

# Shobha Yatra marks beginning of Janmashtami celebrations

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA: In anticipation of the upcoming Janmashtami Celebration, a vibrant Shobha Yatra was taken out on Sunday at Ghagwal, spreading the spirit of unity and festivity among the people.

The Shobha Yatra embarked on its auspicious journey from the sacred Shree Narsingh Ji Mandir, weaving through the heart of Ghagwal via Raghu Chack, Lala Chack, Rajpura, Sanoora Randhwal, Harsath Ghagwal Jatwal, and eventually retracing back to the Shree Narsingh Ji Dham through the Hospital route.

This event was a collaborative effort orchestrated by Narsingh Dham Ji Committee Ghagwal, in partnership with the District Administration of Samba and the Directorate of Tourism Jammu.

The Shobha Yatra was also graced by the presence of Abhishek Sharma, District Commissioner Samba, who



A Shobha Yatra being taken out at Ghagwal.

not only participated in the sacred Pujan but also shared his assurance of fool proof arrangements for the forthcoming Jansmashtami mela at Ghagwal, ensuring the safety and comfort of all devotees.

The Shobha Yatra showcased the vibrant cultural heritage and community spirit of Ghagwal, setting the stage for a grand Janmashtami Celebration that promises to unite hearts and celebrate the divine with

utmost devotion.

The esteemed participants were the DDC Chairperson Samba, Keshav Dutt Sharma, DDC member Ghagwal, Suresh Kumar, BDC Chairman Ghagwal, Vijay Tagotra, ADC Samba, SDM Ghagwal, Vice President of Vyapar Mandal Ghagwal, Tehsildar Ghagwal, and a multitude of local residents from Ghagwal, whose active involvement added to the joyous fervor of this splendid occasion.

# Statue of Amar Shaheed Mast Ram, a Hero of 1965 Indo-Pak War, unveiled

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BASOHLI: A statue paying tribute to Amar Shaheed Mast Ram of Village Mandla, Basohli Rural Panchayat, was jointly unveiled by Major General Shiv Kumar Sharma, AVSM (Retd), President of the Forum for Awareness of National Security, J&K, and Former Board Member of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Commandant EME School Vadodara, along with Dr. Vikrant Sharma, Sang Prant Karwaha J&K.

The ceremony took place in the presence of numerous dignitaries, including Col Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman Kathua, Col Dharam Vir Sharma (Retd), Ajeet Singh ADC Basohli, Darshan Singh BJP Distt President, Shiv Padha renowned Social Activist & Writer, Advocate Kartar Singh Slaria, Capt Des Raj, Capt Yubkaran.

Hundreds of ex-service-men, Veer Naris, promi-



Dignitaries during statue unveiling ceremony at Basohli.

ent citizens, government employees, local residents, and youth also attended the event, which garnered significant media coverage.

Following the statue's unveiling, wreaths were offered by the dignitaries, and a 'Pushpanjali' (floral tribute) was given to Amar Shaheed Mast Ram by all present at the occasion. Guests planted plants around the memorial site, and the national flag was hoisted, with participants

singing the national anthem. Local musician and singer Lekh Raj Verma along with his troupe performed patriotic songs that moved the audience emotionally. Veer Naris (widows of brave soldiers) were honored by the Chief Guest and Mrs. SK Sharma during the event, which also included a community feast.

Shaheed Mast Ram made the ultimate sacrifice while courageously fighting the enemy in a

fierce battle in the Chhamb Sector of J&K.

Addressing the gathering, Gen. Sharma highlighted the camaraderie and patriotism of soldiers in uniform and praised the self-reliant (Atmanirbhar) approach of the Indian Armed Forces.

DDC Chairman Col. Mahan Singh (Retd.) extended a warm welcome to the guests and participants, emphasizing the commendable work being carried out by Purab Seva

Sainik Prashid (PSSP) Basohli under its state body's direction. He underlined the commitment of Purab Sainiks (soldiers from the eastern region) to serve society with dignity and honor in the nation-building process. Col. Singh also announced plans for another memorial in the Dhar Mahanpur region by Purab Sainik Seva Prashid.

The DDC Chairman urged the public to actively participate in the "Meri Maati Mera Desh" program proposed by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, emphasizing its significance for the nation.

Notably, the statue has been made by a renowned Chandigarh based artist and the front wall has been beautifully painted by a young local Artist Sunita Kumari. The complete program was organized to the perfection by the veterans under the able guidance of Col Mahan Singh.

# Digital J&K Week Campaign: Series of informative events being hosted across district Ramban



A resource person expressing views during the programme.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAMBAN: Continuing Digital J&K Week celebrations various informative and attractive programmes being organised by the different departments at Panchayat, Block, Tehsil and Sub-division level across the district Ramban.

Digital J&K Week programmes witnessed huge public participation where

different departments imparted awareness to visitors about the online services of their respective departments, besides extending them hand holdings for availing the benefits of beneficiary oriented schemes of different sectors at their door steps.

After culmination of 3-day Digi Mela 2023 at Ramban which witnessed huge partici-

ipation of people from all walks of life, the 2nd leg of the Digital J&K Week campaign has been intensified at Panchayat, Block, Tehsil and Sub-division level under which three mega events are being organized at Sub-Division level in Banihal, Ramsoo and Gool on September 4th, 5th and 6th respectively.

During the awareness pro-

grammes senior officers of different departments sensitized the people about On-Line services being provided by their respective departments by demonstrating and hands-on training.

They urged the people to avail benefits of 612 online services of different sectors to avoid frequent visits of Government offices and other services providers.

During the Digital Week the line departments showcased their online schemes to the people and enrolled the beneficiaries.

The departments provided on spot e-services being offered by them, including Aadhar enrollment, Golden Cards, services of Revenue department, Horticulture, Agriculture, Holistic Agriculture Development Schemes, RIDD schemes besides other services that can be availed online by the public.

At Ukhral people, especially youth attended the Digital week programme in presence of SDM Ramsoo, Ghansham Basotra held at Panchayat Senebathi and Chakwa. Information was provided to visitors regarding online services of various departments.

# DGPC Kathua celebrates Parkash Purav of Guru Granth Sahib

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: Parkash purav of Guru Granth Sahib celebrated by District Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee Kathua with religious fervour at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Kathua.

Bhai Sukhwinder Singh, Navpreet Singh, Baljeet Singh, Sandeep Singh recited the Shabad Kirtan and Satwinder Singh, Gurdeep Singh delivered lecture on the importance of Guru Granth Sahib in detail during Kirtan Darwar. All the participated Sangat of different parts of district Kathua paid obeisance and maintained their peace of

mind by listening the Gurbani Kirtan.

S. Parveen Singh General Secretary of District Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee threw light on the composition of Guru Granth Sahib. He said that Guru Arjun Dev collected Bani of all earlier Guru, Bhagat belonging to different caste, Bhatt, Gursikh and composed a Granth Sahib which was established in Darwar Sahib (Golden Temple) Amritsar first time in 1 September 1604. After that all are directed to follow the guidelines to recite the Gurbani on daily basis routine. Finally Guru Gobind Singh

declared it as Guru Granth Sahib in 1708 at Hajor Sahib in Maharashtra.

S. Charanjit Singh President said that we should follow the teaching of Guru Granth Sahib which is meant for all. We should have to serve for other needy person. He also thanked the whole sangat for their good cooperation to celebrate the Parkash purav of Guru Granth Sahib ji.

Kuldeep Singh, Daljeet Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Amrik Singh, Tarlochan Singh, Harjeet Singh, Kamal Singh, Santokh Singh, Karam Singh, Malkeet Singh Prithipal Singh were present there.

## Motivational talk on joining armed forces held

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI: Army conducted a lecture at Government Higher Secondary School Taralla in Rajouri District to encourage students to join the Indian Armed Forces. The students were informed in detail about various entries available to males and females to join as Officers and Other Ranks in the three Services.

They were also explained about the academic and physical requirements for appearing in the entrance examinations and recruitment rallies.

Teachers and other members of the society attending the lecture expressed their gratitude to the Indian Army for this positive engagement with the young minds and inspiring them to become ideal members of the society.

# BVP organises Bharat Ko Jano quiz competition

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: In order to inculcate and to know more about their Culture, Religion, History Geography, Arts, Constitution and other fields related to India, Bharat Vikas Parishad Kathua unit organised Bharat Ko Jano Gyan Pratiyogita, a quiz competition in Tiny Scholars School, Logate Morh, Kathua. About 50 students of 12 schools participated in the quiz competition held in two categories. A pair of two students from each school participated in the junior category (class 6th-8th) and senior category (class 9th-12th).

The Bharat Quiz program was held in three rounds: The Written round, The Visual round and the Current Affairs round. Evaluation of written was done on the spot. Use of Computer technology was introduced for the first time in the competition due to strenuous efforts of the team of Tiny Scholars' computer wing under the supervision of their Principal Reena Khajuria and the Chairperson Madam Manisha Gupta.



BVP officials along with students during the contest.

Nav Adarsh School, Kathua bagged 1st spot. Dhawani Priya and Anjal Jasrotia of Tiny Scholars School, Logate Morh bagged 2nd spot having a tie with MSK Hr. Sec. School while R.S. Golden and Minerva bagged 3rd spot in the senior categories while Spring Dales School, R.S. Golden School secured 1st and 2nd positions, respectively. Rasanpreet and Rijul Sharma of Tiny Scholars School, Logate Morh, Kathua bagged 3rd position in the Junior category. The winners of the competition were given mementos and certificates while all participants were given participation certificates.

The whole event was hosted by Prerna Khajuria along with a student Tapasya Gupta from the host institution. Lamp Lighting was enlightened by members of Bharat Vikas parishad, Chairperson Manisha Gupta and Principal Reena Khajuria. Expressing his views, Ashok Gupta, President of the organisation, emphasized upon the need of such a competition so as to develop a quest among students to know about the country and the nation to build confidence among the students to face the future challenges in their lives. Professor Dr. Ram Murti Sharma, the chief patron high-

lighted the importance of such competitions and threw light upon the motives and objectives of the organisation. The vote of thanks was extended by Kuldeep Goswami, Secretary of BVP, Kathua. Principal Reena Khajuria, of the host institution was instrumental in making the Competition a Gala Success. The deliberations were witnessed by Ditt Kumar, Khem Raj, Hem Raj, Pawan Sharma and other members of the organisation, teachers of various participating schools, students, staff and the Principal of the host institution. The programme was initiated with the reciting of Vande Mataram and adimated with the chanting of National Anthem.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: To raise awareness about cleanliness and sanitation as part of the Swachhta Abhiyan, the Udhampur Administration today initiated a community mobilization campaign across the district.

The launch event witnessed a collective effort led by Chairperson DDC Udhampur, Lal Chand, alongside Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai; SSR, Dr. Vinod Kumar; ADDC, Ghan Sham Singh; ADC, Joginder Singh Jasrotia, SDMs besides active involvement of PRI members, general public, shopkeepers and other functionaries of the District Administration.

The Chairperson DDC underscored the significance of maintaining cleanliness, sanitation, and personal hygiene, urging all participants to keep their surroundings clean and inspire others to follow the suit. He encouraged the public to abandon the use of polythene, maintain hygiene, and protect the water resources to maintain a clean environment in the district.

Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai emphasized the



Admn officials carrying out cleanliness drive.

need for cooperation from all stakeholders in spreading awareness about cleanliness. She outlined the goals of the sanitation drive and called upon the public to pledge their commitment towards a clean and green district through active participation at individual and community level. She expressed gratitude to all participants and invited them to collaborate with the District Administration in future cleanliness initiatives.

Rai also highlighted that the mega cleanliness drive will encompass every Block/Tehsil and all Municipal wards, Blocks & panchayats in the District, reflecting the enthusiastic response of the people

of the district.

Later, an awareness rally, involving students from various schools and Vehicles were flagged off for door to door collection from Devika Ghat. A Nukkad natak (street play) was also staged by MC Udhampur at Devika Ghat.

Simultaneous Cleanliness and Sanitation drives were conducted in every Block/Tehsil Headquarters and across all three MCs of the district, with participation of PRI members, ULBs, District Officers, general public, representatives of NGOs, NSS volunteers, NCC cadets, Bharat Scouts and Guides, as well as students and staff of educational institutions.

# Nowshera Forest Division ties up with Giri Foundation for marketing of Chir needle handicrafts

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NOWSHERA: In a bid to improve livelihood opportunities for local people living on periphery of Nowshera Forest Division a one day grooming session on preparation of handicrafts with chir needles and their value addition was held at Sunderbani Forest Range in



which chairman of all 15 nos SHGs associated with chir handicrafts and many girls and ladies participated. The grooming session was started by Divisional Forest Officer, Nowshera Sh. Satyendra Maurya by putting light on use of chir needles for making handicrafts and creating livelihood opportunities for ladies and girls in addition to their routine work.

Expert from GIRI Foundation Smt. Megha

Sharma imparted various inputs for improving quality of chir handicraft products prepared by various SHGs and also told that by improving quality of products by using good quality material with precision and with good marketing skills, the scope for said emerging handicraft industry can be expanded all over world. At present GIRI marketing is working on marketing of chir needle handicrafts in India.

Some participants lauded

the efforts of Nowshera Forest Division for holding such series of livelihood improvement programmes for people living on periphery of Nowshera Forest Division and also demanded to extend such training programmes in other remote areas of Reasi and Rajouri districts so that more women and girls may take benefit of such self employment generation activities in addition to their daily routine works.

Range Officer Sunderbani Sh. Sudesh Kumar made all arrangements for smooth conduct of said one day grooming session on preparation and value addition of Chir handicrafts. The whole programme was conducted under guidance of Conservator of Forests, West circle Rajouri Vivek Verma.

# GDC Udhampur holds Induction meeting for IGNOU learners

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: IGNOU, Learners Study Centre 1250 at GDC, Udhampur organized an induction meeting for its newly registered learners in the college conference hall this morning in which a good number of learners, Academic Counselors and all staff of IGNOU LSC-1250 participated. Prof. Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of the College was the chief guest, while Dr. Vikram Singh, Assistant Regional Director and Dr. Asha Upadhyay was the Guest of honour. Shweta Mahajan Asst. Registrar regional centre IGNOU was the special guest on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion the Chief guest, Prof(Dr). Romesh Kumar Gupta apprised the Assistant Regional Director, Dr. Vikram Singh and all learn-

ers of IGNOU about the motif behind organizing such programmes for the awareness of learners of IGNOU. He said that it bridges the gaps between learners, Learner Support Centers and Regional Center Jammu. Dr. Gupta also opined that this is a very important initiative by the IGNOU centre for the learners to know about their courses and the respective counselors as also the modus operandi of IGNOU. He said that in the fast pacing life, where the professionals and the working class, as also the people residing at distant places, who cannot follow

Prior to this Dr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Coordinator of the Center 1250, welcome all the guests and the learners and remarked that the induction meeting has the aim to provide relevant information to the

learners about their academic activities. Dr. Ajay, gave detailed introduction about the IGNOU run courses and its role in taking education to everyone's doorstep through distance mode. He acquainted the learners as to how they have to go ahead with their studies from IGNOU and exhorted upon them to avail the facilities available at the centre to the fullest of their satisfaction and make maximum use of ICT to complete their courses satisfactorily.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Vikram Singh said that this induction session has been organized by the IGNOU to make the learners aware about the activities of RC Jammu. He advised the students to concentrate fully on their studies to prepare themselves for all future challenges.

On the occasion, the guest of honour Dr. Asha Upadhyay, the Assistant Regional Director IGNOU, deliberated upon all academic information to the learners during the induction session. The session was further facilitated and made relevant with the question and answer session for more clarity to the participating learners and also to get their feedback, addressing the queries and doubts. A majority of the learners posed their questions to Dr. Asha about Study Material, Counseling session of Classes, Scholarship Forms, Commencement of Examination, Submission dates of Assignments, Projects, Examination Forms and so on.

The Program was attended by a number of Learners, counselors and staff of the IGNOU centre at GDC Udhampur:

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