

# Dogri Play 'Jasma Odan' stages at Abhinav Theatre

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Department of Performing Arts, School of Humanities and Liberal Arts, Cluster University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL), premiered the Dogri play 'Jasma Odan' at Abhinav Theatre, here on Tuesday.

The event marked an important cultural milestone for the University, celebrating regional art and talent.

Organized under the patronage of Vice Chancellor Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, the evening reflected the University's commitment to nurturing performing arts.

In his message, the Vice Chancellor emphasized that promoting indigenous art forms strengthens the cultural identity of students and helps shape confident, grounded young artists.

Dr. Monika Sharma, Dean,



Vice Chancellor CLUJ Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar felicitating Education Minister, Sakina Itoo.

School of Humanities & Liberal Arts, delivered the Welcome Address, highlighting the Department's vision and reaffirming the University's dedication to cultivating local artistic traditions.

The event was graced by Minister for Education, Medical Health & Education, and Social Welfare, Sakina Itoo, who joined as the Chief Guest.

music. She congratulated the team for bringing the folk art of Haran alive through 'Jasma Odan'.

Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Culture, J&K, B. M. Sharma (IFS), attended as Guest of Honour.

He commended the University's initiative to revive regional theatre and underscored the transformative role of theatre in inspiring social change.

He also expressed willingness for future collaborations and suggested formalising an MoU to enhance training and research opportunities for students.

The event was further enriched by the presence of eminent cultural icons including Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Magotra, Padma Shri Romalo Ram, and Additional Secretary JKAACL Sonali Arun Gupta, along with senior University officials.

Written originally in Gujarati by Shanta Gandhi and translated into Dogri by Kavi Rattan, the play was directed by Dr. Abhishek Bharti and Aparna Kapoor.

The production received wide appreciation for its engaging narrative, striking visuals, and the committed performances of the Performing Arts students.

Special praise was given to the direction, the original lyrics composed by MPA student Karan, and the hand-crafted stage props prepared entirely by students.

The evening concluded with a vote of thanks by organizers Dr. Monika Sharma and Dr. Kuldeep Raina, who expressed gratitude to all contributors.

The staging of 'Jasma Odan' stands as a significant stride toward revitalizing regional theatre and inspiring young performers in Jammu & Kashmir.

# SKK Divyang gets woollen sweaters



President SKK, K B Jandial with students and faculty after distributing sweaters.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: On the eve of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, also called World Divyang Day, the students of the Handicapped students of the J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra (SKK) run School were on Tuesday given woollen uniform sweaters to brave the winter months.

The President of the SKK, K B Jandial distributed the sweaters among students. Among those present on the occasion

included V K Padha, B. B. Magotra, both members of Executive Committee of the SKK.

These sweaters were donated by a philanthropist Rohan, a Goldsmith from Billawar. He has been donating stationery items for students earlier also. Jandial thanked Rohan for his much-needed donation of sweaters at the beginning of winter. The School will celebrate the day with enthusiasm tomorrow.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed annually on December 3. Proclaimed by the United Nations in 1992 it seeks to promote understanding of disability issues, advocates for the rights and well-being of people with disabilities, and emphasizes their integration into all aspects of life.

The theme of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025 is "Fostering disability inclusive societies for advancing social progress".

# BJP KDD delegation meets MLA Devyani Rana; Highlights concerns of KP community



BJP KDD members calling on MLA Nagrota, Devyani Rana.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A delegation of the BJP Kashmir Displaced District today called on MLA Nagrota, Devyani Rana, to extend their warm congratulations on her remarkable victory in the recently concluded Nagrota by-elections. The delegation emphasized that her win has generated new hope among the Kashmiri Pandit (KP) community, which continues to seek strong political support for its long-pending issues.

The delegation was led by Chand Jee Bhat, Prabhari, BJP Kashmir Displaced District. He was accompa-

nied by Special Invitees Sweetey Koul and Chetan Wanchoo; Vice Presidents Rakesh Sadhu and Sanjay Bhat; and Treasurer P. K. Bhat.

During the meeting, the delegation presented Devyani Rana with a portrait of the revered Sharda Peeth, an ancient seat of learning and a sacred symbol of Kashmiri Pandit heritage. Members of the delegation briefed the MLA on the historical and civilizational importance of Sharda Peeth, underscoring its emotional and spiritual significance for the Kashmiri Pandit community world-

The delegation also urged the MLA to raise the demand for opening the Sharda Peeth Corridor-on the lines of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor-in the upcoming Assembly session. They appealed for the intervention of the party leadership and the NDA government to facilitate access for Kashmiri Pandits and the general public to this historic shrine, currently located across the Line of Control.

Chand Jee Bhat emphasized that such a corridor would not only fulfill a long-cherished aspiration of the displaced community but also strengthen cultural ties and preserve the civilizational identity of Kashmir.

Devyani Rana expressed her gratitude for the delegation's support and assured them that the concerns of the Kashmiri Pandit community-particularly the Sharda Peeth Corridor-would be given due attention and taken up at appropriate forums.

# ASN School wins Inter-School Quiz Competition

## Inter-School Quiz Competition showcased power of knowledge, curiosity, teamwork: Sunaina Mehta

## Students need to stay away from drugs: Shekhar

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Shivalik Branch of Bharat Vikas Parishad on Tuesday organized Inter-School Quiz Competition "Bharat Ko Jaano" at ASN Higher Secondary School, Channi Himmat in which nine teams from nine institutions participated in two different categories separately i.e. Senior Category and Junior Category.



Principal RTI Jammu, Sunaina Mehta lighting a lamp.

The participating schools are A.S.N.Hr.Sec.School, Channi Himmat, Tiny Tots Hr.Sec.School, Sainik Colony, R.M.Public School, Sainik Colony, Global Convent School, Channi Rama, Himmat Learning School, Channi Himmat, Modern Public School, Channi Himmat, J.S.Luthra Academy, Channi Himmat, Bal Bharti Public School, Channi Rama and Jammu Public School, Sainik Colony. Two teams from each school participated separately in Junior and Senior Category.

ASN Hr. Sec. School won Inter-School Quiz Competition in both Senior and Junior Category with huge margin.

Sunaina Mehta, Principal Revenue Training Institute, Jammu was the Chief Guest while Vivek Shekhar, SP City Jammu was the Special Invitee whereas Dr. Rahul Kapoor, Trustee Adarsh Educational Trust was the Guests of Honour. Also present were Ashok Khajuria President Shivalik Branch, Rakesh Sharma Secretary, Vivek Mahajan Treasurer, Sunita Gupta President BVP JKUT Prant, Arun Sharma Joint Secretary North Region 1, Hridaye Chander Vaid Advisor, Ashok Gupta Vice President Prant, O.P. Dubey Vice President Br; R K Gupta Jt. Secretary, Anju Bansal

Convenor Sampark, Vandana Maini Convenor Sanskar, Sunita Mahajan National member Mahila Sahbhagita and others.

The competition started with National Anthem followed by presentation of floral bouquets to the distinguished guests, lighting of ceremonial lamp and presentation of Cultural item "Vande Matram" from the students of host school.

Ritesh Kapoor, Director-Principal of A.S.N.Hr.Sec.School presented the welcome address and highlighted the rules and regulations for the event.

He added that winning or losing should not be criteria for the participants and what important is their participation and in which they all are winners.

In Senior Category, Pratibha Charak and Parinidhi Singh of A.S.N.Hr.Sec.School, Channi Himmat stood first while Akshara Devi and Vanshika Sharma of Modern Public School stood second where as Darnakshi Dogra and Aman Sharma of Tiny Tots Hr. Sec. School, Sainik Colony stood third. In Junior Category, Lavanya Kapoor and Gitaush Singh Charak of A. S. N. Hr. Sec. School, Channi Himmat stood first while Varsha and Mohd Imran of Bal Bharti School stood second where as Rupali Rupasmitha Baral and Rupali Verma of J.S.Luthra Academy stood third. Speaking on the occasion, Sunaina Mehta congratulated the participants and participating schools for showing enthusiasm and preparation in quiz competition. She said the competition ignited passion for learning and excellence and this event showcased

the power of knowledge, curiosity and teamwork. She added that Quiz competition is a platform to showcase your knowledge and skills where in students need to stay focused, think critically and enjoy the competition.

Vivek Shekhar said that students need to stay away from drugs and its consequences as they are easy targets to spoil the society. He added that the drug menace from the society is to be removed with active participation from student community; parents and social organizations by keeping an eye and informing the same to the police department to help them providing the safe and healthy society.

Dr Rahul Kapoor lauded the role of Bharat Vikas Parishad for organizing Inter-School quiz competition and congratulated the participants for their active participation.

The function closed with presentation of trophies to the winners, medals, certificates and refreshment to all the participants.

# Home for Aged & Infirm Ambphalla pays homage to I.D. Soni

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A solemn and heartfelt condolence prayer meeting was organized today at the Home for the Aged & Infirm (Vridh Ashram), Ambphalla, Jammu, to pay homage to the distinguished educationist and revered social reformer I.D. Soni, Dy. Director, Education Department (Retd.) and President of the Home. The gathering reflected deep respect and admiration for a man whose life was a shining example of humility, dedication, and tireless service to society.



A large number of Heads and Representatives from various Social, Cultural, and Literary Organisations participated in the ceremony, offering floral tributes to the departed soul. The atmosphere was filled with reverence as speakers recalled his inspiring journey-a journey marked by compassion, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to uplifting the elderly, the underprivileged, and the marginalized. They highlighted that Soni's vision for human welfare, his gentle personality, and his guiding presence have left an indelible imprint on the Vridh Ashram and the broader community.

The organisations that participated included Vichar Karanti Manch, Senior Citizen Rejuvenation Centre, Sagar Uthan Trust, Tawi Welfare Society, Hari Prabhu

Sansthya, Nami Dogri Sansthya, NCCHWO, Balgram MALIN, Home for Children, Retired J&K Government Officers Forum, Helpage India, ASHI, All-State Kashmiri Pandit Conference, Kashmiri Sahayak Samiti, and Asha Kiran Welfare Society.

Along with the Heads and Representatives of these organisations, several distinguished personalities including Maj. Gen. Sunita Kapoor, VSM (Retd.), R.D. Sharma, former Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, and

Smt. & Vinod Soni (daughter-in-law and son of Late I.D. Soni) also joined.

Vinod Soni shared emotional reflections, cherishing the values, memories, and teachings of his father; Soni ji, noting that his warmth, sincerity, and dedication continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A deeply moving message from J.K. Vaid, Ex-Director General, GSI, a close associate of Soni ji, was read by Prem Gupta, Patron of the Home. The message expressed profound grief and admiration for Soni's exemplary life and contributions.

Pankaj Gupta, MCM, welcomed all dignitaries and representatives of various NGOs, expressing gratitude for their presence and their heartfelt tributes.

In an emotional concluding note, Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Secretary of the Home (Vridh Ashram), extended sincere thanks to every individual and organisation for taking time from their busy schedule to honour the memory of I.D. Soni.

He remarked that the overwhelming presence of well-wishers reflected the immense respect and love that Soni ji commanded, and reaffirmed the Home's commitment to carrying forward his noble vision and values.

The programme was conducted gracefully by R.C. Vaid, Managing Committee Member of the Home.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a significant and memorable experience, a group of 245 for young NCC cadets-many of them from Srinagar-embarked on an educational tour to the Border Observation Post (BOP) on the historic Suchetgarh border.

The visit was organized as part of the ongoing Combined Annual Training Camp (CATC) S-20 under the 9 J&K Girls Battalion NCC Group Srinagar headquarters. The contingent, led by the Commanding Officer 9 JK Girls Bn Col Sharad Sharma and accompanied by instructional staff, travelled to the Octroi Border Observation Post (BOP), one of the prominent border points along the India-Pakistan international boundary. For many of the cadets, particularly those from Srinagar who had never



before seen a border post, the visit proved to be a profoundly enlightening experience. Witnessing the Retreat Parade at Octroi BOP offered them a close and realistic glimpse into the precision, discipline and unwavering commitment of the personnel who stand guard at the nation's frontiers. The ceremonial lowering of the national flag, carried out with utmost respect and coordination, left a deep emotional impact on the students. The opportunity to observe border security operations up close provided the cadets with valuable insights into the challenges faced by the armed forces and the

responsibility they shoulder in safeguarding the country. This firsthand exposure helped bridge the gap between theoretical training and practical understanding, reinforcing the importance of national integrity and unity.

The visit was not only an academic extension of their NCC training but also a powerful moment of inspiration. Many cadets expressed that the experience strengthened their resolve to serve the nation in meaningful ways-some aspiring to join the armed forces, while others hoping to contribute through civil services or community leadership.

# NSUI Joint Secretary joins BJP Minority Morcha

# Tavleen's decision shows growing trust of youth in PM Modi's vision: Ranjodh Nalwa

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Tavleen Boparai, NSUI Joint Secretary, formally joined the BJP Minority Morcha today.

The joining took place under the leadership of J&K UT President of BJP Minority Morcha, Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, who welcomed him into the party fold and praised his decision as "a reflection of today's youth choosing stability, development, and decisive governance."

Speaking at the event, Ranjodh Singh Nalwa said that the BJP is committed to empowering young leaders who want to contribute meaningfully to national progress.

"Tavleen's decision to join BJP Minority Morcha shows the growing trust of youth in Prime Minister Modi's vision. Under Modi ji's leadership, India has witnessed a transformative era marked by



Tavleen Boparai, NSUI Joint Secretary joining BJP Minority Morcha.

empowerment, transparency, and inclusive development. Young leaders like Tavleen will strengthen our organisational fabric and help carry this message to every corner of the Union Territory," he said.

Tavleen Boparai, expressing his confidence in the BJP's leadership, stated that his decision was driven by the "remarkable work and clear governance model of the Modi

Government."

He said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has demonstrated what true leadership looks like-nation first, development first, and people first. His policies have empowered women, minorities, and youth like never before. I firmly believe that the BJP is the only party working sincerely for the future of the country."

Speaking strongly against

the Congress, Tavleen remarked that the party "has failed to understand the aspirations of today's India."

He added, "Congress continues to cling to outdated policies and has repeatedly disappointed young people. Its lack of vision and repeated internal conflicts have weakened the nation's progress. The youth today want action, not empty promises."

Nalwa assured full support to Boparai as he begins his political journey within the BJP Minority Morcha, stating that young leaders like him bring vitality and fresh perspectives to the organisation.

The programme concluded with party members congratulating Tavleen Boparai and expressing confidence that his induction would strengthen the BJP Minority Morcha at grassroots level.

# JU inaugurates two-day national conference on "Re/Presentation of Women in Indian Literature"

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), University of Jammu, inaugurated the first day of its Two-Day National Conference on "Re/Presentation of Women in Indian Literature" as part of its Golden Jubilee Celebrations. Held at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium, the event drew an impressive gathering of scholars, academicians, researchers, and students from across the region. Supported by Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), the conference aims to foster critical reflection on the depiction and evolving roles of women in Indian literary traditions.

The programme commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, symbolising the pursuit of knowledge. Prof. J.P. Singh Joorel, Dean Academic Affairs, attended as the Chief Guest. In his inaugural address, he praised CDOE for



JU faculty felicitating a dignitary.

organising a conference of deep scholarly value, noting that such platforms are essential for advancing inclusive academic conversations on gender and literature.

A major highlight was the keynote address by Prof. Sudha Singh, Head, Department of Hindi, University of Delhi. Her insightful presentation examined shifting portrayals of women, the silences surrounding their identities, and their negotiations within Indian literary traditions. She discussed the legacy of \*Akhil Bhartiya Stree Chintan\*, citing ancient

examples such as Maitree and Gargi to demonstrate that women historically held independent intellectual identities. She concluded that true representation would emerge through a deeper evolution of thought that challenges existing perceptions and inspires societal transformation.

Convenor of the conference, Prof. Anju Sharma, outlined the event's objectives, highlighting how the roles of women have expanded significantly from traditional constraints to influential positions in literature and society. Prof.

Anupama Vohra of CDOE formally introduced the keynote speakers, setting an engaging tone for the day.

Earlier, Prof. Pankaj Kumar Shrivastava, Director, CDOE, delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the importance of hosting this conference during CDOE's milestone year. He noted that multilingual papers presented during the event would offer new research directions and add meaningful insights to contemporary discourse on women.

The inaugural session was followed by a plenary session chaired by Prof. Neelam Saraf, featuring renowned scholars from BHU, University of Jammu, GNDU, and Jamia Millia Islamia. Three parallel technical sessions also witnessed enriching presentations. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Anupama Vohra, acknowledging all contributors to the conference's success.