

# Three days Ancient Mela Patt being celebrated with religious fervour in Bhaderwah

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BHADERWAH: Three-day annual holy Mela Patt, devoted to Lord Vasuki Nag, the presiding deity of Bhaderwah valley is being celebrated with full religious fervor and gaiety.

To commemorate the historic meet between Mughal emperor Akbar and King Nag Pal of Bhaderwah, three day Ancient and historic Mela Patt started at Mohalla Khakhhal of Bhaderwah with performing all rituals.

Mela Pat-a symbol of Nag culture, is celebrated every year on Nagpanchmi and hundreds of people from all walks of life converge at Khakhhal Mohallah to pay obeisance to the bravery and spiritual power of Raja Nag Pal.

Hundreds of people from different parts of the UT of J&K irrespective of cast and religion participated in the festival. The festival was first celebrated in 16th century by King Nag Pal, the ruler of small principality then called Bhadarkashi presently known as Bhaderwah.

The historic festival is being organized after 7 days of conclusion of the holy Kailash Yatra in which thousands of people drawn from different parts of the UT and elsewhere participated to take blessings of



People participating in Mela at Bhaderwah.

Vasuki Nag, Chairman Organizing Committee Advocate Naresh Kumar Gupta, Ex President Sanatan Dharam Sabha Bhaderwah Virendar Razdan, DDC Chairman Doda Dhananther Singh, DDC Vice-Chairperson Sangeeta Bhagat, Advocate Chandrakant Gupta, Arjun Singh Manager JK Dharamarth Trust, Ashok Sharma Secretary JK Dharamarth Trust and others were also present on the occasion.

The traditional Dikko Dance, a unique folk dance, was also performed, which is a regular feature of the festival and people irrespective of religion, cast

and gender participate in it, which makes this festival a symbol of Peace, Pride and communal harmony.

Main organiser (Dashman) of the festival, Advocate Naresh Kumar 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 more than 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. "We were expecting from Bhaderwah Development

Authority (BDA) that they will promote this festival to attract tourists but they are in deep slumber and there is dire need to wake up them," Gupta added.

He appealed LG Administration to announce this festival as heritage festival and get this featured in tourism's annual calendar.

"We will bring it on the pilgrimage tourism, so that outer world can also experience this unique culture and tradition," said DDC Chairman Doda Dhananther Singh.

On the occasion, display of 'Patt' was performed with complete rituals. The royal robbing that was presented by King

Akbar to Raja Nagpal of Bhaderwah in his honour was also displayed during the 'Mela Patt'.

On the occasion, people also installed many stalls of eatables, toys, religious books and others at the venue.

People especially youths said that they were mesmerized and had goosebumps after participated in the unique rituals of this ancient culture, this fair which is a symbol of Nag Culture has got all the ingredients to be showcased to the outer world and surely attract national and international visitors.

They said that this is an indication of post modernism that's why young generation is returning to its roots.

"I enjoyed our tradition and this is one of the most enjoyable experience of my life and I simply loved it. We hope all people get blessings of Lord Vasuki Nag during this auspicious festival," a devotee and DDC Vice-Chairperson Sangeeta Bhagat.

Meanwhile elaborate security arrangements were made in and around the venue of festival to thwart any untoward incident.

SHO Bhaderwah Sandeep Parihar was present along with his team at the venue to supervise the security arrangements.

# SVEEP Programme organised at GDC Khour displaying posters & slogans



Faculty members along with students during the programme.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KHOOR: Under the aegis of SVEEP (Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation), Electoral Literacy Club in collaboration with NSS and NCC wing of GDC Khour organized a "Posters and Slogan Display" as a part of 'Democracy Wall' initiative on voter's education and electoral participation. The event was organized with the aim to promote democratic values and increase voter's participation in the forthcoming Assembly election 2024.

The NCC Cadets and NSS Volunteers along with the students from the various departments of the College participated with great enthusiasm.

The students showcased their artistic talents and creativity through posters and slogans, emphasizing the importance of democracy and voting. Esteemed Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) T.K.

Sharma, who is also the Nodal Officer of SVEEP, Assembly Constituency 82-Chhamb, appreciated the students for their participation in the event and also briefed them about the importance of vote and encouraged them to contribute to strengthen the world's largest democracy by casting their vote.

He further added that since students are the future of nation, they must be aware of their rights and duties and also aware others about the same and make sure that our country pave its way towards the path of development. Moreover, he praised the efforts of Electoral Literacy

team, for organizing this event and encouraging students to participate in it with such great fervor.

He, further, acknowledged the work of NSS and NCC unit of the college and encouraged them to continue their work and keep organizing such events in future with same spirit.

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of GDC Khour played a pivotal role in organizing the event, ensuring quality and effectiveness.

The whole event was conducted under the patronage of principal Prof. (Dr.) T.K. Sharma.

# NC intensifies campaign in Bhaderwah, promise to restore statehood, job guarantee

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BHADERWAH: To attract more voters and reach out to the people with Party's agenda, National Conference leadership of Bhaderwah intensified election campaign in JK's Bhaderwah with organising several public rallies in different far-off areas of Bhaderwah Constituency.

Sheikh Mehboob Iqbal NC contesting Candidate Bhaderwah Constituency along with dozens of senior leaders visited different areas with Party's agenda of

ers. The rallies were organised in Naska, Lachaan, Shangroo, Drondi, Malothi, Thanalla, Sungli, Bhejja, Saringal and other areas, where beside rallies a door to door campaigning was conducted. Sheikh Mehboob Iqbal while addressing the gathering said that NC is going to form Government in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said only NC can serve the public better and people want change. He said that NC is getting huge support in all areas especially in

# Jashn-e-Jamhooriyat Rajouri celebrated under SVEEP to Boost Voter Awareness for Assembly Elections 2024



Officials imparting awareness among people.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI: In a unique and culturally enriching initiative to promote voter awareness ahead of the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024, a series of Mushairas titled 'Jashn-e-Jamhooriyat Rajouri' were organised across all five constituencies of the district Rajouri, under the guidance and supervision of District Election Officer (DEO) Abhishek Sharma. This voter education drive was conducted as part of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program to encourage greater voter participation in the Assembly Elections

scheduled for 25th September 2024. The culmination of these constituency-level events took place today with a grand district-level Mushaira held at the Dak Bungalow, Rajouri. The local poets came together to recite poems and sing songs in various languages, including Hindi, Urdu, Pahari, and Gojri whose performances were focused on the importance of voting, the power of single vote in a democracy, and the need for every eligible citizen to participate in the electoral process. DEO Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, addressed the gathering and appreciated the participants for their creativity and dedication to the cause of voter

education. He emphasized the role of cultural activities in motivating people to actively participate in elections, stating, "Through the medium of art, we are able to connect with people at a deeper level, making them aware of the importance of their vote in shaping the future of the country." The DEO felicitated several participants, especially students, with cash prizes to acknowledge their contributions to the event. He encouraged them to continue their efforts in creating voter awareness, particularly in rural areas where participation has historically been lower.

The event was attended by a number of dignitaries and officials, including Returning Officer (RO) Rajouri, Mohd Jahangir, Deputy DEO Shakeel Malik, Nodal Officer SVEEP Bishamber Dass, Cultural Officer, Alamdar Adam, Nodal Officer Control Room Sandeep Sharma, and Nodal Officer MCMC Ashiq Rafiq Malik.

# Police imparts anti drug awareness programme



Police officials along with participating students.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA: Police has organized anti-drug awareness programme at Humanity Public School Bari Brahmana which was attended by a large number of students, teachers and other members of the school management.

The programme at Humanity Public School Bari Brahmana organized under Civic Action Programme (CAP) was presided over by ASP SDPO Bari Brahmana accompanied by SHO Police Station Bari Brahmana in which

students from Humanity Public School Bari Brahmana had participated. The first, second and third best student speakers were presented cash rewards of rupees 10000, 6000 and 4000 respectively, whereas five other participating students were also felicitated with cash rewards of rupees 2000 each. ASP SDPO Bari Brahmana while speaking on the occasion urged upon the students to channelize their energy in the right direction and participate in recreational activities besides taking keen interest

in their studies. He asked the students to stay away from the drug abuse and join hands with the police in his fight to eradicate the drug menace from the society. He also stressed the need for strict adherence to wearing helmet while driving 2 wheelers and follow traffic rules to prevent violations.

The Principal of Humanity Public School Bari Brahmana expressed gratitude towards Police for organizing such programme to generate anti-drug awareness among students.



Sheikh Mehboob Iqbal NC contesting Candidate Bhaderwah during public meeting.

Development, Welfare, job security, land rights and other Bhaderwah and its adjoining areas.

# SVEEP Awareness and SVEEP Pledge held at SMVDU



University officials along with students taking pledge.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATRA: SVEEP programme was organized at SMVDU University, Katra today under the guidance of District coordinator SVEEP, Narinder Kishore. Speaking on the occasion, District coordinator SVEEP highlighted the importance of SVEEP activities in creating awareness about electoral participation. During the programme, SMVDU employees as well as students were educated about the importance of voting and their role in the democratic

process. They were also informed about the various initiatives taken by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to increase voter turnout and ensure free and fair elections. The students actively participated in the programme and asked several questions about the electoral process. They also pledged to become active voters and encourage others to do the same. The programme was a success and helped in creating awareness about the importance of electoral participation among the students.

Shavan and the guidance of the College Principal Prof. Basharat Iqbal. Nodal Officer SVEEP-GDC Dr Yasir Ahmed and CTO NCC SW Dr Tabassum Saleem were pivotal in the success of the event.

The activities for the day included a "Mock Parliament" focusing on the issue of compulsory voting in India, followed by a Symposium and a song sung by College Student Shevata Sharma on the Importance of Voting.

Both activities aimed to stimulate constructive debate and dialogue among students on the role of vot-

# CEO SMVDSB inaugurates telemedicine studio at Narayana Hospital

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATRA: In a significant step towards enhancing healthcare services for devotees and the local community, Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), today inaugurated a state-of-the-art Telemedicine Studio at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspecialty Hospital (SMVDNSH), Kakryal.

The Telemedicine Studio is a result of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between SMVDSB, Hewlett Packard Enterprise India Private Limited (HPEIPL) and Hewlett Packard (India) Software Operation Private Limited (HPSIO) on April 6 this year as per the directions of Shri Manoj Sinha, Lt Governor, JK-UT and Chairman, SMVDSB. The MoU aimed to install nine



CEO SMVDSB Anshul Garg inaugurating Telemedicine Studio at Narayana Hospital.

cloud-enabled state-of-the-art Health ATMs along the revered Vaishno Devi pilgrimage track and one Telemedicine Studio at Katra. The newly established Telemedicine Studio at SMVDNSH is designed to facilitate real-time consultation with doctors on the Vaishno Devi track and medical experts in SMVDNSH Hospital. This innovative initiative provides instant access to specialized medical

advice, contributes to improved response to medical emergencies and enhances patient care on the track. It is pertinent to mention here that the Board provides free accident insurance cover to pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine to Rs.5 lakh besides free treatment to ailing devotees at SMVDNSH.

The Chief Executive Officer highlighted the importance of telemedicine in today's healthcare land-

scape and its utility on the track. He stated that with the growing demand for updated medical responses towards patients, particularly devotees on the track, the Telemedicine Studio will provide a vital link between patients and specialists, ensuring timely consultations and reducing the need for referrals. He also expressed optimism about the project, stating that the Telemedicine Studio will sig-

nificantly improve healthcare delivery on the track besides, allow patients to receive expert medical opinions and follow-ups from specialists located at SMVDNSH. The launch of the Telemedicine Studio reflects the Shrine Board's dedication to integrating modern technology with traditional healthcare practices, ensuring quality medical services are available to all. The Board is committed to providing a safe, convenient, and spiritual experience for millions of pilgrims visiting the shrine every year.

Among those present on the occasion were Satish Kumar Sharma, Jt. CEO, SMVDSB; Som Satsangi, Sr. Vice President & MD, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, India; Dy. Administrative Officer, SMVDIME; Facility Director, SMVDNSH and Officers from SMVDSB and HPEI.

# SVEEP: Youth Parliament on compulsory voting held at GDC Kishtwar

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KISHTWAR: As part of the ongoing SVEEP campaign in the district in the anticipation of Assembly elections, an impactful electoral awareness program was

conducted today at Government Degree College Kishtwar. The event specifically targeted young students and first-time voters, encouraging active participation in the democratic process. The District Nodal Officer SVEEP Dr. Kuldeep Kumar in Collaboration with the Electoral Literacy Club/SVEEP and NCC Senior Wing of the College successfully organized a Youth Parliament on "Compulsory Voting in India".

The event was organised on the direction of District Election Officer/District Magistrate Rajesh Kumar

for their active involvement. The organizers and faculty members expressed their pride in the students for their enthusiasm and contribution to the event.

District Nodal Officer, SVEEP Kuldeep Kumar, Nodal Officer SVEEP AC-49 Kishtwar Masood Hussain Qazi, NT Election Cell Anzreg Singh besides Dr. Seshrish Gazal, Dr.Zahoor Din, Dr.Vijay Kumar, Prof Esar ul Ayoub, Prof Sonika Sen, Prof Asma Javaid, Prof S.M.Usman, Prof Ashfaq Ahmed Wani and other Officials of GDC and District Administration were also present.

At the end of the session, the voters pledge was administered to the all present in the event, followed by felicitation of participants with certificates as a token of appreciation

in a democracy and the potential benefits and challenges of making voting compulsory in the country.

Around 250 students actively participated in the event, engaging in discussions that reflected their awareness and interest in the electoral process. The event provided a platform for these young minds to express their opinions and learn about the significance of voting as a civic duty.

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# General Observer inspects Polling Stations in Doda Town



General Observer Aditya Negi inspecting polling booth.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DODA: General Observer for Assembly Constituencies (AC) 52-Doda and AC 53-Doda West, Aditya Negi conducted a thorough inspection of polling stations in Doda town today. The visit aimed to ensure

the smooth conduct of the upcoming elections and to assess the preparedness of the polling stations.

During the inspection, the General Observer interacted with polling officials, reviewed the arrangements and assessed the facilities

available for voters. The focus was on ensuring that all necessary measures are being taken to facilitate a free, fair, and transparent electoral process.

Expressing satisfaction with the arrangements made at the polling stations, the General Observer commended the efforts of the election officials and staff in ensuring that all necessary protocols are being followed. He emphasized the importance of upholding the integrity of the electoral process and urged all stakeholders to work together to ensure a successful election.

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