

Thousands pay obeisance in temples 9-day long Navratra festival concludes

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 4: The nine-day long Navratra festival concluded today with immersion of Sakh sown on the first day of Navratra and worshipped during the nine-days long festival by the devotees.

During the festival days thousands of devotees visited various temples in Jammu city and other districts to pay obeisance to Goddess Durga.

There was heavy rush of devotees on the bank of river Tawi at Bikram Chowk and Harkipouri, on the bank of river Chenab at Akhnoor, besides on the banks of Ranbir canal and Tawi canal were a large of people came from early in the morning to immerse the Sakh.

A grand Durga Puja was celebrated by the Bengali community here in Jammu with full enthusiasm, fervour and gaiety.

The worship of Goddess Maa Durga is being performed with traditional Bengali Rituals. The sound of musical instruments, Sanskrit Mantra by

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

Pujari engulfed the mind of devotees. Sandhi Puja on Moha Ashtami was the main attraction. Daily Pushpanjali and Sandhya Aarti draws a huge gathering. The Bengali ladies wearing Red and White Sarees add aura to this festival. The ladies arranged the Puja Upachar and male members whole heartedly joined on hands for other preparations. Daily more than 1000 people were served Puja Mohabhog (Prasad/food of Maa Durga)

Daily Cultural programme performed by local talent at Puja Pandal premises mesmerized the visiting audience.

The Maha Navami Puja was celebrated today with great fervour by the Ramakrishna Mission of Jammu at the Mission premises at Udheywala.

A large number of devotees, local people gathered for the celebration. The full day celebration was started at early morning with Mangalarati and Vedic chanting. A special Pooja, Havan and Pushpanjali was performed under the guidance of Swami Yajnadarhananda Ji, secretary of the Mission.



Devotees immersing Sakh in river Tawi as 9-day long Navratra festival culminated on Tuesday. -Excelsior/Rakesh

The day-long celebration ended after evening Aarti and Bhajan. Bhog Prasad was also distributed to the devotees in the afternoon.

To inculcate the moral and spiritual values among the masses, Bhagawaan Gopinathji Trust organized a nine days long spiritual activity during the auspicious days of Navratra at the Bhagawaan Gopinathji Ashram, Udheywala, Bohri near here. Hundreds of devotees thronged the Ashram daily from September 26 to October 4.

As per Ashram handout spiritual activities were held at the Ashram from 4-30 am to 7-30 am daily during Navratra days for invoking the blessings of Mother Goddess during which more than three crore Mantras were recited.

The Hawan actually started on the evening of September 25 and Puran Ahuti was offered on October 4 afternoon marking the culmination of nine days spiritual activity. This was followed by serving of Prasad to devotees. A huge gathering of devotees paid obeisance to Bhagawaan and prayed for peace and universal well being. The Hawan was also performed during nine days at Kharyar Srinagar, Ashram of Bhagawaan Ji.

Navratra Celebrations were held in Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Gandhi Nagar here.

Today i.e on Ram Naumi a Hawan Yagya was conducted wherein besides Member Trustees, devotees in large numbers took part.

After completion of Hawan

Farooq addresses public meetings in Marwah

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 4: On the second day of his Chenab valley tour, National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah addressed a number of public gatherings in Marwah area today.

Addressing a public gathering at Astangam in the first leg of his Warwan, Marwah tour, Dr Farooq Abdullah asked devotees to forge unity and fight for the common challenges together.

Dr Farooq is accompanied by General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar, Chief

Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, MP Hasnain Masoodi, senior leader Sajad Kitchloo and Qazi Jalal Ud Din.

Stressing on the importance of maintaining unity in the ongoing struggle for restoration of J&K's rights, Dr Farooq said, "I see no way of achieving anything in J&K without a lasting unity between different sections of our society. Unity in diversity must be our creed to last for all times and under all circumstances, otherwise there is no end in sight to our common problems in the shape of poverty, unemployment."

BSF 'Retreat Ceremony' along IB in Jammu completes one year

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 4: The 'Retreat Ceremony' along the International Border here has successfully completed one



Opp. Apsra Cineplex, Apsra Road, Gandhi Nagar

year with the BSF contemplating to increase the seating capacity owing to its growing popularity among the people, officials said.

The "Wagah-Attari-style" ceremony, comprising a structured parade by the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel on every Saturday and Sunday, was launched on October 2 last year as part of the border tourism promotion programme of the Government.

BSF band live display, splendid retreat parade and visit up to the zero line are the key features of the ceremony and during the last one year, the parade has been witnessed by thousands of tourists, VVIPs and celebrities.

"This event has now become a centre of attraction for the locals as well as tourists and part of the overall tourism package," a BSF official said.

He said the parade was conceptualised by BSF Frontier Headquarters, Jammu, in collaboration with the Tourism Department and after a lot of efforts and hard work, the retreat ceremony was inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha last year.

"The retreat ceremony has become popular among the masses and the number of visitors are increasing day by day. Seeing its popularity, the BSF has decided to increase the seating capacity to accommodate more visitors and has included presentation of cultural programmes during the retreat ceremony," the official said.

He said the retreat parade was appreciated at all levels for effective awareness of national integration and inculcating a sense of national pride among spectators.

Various eminent personalities have visited and witnessed the retreat ceremony and in the past one year, its popularity has grown manifold, the official said.

Inspector General of BSF, Jammu Frontier, D K Boora said the force is working in close tandem with civil administration to make it a bigger event.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah offering prayers at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine on Tuesday.

Home Minister Shah pays obeisance at Vaishno Devi shrine on Maha Navami

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 4: Union Home Minister Amit Shah today visited the famous Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district on Maha Navami festival and offered his prayers.

Accompanied by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Union Minister Jitendra Singh, the Home Minister arrived at Sanji Chhat by helicopter to pay

his obeisance at the shrine on the concluding day of the nine-day Navratra celebrations, officials said.

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

Before visiting the shrine, Shah in a tweet greeted the people of the country on Maha Navami festival.

"Wishing everyone a very happy Mahanavami. May Maa

Bhagwati shower her grace and blessings on everyone. Jai Mata Di!," the Home Minister tweeted in Hindi.

The officials said stringent security arrangements have been made at the shrine in view of the Home Minister's visit.

He was received by senior officers of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) including its Chief Executive Officer Anshul Garg and prominent people and religious leaders, the officials said.

EJAC pledges to get issues of J&K employees resolved

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 4: Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC), Jammu and Kashmir has pledged to get the issues of J&K employees resolved at the earliest.

A meeting of the EJAC was held here today under the leadership of its president, Fayaz Ahmad Shabnam. The meeting took stock of the activities of organization viz-a-viz the resolution of the issues faced by the employees of J&K at different levels. A satisfaction was expressed on the working of different units of the organization.

Among other things, the meeting also discussed the issue of strengthening the organization at grass root level. The meeting pledged that the organization works in unison and won't let down its cadres and the general employees at any level. The meeting urged the Government to restore all the pending issues including minimum wages / regularization of daily wagers and all

types of temporary workers, release of next installment of 4% DA without any further delay as the employee fraternity is working with more dedication and transparency is maintained at all levels.

The issues of employees raised by the organization through meetings, memoranda, social media, one-to-one meetings need to be restored as the stake holders are pressing hard for the same. It was assured that all the efforts would be made to get the pending issues of the employees resolved at the earliest.

Meanwhile, a 4-member committee was constituted to look for the upcoming election for the presidential post of EJAC which would be headed by Mohd. Altaf Handoo (General Secretary EJAC).

Those who addressed the meeting include Mohd. Akbar Khan, Moh Altaf Handoo, Nasir Ahmad Bhat, Showkat Ahmad Bhat, Arsalan Habib Bhat, Abdul Rashid Sheikh, Mohammad Ashraf Dar and Mansoor Ahmad Bhat.

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