

# Hindi play 'AAG' staged at Sunday Theatre' in Rani Park

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Balwant Thakur's Hindi play 'AAG' staged here today under Natrang's weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre' at Rani Park, Jammu under the direction of Neeraj Kant. The play showcases how the Drug-menace is ruining the generations and thus crippling the developing nations. The youth of the country, the most energetic human resource of the country, sometimes unknowingly slip into the world of drug-addicts.

The play was not based on one story-line but as an experiment multiple stories were woven by the playwright in one theme focusing the spread of drug menace like a fire, taking the toll of the important work force of the country. In a sequence a young boy is shown struggling for a good company after his passing of the school and entry in the college. He is isolated for not being the consumer of intoxications. All around him treat him like a child which really frustrates him and to prove that he has grown-up as a



young man now, he finds the easiest way and demonstrates his coming of age by consuming a variety of intoxications. In another sequence a rural inhabitation particularly the men-folk is shown drowned in the menace of alcohol. All the miseries of the village like poverty, domestic violence, and ailments are attributed to the growing consumption of alcohol in the village. In a sequence the daily routine of a villager is shown who consumes the whole of his daily earnings for alcohol. Having drunk he has lost his way home. By the time

a local escorts him to his place where in the middle of the night the drunken man starts beating his sleeping wife and kids for not receiving him on his arrival. When the escort intervenes to save the poor lady and children, he is blamed for having bad intentions towards his wife. This fight further messes up when a drunken man after losing senses damages his household property as well. The play unfolds a series of incidents where people influenced by drugs, alcohol and other intoxications create hell for themselves as well as for

others. Many precious lives are being charred in this fire of drug menace which is to be fought unitedly. Through this play Balwant Thakur has tried to make an appeal to save mankind from this dragon.

Actors who outshined in their respective performances and left an impact of their acting included Neeraj Kant, Pawan Verma, Vishal Sharma, Aadesh Dhar, Kartik Kumar and Kananpreet Kaur.

Attachment: A scene from Balwant Thakur's play 'AAG' presented by NATRANG at Rani Park, Jammu.

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Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh today inaugurated the construction work of a motorable path from Nehru Chowk to the residence of Dr. Bashir Ahmed Mintoo under the first phase of the District Capex Plan.

The project, being executed by the PWD (R&B) Division Doda at an estimated cost of Rs. 30 lakh, aims to strengthen local infrastructure and provide improved connectivity to residents of the area, ensuring safer and more convenient access for commuters and nearby households.

Officers and officials from PWD (R&B) Division Doda, the Executive Officer Municipal Committee (MC) Doda, senior citizens and prominent local residents were present on the occasion.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner



Doda interacted with senior citizens and local residents, patiently listening to their concerns and suggestions regarding civic amenities and developmental needs. He assured them that the administration remains

committed to inclusive and people-centric development. The DC Doda also conducted an on-site inspection of the area and directed the executing agency to ensure quality workmanship and timely completion of the project while

adhering to prescribed standards.

The local residents appreciated the initiative and expressed gratitude to the district administration for addressing their long-standing demand for improved road connectivity.

# CS reviews framework for Early Childhood Care, Education in J&K

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Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, held a meeting of all the stakeholders to take assessment of the interventions proposed for the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) by the Social Welfare Department.

Speaking in this meeting he called for a time-bound, outcome-driven "Whole-of-Government" approach to transform Anganwadi Centres into vibrant hubs of holistic child development across Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Project Director, Samagra Shiksha; MD, Mission Poshan; MD, JKRLM; Director, School Education, Jammu/Kashmir; and other senior officers of the concerned departments.

Highlighting the transformative role of early childhood development in light of the National Education Policy and the vision of 'Viksit Bharat', the Chief Secretary observed that no nation can dream of sustainable development without productively investing in its children.

He described children as the guarantee of a prosperous tomorrow and the real wealth of any nation. He emphasized that even nations endowed with abundant natural resources ultimately depend on the quality of their human resources for productivity and growth, and asserted

that there is no better way to create quality human capital than through timely and strategic early childhood interventions.

Stressing clarity of goals and adherence to timelines, he directed all departments to work in close coordination to achieve measurable improvements in nutrition, school readiness and foundational learning outcomes.

The Commissioner, Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez took this occasion to reveal that ECCE services are being delivered through 28,190 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) across the Union Territory, integrating preschool education (3-6 years), supplementary nutrition, immunization, growth monitoring, early identification of developmental delays and inclusive services for Divyang children.

He added that the pedagogical framework is anchored in Navchetna (0-3 years) and Aadharshila (3-6 years), promoting play-based and activity-oriented learning across five developmental domains as that of cognitive learning, language, socio-emotional, physical and cultural development.

While throwing light on the proposed interventions under the roadmap of ECCE, the MD, Poshan, Sajad Hussain Ganai informed the meeting that a key pillar of the roadmap is structured as inter-departmental convergence. He elaborated that with the Health Department, integrated home visit protocols for AWWs and ASHAs,

ECD-focused Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs), co-counselling sessions and developmental delay screening mechanisms have been institutionalized.

Additionally under this new strategy the School Education Department had ensured 100 percent mapping of AWCs with nearby primary schools has been completed, and 657 AWCs have been identified for co-location to ensure seamless transition from preschool to Grade I and alignment with Foundational Literacy and Numeracy goals under the NIPUN Bharat Mission.

Innovative mentorship models are being implemented to bridge Anganwadis and primary schools, with mentor teachers providing pedagogical support and on-site guidance. In addition to that internship collaborations are being rolled out with the engaging students from local Universities as Poshan Mitras and ECCE interns to strengthen service delivery at the grassroots.

The roadmap also envisages digital transformation forming it another major component of the strategy. QR-enabled Anganwadi profiling, the "One Child, One Card" initiative and integration with Poshan Tracker, RCH and UDISE platforms are going to streamline the monitoring and service delivery.

Under Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, APAAR IDs are being generated for preschool children to enable seamless academic tracking, with 94 percent of Aadhaar-seeded

children already covered and full saturation targeted by March 2026.

To strengthen transparency and community ownership, District-Level Monitoring Committees and a biannual Social Audit framework involving PRIs, SHGs, Mahila Mandals and parents is going to be instituted. Community-Based Events under POSHAN Abhiyaan including Godhharai, Annaprashan, Pratham Diwas and Vidarambh ceremonies are slated for regular conduction to promote behavioural change, enrolment and parental engagement.

The meeting also reviewed the impact of some best practices in vogue here such as "Poshan on Wheels" facilitating doorstep delivery of services, on-the-spot registration under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Aadhaar generation and screening of malnutrition and developmental delays. It was further detailed out that the capacity building under the "Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi" initiative has equipped supervisors and Anganwadi Workers with play-way pedagogy skills and digital literacy, with Round-II training scheduled for completion in a phased manner by FY 2026-27.

Reiterating that early childhood investment is foundational to building a developed and inclusive Jammu & Kashmir, the Chief Secretary directed all stakeholders to work in mission mode, ensure convergence and deliver tangible outcomes within defined timelines.

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An Awareness Camp was organized today at Mahore, District Reasi, by the Chief Horticulture Officer, Reasi, Rajinder Sharma, under the aegis of the Department of Horticulture.

The programme was graced by the Director Horticulture Jammu, Gul Syed, as the Chief Guest. Among others present on the occasion were the Assistant Director Horticulture, Sunil Gupta; Horticulture Development Officer (Additional Charge), Mahore, Sansar Chand and other officers and field staff of the department.

During the camp, farmers were sensitized about various ongoing Centrally Sponsored and UT sector schemes aimed at the holistic development and enhancement of the horticulture sector. The Director elaborated on the benefits and objectives of flagship schemes such as the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP), Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), emphasizing their



pivotal role in enhancing productivity, promoting quality planting material and augmenting income generation for orchardists.

Later, the Director visited Tuli Nursery, where a plantation drive was carried out. High-value walnut variety (Chandler) plants were planted in the orchard maintained and owned by Akhlaq Choudhary, a ben-

eficiary under departmental schemes.

The Director appreciated the beneficiary for adopting modern horticultural practices and maintaining quality standards.

While interacting with the farmers, the Director stressed the adoption of advanced technologies, high-density plantations, and Ultra High Density (UHD)

apple cultivation under various government-supported initiatives to enhance productivity and strengthen the horticulture sector in the district.

The programme concluded with an interactive session wherein farmers raised their queries, which were satisfactorily addressed by the officers of the department.

# Youth Engagement Programme-2026 ignites grassroots sports revolution in Kishtwar

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The Department of Youth Services & Sports, District Kishtwar, today successfully organized the much-anticipated Youth Engagement Programme-2026 at Chowgan Ground, Kishtwar, marking a historic step towards strengthening grassroots sports culture in the district.

The programme witnessed the grand launch of the "League of Classics," featuring Block-Level Trial-cum-Selection competitions in multiple disciplines, including Cricket, Football, and Volleyball for U/17 and U/19 boys categories at the Inter-Panchayat Block Level, Kishtwar and Municipal Council Kishtwar.

The mega sporting initiative was conducted under the directions of Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Youth Services & Sports, J&K and Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Deputy



Commissioner, Kishtwar, whose visionary leadership continues to provide a dynamic platform for youth engagement and talent identification across the Union Territory.

The programme was organized under the close guidance and supervision of Jaffer Haider Sheikh, DYSSO Kishtwar, who emphasized the importance of structured competitions at the grassroots level to nurture hidden talent and channel the energy of youth towards constructive sporting activities.

The selection trials witnessed enthusiastic participation from young

sportspersons across different Panchayats and Municipal wards of Kishtwar, reflecting a massive response at the grassroots level.

The competitions were conducted in a fair, transparent and merit-based manner by a panel of experienced officials and technical experts from the Department of Youth Services & Sports.

The presence of Zonal Physical Education Officers (ZPEO) Kishtwar and Nagseni further strengthened the supervision mechanism, ensuring the smooth conduct of trials and adherence to depart-

mental norms. All officials of YSS Kishtwar actively coordinated the event, demonstrating remarkable teamwork and commitment.

The "League of Classics" is envisioned as a stepping stone for higher-level competitions at the District, Divisional, and UT levels, thereby opening pathways for young athletes to represent Kishtwar on prestigious platforms.

The Department of Youth Services & Sports, District Kishtwar, remains steadfast in its mission to create history in sports excellence and youth empowerment in the district.

# Javed Rana reviews ongoing works of Mendhar; stresses quality and timely completion

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
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Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana today chaired a virtual review meeting to assess the progress of ongoing development works being executed by Public Works Department (PWD) in Mendhar.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Pir

Panjal, Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Mendhar and other concerned officers of the department.

During the review, the Minister took a detailed appraisal of projects being executed under SAsCI, works related to EMRS infrastructure, various road projects under the UT Capex Budget & NABARD, and the ongoing works on the drainage system in Mendhar Town.

He emphasized upon maintaining quality

standards, adherence to timelines and removal of bottlenecks to ensure timely completion of all projects.

The Minister exhorted upon the officers to ensure quality execution so that the system effectively addresses public concerns.

The Minister directed the officers to expedite the pace of execution, particularly in road connectivity projects, keeping in view their public importance. He empha-

sized close field-level monitoring and asked the officers to submit regular progress reports.

Reiterating the government's commitment towards balanced and inclusive development, the Minister said that infrastructure upgradation in border and remote areas like Mendhar remains a priority and all ongoing works must be completed within the stipulated timeframe for the benefit of the local population.