

# Annual Kailash Yatra begins in Bhadarwah amid religious fervour

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BHADARWAH: Despite inclement weather, thousands of devotees from Jammu & Kashmir and from different parts of country joined holy Mace of three-day-long Annual Kailash Yatra on Friday amid tight security arrangements. The 'Charri Mubarak' (holy mace) was taken out from 2073-year-old Vasuki Nag Temple at Gatha around 9 AM in which SSP Doda Mohd Aslam, SP Bhaderwah Vinod Sharma, CEO BDA Bal Krishan, SDPO Wasim Hamdani, BDO Akhil Bhau, SHO Sandeep Parihar and others also participated. The holy mace was joined by another mace from Vasuki Nag Temple Vasik Dhera Bhaderwah. Thousands of devotees took part in the pilgrimage to the 14,700 feet high Kailash Kund depicting ancient Nag culture of Bhaderwah. In view of tough conditions,



Devotees taking out Kailash Yatra at Bhadarwah.

Administration has also issued advisory for Annual pilgrimage and also established special medical camp near Kailash Kund thereby paving the way for thousands of Nag followers to join the Pilgrimage with full of enthusiasm. Ex MLA Dalip Singh Parihar, Ex President Samatan Dharam Sabha Bhaderwah Vrinder Razdan and others also partici-

ated in the rituals connected with the ancient yatra. As a mark of respect towards other religions and to add symbolic gesture depicting the age old communal harmony and mutual brotherhood, members of muslim community also distributed shariat to devotees. Ex President Samatan Dharam Sabha Bhaderwah Virinder Razdan said that it's

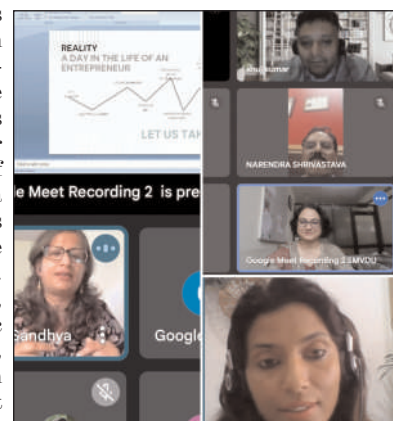
our rich culture which should be show to outer world. According to reports, Water, electricity, Medicare and other facilities have made available at the height of 14700 feet for smooth conduct of this ancient Yatra. SP Bhaderwah Vinod Sharma said strict security arrangements have been made for the peaceful conduct of the yatra. "Three tier security sys-

tem involving Police, Para Military, SOG and Army has been put in place all along the 21 km long treacherous route for safety of the pilgrims," SP added. Charri Mubarak would reach the high altitude lake on Saturday morning and the accompanying devotees would perform the traditional prayers and have a holy dip in the ice cold water there. According to local belief, Kailash Kund was the original abode of lord Shiva, but he gave it to Vasuki Nag before moving to Mannahesh in Bharmour area of Himachal Pradesh. Head priest Stresh Jogi said that the pilgrimage, which commences on the 14th day after 'Shravan Purnima', is considered as one of the toughest, as pilgrims have to trek 21 Km steep Kailash mountains range to reach the holy Kund (lake), where devotees take a dip in the ice-cold water to take the blessings of serpent God.

# Workshop on Business Model Canvas held at SMVDU

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University's Institution Innovation Council (IIC), in collaboration with the Technology Business Incubation Center (TBIC) and the School of Business, organized a workshop on the Business Model Canvas. In the inaugural session, Ms. Vineeta Koul Lalotra, Director of Pragmatic Career Solutions, Pune, shared her learnings from the MBA program at SMVDU, reflecting on her experience on campus and in the hostel, and how these experiences shaped her journey in establishing her own venture. Lt. Sandhya Suri, an Indian Navy veteran, TEDx Speaker, Change Enabler, Art Life Coach, Author, Poet, and

Consultant, discussed daily routine activities that can help



individuals become more confident. She also elaborated on PRISM, the characteristics that enable people to become comfortable in being uncomfortable, encouraging them to step beyond perceived impossi-

bilities. Prof. Anuj Kumar, Head of Research at Rushford Business School, Switzerland, and an alumnus of University College Dublin, Ireland, provided a deep dive into the features of the Business Model Canvas. He discussed the business models of globally recognized companies such as Airbnb, Apple, LinkedIn, Tata Motors, Uber, Instagram, and Tesco. The workshop attracted more than 80 participants, including faculty members, researchers, entrepreneurs, and students from various universities and institutions across India and abroad, joining this online workshop. Dr. Arti Maini and Dr. Rashi Taggar smoothly coordinated the event, ensuring a productive and enlightening experience for all attendees.

# Expenditure Observers inspect MCMC and Control Room, review election preparedness in Rajouri



Expenditure Observers chairing a meeting at Rajouri.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI: To ensure smooth conduct of the Assembly Elections 2024, Expenditure Observers Sanjay Kumar for the constituencies 83-Kalakote Sunderbani, 84-Nowshera, and 85-Rajouri and Sidharth Kumar for constituencies 86-Budhal and 87-Thanamandi, visited Rajouri today. The Observers convened a critical meeting with the members of the Expenditure Monitoring team at Dak Bungalow, Rajouri. The Observers issued directives to maintain strict check on the trafficking of drugs, liquor and cash by elements inimical to the sanctity of election process. Sanjay Kumar emphasized the importance of daily cash deposits by wine shop dealers into their bank accounts and instructed them to avoid selling liquor on credit slips. He reiterated that the cash limit for individuals dur-

ing the election period is set at ₹50,000. The Observers also stressed the need for effective coordination among various teams. They instructed the relocation of certain check posts to optimize surveillance and ordered the GST department to monitor abnormal purchases and the distribution of freebies closely. The Police, Flying Squad Teams (FST) and Static Surveillance Teams (SST) were directed to maximize coverage of their respective areas and to activate informers to ensure a level playing field for all political parties. The Lead District Manager (LDM) was instructed to report any transactions exceeding ₹1 lakh to the District Election Officer (DEO). The Observers also mandated that vans carrying cash must have proper documentation. Additionally, all officers and teams were directed to

strictly follow the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure the transparency and integrity of the electoral process. After the meeting, the Expenditure Observers, accompanied by DEO Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma and SSP, Randeep Kumar inspected the Control Room and the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) to review the arrangements in place. The meeting was attended by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Nowshera and Rajouri, District Mineral Officer (DMO), Deputy Registrar Cooperative, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP), LDM, Excise and Taxation Officer (ETO), State Tax Officer (STO), representatives of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Income Tax Department, Assistant Expenditure Observers (AEOs), and representatives of FST and SST.

# J&K Excise Department, Natrang present Balwant Thakur's acclaimed Hindi play 'Jaal'

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBA: Jammu and Kashmir Excise Department in collaboration with Natrang presented Balwant Thakur's acclaimed Hindi play 'JAAL' under the direction of Neeraj Kant here today at Government Higher Secondary School, Gaghwal. In a very effective manner this powerful play innovatively showcases how the Drug-menace is ruining the generations like a rapid fire, crippling the developing nations like India. The youth of the country, the largest energetic and most productive human resource of the country, sometimes unknowingly slip into the trap of dangerous drug menace. Prominent amongst those who graced the occasion included Rajesh Sharma, Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Vinay Kumar Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police,



A scene from the play Jaal.

Samba and Sanjay Bhat, Deputy Excise Commissioner, Executive Jammu. The play was not based on one story-line but as an experiment Balwant Thakur has woven multiple stories in one theme focusing the spread of drug menace like a mesh, thus taking the toll of the strongest workforce of the country. In a sequence a young boy is shown struggling for a good company

after his passing of the school and his entry in the college. Majority of his age group is shown indulged in drugs and he finds himself isolated for not being the consumer of intoxications. All around him treat him like a child which really frustrates him and to prove that he has grown-up as a young man now, he finds the easiest way and demonstrates his coming of age by consuming a variety of intoxications. In

another sequence a rural inhabitant particularly the men-folk are shown drowned in the menace of alcohol. All the miseries of the village like poverty, domestic violence, and ailments are attributed to the constant growth of consumption of alcohol in the village. In a sequence the daily routine of a villager is shown who consumes the whole of his daily earnings seeking alcohol. Being drunk completely he has lost his way home. By the time a local escorts him to his place where in the middle of the night this drunken man starts beating his sleeping wife and kids for not receiving him on his arrival. When the escort intervenes to save the poor lady and children, he is blamed for having ill intentions towards his wife. This fight further messes up when a drunken man after losing senses damages his

household belongings as well. The play unfolds a series of incidents where people influenced by drugs, alcohol and other intoxications create hell for themselves as well as for others. Many precious lives are being charred in this fire of drug menace which is to be fought unitedly to bring them out of the mesh of drugs menace. Through this play Balwant Thakur has tried to make an appeal to save mankind from this dragon. The best way to save the youth from this menace of drugs is to make them aware of its severe consequences. Actors who outshined in their respective performances and left an impact on their acting included Neeraj Kant, Aadesh Dhar, Pulshin Dutta, Kushal Bhat, Vansh Pandotra, Gopi Sharma and Mihir Gujral. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

# Awareness program on drug abuse under SVEEP initiative held at Shaheed Major Rohit Kumar GMHSS Ghagwal

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBA: An awareness program on drug abuse was successfully organized today at Shaheed Major Rohit Kumar Government Model Higher Secondary School, Ghagwal. The event was conducted under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative in collaboration with the Excise Department Samba. The program aimed to educate young students about the dangers of

drug abuse and promote a drug-free society. District Election Officer (DEO) Samba, Rajesh Sharma served as the Chief Guest for the event. In his address, the DEO highlighted the critical role of youth in combating drug abuse and encouraged the students to become community ambassadors against substance misuse. His motivational speech was well-received by the audience, inspiring students to take a stand against

drug addiction. A notable highlight of the event was a thought-provoking skit on drug abuse performed by the renowned Natrang team. The skit effectively conveyed the severe consequences of drug addiction and left a lasting impression on the audience. The students' enthusiastic participation throughout the program reflected the success of the initiative in raising awareness and promoting a message of change.

The program was attended by several dignitaries, including SSP Samba, Vinay Kumar, Deputy Excise Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Bhat, Chief Education Officer Kunal Krishan, Nodal Officer SVEEP, Ekshu, school principal, teachers and students. The event concluded with a collective pledge by all attendees to work towards a drug-free society and continue raising awareness about the dangers of substance abuse.

# SKUAST-Jammu organizes training cum awareness programme

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
ARNIA: Under the patronage of Dr Bhupendra Nath Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, and the direction of Dr S. K. Gupta, Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu, the division of Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology, F.V.Sc& A.H, R. S. Pura, Jammu organized "Training cum Awareness Program/ camp" at Salehaar & Arnia (Kabir Temple) in Jammu district. The program was conducted under the DBT Government of India project entitled "Socio-Economic Upliftment of Poor Farmers through Animal Husbandry using Scientific Interventions in Jammu Province" under the purview of SKUAST-Jammu. The PI, Dr Nrip Kishore Pankaj introduced the program first and stated

that the villages Salehaar & Arnia has been endorsed under the project, and two units of goat and five poultry have been distributed in each village during last year. An attempt has been made to facilitate the animals & birds to the needy, along with expert advice and treatment to resolve the day-to-day problem of birds and animals including other livestock. Consequently, the program sensitized the locals about the entrepreneurship avenues by goat keeping and other livestock. There are scientists were available during the program. Dr Rajinder Kumar Bhardwaj, Professor, Veterinary Medicine, F.V.Sc& A.H, SKUAST-J, R. S. Pura, interacted with the farmers of Salehaar and Arnia, about various ways and means of livestock management to

prevent various disease including mastitis among cattle. He also spoke about many secondary diseases associated with ectoparasites issues to be considered during the management of the livestock. He stressed the importance of prevention of many diseases by using the cold chain-maintained vaccine and antiparasitic drugs at the right time. This way one can take care of their livestock for better productivity for the longer duration. Dr. Sharad Kumar, Professor, Veterinary Gynaecology and Obstetrics, F.V.Sc& A.H, SKUAST-J, R. S. Pura, talked to the local farmers of Salehaar and Arnia during the program, narrated the impact of nutrition in reproduction issues for the animals. He stated that most of the problems in animals are

due to under and imbalanced feeding and parasitic load. He underlined the importance of balanced nutrition from locally available resources in continuing the animals' productivity for longer and therefore profitable to the animal owners. Dr. N. K. Pankaj, PI & Professor & Head, Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology F.V.Sc& A.H, SKUAST-J, R. S. Pura, interacted with the local farmers, and spoken of toxicities of toxic fodder of Chari, and told to make hay of such toxic fodder. This will be beneficial in two means, as it becomes a good meal for livestock in the lean period and become nontoxic to the animals. He also expressed the concerns of poisonous weeds plants around like Parthenium, Lantana etc and the precautions one should

take. The locals were very happy about the "Training cum Awareness Program/ camp" and appreciated the regular visit and the approach of the scientists of SKUAST-Jammu towards the farmers at Salehaar, and Arnia, Jammu. Sri Pratap Singh, the public representative at Salehaar acknowledged the event and requested for more such events including clinical camps in the future. After the program, the PI along with the scientists and staff moved to the beneficiary's residence at village Salehaar, to see the animals distributed to the local farmers. The villagers at Arnia appreciated the program, and Sri Kuldeep and Sri Susheel of Arnia also requested for such program as well as treatment camp in future.

# Observers meet Political Representatives in Ramban



Observers interacting with political leaders.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAMBAN: The General Observer for Assembly Constituencies AC-54 Ramban and AC-55 Banihal, Himanshu Kumar Rai, along with Police Observer Kunal Aggarwal and Expenditure Observer Sulekh Chand Jain, on Friday held an interactive session with representatives and candidates from various politi-

cal parties. The discussion focused on preparations made for the upcoming General Legislative Assembly Elections. The Observers emphasized the importance of strict adherence to the election rules, laws, and the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI). They assured all candidates that a level playing field would be maintained throughout the election process, urging them to comply with all ECI protocols to ensure a smooth election.

General Observer Himanshu Kumar Rai specifically advised political parties to secure the necessary permissions for their rallies and other campaign activities. He highlighted that enforcement teams, including Flying Squad Teams (FST), Video Surveillance Teams (VST), and Static Surveillance Teams (SST), are actively monitoring the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct as mandated by the ECI. Expenditure Observer Sulekh Chand Jain informed the representatives about the election

# Annual Kailash Kund Yatra commences from Dudu with traditional fervor

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: The three-day historical Annual Kailash Kund Yatra, commenced today with traditional fervor and enthusiasm starting from the Vasuki Nag Temple PDA Complex Dudu in Udhampur District. The



Devotees taking out Yatra from Dudu.

commencement of the Yatra was marked by the presence of SSP Udhampur Amod Ashok Nagpure, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Tehsildar Latti and other officers alongside prominent citizens. A large number of pilgrims from Dudu Basantgarh, Udhampur, Chanani, Ramnagar and other areas gathered at Ghar Katiyas, carrying tra-

ditional Charies. Officers and prominent citizens interacted with pilgrims, extending their best wishes and urging them to pray for peace, prosperity and brotherhood. Yatra Officer informed that the pilgrims would halt at Seoj Dhar on the night of August 30 and proceed towards Kailash Kund on the morning of August 31.

# Seminar on "Entrepreneurial Initiatives in Start-up Ecosystem" held at SPPND GDC, Samba

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBA: To celebrate World Entrepreneurship Day, the Institution Innovation Council (IIC) in collaboration with the Department of Commerce of SPPND GDC, Samba organised One Day Seminar on "Entrepreneurial Initiatives in the Start-up Ecosystem" under the leadership of the Esteemed Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri. Prof. Ranjodh Singh Jamwal, President IIC formally welcomed the resource persons, Sahil Anand, Managing Director, M/s Anand Coir Foam of

Jammu Pvt. Ltd., Brand-Nidra and Puja Sharma, Founder/CEO, PUVINA Food and Spices (OPC) Pvt. Ltd., Brand-Harvest Stories. The first resource person of the session, Sahil Anand highlighted the importance of developing an ecosystem among youth wherein innovation and entrepreneurial skills thrive. He motivated students to work for their own idea underscoring the importance of failure as it is often a necessary precursor to the very things we view as successes. The second resource person, Puja Sharma explained the concept of

start-ups, an important engine of economic growth. She said Start-ups are beyond innovations and play crucial role in job creation and fostering a culture of entrepreneurship. Both the sessions were highly interactive with participants engaging in lively discussions and question answer session. Assistant prof. Ritika compered the proceedings of the seminar. The seminar was attended by about 60 students. The event concluded with the formal vote of thanks by Dr. Narinder Sharma, Convener, Institution Innovation Council (IIC).

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