

Directorate of Tourism Jammu celebrates Lohri festival

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
J A M M U / S A M B A : Directorate of Tourism Jammu, as an annual regular feature, organized cultural programme at historical Raghunath Baazar and Samba Fort to celebrate Lohri-an auspicious festival, symbolizing fertility and spark of life.

The event was held in collaboration with the Raghunath Bazaar Businessmen Association (RBBA), District Administration Jammu/ Samba and JKAACL.

Mayor, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Rajinder Sharma was the Chief Guest for Lohri celebrations held at Raghunath Baazar whereas DDC Chairman, Samba, Keshav Dutt Sharma was the Chief Guest for Lohri Celebrations held at Samba Fort. At Raghunath Bazaar, the event started with lighting of traditional lamp by the Chief Guest, Rajinder Sharma and Director Tourism, Jammu, Vivekanand Rai in presence of Sanjay Gupta, President RBBA and Deputy Director Tourism, Publicity, Abdul Jabbar, amidst chanting of Vedic mantras.



Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Sharma along with others celebrating Lohri at Raghunath Baazar and DC Samba, Anuradha Gupta lighting lamp at Samba Fort.

Whereas at Samba Fort the lighting of traditional lamp was done by the Keshav Dutt Sharma, Vice Chairman, DDC Samba Balwan Singh and Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Anuradha Gupta.

The Mayor greeted the audience and wished them and their families a very happy Lohri.

On the occasion, the guests and participants prayed for the peace and prosperity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and hoped that 2023 will see manifold increase in tourist influx to the UT of J&K.

A large number of locals and tourists also participated in both the events. The cultural

procession featuring folk dance by the local artists, special Chajja performance and Lohri Haran dance by the artists of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Jammu enthralled the tourists and locals. Also, the RBBA had setup ethnic food stalls at the heritage Bazaar to welcome the tourists. However, the major attractions for the audience was live performance by Saptak Group. Director Tourism Jammu said that the spree of events/festivals like Winter Bonanza at Sanasar and Patnitop, Vibrant Bhaderwah Festival at Bhaderwah, Christmas celebrations etc. has

already added to vivacity and cheerfulness amongst tourists and locals. The Department shall organize Bhaderwah Adventure Festival, National Level Tourism Conference etc. shortly to attract more tourists to the region. Abdul Jabbar said that the idea for organizing this cultural event was to keep ages old traditions alive by ensuring that the festivals are celebrated.

Others present were Shyam Abrol, General Manager JKTDCC, Narotam Sharma, Corporator Ward 3, Anita Sharma Corporator Ward 11, prominent citizens of the area along with other officers/officials of the Directorate.

SVMHC Hospital celebrates 160th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, 53rd Foundation Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission Charitable (SVMHC) Hospital, Amphalla, on Thursday celebrated 160th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and 53rd Foundation Day of Hospital.

Besides members, doctors, staff and prominent citizens of Jammu also participated in the function which started with a Hawan for peace, progress, wellness and prosperity of the people and the Nation.

Amar Chand Gupta, Senior Vice President of the Mission, highlighted about the life and achievements of Swami Vivekananda.

B.B Gupta, General Secretary highlighted the performance and additional achievements of the Hospital especially the establishment of NICU, ICU, Dialysis section, RFA system for varicose veins, C-Arm for Orthopedic patients, Laparoscopic facility for Gynae patients, installing NCT, OCT, CBR and Pentacam facilities in the eye



SVMHC Hospital members during Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and 53rd Foundation Day celebrations of Hospital.

section amounting worth to Rs.2 crore approximately, during the regime of present Governing Body under the Presidentship of Anil Gupta.

The Governing Body honoured posthumously former President, Late Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta for his unforgettable contribution for the upliftment of Hospital and Late Yash Paul Puri founder member of the mission.

They also honoured Senior most members Dr. Subash Gupta, Chief Patron, Dr. Bankey Behari Lal Gupta, Patron, Amar Chand Gupta, Senior Vice President and Atma Saroop Gupta, Vice

President.

Further, senior most doctors Rajesh Gandotra, Orthopedic Surgeon, Dr. Arvind Kohli, CVTS Surgeon, Dr. Pankaj Gupta, ENT Surgeon, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Lapro Surgeon, Dr. Meena Gupta, RMO and Para Medical Staff were selected as meritorious workers for the year 2022.

A free eye camp was also organized in the Hospital for poor and needy patients under the supervision of eye Surgeon, Dr. Suruchi Gupta.

The vote of thanks was presented by Romesh Gupta, Member of the Management Committee.

JKAEA expresses gratitude to CS, DGAT



JKAEA delegation during meeting with Dr. A.K Mehta, Chief Secretary and Mahesh Dass, DGAT, Finance.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir Accounts Employees Association (JKAEA) expressed gratitude to Chief Secretary and

DGAT on issuance of regularization orders for 223 Jr. Scale Accounts Officers and Grant of Selection Grade to 85 Jr. Scale Accounts Officers.

This back log has been cleared after a long gap of 6 years with the cooperation of the authorities and JKPSF team.

In this connection a delegation of JKAEA, Jammu & Secretariat Unit along with team met to Dr. A.K Mehta, Chief Secretary and Mahesh Dass, DGAT, Finance and expressed gratitude to them for resolving this long pending issue.

The delegation was led by President, JKAEA, Secretariat Unit and President JKAEA, Jammu Province viz a viz G.N Tantray, K.S Pathania, Sanjay Sadhu, Raghuraj, Adarash Sharma, Tej Krishan, M. Akram, Kulbir Singh, Shah Nawaz Qadri, V. Dogra, Manzoor A. Wani, Sudesh Bhat, Joginder and Rajeshwar.

CISF nabs passenger with 3 Kg gold at CSMI Airport Mumbai

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Thursday seized 3 kg of gold from a passenger at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai. The passenger arrested by the CISF has been identified as Rishi Shyam.

During questioning, the accused accepted the presence of gold in paste form in a pouch. He was later handed over to Customs Department for further investigation.

On Thursday morning, the CISF surveillance and intelligence staff at Terminal 2 of the airport noted suspicious behaviour of the passenger who was sitting near the boarding gate No. 46. He was kept under electronic as well as physical surveillance. During the surveillance, it was noticed that the

man picked up some item from the floor and then put it in his bag. As per the report, after putting the packet into his bag, the man he tried to frequently change his location. The passenger was intercepted by intelligence staff for questioning. He was reportedly from Mumbai to Bangalore by Air India Flight No. AI 603 (STD 0645 hrs). Upon questioning by the CISF, Rishi Shyam accepted that he had received gold in a pouch from an international passenger, who passed the item to him by throwing it over the glass sheet used to bifurcate Domestic and International boarding gates area. Later, the Rishi Shyam alongwith gold (yellow metal) weighing about 3 kg was handed over to AIU/ Custom officials for further action in the matter.

Politics is for serving, welfare of people: BJP



BJP leaders Sham Lal Sharma and Devender Rana listening to issues of people.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Politics is for serving the people and for the welfare of people according to their aspirations and the needs, said senior BJP leaders Sham Lal Sharma and Devender Singh Rana. They listened to the grievances of a large number of people belonging to different areas of Jammu & Kashmir at party headquarter, here.

Individuals and Deputations of people from various areas of

Jammu & Kashmir narrated their woes and sought intervention of the party leaders to get their problems solved.

Sham Lal and Rana gave patient hearings to the problems of the people, which were taken up with the concerned officials of the departments stressing for early resolution so that the people are not made to suffer. Sham Lal Sharma said that BJP serves the nation, society and common people

with a clear heart and soul, which has led to the ever increasing love and faith of people for the party.

Devender Rana said that people have been immensely benefited through these camps. He said that the party has been continuously highlighting the genuine problems of the masses raised in these camps and hence the people are reaching the party office in large numbers.

Natrang's Children Winter Theatre & Dance Workshop concludes with presentation of 'The Wizard of Oz'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Natrang's Winter Theatre & Dance Workshop for Children concluded here on Thursday with the performance of a new play in English play 'The Wizard of Oz' written by L. Frank Baum, directed by Neeraj Kant and choreographed by Sunny Mujoo at Abhinav Theatre.

Children exhibited their acting skills which they imbibed during this short immensely creative workshop.

Earlier welcoming the gathering at Abhinav Theatre, Director Natrang Padmashree Balwant Thakur informed that this perhaps the only children's creative initiative in Jammu and Kashmir which Natrang has been endeavoring since last over Thirty years.

Aimed at developing the overall personality of the children, we have introduced



Children performing in English play 'The Wizard of Oz' at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu.

many latest developed techniques of human development using the innovative devices of theatre and arts. On the occasion he appealed the parents and schools to promote theatre amongst children. Theatre is the most magical medium of transformation of personalities.

Those who acted in the play included Aarav Vaid, Advik Sharma, Daivansh Singh

Rakwal, Isha Agri, Kavya Charak, Divyam Charak, Kavya Sharma, Nitara Sawhney, Priyal Ashok Gupta, Sadiya Sharma, Sandeep Agri, Sheikh Hamid, Soham Sagotra, Tanisha, Aadhy Thukral, Aarjav Jain, Aarajya Shan, Devangi Sharma, Gaurangi Sharma, Jeevansh Sharma, Kavya Jandial, Mehak Chib, Noor Abrol, Riya Jandial, Samrat

Sharma, Sharvil Mahajan, Vihaan Pandotra, Shranaya Mahajan and Supria Gorka.

The lights of the play were executed by Neeraj Kant and the sound was rendered by Aarti Devi. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen and the hall management were looked after by Kushal Bhat. The show was presented before the audience by Gauri Thakur.

IGNOU signs MoU with Defence Forces to integrate knowledge in Bachelor Degree Programme for Agniveers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has signed a MoU with the defence forces to integrate knowledge with skills in the Bachelor Degree Programme designed for Agniveers in line with the recommendations of National Education Policy 2020.

To enhance the future career prospects of the recruits or 'Agniveers' under the 'Agnipath' scheme, the Ministry of Education had earlier announced the launch of a special three-year skill-based bachelor's degree programme that will recognize the skill training received by them during their tenure in the defense establishments.

Skill based Bachelor's Degree by IGNOU will provide Agniveers to do 50% of

the courses in general higher education and the balance credits through credit transfer of skill education provided by defence Institutes. Under this programme, 50% of the courses required for a graduate degree will come from the skill training (technical and non-technical) while a remaining will come from a variety of courses across subjects including Languages, Economics, History, Political Science, Sociology, Public Administration, Maths, Education, Commerce, Tourism, Vocational Studies, Agriculture and Jyotish, along with ability enhancement courses on Environmental Studies and Communication Skills in English. This programme is aligned with UGC norms and with the National Credit Framework / National Skill

Qualification Framework (NSQF) as mandated under the National Education Policy 2020. It also has provision for multiple exit points - Undergraduate Certificate on successful completion of the first year courses, Undergraduate Diploma on successful completion of the first and second year courses, and Degree on completion of all the courses in a three year time frame.

"The framework of the programme has been duly recognized by the concerned regulatory bodies like AICTE, NCVT and UGC and the Degree will be awarded by IGNOU as per UGC nomenclature and will be recognized both in India and abroad for employment and education", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director In charge.

CISF Jawan returns bag with Rs 1.2 lakh to owner

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Displaying a rare act of honesty, a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Jawan from Chandni Chowk Metro Station returned a bag containing Rs 1.2 lakh in cash and other valuable items to its rightful owner, on Wednesday afternoon.

CISF officials informed that the CISF shift Incharge on Wednesday at around 1:10 PM, while performing duty at Chandni Chowk Metro Station, noticed an unattended bag lying on output roller of X-BIS.

Immediately, he made necessary announcements, but no one came forward to claim the bag. Thereafter, the bag was checked from security point of view. After ascertaining, there was no dangerous/hazardous item inside the bag, it was opened.

On opening the bag, cash amounting to Rs. 1,20,000 and other valuable items were found inside the bag. The bag with cash and other valuable items was deposited with the Station Controller and the announcement was made at the station/ nearby stations in this regard.

After some time, a male passenger later identified as Lok Prasad Pandey, 37 yrs, R/o Sheesh Ganj, Delhi came at the security point and claimed the bag.

He was brought to the Station Controller Room, where he informed that he forgot to collect his bag, after putting the same for x-ray screening.

After proper verification, the bag containing cash amounting to Rs 1,20,000 and other valuable items were restored to Lok Prasad Pandey. On getting his bag, he thanked CISF and appreciated the alertness and honesty displayed by CISF personnel.

Khidmat Centre Association seeks rehabilitation policy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The representatives of Khidmat Centre Association from UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh, while addressing a press conference at Press Club, Jammu, reminded UT Administration regarding promises made in 2020 for framing a permanent settlement job policy and implementation of same to safeguard interests of thousands of Khidmat Centre owners across Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territories.

Speaking on the occasion, President of the association, Tanveer Haji said that recently Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh took a note of demands of Khidmat Centre Owners and issued orders to resolve the same. He further stated that the then Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu had informed the PMO that the UT Government had formulated a plan to address issues of



President Khidmat Centre Association, Tanveer Haji talking to reporters in Jammu.

Khidmat Centres. The representatives of the association also disclosed the relevant communication and supportive documents during press briefing. The Association representatives further disclosed that Khidmat Centres were set up in the year 2009 and have been serving the masses across the length and breadth of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh since then. The Khidmat Centre Association

has been highlighting their demands from last 12 years so that their problems and grievances are redressed but nothing concrete has been done so far by the administration. The members urged Union MoS Dr Jitendra Singh and LG Manoj Sinha to look into matter and implement a rehabilitation policy so that long pending & genuine issue of Khidmat Centres are resolved without any further delay.