

## DyCM launches 'Basohli Anthem' to mark Vivekananda Jayanti

\*Priya highlights efforts to preserve, promote rich heritage

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Jan 13: Culture plays an important role in the development of any nation. It represents a set of shared attitudes, values, goals and practices. Culture and creativity manifest themselves in almost all economic, social and other activities. A country as diverse as India is symbolized by the plurality of its culture. Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Nirmal Singh said this during 'Swami Vivekananda Jayanti Celebrations' at Basohli.

Minister of State for Education, Tourism and Culture Priya Sethi was also present on the occasion. The function was organized by Vishwasthali - a Basohli-based NGO working to revive the dying Basohli art.

As many as 200 students from different schools of Pathankot, Kathua, Kathua, Samba and Udhampur participated in different events organized to mark Vivekananda Jayanti celebrations. At the outset, Dr. Singh launched 'Basohli Anthem', a tele-film to promote art, culture and heritage of Basohli besides attracting tourists. Speaking on the occasion, he said that it is a first of its kind initiative in Jammu region commenced in collaboration with Tourism Department to promote world famous Basohli paintings, Basohli pashmina shawl and tourist attractions viz. Atal Setu and Ranjit Sagar Dam.

He also lauded the efforts of Vishwasthali to revive the indigenous art of Basohli and popularise it in the international market. He said Kashmir and Basohli (in Jammu province) are the only places in the country where pashmina shawls are manufactured on looms and further stated that concerted efforts are underway to conserve and revive the world famous Basohli paintings besides reviving pristine glory of historical Basohli town.

To increase the tourist foot fall in the region, DyCM announced that DPR for converting Lakhanpur-Dunnera road to National Highway has been prepared and will soon be submitted to the concerned department for early approval.

Invoking the teachings of

## Samba police arrests 2 bovine smugglers, rescues 7 animals

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Jan 13: Samba police foiled a bovine smuggling bid and rescued seven bovine animals. A police party of PS Samba led by Inspector Chanchal Singh, SHO PS Samba under close supervision of Deepak Digra, Dy.SP Hqs Samba during naka checking at border road near Shamsan Ghat Namandar Supwal Samba signalled a dumper bearing chassis number 448833/DIG09613 to stop. On seeing the Police Party, the driver accelerated the speed of the vehicle and tried to escape from the spot. After a successful chase by the Police, the vehicle was intercepted and during checking, seven

Swami Vivekananda, Dr. Singh said Vivekananda's teachings have left tremendous impacts towards the enrichment of Indian socio-cultural traditions besides bringing spiritual reawakening among the Indians in the 19th century and is popularly known as the "Intellectual Monk of India" among the youth.

In her address, Priya Sethi appreciated the founder of Vishwasthali for organizing an impressive event to mark the 155th birth anniversary of the social reformer, philosopher and great thinker Swami Vivekananda.

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Priya stressed that the younger generation must be taught the teachings of Swami Vivekananda to impart them moral values and enlightenment as it's the youth that can bring the revolutionary change.

The Minister called for collective efforts to restore, preserve and promote the rich heritage of Basohli. She said recently, Bike expedition rallies and activities were organized by the Tourism Department to explore the virgin tourist destinations of Basohli and other tourism potential areas of J&K.

She expressed her desire to give worldwide recognition to the paintings, shawls and other local art work of Basohli by associating them with the renowned and established brands.

"Basohli Anthem will be showcased in various ITMs to promote the picturesque beauty of the region", the Minister assured. She further stressed on the need to develop lodging, food and other facilities for the tourists and called for transforming 50 houses into "At Home" services for providing

bovines were found laden inside the dumper which were being smuggled.

The driver namely Rehmat Ali S/o Hashim Ali R/o Dinanagar district Gurdaspur, Punjab and his associate Stepen Masih S/o Ashok Masih R/o Pathyian Jatta tehsil Mukrian district Hoshiyarpur Punjab were arrested on spot and all the seven bovine animals were rescued.

In this regard a case FIR No. 08/2018 U/S 188/295-A RPC, 2/3 PCA Act, 3 Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act has been registered at P/S Samba and investigation started.

The drive was launched on the directives of SSP, Samba Anil Mangotra.

## SKIMS Director chairs emergency meet for streamlining institute

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 13: Director SKIMS, Dr Omar Shah, today held a first emergency meeting with all faculty heads and stressed on streamlining the functioning of SKIMS.

"We need to work to preserve the prestige of the institution and work hard towards achieving its avowed objectives and acknowledge the importance of every individual working in SKIMS to strengthen the basic patient care services," he told the meeting.

He said that Government is monitoring closely the working of SKIMS and everyone working

## Power shut down

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 13: In order to carry out various development works by M/s. IRCON International under R-APDRP Scheme, the power supply to all DTs of City-1 feeders will remain affected on January 14 from 11 am to 03 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Gandhi Nagar and its adjoining areas will remain affected on January 14 from 10 am to 02 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Channi Himmat and its adjoining areas will remain affected on January 15 from 10 am to 02 pm.

Meanwhile, the power supply to Bari Brahmana (BB-1) substation and its adjoining areas will remain affected on January 14 from 09 am to 02 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Ashok Nagar, Shastri Nagar Substation and its adjoining areas will remain affected on January 16 from 09 am to 01 pm.

Likewise the power supply to Domana, Domana Police Station,

## Dr Jitendra approached for resumption of Sharda Peeth Yatra

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Jan 13: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh has been approached by "Save Sharda Committee Kashmir", a registered organiza-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh being briefed by the members of "Save Sharda Committee Kashmir", seeking resumption of Sharda Peeth Yatra to PoJK, at New Delhi on Saturday.

tion, for facilitating the resumption of annual Sharda Peeth Yatra to Sharda in district Muzaffarabad in Pak occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK). The Yatra has remained suspended since 1948.

A delegation led by Ravinder Pandita, a Kashmiri Hindu Activist, held a detailed meeting in this regard with the Minister and discussed with him the various aspects and the sanctity of the Yatra. In a written representation, they stated that the Yatra used to be undertaken annually in the month of August i.e. Badaun on Ashtami of Shukla Paksh and would take the route via Kupwara in Kashmir to the Peeth in PoJK. The Yatra was largely organized by the Dogra rulers in the pre-independence era, but has remained suspended after 1948.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed the members of the delegation that he is aware of the issue and has also held a series of meetings in this regard. The permission for the resumption of Yatra or even to undertake a symbolic Yatra, to begin with, requires to be obtained after clearance from Union Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence, and only after that, the Ministry of External Affairs is approached for further formalities. He said, a detailed document in this regard was already placed before the Union Home Ministry last year and it is in circulation for obtain-

ing the requisite clearances from different quarters.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Union Home Ministry has been actively cooperating on the issue but the process of obtaining clearances also requires the cognizance of the Ministry of Defence and inputs from the various security agencies, because it involves crossing over to the other side of the border.

Der. Dr Jitendra said, he would again take up the issue with the Ministry of Defence and try to address the reservations expressed.

Besides Ravinder Pandita, prominent among others who attended the meeting with Dr Jitendra Singh included Desraj Kaul, Pradeep Pandita, Kusum Pandita, Ramesh Tikoo, B.L. Zutshi, Veena Pandita, Pradeep Pandita, Ratna, Digvijay Chaturvedi, Rahul Trivedi and others.

Mir asks cadre to gear up for Panchayat polls

PDP changing colours like chameleon: PCC chief

Excelsior Correspondent SRINAGAR, Jan 13: Lashing out at PDP-BJP dispensation for failures on all fronts, the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief GA Mir urged upon the cadre to take on PDP-BJP exposing them for adopting double standards for the sake of power in the forth coming Panchayat elections.

Addressing workers' meeting at PCC office here today, PCC chief hit out at PDP for changing colours like chameleon for the sake of power. He said this party sacrificed its ideology and joined hands with communal and fascist forces for the sake of power, as a result, people were feeling exploited and betrayed.

He said PDP-BJP combine can not escape the responsibility of damages caused to peace process, as both the parties have exploited people for power and are responsible for restlessness and mistrust among the people.

Urging the party cadre to gear up for Panchayat polls being conducted shortly, Mir said Congress party is committed to strengthen the democratic institutions of the State, but at the same time, he blamed the ruling dispensation for playing deceits over democratic process in the State, which has lost relevance

Academy announces results of Annual Drama Festival 2017-18

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 13: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages today announced the awards of Annual Drama Festival 2017-18 in the various categories.

The Best Play award has been announced to "Urubhangam" by Natraj Natya Kunj while "Oedipus Rex" by Samooch Theatre bagged the award of second Best Play. Best Director award has gone to Aaditya Bharti for the play "Urubhangam" while 2nd Best Director award was bagged by Ravindra Sharma for the play "Oedipus Rex"

Best Actor award has been bagged by Amandeep Sharma as Duryodhana while 2nd Best Actor award has gone to Dilshad Ahmed for his role as Father in the play "Mujhe Amrita Chahiye"

Gurmeet Jamwal has been adjudged as Best Actress for her role as Benare in "Kamosh Adalat Jaari Hai". 2nd Best Actress award has gone to Sunaina Kumari for her role as Vasundhara in "Andhra Yatra"

Best Make up award has been bagged by Shammi Dhamir for the play "Urubhangam" & "Oedipus Rex". Best costumes award has gone to "Urubhangam" and "Oedipus Rex" while Best Lights awarded has been given to "Oedipus Rex"

Award for Best Music has been given to "Urubhangam", Best set to "Kamosh Adalat Jaari Hai", 2nd Best set to "Oedipus Rex" and Best Child Artist to Kousar Chand Puri for the play "Oedipus Rex"

Consolation prize in Direction has gone to Vijay Goswami for the play "Kamosh Adalat Jaari Hai", Music to Rsvang Dorjee for the play "Rovmut Bhatt", Costumes to Shiba & Mukulini Sethi for the "Kamosh Adalat Jaari Hai" and Make - up to Seema Bhardwaj for the play "Chitra".

Certificates of Merit have been announced to Kanav Sharma as Balram in the play "Urubhangam",



Students of SDS Schools performing traditional dance on occasion of Lohri festival at Geeta Bhawan Jammu on Saturday.

## Lohri celebrated with traditional fervor, gaiety across Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 13: Lohri the festival coinciding with seasonal change to say goodbye to Winter and welcome to Spring was celebrated with religious fervor and gaiety across Jammu region today.

The functions regarding celebration of Lohri were held at different places where the people performed traditional Dogri dance and also lit the bonfire to say goodbye to Winter cold.

The ladies and children attired in different costumes also participated in the functions at different places and people were seen busy in exchanging Lohri greetings to each other. The

members of Muslim community were also seen extending Lohri greetings to their Hindu brethren on the occasion.

Lohri brings a special joy for children as they in groups are seen hopping from one house to another house for gifts and singing folk Dogri songs. Though this tradition with the modernization is vanishing in urban areas with children restricting to take part in these practices, it is still prevalent in rural areas adding further charm to festival.

\* Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

There was a hustle and bustle in markets in the Jammu city and other towns on the occasion as people were seen busy in purchasing ground nuts, Rewidis and pooja items to have the pooja in evening hours and relish the groundnuts, Rewidis etc. The hawkers had installed stalls in different markets and road sides all over the city which attracted large number of customers.

Sanatan Dharam Sabha (SDS) Jammu, organized an impressive function on the occasion of Lohri in which the students of three schools run by the organization participated. They performed traditional Dogri dance including Gida and also lit bonfire to keep the tradition alive. The speakers on the occasion highlighted the significance of Lohri and said the festival is linked to season as per Hindu tradition.

Bhaderwah which falls in Doda district a Winter Zone has it's the old-style of celebrating

## JKSAC resents delay on release of DPs' compensation

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 13: The Jammu Kashmir Sharnarhi Action Committee (JKSAC) in a meeting held at Abtal village in Samba expressed its displeasure for the insensitive attitude of the State Govt for not pursuing the Central Govt to release the amount of relief compensation for Rs 5.5 lakh in favour of DPs who have been verified and awaiting relief compensation for the last more than three months.

While addressing the meeting, Gurdev Singh, president regretted that within the span of 10 months period approximately 5000 beneficiaries of 1947 PoK only could get the relief compensation against more than 14000 families verified by PRO inspite of many hazards and have been recommended for disbursement to Govt of India.

He expressed resentment that despite of three month's period further amount of relief compensation has not been transferred in the account of verified beneficiaries which is becoming a cause of resentment among the DPs. He urged upon the State authorities to vigorously pursue the Central Govt to release the relief amount without further delay.

While expressing his views

## NMC for separate wage head in each deptt

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 13: National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) today appealed the Finance Minister to immediately order for allotting separate wage head in each department in the back drop of announcements regarding regularization of daily rated workers so that 61000 daily rated workers working in the various departments may get their monthly salary regularly.

"Since the issue will take lot of time for effective implementation of SRO 520, the need of the hour is to allot separate wage heads for offering succor to daily rated workers. And the same should be announced in the customary demand for annual grants as and when they are put in the floor of house", NMC president, Subash Shastri said while addressing a meeting of workers at Gandhi Nagar.

He said that under the budget-

Lohri, with kids hopping from house to house for gifts. "We go from house to house for Lohri gifts. We get money and gifts from everybody", said a group of children taking Lohri gifts from people. Whether it's town areas of Bhaderwah or villages, the festivities around Lohri leave no soul untouched. The people were also seen thronging markets for purchasing the pooja items for evening rituals, besides buying peanuts, Rawries, popcorns and other munchies relished on the day. Bhaderwah is also immersed in the colours of Lohri.

This year the Winter has been particularly harsh. In the evening people in different localities lit bonfire which signifies spark of life and offered special prayers for prosperity in life. To this bonfire, puffed rice, popcorns and other munchies were offered to say good bye to cold weather. People hope the festival would mark an end to that.

According to the Hindu calendar, Lohri falls in mid-January. The Earth, farthest from the Sun at this point of time, starts its journey towards the Sun, thus ending the coldest month of the year, Paus, and announcing the start of the month of Magh and the auspicious period of Uttarayan. According to the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna manifests himself in his full magnificence during this time. The Hindus 'nullify' their sins by bathing in the Ganges. It is celebrated on the 13th of January during the month of Paus or Magh, a day before Makar Sankranti.

## regarding the disbursement of recent package, he condemned the bonafide DPs families residing in the State in this package. He said families who have been allotted lands in 1954 after migration and later on has not been included in this package because of non-availability of records required under guidelines issued by Govt for filing the application. He further said that families who could not avail the benefit of land allotment or ex-gratia grant provided in 1962 for one or other reason have also been excluded, as they are in possession of all records of land having at their native places in PoK and even PRC issued by Maharaja and his revenue officer are not being considered. There are other DP families whose parents were killed in turmoil and their minor survival members were not eligible at the time of land allotment or for availing benefits of ex-gratia grants have also been excluded.

He said that all such left out bonafide families residing in the State fall within the total of 26,319 families for whom the package has been recommended. He urged upon the Chief Minister to take the lenient view of it.

any provisions this interim measure will go a long way to address their financial problems in view of sharp increase in the prices of essential commodities and inflation, as these daily wages have not been paid their wages for the last many years. "Similarly there is a need to rationalize and simplify the procedure for formally regularizing these daily rated workers. Also the absorption of this category of workers should be initiated at the level of departmental heads instead of empowered committee created for this purpose" he said.

Lauding the Finance Minister Dr Haseeb Drabu for taking pro employee decision to grant benefits of 7th Pay Commission (PC) to employees of the State Government and pensioners, Shastri hoped that the arrears accruing as part of implementation of the 7th PC will be paid to the employees and the pensioners in one go.