

Natrang's 'Mata Ki Kahani' Concludes with 16th Presentation at Katra

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 20

Natrang Jammu's internationally acclaimed musical dance-theatre production 'Mata Ki Kahani' concluded its series of performances today at the Auditorium of Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra, with its 16th consecutive show during the Navratra Festival-2026. The production brought the sacred legend of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi to life through an engaging blend of theatre, music and dance.

Prof. Pragti Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He appreciated the initiative of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, in presenting this production as part of the festival. He commended Natrang for creating a theatrical experience that combines spiritual storytelling with high standards of performance and stagecraft.

The final show received an enthusiastic response, with audiences applauding the artists repeatedly. The production's choreography, music, visual design and expressive performances held the audience's attention, conveying the spiritual significance of the



legend through a dynamic stage presentation.

Conceived, scripted, designed and directed by Padma Shri awardee Balwant Thakur, 'Mata Ki Kahani' brings a revered spiritual narrative to the stage through carefully composed sequences, coordinated group performances and evocative musical elements. The production reflects Natrang's approach to making India's cultural and spiritual heritage accessible through contemporary theatrical techniques.

Across its 16 presentations, the show remained a key attraction of the Navratra Festival in Katra, offering pilgrims and visitors an opportunity to experience the story of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi through the performing arts. It also highlighted the role of theatre in preserving cultural

traditions and enriching the festival's cultural programme.

The successful conclusion of the series underscores the collaborative efforts of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, in promoting cultural initiatives alongside the region's spiritual tourism. For Natrang, the production marks another significant contribution to bringing Jammu and Kashmir's artistic and cultural heritage to wider audiences.

With its final presentation, 'Mata Ki Kahani' concluded a successful run at Katra, reinforcing the place of theatre as an integral part of the Navratra celebrations.

The production has been mounted by an accomplished team of artists, performers, technicians and

designers. Neeraj Kant has contributed to direction, sets by Gaurav Angural, Bhavishya Aggarwal and Rahul Gupta while Rahul Singh, Pawan Verma, Mohd. Yaseen and Mahikshit Singh have handled costumes and properties. Sunny Mujoo has led the choreography, and Shivam Singh is responsible for light design. The collective efforts of the entire team have brought this ambitious theatrical production to life.

The artists who featured in this mega show included Neeraj Kant, Sunny Mujoo, Kananpreet Kaur, Arya Sharma, Pallvi Sharma, Khushboo Pandita, Vani Thakur, Muskan Gupta, Sakshi Gupta, Shailja Singh, Jhanvi Bilorla, Vanishika Manhas, Anshika Wazir, Damini Thakur, Aanya Sharma, Navya Sharma, Ridhima Devi, Sakshi Devi, Ishani Sharma, Shivangi, Kaashvi, Ishita Sharma, Keerti Sharma, Suneha Angural, Aryan Sharma, Sanket Bhagat, Krishna, Arun Dev Verma, Arun Sharma, Amit Rana, Narinder Verma, Sahil Narwalla, Palshin Dutta, Mihir Gujral, Radhika Khajuria, Kushal Bhat, Mitali Sharma, Bhoomi Sharma, Priyal Gupta, Lal Mohd., Arun Sagar, Krishay Bhatia and Aadesh Dhar.

Shastra Pujan Held at Ram Mandir Bantalab, on Vijay Dashami; Pledge to Protect Dharma, Society

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JAMMU, OCT 20

On the auspicious occasion of Vijay Dashami, members of the Rajput community along with people from other communities performed Shastra Pujan (traditional worship of weapons) at Ram Mandir, Bantalab, Jammu, following traditional rituals. On the occasion, everyone pledged to protect Dharma, society and the nation and to always stand against Adharma (unrighteousness).

Those present on the occasion included Surinder Singh Gilli, Sarpanch Dharminder Singh, Komal Singh, Panni Rajput, Paratap Singh Jamwal, Aryaveer Singh, Baba Gagan, Shubam Singh, Tony Langeh, Makhan, Prem Singh, Sanjeev Singh, Rohin Singh, Vishal Khajuria, Sunil Sharma, Vishal Choudhary, and other prominent members of the community.



Speaking on the occasion, Surinder Singh Gilli said that weapons are not merely an important part of our traditional heritage but also symbolize courage, honour and self-respect. He stated that the true significance of Shastra Pujan lies in seeking the blessings of God so that weapons are always used

against Adharma and solely for the protection of the nation and society.

He further said that the festival of Vijay Dashami conveys the timeless message of the victory of good over evil and Dharma over Adharma.

By performing Shastra Pujan on this auspicious day, we renew our pledge

to remain committed to protecting Dharma, society and the honour and security of the nation, while standing firmly against injustice.

The programme concluded with a collective pledge to uphold Dharma, unity, social harmony and the protection of the nation.

Unnat celebrates Ram Navami with Elderly Residents at Rehan Basera Shelter Home in Bahu Fort

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 20

Members of Unnat NGO celebrated the auspicious festival of Ram Navami with elderly residents at the Rehan Basera Shelter Home, Bahu Fort, Jammu. The programme was marked by a spiritual sat-sang, prayers, and moments of togetherness, spreading the message of love, compassion, respect, and humanity.

Veena Bakshi, President of the Rehan Basera Shelter Home, Bahu Fort, attended the programme as the Chief Guest, while Neena Abrol, General Secretary of Unnat NGO, presided over the function.

Speaking on the occasion, Veena Bakshi appreciated the efforts of Unnat NGO in celebrating festivals with elderly residents and bringing moments of happiness, positivity, and



spiritual comfort into their lives. She emphasised the importance of caring for senior citizens and ensuring that they feel respected, valued, and emotionally supported.

Presiding over the function, Neena Abrol said that festivals like Ram Navami convey the timeless message of righteousness, compassion, devotion, and service to humanity. She stated that Unnat NGO remains committed to social

welfare and community service, particularly towards elderly people who deserve love, dignity, care, and companionship.

She further emphasised that celebrating festivals with elderly residents is a meaningful way to share happiness, strengthen human bonds, and remind society of its responsibility towards senior citizens. She said that such initiatives help spread positivity and reinforce the values of

kindness, respect, and selfless service.

The programme concluded in a warm and spiritual atmosphere, with the participants sharing the festive spirit of Ram Navami and praying for peace, prosperity, and the well-being of all.

Among those present on the occasion were Mrs Anjna, Mrs Vandna, Mrs Renu Jamwal, and Mr Rajkumar, along with other members and participants.

Dussehra-Vijayadashami celebrated with religious fervour, gaiety across district Kishtwar

KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 20: The festival of Dussehra (Vijayadashami) was celebrated today in different parts of district Kishtwar.

The mega celebration took place on the historic Chowgan Grounds with exuberance and fervour. Thousands of devotees and locals joined in the festivities, marking the occasion with the traditional ritual of consigning the effigies of Ravana, Kumbhakarna and Meghnad to flames.



Earlier in the day, Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma extended his heartfelt greetings to the staff and their families at the Mini Secretariat, New

DC Office Complex. MLA Kishtwar Shagun Parihar, Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, SSP Sunny Gupta, ADC Pawan Kotwal, ACR

Idrees Lone, President Sanatan Dharma Sabha Mahant Ram Saran Dass Ji Maharaj, officers from the civil and police administration and prominent local socio-religious personalities were present on the occasion.

The collective enthusiasm and spirited involvement of the community members made this Dussehra celebration a memorable and joyous occasion.

As the effigies of the demons were consumed by the flames, the community united in the spirit of the victory of good over evil, marking the essence of Dussehra.

CUJ Reaffirms Commitment to Cleanliness through Swachhata Hi Seva 2026

JAMMU, OCT 20 : As per the initiative of the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of India, the Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2026 campaign is being observed under the theme 'Swachhata Mein Sahabag; Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat', following a 'Whole of Government' and 'Whole of Society' approach. Under the esteemed patronage and guidance of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, the University is participating in the campaign for the third consecutive year, reaffirming its commitment to cleanliness, public participation, and environmental responsibility. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor has encouraged the University community to integrate cleanliness into everyday life through individual initiative and collective action.

The Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 campaign was carried out in two phases. The preliminary phase was conducted from 19th September to 2nd October 2026, followed by Special Cam-

paign 6 from 2nd October to 31st October 2026, which is still going on. The campaign was implemented through five pillars, with additional emphasis on Clean Public Spaces and Transformation of Cleanliness Target Units (CTU). Pillar I recorded 2 activities, Pillar II recorded 9 activities, Pillar III recorded 1 activity, Pillar IV recorded 2 activities, and Pillar V recorded 1 activity, along with activities undertaken under Swachh Bharat Diwas (2 activities), Clean Public Spaces (12 activities), and CTU (5 activities).

As part of the campaign, the University organized a series of impactful activities to promote cleanliness, hygiene, environmental responsibility, and civic awareness across its campus and neighbouring communities. The initiatives were started with a campaign launch and hostel awareness drive, followed by the installation of toilet cleanliness checklists and a dedicated female health and hygiene program for Safai-Mitras. Throughout

October, the university hosted diverse events, including a "Mann Ki Swachhata" meditation session, creative hostel competitions (poster, essay, poem, slogan, and rangoli), awareness rallies, a Swachhata Pledge ceremony, an ongoing vermicomposting project, street plays (Nukkad Natak), departmental cleanliness drives, a "Say No to Plastic" steel bottle drive, and a plantation drive under Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam. The campaign extended beyond the main campus with a water body cleanliness drive at Badhori Pond on October 13, a documentary screening of A People's Movement and an industrial visit to study sustainable logistics, and hostel quiz competitions; the campaign is still going on, with many other major activities on the list till 31st October 2026

The successful implementation of the campaign was made possible through the dedicated efforts of Prof. Richa Kothari, Nodal Officer, Swachhata Hi Seva 2026, along with the committee members and par-

ticipating faculty, staff, and students. emphasised the importance of sustained awareness and active student participation in strengthening cleanliness practices across the campus.

10TH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you of the sad demise of our beloved mother,

Smt. Kunti Devi

wife of Late Sh. Girdhari Lal Sharma, resident of Deharan, Kangraail, Jammu, who left for her heavenly abode on 12th October 2026.

TENTH DAY will be observed on Wednesday, 21st October 2026, at 12:00 noon at our residence.

KRIYA will be performed on Thursday, 22nd October 2026, from 10:00 AM onwards at our residence.

Grief stricken:
Son and Daughter-in-law:
Sh. Rajesh Sharma (Raku) & Smt. Radha Sharma

Daughter and Son-in-law:
Smt. Anuradha Sharma & Sh. Rattan Sharma

Grand children:
Mitai, Myank & Srishy

SAMAST LOTRA PARIVAAR

Moblie: 8493855155, 9419136249, 9906021181

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (GeM PORTAL)

Bid No.: GEM/2026/B/8179967 **Dated:** 19.10.2026

Online bids are invited on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, <https://gem.gov.in>, from eligible bidders for the following service:

Name of service	Outsourcing of round-the-clock Enquiry Counter services, including face-to-face passenger enquiry, operation of PA system and "May I Help" Booth at SINA, JAT, SVDK, PTK, PTKC and MCTM stations over Jammu Division
Contract Period	3 years (1095 days)
Estimated Bid Value	₹ 2,98,53,796 (inclusive of all taxes)
EMD	₹ 2,99,270
ePBG	5% of agreement amount
Type of Bid	Two Packet Bid
Minimum Average Annual Turnover (last 3 financial years)	₹ 149.27 lakh
Past Experience	Similar services for 3 years, as per bid conditions
Bid End Date/Time	11.11.2026, 15:00 hrs
Bid Opening Date/Time	12.11.2026, 15:00 hrs

The detailed terms and conditions, scope of work, eligibility criteria and other documents are available on the GeM portal (<https://gem.gov.in>) under the above Bid No. Bidders must submit their bids online on GeM only. Any corrigendum or extension will be published on the GeM portal only.

Contact: Sr. DCM Office, Second Entry Building, Ground Floor, Jammu Tawi Railway Station, J&K - 180012, Email: singhal.uchit@gov.in

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