

# 'Mata Ki Kahani'- a must see show in Navratras, appeals Balwant Thakur

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATRA: Balwant Thakur, the conceptualizer, writer and director of 'Mata Ki Kahani' on Sunday made an appeal to everyone to come and witness the most vibrant musical theatre production ever produced in Jammu & Kashmir. Natrang Jammu is showcasing two shows of this most electrifying theatrical magic everyday at 3 pm and 6 pm at the Auditorium of Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra till the end of Navratras.



Natrang artists presenting 'Mata ki Kahani' play at Katra.

exposed to the true narrative of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi.

History has perhaps never witnessed a production of this class at Katra which unfolds the entire legend in a highly spectacular manner.

Balwant Thakur who is credited for having created theatrical wonders of world class once again established the fact that his magic spell will continue to mesmerize audiences through his mind-blowing ventures. The most striking feature

of today's performance was the demonstration of perfection in every creative department be it the stage action, design, lighting, scenic imagery and visual poetry which left a life-time impact of a highly vibrant presentation.

Pan-India audience on the occasion appreciated the performance and termed this as their lives best memorable presentation which they desired to continue for the entire year so over one Crore pilgrims visiting Katra every year get bene-

fited by such educative showcasing of artistic presentation. Majority of the audiences admitted that they were not fully aware of the whole story of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and after having witnessed this mind-blowing presentation they have come to know about various aspects of the story.

The artists who featured in this mega show included Neeraj Kant, Brijesh Avtar Sharma, Palshin Dutta, Kananpreet Kaur, Sana Chouhan, Kushal Bhat, Vishal Sharma, Kavya

Sharma, Aradhya Sharma, Pihu Mehra, Aanya Sharma, Ayushi Nagotra, Anvi Thakur, Aayna Thakur, Sania Bhagat, Sonam Thakur, Jeevika Thakur, Vrinda GujralIsha Gupta, Mehak Chib, Aradhana Soodan, Divyanshi Sharma, Mehak Singh, Suneha Angural, Sakshi Gupta, Priyal Ashok Gupta, Pratibha Verma, Mahi Verma, Simran Bhagat, Prerna Sharma, Simran Rajput, Ritika, Janvi Biloria, Harmandeep Kour, Arun Dev Verma, Sahil Narwalia, Arun Sharma, Lalita Devi, Shalini Bhagat, Kartik Kumar, Vansh Pandotra, Gopi Sharma, Sanket, Abhinav Sharma, Gourav Khajuria, Manik Sanmotra, Raghuvansh, Bhushan Kumar, Deepak Saini, Mridul and Sunny Mujoo. The sets of the play are designed by Veerji Sumbli and lights by Shivam Singh. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

# Don't try to play with people's mandate: Shiv Sena



Shiv Sena (UBT) J&K president Manish Sahni talking to reporters at Jammu on Sunday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has expressed apprehension of playing with people's mandate under the guise of nominated MLAs.

In a press conference held on Sunday at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that BJP is trying to play with the people's mandate. He said that misusing the provision of nomination to change the majority or minority situation can prove to be harmful.

Sahni said that according to almost all exit polls, BJP is far from majority, in such

a situation BJP is eyeing the five MLAs nominated by the Lieutenant Governor.

Sahni has demanded from the central government and the Lieutenant Governor to give equal rights to both the regions of Jammu and Kashmir. Sahni said that in the guise of benefiting the BJP, the gap between the two regions should be avoided from deepening. With this new arrangement, the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly will have 95 members including five nominated members, making the majority figure to form a government at 48.

# Appoint Chairman, other members of 8th Pay Commission: NMC

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Subash Shastri, President of National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) on Sunday urged upon the Prime Minister to immediately appoint chairman and other members of the 8th Pay Commission.

Addressing the NMC workers, Shastri said that notification for constitution of the 8th pay commission is the need of the hour, which is bound to have bearing on about one crore employees and pensioners, both in Central as well as State Governments.

He said that commission should timely expedite the report so that the implementation gets executed well before 01-01-2026, due date for revision of 8th pay commission.

"50 percent of DA should be forthwith merged into basic pay and pension", he said, adding, 20 percent interim relief should be sanctioned as early as possible in favour of the employees and pensioners, so that they would get sigh of relief of rising prices and inflation.

He stressed the need to immediately restore old pension scheme in place of UPS as confidence building measures as

many states like Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Karnataka have restored old pension scheme in favour of UPC employees and hoped that the NDA Government at the Centre will take positive step in this regard.

Shastri also appealed to Prime Minister to release 18 months pending DA arrears, beside regularization of daily wagers who have completed seven years of service in March, 2024, adding their monthly emoluments should be raised to Rs. 18,000 per month, beside enhancing medical allowance Rs. 1000 per month on the pattern of UT Ladakh and release of 4% DA due from July last in favour of both central as well as states Govt. Employees and pensioners so that they would get sigh of relief from rising prices of essential commodities. Among other who were also present during the meeting included Rajan Babu Khajuria, B.S. Jamwal, Surinder Kumar, Ramesh Sharma, Chaman Lal, Birbal, Vinod Kumar, ex-Sarpanch Sukhdev Singh, Ram Singh, Subash Sharma and Ram Lal Sharma.

# Dr Harleen Kaur honoured by "Manager" UK



Dr Harleen Kaur, Professor of Microbiology GMC Jammu being honoured with "Manager" UK award.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: In a mega global event held in India and London simultaneously on the occasion of announcement of "Manager Awards" and re-launch of "Manager" (Global Edition), one of UK's oldest management magazines, Dr Harleen Kaur, Professor of Microbiology GMC Jammu was honored for her outstanding performance, dedication, innovation and selfless service during Covid pandemic while performing her duties in conducting RT-PCR Tests on Covid patients.

During the pandemic, she demonstrated highest level of selfless service towards the society and had to battle for her life twice while doing her duties. The awards were

announced in a function held at Constitution Club of India, Sansad Marg New Delhi.

The event was graced by a galaxy of distinguished speakers from all over India and London which included Dr Prakash Nanda, former foreign affairs editor of Times of India; Rakesh Sharma, President of Indian News Paper Society (INS) and former publisher of Hindustan Times; Dr. Dinesh Tyagi, former Director of Finance Ministry Government of India; Rajesh Mohopatra, former editor Press Trust of India; Prof David Waite from London; Herem Raval CEO Global Business School Spain.

"Recipients are often individuals who have gone above and beyond their profession-

al duties" said professor Sarat C Das, editor, 'Manager' UK.

The awards covered different categories including ethical business and sustainability, Ethical Leadership, Health and Social wellbeing, Social Responsibility, Crisis Management, environment protection, best startups among more than thirty different categories.

The event included Hybrid Seminar consisting of 3 plenary sessions with speakers from India and UK. It was organized in association with Kilax Ltd UK. Briefing about the magazine Das said the magazine was launched in 1947 and the "Manager" award can be traced to the legacy of the Institute of Administrative Management, the oldest management institute in the UK which was founded in 1915 in the middle of the first world war and had inspired professional, business managers and administrators all over the world.

The prizes were distributed by Ravi Karan Sahu, Cabinet Minister of Madhya Pradesh Government.

# Teachings of Guru Ravidass remain source of inspiration: Balbir

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Guru Ravidass devoted his entire life for equality, unity and removing social evils and his teachings remain source of inspiration even on Sunday.

Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary, Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth and former Vice Chairperson of J&K SC, ST, BC Development Corporation, said this while he paid obeisance to Guruji at Ravidass Temple in village Hariapur of R. S. Pura on Sunday along with some other members of the community. Balbir Ram Rattan said that Guru Ravi Dass, revered saint, poet, and a social reformer, rose from humble beginnings to inspire millions through his teachings on equality, dignity, and devotion to God. Despite having being born in a lower-caste family, Guru Ravi Dass opposed the social discrimination of his time and advocated brotherhood and the oneness. His hymns and verses not



Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary, Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth paying obeisance to Guruji at Ravidass Temple.

only carry spiritual significance but also highlight the need for social reform, urging people to treat all individuals with respect and compassion, regardless of their background, he said. Balbir further said that Guru Ravidass's belief in a casteless society and his fight against discrimination made him a pivotal figure in Indian history and a symbol of hope for marginalized communities.

Today, followers of Guru Ravidass across the globe commemorate his life, they continue to embrace his vision of a just and harmonious world. His principles of equality, simplicity, and devotion to God are as rel-

evant today as they were centuries ago. e expressed hope that the members of the community will take inspiration from the struggleful life of Guruji and follow his teachings to lead dignified and prosperous life.

Kuldeep Kumar, pujari of the mandir, told that maximum population of the village is from Ravidassia community and they take part in the morning and evening pooja, as per their convenience. He further shared that the young generation here show deep interest in knowing about life of Guru Ravidass, which is indeed a matter of pride.

# Randomization of counting staff for 8 ACs of Srinagar Distt held



DEO Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat interacting with Counting Staff.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

Srinagar: In connection with Counting of Votes scheduled on October 08 for General Election to Legislative Assembly, the Randomization of Counting Staff for Eight Assembly Constituencies of District Srinagar was successfully conducted as per the guidelines of Election Commission of India (ECI) at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

The Randomization of Counting Staff was held under the supervision of District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat in presence of Election Observers designated by ECI for all the 8 Assembly Constituencies of the Srinagar District.

During the Randomization, Counting Halls were allocated to the Counting Staff deployed at SKICC for Counting of votes for 8 Assembly segments of Srinagar District.

On the occasion, the designated Officials were classified into teams, each com-

prising Supervisors, Counting Assistants, and Counting Micro Observers assigned to their respective Counting Halls.

The third and final Randomisation of Counting Staff will take place tomorrow morning, during which Counting Tables will be assigned to the Officials designated for Counting of Votes.

The Randomization of Counting Staff was facilitat-

ed by dedicated software to ensure transparent, free and fair elections devoid of human interference.

The Randomization process was also video recorded as per the laid guidelines of the Election Commission of India.

Deputy DEO Srinagar, Mir Intiyaz Ul Aziz, Nodal Officer ETPBS, Syed Mujaddid and other Officers of District Election Authority were also present on the occasion.

# Farmers hit by unseasonal rains; paddy crop damaged Sukhmandan appeals for compensation to villagers, seeks LG's intervention

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Former Minister and Senior BJP leader Choudhary Sukhmandan on Sunday said it is the responsibility of the government to look into the plight of "poor farmers" and demanded timely compensation for those whose crops were damaged in last night rains and hailstorm.

"Farmers are our Annadatas. Today, all of us are sad since our Annadatas are aggrieved. Looking at the plight of farmers in Marh, Bishnah, Samba, R S Pura sector, I think it is the responsibility of all of us that we should unitedly work to provide them succour," Sukhmandan said during his visit to various villages in Marh, Bishnah in Jammu sector.

The last night storms and rains have caused heavy damage to the standing crops of rice (paddy) in Jammu province, thus leaving a large population of poor farmers at the mercy of God. Making a



Former Minister and Senior BJP leader Choudhary Sukhmandan inspecting damaged crop.

fervent appeal to LG Manoj Sinha, former Minister Sukhmandan Kumar, demanded that immediate survey of the losses should be conducted and adequate compensation provided to the affected farmers.

Sukhmandan Kumar said these rains have caused heavy losses to the standing crops of Basmati rice, which has sent a wave of uncertainty among farmers. He said that in many areas Desi Basmati Crop has been totally damaged, whereas the

early varieties of rice at the harvesting stage have laid down in fields.

These rains with storms of over 80 kilometers speed have affected 70% of crops Sukhmandan Kumar said that PM Narendra Modi has always expressed concern for the welfare and upliftment of the farmers as he considers them as "Ann Datta". The PM's concern for these hapless farmers should be converted into reality by providing immediate and adequate compensation.

# CEC Tashi Gyalsen, team visit Lingshed, Skumpata, Neyraks

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

LEH: Chairman/CEC LAHDC, Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalsen, DC/CEO LAHDC, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, Director Dihar, Dr. Om Prakash Chaurasia, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Shabir Hussain, Naib Tahsildar, Singay Lalok; and various other officials visited the villages of Lingshed, Skumpata, and Neyraks.

The visit commenced in Neyraks, where the team successfully distributed eye care



Chairman/CEC LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalsen with other officers.

supplies, including sunglasses, to the local community.

This initiative, supported by Pena Care, aims to enhance

the eye health and overall well being of the residents,

# "Wildlife Conservation through co-existence"

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Wildlife Week is celebrated during the first week of October every year coinciding with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. As a part of this, the Department of Wildlife Protection has organized mega event on the eve of Wildlife Week Celebration 2024 at Jambu Zoo on the theme "Wildlife Conservation through Co-existence".

Jyotsana, Regional Wildlife Warden Jammu briefed about the importance of celebration of wildlife week.

Sarvesh Rai, Pr. Chief

Director, Forest Research Institute, J&K, Rakesh Kumar, Director, Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, Wahule Pradepchandrar. P, CP-East Jammu, Ifat-Ara, DCF, Harpreet Kour, DFO-Research Jammu, Priyanka Sareen, DCF-Agrostology Jammu, Ravinder Singh, Joint Director, FPF-Jammu, Vinita Sharma, Professor, Central University Jammu, Students and Faculty of Govt. High Secondary School Garhi, Bal Nikitin School Jammu, Ved Mandir School Jammu and



Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)/ Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K was the Chief Guest, who stressed upon conservation of wildlife and ecosystem. Dr. Kumar M.K, Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu described about the current theme of Wildlife Week 2024 i.e "Wildlife Conservation through Co-existence" as well importance/ linkage of human life with wildlife.

Anit Sharma, Wildlife Warden Rajouri-Poonch presented an impressive snake show and also briefed about the snakes bio-diversity and snakes handling tips. Vijay Kumar, ACE, Wildlife Warden Jammu presented the vote of thanks.

The programme was also attended by the J. Frankoi,

other senior officers of Wildlife and Forest department.

A skit on the importance of wildlife as well as environment was presented by the members of Department of Culture, J&K. A colourful cultural activity as well as skit on wildlife conservation was also performed by the students of the GGHS Garhi.

The students who were adjudged 1st, 2nd and 3rd in painting competitions honoured with prizes.

The Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K distributed cloth bags among the visitors of Jambu Zoo with the awareness message to the general public to minimize the use of plastic in order to safeguard the environment from the plastic.