

A Beautiful Story celebrates Children's Theatre Festival



Chief guest lighting ceremonial lamp and students presenting cultural programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Beautiful Story-First ever holistic learning, Book Cafe and Children's Club, celebrated Children's Theatre Festival "Grace Finds Christmas" on Christmas Eve at Jammu Club Auditorium. 20 children of varying ages from 2-12 years performed in the festival attended by parents and

their grandparents.

A Beautiful Story believes in unlocking and polishing the hidden potential of each child.

Yasha Mudgal, Secretary Cooperative Department, presided the festival as the Chief Guest.

The celebration commenced with the lighting of lamp of hope , humanity and determination in every

individual, followed by welcome address by Dr. Rinky Ahuja, Co-Founder of A Beautiful Story. She highlighted that learning cultivates the three aspects of human spirit- intellect, emotion & will.

The festival opened with a wonderful Christmas Carol "Joy to the World" followed by the play" Grace finds Christmas".

The performance was concluded by rousing everyone's spirits through

the dance "Jingle Bell Rock".

Speaking on occasion, Yasha Mudgal shared that at A Beautiful Story learning follows a natural trajectory with love, comfort & acceptance.

She congratulated the age group performing on stage, brimming with confidence & exceptional speech quality.

She highlighted the meaningful message of showing kindness as being

the greatest human virtue.

She also remarked that Grace could only find her Christmas spirit, by giving something to someone in need. Therefore, all celebrations in life should be about giving.

The vote of thanks was presented by Seema Ahuja, Co- Founder, concluding that learning needs to take place on a deeper level of consciousness of each child, stimulating their creativity & imagination.

Deputy Mayor holds "Housing For All" meeting

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JAMMU: A "Housing For All" meeting held under the chairmanship of Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria and attended among others by Senior officers of Jammu Municipal Corporation, J&K Housing Board, Jammu Development Authority and members of committee. During the meeting Deputy Mayor, desired that the Municipal Corporators are approaching for consideration of leftover beneficiaries under PMAY (Urban) Mission and to obtain list of left-over potential beneficiaries to be considered under PMAY (Urban) Mission after verification from District Level Committees (DLC).

Billawaria urged all Corporators to provide the list of beneficiaries under housing for all schemes till December 29 so that the department will work on it. Deputy Mayor appreciated the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for introducing the housing for all schemes of the Central Government. During the meet-



Deputy Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria chairing a meeting.

ing of Skill Development & Self Employment committee, Deputy Mayor directed to concerned officials the License will be provided to the Rehri first consent with the Councillor of that ward. He also directed concerned officials to update empanelled NGOs by advertisement so that more employment to be generated under skill upgradation and self employment. Deputy Mayor urged all stakeholders to come forward to empower the youth of Jammu. He added that the government and other organizations should provide the necessary resources and support to the youth to help them build their skills and to make a meaningful contribution

to society. He also said that it is important to create an enabling environment so that the youth can take initiatives and participate in various activities to help the society progress. Deputy Mayor Jammu thanked the committee members for attending this meeting and said that your contributions have been invaluable and we appreciate your dedication to the cause and your efforts will go a long way in helping the city of Jammu.

The meetings were attended by Sunect Raina, Suriender Sharma, Pritam Singh, Indrajeet Kour Randhawa, Amit Gupta, Jaideep Sharma, Sat Pal Karhupia and Narotam Sharma.

Man carrying 6 kg gold paste worth Rs 3 Cr arrested at Mumbai Airport

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel on Monday caught a passenger with 6.4 kg gold, in paste form, at the Mumbai airport. The value of the seized gold paste is approx Rs 3 crore.

At about 2 pm, on the basis of behaviour detection, the CISF surveillance and intelligence staff at Terminal 2 of Mumbai's CSMI Airport noticed suspicious activities of a passenger who was sitting near the boarding gate sitting area, PRO CISF, Apoorv Pandey said adding that passenger was kept under electronic as well as physical surveillance.

"During surveillance, it was observed that he picked some item from the floor and put it in his bag," Pandey said.

After keeping the item in his bag, he went to the washroom situated near

the smoking zone in the retail area, where he changed his clothes and came outside, Pandey added.

On strong suspicion, the passenger was intercepted by intelligence staff for questioning. He was later identified as Sahul Hameed Mohamed Yusuf, who was supposed to travel from Mumbai to Coimbatore by a Vistara flight.

"On tactfully questioning, the passenger accepted the presence of gold in paste form in the pouch which he had received 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," the CISF said in a statement.

Later, Sahul Hameed Mohamed Yusuf, along with the yellow metal paste, was handed over to customs officials for further action.

NSF celebrates 123th birth anniversary of Udham Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Secular Forum (NSF), University Unit organized a programmed in University Campus, and on the Birth anniversary of Udham Singh who laid his life for the country. Amid slogans "Udham Singh Amar Raha "inquilaab Zindabad" 'Bharat Mata ki jai", and they paid tributes to Udham Singh and garlanded the portrait of the son of soil. Dr. Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District Urban and Zonal Secretary, JKNC was the Chief Guest and Dr Sukhdev Singh President NSF presided over the function. Vikshay Vashist district President NSF was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District Urban and Zonal Secretary, JKNC appreciated



NSF University Unit members paying tributes to martyr Udham Singh.

ed the efforts of NSF members to come forward and organized these function. He also said that the right tribute to Udham Singh would be to launch the struggle for restoration of full status of Jammu and Kashmir State.

On this occasion, he said that we all should take oath not to sit silent and continue our endeavor to regain Jammu and Kashmir State. He said that J&K suffered

immensely due to misadventures of Centre. Post abrogation of statehood people here were suffering due to rising unemployment, inflation and discrimination. He mentioned that during the Omar Abdullah led NC government, jobs were provided to large number of youth, RTI Act was enacted to eradicate corruption and several other revolutionary steps were taken to push J&K on the path of develop-

Anganwadi workers stage protest against HR Policy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: hundreds of Anganwadi workers staged a protest at the Press Club against the recently approved HR policy by the administration for female Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Helpers working in the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) of J&K.

The protesting Anganwadi workers said according to the HR policy the retiring age of the Anganwadi workers has been set 60, besides there are some clauses of the order which are not in the interest of workers.

"We are being told those Anganwadi workers who have attained the age of sixty years should sit at home, the move is unjustified and uncalled for" said an Anganwadi worker.

The protesting Anganwadi workers said



Anganwadi workers raising slogans during a protest.

whereas the retirement age for Anganwadi workers in New Delhi and Ladakh is 65 years, it is 60 years in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. They further said that after years of service, workers are being transferred from one ward to another.

While addressing the workers Neena Sharma state executive member of AWWA alleged that Anganwadi workers/helpers have been working since long and J&K state is the only state

who is paying state share just @ Rs 600/- PM for workers and Rs. 300/- PM for helpers since from the year 2010 and after including centre share they are being paid total Honorarium @ Rs5100/- per month for Anganwadi worker and Rs 2550/- for helpers.

The Association general Secretary Roshu Sharma stated that the no worker will leave the centre if genuine retire mental benefits are not given further salary from April 2022 till

date has not been released and the salary form Jan 2019 to March 2019 and the arrear on Account of enhanced honorarium in centre share of Rs 1500 per month for Anganwadi worker and Rs 750 for Helper has also not been paid till date for the period October 2018 to December 2018 which has not been released so far.

Swarna Choudhary, Parsino Devi, Neena Sharma, Rekha Devi, Kamlesh Kumari, Vijay Kumar, Sukantla Devi, Sushma Devi, Sharda Devi, Anita Devi, Shoba Sharma, Joyti, Anju Devi, Sunita Gupta, Gulshan Bano, Shamim and Raj Kumari other those who addressed the gathering said if genuine demands will not be fulfilled, then AWWA would have no other option than to start the agitation.

NISD Beauty and Designing Institute holds Grand Modeling Show



Winner models posing for a photograph at a show.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: NISD Beauty and Designing Institute, Season 8, Modelling Show was held at Hotel Ritz Manor, Channi Himmat, here where young aspiring models and designers displayed their hidden potential.

This event has proven to be a extreme uplift in the career of female models.

Well known TV Actress and Model Mumtam Ahmed was present as celebrity guest and Arun Gupta President, CCI were Chief Guest while

Ch. Saleem Alam, Dr. Manmeet Singh (Chairman, Ranjeet College of Education), Satish Kumar (Executive Magistrate 1st Class), Dinesh Anathal (Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Naib Tehsildar), Rajeev Gupta (Jr. Vice President CCI), Adv. Nonu Khera (lawyer, Supreme Court), Manju Bala (director NISD) were the Guests of Honour and Siddharth Mahajan (lifestyle and fitness influencer), Renuka Sharma (Mrs. North India

2021), Kritika Rampal (renowned Writer) were Special Guests on the occasion. Jury members include Dev Verma (x creative head Balaji Studios), Mahima Mahajan (renowned, Fashion Designer), Vishal Sawhney (renowned Makeup Artist), Isha Sharma (Mrs. India Universal 2022), Ayushi Raj (Celebrity anchor), Vikram Rajwal (Model choreographer & Actor).

In the modelling show, more than 60 girls participated and showed their

extreme charm, beauty and talent.

While sharing her experience, Ahmed said that she was extremely pleased to see the extreme level of enthusiasm among the youth of JKUT towards fashion industry.

She appreciated the work done by all the participants and extremely enjoyed all the performances. She gave all her best wishes to the participants and congratulated the winners.

The Show was managed by Designnama Graphics (DNA). All the participants gave their best and was extremely grateful for biggest opportunity provided to them by NISD.

Also the designers who showcased their unique designing techniques and methods via this extremely talented and beautiful models were also appreciated in the event.

Week-long workshop on 'Fitness' begins at GCoE Jammu



GCoE students and faculty at a workshop.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Women Development Cell & IQAC of Government College of Education (GCoE), Canal Road, Jammu, under the patronage of Principal, Prof. Aekta Gupta, inaugurated week-long workshop on 'Fitness' from December 26 to 30, 2022.

The workshop includes a series of fitness activities by Fitness Expert Kritika Sharma which included Zumba, Aerobics ,Yoga & Meditation. Convener Women

Development Cell, Prof Rubina Yasmeen and Convener IQAC Prof. Shalini Rana inaugurated the session by focussing on the importance and benefits of fitness, particularly in the present era. Principal, Prof. Aekta Gupta congratulated Women Development Cell Committee and IQAC along with the students for conducting and participating in such programmes with full enthusiasm.

She emphasised that inactivity can contribute to a

range of health related problems such as obesity, heart disease, metabolic syndrome & other disorders and such programmes can help a lot to overcome such problems.

The committee member who attended the programme included Dr. Tahina Shah, Dr. Maansi Sharma, Dr. Shalini Sharma. Other staff members who attended the programme were Prof. Anju Bala, Prof. Radhika Mahajan, Prof. Deep Bangotra, Prof. Shambu Nath, Dr. Sushma Bala, Prof. Shapia Shameem, Prof. Seema Kumari, Prof. Sarita Dogra, Prof. Neeraj Verma, Prof. Vinay Lata, Prof. Anuradha Choudhary and Teachers from school Education also attended the program.

The students organisers were Shalju Khajuria, Nisha, Jubina, Priya, Ankita, Anuradha, Arushi and Pooja.

Winter Theatre & Dance workshop begins at Natrang

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Natrang's much awaited Winter Theatre and Dance workshop for Children-2022 was inaugurated here today at Natrang Studio Theatre with the lighting of traditional lamp by Natrang President Padmashree Balwant Thakur, Sunny Mujoo and Gauri Thakur.

In his inaugural address, Balwant Thakur said that this unique camp would provide an opportunity to children to enable them to explore their immense inner creative and artistic abilities. The timings of the camp will be 3 pm to 5 pm daily and the children will have the occasion to get trained under professionally trained directors including accomplished actors/directors like Neeraj Kant who is having an experience of over 30 years working with children, Sumeet Sharma- Ustad Yuva Bismillah Khan Awardee



Natrang President Padmashree Balwant Thakur lighting a ceremonial lamp.

who is doing theatre with kids since last 16 years, Sunny Mujoo (Choreographer) and Gauri Thakur. The workshop is being coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen who is a National Scholarship and Fellowship holder in the field of Theatre.

Every year Natrang gives an opportunity to children to creatively utilise their winter break with learning beyond the textbooks. Similarly this year too, Natrang is having a ten day winter camp for chil-

dren where they will work on personality development, confidence building, sharpening of communication skills, acting, play making process and much more with the help of highly innovative creative games and theatre exercises. Theatre is a sophisticated expression of basic human needs. For children it is an instinct to mimic and to tell stories through narratives and metaphors. This innate quality in children is enhanced and polished with

the help of theatre. It is vital to understand that when phrases like 'learning is fun' and 'play and learn' are quoted, we can easily think of theatre as a means to learn in a child's life. With the growing competition every teacher and parent is following the rule of thumb, to break this monotony Natrang introduces theatre to the kids which brings freshness to the child's imagination and helps them to grow intellectually. Since every child is special, it

is important that we encourage them to open up to the best of their ability by giving them confidence. Nothing can achieve that more than the confidence a child gets by performing on stage. During the winter camp, the children will learn and explore themselves through highly developed theatre exercises which are in vogue in Europe and USA.

Those who attended the inaugural session of Winter Theatre and Dance workshop included Riya Jandial, Vrinda Gujral, Shranaya Mahajan, Haleema Fatima, Zainab Kubra, Sharvil Mahajan, Kavya Jandial, Aadhya Thukral, Araiya Shan, Sheikh Hamid, Tanisha, Jeevansh Sharma, Samrat Sharma, Daivansh Singh, Advik Sharma, Kavya Charak, Divyam Charak, Aarav Vaid, Prial Gupta, Isha Agri, Akshay Sharma, Mehak Chib, Supriya Gorka and Kavya Sharma.