

Annual Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Yatra 2024 from July 14, arrangements finalised

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav presided over a meeting of the line departments and socio-religious representatives to discuss and finalize the necessary arrangements for 3-day Sarthal Devi Ji Yatra set to commence from July 14, 2024.

The meeting was attended by SSP Abdul Qayoom; ADC Pawan Kotwal; ACR, Idrees Ahmed Lone; ACD Phulail Singh; AD Food/DIO Shafqat Keen; Vice Chairman Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Trust Sanjeev Parihar; President SD Sabha Kishtwar Surinder Sen, besides district heads of the line departments & police and other religious representatives.

During the meeting, the Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Management Council informed the chair that the annual Sarthal Devi Yatra, in honor of Shri Ashtadash Bhujia Mata Sarthal Devi Ji, will take place on June 14 and



DC Dr. Devansh Yadav chairing a meeting at Kishtwar.

15, 2024. The Shobha Yatra will commence from Gauri Shankar Mandir Sarkoot at 2 PM on June 14, 2024, following the conclusion of the Hawan (religious ceremony) and Puran Aahuti (offering).

Emphasizing the importance of timely arrangements, the Deputy Commissioner urged the line departments to ensure that all necessary preparations are made ahead of time.

The SSP assured the meeting that foolproof security measures will be implemented, starting from the Gauri Shankar Mandir and extending along the route to Sarthal

Mata Bhawan, on both days of the Yatra.

To ensure the successful conduct of the Yatra, the Deputy Commissioner directed for uninterrupted water supply, power supply, cleanliness/lime lining, healthcare facilities, provision of an ambulance with medical staff and necessary medicines, and the placement of fire tenders at Gauri Shankar Temple Sarkoot and Sarthal Devi temple for emergency response.

Furthermore, the ARTO was instructed to ensure an adequate number of vehicles with valid technical fitness

certificates, as well as the preparation of alternative routes within the town to mitigate congestion and traffic.

The Assistant Commissioner Development and Municipal Council authorities were specifically tasked with organizing a mega cleanliness drive (Swachta Pakhwada) on June 10th and 11th, respectively around the Sarthal Temple, in addition to ensuring the upkeep of streets, lanes, and drains under their respective jurisdictions to guarantee the safety and well-being of the pilgrims.

DC Kishtwar also directed

the Municipal Department to conduct regular cleanliness drives around Gauri Shankar Temple Sarkoot for three months during the Yatra period. The initiative aims to provide a tranquil experience to the pilgrims and tourists visiting the Gauri Shankar Mandir.

The executing agencies responsible for road maintenance were directed to conduct necessary repairs and upkeep on the roads from Hasti to Sarthal.

The ACD was entrusted with the responsibility of installing dustbins at the venue and taking appropriate measures to provide sanitary and toilet facilities at Bhawan.

The Deputy Commissioner appealed to both the local residents and pilgrims to uphold the religious sanctity and environmental serenity of the region by strictly adhering to the government's guidelines, including the avoidance of plastic usage.

DDC Reasi launches Sampoonnata Abhiyan in Aspirational Block Thakrakote



DDC Reasi Vishesh Mahajan along with students and faculty.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
REASI: District Development Commissioner Reasi Vishesh Mahajan launched the Sampoonnata Abhiyan here today in Thakrakote Block under the Aspirational Block Programme of NITI Aayog.

The initiative aims to achieve 100% saturation of specific indicators in the block within three months (July 4, 2024, to September 30, 2024) through a comprehensive Action Plan.

DDC Mahajan stressed the importance of Aspirational

Blocks, noting that Thakrakote is one of 500 identified blocks in India and one of 10 in Jammu and Kashmir requiring focused attention for transformation. He urged the community to participate and cooperate in achieving saturation of the six identified indicators by NITI Aayog under Sampoonnata Abhiyan. Sajad Ahmed Mir, Aspirational Block Fellow from NITI Aayog, emphasized the program's significance and its goal of achieving 100% saturation in six key performance indicators

(KPIs) for the block.

The event featured a cultural program by students, a painting competition, and a pledge by attendees to support the initiative and Thakrakote's development.

DDC Member Mohammad Rashid, PO Poshan Mohd Anwar Bandy, Joint Director CPO Narinder Kumar, ACD Pardeep Kumar, Chief Agriculture and Horticulture Officer, Deputy Registrar Cooperative society Bhawani Attri, Tehsildar, DIO (info), BMO, BDO and other officers were present.

SSP Rajouri holds introductory meeting with media persons



SSP Rajouri, Randeep Kumar along with media persons after the meeting.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
RAJOURI: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rajouri, Randeep Kumar chaired an introductory meeting with members of media fraternity of Rajouri.

The meeting was convened

in conference hall of District Police Lines Rajouri with Additional SP Rajouri Musadiq Basu, Deputy SP DAR Afrat Hussain, Deputy SP Headquarter Ashwani Sharma were also part of the meeting that was attended by members of media fraternity.

Discussion on range of issues was held during this meeting with media persons also put forth a number of suggestions on various aspects. SSP Rajouri Randeep Kumar assured the media persons that all their points will be dealt on priority.

Army reaches out to womenfolk of inaccessible areas in Bhadarwah with medicare facilities

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
BHADARWAH: With an aim to reach out people residing in far-off areas, troops of 4 Rashtriya Rifles organised a free medical camp with specific focus on womenfolk at Katyara Panchayat of Additional District Bhadarwah on Monday.

The free medical camp awareness was primarily aimed at to provide medicare facilities to the people residing in far off areas with no regular hospital in their near vicinity, beside to educate them about cleanliness, sanitization, their rights and duties to keep themselves and their family healthy.



Army doctors examining patients during the camp.

Katyara Panchayat in Jammu and Kashmir's additional district Bhadarwah is located 17 km from Bhaderwah town and is inhabited by mostly BPL (Below Poverty Line) families with small land holdings.

In the day long camp, more than 400 patients including women, male and children from Katyara, Sharekhi, Behani, Alan and Dhanwa villages registered themselves for check-up and got themselves examined by lady doctor

from Army and other team of doctors from SDH Bhaderwah including Dr.Yasir Riaz, Dr.Rahat Ali Goni, Dr.Sheenam Shakir Rafiqi, Haleema Kausar(FMPHW) and Sangeeta Devi(FMPHW).

Beside free medicines and examination, free blood test facility was also provided to the patients.

People of the area expressed their gratitude to 4RR for organising free medical camp in their area which otherwise sans regular medicare facilities.

They opined that it will go a long way in building their self confidence and relation between Army and Awaam.

Rashu Devi of the village said that this is for the first time that someone reached out to this poor and far-off village with much required medicare facility as it takes us more than two hours to reach to the SDH Bhaderwah in case of medical emergency, sometimes it becomes fatal for us.

"I have been suffering from different ailments but could not go to town for treatment as medicines have become too costly for us. Today I'm grateful to Army as beside through checkup by a lady doctor; all the prescribed medicines were given to me free of cost," said Misra Begum (45) of village Sharekhi.

Khatana urges rehabilitation for displaced families in Katra

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KATRA: In a significant move under the public outreach program, Member of Parliament Rajya Sabha, Er Gulam Ali Khatana, held a series of public meetings in the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Assembly constituency in Reasi district on Monday.

Accompanied by senior party leaders including former Minister, Ajay Nanda, Shashi Gupta, Rajinder Mengi, Member District Development Council, Mohd Rafiq (District president), Anil Sharma (Vice President), Subash Chander, Sharshad Ali (ST leader), Bashir Ahmed, Pholi Devi, Pritam Singh and other leaders, MP Khatana engaged with representatives from the Scheduled Tribes (STs), minority communities, Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).



MP Er Gulam Ali Khatana during public meeting at Katra.

The displaced families voiced their concerns, highlighting the unfulfilled promises made by the Shri Vaishno Devi Shrine Board regarding their resettlement, at the time of acquiring their land for the hospital complex.

"About 400 families were displaced due to the construction of the Narayana Hospital. We were promised alternate land to build our houses and jobs, but these promises have not been fulfilled yet. So far, each displaced family has received only five marlas of land from the government, and even this is without ownership rights," the locals informed the MP, seeking prompt resolution to their long-pending issues.

Responding to public suffering, MP assured them that he would take matter with the Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to prioritize the rehabilitation of families displaced by the construction of

the Narayana Super Specialty Hospital in Katra. MP Khatana assured the affected families of his support and sought immediate intervention from the Lt. Governor's office to address their grievances. "The displaced families have waited long enough for justice. It is imperative that the promises made to them are honored, and they are provided with the necessary resources to rebuild their lives," he stated. The visit highlights the ongoing challenges faced by displaced communities in the region and underscores the need for swift action to ensure their rehabilitation and well-being.

The MP Rajya Sabha also called for the inclusion of the Fakeer community in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) list. Highlighting the socio-economic challenges faced by the community, Khatana urged Lt.

Governor Manoj Sinha to consider this demand seriously. "The Fakeer community has long been marginalized and needs recognition in the OBC list to access better opportunities and resources for their upliftment," he emphasized. This demand aligns with Khatana's broader efforts to address the issues of various underrepresented communities in the region.

During his two-day visit to Reasi, which began today, Khatana also held public meetings at Khold Bantia, Sirah Colony of Katra Mandal of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi constituency. In the second half of the day, he held public meetings in Bhangal, Sirla, and Najli of Baba Dhanasir Mandal. The aim of his visit was to get first-hand information from the masses about the issues they were confronting.

ADM Reasi bans Sale & Purchase of Portable Chain Saw, transportation of Bovine animals

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
REASI: Additional District Magistrate, in exercise of powers vested U/s 163 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita has imposed complete ban on illegal use of Sale and Purchase of Portable Chain Saw (Mechanical Cutters) in District Reasi. The order shall come into the force with immediate effect. Senior Superintendent of Police and Divisional Forest Officer have been asked to implement the order in letter and spirit. In another order issued under section 163 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, the ADM has prohibited the transportation of bovine animals within the jurisdiction of District Reasi without seeking permission from the District Magistrate. This order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for a period of two months. However, it shall not apply in case of transportation of bovine animals by the Government departments for departmental purposes.

GDC Khour organises plantation drive

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KHOUR: In a significant effort to contribute to environmental conservation and promote a greener tomorrow, the Social Forestry Division Jammu organized a Plantation Drive at Government Degree College Khour under the aegis of Ek Podha Maa Kay Naam. The initiative aimed to bring together students, faculty, local communities and environmental enthusiasts in a collective endeavour to foster ecological sustainability. Teaching and Non-Teaching staff of the College along with NCC cadets and NSS volunteers also participated in this drive. Speaking about the



Faculty members along with students during the drive.

Plantation Drive, Dr. T. K. Sharma Principal GDC Khour stated, "We are thrilled to partner with the Social Forestry Division Jammu for this noble cause. The Plantation Drive at GDC Khour is a testament to our commitment to safeguarding the environment

and leaving a positive impact. Together, we can build a greener, healthier, and more resilient future". This event was organised in collaboration with Department of Social Forestry under the able guidance of Principal of the College Dr T K Sharma.

Former BDC Chairman Dalip Kumar visits Suchatgarh, addresses public meeting



Former BDC Chairman and Congress leader, Dalip Kumar speaking during public Darbar at R S Pura.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
R S PURA: Former BDC Chairman and Congress Party leader, Dalip Kumar, on Monday embarked on a significant journey across village Phinder in the Suchatgarh constituency. He held discussions with people regarding Congress party policies for the upcoming Assembly elections, and addressed several critical rural issues.

His visit was not merely a routine political engagement but a concerted effort to connect with the grassroots level, understand their concerns, and articulate the party's vision and policies in anticipation of the upcoming Assembly elections.

During this visit, he was accompanied by Panchayat Raj President Sandeep

Singh Resham, former Sarpanch Harjinder Singh Natthu, District Rural Working President Charanjit Bhakti, and other village leaders.

During his interactions, Dalip Kumar engaged in extensive discussions with villagers, listening attentively to their concerns, aspirations, and grievances.

The issues discussed ranged from agricultural challenges, access to basic amenities such as healthcare and education, infrastructural development needs, to employment opportunities for the youth.

He elucidated on the party's plans to empower rural communities through targeted policies that promote agricultural growth, enhance healthcare facilities,

improve educational infrastructure, and create sustainable livelihood opportunities.

He emphasized that the Congress party is fully geared up for the imminent assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, expressing confidence in the party's readiness to contest and serve the interests of the region's residents.

Dalip Kumar highlighted the Congress party's commitment to addressing the pressing concerns and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir through dedicated efforts and inclusive policies.

He assured that the party would prioritize issues such as development, infrastructure enhancement, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities across the region. Dalip Kumar underscored the Congress party's proactive stance in engaging with the electorate, promising to listen to their voices and work tirelessly towards their welfare. As the election approaches, he reiterated the party's resolve to present a robust vision for the future of Jammu and Kashmir, aiming to bring about positive change and sustainable development in collaboration with the people.

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