

Maha Shivratri Mela at Shiv Khori from Feb 16

GJ REPORT REASI, FEB 4: A three-day Maha Shivratri Mela at Shiv Khori, the famous cave would be held from February 16. This was disclosed by District Development Commissioner Reasi, Sushma Chauhan, who convened the meeting of officers to discuss the arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Mela here today.



DDC Reasi, Sushma Chauhan addressing officers during a meeting in Reasi on Wednesday

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shiv Kumar Gupta informed the meeting that the three day festival would commence at Shiv Khori (Ransoo), with Jhankhis which will start from Tourist Reception Centre, Ransoo and culminate at Darshani Deodi. The

tableaux and participating groups would be depicting various aspects of Lord Shiva.

Cultural programmes, devotional songs, dances and Dargah are major attractions of the festival. Government departments

would install stalls and langars would also be arranged.

The DDC issued specific instructions to Police and Traffic departments to ensure foolproof security and traffic arrangements so that the devotees do not face any inconvenience during

the festival. Similarly, PDD and PHE were asked to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply during the festival and repair the defunct lights especially enroute cave.

ARTO was directed to arrange sufficient number of buses for transportation of pilgrims. The Rural Development Department would ensure face-lifting of shrine besides R&B (PWD) was asked to start repair work of dilapidated approach roads.

The Tourism Department would display flex/hoardings at prominent places in Jammu, Katra, and Reasi etc with a contact number for information of general public.



PRESERVING CULTURE: Women attired in traditional dress during a YDA function in Nang village make the environs of Cold Desert charming and colourful. MORUP

DGP directs cops to help in easing people's problems in snow bound areas

GJ REPORT JAMMU, FEB 4: The Director General of Police (DGP), K. Rajendra Kumar has directed all ranks of Jammu and Kashmir Police to extend their help to the people and the civil administration to minimize the hardships faced by the people in snow bound areas.

In a communiqué issued by Police Headquarters (PHQ) here today, Rajendra has said that the people of affected snow bound areas are experiencing difficulties on various fronts, more so, due to poor communication and other basic needs. It has become imperative for the cops to extend every possible help in minimizing the problems of the populace. He said that snowfall in remote areas has added to the problems of people and JKP has a human responsibility to come forward for their help.

The DGP also asked all field officers including Range Dy Inspectors General of Police, District

Superintendents of Police, SDPOs and SHOs for mobilizing their resources for road clearance in the snow bound areas so that road connectivity is restored at the earliest. He asked them to monitor the weather situation and sound alerts in the upper reaches to tackle any exigency due to snow fall. He stressed upon better coordination with civil administration to ease the problems of the people caused due to bad weather and road blockades.

In the communiqué, Rajendra has asked the field officers to remain available within their jurisdictions and provide every assistance to the civil administration in restoration of road connectivity, electricity, medical facilities and other essential services. He said that as per past practice JKP would remain available for the service of the people and provide helping hand to the needy people, especially the patients to ferry them to nearby hospitals.

Cultural Academy organizes workshop for teachers



Principal DIET, Konchok Angmo addressing teachers during the workshop in Leh on Wednesday

GJ REPORT LEH, FEB 4: In its endeavour towards preservation of Ladakhi culture and heritage, the J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages (JKAACL), Leh organized a day long workshop for teachers at District Institute for Education & Training (DIET) here today. Some of these teachers are attending the 2nd phase of 20 days orientation programme while the rest are the newly appointed teachers attending it as an induction training programme organized by DIET.

Principal DIET, Konchok Angmo stressing upon the need for professionalism among the teaching fraternity said that such workshops will

help them in getting overall knowledge and understanding of education beside academics. She said that in terms of salary these days teachers are well paid and in return they should be dedicated in performing their duty realizing their responsibilities of taking the best to give the best to their students.

Expressing gratitude to Cultural Academy, Leh she said, "I'm hopeful that the teachers will prove to be the best medium to infuse cultural and moral wisdom among our younger generation and this workshop will indeed help in preserving the rich cultural heritage and language of Ladakh."

The resource persons on the occasion were Gen. Tsering Chospel, Tsewang Dorje (Dongbos), Chimet Namgial and Tsetan Angchuk.

Gen. Tsering Chospel spoke in general on heritage; its meaning, importance, need and about the heritage values of Ladakh. He stressed upon the need to preserve the tangible and non-tangible heritage which he said is the base on which a society builds its identity, values, customs, tradition and culture. He said that the first thing to speak of our identity is our dress and language and we must value them with pride.

Aba Tsewang Dorje with his vast knowledge of language spoke on the

importance of practicing and promoting Ladakhi language and script citing cases of some extinct languages as per a survey report. He laid emphasis on using local language as medium of instruction in schools and said that written and spoken language is the best tool to preserve heritage. He said that the future depends on teachers and urged them to have 10 best qualities of a teacher and communicate with the students in mother tongue and mixing it with other languages.

Chimet Namgial, Editor, Ladakh Sargyur while highlighting the rich cultural heritage cautioned that it was facing the threat of losing its originality. He too stressed on the responsibility of the teachers in this context. Tsetan Angchuk staged a practical demonstration of theatre in education through artists and spoke about importance of theatre in building confidence, exploring creativity and talent among the children at school level. He said that theatre is an effective play way teaching method which is child centric.

An interacting session was also held between the resource persons and teachers. Making Ladakhi dress as school uniforms and inclusion of Bhoti in the 8th schedule of Indian constitution came up for discussion during the session.

Phuktal blockage: NDMA Expert team to reach Ladakh on Feb 8

GJ REPORT JAMMU, FEB 4: Consequent to the intervention by Governor, N.N. Vohra, urging the NDMA to constitute a Multi-Disciplinary Expert Group to evolve an Action Plan for dealing with the situation arising out of the landslides and consequential blockage of the river Phuktal in Zaskar Sub Division of the district Kargil, an Expert Committee has been constituted by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) which will reach Leh on 8th February 2015 and from there proceed to the blockage site. This was decided in a meeting held in NDMA on 3rd February 2015.

The Expert Committee comprises V.D. Roy, Director CWC as team leader; O.P. Gupta, Director CWC; B.D. Patni, Director NHPC; B.M. Gairola, Director, GSI; Maheshwar Singh, Officer Surveyor, SOI; R.K. Varma, Scientist-F, SASE; R.K. Dhiman, SE HQ, Vijayak; Major Abhishek Kumar, 70 Engineering Regt.; Rajesh Kumar Basotra, SDM

Zaskar and a Medical officer to be nominated by the State Government. Deputy Commissioner Kargil shall be the Nodal Officer for conducting and liaising with the Committee which would work out the modalities for mitigating the situation arising out of the blockage after physically visiting the site.

The District Administration of Leh and Kargil have already taken various preventive measures including stopping the movement of people on the Chadder trek between Chilling and Padum in the Ladakh region, and also cautioning people residing in the adjoining areas. A Raj Bhavan Spokesperson recalled that following the directions of the Governor, N.N. Vohra, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir has made arrangements for airlifting of persons who have been stranded due to the stoppage of movement of people on the Chadar route. The District Administrations of both the districts are also working on detailed communication, rehabilitation and rescue plans.

Gyalwang Drukpa, Spalbar visit stray animals care centre



His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa, Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche and CEC Rigzin Spalbar posing for group photo near the Stray Animal Care and Management Centre in Leh on Wednesday.

MORUP STANZIN LHAJAY LEH, FEB, 4: His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa Rinpoche visited 'Stray Animal Care and Management Centre Nang run by Young Drukpa Association (YDA) under their project 'Live to Rescue'. While taking round of the Management Centre where 250 sick, injured and ferocious dogs and pregnant bitches are being treated by the management, Gyalwang Drukpa thoroughly interacted with the 'Live to Rescue' Field Coordinator, Rigzin Dorjay to know about the functioning of Centre. LAHDC CEC Rigzin Spalbar, Executive Councilor for Animal Husbandry Officer Gurmet Dorjay, Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche, Ugyen Rinpoche, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. Abdul Qayoom, Hemis Chakzot, Chemday Chakzot, Additional SP T. Gyalpo and other dignitaries were also present during his visit.

His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa in his speech said that since his childhood days he had a great passion for stray animals besides environmental issues and accordingly he urged Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche to come up with such Centre so that stray animals in Ladakh can be looked after here. He expressed his gratitude to Nang villagers for allotting the land to set

up the management Centre. He preached that all living beings have equal rights on the "Planet Earth" to live happily and therefore we must live harmoniously and happily without harming stray animals. He urged the people to develop love and compassion towards such stray animals which earns greater merits of Karma than performing rituals and prayers. He expressed his sincere gratitude to hotel Grand Dragon for providing food to the Centre.

LAHDC CEC Rigzin Spalbar in his speech said that Ladakh is such a region where variety of wild animals and people have been

living harmoniously for centuries but due to the drastic developments taking place such problems of stray animals increased thus leading to the need for such centre. He highly appreciated the role of NGOs and other stakeholders who have come forward to curb the menace.

Earlier, Presenting the welcome speech 'Live to Rescue' Project Coordinator Rinchen Wacher informed that the centre is just nine months old established and run with the support of "Ladakh Animal Welfare Society" (LAWS), Animal

Husbandry Department, Municipal Committee and Dutch World Animal Job Foundation. He expressed satisfaction over people voluntarily coming forward to adopt the stray animals, which is the aim of the centre.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. Abdul Qayoom said that there are 6000 stray dogs in Ladakh and the department with the support of YDA and other stakeholders is committed to intensify the Animal Birth Control (ABC) & Anti Rabies (AR) programme to cover at least

80% of the dog population in one go by end of this year.

On the occasion all stakeholders were felicitated with citations and Khataks and Hotel Grand Dragon contribution in providing leftover food to the centre was highly appreciated by all.

YDA President Padma Tashi urged the people to adopt one dog per household in Ladakh adding that then J&K Urban Development Minister, Nawang Rigzin Jora sanctioned ₹ 35 lakh for the Centre.

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