

100 eminent persons felicitated at 'Mahajan Milan'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha (JCMS) organized an impressive and colorful "Mahajan Milan" function at Mahajan Bhawan, here.

Jangi Lal Mahajan, MLA from Punjab & President Akhil Bhartiya Shiromani Sabha (ABMSS) was the Chief Guest, while Mahajan Rattan T.R Gupta, Dr. Raghav Langar and Kavinder Gupta, Ex Deputy Chief Minister, were the Guests of Honour and also addressed the function.

Yash Paul Gupta, Chief Patron, Rattan Lal Gupta, Ex MLC, Arun Gupta, President Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Jammu, Chander Mohan Gupta former Mayor, Rajinder Gupta, General Secretary, ABMSS and Mahesh Gupta, Zonal President, ABMSS, were the Special Guests. All dignitaries were honored with traditional Dogra Pagri.

Romesh Chander Gupta, President, Shiv Partap Gupta,



JCMS members felicitating Actor Hitesh Mahajan, Prof & HoD Chest Disease GMC Jammu, Dr. Rahul Gupta and Dr Arnav Vivek Gupta.

senior Vice President, Harinder Gupta senior Vice President and Sanjay Mahajan, General Secretary, also shared dais and spoke on the occasion.

The President of the Sabha, along with the Chief Guest and other dignitaries, inaugurated the function by lighting the traditional lamp followed by the release of a booklet on the life and contribution of prominent personalities of the community.

Romesh Chander Gupta, in his welcome address, highlighted

the efforts of his team of office bearers, which has brought laurels for Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha by earning good name in the field of social service through its work centers. He also praised the working of the pension wing of Sabha, which gives financial assistance to widows, handicaps, needy persons, and poor students of the Mahajan community in a time bound manner.

The president also informed that the Constitution of the

Sabha has been translated in Hindi, which was originally written in Urdu. Jangi Lal Mahajan assured full cooperation of Akhil Bhartiya Mahajan Shiromani Sabha.

The highlight of the function was that more than 100 members of the community, who have excelled as doctors, engineers, civil servants, sports persons, social activists, defense personnel and students and earned respect for their community, were honored with mementos and shawls.

Actor Hitesh Mahajan, Prof & HoD Chest Disease GMC Jammu, Dr. Rahul Gupta besides JMC Councilors of the community, namely Sunita Gupta, Sandhya Gupta, Neena Gupta, Bhanu Mahajan, Anil Masoom, Amit Gupta, Dinesh Gupta, Ajay Gupta and Gopal Gupta were felicitated.

The presidents of the different Mahajan Sabha's of the state, along with their members, also graced the occasion. The reception committee members including Dr Mohan Lal Gupta, Subash Gupta, Kulbhushan Gupta (Manu), Prabhu Shah, Atul Gupta, Surinder Gupta, Yash Pal Gupta, C.P Gupta, Balbir Gupta, Mukesh Mahajan, Ramesh Gupta, Ravi Rohmetra and others had contributed in making arrangements for the function.

The vote of thanks was presented by Shiv Partap Gupta, Senior Vice President of the Sabha. Sanjay Gupta and Sudha Gupta conducted proceedings of the function.

Billawaria visits Bhour Camp, takes stock of problems

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria visited Bhour Camp area of Ward 73 to take stock of the problems being faced by the people related to roads, street lights, sanitation and other development related issues.

Local residents told Deputy Mayor that the development work of Bhour camp area was totally neglected by the previous government.

They also expressed their grievances regarding dilapidated conditions of the drainage system and said that children and old aged persons are facing a lot due to the poor drainage systems.

While interacting with the people, Billawaria assured the general public that he would look after the all development process. He informed that



Deputy Mayor, B.S Billawaria during visit to Bhour Camp.

he has asked the officials of concerned departments to immediately prepare estimates and take up the works for remaining roads in the area.

He instructed the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to solve the problems faced by the general public of the said area. Deputy Mayor also organised a Janata Darbar for the Bhour Camp area.

He assured that the Municipal Corporation would provide all necessary assistance for development and better sanitation in the area.

Prominent among those present on the occasion were Mandal President Vijay Sharma, Ashok Khajuria, Bharat Sharma, Naresh Sharma, Pitamber Sharma, Gaurav Raina and others.

Balwant's popular Dogri play 'Gatt' staged

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Balwant Thakur's popular Dogri play 'Gatt' staged here on Sunday at Rani Park, Jammu under Natrang's weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'.

Based on Krishna Chander's famous Urdu classic short story 'Khadda' the play is a hard hitting satire on the decay of human values.

Balwant Thakur has adapted it in such a contemporary manner that the audience instantly identifies itself with the play. It was a surprising theatrical treat for the people present at Rani Park who thoroughly enjoyed the performance and responded with applause at the satirical quotient of the play.

The play "Gatt" shows that one and all tend to shirk their own responsibilities and work and pass it on to others. Instead they indulge in high sloganism, claiming to be the redeemers of the suffering masses. This is symbolized by a person falling into a ditch whose pleas to help him come out unanswered by one and all. Different people pass by him like surveyors,



A scene from Dogri play 'Gatt' directed by Balwant Thakur presented by Natrang at Rani Park, Jammu.

young men, religious, leaders, cops, Political leader in power and a foreigner. The person in distress is given different excuses and pleas for their inability in extending help to him. The unemployed youth are unable to find time out of their fixed schedule of hunting for girls. The 'Sadhu' showers blessings and prays for his peace in as and where condition. The police cop lodges an FIR and asks him to report to the police station knowingly that he will never be able to come out of the ditch on his own. The foreigner

lady inquires about his choice between India and Pakistan, which side he would like to take? The situation becomes more dramatic when a minister after a complaint from the public about the worsening of the road condition, makes a round of the area. The workers of the public works department instead of taking out the man from the ditch put wooden planks over the ditch and create a stage for minister's public speech. Here the minister lists his development revolution and lashes at his opponents for

cursing their government for political gains. The public meeting is over, the wooden planks are removed but no one pays any heed to the fallen-man in the ditch. The slogans of the upliftment of the poor fades away with the flowing dusty wind. Finally a man from the audience appears and appeals to everyone to render a helping hand to this common man who is still in the ditch despite having celebrated sixty-four years of India's Independence. The play reflects the plight of the poor masses who continue to suffer for want of help from those at the helm of affairs.

Natrang actors who acted in the play included Neeraj Kant as Neta, Gopi Sharma as Aadmi, Mohd. Yaseen as Karamchhari 1, Brjesh Avtaar Sharma as Karamchhari 2, Sumit Bandaral as Aashiq-1, Kushal Bhat as Aashiq-2, Kanapreet Kaur as Foreigner, Amit Brahmi as Sadhu, Vishal Sharma as Police Cop, Sheryaar Salaria as Chela-1 and Abhimanyu Choudhary. The show was coordinated by Mahikshit Singh.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh's Council Secretariat observed Bhoti Language Day with fervour.

The event was held under the chairmanship of the Executive Councillor for RDD, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee in the presence of the Executive Councillor for Art & Culture, Stanzin Choshpel, and the Executive Councillor for Minority, Ghulam Mehdi. Councillors, Nominated Councillors, and the office staff led by CCF, LAHDC Leh attended the event.

During the event, the staff and officials learned to write their names in Bhoti. The initiative aimed to promote the use of the Bhoti language in everyday communication and to encourage and instill pride among the officials to preserve and promote the unique cultural and linguistic heritage of Ladakh. EC Tashi Namgyal Yakzee spoke about the need to create awareness among the people about the significance of the Bhoti language and the



Executive Councillor for RDD, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee speaking at a programme.

efforts being made by LAHDC Leh to promote it. He also talked about the importance of preserving the traditional knowledge and practices of Ladakh. He emphasised that Ladakh has a unique traditional knowledge system based on harmony between all communities. He urged everyone to respect and preserve these traditions, which are an essential part of Ladakh's identity.

EC Choshpel stated that LAHDC Leh has taken various initiatives to promote and preserve the Bhoti language through various cultural programs, workshops, and events at the village level in the past years. EC Choshpel talked about the role of the Bhoti lan-

guage in promoting cultural diversity and urged everyone to learn and use Bhoti in their daily lives. EC Ghulam Mehdi emphasised that the Bhoti language is not restricted to a particular religion or community but is the language and identity of Ladakhis as a whole. He urged everyone to take pride in their linguistic identity and to work towards strengthening it. He further added that the Balti tribe has been an integral part of Ladakh's cultural and linguistic diversity, and the celebration of Bhoti Language Day is a great opportunity to recognize and celebrate this diversity. He encouraged everyone to promote and preserve the Bhoti language not just for their own benefit but for the benefit of the entire Ladakh community.

Councillor Karma Namdak shared his experience of learning Bhoti and how it helped him connect with the Ladakhi culture and people. He urged everyone to take pride in their cultural heritage and promote the Bhoti language.

St. Peter's Catholic Church organises 'Palm Sunday' procession



Christain community members taking out Palm Sunday procession.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: St. Peter's Catholic Church, Prem Nagar along with Rev. Er. Kuriakose, the Parish Priest, Fr Christophe, the Asst. Parish Priest on Sunday organized a Palm Sunday procession.

Palm Sunday is a Christian celebration that marks the beginning of the Holy Week leading to Easter Sunday.

Palm Sunday, also known as Passion Sunday, is a celebration that commemorates and honors Jesus Christ's victorious entry into Jerusalem. It is an event that is mentioned in all the four Gospels. He entered Jerusalem on a young donkey

showing humility and his followers laid out palm leaves and clothes on the road as an act of homage for royalty.

People participated went in procession carrying the palm leaves in their hands from the Church to Residency Road, Vivekananda Chowk and back to St. Peter's Catholic Church, Prem Nagar.

Rev. Fr. Kuriakose emphasized the readings of the day. He briefly explained the real meaning of Palm Sunday and Jesus Christ's victorious entry into Jerusalem.

He also said that we celebrate Palm Sunday to remember that historic occasion.

'Antyodaya', Modi Govt's guiding force to ensure life of dignity for all: Rekha

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Keeping the principle of 'Antyodaya' as its core guiding force for nine years, the Narendra Modi government has served the poor and marginalized by ensuring a life of dignity for everyone. 'Antyodaya', the Modi govt's guiding force to ensure the life of dignity for all, was expressed by Rekha Mahajan BJP District President Jammu South said, "We have been working with the principles of Seva, Sushasan and Garib Kalyan."

For the expansion of the organization, under the ongoing Booth empower-

ment campaign, Rekha Mahajan today on one day Parvas of R S Pura Miransahib Mandal in respective areas Gazipur Kullian, Rangpur Sudhray, Ganda falls under District Jammu South.

During the Pravas in RS Pura Mira Sahib Mandal, she was accompanied by District General Secretary Akash Chopra Mandal President Bikram Sandhu Mandal Prabhari Vikram Sharma.

Former MLA and DDC Prof Gharu Ram Bhagat, DDC Vidhya Mottan, District Spokesperson Anil Sharma, Kissan Morecha dis-



BJP District President Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan speaking at a meeting.

trict president Gurdeep Pakaya, Dr. PP Singh, SC Morecha Mandal President Ramesh Kumar, and others accompanied her during the one-day Pravas. Rekha said, since 2020 with the out-

break of Covid, the Modi government has ensured food security for all by providing free rations every month to 80 crore people PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.

Guided by Prime Minister Modi's vision of technology-driven system reforms, the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' initiative was launched to transform the lives of migrant workers by

ensuring food security.

Prof Gharu Ram Bhagat said Seva, Sushasan and Garib Kalyan" (service, good governance and welfare of the poor) are the souls of the Modi government and ensuring last-mile delivery of government schemes has been the biggest challenge of the Modi government and the Prime Minister himself has taken care to ensure it.

Meetings were organized under the presidentship of Mandal President Bikram Sandhu. Proceedings of the meetings were conducted by Mandal General Secretary Akash Chopra.

Keep masses aware about policies of BJP: Randhawa asks workers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Masses should be kept aware about the policies of the BJP so that at the time of elections, they become the frontrunner in the elections.

This was stated by former Legislator and senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Vikram Randhawa during booth strengthening Abhiyan at village Chak Sardara Attar Singh in booth number 05 of Jammu South R S Pura Assembly Segment.

Former Legislator was accompanied by Vijay Sharma Mandal President, Bharat Sharma, Pushkar Sharma, Inder Khajuria, Dalbir Saini, Subash Chander, Banarsi Lal, Atul Atri, Hans Raj and many others.

"The grass root level workers are also the backbone of the party and their welfare is party's duty", Randhawa added.

He asked the party workers to promote the policies and schemes being launched the Prime Minister Narendra



Senior BJP leader Vikram Randhawa charing a meeting.

Modi led Government, adding that the schemes have been launched for the welfare of the people and party workers too.

He also asked the party workers to keep close contact with the people of their areas by projecting their issues at the appropriate platform.

"I had seen the grass root level workers putting in their sincere efforts for the party's win during elections and the same spirit should be continued by them in the forthcoming elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir", Randhawa added. "BJP takes all possible

steps for the welfare of the grass root level workers", the Former Legislator said, adding that polling booth are the lifeline of a party and ground level workers keep it alive by putting in their hard efforts.

"BJP keeps the workers happy by redressing their issues timely", he said, adding that it is the duty of the workers also to keep the party alive by their efforts.

On the occasion, various party workers put forth the issues of the people to which the visiting leader assured redressal by taking up with the concerned authorities.

Jugal, Purnima flag-off Dev Darshan Yatra from Gadha Dhar Temple

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma and Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson and former Deputy Mayor flagged off Dev Darshan Yatra from Gadha Dhar Temple here today.

The Yatra was organized by Purnima Sharma Chief Patron Jammu and Kashmir Religious Tourism and Heritage Cultural Trust. The yatra was conducted under the stewardship of Mahant Rajesh Bittu ji, Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Religious Tourism and Heritage Cultural Trust. Baldev Bilawaria Deputy Mayor Jammu Municipal Corporation was also present at the flagging off ceremony.

The Yatra commenced from Gadha Dhar Mandir and passed via Peer Kho Temple and finally concluded at the famous Bawe Wali Mata Temple Bahu Fort. MP Jugal Kishore Sharma also distributed funds approval letters under MPLAD for the development of temples in the City of Temples. Jugal Kishore



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and others flagging-off Dev Darshan Yatra from Gadha Dhar Temple.

while addressing the gathering on the occasion said that Jammu is known as the City of Temples and these temples constitute the most significant component of Jammu's rich heritage and it is the duty of Jammuites to protect and promote this heritage constituent. He said that as a public representative of this region it is a great pleasure for me to contribute towards the development and improvement of the temples across Jammu. He assured to keep contributing in future also irre-

spective of whether being an MP or not. He said that remaining connected to temples is the best way to imbibe humanitarian values which are part and parcel of every religion.

Purnima Sharma in her address said that it is a privilege for her to be part of this sacred Yatra every year and congratulated the devotees for their enthusiastic participation in the Yatra. However, she said that it is a matter of concern that nowadays the footfall in temples is very less in com-

parison to earlier era as this retards the preservation and promotion of the cultural and spiritual heritage of this land of saints where it is said that goat and lion used to drink water at the pond together. She asserted that in order to safeguard one's identity it is necessary for the people to remain connected to their roots. Temples and spiritual pursuits being inseparable part of our culture, therefore I appeal to the people of Jammu to visit the temples and temple related functions

in large numbers to preserve and promote the rich heritage and culture of the City of Temples. She said that people from across the nation visit Jammu to pay obeisance at the temples and the decreasing footfall of the local populace is not a healthy sign for our society.

Mahant Rajesh Bittu said that this Yatra was continuation of earlier initiatives. He said the Trust is committed to promote religious Tourism in the

Union Territory. He said many such Yatras will be organized in near future.

Rajesh Bittu also expressed gratitude to the Member Parliament for releasing the funds for the development of temples.

Later all the prominent dignitaries visited several temples across Jammu City and paid their obeisance there. Among those who were present include Jasvinder Singh Kukoo, Sanjay Gupta, Ajay Sharma, Karan Singh, Gopal Sharma, Sham Singh Lambardar Deepti Ram, Panch Vey Saini, Sanjay Manhas Ravi Dogra and Narayan Bharti.