

Omar inaugurates Amphitheater, Light & Sound at Bagh-e-Bahu

Strives to establish Jammu as prominent tourist destination

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, while inaugurating the open-air amphitheater at Bagh-e-Bahu this evening, expressed his vision of transforming Jammu into a tourist destination of distinction.

Highlighting Jammu's potential, the Chief Minister emphasized the significance of leveraging the region's prominent pilgrimage sites, particularly the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, which draws over a crore visitors annually. "If we can encourage even 15 percent of these pilgrims to explore other attractions in Jammu, we could see an influx of 15 lakh tourists—a number comparable to Kashmir's peak tourism years," he remarked.

The event was attended by Minister Satish Sharma, DDC Jammu Bharat Bhushan, MLA Bahu Vikram Randhawa, Principal Secretary (Culture) Suresh Kumar Gupta, Secretary YS&S Sarma Hafeez, Secretary Floriculture, Gardens & Parks Sheikh



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurating open-air amphitheater at Bagh-e-Bahu.

Fayaz, and DG Floriculture Jammu Jitender Singh.

Earlier, Secretary Floriculture presented a detailed welcome address, outlining the department's initiatives to enhance the facilities at Bagh-e-Bahu.

Reflecting on the development of Bagh-e-Bahu, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah noted its evolution over the years. "I have witnessed the transformation of Bagh-e-Bahu, from its modest beginnings to becoming a hub with water fountains, an aquarium, and a sound and light

show. Today, it stands as an integral part of this amphitheater, which adds a new dimension to Jammu's cultural and tourism landscape," he remarked.

He urged the concerned departments to maximize the potential of the amphitheater, advocating for its use as a venue for school events, providing students with an opportunity to hone their skills and showcase their talent. It's vital to ensure that this amphitheater is not left

undertutilized."

The Chief Minister also reiterated the need for a concerted effort to give Jammu its unique identity in tourism.

He underscored ongoing projects, such as the long-pending initiative to create a lake in Jammu, which is now nearing completion.

"Jammu will have its own lake—a milestone that will significantly boost tourism. Such projects are crucial to firmly establish Jammu on the tourism map," he stated.

He further urged the departments to organize regular programs at the amphitheater. "Programs like today's wonderful presentation by the Cultural Academy should become a recurring feature. I hope to see a well-publicized calendar of events, involving private organizations and schools, especially those lacking facilities, to ensure vibrant and diverse participation."

Acknowledging the limitations of seasonal use, the Chief Minister expressed optimism about utilizing the amphitheater for at least 4-5 months each year.

On a lighter note, he shared that his residence across the river offers him a direct view of the amphitheater's activities.

"From my balcony, I can hear the soothing sounds of the river and occasionally enjoy the sound and light show. I look forward to hearing the vibrant buzz of activities from this amphitheater as a regular feature," he added, urging the department to ensure continuous engagement and wide publicity.

BJP Kashmir Displaced District observes "Veer Bal Diwas"



BJP Kashmir Displaced District members at a programme.

courage and commitment to their faith remain unmatched in history."

Chetan Wanchoo, who was also the Convenor of the program, delivered an insightful speech on the life and legacy of Sahibzadas Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh, bringing their sacrifices to light for all present.

Mahila Morecha President Dolly recited a song paying tribute to the courage and sacrifice of the Sahibzadas.

The program witnessed the active participation of several senior leaders and office bearers, including General Secretary Moti Lal Bhat, Vice

Dr. Nasib nominated as Member of Sahitya Akademi's Advisory Board for Film Archives

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dr. Nasib Singh Manhas, a distinguished IBPS officer, former Director of Doordarshan, and renowned Dogri writer, has been appointed as a member of the Sahitya Akademi's Advisory Board for Film Archives. A prominent filmmaker, cultural activist, and historian from Jammu & Kashmir, Dr. Manhas has made significant contributions to preserving and promoting the region's cultural heritage. With a Doctorate in Dogri Folklore, an MBA in Human Resources, and a Master's in Music and Journalism, he has authored numerous books and patriotic songs celebrating Dogra heroes and the state of J&K. Dr. Manhas produced acclaimed television serials, documentaries, and the docudrama on Brigadier Rajinder Singh, the "Saviour of Kashmir." As Director of Doordarshan Kashmir, he promoted traditional folk arts like Bhand Pather and Sufi music, ensuring representation for regional languages. He also founded the "Awaam Ki Awaz" series. Dr. Manhas's expertise and passion for cultural preservation will now guide the Sahitya Akademi in overseeing films on prominent Indian writers across 24 languages.



Cyber Warriors to Safeguard Mahakumbh devotees

■ SHAHZAD AKHTAR
LUCKNOW: Special arrangements have been made for the cyber security of the devotees in Mahakumbh. 56 cyber warriors are being deployed in Mahakumbh Nagar for the security of the devotees coming from the country and abroad. The entire monitoring of the digital Mahakumbh is being done by the senior officers of the police department itself. A big action plan has been prepared under the special plan of cyber security.

On the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi, special arrangements are being made for the cyber security of the devotees in Mahakumbh and a special cyber help desk is being set up in all the police stations, in which experts have been deployed for cyber patrolling. Along with the Mahakumbh Nagar fair, devotees are being made aware through social media as well as films on Variable Messaging Display (VMD) in the entire Prayagraj.

According to Govt senior



officials sources About 45 crore devotees are expected to come to Mahakumbh Nagar and for this, the Yogi government has decided to use every platform of print, digital and social media to make the devotees aware. Under this scheme, preparations have been completed to install variable messaging displays (VMD) at various places in the entire fair area on which devotees will be made aware about cyber security.

In this regard Senior Superintendent of police Mahakumbh, Rajesh Dwivedi told that cyber help desks are being set up in all 56 police stations and for the first time a plan has been prepared for a grand as well as digital Mahakumbh. Under which

very high-tech arrangements are being made for the first time. Apart from making the crores of devotees coming from the country and abroad aware, Mahakumbh Cyber Thana has been set up to protect them from AI, darwebsites and social media scammers. The team of selected experts of the state working here has currently taken about 50 websites on its "radar" and started action against them.

Apart from this, a mobile cyber team has also been activated for online security, which is also working to make devotees aware on a large scale. Apart from this, information about fake websites can also be given here at the police station, on which the cyber police station will take immediate action. Along with this, cyber experts are also keeping an eye on gangs of thugs who ask for money from people through AI, Facebook, X or Instagram. Effective action will be taken on them as soon as a complaint is received.

IIM Jammu strengthens holistic wellness initiative with launch of YourDOST services



IIM Jammu faculty and students at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a landmark initiative aimed at fostering mental and emotional well-being, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, through Anandam: The Center for Happiness, launched YourDOST's counseling services on Dec 26, 2024 at Mandapam Auditorium. This step underscores Anandam's commitment to building a supportive environment that prioritizes holistic wellness for the IIM Jammu community. The

session emphasized the importance of mental health and introduced the comprehensive suite of services provided by YourDOST. The event was graced by Chinmay Chadha, YourDOST. Present on the occasion were Dr. Manta Tripathi, Chairperson, Anandam, IIM Jammu and Dr. Eshika Aggarwal, Co-Chairperson, Anandam, IIM Jammu. The launch was accompanied by an engaging orientation session held at both the Jagti and at Canal Road campus, with enthusiastic participation from

the significance of emotional wellness, the role of counseling, and common barriers to seeking mental health support. A detailed introduction to YourDOST services, including methods to access the platform and connect with experts, was provided. The event concluded with a Q&A session, where attendees actively engaged with experts, seeking clarity on mental health-related concerns. This partnership aligns with Anandam's vision of "enabling all to experience the perpetual and ultimate happiness within." With YourDOST's professional expertise, IIM Jammu aims to provide a safe, supportive space for individuals to navigate life's challenges, fostering resilience and mental wellness within the community. The event marks a significant milestone in IIM Jammu's journey towards enhancing the mental health landscape. The institute looks forward to continued engagement with YourDOST and to furthering its mission of holistic well-being for all.

Sow seeds of curiosity & shape destiny of our great nation: Principal JKPS Kunjwani



Principal JK Public School Kunjwani Rajesh Rathore and students addressing morning assembly on Thursday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: "Curiosity is the best spark that sets fire of knowledge ablaze". With this impactful opening statement Arvin Babouria from Grade 7th Maple conducted the morning assembly alongwith his classmates on the topic "Curiosity" at JK Public School, Kunjwani.

"The moment we stop asking questions is the moment we stop learning and growing", added Vidhula Sharma under the segment Thought

for the day.

Adding more substance to the transactions on the topic, Atharv Gupta stated, "Curiosity is what drives us to discover new things. It makes us explore, question old ideas and learn more about the world. At its heart, curiosity is about asking questions, a simple but powerful way to grow, create and connect. Kids ask endlessly 'why' questions' because they want to understand the world. Adults who stay serious are better at han-

dling challenges and improving themselves".

"Big ideas often start with questions, like 'what if' or 'why not'. Many great inventions like Edison's light or today's technologies, came from questioning the way things are", added Arvin.

Vedanshi Chib recited a thought provoking poem on the topic:

The spark ignites a curious mind

Where answers wait, elusive, entwined

Each question asked a lantern bright.

For in the depths of every "why"?

New worlds unfold before the eye.

The power to seek to understand,

If universe of knowledge at hand.

So let your voice inquisitive and bold,

Unravel mysterious, stories untold,

For in the art of questioning lies

The key to wisdom, beneath the skies!

Under the segment Quotations, Tanzil quoted Jack Cornfield, "The key to success is to ask the right question at the right time and take action on the answer". Syal referred to Socrates, "In the art of asking questions lies in the secret of unlocking the potential of the world around us". Reshav quoted Indira Gandhi, "The power to question is the basis of all human progress".

Kaashvi referred to Puthareh,

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled".

Aryaa quoted a Curious Person, "Don't be afraid to ask a question, you are either correct or learning". Rehaan referred to Confucius, "The art of asking questions is a skill that can be developed and refined over time with practice, patience and persistence".

Principal JKPS Kunjwani Rajesh Rathore appreciated the presenters of the morning assembly for instilling the elements of curiosity in the audi-

ence and stated, "Curiosity is the engine behind every great invention, every groundbreaking discovery, and every meaningful progress in human history. From the first wheel to the latest technological marvels, it all began with a simple question: 'What if?'

"As students, curiosity is your most powerful tool. It pushes you to go beyond what is taught in the classroom and dive deeper into the world around you. When you ask questions, when you wonder

about the 'how' and 'why,' you are opening doors to knowledge and understanding", he added.

"Albert Einstein once said, 'I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious.' This shows us that you don't need to be extraordinary to achieve greatness; you just need the courage to ask questions and the determination to seek answers. I appeal all the teachers: Sow the seeds of curiosity in students & shape the destiny of our great nation", he concluded.