

Natrang stages Hindi play 'Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra'

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, JAN 25:

Natrang stages 'Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra', a play in Hindi written by Balwant Neeraj Kant here today at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, Jammu in connection with 15th National Voters Day organised by the Chief Electoral Office, J&K. Sh. Manoj Sinha Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir was the chief guest at the occasion. Prominent among those who graced the occasion included B R Sharma Retd. IAS, State Election Commissioner, Shaleen Kabra IAS, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Romesh Kumar, IAS, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, IAS, Administrative Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, Sachin Kumar, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu amongst others.



An evocative theatrical venture devised to empower the common masses by educating them to use their ultimate power which can change the fate of the country. In a very effective manner, the play highlighted the amazing power of which people are not fully aware and the importance of voting as it is the most effective key of the democracy.

The play 'Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra' opens with the aggression of the disillusioned, frustrated youth who

are struggling to survive in the contaminated air of corruption, scandals and dishonesty. They do not see any hope in the future as their present is being rotten by the corrupt system. They want to devastate everything around them in rage but when questioned by an educated person that 'what are they doing to come out of this unfortunate situation? Busy in their illusionary world created by the social media, they are speechless as they just want the things to happen but are not ready to be

part of that change and want everything without making any required effort. Terming them as the most vibrant human resource of the world, the educated person prompts them to come forward, take the command and change their fate. The most effective way of changing the fate of a country is the way of voting, this is the highly peaceful and effective way to bring big reforms of their choices. As the play proceeds, different age groups and varied sections of people are shown in

satirical manner who have their petty reasons to not vote and also whom to vote. This ignorance and arrogance of the masses leaves huge space for the vested interests to exploit this situation. Through this play all the sections of society are prompted not to run away from their ultimate responsibility of voting for the stronger democracy of India. Vote has the only and ultimate power to change the fate of the country and everyone through this play is motivated to ensure that this right of voting of every citizen should not go waste. Let's pledge to vote! The artists who participated in the play Loktantra Ka Mantra included Neeraj Kant, Subash Jamwal, Pawan Verma, Mohd. Yaseen, Aadesh Dhar, Kananpreet Kaur, Mehak Chib, Lalita Sharma, Sanket Bhagat, Vishal Sharma, Aryan Sharma, Amit Rana, Arun Sharma, Meenakshi Bhagat, Adaksh Bagal and Kartik Kumar, Kushal Bhat and Mihir Gujral.

GDC Kathua celebrates National Voters' Day 2025

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
KATHUA, JAN 25:

Govt. Degree College Kathua celebrated National Voters' Day on 25th of January 2025 with great enthusiasm. The theme for this year's celebration was "Nothing like Voting, I Vote for Sure", emphasizing the importance of voting in strengthening the democracy. The event was conducted under the patronage of worthy Principal of the college, Prof. Seema Mir, and was coordinated by the NSS and NCC Units of GDC Kathua, in collaboration with the District Administration Kathua. Sh. Ranjeet Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Sh. Nagesh Singh, Dy. District Election Officer, Kathua, was the Guest of Honour.

The program commenced with an awareness rally from the DC Office Complex to GDC Kathua, involving stu-

dents and faculty, promoting the significance of voter participation. Following this, a series of events were organized, including a debate competition, Nukkad Natak and a pledge-taking ceremony to reaffirm the commitment to voting.

Dr. Pinkey CTO Girls Bn. NCC, extended a warm welcome to all attendees. The Chief Guest, Sh. Ranjeet Singh, addressed the gathering, highlighting the pivotal role of youth in shaping the democratic process. Dr. Yash Paul Sharma, HoD Urdu, shared his insights on the importance of National Voters' Day, inspiring the audience with his thought-provoking words.

The debate competition witnessed active participation from students across various schools and colleges. The jury panel, comprising Dr. Ritu Kumar Sharma (GCW Kathua), Dr. Esha Verma (Asst. Prof. Hindi, GDC

Kathua), and Ms. Monika Ghosla (School Education Department), evaluated the participants. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd winners of the competition were Lakshmi Devi (GCW Kathua) Vishal Gupta (GDC Kathua) and Kashish Sharma (Girls HSS Kathua).

NSS volunteers from GDC Kathua and students from Nav Adarsh Higher Secondary School Kathua presented impactful nukkad natak, spreading awareness about the importance of voting. The program concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Kulbir Singh, NSS PO, expressing gratitude to the dignitaries, participants, and organizing team for their contribution to the success of the event. Other faculty members who coordinated the program under the supervision of Dr. Ram Singh, HoD Education were Prof. Arvind Kumar (NSS PO), Dr. Pritima Sangra, Dr. Daya Ram (NCC ANO, GDC Kathua).

Panchteerth live examples of honour to Ambedkar: Balbir

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, JAN 25:

The Panchteerth—five key sites associated with different stages of the life of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, hold immense significance in the social, cultural, and historical fabric of India. These landmarks symbolize the legacy of a visionary leader whose contributions continue to inspire millions. Balbir Ram Rattan, spokesperson, Jammu and Kashmir BJP & former Vice Chairperson, said this while explaining what has been done by the BJP to keep alive memories of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. He was talking to party's SC Morcha activists when a photograph of the models depicting five different Panchteerth built after 2014, when Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister

of India, was shared.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that memorials, museums and literary works, preserve the lives of the persons, who, serve to be a source of inspiration for next generations. "By building Panchteerth in honour of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the BJP and PM Modi has done a noble service to the nation as well", he said, adding that, the entire life of Ambedkar is an example of patience, tolerance, struggle and zeal for social change. Be it Dr. Ambedkar's birthplace, the place of higher education in London, site of his conversion to Buddhism, the place where he breathed his last, or his final resting place, all carry significance and the credit for this goes to the Modi government. He said that these

sites will continue to remind Dr. Ambedkar's life, principles, and enduring influence. They are not merely physical landmarks but repositories of his teachings, which emphasize equality, education, and empowerment. The Panchteerth serve as a pilgrimage for those seeking inspiration from his ideals, fostering awareness of his efforts to uplift marginalized communities and reshape the nation's democratic foundation. Honoring the Panchteerth highlights the enduring relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's vision of an inclusive and equitable society. BJP SC leaders Smt. Seema Devi, Hans Raj Loria, Som Nath and others were prominent with whom Balbir was discussing details of Panchteerth.

Tourism Dept organizes Heritage Walk in Akhnoor to celebrate National Tourism Day

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
AKHNOOR, JAN 25:

Department of Tourism J&K, under the able leadership of Ms. Yasha Mudgal, IAS, Commissioner Secretary to the Government, celebrated National Tourism Day with a series of impactful events. These initiatives highlighted Jammu's rich cultural heritage while emphasizing the significance of sustainable tourism, civic responsibility, and environmental conservation.

The day's main highlight was a Heritage Walk organized by the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, commencing at the internationally renowned Buddhist site of Ambran. Situated on the right bank of the Chenab River near Akhnoor. Participants visited key historical landmarks, including TRC Akhnoor, Gurudwara Baba Sunder Singh Ji, Parashuram Temple, Pandav Gufa, Akhnoor Fort, and Durgamandir, culminating at Jia Pota Ghat. This site is historically significant as the location where Maharaja Ranjit Singh coronated Gulab Singh on June 17, 1822. Vika Gupta, JKAS, Director Tourism, Jammu,

highlighted the transformative role of tourism in fostering social, economic, and cultural growth. Emphasizing the Heritage Walk as a powerful way to connect people to Jammu's rich history, she stressed the importance of making such initiatives a regular feature. Involving students in these activities would not only deepen their understanding of heritage but also instill a sense of inclusivity, sustainability, and responsibility towards preserving and promoting cultural assets.

Sunaina Mehta, JKAS, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, emphasized the significance of promoting Jammu's diverse heritage while engaging stakeholders across all age groups for holistic destination development. Highlighting the ancient Buddhist site of Ambran near Akhnoor, she noted its historical importance as a monastic complex dating back to the 1st century BCE, which served as a vital center for cultural and spiritual exchange and was visited by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in 2011. She further added that such initiatives celebrate the region's rich historical assets, empower

local communities, and align perfectly with this year's theme, Tourism for Inclusive Growth. The event was attended by Sh. Shoket Hayat Mattoo, JKAS, Deputy Director Tourism (Adv), Ms. Sugandhi Banotra, JKAS, AD Tourism Jammu, Dr. Taran Singh, Senior Vice President of JASA, Sushil Sharma officials from the Tourism Department, School children from Little Flowers school Akhnoor and PC Vaid School Akhnoor were present.

Indian Army inaugurates tailoring & stitching course for women empowerment

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JAMMU, JAN 25:

The Indian Army has always been "true to its commitment" in providing a helping hand to empower women in the far-flung areas of the region. In continuation of this spirit, the Indian Army inaugurated a 30-day tailoring and stitching course to provide vocational training for the women of Phagsoo village, Thatri, under Operation Sadbhavana.

A total of 8 women will undergo the tailoring and stitching training at Phagsoo village. The beneficiaries include women from Priority Household and Below Poverty Line categories. The Indian Army has provided sewing machines along with other facilities for this training. This educational project is a leap of faith, aiming to empower these

women and serve as an invaluable resource during difficult times. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, a representative of the Indian Army said that this virtuous effort will go a long way in alleviating hunger and poverty, while also fostering greater communal and social harmony in the region.

It was also emphasized that the women of underdeveloped, remote areas are eager to become self-reliant and strive to improve both their lives and the quality of life for their families. The villagers present at the event expressed their gratitude for this enterprising initiative, which aims to create a positive environment for the women of the region to pursue a profession with better opportunities and aspire for a brighter and more prosperous future.

KCCI demands authorities to regulate airfares on Srinagar/Jammu/Delhi routes

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, JAN 25:

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) expresses its deep dismay at the ongoing failure of authorities to regulate airfares on the Srinagar/Jammu/Delhi routes. This issue not only poses a significant concern for the economy and tourism of Kashmir, but also places an undue burden on the local populace, who are forced to pay exorbitant prices for air travel compared to other regions.

The KCCI laments that despite concerted government efforts to promote Kashmir as a premier tourist destination, current airfares render the region a costlier option for intending travellers. Recent analyses reveal that airfares to Kashmir can exceed the cost of flights from Delhi to Dubai, raising serious concerns about the impact on tourism, health-care access for patients needing treatment outside J&K, and the ability of businesspersons and common citizens to return home from various parts of the country. The exorbitant airfare remains unexplained in

view of the present low tourist footfall.

The KCCI emphasizes that these exorbitant fares are detrimental to the business community and the general public, travellers, students, sick, aged, and sports-persons. This is not the first time the KCCI, as the apex body representing the business community, has raised this pressing issue. Despite previous communications, including a formal presentation to the Parliamentary Committee last year, the situation remains unresolved. Authorities often cite demand and supply dynamics as justification for high fares; however, KCCI argues that if demand for travel to Kashmir is indeed high, airlines should respond by increasing the number of available flights rather than hiking prices. The KCCI has previously highlighted these concerns regarding unwarranted fare hikes, which have been acknowledged by the Department-related Parliamentary Committee on Transport, Tourism, and Culture, Government of India. Unfortunately, it appears that airline operators on the Delhi/Jammu/Srinagar

route have disregarded the clear recommendations made by the committee, leading to irrational fare increases that amount to undue profiteering and hinder tourist movement.

The KCCI urges the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Aviation and the Director General of Civil Aviation, Government of India, to implement the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee without delay. The committee has recommended establishing a mechanism to cap upper and lower airfare limits to prevent 'predatory pricing' and sudden fare surges. Moreover, it calls for close monitoring of airline websites to ensure accurate fare representation and penalization for misinformation. The KCCI reiterates the Ministry of Civil Aviation's responsibility to the travelling public and the nation at large, emphasizing the need for a fair pricing mechanism to prevent exorbitant charges. Additionally, the Chamber calls on airlines operating on the Delhi/Jammu/Srinagar route to increase flight availability to accommodate the growing demand for travel to Srinagar.

BJP felicitates winners of quiz, essay-writing competition under "Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan"

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JAMMU, JAN 25:

BJP J&K held a felicitation programme for the winners of Quiz and Online Essay-Writing Competition under the "Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan" at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Mementos were distributed among the winners who participated in the Quiz Competition in the form of MCQ's in different schools and for "Online Essay Writing Competition" held under the "Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan" to mark the 75th Year of Indian Constitution.

Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), Yudhvir Sethi, MLA (Jammu East), Arvind Gupta, MLA (Jammu West), Priya Sethi, BJP NEM & Headquarter Incharge and other senior leaders of party felicitated the participants and the winners in the programme. District President

Jammu South Naresh Singh, District President Jammu Adv Rajesh Gupta, Mandal Presidents from both the Districts, Program Incharge (District Jammu) Suneet Raina with his team, Program Incharge (District Jammu south) Rakesh Sangral with his team were present on the occasion.

While felicitating the children, Sat Sharma appreciated and congratulated all the participants and the winners of the event. He briefed about the Indian Constitution and said that it declares India a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic. He said that the Indian Constitution assures citizens justice, equality, liberty, and endeavors to promote fraternity. He also said that Indian Constitution is a political frame based on which principles or Laws of a country are formulated. He highlighted and praised the vision of Bharat Ratna Dr. BR Ambedkar who was the chief

architect of Indian Constitution and how he fought to eradicate the social evils like untouchability and for the rights of the Dalits and other socially backward classes throughout his life.

Priya Sethi delivered the welcome note and read out about the significance of Indian constitution in comparison with all other nations. While wishing everyone on this 75th year of Indian Constitution, she congratulated all the winners and the participants of the events under the "Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan". Krieshek Sharma (Rashtriya Bal Puraskar) and Anamika Khajuria (National Cricket Player) participated as the special guests in the programme, who shared their inspirational journey with the young minds. Neha Mahajan, General Secretary Mahila Morcha and Incharge Program conducted the proceedings of the stage. District Incharge Rakesh Sangral delivered the vote of thanks.

Sham encourages active participation in democracy on 15th National Voters' Day

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On the occasion of the 15th National Voters' Day, a special program was organized at the election registration office of the Jammu North Assembly constituency. The event, graced by Mr. Sham Lal Sharma, MLA for Jammu North and former minister, as the Chief Guest, aimed to emphasize the importance of voting and active participation in the democratic process. Highlighting the significance of the day, Mr. Sharma urged everyone, especially the youth, to exercise their franchise responsibly and contribute to shaping a stronger, more inclusive democracy. He lauded the efforts of the Election Commission in promoting voter awareness and administered a pledge to all attendees, emphasizing that every

vote counts in building a vibrant nation.

Adding to the event's spirit, a special cultural program was organized, showcasing the importance of National Voters' Day and active participation in democracy. The performances conveyed powerful messages about civic responsibility and the vital role of voting in nation-building, leaving a lasting impact on the audience.

In his speech, Mr. Sharma also emphasized the need for stronger community involvement in promoting voter awareness and electoral participation. He highlighted the role of educated and informed voters in ensuring transparency and accountability in governance. "The strength of our democracy lies in the hands of the people. When citizens vote responsibly, they empower

themselves to build a brighter future for their families, communities, and the nation as a whole," Mr. Sharma said. Concluding his address, Mr. Sharma called for greater collective efforts to prioritize voter education initiatives and ensure widespread participation in the electoral process. Reaffirming his commitment to serving the people of Jammu North, he underscored the transformative power of every individual vote in strengthening democracy. Sharma also appreciated the contributions of the officials present at the event, including Mr. Tahir Khan (BDO, Maira Mandrian), Mrs. Vidutma Gupta (ZEO, Bhalwal), Mr. Mohammad Farooq (Incharge Election Cell, Jammu North Assembly), BLO's and other prominent political and social workers were present.

Police arrests 03 drug peddlers in Pulwama; 8 drug peddlers arrested in Bandipora during current month

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
SRINAGAR, JAN 25:

In order to dismantle the ecosystem of drug menace, Police have arrested 03 drug peddlers in Pulwama today, besides, 8 drug peddlers have been arrested during the current month in Bandipora district. The arrested drug peddlers in Pulwama have been identified as Syed Adil son of Syed Showkat resident of Gundipora Pulwama, Aqib Rashid Yattoo son of Abdul Rashid Yattoo resident of Drusoo Pulwama and Khurshed Ahmad Sheikh son of Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh resident of Gangoo Pulwama. Huge quantity of contraband including 19,20 Kgs of Bhang Patri, 159.55

grams of Charas Powder, 110.5 grams of Charas sticks and 6.14 grams of Heroin have been recovered from their possession.

Meanwhile, Police in Bandipora have arrested Eight hard-core drug traffickers involved in the trafficking of drugs and narcotic substances in the district and recovered substantial quantities of contraband substances from their possession during the current month. The arrested drug peddlers have been identified as Reyaz Ahmad Sheikh son of Nazir Ahmad Sheikh resident of Kaloosa Bandipora, Tawqeer Ahmad Bhat son of Mohmad Arif Bhat resident of Naz Colony Bandipora, Muzafar Ahmad Lone son of

Abdul Majeed Lone resident of Nusso Bandipora, Waseem Ahmad Mir son of Late Farooq Ahmad Mir resident of Magnipora Bandipora, Bilal Ahmad Sheikh son of Gulzar Ahmad Sheikh resident of Nowpora Bandipora, Ishfaq Ahmad Wani son of Gh Nabi Wani resident of Bazar Sumbal, Ishfaq Hussain Rather son of Gh Mohd Rather resident of Harinara Nowgam Sumbal and a lady drug trafficker (name withheld) resident of Sumlar Bandipora. We urge the general public to come forward in fight against the drug menace and feel free to contact nearest police station or dial 112 if any drug peddling gets noticed in their area.