

Impressive Shoba Yatra taken out on eve of Maha Shivratri

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: On the eve of Maha Shivratri an impressive Shoba Yatra (Shiv Barat) was taken out here today. The Shoba

culminated at Shri Ranbireswar Temple. Many social organizations viz Bawe Wala Mandir, Dewan Mandir Natak Samaj Mandli, Peer Kho Temple, Hudh Mata



A Jhanki which formed the part of Shoba Yatra taken out in Jammu on the eve of Maha Shivratri on Monday. -Excelsior/Rakesh

Yatra started from Ranbireswar Mandir and it was organized by Shri Ranbireswar Mandir Welfare Committee (SRMWC) in collaboration with J&K Dharmarth Trust. The Shoba Yatra was led by Mahant of Ranbireswar temple Rishi Ban Ji. From Ranbireswar temple it passed through all main bazaars of the Old city, viz Indira Chowk, Hari Market, Raghunath Bazaar, City Chowk, Old Hospital Road, Purani Mandi, Link Road, Jain Bazar, Mubarak Mandi, Upper Bazar, Pacca Danga, Moti Bazaar, Parade Chowk and finally

Trisandhya Committee, Jammu Branch, Nat Manch, Shishu Kala Kendra, Kanji House, Bajrangi Akhara and Sumit Anu Musical Group participated in the Shoba yatra with colorful Jhankis. Besides, the artists of Deepak Band and Dhingra Band singing devotional songs were also the part of the Shoba yatra and they reverberated the atmosphere. The markets of Jammu city were fully decorated by traders with bunting, lights and by installing welcome gates. Full arrangements were made by the

district administration, Jammu for the Shoba yatra. People enroute greeted the Shoba yatra by showering flowers on the Shiv Barat and paying obeisance to Lord Shiva and Mata Parvati.

The devotees participating in the yatra were also served prashad and fruits etc enroute by the people. Earlier pooja in traditional way was performed at Ranbireswar temple by Mahant Rishi Ban along with MLA Jammu East, Rajesh Gupta and president Dharmarth Trust, B R Kundal. They prayed for the peace and prosperity of the State and country as a whole.

As the Shoba Yatra left the Ranbireswar temple, the slogans - Har Har Mahadev rent the air. The yatriis enroute reciting the bhajans in praise of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. The members of SRMWC who participated in the Shoba yatra included Onkar Sharma (Nandi Ji) Rajkumar Sharma, Amit Gupta, advocate, Jyoti Sarup Misra, advocate Kapil Sharma, Mandeep Sharma, Anubhav Suri, Murl Parihara, Mohan Sharma, Deepak Sharma, Rajinder Mangotra, Dr Sunny Gupta, Rekha Sharma, Subash Bhagat, Dolly Abrol, Surinder Bhagat and others.

Governor, CM greet people on Maha Shivratri

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: Governor N. N. Vohra has greeted the people on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri, which is celebrated by Kashmiri Pandits as Hairath.

In his message, the Governor has observed that this festival symbolizes the values of piety, devotion, brotherhood and harmony, which are the hallmarks of our glorious cultural ethos.

Wishing the people a happy Maha Shivratri and Hairath, the Governor has prayed for peace, progress and prosperity in the State.

Chief Minister, Mehbooba

Mufti has also greeted people on the occasion of Maha Shivratri.

In her message of felicitations, the Chief Minister hoped that the day ushers the State into a new era of peace, progress and development and strengthens bonds of brotherhood among the people.

Mehbooba Mufti said the festival of Maha Shivratri has both religious and cultural importance as the day is celebrated by the people of all shades in the State. She recalled that the day is celebrated in Kashmir valley as Hairath by Kashmiri Pandits in amity with their Muslim brethren.



Villagers protesting for completion of Chirdi road in Udhampur. -Excelsior/Pardeep

Villagers protest for completion of road, land compensation

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Feb 12: Demanding completion of road construction work and land compensation, villagers of Chirdi and adjoining areas held a strong protest demonstration against PMGSY Department, here today.

The protest demonstration was organized under the banner of Jan-Sangrash Organization. A large number of villagers from Chirdi and adjoining areas participated in the protest and torched an effigy of the PMGSY Department.

They raised slogans against the PMGSY Department and the District Administration for delaying completion of road

work from village Chirdi in Udhampur tehsil.

President of Jan-Sangrash Organization, Advocate Sanjeet Bavouria said that work on this 17 kms long PMGSY road (no JK14-276) from Gujed to Chirdi was started in 2008 with project cost of Rs 679 lakh. The work was to be completed in 2010 but even after 12 year, the road is still incomplete with the result that villagers of the area are suffering, he added.

The villagers also lamented that they have also not been provided land compensation. They threatened to block the main road if the construct work is not completed and compensation of land is further delayed.

Hajini elected as Convener Kashmiri Advisory Board of Sahitya Academy

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Feb 12: Noted Kashmiri Poet and Writer, Secretary J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages Dr Aziz Hajini has been elected as Convener of Kashmiri Advisory Board of National Academy of Letters, Sahitya Akademi New Delhi in the first meeting of its newly constituted General Council held at Ravindra Bhavan here today.

Pertinently, Hajini's name was proposed by globally known Urdu poet Sheen Kaaf

Nizam which was endorsed by well known Punjabi writer Prof Mannohan Singh Deepak. The seat of convener was lying vacant after Prof Mohammad Zaman Azurda completed his five year term in Dec 2017.

Hajini, an author of 18 published books, has served Sahitya Akademi New Delhi before also as member of its Executive Board and General Council. He has been honoured with several awards including prestigious best book award of Sahitya Akademi and National level best translation award.

Div Com reviews action on CM's commitments

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: Divisional Commissioner, Hemant Kumar Sharma, today conducted video conference with Deputy Commissioners of Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Samba, Kathua and Rajouri districts of Jammu province to review progress on action taken on the CM's commitments during her public outreach programme in these districts.

Threadbare discussion was held on various issues pertaining to vital projects being executed in these districts and their physical and financial progress was reviewed.

While reviewing the status of ongoing development works in these districts, Hemant Kumar impressed upon all the officers to ensure timely completion of all these works in their respective districts.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned DCs to expedite the ongoing works being executed in their respective districts and asked them to work in synergy to ensure its timely completion.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioners apprised Div Com of various initiatives being taken up for speeding up the development process in the district.

Hundreds join funeral procession Martyr Madan Choudhary cremated with full military honours

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Feb 12: The mortal remains of Honorary, JCO, Madan Choudhary who was martyred in a Fidayeen attack at Sunjan Military Camp Jammu on February 10 were consigned to flames with full military honours at the cremation ground of his native village, Bakrak in Koota area of Hiranagar tehsil today.

Braving the heavy down pour hundreds of people including family members, relatives and inhabitants from Bakrak and adjoining villages gave a tearful adieu to martyr. As the pyre was lit by his nephew Sandeep Choudhary the slogans "Shaheed Madan Choudhary Aam Rahey" rent the air.

The youth, who participated in the funeral procession were also chanting "Jab Tak Suraj Chand Rahey Ga Madan Choudhary Tera Naam Rahey Ga".

The body of martyr was taken into a fully decorated army vehicle to the cremation ground from his residence in Bakrak village where it was brought for the last darshan of family members, relatives and friends.

Earlier the body was also brought in an army vehicle to the village and hundreds of youth on motorcycles and scooters joined the procession from Raj Bagh to the village raising slogans "Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Madan

Choudhary Amar Rahey". The wailing and sobbing mourners also raised Pakistan Murdabad slogans enroute and demanded army action against the rouge country.

When the body reached the

The wreaths were also laid on the body by Forest Minister, Ch Lal Singh, MLA Hiranagar, Kuldeep Raj and MLA Nowshera, Ravinder Raina, MLC Ch. Vikram Randhawa, DC Kathua Rohit Khajuria, army



Mourners in the last rites of Martyr Madan Choudhary in his native village Bakrak in Hiranagar on Monday. -Excelsior/Pardeep

village, the heart rendering scenes were witnessed as the octogenarian mother of martyr Banti Devi and his other closer relatives could not resist and sobbed and screamed bitterly.

His mother was informed about the tragedy yesterday and since then she was in deep shock as she had never expected that such a tragedy will befall on the family.

The words fell short to console the wife of martyr, Charanjit Kour who was eye witness to the Fidayeen attack at the army camp Jammu when two bullets pierced through the body of this brave officer in his attempt to save the other four members of his family who were inside his quarter at the time of attack.

and police officers who also accompanied the funeral procession up to cremation ground.

The son Madan Choudhary, Ankush Choudhary who is

undergoing training at NDA Academy Bangalore also reached Jammu today and participated in the last rites of his father.

Earlier the wreaths were laid on the body at Satwari Camp by Army officers and later it was taken to Military Hospital Satwari where his daughter Neha Choudhary who had also suffered a bullet injury in her leg on the fateful day is under going treatment to have last glimpse of her father.

Lawyers abstain from work, protest against terrorist attack

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: On the call of the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, the lawyers abstained from judicial work today to protest the terrorist attack on Sunjan Army camp.

The lawyers took out procession in the court premises raising slogans against Pakistan and the anti national forces responsible for the attack. The protest was led by the President of the Bar Senior Advocate B S Slathia and other office bearers of the Bar.

Speaking on the occasion, Slathia strongly condemned Pakistan for carrying on the policy of enmity against India and harboring terrorists on her soil and using them to threaten life of the people and security forces in J&K.

He also criticized National Conference legislator and former Speaker Mohd Akbar Lone for raising pro-Pakistan slogans inside the Assembly on the day when terrorists from Pakistan were killing innocent citizens and Army personnel inside the

Sunjan Army camp.

"The Bar has taken a very serious view of the failure of the present Coalition Government in saving the lives and liberty of the people and security forces", he said, adding "there have been repeated terrorist attacks on the Army and police in the State but Government has failed to completely check the perpetrators of such attacks".

Shockingly, the State Government facilitated lodging of FIR against the Army personnel who were forced to resort to firing in self defense when they were suddenly attacked by stooges of terrorists in the Valley, the Bar president further said.

Stating that Bar will continue its protests tomorrow, Slathia has called upon the State and the Union Governments to take stem action against the anti-national forces as well as against the neighboring country to prevent them from repeating similar acts in future.

Meanwhile, Bar Association Udhampur, under the leadership of its president, Advocate Surinder Khajuria, held a protest

demonstration against National Conference MLA Akbar Lone who had raised pro-Pakistan slogans inside the J&K Legislative Assembly.

All the advocates of District Court Udhampur suspended their works under the banner of Bar Association Udhampur and assembled in the District Court premises where they also burnt the effigy of NC MLA. The protesting Advocates were also raising slogans against NC MLA.

While addressing the gathering, Advocate Surinder Khajuria said it was a very serious matter and a criminal act of NC MLA Akbar Lone who raised pro-Pakistan slogans inside the Assembly. "It is more serious that BJP-PDP Collation Government remained mum over this heinous act of NC MLA," he added and demanded registration of an FIR against the MLA.

The protesting Advocates also criticized Central Government for having no solid policy with regard to J&K and dealing with the terrorists.

DB directives in PIL regarding child abuse

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Advocate Shivan Mahajan against child abuse, Division Bench of State High Court comprising Chief Justice Badar Durrez Ahmed and Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur has directed Social Welfare and Education Departments to act jointly and prescribe a manner of creating awareness in schools with regard to child abuse.

When the PIL came-up for hearing, Senior Advocate Sunil Sethi appearing for the PIL drew the attention of the court towards the aspect of the child abuse particularly in schools and said, "there is a lack of awareness, particularly amongst the children, as to what is the nature of child abuse and, as a result, some of the children may be suffering in silence".

He further said, "it is necessary for each of the schools to designate one officer or a teacher, who is sensitive to these issues, who can function as the person where any complaint by any child is received for necessary action to prevent further child abuse".

After hearing Senior Advocate Sunil Sethi with Advocate Parimoksh Seth for the PIL whereas AAG Ravinder Gupta, Deputy AG Rahul Bharti and Advocate MA Bhat for the respondents, DB asked the counsel for the respondents to

whether there was any policy or scheme for creating such awareness and for appointing such officers/teachers as well as of providing any helpline where complaints could be made by children who are being subjected to child abuse within the school premises.

However, the counsel for the respondents could not give any positive answer on this aspect. Accordingly, the DB said, "if no such scheme or policy is in place, it would be appropriate that the Social Welfare Department and Education Department take joint action on this aspect of the matter and prescribe a manner of creating awareness in schools with regard to child abuse".

DB further observed, "one of the suggestions given by Senior Advocate Sunil Sethi is for putting up display boards in simple language, informing the children as to what is child abuse and in the languages which are understood by the children in the area concerned". Accordingly, DB directed Headmasters/Principles of the schools to nominate at least one teacher/official, who is/are sensitive to child issues, to be nominated as the person to whom complaints could be made whenever a child fears that he/she is undergoing child abuse within the school premises.

Division Bench further directed respondents to file compliance report within four weeks.

Delegation of SC, ST legislators meets CM

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: A delegation of legislators of SC and ST communities called on the Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti here today and brought several issues pertaining to these communities into her notice.

The delegation discussed early settlement of cases pertaining to promotions in respect of members of these communities, issues of tribal policy and other day to day problems being faced by the members of these communities.

The Chief Minister directed redressal of the issues raised by the members of delegation and their time bound disposal.

Ministers, Abdul Haq Khan, Choudhary Zulfiqar, Abdul Ghani Kohli, T. Dorjee, Deputy Speaker, Nazir Gurezi, Vice Chairman SC/ST Board, Bhushan Dogra and several legislatures of SC and ST communities were present on the occasion.

Chief Secretary, B. B. Vyas; Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rohit Kansal; Commissioner-Secretary, GAD, Khurshed Ahmad Shah and other officers were also present on the occasion.

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