

Rekha inaugurates Festive Fusion by DA Lifestyle Exhibitors

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A vibrant women's weekend kicked off in Jammu with the "Karwa Chauth and Diwali Utsav," organized by DA Lifestyle Exhibitors at KC Regalia. The event commenced with a ceremonial lighting of a traditional lamp and was graced by the chief guest, Rekha Mahajan, BJP District President Jammu South, along with Geetanjali Mahajan, Divya Jain, Ritika Mahajan, and other prominent women from the community.

Organized by the enterprising Divya Abrol, the event celebrated the spirit of Karwa Chauth, which falls on October 20, and showcased a carnival-like atmosphere filled with excitement and festivity.



Rekha Mahajan, BJP District President Jammu South inaugurating an event.

The gathering honored the dedication of women and girls who fast for the well-being of their husbands. Attendees enjoyed a wide array of festive dresses, jewelry, handmade bangles, wedding trousseau packing, handbags, and

clutches, with hundreds of women shopping in colorful festive attire.

Rekha Mahajan emphasized the connection between the event and traditional rituals, praising women for embodying essential values such as

ethics, loyalty, and leadership. She highlighted the Indian culture that encourages women to contribute to the nation's development under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. Mahajan pointed out that over 80 percent of

loans under the 'Standup India' scheme and approximately 70 percent under the Mudra Yojana are granted to women, showcasing the government's commitment to women's empowerment.

She also commended the "voiced for local" initiative, which uplifts local women entrepreneurs. Mahajan praised Divya Abrol and her team for their dedication to creating a platform for women to shine and showcase locally made products.

Divya Abrol expressed her pride in providing a space for women to connect, shop, and celebrate the festive spirit together, reinforcing the event's goal of empowering and honoring women's contributions to society.

Under Amrit Kaal, mega exhibition "Rise in Jammu and Kashmir 2024" held in Jammu

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JAMMU: On the final day of the exhibition, there was tremendous enthusiasm among the people. Over 10,000 students from more than 60 educational departments of Central and state government names of few are- DRDO, ISRO, CWC, MOES, NHPC, ICAR, ICMR, APEDA, GSI, CSIR, COIR BOARD, NIB and many more along with city residents, visited the exhibition and praised the various stalls showcasing the state's achievements. Rajya Sabha MP Ghulam Ali Khatana and GSI Deputy Director General PS Mishra also reviewed the exhibition. On the closing day, everyone shared their thoughts, emphasizing the need for such exhibitions to be regularly organized in Jammu.



MP Ghulam Ali Khatana visiting an exhibition.

Certificates were distributed, and the event saw the participation of around 10,000 youth.

It was expressed that Jammu's youth should take full advantage of such exhibitions. It is indeed fortunate that through the efforts of MP Ghulam Ali Khatana, such an exhibition was organized in Jammu, greatly benefiting the

youth. The stall of DRDO was declared the winner of the exhibition, with the second place awarded to the Geological Survey of India and the third to Power Grid Corporation.

The exhibition was organized by Tarmeh Events, Delhi. The organization's directors, Tarun Jain and Mehak Jain, were present at the event.

Chairman LAHDC visits newly appointed DGP SD Singh Jamwal



Chairman LAHDC, Adv. Tashi Gyalson and others with DGP Ladakh, Dr. Shiv Darshan Singh Jamwal.

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LEH: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson; Executive Councillor for Rural Development, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee; Executive Councillor for Culture, Stanzin Chosphel; DC/CEO LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, made a courtesy visit to the newly appointed Director General of Police

(DGP) for Ladakh, Dr. Shiv Darshan Singh Jamwal.

CEC congratulated Dr. Jamwal on his recent promotion, as per the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India order No. 15041/03/2023-UTS-I dated September 30, 2024, which officially redesignated him from Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) to DGP of Ladakh.

CEC Gyalson commended the proactive role of the Ladakh Police, particularly in their efforts to provide employment opportunities within the department, highlighting their significant contributions to the community's safety and well-being. CEC further extended best wishes to DGP for his leadership as he guides the Ladakh Police in maintaining peace and security in the region.

The delegation also took the opportunity to recognize the contributions of outgoing Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Sheikh Junaid Mehmood for his successful tenure in Ladakh. They wished him well in his future endeavors at his new posting in Jammu and Kashmir.

Institute of Music and Fine Arts hosts monthly Baithak

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA) organized its monthly Baithak on Saturday at the Dance Department. This enriching event showcased the talents of students from five departments: Vocal, Sitar, Violin, Tabla, and Kathak Dance.

The Baithak featured a series of impressive presentations by students, highlighting their skills and dedication to their respective disciplines. In addition to the performances, Dr. Jasmeet Kour conducted an informative orientation on research paper formats, equipping students with essential academic skills.

The event was graced by the presence of Senior Faculty Member and former instructor, Guru



IMFA students performing Kathak dance during a programme.

Parshotam Kumar, who shared his insights and encouragement with the students.

The program was conducted by Pragya Sharma, a first-semester student of Kathak Department, while the vote of thanks was delivered by Barkat from the second semester of the Vocal Department.

Also, the students who performed in the event are

as follows Sobia Kousar, Hilal Farooq, Shubham Aryan, Tashi Dorje, Arpana Kumari, Harsh Dev Singh, Anmol Maniyal, Ajay Kumar, Gautam, Shashi Kumar, Sonia and Manu who were accompanied by Prabhat Bali, Amit Anand, Raj Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Rudra Sharma, Sohail Wani & Navraj Singh. Their performance was prepared by Dr. Priya

Dutta, Dr. Sumit Madaan, Sunil Raina, Suraj Singh, Rajesh Kumar and Prabhat Bali. Stage managed by Vijay Kumar. Faculty members were also in attendance, fostering an atmosphere of support and camaraderie. The monthly Baithak continues to serve as a platform for students to express their artistic talents and engage with the academic community, rein-

forcing IMFA's commitment to excellence in the arts, said Guru Parshotam Kumar. Speaking on the occasion, Principal IMFA, Prof. Sohaib Malik congratulated HoD Music Dr. Priya Dutta and other faculty members for initiating such a step where students of all the departments will get opportunity to perform on stage and boost their confidence.

He further said that IMFA is a prime institute and for organizing such event on monthly basis all the facilities and requirements will be fulfilled to make it successful.

Members present on the occasion were HoD Music Dr. Priya Dutta, Rajkumar Sharma, Shivani Kapoor, Rajesh Kumar, Prabhat Bali, Amit Anand and Mohit Kumar.

PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme big relief to farmers: Balbir

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The annual financial assistance of rupees 6000 under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme is a big relief to the farmers of the country as it has impacted their lives. Through this scheme, the farmers are getting direct income support from the union government, which speaks of its concern for the welfare and well-being of the farming community.

Balbir Ram Rattan, BJP senior leader & former Vice Chairperson, J&K SC, ST, BC Development Corporation, said this while terming the release of the 18th installment of the scheme on Saturday by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, as the reaffirmation of the commitment of union government for the welfare of the farmers across the



Balbir Ram Rattan, BJP senior leader speaking in a meeting.

country. He was discussing the pro-farmer policies of the Modi government with BNP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, SC Morcha Vice President, Vijay Anand Gill, Morcha General Secretary Adarsh Jathiar, Media Cell member Sanjay Bakshi, at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, on Saturday. Balbir said that

the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, launched in 2019, aims to provide direct income support to the farmers, ensuring their financial stability and enabling them to meet their agricultural and household needs.

"Under this scheme, the eligible farmers receive an annual financial assistance of rupees 6,000, disbursed in three equal installments

of rupees 2,000 each through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system", Balbir said, adding that the funds are transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries without any mediators.

He said that more than 11 crore farmers have benefited from this scheme, which is indeed a big boon to the farmers. This scheme serves as a safety net for farmers by helping them meet their day-to-day expenses, especially during times of crop failure or market fluctuations. The additional income allows them to invest in better nutrition, healthcare, and education for their families. It also reduces farmers' reliance on high-interest loans from informal sources, thus helping them avoid debt traps and improve their overall

financial security.

Media Incharge, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, on this occasion, said that the scheme is designed to be inclusive, covering all small and marginal farmers. Its transparent and straightforward application process ensures that farmers across all states and Union Territories get benefit from it. The use of technology for beneficiary verification and fund disbursement has minimized delays and ensured a corruption-free system.

In a nutshell, Dr. Pardeep said that PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme is a highly appreciable initiative of the union government under Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. It is also reflective of the working line of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas, under which every section and class of the society is taken care of through various schemes by the Modi government.

IDSP organises 3-Days Training for Lab Technicians

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: State Surveillance Unit (IDSP), Jammu Division, organized a comprehensive three-days training programme for Lab Technicians of Jammu division from 3rd to 5th October 2024, at Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The event was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Rakesh Magotra, Director Health Services Jammu and overall supervision of Dr. Harjeet Rai, Epidemiologist/State Surveillance Officer IDSP, Jammu Division and Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, Medical Superintendent Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

The training aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of laboratory technicians in detecting, reporting and responding to various diseases, with a special focus on strengthening the integrated surveillance system. It included



State Surveillance Unit IDSP members with lab technicians.

practical demonstrations and theoretical sessions to ensure comprehensive training.

Dr. Ruchita Mahajan, Consultant Microbiology, Gandhinagar Hospital Jammu, Dr. Megha Sharma, Pathologist Gandhinagar Hospital Jammu and Ajay Kumar, State Microbiologist, IDSP Jammu were the resource persons.

These experts provided insights into advanced diagnostic techniques, sample collection, proper data handling and reporting procedures in align-

ment with IDSP protocols. Special attention was given to improving laboratory readiness for outbreak detection and response across the region.

Dr. Harjeet Rai emphasized the critical role of laboratory technicians in the early detection and prevention of disease outbreaks. He highlighted that continued training and skill development are key to strengthening public health infrastructure. He also appreciated the active participation and enthusiasm shown by the attendees.

Arde Nareshwar Temple Nadi Marg reopens for devotees after 2 decades; Murti Sthapna puja held



DC Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan visiting Arde Nareshwar Temple in Nadimarg Kulgam.

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KULGAM: Arde Nareshwar Temple in Nadimarg Kulgam was reopened for devotees after more than 20 years, marking a significant spiritual and cultural event.

Devotees from across the district gathered in large numbers to offer prayers and celebrate this auspicious day and Murti Sthapna Puja was held at the temple on Saturday with religious

favor. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan made a special visit to the temple and interacted with devotees and the temple authorities. During his visit,

the DC reviewed the facilities available for the devotees and assured the administration's continued support in preserving and promoting Kulgam's historical and cultural landmarks. Meanwhile, the district administration has developed a road from Katapora to Nadimarg and has taken other developmental projects on priority to augment facilities for devotees in the area.

Among the devotees was Vicky Bhat, who expressed his joy, stating, "After more than 20 years, the Puja has resumed at the temple, and it fills me with immense happiness to see this."

Accompanying the DC were Tehsildar Yaripora, EO MC Yaripora and other officers.

CAT directs to grant benefits in terms of SRO 333 with retrospective effect from 1996

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a bunch of petitions filed by Jammu Kashmir Ladakh All Departments Clerical Staff Association, through its State President and others seeking quashing of SRO 333 dated August 2, 2018 to the extent of grant of prospective effect only and the respondents be directed by issuance of a writ of mandamus to grant the benefits in terms of the SRO with retrospective effect from January 1, 1996 notionally and monetarily w.e.f. February 19, 2003 on the analogy of Accounts Cadre, Animal/Sheep Husbandry Cadre Posts, Patwaris and Section Officers.

A Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal Jammu comprising Rajinder Singh Dogra Member (J) and Ram Mohan Johri Member (A) after hearing Adv. Veenu Gupta for the petitioners whereas AAG Sudesh Magotra with Deputy AG Dewakar Sharma for the UT, allowed the petition and the SRO 333 dated August 2, 2018 to the extent of granting prospective effect to the upgradation

of pay scales of the applicants is quashed.

The respondents are directed to grant benefits in terms of SRO 333 with retrospective effect from January 1, 1996 notionally and monetarily w.e.f. February 19, 2003 on the analogy of Accounts Cadre, Animal/Sheep Husbandry Cadre Posts, Patwaris and Section Officers.

CAT further directed that this exercise be completed within a period three months from the date of receipt of a certified copy of this order. While allowing the petition, CAT observed that the issue to be decided by this Tribunal in the instant T.A. is as to whether the applicants are entitled to claim the benefit of upgradation of pay scale retrospectively w.e.f. January 1, 1996 notionally and monetarily w.e.f. February 19, 2003 on the analogy of Accounts Cadre, Animal/Sheep Husbandry Cadre Posts, Patwaris and Section Officers.

CAT further observed that perusal of the record shows that vide SRO-259 dated July 18, 2007 (Annexure A-III), the pay scale of Section

Officers of all State Government Departments was upgraded in the pay scale of 7450-225-11500 w.e.f. January 1, 1996 on notional basis and with monetary benefits w.e.f. February 19, 2003. Similarly, vide SRO-94 of 2007, the pay scale of Accounts Cadre was upgraded notionally w.e.f. January 1, 1996 and w.e.f. February 19, 2003 monetarily.

It is also seen from records that vide SRO 302 of 2013 dated June 20, 2013 (Annexure X), the pay scale of Patwaris was upgraded from Rs. 3050-4590 to Rs. 4000-6000 notionally w.e.f. December 15, 2005 and monetarily w.e.f. February 22, 2008.

CAT further observed that it is true, as stated by the respondents, that pay fixation/pay revision/removal of pay anomaly lies in the domain of the Executive and the scope of judicial review of administrative decision in this regard is very limited. However, it is also equally well-settled that the Courts can interfere in matters pertaining to pay fixation and pay parity when they find

such a decision to be unreasonable, just and prejudicial to a section of employees, CAT said.

CAT further observed that as is clear from preceding, the pay scales of several posts were upgraded with retrospective effect, however, while upgrading the pay scale of the applicants vide SRO 333, the respondents have given prospective effect to the same, which action is discriminatory and arbitrary in nature. The main argument put forth by the respondents is that giving retrospective effect to the upgradation of pay scale of the applicants would lead to huge financial burden. CAT observed that this Bench is not convinced with the arguments raised by the respondents, in as much as, pay scales of several higher posts like Patwari, Section Officer were upgraded with retrospective effect which certainly would also have entailed financial implications, a contrary stand cannot be taken for the applicants herein, who are working on lower level posts like Junior Assistants etc. With these observations, CAT allowed the petition.

SSP ANTF educates students about dangers of drug use

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, the ANTF team in Jammu organized an awareness program on drug abuse at Bharatiya Shiksha Kendra Higher Secondary School in Domana, attended by approximately 250 students and staff members.

SSP ANTF, Raj Kumar addressed the attendees, highlighting the critical need to combat drug abuse and its impact on society.



SSP ANTF, Raj Kumar addressing students.

The program aimed to educate students about the dangers of drug use and encourage healthy activities, such as sports, as preventive measures.

Participants were urged to stay vigilant and share information with law enforcement regarding drug peddlers and smugglers, promoting a collective effort to tackle this issue.

Students were also encouraged to spread awareness within their peer groups to foster a more informed and supportive community.