

Natrang presents two shows of Bawa Jitto in Jhiri Mela-2023

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The most celebrated globally acclaimed Dogri play 'Bawa Jitto' mesmerised thousands of the audiences consecutively for the 2nd day here at the main stage of Jhiri Mela-2023. A presentation of NATRANG Jammu is written by Late Prof. Ram Nath Shastri and is innovatively devised, designed and creatively directed by Padamshree Balwant Thakur.

This mind-blowing presentation of Natrang magically transported along the thousands of the devotees and the pilgrims to a six hundred fifty year old saga of supreme sacrifice of a farmer who gave his life in fight of justice and exploitation by the landlords. The most noteworthy feature of the presentation was that it made the audience to relive 15th century tale exactly at the same place where it happened hundreds of years ago. Giving details Natrang Director Balwant Thakur said that if such events are made a permanent feature, they will not only revive cultural life of the area but will also become the ulti-



A still from the play 'Bawa Jitto' directed by Balwant Thakur, presented by Natrang at JhiriMela-2023.

mate global cultural destination. No where on this earth one can have the occasion to see something out of the world happening which transports people to a live happening of 15th century. He expressed his heartiest gratitude to the District Administration, particularly the Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Mr. Sachin Vaishya and Mr. Manu Hansa, SDM Marh for supporting Natrang to make all this possible. Natrang has staged over two hundred shows of the play Bawa Jitto all-over India and as of now this play

has become the longest living theatre production of the country which has again given a new cultural identity to this region. The story of Bawa Jitto portrays the age-old saga of exploitation of landless farmers by landlords. Due to the constant and persistent pressures of relatives, with a piece of land as bone of contention, Bawa Jitto, a hard working, farm less farmer is forced to leave his native village. Accompanied by his nine-year-old daughter, he takes shelter in the house of a

friend in Shamachak, a near-by village. The efforts of his friend Rullo result in a land grant from landlord in Shamachak and one fourth of the produce is fixed as land revenue. The hard work put in by him, the sweat and toil of Jitto turns a barren land into prolific treasure. This makes avaricious landlord to back out on his word and ask for major share of the crop. Helpless Jitto, unable to endure injustice, kills himself. The agony becomes boundless when Gauri, his little daughter immolates herself on her father's pyre. The most outstanding feature of the play was the performance by versatile actors on stage. The role of Bawa Jitto was played by Neeraj Kant who kept everyone spellbound through his electrifying performance. Kananpreet Kour as Jojan, Suresh Kumar as Mehta Beer Singh, Vijay Bhatt as Sarpanch & Ghaghi and Anil Tickoo & Subash Jamwal as Malli left the lasting impact on the audiences through their highly professional perform-

ances. They were supported by senior actors like, Shivam Singh as Issa, Mohd Yaseen as Rullo and Palshi Dutta as Jeuni with full perfection. Another noteworthy performance was by young Prial Gupta as Bua Gauri who received the praise of all. Others who gave vibrant performances included Sunny Mujoo, Sachin Saini, Aadesh Dhar, Rishav Sharma, Vishal Sharma, Kananpreet Kaur, Aarti, Tarun Sharma, Sushant Singh Charak, Sonali Sharma, Uday Manhas, Priya Mehra, Shreya Raza, Anand Verma, Vansh Pandotra, Kushal Bhat, Sanket Bhagat, Abhimanyu Choudhary, Arun Sharma, Harshul Kaul, Sumit Bandaral, Arun Dev Verma, Amit Rana, Sahil Narwal, Mehak Singh, Mehak Chib, Kuldeep Angral, Chaitanaya Shekhar, Vrinda Gujral and Meenakshi Bhagat. The lights were designed and executed by Suraj Ganjoo and Shivam Singh and sound was professionally audio graphed by Tilak Raj.

CUJ celebrates Janjatiya Gaurav Divas



VC, CUJ Prof. Sanjeev Jain paying tributes to brave tribal freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda and others during Janjatiya Gaurav Divas celebration.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The Central University of Jammu (CUJ) under the patronship of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor Prof. Jain highlighted the struggle and major contribution of freedom fighter Birsa Munda. He said "Birsa Munda fought bravely against the exploitative system of the British colonial system and spearheaded movement against British oppression". He advised students to learn from the life of Birsa Munda and voice against exploitation and oppression to take the country forward. He opined that we need to work for all round development of tribals

dom fighters followed by Quiz competition on Tribal Matters , Health Camp and Career Counselling at Kendriya Vidyalaya. Vice Chancellor Prof. Jain highlighted the struggle and major contribution of freedom fighter Birsa Munda. He said "Birsa Munda fought bravely against the exploitative system of the British colonial system and spearheaded movement against British oppression". He advised students to learn from the life of Birsa Munda and voice against exploitation and oppression to take the country forward. He opined that we need to work for all round development of tribals

of the region and that will be befitting tribute to Birsa Munda. The Office of Dean Students' Welfare Central University of Jammu organized various activities and celebrated as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. The activities were coordinated by Dr. Bharti Gupta, Robin, Dr. Ranjeet Raman, Dr. Sudhakar and Dr. Vijayta Puri. The Vice Chancellor said that the University is committed to organize such events to spread awareness and sensitize the youth of the country towards the great glorious history of Bharat.

Govt Polytechnic Jammu organizes training programme for SMVDSB employees



Govt. Polytechnic College Jammu faculty posing with SMVDSB employees.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Six days training programme on "Basic Computer Skills" on Monday concluded at Govt. Polytechnic College Jammu. The training programme was organised for employees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), Katra to augment and strengthen the skills of the employees. The one week training

programme started on 20th November. The programme was organised under the guidance of Er. Arun Bangotra, Principal of the college. On the concluding day today a valedictory function was organised and training certificates were distributed among the employees of SMVDSB by Er. Arun Bangotra,

Principal Government Polytechnic Jammu. He interacted with the trainees and congratulated Er. Sanjay Kaul HOD Computer Engg and his staff for organizing such trainings for upskilling the employees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) Katra. Ved Paul Instructor provided hands on training to

the employees of SMVDSB on various applications, softwares, trick used in Microsoft Office Word, Excel Power Point etc. On the concluding day visit was organised to Centre for Invention, Innovation, Incubation and Training (CIIT) Jammu to gain first-hand experience of latest technologies, established at CIIT Jammu. The employees of the SMVDSB thanked the college administration for providing excellent training to enrich their knowledge. Others present on the occasion were Er Sanjay Koul (HoD Computer Engg), Er Rani Devi (HoD Information Technology), Er Heena Gupta, Er Sunil Bhatti, Er Kanav Gupta, Er Nisha Bharti, Er Asmat Nisar, Ved Pal and staff of college.



Senior Congress leaders paying tributes to Girdhari Lal Dogra at Jammu on Monday.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Rich tributes were paid to veteran Congress leader and former Finance Minister and Ex MP Girdhari Lal Dogra on his 36th death anniversary on Monday at a function at Congress headquarter, here on Monday. Floral tributes were paid to Girdhari Lal Dogra by the senior Congress leaders recalling his great contributions in the long public life in different capacities spread over to more than five decades. Senior Vice President JKPC Ravinder Sharma remembered the great contributions of Dogra ji who was a one of the greatest stalwart of

Jammu & Kashmir. He played a great role in the integration of J&K state with India and in the laying of it's constitutional relationship. He was close to Pt Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Congress high command and played a significant role in the politics of state. He is respected by all people even after, 36 years of

his departure, which reflects his qualities of leadership and stature. He is known for his simplicity, honesty and integrity. He was a the hard congress leader and truly secular. Party Vice Presidents Vinod Sharma, (I/C HQ) & Ved Mahajan Ex-MLC, , General Secretaries Namrata Sharma, Narinder Sharma, Suresh Dogra, Thomas Khokhar, Sanjeev Panda, Bhanu Mahajan Ex- Corporator, Mohd Sikandar Khan, Shekhar Sharma, Ram Mangotra, parshotam Mehra, Camres David, Michael Wazir, Vinay Sharma, Parveen Akhtar, DDC Ramsoo Ramban Bashir Naik, Adv Tahsina Bukhari,, Janak Mehra, Atta Mohd Naik &

Mohd Yasin Sheikh were prominent those present and paid rich tributes to the great leader. Two minutes silence was observed as mark of respect to the leader. Earlier Senior Congress leaders led by Senior Vice President Ravinder Sharma, General Secretary Narinder Sharma, Sanjeev Panda, Bhanu Mahajan & others joined the tributes paying function at G L Dogra Statue Chowk organised by G L Dogra Memorial Trust and attended by prominent persons of different walks of life, family members and relatives and leaders of different political shades to pay rich tributes to Dogra.

Three media academicians from J&K participated in TOT programme

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Three media educationists from Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Garima Gupta, University of Jammu , Dr. Vineet Kumar Jha Utpal, Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) and Dr. Raviya Gupta, University of Jammu participated in the national level "Training of Trainers (ToT)". The event was organized for media professionals on the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019. This two-day event was organized by the National Institute of Social Defense (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India on November 22 and 23, 2023. A total of forty media academicians and practitioners from across the country were selected in this ToT



Three media educationists from J&K participating in the national level Training of Trainers.

program by the National Institute of Social Defense (NISD). Under this, twenty were selected from Delhi-NCR and twenty from the rest of the country. Media academicians from states like Delhi-NCR, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra etc participated in this program. Dr. Garima Gupta, Head

of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, Jammu University, said that this TOT program was a great experience for the selected participants to learn about transgenders. Through this we understood the key concepts of the transgender community and gained extensive knowledge by interacting with the transgender community. Dr. Vineet Kumar Jha

Utpal, coordinator of the Digital Media Course of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Jammu, said that the constitutional provision for the right of transgenders is very important for journalists and they should be informed about the provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 and must be aware of the provisions of Rules 2020. He informed that Jammu and Kashmir government has already notified the selection of transgender and other people in various state government jobs. Dr. Raviya Gupta, Lecturer, Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of Jammu said that there is a need for intervention by media to create awareness among the public on issues

related to education , health , livelihood aspects of the transgender community . Through this ToT programme, the participants got to know about the representation of trans community in media and the role of media professionals in the implementation of Transgender Act 2019. Deepika Kumar, National Coordinator , Alliance India, Reshma Prasad, Member, National Council for Transgender Persons, Amrita Sarkar, Alliance India, Rudrani Chhetri, Founder Director, Mitra Trust and Garima delivered lectures on various transgender issues. Dr. R. of National Institute of Social Defense (NISD), Giriraj, Director, Manoj Hatoj, Deputy Director (T&B), Sanjay Pawar, Consultant and Shweta were also present during the program.



Brig VK Sharma, DDG of JK&L Dte paying tributes to bravehearts.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: 2 J&K Battalion NCC, Jammu under the aegis of NCC GP Jammu of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Dte organised a solemn wreath laying ceremony at Balidaan Stambh in Jammu to honor our brave fallen heroes on the occasion of the 75th NCC Raising Day. The ceremony, a poignant tribute to the sacrifices made for the nation, was attended by Brig VK Sharma, Deputy Director General (DDG) of JK&L Dte, Col Shajan Thomas, Officiating Group Commander Jammu GP,

along with officers of the Jammu GP, staff and NCC cadets. Amidst an atmosphere of solemnity, the participants paid their respects by laying wreaths at the Balidaan Stambh. The ceremony served as a heartfelt remembrance of the courageous soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great nation, Bharat. Brig VK Sharma, VSM, DDG of JK&L Dte, expressed gratitude for the commitment and valor displayed by the armed forces

and emphasized the importance of commemorating the 75th NCC Raising Day as a symbol of honor, duty, and patriotism. The event underscored the NCC's commitment to instilling a sense of discipline, leadership, and national pride among its cadets. The wreath laying ceremony followed by 2 Minutes Silence in honour of the Bravehearts and NCC Song Culminating with Bharat Mata Ki Jai stood as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by the armed forces in safeguarding the sovereignty of our nation.

Rahul organizes Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyan at Ward 20



Former Dy CM Kavinder Gupta speaking at a programme.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Former Councillor Rahul Kumar organized a Booth Jan Samvad Programme in Ward 20 at Booth No 20, 21 and 22. The programme was graced by former Dy CM Kavinder Gupta, Seh Prabhari North Viney Gupta, Mandal President Bharat Bushan and District Vice President Narinder Koki. The programme was aimed at reaching out to the people

of Ward 20 and informing them about the various works done and achievements of the Modi government. During the programme, Rahul Kumar highlighted the various initiatives taken by the Modi government for the welfare of the people, such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and the Ayushman Bharat Yojana. Kavinder Gupta praised Rahul Kumar for his efforts

in organizing the Booth Jansamwad Programme. He said that such programmes are important for connecting with the people and understanding their problems. Viney Gupta also appreciated Rahul Kumar's efforts and said that he is a dedicated worker who is always willing to help others. Mandal President Bharat Bushan and District Vice President Narinder Koki also spoke on the occasion and praised the Modi government's work. Prominent members of Booth No 20, 21, 22 visited the programme to listen to the work done and achievements of the Modi government. They expressed their satisfaction with the work done by the government and thanked Rahul Kumar for organizing the programme.

Vikram elected as Prez PMPEA Rev Deptt Mattan, Pamposh as Gen Sec

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
ANANTNAG: Vikram Khar and Pamposh Raina have been elected as President and General Secretary respectively of the PM Package Employees Association (PMPEA) Revenue Department Mattan District Anantnag. There were 51 votes in total for the posts of President and General Secretary. Out of 51 votes, 47 were polled for the post of President and 46 for the post of General Secretary. Out of 47, 31 votes were polled in favour of Vikram Khar and has been elected as President, whereas Pamposh Raina bagged 29 votes out of total 46 votes polled and has been elected as General Secretary. In a handout issued by the Election Commissioner



Newly elected office bearers Vikram Khar and Pamposh Raina of PMPEA Revenue Department Mattan, Anantnag.

Amit Koul, who was appointed by the Chairman of PM Package Employees Association, Mattan Anantnag, has declared Vikram Khar as President of PM Package Employees Association Revenue Department Mattan District Anantnag. He also

declared Pamposh Raina as General Secretary of the Association. "Both were elected for the tenure of three years under the purview of PM Package Employees Association Mattan Anantnag with adherence to all the rules and regula-

tion as already communicated and accepted by the winning candidates before filing the nomination form", the handout reads further. Chairman Vinod Tickoo and President Ranjan Jotshi of PM Package Employees Association Mattan Anantnag have congratulated Vikram Khar and Pamposh Raina for being elected as President and General Secretary. They also congratulated Election Commissioner Amit Koul for conducting the election in a cordial and conducive atmosphere. "We hope Vikram Khar and Pamposh Raina will work for the betterment of the employees of the Revenue Department", they said. "We also hope

that both the winning candidates will get the issues of the employees redressed by taking up with the concerned authorities", they asserted. Vikram Khar and Pamposh Raina have expressed their gratitude to one and all for making them winners. They have pledged to work for the welfare of Revenue Department employees working and residing in Mattan in particular and PM Package employees working across the Kashmir Valley in general. "We will leave no stone unturned to get the legitimate demands and issues of the Revenue Department employees redressed from the concerned authorities", they added.