

Vomedh Rangmanch stages 'Rovmut Bhatta'



Artists performing in a play 'Rovmut Bhatta' in Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Living to its reputation of presenting meaningful plays on socially relevant issues, Vomedh Rangmanch last evening staged yet another play 'Rovmut Bhatta' (Lost Pandit) approved by Ministry of Culture, Government of India under CFPGS at Writers Club, KL Sehgal Hall in Abhinav Theatre complex, leaving the jam-packed audience spellbound by the script, direction and the performance of the artists.

Dr Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) was the Chief Guest while Ajay Bharati, Former MLC and Spokesperson BJP was the guest of honour. The audience comprised of top dignitaries, senior artists, social activists, writers, poets and other stalwarts of the Kashmiri Pandit community and Jammu.

'Rovmut Bhatta' is a satirical take on the journey of Kashmiri Pandits since their forced exile in 1990 after the eruption of militancy in Kashmir valley and the impact it has had on the community caught in the cobweb

of terrorism and cross-cultural chaos leaving them confused about their future. The play is also introspection on the community leadership majority of which seems to be confused on how to deal with the situation and the cross-cultural upbringing of their children threatening to eradicate their age-old unique customs, language, traditions through inter caste marriages etc.

According to the playwright Rakesh Roshan Bhat whose all the plays have been mega hits with the audience, "introspection is a great tool to assess oneself. It purifies soul and clears the cob webs in one's mind. It helps a person to grow and shed ego. Honest introspection triggers insights. Rovmut Bhatta is a story of deep introspec-

tion. It is a story of stock taking of what has gone wrong with KP community and why? Are there only external factors responsible for all the ills that the community is faced with? Rovmut Bhatta is a satirical comedy with elements of introspection, reflections, nostalgia, resilience and hope"

The director Rohit Bhat says that it is a story of the resilience and hope as the protagonist springs back into action even after being in coma for so many years. The optimist would say-if he could do it anyone can do it and the pessimist would say-if he could not do it, no one can, adding they are not trying to preach anything and their intention is not to hurt anyone's feeling but it is an attempt to pause and look

back; after all isn't this what good and meaningful theatre is all about?

King C Bharati, senior journalist and prominent social activist says that commenting on the social evils should not be taken in negative sense but instead one should take a lesson and go for introspection which is the actual message of the play.

The story revolves around Tathya, a man in eighties in coma for over three decades whose elder son was killed by terrorists in Kashmir due to which he went into coma and how his second son Raju shifts to Jammu alongwith Tathya's foster son Jorra.

One day Tathya suddenly comes out of coma and the drama unfolds as he begins asking uncomfortable questions to his son why he or the community has not been able to get justice all these years. He finally takes it upon himself to seek justice by going on fast unto death as the leadership has failed them.

He finally dies during the protest fast raising several uncomfortable questions about the political class, bureaucracy, community leadership and the confusion prevailing within the commu-

nity. The script is superb, direction upto the mark and all the artists played well while Tathya, Jorra and Raju and Pradeep were of top standard. The audience gave a standing ovation for the artists and the Vomedh for such a superb play and performance.

The artists who played various roles include (Tathya) Jatinder Jotshi, (Raju) King C Bharati, (Pradeep) Sunny Mujoo, (Mala) Sushma Kumari, (Jhore) Vinay Pandita, (Hema) Varsha Kumari, (Person 1) Arvin Tiekoo, (Person 2) Kamakshya Dogra, (Leader 3) Vinod Bushan, (Leader 4) Rohit Bhat, (Leader, (Clown) Rakesh Tiekoo, (Host) Bindhya Raina Tiekoo, the play is written by Rakesh Roshan Bhat, Directed by Rohit Bhat. Back Stage was managed by (Costumes) Bharti Kaul, (Makeup) Shammii Dhamir, (Music) Ishu Bharati Pandit, (Sound) Lokesh/Vimal, (Lights) Tara Chand, (Hall Management) Saachi Sundeeep Bhat & Team NDKM and (Publicity) Shazi Khan, Mariya Khan & Rahul Pandita.

Govt Polytechnic Jammu distributes certificates under PM Vishwakarma Scheme



Government Polytechnic Jammu faculty and trainees at Certificate Distribution Function under PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Government Polytechnic Jammu organised Certificate Distribution Function under PM Vishwakarma Scheme in which certificates were distributed to the more than 180 trainees from Four Batches in Tailor (Darzi), Two Batches of Carpenter (Suthar) Trade, Two Batches of Assistant Barber-Salon Services Trade, One Batch of Blacksmith (Lohar) and One Batch of Brick Masson (Rajmistri) on the successful completion of the Basic Skilling Training under PM Vishwakarma Scheme. Er. Arun Bangotra

Principal Government Polytechnic Jammu highlighted the basic objectives of the scheme by recognition of artisans through PM Vishwakarma Certificate as well basic training of five to seven days.

On the occasion the staff from SBI Bank conducted an awareness session for loan scheme under PM Vishwakarma Scheme and also informed students on how to apply for loan under this scheme.

Several trainees expressed their gratitude towards the administration of the college for the successful and smooth conduct of their training.

Other presents on the occasion were Interjeet Singh Workshop Superintendent, Manjeet Singh HOD Electrical Engineering, Sukhdeep Singh HOD Civil Engineering/SPoC, Sanjay Koul HOD Computer Engg, Sakshi Kapahi Lecturer I&C, Paramjot Singh Demonstrator Civil Engineering, Dinesh Kumar, Sandeep Kumar and Amit Kapoor Instructor, Sunil Sharma, Surekha Rani, Sangojeta Mehra, Kanta Baloria, staff of Government Polytechnic Jammu, and various Vishwakarma's were also present on the occasion.

GCW Parade hosts special lecture on 'Advances in Ethno Botany'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Botany, Government College for Women Parade Ground organized a special lecture on "Advances in Ethno Botany" for the students here on Saturday.

The event was organized under the guidance and supervision of the College Principal Dr. Ravender Kumar Tiekoo. The speaker for the event, Dr. Mohammad Ashaq Malik, Assistant professor Botany GCW Thanna Mandi, sensitized the students with the relevance of ethnobotanical studies and recent advancements in this branch of science.

Information about various aspects of ethnobotany, traditional knowledge system, and ethnobotanical chal-



A resource person delivering lecture at GCW Parade.

lenges and its applications were imparted to the students. How ethnobotany can help in combating the present global crisis, implication of ethnobotany in achieving Sustainable Development Goals as per Agenda 2023 were highlighted in the lecture. About 50 students actively participated in the programme. The welcome address was

presented by Prof Tahira Firdous (HOD Botany), proceeding the event was carried by Prof. Bindu Kumari. The event was concluded by formal vote of thanks by Prof. Sukhwinder Kaur. The whole programme was co-ordinated by Prof. Aasia Rashid Bhat, Prof. Usha Devi and Dr. Shveta Saroop.

DSS celebrates 'Save Water Save Birds Day' with enthusiasm

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS) celebrated 'Save Water Save Birds Day' with great enthusiasm today at the Dogra Sadar Sabha Bhawan, Jammu. The event was organized in collaboration with several organizations including the Dogra Educational Trust, Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Management Trust, J&K Ex-Services League, Management Committee of Makkah Masjid, Bathindi, and the Forest Department of Jammu. The event involved exchange of views on nature preservation and care of flora-fona.

President DSS Th. Gulehain Singh Charak distributed thousands of earthen 'hang-pots' to be hung on the trees and other places in homes, schools and offices and filled with water regularly. This act of



DSS members and others at 'Save Water Save Birds Day' celebration.

kindness helps many a thirsty tiny creatures in this season of simmering heat and saves their lives as the mercury soars high in the coming months.

While speaking on the occasion, Charak, Former Minister, informed that this initiative has been spearheaded by the 120-year-old sole representative body of the Dogras nearly 19 years ago.

The primary objective of organizing this event was

to raise public awareness and foster compassion towards birds, especially amidst the rapid urbanization and diminishing natural water bodies, once abundant just a few decades ago.

Many prominent citizens along with children from educational institutions, teaching fraternity, army veterans, officers from the State Forest Department, philanthropists and students joined in this noble effort and humane cause. The participated guests appreciated the great peaceful effort of kindness and admired the participa-

tion from mingled cross sections of society without any reservations or distinctions.

The former minister Th. Gulehain Singh Charak also said that besides saving the tiny lives of the birds the event is also a reminder to the humanity to save water, which is getting scarce and costlier throughout the world over.

The predictions are that the futuristic wars may be fought over water. Sh Charak requested participants in large numbers to keep the 'hang pots' filled up and placed conveniently for the birds to quench their thirst in free from fear surroundings during the summer months.

He also called upon people to save precious potable water and adopt rain water harvesting for use in non-drinking activities.

The children drawn from various Institutions like Dogra Hr. Sec. School, Shastri Nagar, Rich Harvest, Bari Brahmana, Humanity Public School, Bassi kalan, Oriental Academy Sr. Secondary School, Fauji Public School, Rajinder Vihar, Dogra Law College, Dogra College of Education, Dogra Degree College Bari Brahmana, participated in the event.

In the end large a number of students, Numberdar, Chowkidars and prominent citizens shouting slogans "Aao Pakshiyon ko Pani Pilyan, Pani Bachayein" entered the Maharaja Hari Singh Zanana Park, and hung their pots filled with water on the trees for birds.

Prominent among those who expressed their views on the occasion were Lt. Gen. R.K Sharma, AVSM, SM, G.A Qureshi, G.A Khawaja, Col. Karan Singh, Col. V.K Sahi, Gambhir Dev Singh Charak, Janak Khajuria, Ravinder Singh, Regional Director Social Forestry, C.M Seth IFS Retd. and Siddique, Former Additional Advocate General.

International Conference on ICMSDT-2024 concludes at CUJ



Prof K. K. Raina, VC MS Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru with students and faculty of CUJ.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three day International Conference on Materials for Sustainable Development and Technologies (ICMSDT-2024) concluded by capturing the interest of prominent figures, specialists, and attendees across the globe.

Dr. Tanuj Kumar, presented the conference Valedictory initial remark. The valedictory session was honoured by the presence of esteemed chief guest Prof K. K. Raina, Vice-Chancellor, MS Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru, India and Guest

of Honour Prof. Sabu Thomas, MG University Kerala, India.

This session marked a significant moment in the ongoing global dialogue on sustainable practices and environmental conservation through materials.

Dr. Vishal Singh delivered the closing remarks of the conference and revealed the recipients of the awards for oral and poster presentations. Dr. Pragati Kumar, shared his remarks on the experience of organizing the conferences like this and extracted feedback from the participants to improve the

conference proceedings. Prof. Balaji acknowledged the support and motivation rendered from Central University of Jammu, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain for organizing such academic events.

The conference, spanning three days, witnessed a dynamic exchange of ideas, insights, and strategies focused on tackling urgent environmental challenges and advancing sustainable development in diverse sectors. Attendees, including scholars, scientists, entrepreneurs, and students, actively participated in productive conversa-

tions and delivered presentations on important topics: Exciting Innovations for Sustainable Development and Technologies.

The valedictory session was graced by the presence of Prof. K. K. Raina, Vice-Chancellor, who delivered a thought-provoking address. He emphasized the significance of materials in achieving sustainable development and stressed the need for collective action to protect the planet for future generations. He also concludes his remark, emphasizing the significance of the energy source found in Reasi, J&K, which he attrib-

utes to the blessings of Maa Vaishno Devi.

Prof. Sabu Thomas, the esteemed Guest of Honour, graciously shared his valuable insights, praising the conference for its holistic approach to addressing sustainability concerns. The importance of technology, education, and community engagement in promoting meaningful change and cultivating a culture of responsibility for the environment was highlighted.

The conference success was further enhanced by the enthusiastic involvement of delegates from a range of national and international institutions, underscoring the worldwide dedication to a sustainable future. Participants lauded the event for its stimulating sessions, engaging workshops, and the opportunity it offered for exchanging knowledge and enhancing skills. Following the conclusion of the conference meeting, Dr. Praveen Kumar Mehta expressed his gratitude to all of the delegates, attendees, and students who were present.

Red Cross Society organises awareness programme on drug abuse



Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya speaking at awareness programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Red Cross Society led by Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya, as its chairman, organised an Awareness Programme on Drug Abuse at Teachers' Bhawan, here on Saturday.

A skit by students highlighting the social and personal losses faced due to drug abuse was presented. Deputy

Commissioner Sachin Kumar encouraged students to choose a healthy and active life with sports and other rewarding pursuits in life instead of drugs.

Leading a counselling session, Nodal Officer Anti Drug Abuse Shifali Gupta educated students about the ways to avoid falling into the trap of drug abuse.

ADC Ansuya Janwal, who is also Executive Secretary of

the District Red Cross Society, informed that a series of events are being organised by the society since April 25 which will culminate on the World Red Cross Day(May 8).

Registrar Psychiatry GMC Jammu Dr Preeti Kour, SHO Channi Himmat Inspector Sadeeq and resource persons from Team Mashwara also gave the students some important lessons.

JKTF delegation calls on Director School Education Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ganesh Khajuria, Chairman Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) led delegation on Saturday called on Ashok Sharma, Director School Education Jammu in his office chamber to discuss issues and problems faced by teaching fraternity. Subah Mehta Joint Director JSK also present during the meeting.

Ganesh Khajuria highlighted the problems faced by the employees to complete the files of One Time Exemption, who have acquired higher Qualification during service, and made Director aware about the situation of chaos



JKTF delegation after meeting with on Director School Education Jammu.

among the teaching community and loss of class work due to unnecessary documentation.

He requested that the files must be taken only from those who have acquired PG degrees or other higher qualifications and not from those who have acquired Graduation or B.Ed.

Degrees. Furthermore, Ganesh highlighted the issue of In-situ promotion of Masters promoted in 2014 and requested to speed up the process of In-situ promotion as these files are already delaying since long.

Director School Education Jammu after patient hear-

ing the grievances, assured to speed up the process and both the issues will be resolved on priority and the necessary instructions will be passed on tomorrow itself to the subordinate offices to minimise the documentation and unnecessary harassment to teaching community.

Ganesh Khajuria accompanied by Darshan Sharma, Ravinder Singh, Kuldeep Singh Bandral, P.D Singh, Gautam Singh, Bharat Bhushan Sharma and Pawan Sharma conveyed his heartfelt thanks for threadbare discussions, for showing his concern and for assurance for early redressal of the issues.

Prominent socio-political activist Waqar Bhatti joins Apni Party

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, prominent socio-political activist Waqar H. Bhatti, along with his wife Roohi Bhatti, joined Apni Party today in the presence of the party president, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari. Roohi Bhatti is also a prominent activist, having served as coordinator in PDP's Youth Wing and Tribal Cell. The couple joined the party during a special event held at the party headquarters in Srinagar.

According to a press release issued here, Bukhari gave a warm welcome to Waqar H. Bhatti and his wife Roohi Bhatti into the party fold. He said, "I wholeheartedly welcome you both into the Apni Party. It always gives me pleasure to see well-meaning personalities, especially political and social leaders and activists, joining hands. It indicates that people recognize Apni Party's unambiguous agenda and policies."

"Together, we can strive to ensure permanent peace, and enduring prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir. We can elevate this region to new heights of development, and we will ensure the political and economic empowerment of people here."

PHQ sanctions retirement gift of Rs 3.17 Cr in favour of 317 police personnel

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: As a token of appreciation for their services to the Organization, Police headquarter J&K has sanctioned retirement gift of rupees 3.17 Crore in favour of 317 personnel of J&K Police who have retired from services on 30th of April 2024 after attaining superannuation or voluntary retirement.

Sanction has been issued vide PHQ J&K order No. 1127 of 2024 in favour of 24 gazetted officers, 216 non gazetted officers, and 77 lower subordinates. The personnel belong to different units and wings

of the organization. Retirement gift of rupees one lakh each is sanctioned to police personnel from the Contributory Police Welfare Fund at the time of his/her retirement. The gift serves as a token of appreciation for his/her services rendered to the department.

Police Headquarters has been sanctioning scholarships, rewards, welfare loan/ relief for police personnel, wards of martyred and serving/retired Police personnel under different schemes to boost the morale of their wards or help them in times of need.