

## 3-day historic Sudhmahadev Mela commences in Udhampur

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 28

The historic three-day Sudhmahadev mela in Sub Division Chenani of Udhampur district commenced today. Thousands of devotees visited the holy Sudhmahadev temple to seek the blessings of Lord Shiva on the first day of the mela.

MLA Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia formally inaugurated the mela in the presence of Mela Officer Pankaj Singh and other officers of the district administration, alongside the general public.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest congratulated the people and said such occasions reflect our rich cultural and religious heritage and also help strengthen brotherhood and communal harmony in the area. He



stressed the importance of preserving culture and traditional values and called for promoting the mela as an integral part of local culture. The MLA also appreciated the arrangements made by the district admin-

istration. Various government departments set up stalls to inform the public about schemes for the socio-economic upliftment of the people. The MLA also inspected the stalls.

Students of various educational institutions, along with local folk artists, presented folk dances and cultural programmes depicting the traditions of the area, which the audience appreciated.

## Lieutenant Governor interacts with volunteers of Save Youth Save Future Foundation

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Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today interacted with the volunteers of the Save Youth Save Future Foundation at Lok Bhavan, Srinagar.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the efforts of the members of the foundation for their dedicated community outreach and social initiatives and inspiring greater participation of youth in the fight against substance abuse.

Calling upon the youth to become ambassadors of a drug-free Jammu Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor urged them to continue spreading awareness in their localities and work with determination to build a prosperous and healthy society.

He also reiterated his commitment to dismantle



the entire drug ecosystem while ensuring that affected youth receive every possible opportunity for treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration into the mainstream.

During the interaction, the members of the Save Youth Save Future Foundation expressed their gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor for spearheading the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan. They also lauded the stringent action

taken by the Civil Administration and J&K Police against drug peddlers and those involved in the narcotics trade.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also launched "Mulaqaat", an initiative of the Save Youth Save Future Foundation aimed at bringing together people from different communities to interact, share their memories, experiences, traditions and cultural heritage. The initia-

tion seeks to strengthen social bonds, promote communal harmony and foster mutual understanding among diverse sections of society.

Shri Wajahat Farooq Bhat, Chairman, Save Youth Save Future Foundation; Ms. Anika Nazir, Women's Wing Head; Shri Mudasar Ahmed Dar, South Kashmir Zonal President and team members of the Save Youth Save Future Foundation were present.

## ADC Udhampur launches Intensified Pulse Polio Immunisation Drive at Jhakhani

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Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Prem Singh today inaugurated the Intensified Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme (IPPI) at AAM Sub Centre, Jhakhani, in the presence of Chief Medical Officer Udhampur Dr Anil Manhas.

The programme marks the start of a focussed district-wide immunisation drive to ensure that every eligible child receives the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV).

The ADC highlighted the importance of universal immunisation in safeguarding children against preventable diseases and urged parents and care-



givers to participate actively in the campaign by ensuring that every eligible child is vaccinated.

The Chief Medical Officer said the programme's success depends on community participation and the efforts of healthcare workers and frontline

staff. He appealed to the public to cooperate with vaccination teams so that no child is left out of the drive.

## Itoo launches Pulse Polio Immunization drive from District Hospital Kulgam

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Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today launched the Pulse Polio Immunization drive from the District Hospital Kulgam by administering polio drops to a newborn baby.

Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Director Family welfare J&K, Chief Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent and other officers were also present.

The Minister emphasized that immunization is one of the most effective measures to protect the children from preventable diseases and ensure a healthy future for the younger generation. She urged the parents and caregivers to bring all children in the 0-5 years age group to the nearest vaccination centres and ensure that no child is left out of the immunization campaign. She stressed that achieving and sustaining a polio-free status requires active community participation and collective responsibility.

Sakeena Itoo also com-



mended the healthcare professionals and frontline workers for their unwavering commitment to child health. She called for intensified awareness efforts to

make the Pulse Polio programme a complete success.

The Health Minister expressed confidence that with sustained public coop-

eration and dedicated efforts of the health department, the objective of reaching every eligible child can be successfully achieved.

## Over 36 thousand children take Pulse Polio vaccine in Kishtwar

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Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma today launched the Nationwide Pulse Polio Immunisation Drive in Kishtwar district, achieving significant coverage among children aged zero to five years.

The DC formally inaugurated the drive at the BMO Office Kishtwar in the presence of CMO Kishtwar Dr Sanjay Kumar Bhat, BMO Kishtwar Dr Anil Sharma and other senior health officials.

Of the 38,580 targeted children, 36,267 were administered the Oral Polio Vaccine, achieving 94% coverage. The campaign was conducted through 370 polio booths and three transit camps at Kishtwar Bus Stand, Gulabgarh Bus Stand and Chatroo Bus Stand. A team of 1,430 personnel and 74 supervisors covered even the remotest



areas of the district, including Marwah, Warwan, Patnazi and Machail. House-to-house immunisation drives will follow on June 29 and 30 to cover remaining eligible children through mop-up rounds.

The Education Department, ICDS and other line departments extended support to the campaign.

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## Natrang stages play 'Kissa Chori Ka'

JAMMU, JUNE 28: Natrang presented an improvised and innovative theatrical production, 'Kissa Chori Ka', at its Studio Theatre today under its acclaimed weekly theatre series, 'Sunday Theatre'. Directed by noted theatre practitioner Neeraj Kant, the experimental play captivated the audience with its engaging narrative, humour, and unexpected twists, earning warm appreciation from theatre lovers.

Sharing details about this new experiment, Natrang Director Balwant said that the play was developed

through a collaborative process of improvisation involving the entire team of performers. Such creative explorations are immensely enriching for the actors, allowing them to contribute to the storytelling process. As a result, the final production often becomes more dynamic, authentic, and impactful than a conventionally prescribed play.

The play revolves around Ramlal, whose house is believed to have been robbed. After lodging a complaint with the police, he returns home distressed and shares the unfortunate

news with his daughter. Soon, neighbours begin arriving one after another to express sympathy. Curiously, each visitor narrates a different story, claiming to have found a box or bundle abandoned by the alleged thieves and hands it over to Ramlal, raising his hopes of recovering his valuables. However, every package turns out to be empty, leaving him repeatedly disappointed.

As Ramlal and his daughter continue to mourn their apparent loss, his wife returns from her parental home.

## ADDC Reasi visits Krishi Vigyan Kendra

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Additional District Development Commissioner Krishan Lal today visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Reasi of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) and reviewed its activities.

Chief Scientist and Head of KVK Reasi Dr Banarsi Lal briefed the ADDC on KVK's work in commercial organic and natural farming, scientific lemongrass farming, value addition in agriculture and floriculture, spices production, scientific poultry farming and Integrated Farming System to boost farmers' income, and on measures against



the monkey menace, including promotion of lemongrass, turmeric, ginger, elephant foot yam and floriculture in monkey-prone areas, besides a solar fencing system demonstrated to protect crops

from wild animals. The ADDC called for more viable crops in monkey-prone areas and greater business activity among Farmers Producer Organisations for farmers' welfare. He applauded the

efforts of KVK Reasi and the Department of Agriculture, Reasi, and called for micro-entrepreneurship development in the district, noting Reasi's immense potential for organic and natural farming through a cluster-based approach.

The ADDC also visited the KVK's solar fencing unit, District Agrometeorological Unit and ATIC Centre, appreciating the technologies demonstrated, and suggested greater focus on commercial floriculture and on lemongrass, lemon and dragon fruit farming in monkey-prone areas.

Among those present were JAE0, Department of Agriculture Reasi, Sunil Kumar and FPO Development Officer Rakesh Kundal.

## MVD Rajouri intensifies traffic enforcement drive on NH Rajouri-Poonch

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Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Rajouri intensified its enforcement drive to ensure strict compliance with traffic regulations and promote road safety across the district.

During the drive on the National Highway Rajouri-Poonch, ARTO Rajouri Ashiq Rafiq Malik personally intercepted and inspected vehicles for traffic



violations. One vehicle was seized and one Driving Licence (DL) recommended for suspension for traffic violations. In all, 14 vehicles were

challaned and a penalty of ₹24,900 imposed on the violators. Furthermore, during the current month, six Driving Licences have been can-

celled and one DL suspended on the recommendations of Police authorities against offenders in cases under the NDPS Act.

MVD Rajouri said strict enforcement will continue against traffic violators and appealed to drivers and vehicle owners to follow traffic rules to ensure safer roads.

The enforcement team comprised MVI Lakhvinder Singh and other officials of the Motor Vehicles Department.