

# JKAACL organizes Punjabi Kavi Darbar to mark 556th Parkash Utsav of Shri Guru Nanak Dev

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) organized a Punjabi Kavi Darbar at K. L. Saigal Hall, Jammu, to commemorate the 556th Parkash Utsav of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Maharaj, the divine messenger of peace, equality, and universal brotherhood.

The event was graced by S. S. Bijral (Retd. IPS, IGP) as the Chief Guest, while Harvinder Kaur, Secretary JKAACL, Ajit Singh Mastana, and



JKAACL officials and dignitaries with participating students at Punjabi Kavi Darbar.

Popinder Singh Paras, Editor Sheeraza Punjabi, Kaur highlighted Guru Nanak Dev Ji's eternal

message of compassion, humility, and service to humanity, emphasizing its relevance in today's world. S. S. Bijral, in his thought-provoking lecture, described Guru Nanak Dev Ji as a beacon of truth, moral courage, and righteousness.

Sh. Ajit Singh Mastana underlined the Guru's universal teachings on peace, equality, and communal harmony, urging all to imbibe his values in daily life. The poetic session featured eminent Punjabi poets including Dr.

Jatinder Udhamपुरi, Swami Antar Neerav, Surinder Kaur Neer, Amrjit Kour Neer, Resham Kour, Baljit Raina, Harjit Uppal, Bachan Bharti, Pyasa Anjum, Hareharan Singh, Suraj Rattan, Suraj Singh Suraj, Jang S. Verma, Jatinder Singh, Balwinder Singh Jammu, Balkar Singh, Bhupinder Singh Bhargav, Didar Singh, and Dr. Monojit, along with students from MAM College and GCW Gandhi Nagar. Their poetry reflected Guru Nanak's teachings of love, unity, and devotion.

The programme, attended by members of the Kashmir Sikh Sangat and several literary figures, was conducted by Tejinder Singh Preme and concluded with an eloquent address by Popinder Singh Paras, who expressed gratitude to all participants and reaffirmed the Academy's dedication to promoting Punjabi literature and culture.

# Nagrota people trust BJP's model of good governance, strong leadership: Rekha Mahajan



BJP J&K Vice President Rekha Mahajan during a campaign in Nagrota.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NAGROTA: BJP J&K Vice President Rekha Mahajan today held an intensive campaign in support of BJP candidate Devyani Rana in the Nagrota Assembly Constituency.

Addressing a series of public meetings and door-to-door interactions, Rekha Mahajan urged the people to come forward in large numbers to support Devyani Rana, describing her as a dynamic, dedicated, and people-centric leader committed to the development of Nagrota. Rekha Mahajan said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the nation has witnessed unprecedented

growth, empowerment of women, and equitable development across all sectors.

"The BJP government has ensured transparency, accountability, and inclusive progress. Devyani Rana represents that same vision of service and integrity that will bring new opportunities to the people of Nagrota," she stated.

She said that the BJP remains committed to empowering women, youth, and farmers through effective grassroots policies.

Criticizing the opposition parties for their decades of neglect, Rekha Mahajan said that the people of Nagrota are now determined to reject false promises and divisive politics.

"Those who ruled for years only exploited emotions but failed to bring development. The people now trust BJP's model of good governance and strong leadership," she asserted.

Rekha Mahajan appealed to voters to ensure Devyani Rana's resounding victory, emphasizing that her leadership will ensure better infrastructure, education, employment, and empowerment for every section of society.

Prominent BJP leaders, local workers, and supporters accompanied Rekha Mahajan during the campaign, which received an enthusiastic response from the people of Nagrota.

# Delphic Council of J&K convenes Executive Body Meeting



Delphic Council of J&K members at Executive Body Meeting.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: After successful culmination of a three days Inter-State Cultural Festival which was held in Srinagar in collaboration with the JKAACL, NZCC, Exeise & Taxation Department and J&K Bank, the Delphic Council of J&K convened its Executive Body meeting today in its office at Jammu.

Er. Ashok Singh, President of the Council and team thanked Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Jammu North & former Minister, J&K who contributed one month salary to the Council for organising three days Inter-State Cultural Festival at Srinagar wherein, Sham Lal Sharma was the Guest of Honour on the occasion.

The Executive Body of the

Society passed a few resolutions to authorise Er. Ashok Singh to go ahead for organising Inter-School Delphic Club Children Film Festival and Inter-State Flute, Mouth Organ and Violin Festival at Jammu in coming days.

The Executive Body also authorised the President to frame the requisite committees for smooth conduct of the proposed festivals.

On the occasion, Er. Ashok Singh said that the Delphic Council will take appropriate measures through Arts & Culture to engage the youth of the Jammu and Kashmir to say no to drugs and yes to life by engaging them with the Inter-School Delphic Club Children Film and Inter-State Cultural

Festivals in the UT which will shape the future of the students.

He also assured that the Council will move in the Schools in all the Districts of J&K to engage the students in Art & Cultural activities, enabling them to avoid drugs.

The meeting was attended by Vijay Puri, Dr. Anila Singh Charak, Dr. Amrisha Kohli, Ramesh Chander, Naseem Akhtar, Er. NN Thussu, Chander Shekhar, Dr. Ghara Choudhary, Er. Kulbushan Bhanu, Ajit Singh Bhanu, Surjeet Singh Manhas, Rakesh Anand, Geetika Kohli, Virender Puri, Rajinder Sambyal, Shavinder, Amit Bali, Renu Bala, Bal Bushan Sharma and Sahil Sharma.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

ANANTNAG: BJP Rajya Sabha MP and senior leader Gulam Ali Khatana flagged off the "My Bharat - Ek Bharat Aatmanirbhar Bharat" Unity March at Government Degree College, Anantnag, organised to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India and the architect of national integration. Thousands of students, NSS volunteers, youth, and local residents enthusiastically participated in the event, joining the Unity March and cultural performances that celebrated the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.

Addressing the gathering, MP Gulam Ali Khatana



Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana at "My Bharat - Ek Bharat Aatmanirbhar Bharat" Unity March at Anantnag.

said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has fulfilled Sardar Patel's vision of a united and strong India by integrating every region of the country through inclusive development and good governance.

He added that the My Bharat - Ek Bharat Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative aims to make India a self-reliant and resilient economy by promoting domestic manufacturing, reducing foreign dependence, creating jobs, and strengthening national economic and security systems.

Khatana appreciated the enthusiasm and patriotism of the youth of Kashmir, saying their participation

reflects a deep commitment to nation-building and unity. He also commended the efforts of the college administration, district officers, and My Bharat officials for successfully organising such an inspiring programme that connects young minds with the ideals of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of national integration and empowerment.

The Unity March commenced from Shaheed Humayun Memorial Degree College Khanabal and concluded at Sports Stadium Mehandi Kadal, spreading the message of unity, discipline, and self-reliance across Anantnag.

# Khatana flags off "My Bharat - Ek Bharat Aatmanirbhar Bharat" unity march in Anantnag

# KSS performs Hawan with religious fervour

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Kashmiri Sahayak Samiti (KSS) performed its annual Hawan and traditional Klash Pooja with religious devotion and enthusiasm at Mata Sharika Bhawan, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The event, marked by deep spiritual energy and cultural reverence, witnessed the participation of thousands of devotees who gathered to chant mantras and Vedic Shlokas, praying for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of the community and humanity at large. During the sacred ceremony, five Sahkars were offered by Surinder Munshi, R.K. Kakroo, Ravinder Koul, Rajesh Ticku, and Pankaj Bhan in the name



of five deities. The rituals culminated with a Samohik Aarti followed by the distribution of traditional Walnut Prashad among devotees. The one-day-long Hawan concluded with a

religious Bhandara, where devotees were served authentic Kashmiri vegetarian dishes, symbolizing communal harmony and devotion. Adding a spiritual touch to the event, KSS

Nari Shakti members including Sunaina Bhat, Kusum Koul, Veena-Jee, Nimi Bhat Pandita, Krishnapriya, Indira Koul, Monika Koul, Asha Malla, Joyti Sumbly, and Daizy Bhan

rendered melodious Kashmiri Bhajans invoking the blessings of Baba Bhole Nath, Mata Sharika, and Sia Baba Maharaj, creating an emotionally charged and devotional atmosphere. Dr. Daleep Pandita, General Secretary of KSS, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all devotees, donors, and volunteers for their participation and support.

Prominent personalities who graced the occasion included R.K. Mattoo, S.N. Koul, K.B. Koul, K.L. Hashia, Kuldeep Sumbly, Dr. P.K. Kak, Dr. R.L. Handoo, T.K. Koul Daftari, Deepak Daftari, Opendar Dhar, Ravinder Bali, T.K. Boni, Dr. Jalali and B.L. Kachroo.

# Bhandara organized at Pracheen Kaal Bhairav Mandir Jammu



**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A grand Bhandara for Peers and Fakirs was organized at the Pracheen Kaal Bhairav Mandir, Jammu, on the eve of Kaal Bhairav Ashtami.

The religious event witnessed the participation of numerous devotees, saints, and spiritual seekers who gathered to offer prayers and partake in the sacred meal.

The Bhandara was organized under the supervision of Pt. Rumil Sharma, a

renowned spiritual leader and caretaker of the temple, and was hosted by Amit Arora and Satinder arora and families.

Speaking on the occasion, Pt. Rumil Sharma emphasized the importance of service and devotion, saying, "Serving the devotees and feeding the needy is one of the highest forms of worship. Such events strengthen the bond of faith and humanity among all."

Devotees expressed gratitude to the organizers for

their efforts in maintaining the temple's age-old tradition of community service.

The atmosphere around the temple was filled with devotional chants and spiritual fervor as offerings were made to Lord Bhairav.

The event concluded with Aarti and Prasad distribution, spreading the message of unity, peace, and compassion. The organizers pledged to continue such efforts in the future to uphold the spiritual and cultural heritage of Jammu.

# JU's Display Your Talent-Tawi Zone inaugural ceremony held at GCW Parade Ground

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The much-awaited Display Your Talent-Tawi Zone Festival, organized under the aegis of the Department of Students Welfare (DSW), University of Jammu (JU), commenced with great enthusiasm and cultural vibrancy at the Auditorium of Government College for Women (GCW), Parade Ground.

The festival, which celebrates creativity, art, and tradition, provides a dynamic platform for students to exhibit their artistic and cultural abilities while embracing the region's rich heritage.

The inaugural ceremony began with the arrival of Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Director Colleges, Higher Education Department, J&K, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Dr. Ravender Tickoo, Principal, GCW Parade, extended a warm welcome to dignitaries, faculty, and participants, setting a tone of inspiration and festivity.

In her keynote address, Prof. (Dr.) Monika Chadha, Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee, highlighted the importance of cultural expression and co-curricular participation as integral components of holistic education.

Conceptualized under the visionary leadership of Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, JU, Display Your Talent has become a cornerstone of the university's annual cultural calendar.

Winners of the competitions earn recognition and represent the University in Inter-University North Zone and National Youth Festivals



organized by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). Achievements in these events also carry weightage for postgraduate admissions under the University's cultural category.

The Vice Chancellor has decentralized the festival into five zones - Tawi, Devika, Ravi, Pir Panjal, and Chenab. Commending this inclusive initiative, Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir appreciated the JU and GCW Parade for providing a vibrant space where young students can explore and celebrate their creativity.

This year's Display Your Talent 2025 features 25 competitions across various cultural categories, with participation from 370 students representing 21 degree colleges of Jammu district. The first day of the Tawi Zone festival witnessed a spectacular array of performances that showcased rhythm, color, and creativity.

In the Group Song (Indian) category,

GCW Parade Ground clinched the first position, while IMFA and MIER College were declared joint runners-up. The Rangoli Competition turned the venue into a canvas of vibrant artistry, with Srishti from SHITM winning the first prize, followed by Shagun Kapoor and Gurleen Kour as runners-up.

In the Light Vocal Solo event, Ritisha Manhas from GCW Parade secured the first position. The Classical Vocal Solo category saw Ram Lal from IMFA emerge as the winner, with Ritisha Manhas and Mahima Chibber (both GCW Parade) taking second and third places, respectively.

In Classical Instrumental Solo (Non-Percussion), Sidharth Bhogal from GDC Nagrota won the first prize, while Narinder and Tashi Dorje (IMFA) shared the runner-up position. The Classical Instrumental Solo (Percussion) category showcased rhyth-

mic brilliance, with Ajay from IMFA bagging first prize and Gautam from IMFA finishing second.

The event was judged by eminent experts including V.K. Sambyal, Seema Anil Sehgal, Prof. Renu Selgal, Subash Langleh, Dr. Bharat Bhushan, Dr. Shivani Sawhney, and Dr. Raj Kumar. The day's events were successfully organized by a dedicated team comprising Dr. Aksa (Co-convenor), Prof. Menaka, Prof. Archana, and Dr. Mamta, while Jamat anchored the proceedings with coordination support from the organizing committee.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Seema Malhotra, Overall Convener, GCW Parade, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to dignitaries, judges, and participants for their enthusiastic contribution.

The series of cultural events under the DSW is being conceived and coordinated by the DSW team led by Prof. Prakash Antahal (Dean Students Welfare), Prof. Monika Chadha (Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Prof. Sarika Manhas (Co-Chairperson), Dr. Pritam Singh (Associate Dean SW), Dr. Shalini Sharma, Dr. A.R. Manhas (Deputy Chief Proctors), Dr. Harleen Kaur; Dr. Ripudaman Parihar (Assistant Deans SW), Mansi Mantoo (Media Officer), Sumeet Sharma (Drama Instructor), and members of the Campus Cultural Committee.

