



Prof Amitabh Mattoo and others releasing a book at MIER on Monday.

## Mattoo delivers H L Gupta Memorial Lecture at MIER

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 16: Prof Amitabh Mattoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, delivered the H L Gupta Memorial Lecture for the year 2018 on the topic "The Challenge of Building a Knowledge Society in Jammu and Kashmir" at Model Institute of Education and Research today.

Dignitaries present on the occasion were Dr Arun K Gupta, Chairperson MIER, Dr Renu Gupta, Vice-Chairperson, Dr Adit Gupta Director and Dr N R Sharma, Dean Academics along with distinguished Educationists, Principals of different colleges, Members of the Governing Body and civil society and faculty and students of MIER College of Education.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Mattoo said a knowledge society generates, shares and makes available to all members of the society, knowledge that may be used to improve the human condition. He elaborated upon the pillars of the knowledge society which include: ideas, the fourth industrial revolution and human capital. He deliberated upon how India survived and succeeded as a democracy its functioning after independence. He highlighted that even though there

are many challenges in creating knowledge society in the State of J&K, we can capitalize on youth that constitute 60-70 per cent of the population of the State who could be channelized across boundaries in strengthening and reshaping economic frontiers.

Earlier, floral homage was paid to late H L Gupta, the founder of MIER Group of Institutions by the dignitaries. Dr. Arun K Gupta, Chairperson MIER, said that the knowledge has always been a factor of production, and a driver of economic and social development and the emergence of the knowledge society is bringing about a fundamental reshaping of the global economy.

A brief life sketch of H L Gupta was presented by Dr Renu Gupta, Vice Chairperson MIER. Dr. Adit Gupta, Director and Principal MIER College of Education introduced the distinguished speaker. He also highlighted the various achievements of Prof. Mattoo for the benefit of the audience.

A book titled "Implementing Inclusion in Schools" was also released on this occasion. Sharma, Dean Academics MIER College, presented a formal vote of thanks.

Dr Annie Koul, Convener IQAC MIER ably conducted the program.

## Darhal people hold protest, demand Degree College

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Apr 16: After the announcement by Government for establishment of new Government Degree Colleges in Jammu division, civil society from tehsil Darhal held strong protest demonstration at Rajouri town today.

Today on the 4th consecutive day of protest-dhama at Darhal, the people today came on several vehicles in the shape of large rally to Rajouri town during the day and then took out strong protest march in the town which culminated at the office of Deputy Commissioner, Dr Shahid Iqbal.

After holding protest demonstration there for some time, a delegation of the prominent people of the area under Joint Action Committee submitted a memorandum to him for the State Chief Minister demanding establishment of Degree College at Darhal tehsil headquarter.

They described denial of college to Darhal as most injustice with thousands of students of the area. The DC assured them to take up their issue with the concerned higher authorities.

The JAC has launched agitation on April 13 and said it will continue till the Government sanctions Degree College in Tehsil Darhal. People of Darhal have been observing protest dharna. They were also taking out protest march on daily basis in the

## Where were BJP leaders for 43 days: Harsh Dev

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 16: Surprised over the outbursts and 'melodramatic rants' of Ch Lal Singh and Chander Parkash Ganga over the Rassana case, after their dismissal from Council of Ministers, NPP chairman Harsh Dev Singh and former minister questioned their silence over the matter between March 1st and April 13, that the date of their sacking from ministerial berths.

He pointed out that the two ministers had assured the people in a public meeting at Kothah, Hiranagar on March 1st of getting the case probed through CBI within two days and even threatened of pulling down the Govt in case the PDP refused to accept the demand. He regretted that all the tall talks and loud pronouncements of March 1st proved hoax and vanished into the then air when Mehbooba turned down the demand of CBI probe the very next day. And with that did the said Ministers vanish into the blue with not a word heard from their side for next 43 days till April 13, the date of their extermination.

Singh said during the intervening period, the people of Rassana, Hiranagar and adjoining localities desperately looked for the two leaders, sending them reminders who, however,

main market of the town attracting attention of the Government towards their long pending demand.

Zahid Sarfraz Malik convener of Joint Action Committee Darhal said that after the introduction of the Right to Education Act, enrolment in educational institutes of Tehsil Darhal has reached respectable level at the primary and secondary level. To enable these enrolled participants to compete in a dynamic world, the Government needs to consider providing regulatory support, for higher education to adopt niche and futuristic institutions. Darhal is one of the remote and backward Tehsil of the State with a population of more than 65,000 and mostly comprises of lower economy class families. 70% of the population is up to the age of 35 years.

He said at present in tehsil Darhal there are more than 200 Government and private institutions from Primary to Higher Secondary and approximately 10,000 students with equal number of girls and boys are studying in these institutions. Alone in tehsil Darhal there are approximately 20 Higher Secondary and High Schools, in which almost 4000 students were enrolled but after Higher secondary 95% students could not continue for higher education because of non availability of a Degree College in Darhal.

When the people of district Kathua including females were being lathi-charged, arrested and humiliated, these ministers preferred to remain insulated in their cocooned and sanitized ministerial world deliriously unmindful of the loud promises made by them, he regretted. And now, after losing their ministerial berths, they were trying to re-emerge as their champions much to the amusement of the people affected and aggrieved by their outrageous conduct, said Harsh.

"Had the two Ministers resigned immediately after their assurance of CBI probe in March 1 rally was rejected by Mehbooba, the people would have welcomed them. But the said Ministers went into hibernation after Mehbooba's 'no' to CBI probe and disappeared from the scene for 43 days when eventually they were sacked on April 13.

## Install PoS machines in newly opened FPS: Zulfkar

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 16: Minister

successfully and the transactions are being displayed on the National Portal.



Minister for FCS & CA, Ch Zulfkar Ali chairing a meeting at Jammu on Monday.

for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs (FCS&CA) & Tribal Affairs, Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali, today complimented the officers and officials of the department for successful implementation of various components of e-PDS in the State saying that it would go a long way in streamlining allocation and distribution of food grains in a total transparent manner.

The Minister took a detailed review of district wise transaction of food grains through PoS devices installed in various Fair Price Shops across the State, implementation of Supply Chain Management (SCM) and Ration Card Management System, distribution of new ration cards, funds available with Central Share scheme and others.

The meeting was informed that total 6392 PoS machines have been installed across the State and total of 4,03,460 transactions of food grains have been done through PoS devices till date. Besides, adequate manpower/technical persons have been deployed in both the divisions by M/s Linkwell Telesystems to train the dealers for operating PoS machines.

The installation/development and training of PoS devices in remaining three districts namely Baramulla, Leh and Kargil has been completed

The Minister asked the Administrative Department to give appreciation certificates to the Assistant Directors of Shopian and Rajouri for the month of March besides Reasi and Pulwama for the month of April for registering highest number of PoS transactions in their credit.

The Minister directed the Linkwell authorities and concerned officers to install PoS machines in newly opened FPSs. He asked the officers to visit FPSs in their respective districts and ensure that the installed/deployed PoS devices and electronic weighing scales are functional. He directed to update department activities on daily basis on social media group of the department.

Reviewing the status of implementation of Supply Chain Management, the Minister was informed that FCS&CA, Kashmir has implemented the Supply Chain Management system successfully for the month of April 2018. He directed the NIC authorities to complete all formalities and make the Ration Card Management System available by April 25th for the users.

The Minister further stressed upon the officers of FCS&CA Jammu to expedite the process of distribution of

new ration cards among left out consumers including those of West Pak refugees and nomadic population.

Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA M D Khan, Director FCS&CA Ch Rashid Azam Inqalab, Director FCS&CA Kashmir Nasir Khan Wani, Additional Secretary Jugal Kishore Anand, Financial Advisor Zia Qazi, Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors of FCS&CA, representatives of NIC M/s Linkwell Telesystems Pvt. Ltd. besides other senior officers of Administrative Department were present in the meeting.

## Kohli inaugurates folk festival

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Apr 16: Minister for Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries, Abdul Ghani Kohli today inaugurated a folk festival organized by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages at Kalakote.

The festival saw participation of artists from JKAACL and other organizations that enthralled the audiences by their colorful cultural performances including folk dance, Kashmiri, Dogri, Gojri, Punjabi songs and dramas.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that organizing such festivals helps educate people especially youth about our traditions and culture, adding that such efforts are instrumental in preservation of this heritage. He further said that such festivals also highlight and promote local culture and spread the message of brotherhood.

He called for renewed measures for creating awareness among young generation about State's glorious heritage.

## Govt committed to build Mughal Road as international tourist circuit: Vibodh

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Apr 16: BJP senior leader and MLC Vibodh Gupta today inaugurated the construction of road stretch from Higher Secondary School Chingus to Dutta Mohalla along Mughal Road. This road will be built with an estimated cost of Rs. 40 lakh.

This road stretch besides benefitting a large population of the locals of the area will also help in promoting tourism. Addressing a gathering of locals on the occasion Vibodh congratulated them for this and said that with this the long pending demand of the locals has been fulfilled.

He said that at present, Government is according highest priority to the development of tourism infrastructure along the Mughal Road. This, he said is being done to ensure that Mughal road emerges as a major tourist destination and Government is committed to promoting this area as an international tourist circuit. Giving details about various historical aspects of the Mughal Road and other ancient forts along it, Vibodh termed this area as a national heritage. He further added that since this road was used by Mughals, therefore various spots along this road have a



Famous Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachan in Sonamarg.

-Excelsior/Shakeel



Minister for Finance Altaf Bukhari inaugurating Kashmiri speciality restaurant "Chinar" at Hotel Ramada, Jammu.

## Bukhari inaugurates 'Chinar' at Hotel Ramada

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 16: Minister for Finance, Education and Labour and Employment Mohammad Altaf Bukhari inaugurated first of its kind Kashmiri speciality restaurant "Chinar" at Hotel Ramada, here today.

This 52-cover restaurant offers a fine dining experience specializing in delicacies of authentic Wazwan Cuisine from the Valley of Kashmir, North West Frontier Cuisine and Dogri dishes aptly named as flavors of the land. Hotel Ramada Jammu has yet again added another jewel in the crown of "The City of Temples".

Chairman Raju Chowdhary gave a show around to Minister Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari and other dignitaries.

While speaking, the

Minister said that a Kashmiri cuisine fine dining restaurant was very much required in Jammu. He said, now the local and foreign tourists can relish authentic Kashmiri and Northwest Frontier cuisine and experience unforgettable culinary delight in the beautiful ambience of this fine dining restaurant.

Celebrity Chef Tariq was specially flown from the valley along with his team of chefs who over the years has organized various Kashmiri food festivals and reunions at New Delhi and Bengaluru.

Minister also commended and praised the young entrepreneur Siddhant Chowdhary, Managing Director Hotel Ramada Jammu City Centre for his vision and establishing this five-star hotel which will help in promoting tourism in J&K.

## LG showcases entire X-Boom range

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 16: LG Electronics India showcased its entire X-Boom range including X-Boom Pro, X-Boom Thunder, X-Boom Cube and X-Boom Handy, at the festival in Wave Mall.

The range of home audio speakers is bold and boasts of rich acoustics and state-of-the-art multifunctional features to provide consumers an exceptional music experience.

One outstanding product in this range was newly launched X-BOOM Handy (Model RK3) that has a telescoping handle and wheels.

LG India had started the karaoke activity last year at the store level by organizing many karaoke sessions engaging the consumers and allowing them to experience the 'karaoke' feature. This year, LG India had decided to take this activity to a bigger platform, providing the consumers an opportunity to experience the X-Boom Series Home Audio products at the Karaoke festival that held at Wave Mall, Jammu.

People who participate in

karaoke sessions win exciting prizes like multimedia speakers and PH1 bluetooth speakers.

Speaking about the festival, Surinder Sachdeva, Regional Business Head, Greater Punjab LG Electronics India said, "Karaoke is a great idea to mingle with your loved ones and to create memorable moments when you are trying to sing along. It has become popular in Punjab. Punjabi music is liked and enjoyed by the people of all generations, across the world. LG is trying to recreate the magic of music with its X-Boom series at the Karaoke function. Nowadays, bluetooth based home audio space is evolving from small compact speakers to devices that can do much more".

Tanveer Singh Marketing Head of Wave Mall said that they are happy that LG has excited the masses with this LG Karaoke festival. "I am sure LG will continue the same event next time also at the Wave Mall. This is a great platform to bring together people and create engagement", he added.

## JKGB conducting campaign on 'Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 16: Micro Finance and Financial Inclusion Department of J&K Grameen Bank (JKGB) is conducting Government of India campaign on the theme of "Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan" in the remote unbanked villages of districts Jammu, Rajouri, Kathua, Samba and Kishtwar.

Under this campaign, which started on April 14 and will last till May 15, the special focus is on saturation of villages under the programmes viz Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Ujala Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY).

The activities scheduled to be carried during the mission period include Samajik Nyaya Diwas (Social Justice Day) on April 14th to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr BR

Ambedkar, Swachh Bharat Diwas on April 18th, Ujjwala Diwas on April 20th, Rashtriya Panchayat Raj Diwas on April 24th, Gram Swaraj Diwas on April 28th, Ayushman Bharat Diwas on April 30th, Kisan Kalyan Diwas on May 2 and Aajeevika Diwas on May 5.

Regional Managers of districts Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch, Kathua and Samba are doing extensive work in this ongoing campaign and have contributed about 800 enrolments of PMDY, PMJJBY & PMSBY in just three days of 'Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan'.

The focus is also on APY enrolment, as at present the bank is touching 8000 APY enrolments. People are also enrolling under insurance schemes like PMJJBY and PMSBY. At present bank is touching 22000 enrolments in PMJJBY and 42000 in PMSBY.



Retired Commodore DS Sodhi interacting with media persons at Jammu on Monday.

-Excelsior/Rakesh

## Retd Commodore demands strict laws to stop atrocities against women

\*Supports CBI enquiry demand in Rasana case

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 16: Retired Commodore DS Sodhi today demanded stringent laws to stop the atrocities against women. He also supported the demand of CBI enquiry in the Rasana rape and murder case.

"If a large number of people and social/political organizations are demanding CBI enquiry into the Rasana rape and murder case, then CBI enquiry should be conducted", he said this while talking to media persons, here this afternoon.

Retired Commodore, who is also author of the book "Woman of Substantial Character", highlighted several issues, which are threatening the social fabric of society, stating that these social evils are so numerous that one shudders to think of them.

"Evil practices like demand and acceptance of the most deep rooted evil dowry and domestic violence are matters of serious concern", he stated.

Sodhi said that similarly, female infanticide and discrimination towards a girl child are the most shameful social evils prevalent even now in India, adding that saints and social reformers fought against such evils.

"Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India had said 'You can tell the condition of the nation by looking at the status of its women' and similarly 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' Abhiyan launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a testimony to the fact that injustice is still being done to the girl child. This slogan directly reflects the need not only to save the girl child but also to educate her", he asserted.

Commodore also raised the issue of functioning of State Women's Commission particularly with regard to discrimination and atrocities against women and urged the Government to check the working of the Commission.

He also requested NGOs, other organizations as well as Rotary Clubs of Jammu and Kashmir to come forward and work towards spreading awareness for eradication of the malaise of crimes against women and other social evils.

Among others present were Mehak Kaur Sodhi, Robin Singh Mehra and Sanjeev Vaid, Past President, Rotary Club of Jammu City.

## NMC for early issuance of SRO for 7th PC implementation

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 16: National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) today expressed concern over the delay in issuing SRO/notification regarding implementation of the recommendations of 7th Pay Commission in favor of the employees of the State Government and pensioners with effect from April 1, 2018.

Addressing a well attended workers' meet here, NMC president, Subhash Shastri, urged Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti to immediately direct the concerned to remove any ambiguity on the issue by issuing relevant SRO/notification immediately before the Civil Secretariat shift to summer capital Srinagar.

"Civil Secretariat employees should be paid the salaries for

lent even now in India, adding that saints and social reformers fought against such evils.

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A scene from NNK's Dogri play Agni Barkha staged at Abhinav Theatre on Monday.

-Excelsior/Rakesh

## Five-day Theatre Carnival opens with Dogri adaptation of Garish Karnad's English play

Lalit Gupta

JAMMU, Apr 16: Organized by Natraj Natya Kunj and sponsored by Ministry of Culture, New Delhi, North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, and J&K Cultural Academy, 'Theatre Carnival', a five-day drama festival was inaugurated by the chief guest Saugat Viswas, Transport Commissioner, in presence of Aziz Hajani, Secretary, JKAACL, at the Abhinav Theatre, here today.

The festival opened with NNK's nationally acclaimed 'Agni Barkha'. Directed by Abhishek Bharti, and based on Kumar A Bharti's Dogri adaptation of Ram Gopal Bazaar's Hindi translation of Girish Karnad's original English drama, 'The Fire and the Rain', today performance for its high level of theatre craft, experimental design came out to be an impressive as well as entertaining affair.

The plot of the drama, in a fascinating interplay of ancient myths recorded in Mahabharata, revolved around Pravas, eldest son of sage Raibaya involved as head priest in 7-year long yajna for rain and who has even forsaken his wife Vishakha. The discord felt by his father, cousin Yavakari adds new dimension to the story.

Pravas's younger brother, Aravasu who is in love with a tribal girl is unwittingly broiled in the battle on of f supremacy between his father, brother and cousin. Yavakari seduction of Vishakha,

Prominent among others who were present on the occasion included BJP senior leader Ranjeet Tara, Harbans Lal, Rattan Singh, Mohd. Shakoor, Pawan Kumar, Hari Om Sharma, Gulab Din, Ashok Kumar, Parvinder Kumar, Kewal Krishan, Mohd. Kasim, Shah Nawaz Khan, Girdari Lal, Koushal Kumar, Mohd. Saleem, Muneer Hussain and Shabir Hussain.

On this occasion, Vibodh stressed on the need for various renovation projects which can help in proper protection and preservation of the unique heritage of the Mughal period. He hoped that present Government in the Centre and in the State is making all-out efforts for the overall development of Mughal road tourism circuit which will go a long way in creating tremendous employment opportunities for the local youth of the area.

While giving details about the Chingus Fort, Vibodh said that since this fort has the grave of Mughal King Jahangir, where his intestines are buried itself offers tremendous potential for future tourism development. This he said is very important as within the tourism market such places have a special significance.

leads to unleashing of Brahmkrashasha upon him by the sage. Aravasu's goodness and faith makes God Indra appear, who asks to him seek a wish. Aravasu's sense of duty and goodness results in drought ridden land being granted rain and people's salvation.

Today's production having the distinct stamp of young director Abhishek Bharti eclectic theatre language that was marked with an amalgam of elements of mime, rhythmic body movements, groupings with a unique mix of folk and Indian classical dance movement, and creative selection of background score that included chanting of Sanskrit shlokas, alaaps as well as crescendos, drum beats.

Lalit Sharma as Brahmkrashasha impressed the most. Others who also notable performances included Mukesh Bakshi as Aravasu, Surbi Bhalotra as Nitai, Akshay Razdan as Yavakari/Raja, Pranav Sharma as Vajir, Aman Sharma as Parvasu, Niharika Shakshi as Vishakha, Abhishek Sharma as Kartanat, Kanav Sharma as Rabhya, Karan as Anhara Baba, Aakash Sharma as Indra, Hema Shivgotra and Tejan Bharti as Chorus. The choreography was by Romit Sawhney, make-up by Shammii Dhamir and background music by Surinder Manhas.

Tomorrow, Ras Kala Manch Safidon, Haryana will present Hindi play Doosra Aadmi Doosri Aurat.