

Annual Day celebrated at Boys HSS Bakshi Nagar



Boys HSS Bakshi Nagar faculty with dignitaries posing for a photograph.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Annual Day and School Magazine Release Function of Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu was celebrated with great enthusiasm and academic fervour on Wednesday, within the school premises.

The prestigious function was graced by the Joint Director School Education Jammu as the Chief Guest, while the Deputy Chief Education Officer, Jammu and the Principal, Girls Higher Secondary School,

Bakshi Nagar, Jammu honoured the occasion as Guests of Honour.

The programme commenced with a warm welcome of the dignitaries, followed by the formal release of the school's annual magazine, which reflects the creative, literary, and intellectual achievements of the students. The magazine stands as a testimony to the holistic development and vibrant academic culture of the institution.

Students enthralled the audience with colourful cultural performances, includ-

ing songs, dances, skits, and other artistic presentations, showcasing their talents, confidence, and creativity. The performances highlighted social values, patriotism, and cultural harmony, earning appreciation from all present.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest lauded the efforts of the school administration and staff for providing a nurturing environment that encourages both academic excellence and co-curricular growth. The Guests of Honour also appreciated the disciplined conduct of

students and the rich cultural display, motivating them to continue striving for excellence.

The Principal of Boys HSS Bakshi Nagar, Jammu, in his address, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the dignitaries for their presence and guidance. He acknowledged the dedicated efforts of teachers, staff, students, and parents in making the event a grand success.

The function concluded on a high note, leaving behind cherished memories and renewed inspiration for the entire school fraternity.

Family Fun Carnival marks Christmas and New Year's celebration at RRL School

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the eve of Christmas and as part of New Year celebration, the Regional Research Laboratory (RRL) High School, Jammu celebrated "Family Fun Carnival", with great joy and enthusiasm, in the school campus.

Mrs. India Meenu Mahajan, first Mrs. India, was the Chief Guest at the event, along with Dr. Manmita Das Raina, Principal, GD Goenka Public School, Akhnour; Roopam Kour, Managing Director, Spelling International School; RJ Chaitanya and RJ Sarang from 91.9 Red FM; and Nanak Ram Iim, Founder, Kitaab aur Kalam Foundation and India's Youngest Parenting Coach (2022), were among the distinguished guests who attend the event.

During the event, various activities were organized like games, dance and music competition, exhibition of food stalls, and many others. The entire school campus was transformed into a vibrant carnival arena, beautifully decorated and drenched in bright,



Mrs. India Meenu Mahajan, first Mrs. India visiting a stall.

festive colours, creating an atmosphere of happiness, warmth, and celebration.

The event was organized under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIM, Jammu and Chief Patron of the Col. R.N. Chopra School Society, who conveyed his best wishes to the students, Principal, teachers, parents and other stakeholders for the grand success of the event.

The event was executed under the overall supervision of Dr. Anita Sharma, Principal, RRL High School. Dr. Sharma highlighted the importance of such celebra-

tions in nurturing creativity, joy, values, and a strong sense of community among students. She expressed heartfelt gratitude to all dignitaries, teachers, parents, alumni, and students for their active participation and support.

The Christmas Carnival was celebrated with full enthusiasm and festive spirit, bringing together the students, their parents, and alumni on one joyful platform. The event concluded on a high note, spreading happiness and togetherness, as the school fraternity extended warm wishes of Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

VBKP appoints Jagdish Raj Shastri as State President of J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Vishva Brahmin Kalyan Parishad (VBKP), headquartered in New Delhi, on Tuesday announced the appointment of Jagdish Raj Shastri Ji as the State President of Jammu & Kashmir, marking an important organizational development for the Parishad in the Union Territory.

The appointment was formally announced by the National President of Vishva Brahmin Kalyan Parishad

and former Governor of Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh, Kalraj Mishra. To mark the occasion, a felicitation and honour ceremony was organized at the Press Club Jammu, which was attended by executive members of the Parishad, social workers, and prominent members of society. Jagdish Raj Shastri was formally honoured by the organization and entrusted with the responsibility of strengthening the Parishad's presence



Vishva Brahmin Kalyan Parishad member talking to reporters.

and activities in Jammu & Kashmir.

The programme was held under the guidance and blessings of the Chief Patron of the Parishad, Mahamandaleshwar Shri Kailash Anand Giri Ji Maharaj, whose presence inspired both the organization and the participants.

Following the ceremony, Jagdish Raj Shastri, along with his team, addressed a press conference. Expressing gratitude for the confidence reposed in him, he said that he would discharge his responsibilities with dedication, fearlessness, and integrity. He emphasized that he would work tirelessly to take the vision, policies, and programmes of Vishva Brahmin Kalyan Parishad to the grassroots level across Jammu & Kashmir.

Shastri clarified that the mission of the Parishad is not confined to the welfare of the Brahmin community alone,

but also aims at addressing the issues and concerns of all sections of society through collective and inclusive efforts. He announced that in the coming period, the Parishad would reach every district and village of Jammu & Kashmir to listen to people's problems and extend possible support and solutions.

During the press interaction, Jagdish Raj Shastri and his associates took a collective pledge to promote social harmony, preserve cultural values, strengthen organizational structure, encourage education, and support the underprivileged. Senior members of the Parishad stated that special emphasis would be laid on strengthening the organization at the grassroots level by actively involving youth, women, and senior citizens in constructive social initiatives.

The Parishad expressed gratitude to all dignitaries and media persons present. Senior members attending the press conference included Rajiv Sharma, Pandit Narendra Sharma, Pandit Tripit Shastri, Pandit Kuldeep Shukla, Vasudev, Vinod Khajuriya, Pawan Dogra, Vipin Khajuriya, Shrimati Shruti Sharma, Sanjay Sharma, and Pankaj Sharma.

GDC RS Pura lifts 24th Veeranna Aivalli Running Team Trophy



GDC RS Pura students receiving 24th Veeranna Aivalli Running Team Trophy.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Government Degree College (GDC) RS Pura, Jammu lifted the 24th Veeranna Aivalli Running Team Trophy today, with its team comprising Sarbjeet Heera and Mridul Sharma emerging as winners of the prestigious debating competition. The event was organized by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), J&K Regional Branch, in collaboration with the J&K Police and the Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu, at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

The annual competition is held in the memory of Late Veeranna Aivalli, IPS, founder Honorary Secretary of IIPA, to honour his outstanding contribution to public administration and intellectual discourse.

This year's debate topic was "In the opinion of the House, Artificial Intelligence will diminish human creativity." A total of 35 teams from affiliated colleges, university teaching departments, and institutions across the region participated, reflecting the enthusiasm and intellectual depth of the youth.

In the individual category, Shilpa Devi from Jammu College of Physiotherapy secured the first prize of Rs 7,000, followed by Kum Kum Sharma of Cluster University of Jammu, who won the second prize of Rs 5,000. The third prize of Rs 3,000 went to Sarbjeet Heera of GDC RS Pura. Consolation prizes were awarded to Hemanya Puri and Ankita Sharma from the Law School, University of Jammu, and Aditi Mahajan from MIER College.

Nalin Prabhat, Director

General of Police, was the Chief Guest, while Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, University of Jammu, attended as Guest of Honour. B. R. Sharma, IAS (Retd.), Chairman IIPA J&K Regional Branch, and Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd.), Patron IIPA J&K Regional Branch, presided over the function. Girish Aivalli and Nitish Aivalli, sons of Late Veeranna Aivalli, were also present.

The debate witnessed engaging arguments, with speakers for the motion highlighting the risks of overdependence on AI, while opponents argued that creativity remains inherently human. The event concluded with tributes to Late Veeranna Aivalli and martyrs of recent terror attacks, emphasizing the enduring relevance of intellectual discourse, public service, and national values.

Meenakshi, Muskan showcase Modern Art Excellence at Swadeshi Mela



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The grand Swadeshi Mela, organised by the BJP at Bahu Plaza, became a vibrant centre of culture and creativity as Budha Art & Painting, Shastri Nagar, led by talented artists Meenakshi Chaubey and Muskan Gupta, presented a striking modern art exhibition that drew wide appreciation from visitors and art lovers alike. The Swadeshi Mela was organised with the aim of promoting local products and empowering artisans, craftsmen and traders associated with indigenous industries. It seeks to strengthen the local socio-economic framework while encouraging entrepreneurship and self-employment at the grassroots level. In this inspiring setting, Meenakshi

and Muskan stood out with their refined artistic vision and innovative expression.

Both artists are already recognised achievers, being the First and Second Prize winners of the UT Artisan Award-2024 in the Modern Art category. Their participation at the Swadeshi Mela further highlighted their growing influence in the contemporary art world.

Meenakshi Chaubey showcased a breathtaking painting of Lord Krishna, capturing the divine charm and spiritual depth of one of India's most revered deities. Krishna, worshipped as an incarnation of Lord Vishnu and as a supreme being in his own right, has been the focus of devotion, poetry, music and painting for centuries. Meenakshi's artwork beautifully reflected this rich

heritage, portraying Krishna's mystique, compassion and divine grace with exceptional artistic sensitivity. Muskan Gupta impressed visitors with her creative Egyptian Goddess Isis coffee painting. Isis, known as the symbol of ideal femininity and protector of women, mothers and children, was portrayed through the rare and artistic medium of coffee. Coffee painting, a unique technique inspired by ancient traditions, adds a warm sepia tone and a distinctive depth to the artwork. Muskan's use of this medium, combined with the traditional Egyptian art style, created a truly captivating visual experience. Together, Meenakshi and Muskan not only showcased technical excellence but also demonstrated how art can bridge cultures, history and modern expression.

Rekha inaugurates two-day DA Lifestyle's Christmas Carnival & Exhibition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The much-awaited Christmas Carnival & Lifestyle Exhibition organised by DA Lifestyle Exhibitors opened at KC Regalia, Jammu, with Rekha Mahajan, Vice President BJP J&K, inaugurating the event as the Chief Guest in presence of special guest, Divya Jain, BJP Vice President Jammu South.

The two-day exhibition is being held on 24 and 25 December from 11 AM to 9 PM and is curated by Divya Abrol.

Rekha Mahajan, while interacting with exhibitors



Vice President BJP J&K, Rekha Mahajan inaugurating exhibition.

and visitors, praised the organisers for creating a strong platform for women entrepreneurs, small traders and creative businesses.

She said that such exhibi-

tions encourage self-reliance, boost confidence among women, and contribute to the local economy. The exhibition features stalls from different parts of India including Delhi, Amritsar, Chandigarh

and Kashmir, offering an impressive collection of fashion wear, winter clothing, bridal outfits, party dresses, Kashmiri shawls, jewellery, western wear and lifestyle products. With Christmas, New Year and the wedding season approaching, the exhibition has become a major shopping attraction for the people of Jammu. The exhibition is sponsored by OM Metal Shaper Industry and co-sponsored by PABA Jewellers, who have introduced lucky draws where shoppers can win silver and gold coins. Customers purchasing even a small amount can enter the draw, making

shopping more exciting. Curator Divya Abrol said the exhibition has been designed to give women and small business owners an opportunity to showcase their products at affordable rates. She also highlighted that visitors will enjoy exclusive discounts, festive offers and a wide range of products under one roof. The Christmas Carnival has created a festive mood in Jammu, combining shopping, celebration and entrepreneurship. The event is expected to witness a large turnout over the two days, making it a memorable holiday experience for families and shoppers alike.

CCI Jammu delegation calls on JMC Commissioner

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Jammu, led by President Arun Gupta, met Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Commissioner Devansh Yadav on Tuesday to discuss issues affecting the business community, including concerns over operations allegedly in contravention of the Municipal Corporation Act, 2000. During the meeting, Arun Gupta highlighted that many shopkeepers have been issued notices by JMC to produce multiple documents to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC), including land records, building permissions, site plans, photographs, NOCs from neighbours, public notices, identity proofs, parking plans, and documents showing the date of establishment. He stressed that fulfilling such requirements is nearly impossible for small traders, especially those running businesses for 25-30 years, causing undue hardship. Gupta also raised concerns over shop sealing and inadequate parking facilities at Apsara Road, Gandhi Nagar. Responding, Commissioner Yadav assured the delegation that small shopkeepers would not be harassed and emphasized that JMC's focus is on managing traffic in business zones rather than penalizing old establishments. He stated that a lenient approach would be adopted regarding documentation and announced that a meeting with parking contractors would be held to address related issues. The Commissioner also noted that the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) has been increased from 1.8 to 2.4, allowing greater vertical expansion for business and residential buildings. The delegation included Anil Gupta, Senior Vice President; Rajeev Gupta, Junior Vice President; Manish Gupta, Secretary General; and Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer.

JMC intensifies cleanliness drive through 'Wall of Shame'



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under its flagship "Wall of Shame" initiative, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) continues its sustained and focused efforts to promote civic awareness and bring about behavioural change among citizens by discouraging public littering and open urination, which adversely impact public health, sanitation, and the overall image of the city. As part of the ongoing campaign, JMC today organized a comprehensive cleanliness and awareness drive at Panjabkhtar road, in front of a temple, a location earlier identified as a vulnerable spot prone to garbage dumping

and open urination. Such unhygienic practices had been causing inconvenience to residents and posed serious sanitation concerns, particularly in the vicinity of a religious place. Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav, interacted with locals and shopkeepers and emphasized the importance of civic sense, cleanliness, and shared responsibility in maintaining public spaces. He appealed to the public to refrain from unhygienic practices and extend full cooperation to JMC in its mission to keep the city neat, clean and dignified. He underscored that sustained

awareness coupled with strict enforcement is essential to achieve long-term cleanliness objectives.

During the event, detailed discussions were held with locals to sensitize them about the harmful effects of littering and open urination on public health, environmental hygiene, and the aesthetic appeal of the city. Citizens were encouraged to act as "cleanliness ambassadors" and motivate others in their neighbourhoods to adopt proper waste disposal practices.

Among others, Joint Commissioner, Health & Sanitation, JMC, Abdul Sattar; Health Officer, Dr. Vinod Sharma; IEC in-charge, Dr. Divya Sharma; Assistant Floriculture Officer, Dr. Rabia Khan, along with other senior officers and staff of Jammu Municipal Corporation, besides locals actively participated in the awareness drive.

Zorawar releases Jammu girl Purnima's 'Mera Kya Hoga' video album

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Team Jammu Chairman Zorawar Singh Jamwal on Wednesday launched "Mera Kya Hoga", the debut video album of Jammu-born entrepreneur and actress Purnima Behl, at a function held at the Press Club of Jammu.

Congratulating Purnima, Jamwal said it was a matter of pride for Jammu that a daughter of the soil, despite being based in Mumbai, chose her hometown to launch her maiden project. He added that Purnima's initiative sets an inspiring example for artists from Jammu settled across the country and abroad, promoting their roots and showcasing Jammu's talent globally. Jamwal emphasized that Jammu's youth has created a



quiet revolution over the past decade but called for stronger support from government agencies, particularly the Tourism and Art & Culture departments.

He also urged full implementation of the Film Policy to attract the film industry to Jammu and Kashmir while supporting young artists.

Purnima Behl said Jammu deserves greater recognition in tourism and cinema and launching her album locally

was a heartfelt choice. She described Jammu as a picturesque destination and assured that her upcoming projects would highlight its scenic beauty. Purnima expressed gratitude to her co-actor Aditya Rakesh, music producer Akash Banerjee, director Anmol Gupta, cinematographer Rahul Bhargav, makeup artist Suman, and Dhun India. Among attendees were Khushboo Behl, Vaneet Behl, and Naresh Malhotra.