

## Three-day historic Mela-Patt begins at Bhadarwah



Devotees during the Mela at Bhadarwah.

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**BHADARWAH:** Amid Covid-19 scare, three-day annual holy Mela Patt, devoted to Lord Vasuki Nag, the presiding deity of Bhadarwah valley, began here on Saturday, while following all SOPs and Guidelines issued by Government and administration.

To help Administration and Police to contain the further spread of Covid-19, after meeting with Administration, Mela Patt committee appealed public to celebrate this historic event while following SOPs and Guidelines.

To commemorate the historic meet between Mughal emperor Akbar and King Nag Pal of Bhadarwah, three day historic Mela Pat started at ancient Mohalla Khakhal of Bhadarwah.

Mela Pat- a symbol of Nag culture, is celebrated every year on Nagpanchmi and hundreds of people converge at Khakhal Mohallah to pay obeisance to the bravery and spiritual power of Raja Nag

Pal.

It is notable that every year hundreds of people from different parts of the UT of J&K irrespective of cast and religion participated in the festival but due to Covid-19 Threat, only locals are participating in the ancient and historic festival.

The ancient and historic festival is devoted to lord Vasuki Nag, the presiding deity of Bhadarwah Valley and its adjoining areas.

The festival was first celebrated in 16th century by King Nag Pal, the ruler of small principality then called Bhadarkashi presently known as Bhadarwah.

The festival is organized seven days after the conclusion of ancient Kailash Yatra.

The traditional Dikko Dance, a unique folk dance also was performed with low fear this year, which was a great attraction of the festival and people participate in large numbers irrespective of religion, cast and gender, which makes this festival a

symbol of Peace, Pride and communal harmony.

Main organiser of the festival, Advocate Naresh Gupta said that this festival is not only the symbol of religion but also depicts our proud historical background and mutual brotherhood. Perhaps this is the only festival of India which is being celebrated since last 600 years without any untoward or ugly incident, which clearly shows communal harmony of this area and respect for Raja Nag Pal irrespective of religion.

Gupta appealed people to follow COVID appropriate behaviour religiously to beat the deadly virus.

On the occasion, display of 'Patt' was performed but for short time to complete the rituals.

A young devotee said that this is an indication of post modernism that's why young generation is returning to it's roots. I enjoyed our tradition and this is one of the most enjoyable experience of my life and I simply loved it.

SP Hqrs Doda Master Popsy and SHO Bhadarwah Jatinder Singh Rakwal were also present at the venue to supervise the security arrangements.

SHO Bhadarwah Jatinder Singh Rakwal said that elaborate security arrangements were made in and around the venue of festival. Beside people were asked to maintain social distancing and wear mask while participating in the rituals of holy event.

## Jugal asks officers for speedy resolution of genuine public concerns

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**RAJOURI:** To redress the public grievances at their doorsteps, Member Parliament, Lok Sabha, Jammu- Poonch constituency, Jugal Kishore Sharma on Saturday convened a public outreach camp here at Kalakote.

Among the others, BDC Chairperson Kalakote, Babu Khan; ADC Kalakote, Krishan Lal; ASP, Amit Verma; ACD, Sushil Khajuria; PO ICDS, Kartar Singh; DSWO, Wakeel Ahmed Bhatt; Tehsildar Kalakote, Rakesh Kumar; ExEn PDD Rajouri, Narotam Kumar; ExEn PMGSY Rajouri, Subash Chander besides other officers and officials of different departments were present in the public outreach camp.

The grievance redressal camp witnessed overwhelming response of the people from all walks of life. They projected developmental demands of their respective areas seeking adequate water supply, macadamization and renovation of roads, up-gradation of schools, better health services and related issues.

Specific issues raised during



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma speaking during public grievances camp at Rajouri.

the programme included widening of Siot to Kalakote road, blacktopping of road from Sair to Dali-A, Sialsui to Phali road, repairing the old hand pumps, paucity of staff in health and educational institutions, repair and renovation of roads, construction of a bridge at Pathinala, up-gradation of GHHS School Kalakote, shortage of electricity poles, replacement of the worn-out water pipes etc. Other issues include blacktopping of the road from Baragao to Tatapani, dilapidated condition of the road from Khargala to Tatapani, shortage of water pipes, completion of work on water supply schemes, repairing of the road from Dharamshala to Badahnu,

delay in MGNREGA payments, blacktopping of the road from Mouglia to Khurlian besides other related issues were also raised in the programme. Some more issues include construction of road from Garn to Phali Brahmana, construction of road from Panjnara to Phali, construction of road from Gulabgarh to Pothanalla, up-gradation of GHS Bathera, restoration of water supply scheme at Bathera, lack of ration store at Kanchimorh etc.

The public also demanded construction of an examination hall at HSS Terayth, restoration of Water supply scheme at Dharamsala, up-gradation of HS Dharamsala and HS

Dulan to HSS and MS Dalvoty to HS, repair and renovation of the road from Badanu to Dharamshala, sanctioning of a Degree college at Terayth, construction of road from Argi to Nasimpura etc.

Many grievances were redressed on the spot by the intervention of the officers of concerned departments.

In his address, the MP said that the Government is committed to ensure transparency and accountability in its functioning and all necessary steps are being taken to provide the best possible relief to the masses and mitigate their sufferings. The MP directed the officers to work with a missionary zeal so that the people of the

area may not deprive them of their genuine demands, and also asked them to gear up and ensure that the difficulties of the people are addressed and resolved at the earliest.

The MP asked the officers to put in place added efforts for effective implementation of the Government schemes on the ground level and provide the best possible benefits to the common under different welfare schemes. The MP also disseminated necessary awareness among the common masses about various welfare schemes and programmes being implemented by the Government and appealed to them to avail themselves of the benefits of the same. He also appealed to the public to ensure their active participation in the developmental process to take the district to new heights of development. The MP said that all their grievances have been documented and also passed on spot directions for redressal of various grievances about their sectors and directed the officers to maintain close liaison with the local population so that their grievances are redressed at the earliest.

## Mankotia bats to increase assembly seats of Jammu division



Former MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia addressing a public gathering.

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**UDHAMPUR:** Reiterating the demand to increase assembly seats of Jammu region, Former MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia said that the Delimitation Commission should increase the assembly seats of Jammu division and do justice with Jammu division. Along with this, Mankotia

said that the assembly seats should be increase on the basis of 2021 census instead of 2011, he added. While addressing huge gathering of Workers at Udhampur, Mankotia said that he has been working till his last breath for the service of the public and will continue to do so. He said that the problem of electricity and

water is increasing day by day in and surrounding Udhampur and people are forced to suffer due to the ill working & negligence of concerned department. Mankotia recalled that during his tenure as MLA, there was never a shortage of water and electricity in the Udhampur assembly, but in the last 6-7 yrs the situation is worse, he blamed.

Mankotia warned the concerned officers and said that they should work for the service of public. Huge numbers of workers including sarpanchs, panchs, councillors, senior leaders were present on this occasion.

## DYSS organises Freedom Run at HSS Trigam

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**KISHTWAR:** Department of Youth Services & Sports Kishtwar on Saturday organised Freedom run under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahatsav here at block Trigam with due observance of COVID 19 safety protocol.

The theme of the event was energising the youth for different race events, physical fitness, strength, and to burn calories and having a holistic impact on health.

The Run was flagged off by the Chief Guest, Irshad Ahmed, Sarpench Karool-B.

The event was well planned by DYSSO Kharati Lal Sharma which started from Govt HSS Sarthal.

Ram Singh PET, convener of the event informed that the students enjoyed well and refreshment has been given on spot to all participants.

## Shiv Sena Katra unit constituted



Shiv Sena President UT J&K, Manish Sahni along with new entrants at Katra.

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**KATRA:** Shiv Sena (Bala Saheb Thackeray) Jammu and Kashmir Unit has announced its Katra unit. The announcement was made during a simple but impressive function at Katra where dozens of people joined the hand with party.

While announcing the formation of Katra unit, President UT J&K , Manish Sahni appointed Vikal Abrol as President and Prince Sharma as the Vice-President and Roop Singh as Gen. secretary. On the occasion dozens of new entrants into the party including Suresh Kumar , Aditya Sharma ,

Rahul Sharma , Mohit Sharma and many others.

Sahni said that more and more people are becoming part of Shiv Sena due to its people centric functioning and advised the new entrants top work with zeal and dedication. General Secretary UT Vikas Bakshi, President District Reasi Bhuri Singh and President Samba Neelam Sambyal, welcomed who joined Shiv Sena with Shiv Bandhan and took an oath to serve the nation, society and religion. On this occasion President Mehila wing Meenakshi Chibber, Santosh Kumari were also present.

## National Lok Adalats held across Jammu region

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**REASI:** District Legal Services Authority Reasi on Saturday organised National Lok Adalat on the direction of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Executive Chairman, JKLSA and the guidance of R N Watal Chairman (Pr. District & Sessions Judge).

A total number of 3461 cases of different nature were taken up for amicable settlement out of which 3339 cases were settled and an amount of 1,14,70,397 was realized as settlement amount.

The matters placed before the Benches included Civil, Criminal Compoundable, Cheque Bounce, Recovery matters, MACT, Matrimonial, Cases from Inaccessible areas and Pre-litigation matters.

In all, four benches were constituted. The Bench 1 comprised R.N. Watal Pr. District & Sessions Judge Reasi, Rekha Kapoor Nischal, Secretary District Legal Services Authority and Advocate Vijay Kumar Sharma, President Bar Association; Bench 2 comprised Adnan Syed, Chief Judicial Magistrate (Sub-Judge), Assma Choudhary, Additional Special Mobile Magistrate and Advocate K.K. Dubey, District Headquarter, Reasi; Bench 3 consisted of Manoj Kumar Parihar, Sub-Judge, Sandeep Sen, Munsiff and Advocate Parvash Sharma, President Bar Association, Katra and Bench 4 comprised Mahavir Singh, Munsiff Mahore, Abdul Gani Bhatt, President Bar Association, Mahore and Advocate M. D. Singh.

**UDHAMPUR:** A National Lok Adalat was organised on



Lok Adalat in progress at Udhampur.

Saturday under the Chairmanship of Yash Paul Bourney (Pr. District & Sessions Judge Udhampur and under the

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overall Supervision of Sub Judge Rajni Sharma today settled 1450 cases and recovered an amount of Rs 1,71,32,824. As per the Secretary District Legal Services Authority, a total number of 1586 cases of different natures were taken up by six benches of which 1450 cases were settled and a total Amount recovered is Rs.

1,71,32,824.

The Lok Adalat was held in compliance with the directions of Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority.

The First benches consisted of Yash Paul Bourney (Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Udhampur), Suresh Chander Katal (Addl. District & Sessions Judge), and Advocate Mohammad. The Bench 2 comprised B.A Munshi(CJM), Shafeeq Ahmed (District Judicial Mobile Magistrate) and Surinder Khajuria Advocate, while Bench 3 consisted of Preet Simran Kour ( Sub Judge Special Mobile Magistrate), Kamiya Singh Andotra( Munsiff JMJC) and Shailu Khajuria Advocate, The Bench 4 comprised Sub Judge Smriti Sharma Chairman TLSC Ramnagar & K. D Sharma (Panel Lawyer) TLSC Ramnagar. The Bench 5 comprised Amandeep Kour (Munsiff Chenani) and Advocate Balwan Singh (Panel Lawyer) TLSC Chenani & Bench 6 consisted of Priyanka Mahajan (Munsiff JMJC Majalta) and Karnal Singh ( Naib Tehsildar Majalta).

**KATHUA:** A National Lok Adalat was held here at ADR Centre, District Court Complex Kathua today.

The National Lok Adalat was inaugurated by Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Kathua ( Pr. District & Sessions Judge Kathua) Jaffer Hussain Beg who started the proceedings with lighting of the traditional lamp.

While speaking on the occasion, the Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District & Sessions Judge Kathua) stressed on settling maximum pending eligible cases amicably.

Four benches were constituted in District Court Complex Kathua and five benches were constituted in Tehsil Courts at Basohli, Billawar, Bani, Mahanpur & Hiranagar.

The Bench 1 comprised Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District & Sessions Judge Kathua) Jaffer Hussain Beg and Secretary District Legal Services Authority (Sub-Judge), Pooja Raina.

Similarly, Bench 2 consisted of Additional District & Sessions Judge Kamlesh Pandita and Sub-Judge/ Special Mobile Magistrate Anjana Rajput.

Likewise Bench 3 comprised Sub-Judge/CJM Sandeep Kour and Tehsildar Nagri Parole Sudesh Kumar.

The Bench 4 comprised District Mobile Magistrate Brij Raj Singh, & ARTO Lakhnpur Neeraj Sharma.

At Basohli, one bench comprised of JMJC Shama



A Bench taking up cases at Kathua.

## Army distributes water storage tanks among people



Army officials handing over water tank to a woman.

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**NOWSHERA:** Reinforcing the commitment of Indian Army towards welfare of people in remote areas along the border & in an attempt to promote awareness on water conservation among the locals, Jhangar Battalion under the aegis of Nowshera Brigade organised the distribution of water storage tanks to the locals residing in four border villages of Namb, Karhali, Sher and Makri on Saturday.

The initiative was undertaken to provide water conservation resources in already water scarce area.

The endeavor apart from benefitting a large number of local populace in achieving water security, will go a long way in strengthening the civil-military bonding while reaffirming the commitment of Indian Army towards nation building.

## Delimitation Commission once again has receded into the oblivion: Harsh Dev

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**MAJALTA:** "With the Election Commission of India apparently focussed on holding elections in the five states of the country next year besides conducting bye-Elections in several other states this year, the restoration of democratic Govt in UT of J&K seemed to be the last priority of the GOI as well as the ECI. The BJP Govt had made the J&K elections conditional upon the completion of delimitation exercise which was nowhere in right. The Delimitation Commission which was formed in March, 2020 with a tenure of one year had merely conducted one meeting with Associate members during its original term thereby necessitating its extension for additional one year. And though the said Commission comprising even the Chief Election Commissioner of India visited J&K in June last to take the feedback from various stakeholders assuring early completion of the process, not a word was heard in this regard from the said body during the past around three months. With the ECI now concentrating on holding Elections in various other states of the country much before the expiry of the term of the respective govts therein, the erstwhile state of J&K deprived of democratic govt for the last more than three years did not appear to be finding the desired attention of either the poll bodies or the centre". This was stated by Harsh Dev Singh Chairman-JKNPP and former Minister while addressing public meetings in villages Babey, Nakki and Mansar in Tehsil Majalta of Ramnagar constituency.

Singh said that while delimitation of DDC constituencies in J&K was effected within one week by

the present dispensation, the helmsmen had failed to come out with any convincing explanation for the inordinate delay in delimiting Assembly constituencies. He said that with delimitation delayed and denied, political process having been rendered defunct in J&K and political parties discredited and discouraged, the centre seemed to be hell-bent to deprive J&K of a democratically elected govt.

Asserting that the BJP Govt at the centre was averse to not only holding delimitation in J&K but also to Elections, Singh said that it wanted to continue its proxy rule in the new UT and retain all powers to itself. He said that the people of J&K were being deprived of their democratic rights of having a duly elected govt of their choice. The last elections in J&K having been held in 2014, the BJP govt still seemed dis-inclined to hand over power to the people even after a lapse of several years thus giving a fatal blow to the democratic values enshrined in the Indian constitution.

With the last Assembly having been dissolved in 2018, the elections to legislature were required to be held immediately thereafter in consonance with the rule of law. The BJP regime however not only defied the democratic norms and procedures but also overlooked the basic law enunciated by the Supreme Court which envisaged holding of "Assembly elections within 6 months in all states where Assemblies were prematurely dissolved".

With uncertainty looming large over the delimitation of constituencies, the UT of J&K was doomed to be governed by proxies from outside the state having hardly any accountability to the masses whom they ruled.