

Shrine Board commences 3-day Poojan at Katra ahead of Pran Pratishtha ceremony

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has initiated a three-day poojan ritual from July 11-13, 2025, at the Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra, in the run-up to the Pran Pratishtha ceremony of the newly crafted Holy Idols of Maa Durga Ji. The idols, embodying strength and compassion will be imbued with divine energy through this sacred ritual before being installed at the newly constructed five temples by Shrine Board across the District Reasi.

Padma Shri Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri led a distinguished group of learned



CEO SMVDSB, Anshul Garg and Padma Shri Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri performing Puja.

priests from the Shrine Board in conducting the sacred rituals with utmost devotion. Under his guidance, the ceremonies are being performed in strict adherence to age-old scriptures, ensuring the sanc-

tity and authenticity of each ritual up to the Purna Ahuti.

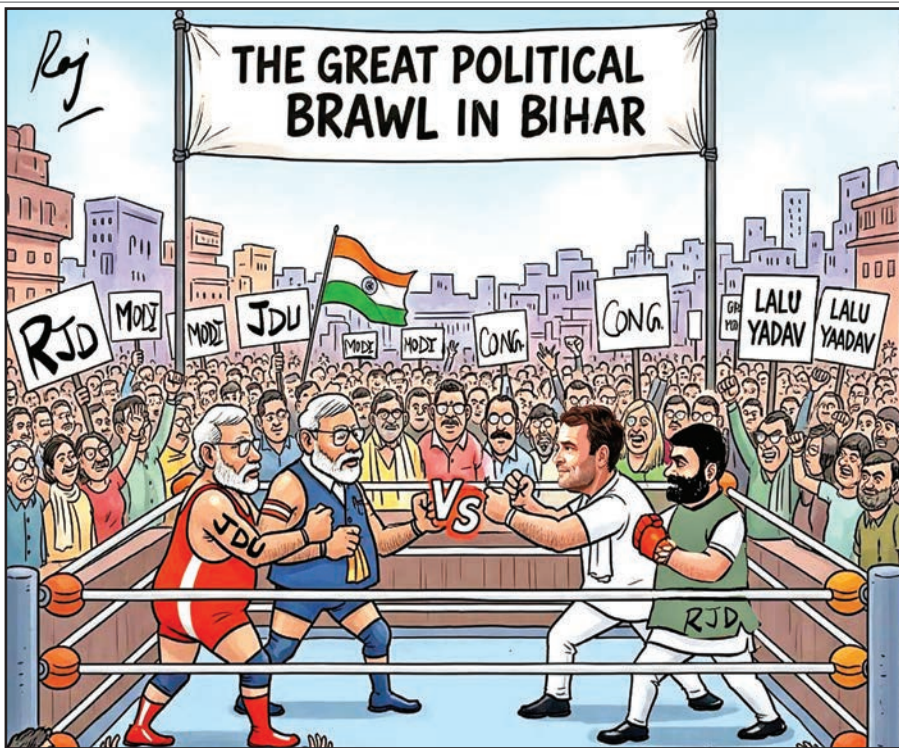
During the Poojan rituals, Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board stated that as per the Board's 75th

Meeting directives under the chairmanship of Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor JK-UT, five temples will be dedicated on July 13 across distinct villages of Reasi district namely Gorta Kalika Sathaan, Village-Harotkote; Pancheri Galli, Village-Dangakote; Tote Devsthan, Village-Tote; Village-Devigarh of Tehsil Bhomag and Village-Chasana.

The CEO added that committees comprising Shrine Board officials and local community members have been formed for the Pran Pratishtha ceremony and idol installation in each temple. The CEO emphasized that the

enshrined idols will become a focal point of devotion in these villages, bringing divine blessings to future generations. He also underscored that the Shrine Board shall be entrusting management of these temples to the local community and for facilitation of effective management of temple activities shall be installing CCTV cameras at each of the newly constructed temples to ensure the sanctity of the premises.

Among those present on the occasion were Addl. Chief Executive Officer, Jt. Chief Executive Officer, Dy. Chief Executive Officer, Asstt. Chief Executive Officers and officials of the Shrine Board.



Cheap politics can't diminish India's honour: Dr. Tahir slams Bhagwant Mann over Modi jibe

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP spokesperson from Jammu & Kashmir, Dr. Tahir Chowdhary, strongly condemned Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for his remarks targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his diplomatic visits and international honours. In a sharp rebuttal, Chowdhary called Mann's comments "irresponsible, childish, and disrespectful to the stature of the Prime Minister."

He said, "Such statements reflect the immaturity and frustration within the Aam Aadmi Party.

Instead of focusing on governance and addressing Punjab's grave issues like drug abuse and lawlessness, the Chief Minister is indulging in mockery that belittles India's global image."

Dr Chowdhary defended the Prime Minister's foreign outreach, highlighting how Modi's diplomacy has elevated India's global standing.

"PM Modi's leadership has made India a decisive voice in world affairs, be it during the G20 Presidency, international conflicts, or trade partnerships. Mocking foreign honours and visits is a mockery of India's growing influence, not just of the Prime Minister," he asserted.



Responding to Mann's "JCB machine" comment, Dr Chowdhary said, "Comparing international diplomacy to a crowd gathered around construction equipment is not just bizarre, it exposes the shallow thinking of those who hold constitutional positions but fail to rise above street-level rhetoric." On the issue of the PM not holding press conferences, Dr Tahir Chowdhary said, "The Prime Minister speaks directly to the people, answers in Parliament, and remains the most accessible global leader via forums like 'Mann Ki Baat.' What Mann should worry about is why his own government is failing on law and order and how gangsters are flourishing in Punjab."

Taking strong exception to Mann's allegations on PIRs and misuse of agencies, the BJP spokesperson stated, "Law takes its own course. If AAP leaders are clean, why are courts not granting them relief? Theatrics won't work. Public knows the difference between vendetta and accountability."

Dr. Tahir concluded by urging opposition leaders to maintain the dignity of public discourse.

"Disagreement is part of democracy, but dragging national pride and respected institutions into political mudslinging shows how low the AAP has stooped."

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, on Saturday chaired an exclusive crime review meeting at the Conference Hall, DPL Jammu, focused entirely on property-related offences, particularly theft, burglary, robbery, and motor vehicle theft cases across District Jammu.

The meeting was attended by DIG JSK Range, SSP Jammu, all Zonal SPs, SDPOs, DySPs (Probationers), SHOs, ICPPs, Prosecuting Officers, and the IC Crime, ZPHQ Jammu.

At the outset, the IGP elaborated upon the significance of such cases, stating that crimes against property affect the general public the most and pose a direct challenge to the professionalism and investigative competence of the



IGP Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti chairing crime review meeting on Saturday.

police.

He remarked that theft and burglary cases serve as the "acid test" of police credibility, and their prompt resolution plays a major role in shaping public perception and trust. He urged all units to treat these cases with the seriousness they deserve.

A detailed presentation was made by all SDPOs on the progress of investigations, disposal status, recovery figures, and proposed action plans.

The meeting was noted as

the first of its kind dedicated exclusively to property-related crimes, with individual police station performances reviewed critically in the presence of their respective SHOs and ICPPs.

While zones such as Jammu Rural were praised for their impressive recovery rates and quality of investigation, other units lagging in performance were firmly directed to intensify their efforts and deliver results.

The IGP laid special emphasis on crime prevention strategies including

beat patrolling in vulnerable pockets, intensified night patrolling, area domination drives, and prompt engagement of forensic and technical teams at the scenes of crime.

He instructed SHOs to ensure that FSL visits, mandatory in cases with punishment of more than 7 years under law, are not missed and are updated on the IIF module of CCTNS.

He also directed field units to utilize digital policing tools such as CCTNS, ICJS, and NAFIS more effectively and ensure their integra-

tion into daily crime-solving workflows.

The IGP reviewed zone-wise statistics of theft and burglary cases and sought detailed explanations from the SSP, SDPOs, and SHOs regarding pending investigations, unresolved cases, and identified repeat offenders.

He directed that beat patrolling be intensified, particularly in vulnerable localities, market areas, and residential colonies with a history of break-ins.

Further, Officers were also guided on the effective use of new criminal law provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Emphasis was laid on night patrolling, area domination, community involvement, and leadership at the SDPO and SHO levels.

He directed supervisory officers to regularly review crime trends, adopt technology-based tools, and keep the public informed through transparent policing.

Dy CM inspects SDH Akhnoor, emphasises quality healthcare services

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Saturday visited Sub District Hospital Akhnoor and took stock of healthcare facilities available for the patients there.

The Dy CM inspected various sections of the hospital and assessed the services being extended to the patients. He interacted with the patients and their attendants, seeking feedback regarding the quality of treatment and related services available at the SDH.

While interacting with them, the Dy CM assured them that the government is focusing on increasing medical care facilities in rural areas so that they can get access near their vicinities. He urged the hospital authorities to ensure timely treatment, streamlined processes and patient-centric care for the patients coming from different far flung areas of the Jammu.

The Dy CM asked for maintaining proper sanitation and hygiene in and around the hospital prem-



Dy CM, Surinder Choudhary interacting with patient during visit to Sub District Hospital Akhnoor.

ises besides checking the availability of medicine, duty rooster and staff strength. He maintained that the government under the leadership of CM Omar Abdullah is committed to provide all modern healthcare facilities and infrastructure to the people at their door steps.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the Gurudwara Tapo Asthan Sant Baba Sunder Singh Ji at Akhnoor. He paid obeisance at the Gurudwara and prayed for progress, peace and prosperity of J&K.

The Gurudwara committee, on the occasion,

requested for a cantilever platform in the river Chenab, so that the people can perform the 'Asthi Visarjan' ritual in the river instead of its bank.

It was informed that the DPR with an estimated cost of Rs 4.82 crore for the cantilever platform has already been submitted.

Acting swiftly on the demand, the Dy CM allocated Rs 1 crore for the project and directed the department to tender for the same before 20th of July. He also asked for extra budget for beautification of Gurudwara premises and other allied works.

Prpl Secy APD reviews progress on major schemes of Animal Husbandry Deptt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shailendra Kumar, on Saturday chaired a review meeting here at Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Talab Tillo.

The meeting was attended by Secretary in APD; Mission Director HADP/JKCIP; Directors in APD; Joint Directors; Deputy Directors; Chief Animal Husbandry Officers from all districts of Jammu division besides other senior officers of the department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.

The meeting had detailed discussion regarding progress on various schemes and programmes under CAPEX, HADP, CSSs and NABARD of Animal Husbandry sector in Jammu division for the current financial year.

Shailendra Kumar reviewed the physical and financial progress on several key CSS schemes including Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Entrepreneurship Development under National



Principal Secretary APD, Shailendra Kumar chairing a review meeting on Saturday.

Livestock Mission, National Animal Disease Control Programme and Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme.

A comprehensive presentation was delivered by Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Dr. Parvinder Singh, providing an overview of district wise progress achieved under different schemes. The status of ongoing Foot and Mouth disease vaccination for cattle, buffaloes, sheep and goats under NADCP was discussed. Besides, the existing cold chain and other vital infrastructure status was evaluated to identify any gaps or need

for additional equipment or infrastructure. Other topics included the components under Dairy Development, Poultry Development and Development of Fodder Resources of J&K UT under flagship Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

Further, the expenditures on key infrastructure projects including upgradation/strengthening of Veterinary Hospitals at District and Sub-district levels under NABARD funding were also reviewed.

The meeting was informed that the department of

Animal Husbandry has completely switched over to digital mode as all the departmental welfare schemes are now available on Kisan Saathi portal thus improving transparency and accessibility for general public.

He said that reliable, easy-to access and timely information available on these portals help farmers, government field functionaries and also policy makers for informed decision making at all levels. He urged the officials to record all established projects under various components of HADP on Kisan Sathi Output Tracking app to prevent misuse of funds

and ensure accountability in public spending.

The Principal Secretary underscored the need for promoting the cooperative movement in the Jammu division. He stressed that the cooperative societies are instrumental in promoting financial inclusion by providing credit to farmers and small entrepreneurs who may face difficulties in accessing conventional banking services. These societies play a crucial role in rural development, empower local communities and reduce socio-economic disparities, he added.

He further advised the officials to increase the coverage of organized dairy sector; promote value addition of milk and develop marketing strategies to strengthen the dairy cooperative sector in the region.

The Principal Secretary stressed the need for completion of all sanctioned projects at the earliest besides improving financial progress by achieving above 90% expenditures across all the works undertaken.

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