

News » India News » States News » Uttar Pradesh

Barsana's 'Laathimaar' Holi draws massive crowds

Last Updated: Saturday, February 28, 2015 - 12:29

187 SHARES [Share on Facebook](#) [Share on Twitter](#) [Share](#) [Comment](#)

Mathura/Vrindavan: Thousands of devotees and pilgrims watched the famous "Laathimaar Holi" of Barsana with keen excitement and boisterous cheers.

Dressed in colourful costumes, the singers from Nandgaon arrived Friday afternoon after consuming "bhaang" (a preparation from the leaves and flowers of the female cannabis plant) and "thandai" (a cold drink prepared with a mixture of almonds, fennel seeds, rose petals, saffron, milk and sugar) at Peeli Pokhar but had to wait for a while as preparations were going on at the Rangeeli Gali compound.

Crossing the narrow lanes of Barsana they reached the Shri Ji temple atop the hill where 'samaj gayan' and music was in full flow late Friday evening.

After the customary rituals, they climbed down to reach the compound of the theatre Rangeeli Gali.

Soon groups of veiled beauties, the Huriyarins of Barsana wielding their oiled batons arrived on the scene. Responding to the high crescendo of shouts and songs the women pounced upon the waiting men with their 'lathis' (batons).

The 'gops' (men from Nandgaon) jumped high as the batons rained on their heads protected only by a leather sheath.

Frenzied pilgrims from across India and NRIs (non-resident Indians) watched with awe and amusement, as the whole area was enveloped in a cloud of myriad colours of 'gulal' (coloured powder).

"We had full entertainment and experienced a spiritual catharsis of unprecedented dimension. An unforgettable scene that time cannot erase," said a pilgrim from Mumbai, Rajesh Bhai.

Most of the pilgrims who had come from distant places left in the evening. A few stayed back for another round of celebrations at Nandgaon Saturday.

Talking about the uniqueness of Barsana Holi, Huriyarins (gopis) Anita Sharma, Shyam Lata Sharma, Rajni Sharma, Jamuna Devi and Vijay Laxmi Sharma told IANS: "This tradition dates back to the 'Dwapar yuga' of Shri Krishna-Radha and is a clear demonstration of equality and empowerment."

Meanwhile, the temple of Dwarkadheesh in Mathura and Bankey Bihari in Vrindavan are gearing up for the 'Rang Bharni Ekadashi Holi' celebrations Sunday.

"In Barsana more than a lakh pilgrims turned up, in Mathura and Vrindavan, we are expecting a massive invasion of pilgrims from far off places," said a local priest Girdhari Lal.


IANS

First Published: Saturday, February 28, 2015 - 12:29


What do you think about this?
 3

TAGS: [Barsana](#) [Mathura](#) [Vrindavan](#) [Nandgaon](#) [Holi](#)


We Recommend




The Signs of an Unhealthy Heart
Caring.com




Here's the No. 1 Place to Begin Your Four Corners Adventure
Dream Plan Go




Best Hair Color 2015 Announced and It's a Home Dye!
shades



6 Tips to Being a Gracious Grandma
News1



I Can't Really Blame Xina For Losing It at Disneyland
Latty Chen



The 20 Best-Paying Jobs For Women in 2015
Forbes

From The Web

- Celebrity Marriages That May Surprise You** (News1)
- 5 Things to Stop Hoarding in 2015** (News1)
- Buffett Admits This is A "Real Threat"** (The Motley Fool)
- Tim McGraw & Faith Hill Share Big News About "Divorce"** (Morning Daily)
- WATCH: COPD Emergency Warning Signs** (WebMD)

From Zee News

- Two killed as SUV runs into roadside stall in Mumbai**
- 'We are ashamed Shah Rukh was born in India'**
- BJP leader gang-raped in Ranchi**
- Model Mona Khanna commits suicide in Mumbai**
- TV actress caught in a prostitution racket**

MORE FROM ZEENEWS

INDIA	WORLD	SPORTS	ENTERTAINMENT
Govt blacklisted 69 NGOs from receiving foreign funds	Lebanese soldier, militant killed in shootout in north-sources	ICC World Cup 2015: A disciplined West Indies can upset India: Clive Lloyd	Salman Khan hit-and-run case: Actor not required to produce driving license
Complaints of mis-utilisation of scholarship funds received: Govt	Migrants pay respects to murdered Kremlin critic Nemtsov	James Harden suspended for kicking LeBron James	J.K. Rowling cried after watching 'The Casual Vacancy' finale on BBC
PM Modi asks BJP MPs to make people aware of Union budget	Azerbaijani troops kill Armenian Karabakh soldier: Separatists	Ecuador's Barcelona to play Freedom in Congo	Pray for Sonam's recovery, says dad Anil Kapoor
MORE FROM INDIA	MORE FROM WORLD	MORE FROM SPORTS	MORE FROM ENTERTAINMENT

Top Videos



No question of endorsing Modi's statement on Pak Rajnath Singh



Rift in AAP: Yogendra Yadav may face action



Dec 16 gang-rape case: Convict blames Nirbhaya for fatal sexual assault on her



Naryana pedestrian run-over case: Kin offered compensation during cremation

0 Comments [Zee News](#) [Login](#)

Start by Newest [Recommend](#) [Share](#)

Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

DISQUS

flowplayer

Zee News [Follow](#) +1

Zee News [Like](#) 2,598,602

Download the BGR app [Google play](#)

Most Read Most Viewed

- Priyanka Gandhi's office denies reports of her appointment as Congress' general secretary
- PM Narendra Modi eats lunch at Parliament canteen, pays Rs 29
- AAP crisis: As it happened on Monday
- Jagmohan Dalmiya back as BCCI president, Anurag Thakur in new secretary
- CBSE board examinations begin, lakhs of students appear
- ISIS plays 'Jihadi John' like a piano, uses him to attract Europe's Muslims
- Ireland vs South Africa LIVE SCORE: ICC cricket World Cup 2015, 24th Match, pool B, Canberra
- PDP leaders demand return of Afzal Gurni's mortal remains, BJP asks ally to be cautious
- Jagmohan Dalmiya all set to return as BCCI president
- 26-year-old girl allegedly raped inside Noida mall with lure of job
- Veat Kohli will bring purpose to Indian captaincy: Kim Hughes
- Rains sweep large parts of India, fresh snowfall in J&K
- Shah Rukh Khan pumped for 'India Poochega... Sabse Shana Kahan?
- 'Ab' Ab Tak Chhapan 2' makes slow start at Box Office
- Hindus should not watch films of Khans: Sadhvi Prachi

PHOTOS [Day in Pics: 3rd March](#)



MORE FROM OTHER SECTION

- World Cup 2015: Australia full of confidence despite loss against Kiwis, says Michael Clarke**
- Australian women's cricket team to tour Dubai**
- Shun anxiety and enjoy life to its fullest**
- Low-esteem to stay in un**
- Oral swabs to be used as a frontier in TB diagnosis**
- Many 60-65-yr-old women may still have 'troublesome' hot flashes**

ALL STATES NEWS

- Prashant Bhushan, Yogendra Yadav 'spine' of AAP: Shazia Ilmi
- Farmers' body threaten stir opposing dams in Arunachal
- Elderly man killed by unidentified persons in UP
- Members allege non-fulfillment of promises to Andhra Pradesh, Telangana
- Mizoram officials screening people for HINI virus

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

- Google Glass can give you a perfect facelift
- Facebook addiction can lead to depression
- Google confirms plans to launch mobile service soon
- Now, get zip-line tour through Amazon Jungle on Google Street View
- Samsung Galaxy S6 and S6 Edge: First impressions

WORLD NEWS

- North Korea has power to deter US "nuclear threat": Foreign minister
- China to hold parade, invite leaders to mark end of World War Two
- Top US official warns Israel tensions could last until 2016
- Lebanese soldier, militant killed in shootout in north-sources
- Mourmers pay respects to murdered Kremlin critic Nemtsov

SPORTS NEWS

- World Cup 2015: Australia full of confidence despite loss against Kiwis, says Michael Clarke
- Australian women's cricket team to tour Dubai
- ICC Cricket World Cup: Shaiman Anwar impresses for UAE at World Cup
- ICC World Cup: Afghanistan 'not scared' of Australia, says skipper
- ICC World Cup 2015: A disciplined West Indies can upset India: Clive Lloyd

Tweets [Follow](#)

Zee News @ZeeNews 13m
 WorldCup2015: Australia full of confidence despite loss against Kiwis, says Michael Clarke. [ZeeNews India](#) [www.zee.com/india/cricket](#)...

Zee News @ZeeNews 27m
 LIVE: AAP leaders step up attack, blame BhuShana, Yadav for detaining Kejriwal. [ZeeNews India](#) [www.zee.com/india](#)...

Tweet to @ZeeNews

My copy of 'SAMWAD' [Samwad](#)

TOP 10 CITIES

- Kanpur Lucknow Ghaziabad Agra
- Varanasi Meerut Allahabad Bareilly
- Aligarh Moradabad

TOURIST DESTINATION

- Varanasi Allahabad Ayodhya
- Jhansi Agra Taj Mahal Agra Fort
- Yishwanath temple Mathura Kannauj
- Vrindavan