

# Randhawa leads protest against NHAI authorities, demands construction of flyover on pillars

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
 JAMMU: Expressing their anguish over the construction of flyover from Kunjwani to Narwal on blind walls, hundreds of people including the traders held protest here today.

The protestors were demanding construction of said flyover on pillars instead of blind walls.

Former Legislator and prominent social worker Vikram Randhawa led the protest.

To express their anguish, the protesting people also blocked the Highway and restricted the vehicular movement.

Amid slogans against the authorities of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), the protestors said that the NHAI authorities are not listening to the demand of the people despite clear cut instructions by the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.

Sensing something fishy over the construction of flyover on blind walls instead of pillars, the protestors said that some influential people are behind the con-



Former Legislator, Vikram Randhawa leading protest against NHAI at Jammu.

struction of the said flyover on blind walls and immediate steps should be taken to bring out the names of these people in public domain.

While speaking on the occasion, Randhawa said the construction of flyover on blind walls will effect the livelihood of around 10 lakh people, which is not acceptable at all.

"We will leave no stone unturned to stop the construction of the said flyover on blind walls", Randhawa said and warned the NHAI authorities of dire consequences if the said flyover is constructed on blind walls.

"The Union Minister Nitin Gadkari had also spoken to the NHAI authorities in J&K and directed them to

construct the flyover on pillars so that traders of the area do not suffer but the NHAI authorities even did not pay heed to the directions issued by the Minister," Former Legislator added.

"The development works launched by the Narendra Modi led Central Government is appreciable. But, if the development work is effecting the livelihood of the people then it should be stopped immediately, he added.

"As a part of Delhi-A m r i t s a r - K a t r a Expressway, NHAI is constructing flyover from Kunjwani to Narwal on binding walls which is not acceptable to the traders of

the area as it will result into closure of their trade activities", Former Legislator said, and demanded construction of flyover from Kunjwani to Narwal on pillars instead of blind walls.

"NHAI authorities should immediately stop the construction work of said flyover on blind walls", Randhawa said.

"We are not against construction of flyover but NHAI should also take care of the concerns of the traders and should construct the flyover on pillars instead of binding-walls," Former Legislator Vikram

Randhawa added.

"We have been assured several times that the said flyover will be constructed on pillars instead of blind walls, but all turned fake", Randhawa said.

"We will continue our protest till NHAI authorities change its plan of constructing the flyover on blind walls", Randhawa said, adding that they will protest more aggressively if their demand of constructing the flyover on pillars is not redressed.

Narinder Jamwal Ex-Councillor while speaking on the occasion said that they will launch sit-in-protest if their demand is not redressed.

Pawan Chib, Joginder Singh, Salman Ch, Ashok Kumar, Sohan Singh, Amit Gupta, Farman Ali, Raman Sharma, Vikram Singh, Gulshan Sharma, Jalaz Ch, Jagjeet Singh, Harjeet Singh and many others were present during the protest.

# 15-day production-oriented workshop conducted by D-Drama

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
 JAMMU: D-Drama, under the direction of Delight William Kler, presented "Tring Tring" a thought-provoking play that captured the essence of contemporary challenges faced by children in the age of rapid technological advancement.

The narrative centered around Ronit, a young boy who, on his 16th birthday, received a mobile phone as a gift.

Initially captivated by the myriad of apps and the allure of constant connectivity, Ronit soon became over dependent on his device. As he delved deeper into the virtual world, he began to neglect his real-life relationships and the value of personal interactions. However, an epiphany led him to rediscover the importance of genuine friendships, family bonds, and the irreplaceable value of time.

"Tring Tring" was more than just a play; it was a mirror reflecting the current



Chairperson FICCI FLO, Ritu Singh posing with participating students and others.

societal landscape where technology often overshadowed traditional childhood games and social development.

Through the lens of Ronit's journey, the students of D-Drama masterfully portrayed the dual-edged sword of modern technology. The play served as a reminder of the importance of balancing digital engagement with real-world connections.

Director Delight William Kler commented, "This play is a heartfelt message from the younger generation to the world. It's an invitation

to pause and reflect on how we can integrate technology into our lives without losing touch with what truly matters."

Ritu Singh (Founding Chairperson FICCI FLO, Director Hari Niwas Hotels, Pro Vice Chairperson DPS Jammu) and Deyani Rana, Executive Director and CEO of Take One Television and Digital Network, were the chief guests. They enjoyed the gripping performance of the children and encouraged the students and congratulated the enthusiasm of D-Drama.

# Need to ban NTA, establish transparent and fair examination system: Chib, Sawhney



Youth Congress leaders at a protest in New Delhi.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
 JAMMU: Youth Congress leaders from J&K attended the massive Sansad Gherao protest held in New Delhi on Thursday on the issue of NTA NEET Scam. State General Secretary PYC Anirudh Sawhney along with Uday Bhanu Chib, National General Secretary of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC), Divyansh Singh Jamwal Vice President JKPYC, Romi Sharma Vice President PYC, Amit Siyal Vice President PYC, Chetan Sharma Working President DYC and others participated in the protest.

The protesters had gathered to voice their concerns over the recent NTA NEET UG scam. The demonstration highlighted allegations of widespread corruption within the National Testing Agency (NTA) and demanded its immediate dissolution.

Speaking on the issue, National Secretary IYC Uday Bhanu Chib emphasized the urgent need for transparency and accountability in the examination process. NTA NEET exam, he said, was a shameless and massive scam that toyed with the future of lakhs of students this year, several of them had spent years preparing for the exam. He further added that the youth

of our nation are being robbed of their opportunities due to the corrupt practices of the NTA. This should be nipped in the bud by thorough investigation and appropriate action. He asserted that this is not just about one exam; but about the inherent corruption underlying in our system as well as the integrity of the education system. Immediate action must be taken to ensure that such scams do not recur and affected students are departed justice. Youth Congress and Congress party demands for a transparent and corruption-free process, he said.

Anirudh Sawhney, further speaking on the issue said that the entire infrastructure which should facilitate the education and then employment of youth is in a very poor state. J&K has also been privy to a lot of employment scams and botched examinations. NTA's failure in conducting the NEET UG exam with complete transparency and fairness has put futures and hopes of many students in jeopardy. The continuous malpractices and corruption within the NTA are unacceptable, he added. Our students deserve a fair and transparent examination

process, free from the shadows of deceit and manipulation. The recent cancellation of the UGC NET exam, also conducted by NTA is yet another proof of the agency's inefficiency and lack of competence. We demand a complete ban on NTA and a thorough investigation into its practices, said Sawhney.

The protest witnessed a massive turnout, with students, parents, and activists joining hands to demand justice. The protesters called for immediate government intervention to investigate the NTA's operations and ensure a fair examination system.

# SKUAST-J hosts NCC Cadets for entrepreneurship exposure visit

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
 JAMMU: SKUAST Jammu hosted an enlightening exposure visit for NCC cadets from Nagrota Camp, 04 J&K Battalion.

The visit provided the cadets with an in-depth look into the diverse activities and innovative research at the University, aiming to inspire and educate them on various scientific and agricultural advancements.

The exposure visit was conducted under the dynamic leadership of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu and guidance of Prof. Anil Kumar, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture & Prof. Sudhakar Diwedi, Dean, Student Welfare, SKUAST-Jammu.

The visit began with an informative presentation by Dr. Susheel Sharma,



NCC Cadets with officials posing for a photograph at SKUAST-Jammu on Thursday.

Caretaker Officer of NCC, SKUAST-Jammu, who highlighted the range of activities and multiple faculties at SKUAST-J. Dr. Sharma elaborated on the educational programs offered, emphasizing the institution's commitment to advancing agricultural sciences and fostering innovation.

Following the presentation, the cadets toured the

University's state-of-the-art hydroponics facility at the Division of Plant Physiology, where they gained insights into soilless cultivation techniques and sustainable agriculture. They observed first-hand how hydroponics can revolutionize food production and support environmental sustainability.

The cadets were then introduced to the University's bee-

keeping unit. PhD students demonstrated the processes involved in maintaining bee colonies, harvesting honey, and the commercial potential of bee-keeping. The cadets learned about the significant role bees play in pollination and the benefits of honey bee products.

The visit continued with a tour of the mushroom production facility of SKUAST-

Jammu, where the cadets observed the complete process of mushroom cultivation, from spawn production to the final harvest. They were educated on the nutritional value of mushrooms and the economic benefits of mushroom farming.

Dr. Susheel Sharma emphasized the entrepreneurial opportunities available through these activities, encouraging the cadets to consider ventures in hydroponics, bee-keeping, and mushroom farming as viable career paths.

The NCC cadets were accompanied by Lt. Shalhu Chib (ANO), Subedar Tundap, and Havildar Mukesh Kumar. Prof. Neetu Sharma and Prof. Anil Bhat helped in the smooth conduct of the programme.

# Natrang organises workshop on Rasa Theory of Natya Shastra



Participants at Natrang's workshop on Natya Shastra.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
 JAMMU: With the motive to connect the younger generations with our rich past, Natrang in its summer theatre camp exclusive for girls took an initiative aimed at exposing the participants to the greatest tradition of 'Natya Shastra'.

An exclusive workshop was organised on Thursday by Natrang focusing on the Rasa theory of Natya Shastra at its Studio Theatre.

The director of this exclusive workshop, Padamshree Balwant Thakur elaborated in detail the greatest contributions of India to world wisdom and amongst them the most noteworthy is the Bharat Muni's 'Natya Shastra'. 'Natya Shastra' is the most authentic and authoritative ancient Indian text on performing arts.

In Natya Shastra, the Rasa Theory is the most globally appreciated element of theatre practice. Bhartamuni calls the human soul as the world of emotions and further emphasises that no meaningful idea is conveyed through acting if the 'Rasa' amongst spectators is not evoked.

Bharata says that Natya is the imitation of life wherein the various human emotions have to be dramatically glorified so that the spectator is able to flavour the portrayed pleasure and pain by the actor or

performer.

The girl participants who represent two major women colleges of the city viz. GCW Parade and GCW Gandhi Nagar are undergoing a specialized theatre internship programme in Natrang which has been conceptualized and devised by internationally acclaimed theatre director Balwant Thakur.

The young artists who participated in this workshop of Rasa theory included Aradhana Sudan, Rashmi Bhagat, Akriti Jamwal, Ayuskiya Rajput, Harman Deep Kour, Paratishtha Sharma, Vishaka Devi, Ayushi

Sharma, Mahi Verma, Palak Thappa, Prerna Sharma, Simran Bhagat, Meenu Sharma, Nandini Sharma, Geeta Thakur, Mehak Rana, Richa Dutta, Aanchal Sharma, Lakshita Devi, Pratibha Verma, Anshika Mangoch, Anshika Choudhary, Parul Mangotra, Lavish Mahajan, Aaparna Singh, Kibriya Gohar, Isha Gupta, Aditi Verma and Divyanshi Sharma.

The Summer Theatre Camp exclusive for girls is being assisted by Kanapreet Kaur and Payal Khanna. Mohd. Yaseen is the camp coordinator.

# VKMI observes International Drug Abuse Day

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
 JAMMU: On the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, a program was organized at Xtreme Fitness Center (XFC Gym) by Vichar Kranti Manch International and the Indian Yoga Association.

The event aimed to raise awareness among youths and bodybuilders about the harmful impacts of drug abuse. Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, President of Vichar Kranti Manch International, and Chairman of the Indian Yoga Association, addressed the youth present, emphasizing the need to combat drug addiction and illicit drug trade. The theme of this year's International Day, "The evidence is clear, invest in prevention," was discussed during the program. Dr. Jain highlighted the various problems associated with persistent substance abuse among young people, including academic difficulties, health issues, mental health challenges, strained relationships, and involvement with the juvenile justice system. He underscored how drugs



President VKMI, Dr. Shreyansh Jain and others at a programme.

adversely affect physical health, leading to injuries from accidents, disabilities, diseases, and potentially fatal overdoses.

Ashok Gupta, Vice President of VKMI and Joint Secretary and Founder Chairman Trustee of Sarv Uttan Trust, explained the drug treatment programs available, such as behavior therapy and counseling by licensed professionals. Swar Kokila Anju Bansal, an educationist and social activist, emphasized that the first step toward recovery from addiction is acknowledging the problem and its impact on one's life quality.

The event also saw the gracious presence of other dignitaries including Yeshipaul Sharma, Director of Skill Development & Financial Solutions; Vijay Gupta,

Retired Chief Manager of SBI and Yoga Promoter; and Narendra Wadhwa, President of the Evening Walkers Association, Sector 2, Trikuta Nagar. Members of Xtreme Fitness Center actively participated in a Question & Answer session facilitated by Harish Verma, Owner/Director, and included Sahil Pal, Parnav, Hemant Sehgal, Ajay Kumar, Mohit, and Rajat.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Aarti, Manager of PNB, and featured a self-written poem on the subject of drug abuse by Dr. Jain, which was well-received by all attendees. The event effectively underscored the importance of prevention and support in addressing the challenges posed by drug abuse in society.

# Sham Langar urges Govt to ensure Safe & Secure Amarnath Yatra

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
 JAMMU: Sham Lal Langar, Convener of BJP Trade Cell, Jammu and Kashmir, has called on the J&K Government to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of pilgrims participating in the Amarnath Yatra.

In a press statement issued here today, Sham Langar emphasized the significance of the Amarnath Yatra as a spiritual and cultural event that attracts thousands of devotees from across the country. He underscored the responsibility of the government to provide a secure environment for the pilgrims, enabling them to undertake their journey with peace of mind.

"The Amarnath Yatra is not just a pilgrimage; it is a profound spiritual experience for countless devotees. Ensuring their safety and security should be of paramount importance. I urge the J&K Government to deploy adequate security personnel, enhance surveillance measures, and ensure the maintenance of all essential facilities along the yatra route."

Sham Langar also highlighted the economic impact of the yatra on the local community, noting that a safe and successful pilgrimage season supports the livelihoods of many residents in the region.

"The Amarnath Yatra contributes significantly to the local economy, benefiting traders, hoteliers, and transport operators among others. A secure yatra ensures that these economic activities continue without disruption," he added. The senior BJP leader called for coordinated efforts between various government agencies, including the police, healthcare services, and disaster management teams, to provide comprehensive support to the pilgrims. He also appealed to the public to cooperate with security protocols and report any suspicious activities to the authorities.

"We request the cooperation of all stakeholders to make the Amarnath Yatra a safe and memorable experience for all pilgrims. Let us work together to uphold the sanctity and spirit of this revered pilgrimage," Sham Langar added.

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# Achievements of Modi-3 regime going to be historic: Khatana

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
 JAMMU: The new regime under the leadership of PM Modi has started working now for the third time in a row which is a record in itself and the achievements which this regime will accomplish will also be historic.

This was stated by senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Er. Gulam Ali Khatana while addressing a group of deputations which met him at his official residence on Thursday.

"With determination to eradicate corruption from the length and breadth of the country, Modi-3 gov-



Delegation members calling on BJP leader, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana at Jammu.

ernment will ensure more peace and strong blow to terrorism and insurgency in the country to establish rule of the law," Khatana said.

He further said that PM Modi during his recent Kashmir visit has laid foundation of 84 major

projects worth Rs. 1500 crore in Srinagar and has launched Comprehensive Improvement in Agriculture and allied Sectors (JKCIP) project at the cost of Rs. 1800 crore.

The senior BJP leader said that in a big welfare

measure the PM has recently released 17th installment of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi worth Rs. 20,000 crore for more than 9.26 crore farmers across the country including Rs. 182.55 crore for 8.46 lakh farmers of Jammu and Kashmir. "The developmental spree and welfare measures apart from people friendly schemes by this government are going continuously under the leadership of PM Modi," Khatana maintained adding: "In the last 10 years of rule, PM Modi has ensured historic achievements in the country which include soft landing on moon, abroga-

tion of Article 370 and 35-A, launch of Ayushman Bharat health scheme, free ration to BPL people, Covid-19 vaccination etc." The Rajya Sabha member also said that people should bring their grievances before their elected representatives, nominated leaders and others in PM Modi team so that all the grievances might be addressed well in time and complete welfare is made possible.

Khatana said that such welfare measures will ensure BJP government in all the States and Union Territories of the country and the country will become Congress free.

