

15,000 devotees converge at ancient Subar Nag temple to celebrate Baisakhi festival

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BHADARWAH: To welcome the spring after prolonged harsh winters, thousands of Nag devotees converged at ancient high altitude Subar-Nag temple in Jammu and Kashmir's additional district Bhaderwah to celebrate country's first Baisakhi festival on Thursday.

Located at a height of 12,000 feet from the sea level, the doors (Kevaar) of the 1600 years old temple were opened today on the eve of Baisakhi festival.

The ancient festival which marks the beginning of spring in this hilly region, symbolising the ancient Naga culture of Bhadarwah is considered the first Baisakhi festival in the country, as in other parts of the state or elsewhere in the country, the spring festival will be celebrated tomorrow.

The traditional celebrations started early in morning with the opening of doors of the 1600-year-old temple at Subar Dhar, 35 Km from Bhadarwah town followed by sacrificing of rams.

Hundreds of devotees converged at hill top meadow surrounded with snow peaked mountains after trekking 12 km steep hill to pay their obeisance to the Lord Subar Nag. Our District Correspondent Raja Rehber Jamal after covering 12 KM



Devotees in queue to pay obeisance at Subag Nag temple. (Pic by Raja Rehber Jamal).

steep hill by foot reached the ancient Temple to cover the mega event.

On this occasion dozens of sheep were sacrificed as per ancient custom.

"This festival has not only the religious importance but this is also the most ancient festival of this area. Devotees from the different parts of the valley including Chintia, Bhalra and Sharora arrive here with holy mace to have blessings of Lord Subhar Nag.

"The doors of 1600 year old tem-

ple were thrown open for the devotees this morning," Anil Kumar Raina, head Priest of the historic Temple said.

Locals demanded that the ancient spring festival which is celebrated since time immemorial be brought under pilgrimage tourism.

"This is not only ancient and historic festival symbolizing the unique Nag Culture but the temple is also located amidst lush green grasslands surrounded with snow peaked mountain," said Phulail Singh (61)

head organiser of the mela.

"Having all the ingredients to attract devotees and tourists from across the globe, the tourism department and BDA (Bhaderwah Development Authority) has done nothing concrete so far to project it as pilgrimage destination," Phulail Singh added.

"After four months of dull life, during which we mostly remain indoors due to harsh climatic conditions and snow, this festival which marks the new spring season, not only rejuvenates us but also gives us a chance to meet our relatives and friends. "Besides all our wishes are full filled by Lord Subhar Nag," a young devotee, Diksha (21), said.

SP Bhadarwah Kameshwar Puri said that elaborate security arrangements were made to facilitate the smooth conduct of the spring festival.

"A total of 15,000 devotees, including 9,500 women visited the ancient temple. To keep the high altitude meadow clean and free from plastic waste, BDO Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar has deployed men and collection kiosks to collect polythene and plastic waste," said Kameshwar Puri SP Bhadarwah.

Rich tributes paid to General Zorawar Singh on 237th Birth anniversary



DC Babila Rakwal, prominent citizens and other civil society members during the programme.

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REASI: District Administration Reasi, along with General Zorawar Singh Memorial Education Trust Reasi, organised a tribute paying function to mark the 237th birth anniversary of General Zorawar Singh.

On the occasion, floral tributes were offered to the statue of the great warrior by Deputy Commissioner Babila Rakwal , Prominent Citizens and other civil society members.

GOC Mukesh Trivedi, SMCIF (R) was the chief guest and DC Reasi was the Guest of Honour on the occasion.

In his address, Mukesh Tridev said that General

Zorawar Singh was known for his valour and he conquered and expanded the Dogra state upto Lahsa. "To commemorate the valour, selfless service and sacrifice of Zorawar Singh, his birth anniversary should be celebrated every year" she added.

Folk Dance, Cultural programme and a short film depicting life history of General Zorwar was also screened at the DC office complex auditorium.

On this occasion, Brig. Vijay Sagar, DIO Rajinder Dighra ,Tehsildar Reasi Suresh Singh, AD Handloom, Social Activist and prominent Citizens were present.

Handloom and Handicrafts department's Bamboo jewellery Stall was a major attraction of the day.

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Voters' awareness rally held at Majalta

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UDHAMPUR: A voters' awareness rally was held at Government Higher Secondary School Majalta to educate the public about the importance of the election process in democracy. The rally was organised under the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Udhampur and Electoral Registration Officer for Udhampur West-59 and East-60 Constituencies, Rafiq Ahmad Jaral; BDC Chairman, Dina Nath; DDC Member, Amit Sharma; and Tehsildar, Majalta Uttam Palsar participated in the rally along with representatives of other departments, students, staff members and the general public.

The objective of the rally was to disseminate information about Special Summary Revision 2023 to achieve 100% enrollment of eligible voters. The focus is on registering all youth who have attained the qualifying age of 18 years on 1st April 2023.

Prospective voters who will attain the age of 18 years on 1st July 2023 and on 1st October 2023 may also submit their documents for enrollment.

The Summary revision commenced on 5th April and will culminate on 20th April 2023.

GDC Neeli Nallah celebrates Birth Anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar under mission G20 awareness

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UDHAMPUR: To commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, NSS Unit, Government Degree College Neeli Nallah, Udhampur organized a symposium on the topic "Contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar towards Indian Society" under the banner G20.

The program started with the floral tribute to Dr. B. R Ambedkar by the Principal, staff members and students of the college. The whole event was conducted under the guidance of Principal of the College, Prof. Hans Raj.

In the symposium, students elaborately expressed



Principal of College, Prof. Hans Raj paying tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

their views on the theme Simran Roy, student of sem- IV secured 1st position, Rekha Devi, student of sem- VI secured 2nd position and Ramneek Sharma, student of sem -II secured 3rd position

Imtiyaz Ahmed Bhatti,

Lecturer in Political Science, also spoke about the contribution of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in drafting the Constitution of India.

The Principal of the college, Prof Hans Raj, emphasised "We should not forget the contribution of

DLSA Kathua hosts sensitisation programme on 'Early Access to Justice at Pre-Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage'

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KATHUA: Under the aegis of NALSA and as per the Action Plan issued by J&K Legal Services Authority, (JKLSA) for April, 2023 and also under the supervision of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Kathua, (also Principal District and Sessions Judge Kathua) Jaffer Hussain Beg, a Sensitisation program on "Early Access to Justice at Pre-Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage" was organised by District Legal Services Authority Kathua at ADR Centre, District Court Kathua today.

The program was organised in collaboration with Department of Police Kathua. Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Kathua Advocate Puneet Kumari, was the resource person in this program. The resource person explained in detail about the NALSA SOP on Early Access to justice at Pre-Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage to the needy suspects and arrestees during interrogation and other early stages of investigation, to decrease the vulnerabilities of suspects and arrestees, to assist in avoiding unnecessary arrests and to assist the arrestees in filing bail applications and furnishing bail bonds. She also discussed the guidelines/directions issued by the Hon'ble Apex Court in case titled Armesh Kumar Vs State of Bihar Citation 2014 (8) SCC 273. Secretary, District Legal Services Authority Kathua Rekha Kapoor Nischal, also spoke on the occasion. The proceedings of the program were conducted by Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel Adv. Neeraj Kumar. The program was attended by Incharge CPO DPO (SSP) Office Kathua Munish Kumar, Investigating Officers of Police Department Kathua, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA, Kathua.

Govt initiates tendering process of Rs 375 crore Gandola project for Bhadarwah; locals, BJP workers celebrate



Locals and BJP workers during celebrations.

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BHADARWAH: To express their gratitude towards Government especially Nitin Gadkari and Dr Jitendra Singh, Hundreds of BJP workers and locals of Bhadarwah constituency converged at Bhadarwah to celebrate the initiating tendering process of prestigious 375 Cr Gandola (Rope way) project in Bhadarwah by Union Government.

Hundreds of BJP workers and office bearers led by ex MLA Daleep Singh Parihar assembled in BJP Mandal office Bhadarwah and took

out gratitude rally towards Lakshmi Narayan Chowk Bhadarwah.

DDC Chairman Doda Dhananther Singh, DDC Councillor Yudhvir Thakur and General Secretary Sanjay Saraf along with other senior party workers participated in the rally and expressed gratitude to Union Minister Dr Jatinder Singh and Minister of surface Transport and highways, Nitin Gadkari for initiating tender process to the much awaited prestigious project of Seoj Gandola Project in Bhadarwah to boost pilgrim-

age tourism.

The workers raised slogans in favour of BJP party and PM Narinder Modi for providing all sort of help to boost the economy of the region by initiating different development projects.

While addressing Media, Ex MLA Daleep Singh Parihar said that the Seoj Gandola (Ropeway) project will boost pilgrimage tourism in Bhadarwah. It was a long pending demand of the people and with tendering process of this project, it will change the fortunes of the region especially of Bhadarwah.

Parihar said that "It's really a dream come true for the residents of entire Chenab Region in general and people of Bhaderwah in particular as this project will open new avenues of opportunities especially unemployed youth will get job in this mega project." They also express their gratitude to Dr Jatinder Singh for his untiring efforts to get the tendering of the project.

Change of Land Use: DLC approves 2 cases in Rajouri

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RAJOURI: The District Level Committee (DLC) on change of land today approved two cases of conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural use here at its meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, which held a thorough discussion on the applications received online from across the district. The Committee, after a threadbare discussion, approved 02 cases of conversion of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes.

Necessary directions

were also issued to the concerned departments to ensure timely issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) after proper verification of documents and rules under land conversion Regulations, 2022.

Officers who attended the meeting included DFO Rajouri, Arshdeep Singh; ADC Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria; CEO RDA, Vivek Puri; ACR, Inuran Rashid Kataria; SE PWD(R&B), Kamal Kishore; SE Hydraulics, Bharam Jyoti Sharma; DO PCB, Anupam Koul; CAO, Sohan Singh and other concerned officers.

Deputy Commissioner pays rich tributes to martyrs on Rajouri Day



DC Rajouri, Vikas Kundal laying wreath.

bered and serve as an inspiration for generations to come," said Deputy Commissioner Kundal.

The event was attended by DDC Member Rajouri, Sai Abdul Rashid, Army officers, PRI members, veterans, and the public in large numbers, highlighting the significance of Rajouri Day in the hearts and minds of the people.

The Deputy Commissioner's call for collaboration towards the region's development is a timely reminder of the impor-

ance of unity and cooperation in achieving progress. Rajouri Day is not only a day to honor the sacrifices of the past but also a day to pledge our commitment to working towards the development and progress of the region.

The day concluded with a solemn ceremony, paying tribute to the fallen heroes with a promise to continue their legacy of bravery, and with a renewed determination to work towards the prosperity and well-being of Rajouri.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav: DYSS Samba organises cycle rally



DYSSO, Chander Kanta Sharma flagging-off rally.

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SAMBA: A mega cycle rally was today organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports Samba here in Zone Ghagwal under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The event was held as part of the annual Activity Calendar circulated by the YSS Directorate and under the overall supervision of DYSSO, Chander Kanta Sharma.

The cycle rally aimed to promote fitness, health, and the spirit of patriotism among the youth. It was a part of the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, which commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's independence. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of local youth, sports enthusiasts, and members of the community.

Earlier, the cycle rally was flagged off by DDC Ghagwal Suresh Kumar, along with other prominent dignitaries. The participants started the rally from the main chowk Ghagwal and rode through the village Randhwal before returning to Narsingh Temple Ghagwal. The event was organized in adherence to all the necessary COVID-19 safety protocols, including social distancing and wearing masks. The Department of Youth Services and Sports Samba expressed gratitude to all the participants, dignitaries, and the community for their enthusiastic participation in making the cycle rally a grand success.

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