

# Grand conclusion of Maha Shivratri Mela at Shiv Khori

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 16

The three-day-long Maha Shivratri Mela at Ransoo concluded today on a spiritually uplifting and festive note, attracting a large number of devotees and visitors from different parts of Reasi district and adjoining areas. The event transformed the entire region into a hub of religious fervour, cultural vibrancy and community participation.

Throughout the mela period, devotees thronged the revered Shiv Temple at Shiv Khori to offer prayers and seek divine blessings. The atmosphere remained deeply devotional as special religious rituals, aarti and bhajans were performed continuously, marking the culmination of the sacred festival with great enthusiasm and faith.

The holy cave shrine of Shiv Khori witnessed an unprecedented turnout during the festival days. More than 1.20 lakh devotees paid obeisance at the sacred shrine and sought blessings of Lord Shiva. Pilgrims from far-flung areas undertook the journey with devotion, making the festival a grand spiritual congregation.

A major highlight of the concluding day at Ransoo was the traditional Dangal (wrestling competition), which emerged as a key attraction for the public. Wrestlers from various parts of the district and adjoining regions displayed remarkable strength, agility and sportsmanship, enthralling the audience and adding colour to the festivities.

The competition drew



loud applause and cheers from spectators, further enhancing the celebratory mood.

Several social, religious and voluntary organisations arranged langars at different locations during the mela, providing free meals and refreshments to pilgrims and visitors. In addition to religious activities, the mela also featured cultural programmes, local stalls and community-based activities, offering a platform for showcasing re-

gional traditions, folk art and handicrafts. These activities helped strengthen social harmony and promoted the cultural heritage of the area.

To ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of the festival, the district administration Reasi made elaborate arrangements related to security, sanitation, healthcare and traffic management.

Medical teams, police personnel, sanitation workers and volunteers

were deployed at strategic points to facilitate pilgrims round the clock. Special measures were taken to regulate traffic and maintain cleanliness in and around the shrine and mela area.

Devotees expressed satisfaction over the well-organised arrangements and appreciated the efforts of the district administration Reasi and local committees in maintaining order, hygiene and safety throughout the event.

# Commissioner STD reviews construction of Office-cum-Residential Complex at Jammu

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JAMMU, FEB 16

Commissioner, State Taxes department (STD), P.K. Bhat on Monday inspected the ongoing construction of office and residential accommodation (G+5) for officers and officials of the department at Railway Station (Goods Side), Jammu.

Deputy Commissioner Stamps Shafiq Raina; Deputy Commissioner Enforcement Sonu Pargal and Executive Engineer Sarfaraz Ahmed also accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection.

The Commissioner appreciated the pace of work and directed the engineering wing to further expedite construction to ensure timely completion. He asked the officers to maintain quality of works while executing this prestigious project.

During the visit, the Executive Engineer, PWD



(R&B) Project Division-II, briefed the Commissioner on the project profile and progress achieved so far.

He informed the Commissioner that the project is six-storey building (G+5), with a total constructed area of 26,375 square feet, and will have

office accommodation on the Ground and First Floors, while the remaining four floors will provide 14 residential units for officers and officials.

He informed that the project has a sanctioned cost of Rs. 1088.59 lakh and an amount of ?167.50

lakh has been released up to December 2025, which has been fully utilized. He added that the overall physical progress of the project stands at 38 per cent and the project is targeted for completion by August 2026, subject to timely release of funds.

# SWD organises 1-day exposure tour for meritorious students under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 16

Department of Social Welfare, Udhampur organized a one-day exposure tour for meritorious girl students from various colleges, schools and CCI Parishad Udhampur to Deputy Commissioner Office/District Offices under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai and supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Udhampur, Kanika Gupta with the objective of nurturing leadership qualities among young girls and providing them with real-life exposure to administrative functioning and governance systems.

The primary objectives of the visit were to develop leadership skills, enhance confidence, provide practical understanding of administrative work, expose students to real-life examples of governance and decision-making and bridge the gap between classroom learning and the real-world implementation of policies



and welfare schemes.

The programme was graced by the Additional District Development Commissioner, Jugal Kishore, as the chief guest. While interacting with the students, he motivated them to aim high, work with dedication and actively participate in nation-building. He emphasized the importance of such exposure visits in shaping confident and responsible future leaders.

During the tour, the stu-

dents visited the office of the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh, where they were briefed about district administration, developmental planning and inter-departmental coordination. They also visited and interacted with officials at the CDPO Office Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Project, Udhampur with Meena Jamwal to understand the implementation of child welfare and nutrition programmes at

the grassroots level. Further, the students visited the District Hub for Empowerment of Women and the One Stop Centre, where officials explained various women-centric schemes and demonstrated the support mechanisms available for women in distress. The visit provided students with valuable practical insights into administrative responsibilities and social welfare outreach systems.

# DC chairs review meeting on pending cases

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A review meeting on court cases pending before various courts of District Kishtwar was held today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma at the Mini Secretariat, Kishtwar.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the status of timely filing of replies and objections by the concerned departments in cases pending adjudication before different courts.

Special emphasis was laid on cases where ex parte proceedings have been initiated due to non-filing of replies or non-appearance before the Hon'ble Courts.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed department-wise review of court cases pertaining to departments including Revenue, Public Works Department (PWD), Education, Jal Shakti, Irrigation, Rural Development Department (RDD), Power Development Department (PDD), Housing and Urban Development (H&UD), Home, Fire and Emergency Services, Tourism, Forest, Transport, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Legal Metrol-



ogy, Employment, Food Safety Organization, Social Welfare, Finance, Health and JKPC.

The Standing Counsels also attended the meeting and were directed to cooperate with the departments and file timely replies so that the interests of the departments and the Government are safeguarded.

The DC directed all concerned departments to nominate a liaison officer in their respective departments for maintaining close liaison with the Standing Counsels so that cases are contested properly. The Deputy Commis-

sioner stressed the need for improved coordination between departments and the District Litigation Office to ensure robust legal representation.

It was further impressed upon that in cases involving more than one department, a consolidated reply is to be filed on behalf of all the departments, unless there are specific directions from the Hon'ble Courts for filing separate replies by each department.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers to accord top priority to court matters and ensure strict ad-

herence to timelines to avoid adverse orders. Regular monitoring and review of court cases were emphasized to ensure accountability and effective disposal.

The meeting was attended by CEO KDA Kishtwar, Kaiser Bhawani, ACR Kishtwar Idrees Lone, SDM Marwah Dr. Mohd Ashraf, SDM Chatroo Nayeem Ur Rehman, ACD Kishtwar Manoj Kumar, ACP Kishtwar Neeraj Sharma, DLO Kishtwar Abdul Majid Kelam, Dy. CEO Kishtwar Masood Ahmed Qazi and other officers and concerned staff.

During the event, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the fishermen, encouraging them to adopt sustainable fishing practices and make the most of the support provided under the JKIP. He emphasized the government commitment to improving the livelihood of fishermen in the region and assured that more such initiatives would be rolled out to help the community thrive.



Fisheries, Bharat Bushan along with his staff mem-

bers was present on the occasion.

# District Admin Srinagar saturates 114 Govt Schools with Computer systems, IT equipments

SRINAGAR FEB 16:

With an aim to enhance digital learning facilities, improve classroom environments and provide better resources to students and teachers, the District Administration Srinagar on Monday distributed computer systems along with necessary furniture to 114 Government Schools of District under the District Capex Budget to strengthen educational infrastructure and enhance access to information technology across the district.

In this connection, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today presided over a programme, organized by the Chief Education Office Srinagar at Government Higher Secondary School, Kothibagh. Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; District Statistics & Evaluation Officer, Shah Ismail Bangroo; Chief Education Officer, Ghulam Mohi-U-Din; Deputy CEO, Anjum Raja; Principal GGHSS, Kothibagh, Dr Sameena Wani, Heads of Institutions of various Schools, Staff members were also the part of the program.

Speaking on the occasion,



the Deputy Commissioner said that the initiative is aimed at equipping students with technological competencies and create technology-enabled learning environment in Government Schools across the district. He added that the intervention will promote digital learning and ensure a more conducive, technology-driven atmosphere in

schools. The DC emphasized that access to computers will help students acquire essential IT skills, support online learning and expose them to modern educational resources, thereby improving overall academic outcomes. He stressed the need for optimum utilization and proper maintenance of the provided equipment. He di-

rected school authorities to ensure that students are trained in basic computer skills and that the facilities are effectively used for digital classrooms, e-learning modules and project-based learning.

On the occasion, the DC assured all possible support from the District Administration for further strengthening infrastructure, improving quality of education and ensuring modern technological learning facilities for students across the district.

During the programme, the DC congratulated the Chief Education Officer, his team and the Heads of Schools who received the computers and allied infrastructure. He also lauded the efforts of the Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer and their respective teams for their dedicated efforts in successfully implementing the initiative. Later, the DC handed over appreciation letters to the concerned Officers and Officials for their contribution towards successful execution of various government schemes and educational programmes in the district.