

Natrang presents 'Jayaz Hatyare-Act 1'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In its continued endeavour to provide training/practice opportunities to young theatre actors, and to offer a cultural/intellectual venue to Jammu audience, Natrang presented 'Jayaz Hatyare-Act 1', an Hindi adaptation from a French play 'Les Justes' at Natrang Studio Theatre Jammu.

The play has been adapted in Hindi by Deepa Sahi and Suresh Bhardwaj and was ably directed by Mohd Yaseen, a National fellowship and Scholarship holder from Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.

Prominent amongst those who witnessed the play included V.K Singh IPS (Retd.), Suresh Kumar, Anil Tickoo, Sunny Dua, Vikrant Sharma, Sumeet Sharma, Sunil Soni and more.

Set in the backdrop of India of colonial times, the play narrates the story of a group of Indian 'Ingalabi Party' which plans to assassinate the top official of British India.



Natrang artists performing in a play.

Originally, the play is based on a true story of a group of Russian Socialist-Revolutionaries who assassinated the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich in 1905.

Jayaz Hatyare is adapted from a French play titled 'Les Justes'. The play was first published in the year 1949 written by French writer and philosopher Albert Camus, later on it had been translated in English as 'The Just Assassins' and then in Hindi by Suresh Bhardwaj and

Deepa Sahi.

The play explores the moral issues associated with murder and militancy. The adaptation is given an Indian taste and is transformed according to the Indian struggle for freedom.

The artists who performed in a play included Manoj Lalotra as Onkar, Meenakshi Bhagat as Devika, Sushant Singh Charak as Vivan, Shivam Singh as Vimi and Brijesh Avtar Sharma as Sukhen. The lights were designed by Neeraj Kant.

Uday, Rajni Bala start blacktopping work at Ward-60

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: President Pradesh Youth Congress Jammu and Kashmir, Uday Bhanu Chib along with Corporator Ward No 60, Rajni Bala on Sunday started blacktopping work at Mohalla Dhok Paloura.

President Guru Ravi Dass Sabha, Om Parkash, former Director Animal Husbandry, Dr Raj Paul Hans, Harbans Lal, Pakasho Devi, Kamal Singh, Tarun Vaid, Rangrez Hans and prominent people of the Ward were also present.

Uday Chib said that BJP had lost the moral right of claiming to be the champions of the Jammu cause.

He said the people of Jammu are feeling let down as the entire system of governance has gone haywire. He asserted that due to high inflation, the miseries of common masses has increased manifold.



President JKPYC, Uday Bhanu Chib along with Corporator Ward 60, Rajni Bala starting blacktopping work.

He held the BJP leadership responsible for all miseries of general masses who were ditched by their elected representatives.

Uday Chib said that the Congress party is fully committed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for development and progress.

He said that the Congress Party has always worked for strengthening the secular fabric of J&K and will fight all divisive forces who are hell-bent upon to create a wedge between region, countries and people on the basis of religion, caste, language or ethnicity.

Quiz Competition on Energy Conservation organised

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Department of Environmental Science in collaboration with Department of Botany, Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government PG College for Women Gandhi Nagar Jammu under the banner of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' organised Quiz Competition on the theme- 'Energy Conservation' on 26th of December 2021 wherein 153 students participated.

The event was organised to create awareness among the students about global warming and climate change and promoting efforts towards saving energy resources for the future generations.

Dr. Sangita Nagari, Principal of the College, encouraged the students to make a plan to take action so as to make our mother planet a happier and healthier place to live.

She further added that the students should work for raising awareness of the importance of energy conservation and energy resources.

Tannu Goswami, Amreen Iqbal and Aaisa Zafar clinched first, second and third positions respectively.

The event was organised under the supervision of Prof. Mala Bhasin, Head Department of Botany and coordinated by Dr. Basharat Hamid of Department of Environmental Science.

JTC, SKF demand enhancement in relief; protest enters day 450



Kashmiri Pandits raising slogans during a protest.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The ongoing sit-in protest of Jagti Tenement Committee (JTC) and Soan Kashmir Front (SKF) J&K, in support of their long pending demands entered 450th day on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, Shadi Lal Pandita, President, JTC Jagti said that J&K UT and Center Government should fulfill all demands of Kashmiri Pandits as soon as possible, as the community members are protesting for the last 450 days. Major demands of the protestors included enhancing monthly cash relief of relief holders from Rs

13,000 to Rs 25,000 per family per month, providing 20,000 jobs to migrant unemployed youth, holding exclusive recruitment drives for Kashmiri migrant unemployed youth in Police, providing compensation and interest-free bank loans to over-aged migrant youth, removing illegal occupation from lands, properties of KPs and religious places in Valley, reserving five Assembly seats and three Parliament seats for KPs, providing compensation to KP migrants for loss of 32 years, ensuring rehabilitation of KPs in Valley at three satellite townships etc.

French Club organises Entrepreneurs Meet

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To foster the spirit of entrepreneurship in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory (JKUT), an Entrepreneurs Meet-up was organised by French Club, here on Sunday.

Entrepreneurs shared their idea of their respective field and also exchanged knowledge which would help them out to work together.

Managing Director, INFOBUG, Amar Chouhan, who was Chief Guest on the occasion, congratulated the entrepreneurs for starting new venture. She said, "Entrepreneurship today has become a dominant and powerful ideology and generating employment and improvement of quality of life of masses of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory and entrepreneurs of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory are doing very well in their respective fields.



French Club members and others during Entrepreneurs Meet.

ability to compete with any other businessman in the world".

"If India has to progress then we need to encourage startups and business based on innovative concepts," he added.

Anil Sharma, Senior Business Associate, LIC India, who was the guest of honour, said that young entrepreneurs have not only sustained themselves independently but have also created employment opportunities for many and these young entrepreneurs are doing very well in their respective fields.

Blogger Kanav Chopra, who was special guest, said that youth of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory possess enormous talent which requires exposure across the country.

Entrepreneurs who attended meetup included Sakshi Gupta, Bhavana Mahajan, Samarpal Singh, Tarsem Lal and Sushil Tagotra.

Other dignitaries present were Dr Gagandeep Singh, Malvi Gupta and Kavi Raj and the programme was held under the supervision of Arun Sharma, President and Founder, French Club.

Varinderjeet condemns ban on wearing Kirpan in Pakistan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP Vice President Varinderjeet Singh on Sunday said that the decision of Pakistan's Peshawar High Court regarding wearing of Kirpan, is totally unjustified.

"We will not tolerate any kind of attack on the faith of Sikhs. Let us tell Pakistan that the sword is not a weapon, it is one of the religious symbols and if anyone tries to interfere, it will not be tolerated by any Sikh all over the world," he said.

The Peshawar High Court in Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province has ordered the Sikh community to get licenses to carry Kirpans with them.

"There is resentment among Sikh organizations about this because the Kirpan is a symbol of Sikhism and it is included in the five Kakars. In such a situation, keeping it with them is their right to religious freedom and it is unfair to see it as a weapon," Varinderjeet said

adding that Sikhs are unhappy with Kirpan being treated as a weapon in Pakistan.

Varinderjeet mentioned that Peshawar High Court has allowed the possession of a sword only with a license under the Arms Policy of 2012 but the Sikhs in Pakistani and elsewhere are not happy with this decision, which has invited massive resentment and anger.

Singh condemned ban on wearing Kirpan without license in Pakistan in strongest words.

2nd online essay contest-2021 winner honoured

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "The time has come to inculcate the martial and leadership qualities of women like Didda Rani and Kota Rani among our growing children in addition to grooming them for career oriented competitive exams," Swami Yajnadharnanda, Secretary RK Mission J&K said while blessings the young awardees of 2nd online essay contest-2021 in a function held at Sanskriti Bhavan Roop Nagar, here.

The contestants wrote their respective essays on the topic 'Didda Rani-The Warrior Queen of Kashmir'. The contest was conducted in English, Koshur and Sharda in junior, senior and super senior categories.

Vice Chancellor University of Jammu, Prof Manoj Dhar was the chief guest of the prize distribution function. He appreciated the efforts put in the direction of popularizing the lost and forgotten golden chapter of Kashmir Hindu history.

"The sacrifice laden struggle of Didda Rani overpowering so many odds at a crucial juncture of the history of Kashmir desha, should keep our future generation confident enough to return back to our birth land with all

honor and dignity," he emphasized.

Vidhi Raina from Coventry School Tulum Ganderbal won first prize, while Ayushi Raina from Dhobiwan Budgam stood second and Nandita Pandita from Shemford Futuristic School Wanpoh Anantnag and Mehak Raina Coventry School Tulumul shared third prize in junior category, whereas Rudakshi Ganju of Lajoora Pulwama, Rudra Pandita of KV Baramulla and Vanshika Raina of Dobivan Budgam got consolation prizes.

Chand Tikoo, Vijay Bhat and Princy Raina shared the first prize. Ravinder Nath Bhat, Retd senior Bank officer (Logripora/Najafgarh) and Meenakshi Ramesh (Vessu, Anantnag) were declared as overall Champions whose essay in both Sharda and Koshur/English categories were adjudged the best.

The organizing team thanked the sponsors of the event especially Pt N Jotshi Foundation, Pt RK Ganjoo Memorial Trust, community organizations, Mandir committee and Kiran Wattal, former JMC Commissioner as well as Radio Sharda for wide publicity.

Few Valley-based politicians creating confusion regarding Delimitation Commission's recommendations: Y V Sharma

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lashing out at detractors of Delimitation Commission's draft report discussed with associate members during a meeting recently held in New Delhi, Y V Sharma, Spokesperson BJP, J&K UT said that some Kashmir-based politicians are trying to create unnecessary confusion by using factually wrong statements to hide their own wrong-doings committed deliberately when they were in power.

In a press statement issued here on Sunday, Sharma said that it is a well-known fact that they brazenly crushed genuine aspirations of people of Jammu by denying them their constitutional rights and gave them less number of seats in the legislative assembly of erstwhile J&K State than were due to them under rules. Many sections of society were denied voting rights on one pretext or the other. "There was widespread unrest and protests all along but they were brushed aside in order to continue with their discriminative practices and keep their supremacy in political power. There was a wide gap between seats allotted to Kashmir and Jammu which was not justified by any rule of law. Abrogation of article 370 gave legitimate rights of voting and citizenship to many sections of society in Jammu which necessitated the redrawing of assembly constituencies and also correcting the previous aberrations," said Sharma, adding accordingly the Government of India constituted a delimitation commission as per the provisions of delimitation commission Act. "The members of the commission met the leaders of

the various political parties and other stakeholders and did a lot of work to come up with the recommendations of increasing six constituencies in Jammu and one in Kashmir. They are also busy in reserving some constituencies for the marginalised sections of society which were ignored previously. They are busy in preparing the final recommendations they were made known to 3 associate members of Parliament from Kashmir belonging to NC and two from Jammu in a meeting held on December 20. As reported there was no initial reaction, but later on some highly communal and damaging remarks came to light which is highly deplorable. The commission has invited objections up to December 31. Everyone is free to give objections based on facts. But it should be clear to everyone that the commission has been constituted following the due course of law and its formation cannot be challenged. Its final recommendations will be placed before the Parliament but they cannot be altered. No court in the country has the jurisdiction to challenge the formation of the commission and its recommendations.

Sharma further said that some vested interests are stating that they will submit their objections, but will take the case to Supreme Court in case there will does not prevail on the technical ground that the formation of the commission is illegal since the case of abrogation of Article 370 is still pending in the Supreme Court makes no sense at all. "Everybody must know that Parliament is a supreme body and the government formed by the majority party in

the Parliament has the power to run the country according to the Constitution and as also the powers to bring changes in rules in consonance with changed circumstances. Even Constitution changes with the will of majority with changing time and circumstances. Some highly placed political experts and some non-political thinkers strongly feel that given the area of the Valley and the Jammu region, the populations of the regions and the physical conditions and the terrain of two regions necessitate more seats for Jammu region than for the valley," he added.

"Gandhi Nagar constituency in Jammu is quite unmanageable with around 1,69,000 voters and similarly Jammu West constituency with around 1,53,000 voters. In the same way many constituencies in Jammu like Rajouri, Kathua, Vijaypur, Rannagar, Reasi, Hiranagar have more than one lakh votes whereas the biggest voter constituencies in the Valley are Batamalo with 1,20,000 votes and Kupwara with 1,06,000 votes. There are only two constituencies Sopore, Budgam with more than one lakh votes and that is why there is still widespread resentment in Jammu even after the addition of six seats. It makes a debatable case that in the valley Gurez constituency has about 18,000 voters while in Jammu smallest constituency Bani has about 42,000 voters," he asserted. Sharma urged all parties to cooperate with the commission and refrain from issuing communal or provocative statements in the interest of peace, normalcy, development and prosperity of J&K.

he said.

Lalit Gupta, National General Secretary said that given women in her incarnation as mother has an extended role in the family. A healthy woman is the basis for a healthy family and yoga is the way forward. Satya Pal, President of the Sansthan earlier welcomed the Chief Guest and introduced him to the Sansthan members and participants. Other highlights of the function included Samohik Sadhana by women Sadhaks and cultural items by women Sadhaks. Ranjana Verma conducted the proceedings of the event.

PM Modi's policies will soon end difference between urban & rural lifestyles: Bharat Bhushan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The policy envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will soon put an end to the difference between urban and rural lifestyles as the same convenience and facilities will be available in villages as are currently available in cities.

This was stated by DDC Chairman Jammu, Bharat Bhushan Bodhi while inaugurating upgradation work of Chuchu De Amb to Lohrichak road with an estimated cost of Rs 4.17 Cr under NABARD scheme at Marh constituency.

Former Minister Sukhmandan Choudhary, BJP State President Kissan Moreha Omi Khajuria, Sarpanch and Panchs of Panchayat Gajansoo were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC Chairman said that development of rural areas holds much significance as still large segments of the population lived in villages.

He said that development of



DDC Chairman Jammu, Bharat Bhushan inaugurating upgradation work of Chuchu De Amb to Lohrichak road.

villages has been one of the priorities of the Modi Government and the imbalance between Urban and Rural areas has to be removed to offer quality life to people living in far off hamlets.

He said that villages have to be self-sufficient and agriculture has to be made more profitable, and for this roads and other infrastructure has to be made robust.

Bharat Bhushan asserted that the Central Government headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to develop rural areas at par with

urban areas as the same is a prerequisite for making India a developed nation.

Former minister Sukhmandan Choudhary, in his address, said that the central government has formulated various exclusive schemes to benefit the people hailing from rural India who will eventually become the pillars of the country's economy in the long run.

He informed that the BJP government-led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is concerned about every citizen and concrete measures will be taken to address the grievances of