan Dharma, highlighting its significance in fostering a sense of identity and continuity within the community. "Our rich cultural legacy is a source of immense pride. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that these sacred traditions are preserved and passed on to future generations.'

feature discourses, recitations, and devotional activities centered around the Shiv Maha Puran. Sanjay Mahey General

The seven-day event will

Secretary made adequate arrangements of the seven day long programme.

Among those who were preset included Rajesh Raina President of Sewa Mandal Parveen Kerni, Mandal President East, Sudhir Anand Vice President, Savita Anand, District President Mahila Morcha, Anuradha Sharma Mandal President East and Rajesh Gupta General Secretary.



Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir hosts Bhajan Sandhya to commence Sawan Mahotsav 2024



An internationally acclaimed singer, Dharmesh Nargotra reciting Bhajans.

BJP presses for land ownership titles to PoJK displaced, WPRs, local allottees

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 254 C order of 1965 of J&K government has already given the ownership rights on Government land allotted to PoJK displaced persons to be excluded from the state order marking the entire state land in the negative list, said Dr. Narinder Singh Raina, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National Secretary in a press conference here on Monday.

Dr. Narinder accompanied by former MLC Choudhary Vikram Randhawa, Office Secretary Tilak Raj Gupta, Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, and senior leader Manmohan Singh.

Dr. Narinder, while addressing the media, said that the displaced persons from PoJK, (he also spoke of the Parliamentary resolution of February 1994) who resided in camps as well as in non-camps were allotted lands under 578 C, in 1954 for agriculture use, which was evacuee as well as government



BJP National Secretary, Dr. Narinder Singh Raina addressing a press conference.

Under 254 C order, he said, they were given ownership rights in 1965, but unfortunately, under a recent order, the aforesaid land was put under red land. "In 1976, under Agrarian Reform Act, the land allotted to PoJK displaced persons was excluded from this act under schedule II implying that this can be transferred to kins and can be sold till now. But now government land allotted to PoJK displaced persons has been added under state land by an order of J&K government thus preventing its transfer to kins and its sale. We request LG of Jammu & Kashmir to

again exclude the pre-said government land allotted to PoJK (1947,65,71) displaced persons from this order." he said.

When the displaced persons came here, the government developed their colonies (Basti), he said and also requested the LG administration to regularize those colonies. These colonies are 'De' Basties, so they cannot be registered on individual names, and hence one cannot avail loans, or sell the land. There were earlier 46 colonies (Basties), but now the number of Basties have increased, we request LG to regularize and register them all,

West Pakistan said. Refugees' land is also evacuee property and state land, he also demanded to regularize them.

He said that these people cannot take benefit of government schemes like Kissan Samman Nidhi in absence of the land ownership rights

He pointed out that the Modi government provided all the rights to these people especially empowered them politically and also socio-economically. But these are not able to get their due benefits.

He said that the funds for the farmers' land used for the fencing near the borders by the gov-

ernment are lying undisbursed in government offices like DC offices due to the non-clearance of the title of the land, and thus the affected persons are not able to claim their benefits.

He also mentioned the local allottees of J&K, which were residing in J&K before 1947. These were landless people who got the lands after 1947 under different heads. They are not able to claim any benefits due to the non-clearances of the title.

The affected persons cannot claim the benefits under the PMAY and other schemes, he said.

"The original 254 C order implemented in 1965 for ownership rights to PoJK displaced persons' land should kept as such. Also, the recent order declaring the government land allotted to PoJK displaced persons as state land may be declared null and void", said Dr. Narinder Raina.

In 1947, during the armed Kabaili attack, the lands of persons who migrated to Sialkot, instead of PoJK, should be registered in the names of people residing on those lands since 1947, as those persons have migrated to Pakistan.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The ancient Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir, a revered spiritual site known for its historical significance and serene ambiance, commenced its Sawan Mahotsav today with an enchanting Bhajan Sandhya.

The event, which is part of the Sawan Mahotsav-2024 Series, brought together devotees and music lovers for an evening of spiritual ecstasy. Located in the heart of Jammu, Panjvaktra

al and cultural heritage for decades. Its sacred atmosphere and historical importance make it a central place for worship and cultural gatherings. The evening commenced with the students of

Mahadev Mandir has been a beacon of spiritu-

Panjvaktra Mahadev Ved Vidharthi Gurukul chanted the Ganesh Vandana in traditional

This was followed by a recitation of the Kaal Bhairay Ashtkam by students of Guru Pandit Ashutosh Magotra, including Mohit Sharma, Mukteshi Sharma, Pankaj Pradhan, Meenakshi Anand, Vasumana Bakshi, Madhu Rani, and Krishna. Later, a captivating classical Kathak performance by Kritika Dutt and Aanandita Dutt, talented students of Nrityanjali, under the expert guidance of Dr. Priva Dutta. Their graceful and expressive movements set the tone for the evening, immersing the audience in divine stories brought to life through dance.

Following the dance performance, the highlight of the evening was a soulful and classical recital by Dharmesh Nargotra, an internationally acclaimed singer renowned for his devotional music. His enchanting bhajans dedicated to Mahadev captivated the audience, filling the atmosphere with devotion and spiritual

The event, held from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, just after the Aarti, marked the beginning of the Mahotsav Series. This series aims to deepen the spiritual connection of the devotees through a harmonious blend of music and dance, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Jammu. Speaking on the occasion, Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd. Session Judge) and Receiver of Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir, said that the Bhajan Sandhya at Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir not only provided an evening of spiritual enrichment but also showcased the temple's commitment to fostering cultural and artistic expression. The overwhelming response from the attendees reflects the temple's significance as a center of spiritual and cultural activities in the region.

The proceedings of the event was conducted by Raj Kumar Behrupia while the program was managed by the devotees. The organizers express their heartfelt gratitude to all participants and invite everyone to join the upcoming Bhajan Sandhyas every Monday of Sawan for more evenings of spiritual ecstasy and cultural

Heat-wave in Srinagar causes people to look for cooler places

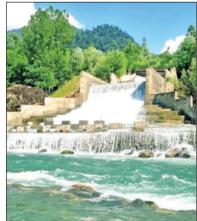
■ MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: Kashmir is currently grappling with an intense heat-wave, as most parts of the Valley record temperatures significantly above normal. This scorching weather, coupled with a prolonged dry spell, has raised serious concerns about water scarcity and its impact on daily life, with people, especially local residents, searching for cooler places Meanwhile.

Department has said that the heat wave is expected to persist until at least July 26, with hot and humid conditions prevailing throughout Jammu and Kashmir. Amid heat-wave conditions, the serene

meadows, gardens, and lakes are witnessing a significant surge in local visitors, transforming these natural retreats into bustling hubs of activity. Popular destinations such as Gulmarg,

Pahalgam, and Sonamarg and other waterfalls are experiencing a record influx of locals, drawn by the promise of cooler climates and scenic beauty. Offbeat destinations too are witnessing huge rush of locals as well as tourists. There is also a significant increase in the foreign tourist influx too. But these offbeat destinations sometimes prove to be dangerous



for visitors as there are fewer inspections by the authorities. According to officials earlier these places were not very attractive for tourists and people preferred Gulmarg and Pahalgam but due to heat wave in Srinagar and other plains people are looking for other places to feel some

Keeping in view the safety of visitors in these waterfalls to avoid mishaps, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kangan has ordered installation of special sirens at the Barwalla Waterfall in order to alert

visitors and nearby residents of any looming imminent dangers, including sudden increase in water flow in the escape chan-

The move comes after two youth narrowly escaped after being trapped in Barwalla Waterfall in Kangan area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Sunday. The trapped youth were rescued safely after strenuous efforts put up by risitors present there.

"In view of the unfortunate incident at Barwalla Waterfall (escape channel) wherein two persons have been shown as struggling with the tumultuous water flow of the said escape channel and which was reported on social media platforms and other media outlets, causing considerable agony among the general people, tourists etc. It is hereby ordered that Assistant Executive Engineer USHP-II Kangan shall install special sirens at the Barwalla Waterfall (tail end of the escape channel) in order to alert visitors and nearby residents of any looming imminent dangers, such as sudden increase in water flow or other hazardous conditions for the safety and security of the general public," reads an order issued by District Magistrate Kangan.

Koul, Dr Darakhshan address BJP convention at Gurez **STATE TIMES NEWS** GUREZ: Bhartiya Janata

Party on Monday organised party Convention at Dawar Gurez which was presided over by J&K BJP General Secretary (Organisation) Ashok Koul while BJP National Executive Member & Chairperson of J&K Waaf Board Dr Sved Darakhshan Andrabi also attended the convention.

Former legislator Faqir Mohammad Khan & DDC representative Aijaz Khan also participated.

All functionaries of all Morchas of the party took part in the convention.

Addressing the gathering Ashok Koul said that the vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has trans-



J&K BJP General Secretary (Org) Ashok Koul speaking in party workers meeting

formed every part of India especially Kashmir.

"J&K has entered a new era of peace & development after decades of bloodshed and BJP's Vikas agenda is visible in all parts of the UT", said BJP General Secretary.

Ashok Koul gave details of positive transformation in

every sphere of life under BJP's resolve to J&K a growth engine of India. $\,$

In her address Darakhshan Andrabi said that under BJP rule of Modi. remotest areas of J&K like Gurez got the infrastructural boost and the government working system has been made accountable.

"After the abrogation of Article 370, the tribal population of J&K got benefited by numerous central schemes and laws as they were not implemented by earlier government ernments in J&K. For the tribal population, the mainstreaming of J&K ushered in the era of empowerment and priority development ", said Andrabi.

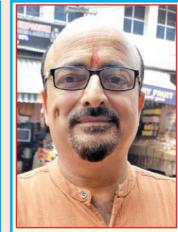
She said that our youth are now dreaming big in peaceful J&K and are making us proud on the national and international levels by their exceptional contributions. Ashok Koul asked the party cadres to be prepared for the Assembly polls and reach out to the common masses with the growth and development stories under BJP

Regular traffic jams in Jammu! What are viable ways for preventions?



Gulchain Singh Charak: President Dogra Sadar Sabha, J&K

The Smart City Project has not been able to successfully deliver the promises outlined in its agenda, especially on 'traffic chaoses' There is lot of mismanagement of traffic in the City. Most of the people lack traffic awareness among themselves, especially in the case of the drivers of public transport. It is crucial for the authorities to implement measures for improving the current conditions of roads and important squares. Special training should be provided to the Traffic Police officers, followed with regular inspections. Furthermore, the utilization of CCTV cameras should be promoted for more



Pritam Sharma, Social Activist

Every year the number of vehicles increase while the road conditions remain stagnant in a state of despair. This deteriorating traffic situation showcases the government's failure to deliver on its promises of building a Smart City. Despite numerous promises, the commitments have amounted to mere rhetoric. It was said a flyover from Gandhi Nagar to Janipur will be made, Metro services would be started, but in reality nothing has been done. Despite paying huge amount of taxes, the infrastructure remains undeveloped, which is evident from several cracks and potholes on roads and dysfunctional parking slots? It is high time now to do something to address the grievances of the people.



Surinder Mahajan, Former President Raghunath Bazaar Jammu

Traffic congestion is a very real problem here that also acts as a hurdle in the process of the City's development. One of the primary reason being the narrow roads, relative to the higher number of vehicles, which exacerbates traffic problems Another issue is the insufficient availability of safe parking spaces, leading to the rise in risk of thefts. There is also a pressing need to regulate public transports like matadors and e- rickshaws to curb their reckless and rash driving. This highlights the increased role of traffic police in managing the traffic flow, necessitating the installation of traffic lights.



Nandini, Student

effectiveness.

I demand for more functional and improved traffic management. There is a need to tackle with the prob lem of people owning multiple vehicles per family, as it leads to more traffic congestion and is also not good for the environment. Strict rules and regulations with severe punishments should be laid out for the lay



Pawan Gupta, Trader

For the past many years, traffic in Jammu is getting congested. There is no traffic management. Vehicle registrations are increasing, there is no parking anywhere in our Jammu region and I would also say that there is no signal system here either. It is said that Jammu is a Smart City but the roads here are still in bad condition and no development work is being done here.



Sankul Gupta, Trader

I think the problem is increasing in number of vehicles here , Every person has his own vehicle whether it is 2 wheeler or 4 wheeler.

No one is following the traffic rules, it seems we should also cooperate fully with the traffic police, only then can problems like traffic jam be solved in our