

First-ever Dogri Kavi Sammelan to be held in J&K soon: Sinha

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the 'Akhil Bhartiya' Kavi Sammelan at Abhinav Theatre Jammu, on Saturday.

Popular Poets of J&K and across the states and UTs of the country joined the event organised by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages to celebrate 75th Republic Day.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor welcomed the veteran and acclaimed poets to J&K UT. He highlighted the important role of literary personalities and events like Kavi



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha speaking at 'Akhil Bhartiya' Kavi Sammelan at Abhinav Theatre Jammu on Saturday.

Sammelans in shaping new ideas.

"A poet, thinker, writer is also a mystic who shapes new ideas and viewpoint, ignites young minds with dreams, vision and

new resolve. Our country has a rich and proud tradition of Kavi Sammelans and they have made immense contribution in national integration," the Lt Governor said.

He said the first-ever Dogri Kavi Sammelan will be organised in J&K in the coming days as a part of Republic Day celebrations.

Such events not only bring together the literary talent but also celebrate our linguistic and cultural heritage, the Lt Governor further added.

Today's Kavi Sammelan witnessed the participation of Upendra Pandey, Dinesh Raghuvanshi, Akhilesh Mishra, Sudeep Bhola, Dr Vishnu Saxena, Rajesh Aggarwal, Dr Shailendra Madhur, Ajay Atpattu, Kalpana Shukla, Dr Satish Vimal, Prof Raj Kumar, Prof Nirmal Vinod and other acclaimed poets and young talent who enthralled the audience with their rhythmic poetry recitation.

Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Anand Jain, ADGP Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary JKAACL; renowned artists and people, especially the youth in large number were present.

Congress, SP to jointly contest Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh



Dr Jitendra hosts Republic Day reception for ISRO Women Scientists



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh during an exclusive interaction with ISRO Women Scientists at his New Delhi residence.

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh hosted a Republic Day reception for ISRO Women Scientists, numbering over 225, at his residence here.

These included eminent Women Scientists team which led the Republic Day ISRO tableau depicting Chandrayaan, Aditya L1 and other recent success stories that have received global acclaim and connected each of the 140 crore Indians with the ISRO.

ISRO tableau was led entirely by eight women scientists, while 220 invited Women Scientists along with their spouses cheered the contingent.

The all-women contingent was derived from various ISRO centres at Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Thiruvananthapuram and Sriharikota.

Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra

Modi for giving them an opportunity to showcase their achievements to the nation, they said they were overwhelmed by the warm hospitality accorded to them at the national capital that made them forget the cold winter of Delhi.

ISRO Chairman S. Somanath introduced to the Minister the women Project Directors and scientists like Nigar Shaji, ISRO's 'Sunny Lady' and project director of Aditya L1, Dr Radha Devi of ADRIL and other leading Scientists who made history like Kalpana Kalahasti, Reema Ghosh, Ritu Karidhal, Nidhi Porwal. Dr Jitendra said, as ISRO tableau started approaching the President's enclosure, the narration was ISRO-"Viksit Bharat Ki Pehechaan".

Eight top women scientists from the ISRO led the tableau, while 220 Women Scientists along with their

spouses cheered the contingent. The all-women contingent was derived from various ISRO centres in Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Thiruvananthapuram, and Sriharikota.

The Space agency depicted the historic moment when its spacecraft Chandrayaan-3 successfully touched down on the moon on August 23 last year. The milestone led India to become the first and the only country in the world to land near the unexplored lunar south pole, added Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Dr Jitendra said ISRO is the epitome of India's Naari Shakti, - with women scientists not only participating but also leading the various activities in Space research programmes. Nigar Shaji is the Project Director of Aditya L1 Mission while Kalpana Kalahasti is the Associate Project Director, Chandrayaan-3, he said.

JNEG calls for restoration of Democracy in J&K on 75th Republic Day

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a symbolic display of patriotism and unity, the Jammu Newspaper Editors Guild (JNEG) marked the 75th Republic Day by hoisting the National Flag.

Chairman JNEG, Raj Daluja Editor-in-Chief State Times, President A.K Sawhney, Chief Patron Journey Line, Vice President Syed Iqbal Kazmi (Editor Daily Urdu Udan), General Secretary Vijay Gupta (Editor Young Bites), Joint Secretary/Spokesperson Vishal Chopra (Editor Jammu Metro), Vinod Kumar (Editor Truly Times), Amit Sawhney (Editor Daily Journey Line) amongst others participated in the function.

At the outset, Raj Daluja and A.K Sawhney congratulated all the citizens in general and the members of the Guild in particular on the auspicious occasion of Republic Day of the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, Raj Daluja, Chairman JNEG said that the Guild is a national-spirited organisation of



JNEG chairman, Raj Daluja and other office bearers during celebration of 75th Republic Day at Jammu.

Editors fraternity of J&K and its all constituents are united on the issues related to national interest and are bound to fair reporting and promote whatever is in the national interest.

During the celebration,

A.K. Sawhney emphasized the need for the restoration of democracy in Jammu and Kashmir by urging the prompt conduction of legislative assembly elections. He highlighted the prolonged

absence of an elected government since 2018, stressing the importance of providing the people with the opportunity to elect their representatives.

Pointing to the government's assertion of a 75%

reduction in militancy, Sawhney argued that this should not hinder the holding of elections. He also referenced the Supreme Court's set cutoff date of September 2024, proposing the simultaneous conduct of assembly and parliamentary elections to streamline the process and minimize costs, ultimately ensuring the people's right to an elected government.

Adding weight to the demand, Raj Daluja expressed support for the early conduct of elections, emphasizing the urgency and benefits of prompt democratic processes over the current presidential rule.

The JNEG's call for the restoration of democracy in Jammu and Kashmir on this significant national occasion underscores the pressing need for representative governance and highlights the collective commitment to upholding democratic principles.

CJ lays foundation stone for Special Court for NIA cases at Dist Court Complex, Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chief Justice, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice N Kotiswar Singh, on Saturday laid foundation stone for Special Court for NIA cases at District Court Complex, Jammu, in presence of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Administrative Judge for Jammu district, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Rahul Bharti and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi. The event was also graced by Advocate General D C Raina, Secretary Law, Achal Sethi and Chief Engineer R&B Jammu, Rajesh Gupta. While interacting with the executing agency, Chief Justice said that the new building should suitably cater to the needs of Special NIA Court with all its emphasis on security, protection of witnesses etc.



Chief Justice, J&K and Ladakh, Justice N Kotiswar Singh laying foundation stone for Special Court for NIA cases.

He said that the new building will cope up with shortage of infrastructure at district headquarter. The initiative marked a pivotal step towards ensuring a more accessible, efficient and fair justice system for the people. Chief Justice and other Judges, later, took stock of infrastructural facilities around the District Court Complex, besides interacting with the members of Bar Association Jammu. Chief Justice lauded

the initiatives as a testament to commitment of judiciary towards providing swift and accessible justice for all. He exhorted upon members of the Bar to come forward and join judicial services especially in relation to recruitment from Bar to filling up of the post of District Judges against direct quota Advocates.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, while speaking on the occasion, said that this is not just the laying

foundation stone but the laying of ground work for a brighter future where justice is accessible, efficient and available to one and all. The event was also attended by Bala Jyoti, Special Judge Anti Corruption, CBI Cases, Jammu, Shalazad Azem Registrar General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Y.P. Bourney, Director Judicial Academy, Member Secretary DALSA and other officers of High Court registry besides judicial officers at the Jammu Headquarter.

Earlier, Sanjay Parihar, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Jammu, extended warm welcome to the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court and other dignitaries and gave an overview of the infrastructure being laid in District Court Complex, Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: AIIMS Jammu has entered into a strategic collaboration with Kendriya Bhandar, a Government of India enterprise under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), to bring essential amenities directly to the AIIMS Jammu campus.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was officially signed in the presence of the Executive Director & CEO of AIIMS Jammu, Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta and the Medical Superintendent, Lt Gen (Dr) Sunil Kant by the Deputy Director Administration, Lt. Col. Prabhakar Sharma and Sh. Alok Kumar Parhi, Deputy General Manager of Kendriya Bhandar.

Under this partnership, Kendriya Bhandar will establish two stores within the AIIMS Jammu cam-



Dy Dir Admin, Lt. Col. Prabhakar Sharma and Alok Kumar Parhi, Dy GM Kendriya Bhandar after signing MoU.

pus, addressing the varied needs of the residents and patients. One store will focus on medical supplies, providing a range of generic and branded medicines, implants, and surgical items. The second store will cater to grocery and household essentials. The signing ceremony, held at the AIIMS Jammu campus, marks the joint commitment of both institutions to enhance the overall well-being of the

AIIMS Jammu community. The Executive Director & CEO of AIIMS Jammu expressed optimism about the collaboration, highlighting the convenience and accessibility of quality services for the residents.

Sh. Alok Kumar Parhi, Deputy General Manager of Kendriya Bhandar, conveyed gratitude for the opportunity to serve AIIMS Jammu and assured of Kendriya Bhandar's commitment to

provide reliable services, including grocery, dairy, stationary, and pharmaceuticals.

Residents at AIIMS Jammu will now enjoy the convenience of accessing a diverse range of products without leaving the campus premises. The grocery store aims to stock daily essentials, ensuring a seamless shopping experience for the AIIMS Jammu community.

This collaboration underscores AIIMS Jammu's dedication to enhancing the overall well-being of its residents by providing convenient access to essential services. The partnership with Kendriya Bhandar is anticipated to positively impact the lives of the AIIMS Jammu community, fostering a holistic and integrated approach to healthcare and daily living.

Aadhaar not proof of citizenship or DoB document anymore from today

SHAKEELA ANDRABI
SRINAGAR: The 12-digit resident ID is not a proof of citizenship or date of birth, and Aadhaar cards and downloads now include that disclaimer on the ID itself. New Aadhaar cards and PDF versions of the identity document have started including a more explicit and prominent disclaimer that they are "a proof of identity, not of citizenship or date of birth," signalling to government departments and other organisations to not use it for those purposes.

Aadhaar has never been proof of citizenship - foreign nationals are eligible to obtain one if they have been living in India for half a year - but different government departments accept it for purposes reserved for citizens or adults.

For instance, the Election Commission of India explicitly accepts Aadhaar as a proof of date of birth for enrolling people to vote. These new clarifications, prominently printed in the identity document, may challenge such allowances. The IDs also include a warning that authenticating their offline needs to be done by scanning the QR code on the reverse side of the document, or by using an XML file issued to residents by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which administers Aadhaar.

Earlier at least one organisation has stopped

accepting Aadhaar as a proof of date of birth: the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), which administers the mandatory retirement fund for salaried employees in India. The EPFO issued a circular on January 16, deleting Aadhaar from the list of documents acceptable as a proof of date of birth. This invalidity of Aadhaar for use in determining the date of birth and citizenship has been the case for years - the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology clarified in a 2018 memorandum that Aadhaar is "per se ... not a proof of date of birth," as the date of birth is based on a different document given by Aadhaar applicants. A Bombay High Court judgment last year that emphasised this was cited in a December 2023 circular that UIDAI issued, which reminded organisations of the fact. But now the warning is imprinted on the face of all Aadhaar cards and digital copies issued to all Indian residents. This new, more visible warning initially only mentioned last year that it was not a proof of citizenship, but now clarifies that Aadhaar is not a proof of date of birth either. The 12-digit ID is a proof of uniqueness and residence, but different government agencies accept it - often on a standalone basis - for any citizens establishing their identity.

MASROOR AHMAD
SRINAGAR: In the heart of downtown Srinagar, Ghulam Nabi Dar, a seasoned artisan, expressed profound joy and fulfilment as he reflects on being conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri award.

Hailing from Dana Mazar Safa Kadal Srinagar, master woodcarver shared sentiments of achievement and gratitude, revealing that the honour feels like the culmination of decades of unwavering dedication and labour.

Ghulam Nabi Dar expressed his gratitude for the Padma Shri award, and said that it is a great honour. I have received national awards before, but this is something extraordinary.

He said, "My focus now is on imparting this intricate art to the younger generation so that it remains alive

Padma Shri Awardee Kashmir's woodcarver Gh Nabi Dar 'Government support is necessary, otherwise artisans may lose interest'



and vibrant even after I am no more."

Dar's dedication extends beyond personal achievement, reflecting a deep-seated passion for ensuring the continuity and legacy of his craft for generations to come.

Many believe that this honour bestowed upon Dar will act as a catalyst for the resurgence of the ancient

craft deeply rooted in Kashmir's history, underscoring the resilience of traditions that have endured over time.

Dar shared insights into his journey. After being in trouble, he introduced himself to a wood carving unit at a young age. Despite facing initial rejections from craftsmen unwilling to impart their knowledge, Dar's per-

severance eventually led him to a mentor, Nooruddin Tikoo, who shared his expertise through intricate designs on paper.

Dar said, "I was 10 years old when my father faced financial difficulties due to which we were unable to pay school fees. As a result, I was expelled from school. This reason leads me and my younger brother to learn the craft of wood carving at Sarai Safakadal Srinagar."

Although Dar admitted that he didn't gain much knowledge during his initial five years at the wood carving unit, the experience sparked his interest in the art, motivating him to pursue it as a means of livelihood.

Recognition came his way with a state award in 1984, followed by an opportunity to work in Baghdad in the

early 1990s. The pinnacle of his craftsmanship was reached when he received the National Award in 1995-96.

The joy and satisfaction of recognition extend beyond Dar to his family, who share in his happiness. "I am very happy, and my family is also very happy. When a craftsman receives any award, it encourages, motivating further progress in the field. Without government support, artisans may lose interest," he asserted.

Expressing gratitude for the recognition, Dar underscored the significance of government backing in preserving traditional arts. He urged the establishment of a comprehensive institution or workshop to train and incentivize young artisans, ensuring the enduring legacy of wood carving.