

# Diwali embodies light, compassion, knowledge: VC

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Extending warm and heartfelt greetings to the university fraternity on the festival of lights, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu Prof Umesh Rai today said the auspicious occasion of Diwali embodies light, compassion and knowledge.

"Let's all embrace values of unity, compassion, and spirit of camaraderie for harmonious growth of the society, which is hallmark of celebrating such auspicious occasions", Prof Rai said at the vibrant 'Diwali Mian, organized by the Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu, held adjacent to the Open Air Theatre.

The event, celebrated as part of the University's cultural initiative 'Jamburiyat', brought together students, faculty, and staff in an atmosphere of joy and unity.

Prof. Umesh Rai wished the participants a peaceful and prosperous Diwali while expressing happiness over



Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu Prof Umesh Rai speaking at Diwali Milan programme.

the strong sense of community and spirit of togetherness, the hallmark of the region's composite culture.

He spoke about the symbolic importance of lighting diyas as a representation of the triumph of good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair.

Prof. Rai emphasized the significance of organizing this event under "Jamburiyat," underscoring the need for cultural pride and connection. Quoting Maithili Sharan Gupta's verse,

marked by the lighting of 2,100 Diyas, a symbol of the triumph of light over darkness, and by soulful musical performances by talented students, which added a rich cultural vibrancy to the festival of lights.

Those who performed included Gunet Singh and Nandani Kapoor alumni of the University of Jammu, Arpana Kumari and Shivani, students of Institute of Music and Fine Arts under the guidance of Suraj Singh. Music accompanists were Andrew, Sahil Sandhu, Sagar Katoch and Kain Sotra.

Special performances featured singing by Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Dr. Neeraj Shama, Gurmed Singh Sandhu, Swati Vijay, Tushar and a poem recital by Madan Magotra.

Earlier, Prof. Prakash Antahal, Dean Students Welfare, warmly welcomed the participants and shared Diwali's message of reflection

and unity. Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee, extended a vote of thanks, appreciating the organizing team, especially the students, for their efforts in making the event memorable.

Swati Vijay conducted the proceedings while sound was looked after by Kulbhushan Thakur and Arif Paul.

Among others present on the occasion included Prof Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, Prof. Naresh Padma, Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Prof. Sarika Manhas, co-Chairperson Cultural Committee, Prof Parmil Kumar, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Dr. Jitender Khajuria, Dr. A. R. Manhas, Dr. Shailu Sharma, Suraj Singh, Rakesh Sharma members of the Campus Cultural Committee, officers, teachers, staff, scholars and students.

# GGF holds oath taking ceremony; Ved Prakash, Alka Sharma felicitated



Ved Prakash, Padma Shri S P Verma and Dr. Alka Sharma at the felicitation cum oath ceremony.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Gandhi Global Family (GGF), Jammu Kashmir, organized a felicitation cum oath ceremony under chairmanship of its President, Padma Shri S P Verma during which Dr. Alka Sharma and Ved Prakash were felicitated.

Dr. Alka Sharma, President of the Women's Wing GGF Jammu Region, J&K, was felicitated for having been selected for Didi Nirmala Deshpande Shanti Doot Award-2024 for her remarkable contribution towards promoting Gandhian ideology and

her commitment to peace and social welfare.

Ved Prakash was felicitated for having been appointed as President GGF Gandhi Nagar and Shastri Nagar. This was in recognition of his service to humanity especially during Corona times. His service is not limited to human beings but also extends to the animal and plant life.

On this occasion, Ved Prakash also announced his team for Gandhi Nagar and Shastri Nagar units of GGF. He and members of his team were also administered an Oath

of Office by Dr. Alka Sharma and S P Verma

Also present were Dr. Pervinder Kour, Punit Kour, Mukta, Tripta Verma, Priya Verma, Prof. Sharat Sharma, Pushp Raj, Om Bhuria, Ashok Sharma, Kuldeep Sharma, Pradeep, Rajan, Shubhash Sharma, Umesh Sharma, Umesh Sharma, Mukesh Sharma, Ashok Verma, Vika Abrol, Rishabh Sharma, Sushant Verma, Dr. Sanjay Kaushal, Sanjay Chopra, Goswami, Jasvinder Singh Kukra, Dinesh Gupta, Satish Vaid and thers.

# CCI Jammu delegation meets Director Income Tax



CCI delegation meeting with Anshuman Sharma, Director IT, Intelligence and Criminal Investigation, Chandigarh.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) Jammu, led by President Arun Gupta, met with Anshuman Sharma, Director of Income Tax, Intelligence and Criminal Investigation, Chandigarh, during his visit to Jammu. In the meeting, Arun Gupta shared insights into the evolving attitude of taxpayers, particularly among the business community, emphasizing the shift towards responsible tax payment driven by a "Nation First" approach. He

noted that with this mindset, the number of taxpayers is steadily rising, marking a significant shift from past practices.

Gupta highlighted that earlier, frequent visits by tax authorities to taxpayer premises often caused stress and inconvenience, despite many being compliant with tax regulations. Now, however, the honest payment of taxes has become a way to reduce stress and fulfill national responsibilities, though post-COVID-19 tax collection rates have slowed. He expressed confidence in

the taxpayer community's commitment to fulfilling their tax obligations.

Responding to Gupta's remarks, Anshuman Sharma affirmed the tax department's commitment to a supportive approach.

He stressed that their goal is to minimize unnecessary visits to taxpayer premises, focusing instead on motivating individuals and businesses to comply voluntarily. To further this goal, Sharma announced an upcoming outreach program scheduled for November 2024.

This program aims to educate, guide, and encourage taxpayers to pay their taxes accurately and with ease.

The meeting was also attended by CCI office bearers, including Anil Gupta (Senior Vice President), Rajeev Gupta (Junior Vice President), Manish Gupta (Secretary General), Rajesh Gupta (Secretary), and Rajesh Gupta (Treasurer).

# Randhawa delivers long-awaited Govt Transport Service to Chaatta since Independence

Terms it as a biggest ever Diwali Gift to Chaatta people



MLA Vikram Randhawa flagging off government bus service.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Staying true to his commitment to the residents of Chaatta in Bahu Constituency, MLA Vikram Randhawa fulfilled a historic promise by introducing the first-ever government transport service to the area, a development eagerly awaited since Independence. To mark this milestone, Randhawa personally rode on the inaugural bus, accompanied by enthusiastic party workers and local supporters.

With the establishment of this bus service, residents will now have access to regular, affordable transportation, facilitating better connections with the rest of the region. Randhawa acknowledged the support of local authorities, party workers, and community members

who joined hands to make this vision a reality.

Speaking on the occasion, Vikram Randhawa proudly described this initiative as the "biggest-ever Diwali gift" for the people of Chaatta, expressing that it

symbolizes not only improved connectivity but also a brighter, more accessible future for the residents. "Today is a significant step forward," he stated, adding "After decades of waiting, the people of Chata

finally have a reliable means of transport that links them to essential services, education, and economic opportunities."

Randhawa said that the BJP is fully committed to address every single genuine

issue faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Today's launch of the first government bus service to Chaatta is a testament to that commitment and a reflection of the Party's dedication to foster development in previously neglected areas. For decades, the people of Chata lacked basic transportation, affecting their access to essential services and opportunities. By fulfilling this promise, BJP aims to bridge such gaps and uplift the standard of living for all, he added.

"I am here to make real, positive changes that impact everyday lives," he said, reaffirming his dedication to empowering his constituency and creating a more connected and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir."

# JKPSA seeks restoration of online access to all school

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To discuss matter regarding education department and JKBOSE authorities, a meeting was held by J&K Private Schools Association (JKPSA) here on Tuesday.

Members told the saga that they have been deprived from the services to fill the examination form online mode in accordance to the notification No: F (Acad-c)/Reg-Exam-XI/XII/E-7580651/2024 dated 15-10-2024 issued by the JKBOSE.

Members said that due to the non availability of single window and time bound mechanism, most of the departments usually play delay tactics for the issuance of NOCs which are needed for extension in affiliation/recognition.



JKPSA members with newly elected Samba unit members during a meeting on Tuesday.

In many a cases if they receive NOC from one department on the one hand, the validity of the other expire on the other hand. They are unable to fill online Examination forms 10th & Renewal Registration Returns cum examination form of 11th & 12th Annual (Regular) session 2025.

President of the association, Ajay Gupta showed a serious concern and said that depriving the private schools from online services by the JKBOSE at the closure of academic session has now become a big threat for the students, teachers and owners. Association will never compromise with such unethical attitude of the

JKBOSE. Ajay Gupta appealed to the Sakeena Masood (Itoo), Minister, Department of School Education to intervene to channelize the paralyzed education system and immediate restoration of online access to all school so that school authorities can upload the details for the forth coming examination of

the students studying in class 10th, 11th and 12th without any late fees.

Moreover members from district Samba also resolved and elevated Pardeepak Sambyal as President, Vishal Singh Jamwal as General Secretary and Mohan Lal as treasurer of district Samba.

Prominent who attended the meeting included Deepak Handa (Sr. Vice President), Ajay Singh, Dr. M.M. Sharma, Gaurav Charak, Lal Chand Gandotra, Ram Parkash, Laddi Kumar, Pankaj Sambyal, Bhagat Ram Sharma, Anil Kumar, Gurdayal, Bhupinder Singh, Shabir Ahmed, Tarseem Lal, Sunil, R a j e s h Kumar, Karuneshwar and Ashok Sangra.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A colourful event was held on Tuesday at KC College of Education to mark the forthcoming festival of lights. On this occasion, a Rangoli competition was organized jointly by the cultural club and NSS wing of the college.

As we know that 'Rangoli' is a traditional art form that adds colour and vibrancy to the celebration. The whole atmosphere was enveloped by the joyous and vibrant colours of Rangoli. A total of seven teams from semesters I and III participated in the event which was judged by Taranjeet Kour and Priya Gupta on the basis of a four-point scale representing creativity, originality, clarity and artistic disposition of colours.



KC College of Education faculty and students at Diwali celebration.

Team D, Team C and Team F got first, second and third positions respectively. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Sanjay Tickoo, Principal of the college congratulated the

winner and wished everyone a wonderful Diwali. The event was convened by Rita Jamwal, Convenor Cultural Club, Priya Gupta P.O. NSS and reported by Taranjeet Kour.

# District Shopian Volleyball Championship to start from Nov 5

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SHOPIAN: The District Shopian Volleyball Association is excited to announce the upcoming District Volleyball

Championship for the 2024-25 season, organized under the auspices of the Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir and sponsored by the J&K Sports Council.

The championship will take place from November 5 to 6, 2024, at the Government Degree College in Shopian, featuring competitions for both men's and women's teams.

All registered teams interested in participating are requested to submit their entry forms by

November 3, 2024. This championship provides a great opportunity for athletes to showcase their skills and compete at a district level.

For further information, players can contact Muzamil Hamid on 7006064192 and Mutahir Shabir on 6006605890.

# Vishwa Bharati celebrates Diwali

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Vishwa Bharati Higher Secondary school Akalpur Morh, Jammu celebrated Diwali festival with great pomp and show. A special morning assembly was organized in which students presented beautiful skit based on Ramayan by performing the role its characters.

Some students sang melodious hymns dedicated to Goddess Lakshmi.

Speeches were also delivered on Deepawali festival and its importance in Sanatan Culture.

The students of Primary wing presented a beautiful dance item which ascinated each and everyone.

The school Principal Annapurna Kaul wished "Happy Diwali" to all and

admired the students and teachers for organizing the whole programme in a proper way.

A rangoli making competition and a Diya making competition were organized in which students participated whole heartedly and made beautiful rangolies and diyas. The first three were given awards for their wonderful skill in making rangolies and diyas.

Among all competing houses, the Sundram House stood first, Vishwa House stood second, Satyam House stood third and Shivam House stood fourth.

The celebration was organized by Akshma Bakshi from Department of English.

# Bharat Bhushan Chopra passes away; Azad expresses grief

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ghulam Nabi Azad, Chairman of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) and former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, expressed his deep shock at the sudden passing of Bharat Bhushan Chopra, father of Vishal Chopra, the DPAP Provincial General Secretary and Additional Spokesperson.

In a heartfelt statement, Azad described Chopra as a "humble soul" and extended his condolences to the Chopra family during this difficult time.



He said, "My heartfelt condolences and sympathies go out to the Chopra family. May God give them the strength to bear this loss."

# Satish Sharma reviews functioning of Science & Technology Dept

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Minister for Science and Technology, Satish Sharma, on Tuesday convened a review meeting regarding functioning of the department at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Science and Technology, Saurabh Bhagat and other senior officers of the department.

Regarding establishment of the Science Centre at Jammu, the Minister directed for early identification of suitable piece of land and assured full support for allotment of the same. He was briefed about the latest status of upcoming Sub-Regional Science Centre Srinagar and was informed that the said centre would be ready for inauguration by March 2025.

Regarding the Industrial Biotechnology Parks, Handwara and Kathua, the Minister was apprised of the latest status of these parks viz- a-viz completion of construction work, release of



Minister for Science and Technology, Satish Sharma chairing a meeting.

funds and engagement of staff for making these two parks functional. He instructed for taking up the matter with DBT, GoI and IIM-CSIR, Jammu for their early completion and subsequent handover to JKST&IC.

The Minister was given a brief presentation about the progress achieved by the department in implementation of programs like IEC-Science popularization activities, Science talent promotion, transfer of land for establishment of demonstration farms of aromatic and medicinal plants and innovation dissemination centre, Srinagar. Satish Sharma was also apprised of other issues

related to the department, employees strength and their DPCs. He assured his full support and cooperation in the removal of bottlenecks/impediments.

The Minister appreciated the department of Science and Technology for receiving an award from MNRE for highest installed solar and Renewable Energy Capacity. The Commissioner Secretary gave a brief presentation about working and other aspects of the department of Science and Technology. Additional Director, JKST&IC, Dr. Nasir Shah gave a presentation on JK Science Technology & Innovation

Council and briefed the Minister about various schemes and programmes being implemented by the JKST&IC.

Dr. P. R. Dhar, Chief Executive Officer, JAKEDA, also gave a detailed presentation about various schemes being implemented by the agency in the UT of J&K including solarization of government buildings and Jammu City under Jammu Solar City Mission.

The Minister was also informed about the implementation of different components of the PM-KUSUM scheme. He laid emphasis on the role of renewable energy in the agricultural sector.