

Swami Vishwatamanandji inaugurates "Idols Installation" of Ram, Shiv Parivaars at Thakurdwara Temple, Nowshera

JAMMU : His holiness Atal Peethadshwar Rajguru Acharya Mahamandleshwar Shri Shri 1008 Shri Swami Vishwatamanand Saraswati Maharaj inaugurated the "Idol Installation" of Ram Parivaar, Shiv Parivaar along with other idols with religious fervour at Thakurdwara Temple, Nowshera. Earlier, Swamiji got warm reception by the locals and temple administration.

Delivering religious sermons on the occasion, Vishwatamanand Ji Maharaj said that those who are dear devotees of God, they keep their abode at the same place where God is established. Shri Ram is a social, political, practical, enlightened, preacher from any point of view.

"Lord Shri Ram is an ideal husband, ideal son, ideal king, ideal father, is also a very juicy God's pastime, everyone inside this

world wishes that we should progress, this is the way to progress, we take care of our



culture. If we leave our culture, then we will not progress", Swamiji added. In the welcome ceremony,

Shri Shri 1008 Mahamandleshwar Santosh Das Moniji Maharaj said that

Swamiji you are Brahmam, you are the crown of us at the feet of Swamiji, keep us like feet, you have come to

Nowshera and have done the same thing. On this occasion Shri Shri 1008

Mahamandleshwar Indradevsharanand Maharaj and other saints were also present.

'Last chance for resurrection': Navjot Singh Sidhu writes to Sonia Gandhi on 13 issues in Punjab

JAMMU, October 17 : Punjab Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu has written to party president Sonia Gandhi, seeking a meeting to present a 13-point agenda for the party's campaign for the Assembly polls due next year. Stating that this is "Punjab's last chance for resurrection and redemption," Sidhu sought a personal meeting with Sonia Gandhi.

Among the points highlighted by Sidhu in the letter are justice in sacrilege cases, Punjab's drugs menace, agricultural issues, employment opportunities, sand mining, and welfare of backward classes. Sidhu also stated that the Cabinet should have a Majbhi Sikh, a Dalit from Doaba, and two backward class ministers.

The letter dated October 15, was shared by Sidhu on Twitter today. Interestingly, Sidhu shared the letter, a day after she had addressed the Congress Working

Committee and told the party leaders to get in touch with her directly instead of choosing the media route.

Raising the issue of liquor in the agenda, Sidhu has demanded that the liquor trade in the state should be centralised and a Corporation should run it. On sand mining, Sidhu has once again supported his earlier model of providing sand at a fixed reasonable price to the end-user. He has also listed regular jobs and stated that at least 20 employees unions are already protesting against the contractual system in the state.

"It might be the last damage control exercise or else, Mafia-Raj ruling the state

patronized by the Badals will take the state to the extent of financial emergency, joblessness, corruption, and agrarian crisis, from which, there will be no return," Sidhu wrote. He also requested a personal



audience from Gandhi to present to her the Punjab Model with a 13-Point Agenda to be part of the Congress Manifesto for the 2022 Assembly Elections. Sidhu had stepped down as Punjab Congress chief on September 28 and posted his resignation letter on Twitter.

The letter was made public ahead of a coordination meeting scheduled for Sunday evening in Chandigarh. The meeting is to be attended by Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, AICC observer Harish Chaudhary and PPC general secretary in-charge Pargat Singh. It remains to be seen whether Sidhu participates in the meeting or not.

Earlier this week, Sidhu met Rahul Gandhi in Delhi. His meeting with Gandhi came a day after he met AICC general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal and Rawat at the AICC head-

quarters. Rawat was also present during Sidhu's meeting with Gandhi, which stretched on for one and a half hours.

Rawat Friday said that Sidhu has been "assured" that his concerns will be addressed and that he will soon resume his duties as the state chief.

Emerging from the meeting with Gandhi, Sidhu told the media: "Whatever concerns I had, I shared those with Rahul ji. All those concerns are sorted out". He refused to speak anything on his resignation.

During the meeting with Venugopal and Rawat, Sidhu raised his concerns over the 18-point agenda taken up by the Captain Amarinder

Singh-led government, on which actions are pending. These included action against those involved in the sacrilege issue and the drugs mafia. After a long spell of infighting in the state

Congress unit, Amarinder Singh had resigned in September and Charanjit Singh Channi was sworn in as the new leader.

Appointed PPC chief on July 19, Sidhu resigned in September, minutes after allocation of portfolios to ministers in the new government headed by Charanjit Singh Channi. According to Congress leaders familiar with the developments in Punjab, although Sidhu had his say in some of the crucial decisions post-Captain Amarinder Singh's resignation from the top post, he was "angry and upset" that his suggestions were ignored in the appointment of some top officials.

Upper reaches witness fresh snowfall, plains lashed by rains in Kashmir

Srinagar, Oct 17 : Upper catchment areas of Kashmir valley witnessed snowfall while the plains were lashed by rains since midnight Sunday unleashing wintry condition in the region.

The wintry conditions prevailed in the Kashmir valley where intermittent rains lashed since midnight causing considerable drop in the temperature.

People mostly preferred to remain indoors due to the wet weather and wintry conditions around. Many people were seen wearing warm jackets to escape the cold in Srinagar where the minimum temperature settled at 11.3 degree Celsius a few notches below the normal. The vendors had put their stalls in the traditional Sunday Market all along the road from the Poloview to Lalchowk, but due to intermittent rains fewer customers were seen purchasing warm clothes.

Meteorological centre in Srinagar has forecast of light to moderate rain and snow over the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir to con-

tinue till Monday afternoon. It said Overall improvement in the weather will be from October 19 onwards. There will be no major snowfall or rain in the region for next

morning of Sunday. The minimum temperature remains at 5.0 Celsius.

Official sources said upper reaches of picturesque Sonamarg, Pahalgam,

The MeT official said Srinagar received rainfall of 2.4 mm while minimum, Qazigund, 2.3 mm. Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir recorded a



week, the MeT office added. A report from ski resort of Gulmarg said the sky was overcast and light rainfall of 7.8 mm was recorded in the

Yousmarg and Pir Panjal Range of mountains witnessed light snowfall, while plains were lashed by intermittent rains.

low of 7.6°C, he said, and added Kupwara the frontier north Kashmir district received 2.4 mm of rain till 0830 hours Sunday morning.

Abrogation of Article 370 paved path for a new Jammu and Kashmir: Kavinder Gupta

New Delhi, Oct 17 : Abrogation of Article 370 has paved the path to a Naya (new) Jammu and Kashmir, said former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Kavinder Gupta on Sunday.

Gupta said, "Mohan Bhagwat had visited Jammu and Kashmir this October. It is true that after the abrogation of Article 370, terrorism, corruption and separatism have been curbed today. The efforts made by our security forces, administration, and central government show that a 'Naya Jammu and Kashmir' is moving forward.

"Discrimination against Ladakh and Jammu was going on continuously and no rights were given to Valmiki Samaj, Pakistani refugees and Gorkha Samaj for 70 years. They were deprived of their rights while living in their own country. Today a

new era of government has started where Kashmir and Jammu are being treated

equally. Terrorism is being curbed...Those who used to openly support terrorism, are also being restrained," he

stated. He said the terrorists have given proof of their cow-



equally. Terrorism is being curbed...Those who used to openly support terrorism, are also being restrained," he

ardice with the targeted killings of civilians. "They are nervous because they know that their time will end

in the coming days," he said. On Mehbooba Mufti, Gupta said, "She has said that she will do constructive dialogue with the local people. What does she want? The relations among people are becoming better than before. The reason for conducting district development council and block development council elections was that the local people can be vocal about their issues. I do not know why she repeatedly supports Pakistan.

The only connection we should have from Pakistan is that we will take back our Kashmir (PoJK). So stop advocating their issues." Asked about the removal of late Hurriyat leader Ali Shah Geelani's son from the administration, the BJP leader said, "He used to constantly support the activities of terrorism. One of his brothers is already a terrorist."

NCC Cadets of GCW Udhampur participate in Mission Shakti at DPL

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 17 : The NCC Cadets of Government College for Women Udhampur participated in one-month long self

The purpose of this camp was to make the participating Girls self dependent and also to set an example of women empowerment. The

kick, full rise kick and their techniques.

They were also taught about 'how to tackle such unexpected and unprepared

for this activity and appreciated the cadets and said "These types of self defence activities and training are very important and useful for



-defence training camp for girls of schools and colleges organised by District Police, Udhampur under Mission Shakti -An Endeavour to Empower the Girls.

training included stretching exercises, jumping & running, followed by the basic knowledge about self defence like different types of kicks i.e in out kick, front

situations mostly when you are alone, how to defend and save yourself from somebody's attack.

Prof. Minu Mahajan thanked the District Police

every person but most importantly for girls and women so that they become self dependent and become an example of women empowerment."

Dr Gera chairs maiden meeting of Poplar Commission

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 17 : The "Poplar Commission" recently constituted by the government held its maiden meeting here under the chairmanship of Principal Chief Conservator Forests (HoFF), Dr. Mohit Gera.

Pertinently, the Commission has been constituted to advise on introduction, cultivation, utilization and regulation of poplars as well as formulation of policy on Poplar cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir.

The first of its kind in the country, the Commission is being chaired by PCCF and Head of Forest Force with members and experts from Forest Department, Social Forestry Department, SKUAST and allied fields including representatives from Wood Based Industry, poplar growing farmers and nursery growers.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Mohit Gera informed that as the Poplar cultivation is well suited to the climate and ecology of Jammu and Kashmir, there is a huge potential of increasing the scale of its planting and utilization. He informed about the import of wood to the tune of Rs. 500 crore in J&K saying that promotion of Wood Based Industry can substitute for this import as well as value added products could be made for export from J&K. This will create employment opportunities and enhance the GDP of the

UT, he added. He said that growing of wood and making of wood-based products is being promoted all across the world as



wood is seen as carbon neutral and environmentally friendly option compared to other materials like steel and cement. J&K is blessed with abundant resources and scope to promote more production of wood as well use of more wood for sustainable development, he added.

The Commission focused on important issues on improving the quality of planting stock of Poplar, cultivation techniques, improving new fast-growing varieties, varied requirement of the industry as well as the problems being faced by the farmers, nursery growers in cultivation as well as issues on marketing of Poplar wood. Meanwhile, different

committees were constituted to recommend plan of action on introduction, cultivation, and utilization of Poplar by the Commission. The impor-

tant issue of regulation of nurseries and production of only male poplar clones was also discussed and roadmap was drawn in this regard.

The Commission was unanimous on the need for creation of mass awareness for all the stakeholders especially the farmers and nursery growers on latest fast-growing varieties and cultivation and management techniques of growing poplars so that quality wood is produced in minimum time for better returns.

The meeting was attended by Roshan Jaggi, Director of Social Forestry, Dr Tariq Masoodi, Dean Forestry, SKUAST, Kashmir, Ramesh Kumar, Chief Conservator of

Forests, Jammu, Maraj -Uddin Malik, Regional Director Social Forestry, Kashmir, Dr Harpreet Kour, Special Secretary (Technical), Forest,

Ecology & Environment Department, Dr Tariq representing Director, Forest Research Institute, J&K, Dr Samant, Director, Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla Dr. R.C. Dhiman, Expert besides General Secretary, South Kashmir Wood Supplies Union, President, Pencil Slats/Block Manufacturing Association, Kashmir, Asafia Padroo, Additional Advocate General, J&K High Court, Srinagar (Legal Expert), Nadeem Qadri, NGO, Environment Lawyer, representatives from Nursery Growers Associated with cultivation/production of Poplar (representing South and North Kashmir).

Good news for Jammu litterateurs; upcoming 'Writers Club' to complete soon

JAMMU : Finally the dream is coming true for the Jammu based litterateurs as the much awaited 'Writers Club' is nearing completion and lily to be inaugurated by year end.

The upcoming complex, which is almost ready, will be the first of its kind for the Jammu writers, authors and artists and is expected to be ready by the end of current year. Exclusive Writers Club was one of the major and long pending demands of the Jammu authors. The construction work for Writers Club was initiated in the year 2017 and was supposed to be completed by May 2019 but allegedly facing neglect, the construction came to a standstill.

However, after the creation of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, the work was expedited and the dream of having its own 'Writers Club' for the authors will soon be fulfilled as the project in its last leg of completion at Jammu Kashmir Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages complex.

Interiors, installation of chairs in the conference hall, library and other furnishings has been paced up for its completion this year.

literary personality from Jammu. He said that the 'blue

The Club will be having facilities like auditorium, library, club office, sitting

did not have an exclusive place to spend time in reading and penning down their



print' was ready with the government way back but the project could not be matured, reasons better known to the successive governments, adding, "anyhow, we are happy that finally it is coming up after resubmission of fresh designs and drawings to the concerned authorities."

In July 2018, former Governor NN Vohra had laid the foundation of the Writers Club and its deadline was fixed for May 2019, he disclosed and said, "the club is coming up at 12,000 square feet space"

room and accommodation for outstation authors. The lawns will be having meeting rooms, book reviews section while the gallery will be on the second floor in front of the auditorium, which is a nice place for the literary class.

Green room, tart studio, exhibition hall, studios, canteen for men and women are also among other services coming up for the visitors. "We are hopeful that with completion of this club, literary activities will be on rise because earlier, such classes

thoughts," expressed another writer. "We want it to be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. Besides internet and computer facilities, e-library facilities should also be set up and a healthy ambience must be provided to the authors," he said.

The administration by taking the literary people on board must also frame rules and regulations of the Writers Club for its appropriate use so that the writers do suffer in future, suggested a renowned author.