

Inter Zonal Display Your Talent - 2025 commenced at JU

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JAMMU: The annual Inter-Zonal Display Your Talent (DYT) 2025, organised by the Department of Students Welfare (DSW), University of Jammu (JU), commenced on Tuesday with great enthusiasm, showcasing the creative and cultural vibrancy of students from affiliated degree colleges and university departments. The four-day event brings together talented students competing in 24 events across music, dance, literary, fine arts and theatrical categories. The inaugural function was graced by Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, JU, as the Chief Guest, and Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, JU, as the Guest of Honour. The programme began with the lighting of the traditional lamp by the dignitaries in the presence of Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee (CCC), Prof. Sarika Manhas, Co-Chairperson, CCC, and other senior university functionaries. This restructured format of Display Your Talent has been envisioned by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, JU, to ensure wider participation, especially from students of far-flung areas. All affiliated colleges of Jammu province have been grouped into five zones-Tawi, Pir Panjal, Devika, Ravi and Chenab. Zonal-level competitions were conducted earlier, and winners are now competing at the Inter-Zonal level at the University. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra described Display Your Talent as one of the University's most enduring cultural traditions, tracing its origins to the vision of former Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. R. Puri. She highlighted the importance of cultural exchange, welcoming visiting students from Shivaji University, Kolhapur, and stressing that such interactions celebrate India's unity in diversity.



To motivate the students, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, himself a promoter of the arts, presented a special guest performance of singing, which was applauded. Welcoming the gathering, Prof. Prakash Chand Antahal, Dean Students Welfare, termed the inauguration of the four-day programme a moment of pride for the University. Prof. Prakash acknowledged the continued support of Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson, and Prof. Sarika Manhas, Co-Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee. He also expressed gratitude towards Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector Kathua Campus, Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, Rector Udhampur Campus, Dr. Ravender Tickoo, Principal GCW

Parade and Dr. Z.A. Mirza, Principal GPGC, Rajouri for conducting Zonal Level DYT in their respective institutions. Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson, CCC, described Display Your Talent as a cherished tradition since 1983, which has evolved with time. She noted that the five-zone format has strengthened inclusion, showcased sub-regional cultural identities and transformed the festival into a journey of representation and cultural revival. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Sarika Manhas, Co-Chairperson, CCC. A special attraction of the day was a vibrant cultural presentation by students of Shivaji University, Kolhapur, who will perform again on 17 December at 2:00 PM at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium, open to the civil society of Jammu. Day-one events included One Act Play, Skit, Mime, Mimicry, Elocution, Debate, Cartooning, Poster Making, Painting and Collage Making. The eminent adjudicators included Theatre; Anil Tickoo, Daljinder Basra, Rishi Raj. Fine Arts; Suman Gupta, M.A. Alnasir, Manoj

Chopra, Chander Shekhar, Raj Bhagat. Literary Events; Prof. Neelam Saraf, Prof. Indu Kilam and Alka Mantoo. Teacher Incharges of various events included Dr. Harish Dutt, Dr. Pallavi Sachdeva, Dr. Farah Choudhary, Dr. Bhagwati Devi, Dr. Geeta, Dr. P.P. Singh, Dr. Monika Bhardwaj and Dr. Prince Sharma. The events of DSW are conceived, planned and organised by the team consisting of Prof. Prakash Antahal, Prof. Monika Chadha, Prof. Sarika Manhas, Dr. Pritam Singh (Associate Dean SW), Dr. Shalu Sharma & Dr. A.R. Manhas (Deputy Chief Proctors), Dr. Harleen Kaur & Dr. Ripudaman Parihar (Assistant Dean, SW), members of Campus Cultural Committee, Mansi Mantoo (Media Officer), Sumeet Sharma (Drama Instructor) and Ifra Kak (Cultural Officer). The sound was looked after by Kulbhushan Thakur and Arif Paul. On 17 December, events such as Western Singing, Quiz, Rangoli and Clay Modelling will be held at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium from 10:00 am onwards.

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MSME Sector emerges as engine of self-reliant India vision: Rekha



BJP J&K Vice President, Rekha Mahajan with others at felicitation ceremony.

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JAMMU: BJP J&K Vice President and Prabhar Samba, Rekha Mahajan, today felicitated Ravi Sharma, proprietor of Jayesh Angile Wear along with his dedicated team for their contribution to local manufacturing. The unit is engaged in the production of various types of uniforms, track suits, T-shirts, shirts and pants, providing quality products while generating employment at the local level. Rekha Mahajan appreciated the entrepreneurial spirit of the proprietor and his team, stating that such small manufacturing units play a vital role in strengthening the MSME sector, promoting self-employment and contributing to the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat by boosting local production and skill-based livelihoods. The felicitation ceremony was organised to recognise grassroots entrepreneurship and encourage self-employment initiatives among women. District General Secretary Amit Dubey, Ajay Sharma Kissan Moreha District President, Parveen Sharma and Deepak Kumar were also present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Rekha Mahajan said that such small enter-

prises play a transformative role in society by providing skills, livelihood and self-confidence to women from economically weaker sections. Mahajan emphasized that Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of India's Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) vision. "MSMEs are the engines of job creation and local innovation. They contribute significantly to India's GDP, exports and employment generation, especially at the grassroots level," she said. She added that empowering small entrepreneurs, particularly women, is essential for inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The BJP leader said that the central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched several schemes to strengthen the MSME sector, including easy credit facilities, skill development programmes and market access support. "These initiatives are enabling small entrepreneurs to expand their businesses and contribute meaningfully to the national economy," she added.

Keshav distributes Ayushman, Ration Cards; reiterates commitment to public welfare

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JAMMU: Continuing his efforts to ensure that government welfare schemes reach every eligible citizen, social activist and Chairman of Samvedna Society, Keshav Chopra, today organised a major distribution drive at Talab Tillo. During the programme, a large number of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) Golden Cards and Ration Cards were distributed among local residents, marking another step towards achieving complete social security coverage in the area. Addressing the gathering, Keshav Chopra appreciated the role of the Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, along with the entire departmental team, for their efficiency and coordination in processing and delivering ration cards to rightful beneficiaries without delay. He said that effective coordination between social organisations and government departments is crucial for uplifting underprivileged sections of society and thanked the department for its continued support in making essential documents accessible to the public. Speaking on healthcare reforms, Chopra expressed gratitude



Keshav Chopra handing over Golden Card.

to the Union Government for its people-centric and visionary approach towards Jammu and Kashmir. He said that providing free health insurance to every citizen of the Union Territory is a historic achievement, adding that economically weaker sections are deriving immense benefits from the scheme. "Ayushman Bharat has emerged as a lifeline for those who earlier could not afford specialised medical treatment. It now ensures quality healthcare for all, irrespective of finan-

cial status," he said.

Highlighting the scale of the scheme, Chopra said that AB-PMJAY is among the world's largest publicly funded health assurance programmes, offering health coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family annually to over 12 crore vulnerable families. He noted that by late 2025, more than 42 crore Ayushman Cards had been issued across the country, providing cashless and paperless treatment to nearly 55 crore beneficiaries through about 33,000 empanelled hospitals. He further welcomed the recent expansion of the scheme to include ASHA and Anganwadi workers, as well as senior citizens under the Vay Vandana initiative. The programme concluded with Keshav Chopra reaffirming Samvedna Society's commitment to public service and ensuring that the benefits of welfare schemes reach the last person. He urged residents to remain aware of their rights and assured them continued support as a bridge between the administration and the public. Sourav Gupta, Parshotam Lal, Raman Sharma, Divyansh Gupta, Abhishek Gupta, Manoj Tandon, Raj Kumar and others were also present.

H&H Directorate organizes packaging, branding workshops at Samba, Doda

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JAMMU: The Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom Jammu & Kashmir, in collaboration with NIFT Srinagar, successfully conducted one-day capacity building workshops on Packaging and Branding under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme at the Conference Hall DC Office Complex, Samba and Horizen Public School, Nagri, Doda. The strategic initiative represents a significant milestone in strengthening the market readiness and competitive edge of local artisans and craft-based entrepreneurs across the region. The workshops delivered comprehensive technical sessions focused on modern packaging techniques, innovative branding strategies, effective product presentation and strategic market positioning. Expert faculty from NIFT



Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom J&K officials at a workshop.

Srinagar shared practical insights aligned with contemporary design aesthetics and evolving market trends, empowering participants to add substantial value to their traditional crafts and enhance their viability in both national and international markets. The program addressed the critical gap between traditional craftsmanship and modern market demands, equipping artisans with tools to transform their heritage skills into sustainable and profitable enterprises. The Joint Director Handicrafts and Joint Director Handloom graced

the occasion as Chief Guests, underscoring the transformative power of packaging and branding in converting traditional crafts into sustainable livelihoods. They reaffirmed the department's unwavering commitment under the RAMP scheme to provide comprehensive institutional support, systematic skill up-gradation and robust market linkages to the artisan community. Their addresses highlighted how such capacity-building initiatives are instrumental in preserving cultural heritage while ensuring economic empowerment. Similarly in

Doda the workshop was presided by the Assistant Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Doda. The workshops witnessed enthusiastic and active participation from a diverse audience comprising artisans, weavers and departmental officers culminating in an engaging interactive session where participants' queries and concerns were comprehensively addressed. This initiative has been widely appreciated as a transformative step towards empowering artisan community and promoting rich handicraft and handloom heritage of Jammu & Kashmir through innovation, professional excellence and market-oriented skill development. The success of the workshops underscores the department's dedication to fostering sustainable growth and global recognition for the region's indigenous crafts.

Sat felicitates BJP National Working President Nitin Nabin



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NEW DELHI: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir President and Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament, Sat Sharma CA, today felicitated the newly appointed BJP National Working President, Nitin Nabin, at the party headquarters in New Delhi and extended his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on assuming the prestigious responsibility. During the interaction, Sat Sharma described Nitin Nabin's appointment as a reflection of the party's unwavering faith in youth-oriented politics, committed, experienced and ideologically driven leadership. He said that Nitin Nabin's

long-standing organizational experience, strong administrative acumen and grassroots connect will further energize the party cadre and strengthen the BJP's national framework.

Sat Sharma stated that the BJP has always believed in nurturing capable leadership that can effectively translate the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi into meaningful action at the ground level. He added that under the guidance of the national leadership and with leaders like Nitin Nabin at the helm, the party will continue to expand its reach, reinforce internal discipline, and deliver people-centric governance across the country. Highlighting the significance of organizational strength, Sat Sharma said that BJP's consistent electoral successes are rooted in its disciplined structure, ideological clarity, and dedication of its workers. He expressed confidence that Nitin Nabin's dynamic leadership style and commitment to party values will further consolidate the BJP's position as the most trusted political force in the nation. Sat Sharma reaffirmed the full support of BJP Jammu and Kashmir to the national leadership and emphasized that the party remains resolute in its mission of nation-building, inclusive development and strengthening democracy under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

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JAMMU: Cluster University of Jammu has achieved a significant milestone by winning the prestigious Veterans India - National Board of Accreditation (NBA) Pride of Nation Award 2025. The award was conferred during a grand ceremony held at the NDMC Convention Centre, Sansad Marg, New Delhi, marking a moment of pride for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The university is the first institution from J&K to receive this esteemed national honour. The award was bestowed by Veterans India in collaboration with the National Board of Accreditation (NBA), following a rigorous evaluation conducted by a five-member jury headed by P. N. Ravendran, Retired Chief Justice of a High Court. The assessment was



Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu receiving award.

based on the university's achievements over the past year across multiple parameters, including academic excellence, leadership, governance, innovation, and societal contribution. Veterans India, established in 2015, is a national, apolitical, and patriotic organization committed to nurturing nationalism and patriotism among citizens. The Pride of Nation Award symbolizes

excellence and empowerment, recognizing universities and colleges that demonstrate outstanding dedication, leadership, and service to the nation while inspiring others through their impactful work in education. The National Pride of India State Leadership Honour (University) was presented to Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, by Dr. T. G.

Sitharam, Chairman, AICTE, and Dr. Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, NAAC & NBA, in the presence of Sanjay Seth, Minister of State for Defence, Government of India, on the occasion of Vijay Divas. Several eminent dignitaries, including the Chairman of UGC, Dr. B. K. Mishra, Founder of Veterans India, Dr. S. Pareek, Member, Advisory Board, Veterans India, and Ram Lal, former Member of

Parliament and President, AIU, were also present. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar lauded Veterans India for its unwavering commitment to the nation and its support in strengthening the education sector. He expressed gratitude to the jury and advisory board for their confidence in a university from J&K. He highlighted that the achievement was made possible through the collective efforts of the Registrar, Dean Academic Affairs, Director IQAC, Deans, and Principals, who work as a cohesive team. Prof. Chandrasekar noted that this award contributes 60 marks under activities beyond academics, promoting holistic development in alignment with Viksit Bharat-2047. He also thanked Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and Education Minister Sakina Itoo for their continued support and encouragement to the university.

Ashok Koul calls for focused political and organizational public-welfare approach in a meeting at Srinagar

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SRINAGAR: J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul, along with General Secretary Anwar Khan, addressed a crucial organizational meeting of State Office Bearers, District Presidents and District Prabharies of the Kashmir Province at Srinagar.

Addressing the meeting, Ashok Koul emphasized that Srinagar holds strategic political importance and requires a well-planned, grassroots level approach to achieve public welfare. He outlined an elaborate organizational plan aimed at strengthening the BJP's presence at the booth and Mandal levels, while ensuring seamless coordination among district, morcha and frontal organizations to achieve the aim.

He stated that the BJP's organizational strength, rooted in a disciplined and committed cadre, gives the party a



J&K BJP General Secretary (Org), Ashok Koul at a meeting.

distinct edge in politically sensitive regions like Srinagar, where sustained public participation is essential. Ashok Koul stressed the need for intensified field-level interaction to understand local aspirations, grievances, and developmental priorities. He underlined that consistent communication with citizens, particularly youth and marginalized sections, would help counter misinformation and boost public-centric

endeavours. Highlighting national flagship initiatives under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat vision, he said these programmes are directly relevant to Srinagar's socio-economic revival and reflect the government's focus on transparency, development, and accountable governance. Announcing the observance of Sushasan Diwas on 25 December at every booth, Koul said the initiative would serve as a platform to connect governance with grassroots participation and reinforce the BJP's commitment to good governance in the Valley. Anwar Khan underscored the importance of synchronizing booth-level teams with senior leadership to effectively chalk out Srinagar's political and public-centric approach. He called upon party workers to expand outreach, highlight welfare achievements, and ensure improved delivery of government schemes to all eligible beneficiaries.

GHSS Gajansoo hosts Cluster-Level Career Counselling Programme

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JAMMU: Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Gajansoo on Tuesday hosted a Cluster-Level Career Counselling Programme, aimed at guiding students towards informed career choices and responsible living. The programme was organized under the leadership of the Principal, Rita Angral, whose continued efforts focus on the holistic development of students. The event featured eminent resource persons Sukhvir Singh, Deputy Commandant, and Dr. Rahul Kait, Associate



A dignitary speaking at a programme.

Professor, GGM Science College, who provided valuable insights into diverse career

opportunities. The speakers motivated students to pursue their goals with dedication

while also strongly cautioning them against drug addiction, describing it as a silent destroyer of countless young lives and a major obstacle to personal and societal progress. The programme was effectively anchored by Dr. Vanita, Senior Lecturer, who ensured smooth conduct of the proceedings. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Sandeep Sharma, Senior Lecturer, who expressed gratitude to the resource persons, school administration, staff members, and students for their active participation and support.