

## Natrang stages new Hindi play 'Chaaron Taraf'



A scene from the play "Chaaron Taraf" directed by Neeraj Kant, presented by Natrang in its weekly series "Sunday Theatre".

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Natrang staged a new Hindi play "Chaaron Taraf", written by Prakash Pandit and directed by Neeraj Kant, in its weekly theatre series Sunday Theatre.

A delightful comedy laced with irony, the play humorously portrays how excessive hospitality and social obligations can rob people of life's simplest pleasures.

The play revolves around Dina Nath and his wife, who begin their evening with excitement, planning to

watch a movie followed by dinner. However, their plans gradually collapse under the weight of uninvited interruptions. First arrives friend Pran Nath, demanding tea and pakoras. Soon after, Krishna Anand walks in, waiting for his family to return from the market-of course, expecting to be served food in the meantime.

As the couple struggles to entertain them, another friend barges in asking for money to clear his auto-rickshaw fare. At this point,

Dina Nath's wife bursts out in frustration, lamenting that their savings are endlessly drained by his friends while their own small desires remain unfulfilled.

By the time the guests leave, the film is already out of reach. The weary couple still hopes to salvage their evening with dinner outside, and Dina Nath instructs the servant to lock the gate from outside to ensure no further interruptions. But just when relief seems near, the servant reports that someone has climbed the wall into the house.

It is yet another friend, Daya Narayan, who intends to stay the night. Defeated and exhausted, the couple collapses into bed, their evening ruined by endless disruptions.

The play featured spirited performances by Aryan Sharma, Aadesh Dhar, Kushal Bhat, Kartik Kumar, Krishay Bhatia, and Mehak Sharma. Lights were executed by Neeraj Kant, while the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

## Mahant Rohit Shastri presents Sanskrit nameplate to LG's Principal Secretary



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust and State Awardee, paid a courtesy call on Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor of J&K at Raj Bhavan, Srinagar. On this occasion, Mahant Shastri presented Dr. Bhandari with a nameplate inscribed in Sanskrit, as part of the ongoing "Har Ghar Sanskrit Abhiyan" (Sanskrit in Every Home Campaign).

Mahant Shastri highlighted that the initiative aims to promote India's ancient and glorious Sanskrit language in every household. "Installing Sanskrit

nameplates in homes, offices, and institutions will awaken a new consciousness towards this sacred language," he said. Sharing the broader impact of the campaign, Mahant Shastri noted that many eminent social, religious, educational, and administrative personalities have already joined the initiative.

He explained that such efforts will help revive Sanskrit not only in Jammu and Kashmir but across the country, fostering cultural awareness and pride. Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari appreciated the initiative, commending Mahant Rohit Shastri for promoting the language and cultural heritage through innovative means like the Sanskrit nameplates.

The "Har Ghar Sanskrit Abhiyan" continues to gain momentum, reflecting a growing interest in preserving India's linguistic and spiritual traditions, while encouraging citizens to incorporate Sanskrit in their daily lives.

## Dr. Karan Singh meets young environmental crusaders fighting to save Jaipur's Urban Forest

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Nonagenarian statesman and environmentalist Dr. Karan Singh today met with 13-year-old Savi Shekhawat and her 7-year-old sister Bhavya, who recently cycled nearly 300 kilometres from Jaipur to Delhi to highlight the issue of large-scale tree felling at Dol ka Badh, a 100-acre urban forest in the Rajasthan capital.

The two sisters, driven by their concern for the environment, undertook the arduous 12-day journey to draw the attention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to their appeal. Unfortunately, they could not meet the Prime Minister.

Notably, the young environmental crusaders carried out the 12-day journey to preserve the forest by demanding that it be declared a biodiversity park and sought the constitution of an independent monitoring committee to oversee its protection. "We are not against development, but it should never come at the cost of nature," the girls said. Dr.



Dr. Karan Singh meeting with 13-year-old Savi Shekhawat and her 7-year-old sister Bhavya.

Karan Singh praised the extraordinary courage and commitment of the young girls, describing them as "the torchbearers of a new India that understands the importance of balancing progress with preservation." He said their effort symbolises the voice of the younger generation, which is deeply conscious of the ecological challenges facing the nation. "The sheer determination of these young girls should serve as an eye-

opener for all of us," Dr. Karan Singh remarked. "While development is necessary, it is equally vital to ensure that our natural heritage and biodiversity are safeguarded for future generations. Their journey is a clarion call for sustainable development," he said.

Dr. Karan Singh assured them of his full support in their noble mission and expressed confidence that their message will resonate widely across the country.

## J&K Pradesh Youth Congress visits flood-affected areas in Jammu North

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the directions of Indian Youth Congress (IYC) President Uday Bhanu Chib, a delegation of the J&K Pradesh Youth Congress (JKPYC) visited the flood-affected areas of Ward No. 67 in the Jammu North Assembly Constituency.

The visit, led by IYC Secretary Incharge J&K Maan Singh Rathore, aimed to assess the ground situation and express solidarity with the local residents who have been severely impacted by recent heavy rains and flooding. Rathore was accompanied by JKPYC General Secretary Anirudh Sawhney, Navjot Risam, and other Youth Congress members.

The team met several families whose homes and livelihoods were damaged due to waterlogging and infrastructure collapse. Locals shared their experiences of hardship and urged the leaders to bring their concerns to the attention of the authorities. The Youth Congress team assured the residents that



JKPYC team visiting rain-hit area.

they would continue to advocate for their rights and push for urgent government action. Highlighting the serious condition of the area, the leaders criticized the administration's lack of preparedness and demanded immediate relief and rehabilitation for the affected families. "This is not merely a case of seasonal rain-it is a reflection of administrative negligence and misplaced priorities," said Maan Singh Rathore.

"The government must provide adequate compensation, rebuild

damaged homes, and implement long-term flood protection measures. Hollow claims of a 'smart city' hold no meaning when people are forced to live in submerged houses."

JKPYC General Secretary Anirudh Sawhney echoed these sentiments, stating that the situation in Jammu during every monsoon exposes the reality behind the government's claims. He noted that poor planning, broken infrastructure, and a lack of disaster preparedness have

made life miserable for thousands of people. "Instead of focusing on cosmetic development, the administration must invest in durable infrastructure and disaster resilience. The people of Jammu deserve better than annual suffering and neglect," Sawhney concluded.

The JKPYC has committed to closely monitoring the situation and continuing its campaign for justice, compensation, and long-term solutions for flood-affected families.

## AJKTWA pays tribute to flash flood victims, demands immediate government action on crisis in transport sector

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The All Jammu & Kashmir Transport Welfare Association (AJKTWA), led by Karan Singh Wazir, held a solemn gathering on Sunday to pay homage to the victims of the recent flash floods and cloudbursts that devastated parts of Kishtwar and Kathua.

Representatives from various passenger transport unions joined together in a show of unity and grief, observing a two-minute silence to honor those who lost their lives in the natural disaster.

While offering heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, the Association used the occasion to spotlight the deepening crisis faced by the transport sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing the media, Vijay Singh Chib, President of the Association, welcomed the delayed yet necessary progress in the long-pending E-rickshaw and E-bus



AJKTWA members led by Karan Singh Wazir paying homage to cloudbursts victims.

documentation process.

However, he warned that any further delays in actual implementation would reflect sheer administrative indifference to the needs of the transport community. Chib strongly condemned the indiscriminate blacklisting of vehicles and the wave of unjustified E-challans, which he said had become a form of systemic harassment against law-abiding transporters.

He described the current environment as "chaotic and unsustainable," asserting that the authorities were pushing the transport sector toward collapse through arbitrary enforcement and lack of empathy.

He demanded an immediate and time-bound review of such actions, warning that continued inaction would provoke intensified agitation from transporters across the Union Territory.

Parvinder Singh, Chief Patron of the Association, also delivered a forceful critique of the government's inaction. He highlighted the lack of a comprehensive transport policy and the absence of any meaningful relief package for the sector, despite it being a cornerstone of J&K's economy. Singh emphasized that with tourism in decline, transporters are among the

worst affected, and without swift government intervention, the sector is headed toward irreparable damage.

The Association firmly declared that token gestures and delayed responses are no longer acceptable. It urged the government to act decisively by offering immediate relief, halting bureaucratic overreach, and developing a clear transport policy. Should the administration continue to ignore these critical demands, the Association warned it would escalate its protests and mobilize transporters for a large-scale agitation across the region.

## Weekly Sanskrit Pathshala organized at Shree Panchmukhi Hanuman Mandir

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a spiritually enriching and culturally empowering initiative, the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust, under the leadership of its President Pawan Kumar Shastri, successfully conducted the 10th weekly session of the Sanskrit Pathshala (Gyan-Yagy Pathshala) at the Sankat Mochan Panchmukhi Shree Hanuman Mandir Bhawan, B.C. Road, Jammu.

The program was graced by Vinakshi Koul, Joint Director, Youth Services & Sports, as the Chief Guest. Launched to promote Sanatan Dharma and Vedic knowledge among the younger generation, the Vedic Pathshala has gained remarkable momentum. The latest session saw the participation of 60 students, primarily under the age of 15, who were imparted comprehensive teachings in recitation and understanding of Shrinad Bhagavad Gita, Shree Hanuman Chalisa, and



JYBT President Pawan Kumar Shastri along with students and others.

Sunderkand Path, along with Dharma-Karna Gyaan.

What stood out during the session was the students' ability to recite Sanskrit verses with devotion and fluency, followed by translations in both Hindi and English.

Their recital of the Bhagavad Gita and Hanuman Chalisa, with precise pronunciation and understanding, earned heartfelt applause and admiration from all present. Speaking on

the occasion, Pawan Kumar Shastri, a revered religious and social figure, emphasized the significance of introducing the youth to India's rich spiritual heritage.

"By instilling Sanatan values at a young age, we not only preserve ancient wisdom but also nurture a strong sense of identity, discipline, and spiritual growth," he said.

He also reiterated the Trust's commitment to continuing

these Vedic classes as a regular feature, aiming to spread knowledge of scriptures such as the Ramayana, Vedas, Upanishads, and the Gita.

Shastri's visionary leadership has been instrumental in transforming the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust into a symbol of spiritual service. The Trust's Haridwar Bhawan, offering 150 A.C. rooms and daily free Langar Seva to 600-700 pilgrims since 1995, is a testa-

ment to his philanthropic mission. Similarly, the Panchmukhi Sankat Mochan Shree Hanuman Mandir in Jammu has become a hub of daily devotion, where 500-600 pilgrims benefit from three daily meals and elaborate Puja-Archana rituals.

Present on the occasion were Dr. Arun Shastri and Dr. Ajay Shastri, both Sanskrit scholars, who reiterated the Trust's aim to connect youth with their cultural roots through scripture-based education.

Also present were Sukhdev Sharma (WV.C.M), Rashpal Sharma (Incharge, B.C. Road Mandir Complex), and numerous devotees who contributed to the event's success.

The Trust extended thanks to all participants and devotees, expressing gratitude for their continued support in carrying forward the sacred mission of cultural and spiritual enlightenment through the teachings of Sanatan Dharma.

## Bhalla-led team visits Kishtwar victims' families in different parts Demands high powered experts team to suggest urgent measure for future Yatra

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Congress leaders led by Working President Raman Bhalla visited the grieving families of the victims of Chashoti, Kishtwar tragedy in different areas of Jammu and shared their grief & concern over loss of lives and missing family members.

Bhalla accompanied by Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, former Minister Yogesh Sawhney, Kanta Bhan, Vijyant Pathania visited Bhenagarh Miran Sahib and different localities of Jammu city to share the sorrow of grieved families who have lost their family members in the tragedy and Several are still missing.

Mangal Dass of Bhenagarh Miransahib has lost eight members of the family and kith & kin, out of which seven are still missing. The Congress leaders



Senior Congress leaders visiting grieving families.

expressed deep shock on behalf of the entire rank & file of the party and prayed for peace to the departed souls.

They assured to press the authorities to leave no stone unturned in tracing the missing persons and gave solace to the families.

The Congress leaders told the affected families that the administration and large number of other social volunteers are on the job to trace the missing persons

and render assistance in the relief and rescue operations.

Bhalla said that after the rescue operations are over, a high powered expert team should be constituted to suggest improvements in the conduct and management of the Yatra to check recurrence of such incidents in future and smooth and hassle free pilgrimage. All necessary facilities should be created for the pilgrims in future times.

## Aarav, Vidanshi lead in Air Pistol event of Shooting



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 14th J&K-UT Shooting Championship witnessed intense competition at twin venues of IDPS Shooting Range and Shooting Range of DYSS, here on Sunday.

The championship featured events in the Air Rifle NR and Air Pistol NR categories in both men and women. Shooters from all the districts

and shooting clubs of J&K UT participating in their respective events.

Top scorers of the day included Aarav Khatia of Mission Olympic Shooting Academy Jammu scored 353 in 10 Mtrs Air Pistol (NR) in Men Category while Vedanshi Mahajan of Mission Olympics Shooting Academy Jammu scored 352 in 10 Mtrs Air Pistol in Women category at

IDPS Shooting Range Sunjwan Jammu.

Moreover, Bhavya Sharma of AIM 10X Shooting Academy scored 389 in 10 Mtrs Air Rifle (NR) in women Category while Dharya Kotwal of MOSAJ scored 381 in 10 Mtrs Air Rifle (NR) Men Category at Shooting Range of DYSS Gandhi Nagar Jammu.

The matches are being conducted by the expert technical panel of J&K Rifle Association including Rajesh Viridhy, Vishal Mehra, Vijay Kumar, Aman Singh, Pranav Sambyal, Tarun Dev Singh and Shruti Sharma under the overall supervision of organising secretary, Sharat Chander Singh.

## INTACH Jammu expresses concern over wrong conservation practices at Balram Ji Temple

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of the Jammu Chapter of INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) was held under the chairmanship of S.M. Sahni, Convenor, where members expressed serious concern over the manner in which the two-hundred-year-old Balram Ji Temple at Dhounthly is being conserved by PWD (R&B).

Members noted that the ongoing work is not in consonance with the established guidelines and norms for conservation of architectural heritage.

The open courtyard, a distinctive architectural feature of Jammu temples, has been



Jammu Chapter of INTACH members during a meeting.

compromised by the erection of mild steel frames to construct covered passages to the sanctum. Similarly, the historic well within the temple premises is being altered using concrete, bricks, and cement - materials prohibited in heritage conservation - thereby compromising the visual and historic character

of the site.

Concerns were also raised about similar practices being adopted at other heritage sites such as the Suchetgarh temple, Sui Simbli temple, and Purnandal, where conservation and development work by different agencies are reportedly breaching prescribed guidelines.

It was unanimously agreed that INTACH would take up the matter with the Principal Secretary, Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, and present a detailed report highlighting the wrong practices in several conservation projects under the "Scheme for Revival, Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance of Architecture and Heritage in J&K."

The house stressed that strict adherence to guidelines laid down by ASI, CPWD, and INTACH is essential for authentic conservation. Members called upon the Department to immediately halt the ongoing work at Balram Ji Temple

and other affected sites and undertake a comprehensive review of the projects.

It was further emphasized that the Government should involve INTACH or other national-level conservation agencies in the planning and execution of heritage projects to ensure scientific and sensitive preservation of the region's cultural legacy.

The meeting was attended by O.P. Sharma, IFS (Retd.), K.K. Sharma, Retd. Director Floriculture, Ajay Gandotra, Sr. Advocate, Sudhir Singh, Director Academics JKBOSE, Arvind Kotwal, JKAS (Retd.), Kirpal Singh, Art Expert, and Ar. Arshia Hazarika.