

Vomedh Rangmanch’s presentation critiques ‘empty nest syndrome’

Lalit Gupta

JAMMU, Mar 17: Staged on the third day of the ongoing Festival of Plays 2020-2021, the Hindi play ‘Mujrim Mein Nahi Par Mein Hi Hoon’, struck an immediate chord with the audience for its topical relevance and realistic presentation, at the Abhinav Theatre, here today.

Vomedh Rangmanch’s presentation, directed by Rohit Bhat and written by Rakesh Roshan Bhat, deals with the current issue



A scene from the play by Vomedh Rangmanch at Abhinav Theatre on Wednesday. —Excelsior/Rakesh

er. Vinod, first negates the charges of neglect vehemently but starts suffering from the guilt that in fact he only was the real culprit who had neglected his old and lonely mother. The petition filed by him in the court pleading guilty of his mother’s death is treated humanely by the learned Judge who helps Vinod Kumar to get free of his guilt feeling.

The play, a testimony of the playwright’s writing craft and maturity to portray a socially relevant theme to stimulate thought and discussion on the part of the audience, came out as a well designed realistic production. The well-prepared actors moving with flow delivered their lines with feelings. The use of the light design in the court scene, Vinod’s lamentations about the loss of his mother, the lawyer’s engaging arguments for rejection of the petition, effectively enhanced the artistic import of presentation.

Among those who performed in the play include Sunny Majoo as Vinod, King.C. Bharti as Judge, Rahul as an advocate, Himangi Moza as Unnati, Rishab Bambrroo as Constable Sharma, Suman Bhat as Sangeeta, Rahul Shivam Koul as Inspector Gupta, Dr Ramesh Nirrash as an old Kashmiri Pandit. Costumes by Bharati Koul, music arranged by Rohit Bhat and makeup by Sunny Mujoo, and set and property by Minakshi Rakesh Bhat.

Tomorrow, Rabindranath Tagore’s story Kabuliwala will be staged by Viraj Kala Kendra.

FCIK demands increase in filters on GeM portal for local entrepreneurs

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 17 : Federation Chamber of Industries Kashmir President Shahid Kamili (FCIK) today demanded that the Government should increase the filters on GeM portal for local entrepreneurs to minimum of Rs 2 crore.

He welcomed the issuance of order by the Finance Department regarding filters on GeM portal for local entrepreneurs but suggested the Government to increase the local filter cap of minimum of Rs 2 crore.

“It was one of our main demands which can encourage and boost local unit holders. We are thankful to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Advisor Baseer Khan and Financial Commissioner A K Mehta for issuing the formal order regarding local filter,” FCIK President Shahid Kamili said in a statement. He, however, said that FCIK has reservations regarding the cap

Randhawa kick-starts blacktopping

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: Former MLC, Ch.Vikram Randhawa kick started blacktopping at Ward No-5 of Old Satwari Panchayat of Gandhi Nagar Assembly segment along with DDC member Geetu Aulakh.

Speaking on the occasion, Randhawa said that construction of road was a long pending demand of the locals and that demand has been fulfilled.

He also highlighted the major works taken up in the constituency in the past six years. He said that other areas of all wards of Gandhi Nagar Assembly segment are also kept on priority and wherever necessary, the development works are taken up on war footing basis so that people do not face any problem regarding infrastructure in their areas.

He stated that Gandhi Nagar constituency is moving towards achieving the status of a Model Constituency. He mentioned that

Shiv Sena protests against rising prices of fuel

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: Shiv Sena JK staged a protest demonstration today at Bari Brahmana against the rising prices of fuel and LP gas.

The protest was led by Ashwani Gupta, J&K Shiv Sena president who said that continuously rising prices of fuels and cooking gas has increased the sufferings of common people.

“It is now an open secret that BJP Government does not believe in public welfare but is launching economic warfare again the public,” he claimed.

The protesters urged upon the Central Government to act against this and reduce the prices of fuels and cooking gas as soon

Committee formed to ascertain quality of rice supplied in north Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 17: After hue and cry over the issue of ‘sub-standard’ rice in north Kashmir’s Baramulla, the District Administration today ordered the formation of a committee to carry out an inspection to check whether the grains stored at FCI’s Sangrama godown are fit for consumption or not.

An order issued here by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla said that the TSO Baramulla-C Circle and TSO Sopore-A recently intimidated Assistant Director FCS&CA Baramulla that the food grains (Rice) available at FCI PEG Sangrama, Baramulla which is being dispatched to different sale outlets of this district is not fit for the consumption of the people.

“...it has been observed that the quality of food grains (Rice) lying on the floor of the FCI PEG go-down is usually being dispatched to the sale outlets of the district Baramulla and there is every apprehension that the food grains may contain life-consuming infections,” the order said.

The order said that the FCS&CA has also endorsed the statement made by the TSOs regarding the quality of grains. “...Assistant Director FCS&CA also endorsed the statement made by the TSOs and also intimidated that complaints are continuously pouring in from the rationees complaining against the substandard rice available at the sale outlets and in some instances the rationees have returned back the ration, citing it substandard.

The order stated that a the committee is formed to carry out the need-inspection of the grains at the godown. “Now, therefore, a committee with the following composition has been constituted to carry out an in-depth examination of the matter particularly accentuating on the physical and chemical inspection of the food grains/Rice lying at FCI PEG Sangrama Baramulla,” the order said.

The committee includes Programme Officer, ICDS Baramulla (Chairman), and the members are Assistant Director FCS&CA, Baramulla, Assistant Controller Legal Metrology, Baramulla, Assistant Commissioner, Food Safety, Baramulla and Block Medical Officer, Baramulla.

Furthermore, the order said that the Assistant Director, Stores, Kashmir is directed not to lift any quantity of food grains/Rice from FCI PEG Sangrama Baramulla till the committee submits the report to this office. The committee shall furnish its findings within two days positively.

Notably, even as the order was issued, the FCI in around 6 trucks under registration number JK05H4331, JK05H6173, JK0G5644 and JK054656 transported 540 quintals more rice to its Kralhar godown for further distribution.

BJP Govt's anti-poor policies should be opposed: Tarigami

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 17: Asserting that BJP Government’s anti-poor, anti-farmer and pro-corporate policies should be unitedly opposed by both workers and farmers, CPI (M) leader, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami today said with the observance of anti-privatisation Day on March 15, the movement against proposed large scale privatization of Public Sector Undertakings in India has entered a new phase.

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and the BJP leadership should come clear on the promise the party made during its election manifesto where it had claimed to offer two crore jobs annually. Going by the promise the BJP made, the Central Government

Around dozen hutments gutted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: Around dozen hutments were gutted in fire in Shakti Nagar area here today.

As per police sources, fire broke out in a hutment probably due to short circuit in Shakti Nagar area. The fire spread to adjoining hutments.

On getting information, police team rushed to the spot and

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

informed the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

Fire fighters along with tenders reached the spot and doused the flames. Around dozen hutments were gutted in fire.

No injury or casualty has been reported in the incident, while the exact loss could not be ascertained yet.

Bakshi Nagar Police has taken cognizance in this regard.

Masoodi raises issues confronting education sector in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Mar 17: The National Conference Member of Parliament, Hasnain Masoodi from Anantnag raised the issues confronting education sector in Jammu and Kashmir in Lok Sabha, seeking proper and efficient implementation of National Education Policy 2020 on ground to make benefits reach the beneficiaries.

While participating in discussion on Demand of Grants for Education, Masoodi expressed concern over meager two percent increase in budgetary allocations for School and Higher Education emphasizing that the pandemic Covid-19 confronted education to new challenges. He e said that the education sector deserves better deal and higher allocation.

Masoodi expressed deep concern over drop in enrolment and increasing dropout rates at middle and secondary and higher secondary rates. He said the School Education lacks infrastructure and adequate teaching staff and infrastructure problems impact school education in Jammu Kashmir more than elsewhere as sub zero temperatures require a better accommodation.

Depreciating the practice of using school buildings to house security forces and as quarantine centers he said, “There ought to be a provision for supply of IT

People's cooperation imperative for dev: Tony

Excelsior Correspondent

RS PURA, Mar 17: Stressing on people’s contribution in realizing development on ground, Taranjit Singh Tony, DDC member Suchetgarh today said that participatory role of public is significant in changing development profile of a constituency.

Tony was speaking after inspecting works of lanes-drains and a playground at village Baispur in Suchetgarh.

He said his focus will remain on harnessing the immense potential of the constituency in sports, economic upliftment and tourism.

“This cannot be achieved without continued pro-active support of the people, whose feedback has been hugely beneficial in taking up various issues with the concerned agencies,” he added.

The DDC member said that participation in sports can play an important and positive role in the

FC Bhagat meets Kathua Unit of Kabir Sabha

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: President All J&K Sadguru Kabir Sabha, F.C Bhagat along with Central team today met district Kathua body of the Sabha at its Kathua headquarter.

During interaction a detailed discussion was held regarding activities of the Sabha in Kathua.

Speaking on the occasion, F.C Bhagat emphasized on education including creating educational institutions as individual or community based, providing health facilities through community support and set up Counselling Center

BJP MP from HP found dead

NEW DELHI/SHIMLA, Mar 17:

BJP MP from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh Ram Swaroop Sharma was found hanging from the ceiling in his official residence in New Delhi today, police said.

Delhi Police PRO Chinmoy Biswal said his body was found hanging from a ceiling fan. He was taken to a hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

Sixty-two-year-old Sharma had been suffering from various ailments.

Prima facie, it appears to be a case of suicide, the police said, adding that no suicide note was found from the spot.

An inquiry is underway and the exact cause of his death will be ascertained after a post-mortem examination, the police said.

Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned till 1 pm after an obituary reference to Sharma.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief at Sharma’s death.

"Shri Ram Swaroop Sharma

was a dedicated leader, who was always committed to solving people’s problems. He worked tirelessly for the betterment of society. Pained by his untimely and unfortunate demise. My thoughts are with his family and supporters in this sad hour. Om Shanti," Modi tweeted.

The BJP cancelled its parliamentary party meeting following Sharma’s death and also called off the joining ceremony of an "eminent" person, who was not named.

Born at Jalpehar village in Mandi district on June 10, 1958, Sharma was a two-time MP.

He was elected to the 16th and 17th Lok Sabha from Mandi parliamentary constituency in 2014 and 2019 respectively.

According to the police, a call was made to the Police Control Room (PCR) around 7.45 am by his aide after the Parliamentarian did not respond to knocks on his door.

A police team reached the spot and forcefully open the door and found Sharma hanging from a ceiling fan. (PTI)

Committee constituted to organise 40th Foundation Day of JKNPP: Bhim Singh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: Prof. Bhim Singh, President, J&K National Panthers Party today after consultation with the senior members of the Working Committee of JKNPP constituted 11-Member Advisory Committee which will take care of organizing 40th Foundation Day of the Panthers Party.

JKNPP was founded on March 23, 1982 by a revolutionary group of political activists



J&K National Panthers Party leaders interacting with media persons at Jammu on Wednesday.

Ahmed Dar, Provincial President - Kashmir, Hakikat Singh Jamwal, General Secretary, J&K and Ladakh, Masood Andrabi, Vice President - J K N P P (Anantnag Sector), Yashpaul Kunal, ex-MLA and PK Ganju, Senior Vice President” Prof

Singh said, adding that Captain Anil Gour (Retd) has been appointed as a Member-Secretary who has been authorized to convene any urgent meeting of the Advisory Board.

In a separate resolution, Gagan Pratap Singh State Secretary, Naresh Chib State Secretary, Neeraj Dewan and Purushottam Panhar have been appointed as Additional Members in the Advisory Committee, Prof Bhim Singh informed.

J&K Pensioners & Civil Society Association projects demands

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: J&K Pensioners and Civil Society Association, Jammu held a meeting under the chairmanship of its President, Ajit Singh Adyal, here today.

General Secretary of the Association, ND Sharma was also present in the meeting.

In the meeting, various demands like DA, medical allowance, settlement of disparity in pension payment of the same rank and same pay scale for which the Government has denied the basic rights of equality to pensioners and non-implementation of

Minimum Wages Act in the J&K as per Central Government pattern.

The main demands include settlement of disparity in pension payments, enhancement in medical allowance from Rs 300 to Rs 1,000 per month, release of frozen DA by the Government beyond 17 per cent payment, implementation of Minimum Wages Act and full distribution of Ayushman Health Insurance scheme cards.

Ajit Singh Adyal urged the Lieutenant Governor of J&K to kindly resolve the above mentioned demands as soon as possible.

Among others who spoke were SS Jasrotia, NH Malik, JR Gupta, TR Padha and Prof OP Sharma.

Kashmiri Pandit

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