

# LG urges young, creative minds to make India fashion capital of world

## Convocation ceremony at NIFT Srinagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
BUDGAM: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday urged the young, creative minds to address the emerging challenges of domestic apparel and textile industry and make India fashion capital of the world.

Addressing the Convocation Ceremony at National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar, he said: "Youth are the inheritors of our great civilization. I firmly believe India's unique cultural and historical identity and dedication of our youth to weave magic into creative products will bring far-reaching changes in the fashion industry."

The Lt Governor congratulated the NIFT management, faculty members, staff and graduating students, and extended his best wishes.

The Lt Governor shared the key initiatives taken, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to strengthen the entire value chain from fiber, yarn, fabric to apparel and also reviving unique cultural and artistic heritage.

"J&K is a repository of



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressing the Convocation Ceremony at National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar on Wednesday.



Indian creative traditions and it manifests in various handicraft and handloom products. We are committed to provide necessary opportunities and facilities to empower and unlock the potential of our talented weavers and crafts-men", he said.

The Lt Governor also commended the efforts of NIFT to provide a complete, meaningful, relevant education in the area of design development, fashion management and fashion communication to strengthen the brand positioning of apparels and crafts, and to support J&K's artisans and

enrich the local crafts through Craft Cluster Projects. He advised the students to implement the inclusive approach in spreading the benefits of expertise and exposure earned at NIFT to handicrafts and handloom industry and to do justice with creativity of craftspeople for their empowerment.

"NIFT has emerged as a premier fashion institution of the country and producing professional human resource for textile and apparel industry. Your collective aim should be to build global brands. Your creativity, innovation, value

edition and your dedication for cultivating the personality of your products will help in making fashion design, technology and lifestyle accessory industry competitive in the international market," he said.

The Lt Governor also paid tribute to well-known fashion designer Rohit Bal who was born in Srinagar and went on to revolutionize the Indian fashion industry. The Lieutenant Governor said his innovative and dynamic approach will inspire NIFT's students to become catalysts for stronger and sustainable growth in this sector.

Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner, Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Rajiv Omprakash, DIG CKR Srinagar; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Budgam; Prof. Monika Gupta, Director, NIFT Srinagar; Prof. Sudha Dhinra, Dean Academics, NIFT; HoDs of different educational institutions, senior officials of Civil and Police administration, students and faculty members were present.

## DIG JSK Range reviews arrangements of Jhiri Mela



DIG JSK Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma with police officers inspecting arrangements at Jhiri Mela.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: Shiv Kumar Sharma, Dy. Inspector General (DIG) of Police, JSK Range, convened a meeting with regard to preparation of security arrangements for ongoing Jhiri Mela 2024.

The meeting was attended by SSP Jammu Joginder Singh, SP Rural Jammu Birjesh Sharma, Addl. SP Traffic Jammu Ravinder Singh Kotwal, SDPO Domana Mudassir, SHO Kahnachak Sham Lal, SDM Marh Amin Zargar, Thasildar Marh R.K. Rathore and Secretary of Jhiri Mela.

During the meeting, DIG Jammu Shiv Kumar emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to ensure the safety and security of the pilgrims.

He highlighted the need for meticulous planning and execution of security measures to address any potential threats and challenges.

The special focus was given on the security being extended to the pilgrims during enroute, places of their stay and Langer sites.

All the officers were exhorted to implement operation third eye in their respective jurisdiction in coordination with other stakeholders for the foolproof security of yatris and Locals.

Moreover, all the officers were directed to strengthen all the nakas especially in the border areas as well as in the city during night and wee hours.

Strict instructions were given to the officers to focus on controlling the crowd and a strategy should be adopted to manage it.

He also instructed the officers to keep close watch on Pickpocketers, Drug Paddlers, Nuisance creator, Anti National and Anti Social Elements.

It was also discussed that proper liaison be maintained with all the intelligence agencies (Army/Para Military forces and other Center agencies) in their respective jurisdiction and share the same on real time basis.

Besides strategies to manage the expected high influx of pilgrims, including traffic regulation, parking facilities, and emergency response measures, adequate medical facilities, emergency services, and disaster management plans to address health-related issues and emergencies during the Mela were reviewed.

DIG JSK Range also visited in the old Kahnachak BSF Post and discussed security related issues with the BSF authority and also imparted necessary directions.

## Sham Lal launches development project for roads in Ward 64



MLA Sham Lal Sharma inaugurating development work.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Jammu North Constituency, inaugurated a significant development project focused on enhancing the infrastructure of JMC Ward Number 64. The project, budgeted at approximately Rs 38 lakh, aims to upgrade the main and internal roads in Durga Nagar and neighboring areas.

Sham Lal assured residents of his commitment to ongoing development and upliftment efforts in the area, emphasizing that providing better

infrastructure and facilities will remain a priority across the constituency. He directed the concerned officers of the Jammu Municipal Corporation to ensure proper sanitation is maintained in all wards, underscoring his focus on health and cleanliness as integral to development. "We are committed to a model of progressive development, one that prioritizes quality, sustainability, and long-term benefits for the community," said Sh. Sham Lal Sharma. "Every project we undertake, including these essential road enhancements, is guided by a vision to improve our neighborhoods with infrastructure that stands the test of time and adds genuine value to residents' lives." Residents expressed their appreciation for the MLA's dedication to advancing Ward 64, noting the positive impact that the road enhancements will bring in terms of safety, accessibility, and overall livability.

The ceremony was attended by Kapil Chib ( Ex Councillor Ward 64 ), Suresh Khajuria, Mandal Adhyaksh, Ajay Sharma, Vikram Mahajan, M.K. Razdan, Adv. Naresh Sharma, M.P. Sharma, Rajat Chib, Abheet Sharma, Rani Devi, Sheetal Mehta, and Shrishta Manhas, among others.

## Principal Secretary inaugurates 2 day Philately exhibition at Kala Kendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: Principal Secretary Culture and School Education, Suresh Kumar Gupta, on Wednesday inaugurated two day philately exhibition, showcasing history and cultural heritage of Jammu through postal stamps, at Kala Kendra.



Prpl Secy Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta and other dignitaries releasing special cover on GGM Science College.

in other countries, have been put for display at the exhibition. Some of these stamps are from the colonial period. Besides, the India Post is also displaying over 30 postal stamps issued on Jammu and Kashmir in the exhibition.

Speaking on the occasion, Suresh Kumar lauded the Department of Posts for hosting the exhibition depicting the

rich history of Jammu. He referred philately as an interesting hobby to know about the cultural heritage of the country.

Referring to the New Education Policy as envisioned by the Prime Minister of India, Principal Secretary said that children should adopt learning things as their hobby in order to overcome stress and tension. He further described Philately

as one of such hobbies.

Later, the Principal Secretary also released a special cover on GGM Science College.

Director Postal Services, Prateek, described Philately as Hobby of Kings and King of all Hobbies. He said that India Post from time to time is introducing stamps, special covers related to events, monuments and eminent personalities thus playing its role in preserving the history.

Professor Ramesh Gupta, Madhukar Jhingan, noted philatelist, also spoke on the occasion.

The day long event witnessed stamp designing, quiz competition and workshop by eminent philatelists for the students.

# Omar Abdullah should relook NC's Election Manifesto and make Orders & Proposals for delivering the promises

■ DAYA SAGAR  
The first session of the Legislative Assembly of UT of J&K commenced on 4th November. Before that the Omar Abdullah Cabinet had passed a resolution that the Status of a State should be granted to UT of J&K. Omar Abdullah the Chief Minister had also visited the Union Capital and met the Prime Minister also in that regard.

No regular business has been conducted in the Assembly during the this short session except that a resolution was moved by the Dy Chief Minister Surinder Chowdhary has been adopted by the legislative assembly on 6th November with a majority vote < " This Assembly reaffirms the importance of the special status and Constitutional guarantees, which safeguarded the identity, culture and rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and expresses concern over the unilateral removal." "This Assembly calls upon the Government of India to initiate dialogue with elected representatives of people of J&K for restoration of special status, Constitutional guarantees and to

work out the Constitutional mechanisms for restoring these provisions." "This Assembly emphasises that any process for restoration must safeguard both national unity and the legitimate aspirations of the people of J&K."> and the opposition has been protesting against the resolution both inside & outside the house 'suggesting' that the resolution in a way demands for 'restoration' of Art 35A and also 'restoration' of Art - 370 although the text of resolution did not refer to the said articles and BJP leader & leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma termed the presentation & adoption of the said resolution as an item outside the business of the house i.e discussion on LG's address.

The session was lost more in protests & allegations instead having regular participation / discussions on the LGs address although on the last day some general reference to issues concerning the economy / projects in UT , health , education, employment , / service conditions of government employees and like were raised / referred by some members.

But no pointed references were made and referred related to immediate common man issues and the promises made in the election manifesto of National Conference. People were expecting that the LG's address would make some specific and time bound mentions related to the promises made in the Election Manifesto of National Conference but there was not much of immediate relief to the common man.

The Motion of Thanks on LG's address was moved by MLA, Baramulla, Javid Hassan Baig and was adopted through voice on the final day ( 8th November) of session saying < "That the Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, assembled in this Session, are deeply grateful to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on November 4th, 2024.

No doubt addressing the House,



### A Look through the Mist

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather said that it has been the success of the House that the Lieutenant Governor mentioned the "restoration of statehood and constitutional guarantees" to Jammu and Kashmir in his address on November 4 but there were many more things that people were and are still expecting from the NC lead Government in terms of the promises made in the election manifesto which were/ are of immediate relief/ benefit of the common man and some could be ordered even within the direct reach of the UT Cabinet but the LG address which reflects the policy of the government with council of ministers there to aid & advise the LG had no pointed reference on promises of immediate common interest. No doubt the LG's address did have reference of 200 Units of free electric power and free drinking water but the references did not fit well w.r.t to the NC's election manifesto.

The Legislative Assembly's brief five-day session was over on 8th November and the House was adjourned sine die by Abdul Rahim Rather, the Speaker.

Before specifically quote here some election manifesto promises it will not be wrong to say here that although LG has over riding authority/ role in some matters particularly the public order& the police ,LG is expected to be always there with the Cabinet / Legislature like he has been as regards the demand for restoration of statehood to J&K (that had reference in election NC's manifesto also) which also finds a very considerate reference in the LG's address for which Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather while addressing the house had said <" it is success of the House that the Lieutenant Governor mentioned the "restoration of statehood and constitutional guarantees" to Jammu and Kashmir in his address on November 4">.

Omar Abdullah should hold to his pledge in Election manifesto and take on first priority the promises made in very clear & specific manner like 200 Units free power every month to all & free drinking water to all since the references if at all are made in the LG's address are not that delivering and direct. For example the election manifesto promises to

provide 200 units of electricity free ( page-13) and also says will provide free drinking water to each household where these items do have reference in the LG's address but there it is conditional & not specific , as regards 200 units power the LG's address says < "My Government is committed to provide 200 units of free electricity to deserving households for which modalities are being worked out"> and as regards free drinking water the LG's address says < para 16. "My Government is committed to providing Free, Clean and Safe Drinking Water to All"> Even here the unanswered questions are why 200 power units / month not to all but only to deserving households and why no time frame for ordering supply of costless power & drinking water ?

The opposition parties should also have participated in the debate and made references to the commitments made in the NC manifesto but that too did not happen.

To be continued  
(The writer is a Sr Journalist & a known analyst of J&K affairs).



## Dr Jitendra presents 'Sarangi' to 'Mann Ki Baat' fame Udhampur artist

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a rare gesture of reverence to Dogra culture and art, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, who is also the Member of Parliament representing Udhampur in Lok Sabha, presented a new "Sarangi" music instrument to Gorinath, a noted traditional Dogra artist from Udhampur who was mentioned and praised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his recent radio broadcast of " Mann Ki Baat". While presenting the "Sarangi" instrument, the Minister said, it had been decided to present a new "Sarangi" instrument to Gorinath as a Diwali gift on behalf of PM Narendra Modi, but this could not happen because of the untimely demise of Dr Jitendra Singh's brother and therefore, this was being done today after the mourning period was over.

Pertinent to mention that Gorinath featured in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 115th episode of Mann Ki Baat, as an artist captivating audiences with his century-old Sarangi, a family heirloom, and also an artist who shares ancient stories and songs that showcase the essence of Dogra heritage. In the Mann Ki Baat address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Gorinath ji as an "extraordinary individual" whose devotion to his cultural roots has inspired a unique



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh presenting a new "Sarangi" music instrument to Gorinath, a noted traditional Dogra artist from Udhampur, at Jammu on Wednesday.

preservation of traditional art.

Dr Jitendra said, Prime Minister Modi's words were a proud moment for Udhampur, highlighting how Gorinath's tireless efforts breathe life into the region's rich history through music.

The Prime Minister had remarked, "In different parts of the country, one finds many extraordinary people who are engaged in preserving cultural heritage in their own unique ways. A similar effort is being made by Gorinath ji of Udhampur."

Moved by the Prime Minister's recognition and by Gorinathji's dedication, Dr. Jitendra Singh presented him with a new Sarangi as a gesture of support for the preservation of Dogra heritage and reiteration of PM Modi's consistent endeavour to awaken

countrymen to the richness of India's heritage.

The Minister also shared a quote from Gorinath's words, "This Sarangi is very old, and it has been passed down in my family for generations...I go to people's homes and play Sarangi."

For Gorinath, the Sarangi is more than an instrument; it is a vessel of his family's history and a bridge to the past for Dogra people. He recounts how each performance is a journey into the historical tales of the region, as the Sarangi's notes capture the attention of all ages, keeping the Dogra heritage alive in homes and gatherings. He often travels village to village, sharing these stories and music, sometimes at family events and gatherings, and also keeping the tradition of storytelling alive.

## Sakeena visits family of slain Sumbal woman

### Hands over Rs 2.5 lakhs ex-gratia, Rs 2.5 lakhs FDR to grieving family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Masood on Wednesday visited Sumbal, Bandipora to console with the family of Abida Lone, who succumbed to her injuries after she was wounded in a grenade attack past week in Srinagar.

Sakeena Masood strongly condemned this inhuman killing of young Abida, who has left behind her three small children. The Minister extended her deepest condolences with the family and loved ones of the deceased. She said that our thoughts and prayers are with the family and assured them all possible support from the government in this difficult time.

The Minister also prayed for eternal peace of departed soul,



Health Minister, Sakeena Masood consoling with the family of Abida Lone.

seeking peace and solace for the family affected by this tragedy.

In a gesture of support, Sakeena Masood on the occasion also handed over a cheque of Rs. 2.5 lakhs to the husband of slain lady and FDR amounting to Rs. 2.5 lakhs in favour of her children for their future needs.

Earlier, the family has also been presented a cheque amounting to Rs. 1.25 lakhs out of district Red Cross Fund Srinagar and Disaster Fund Srinagar.

MLA, Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone; DC Bandipora, SDM Sumbal and other officers of district administration were also present on the occasion.