

GDC Udhampur organises day long program on International Women's Day

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: As part of its ongoing initiatives during Azadi Ka Amrut Kaal, aimed at fostering a Sashakt and Viksit Bharat (Empowered and Developed India), the Women Empowerment Cell (WEC) of the college in collaboration with Literary and Cultural Committee, Viksit Bharat Cell, and Debate and Symposium Committee organized a day-long program on the theme of "Investing in women: Accelerate progress" on the eve of celebration of International Women's Day in the conference hall of the college. The entire program was conducted under the guidance of patron and Principal, Prof (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta, who was also the Chief Guest in the program, whereas Prof Babu Lal Thakur was the guest of honor. The event included an inaugural and a technical session, which were ably conducted by senior NSS Volunteers Rishika Khajuria.

with Convenor Women Empowerment Cell, Prof Shivi Mehra and other staff members of the college Viz. Prof Rajni Kumari, Dr Suresh Kumar Dogra, Prof Sweety Verma, Dr Ashok Sharma, Dr Gurpreet Kour (NSS PO), Dr Neena Sharma, and Dr Jagjeet Singh.

The event started with a formal welcome address presented by Prof Shivi Mehra, Convenor Women Empowerment Cell. In her address she apprised all about the need to talk about the women issues at every forum and highlight the role they play in shaping a prosperous society. After this the College Musical Band Devika Strings, comprising of Bhoomi Sharma, Ambica Thakur, Monica, Tanvi, Rohit, Ashish, Anmol under the guidance of Prof Samosh Kumar, presented a motivating and soulful mash-up invoking the spirits for rising high. Professor Tania Akhter and Dr. Shweta Sharma were the coordinators and the Organizing Secretary for the event.

Sharing his ideas about the event, the chief patron, Prof (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta,

congratulated the Women Empowerment Cell, Literary and Cultural Committee and Viksit Bharat Cell for organising the much-needed program during the deliberations on Viksit Bharat @2047 as envisaged by the Department of Higher Education, JKUT. He appreciated the presenters, the participants and the faculty about their deep understanding of the importance of the gender sensitization and place for women in the society and the world today. He highlighted the fact that International Women's Day holds immense significance as a point for gender equality and women's rights, it serves as a platform to raise awareness about the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women worldwide. Dr Gupta further said that the day provides an opportunity to highlight the persistent challenges and barriers that women face, including gender-based discrimination, violence, and unequal access to education and employment opportunities. He invoked all the members to be proactive against any kind of hate, atrocities, dis-

crimination or violence against women in the society.

The guest of honour Prof Babu Lal Thakur was of the view that he is noticing the change in the young males of the nation today, who are honestly coming forward for the cause of the women and the empowerment of the women is possible when both the genders get a sense of equality in a natural manner. During the day long program, the students presented a colourful program including short play, songs, slogan writing, poster making, poem recitation and talks on women empowerment. An awe-inspiring Short Play "Choonai Hai Asmaan" presented by the NSS volunteers including Mohit Singh, Rishika, Utakarsh, Ayush, Mansaraj, Bajjeet, Bhoomi and Tania. The play made all the people in the audience spellbound. The story was based on the struggle of a girl to achieve her goals against the odds of the society.

Laksh and Vishal enthralled the audience by singing solo songs. Arnav, Nitish Kalotra and Rupali Sharma were adjudged as first, second and third

respectively in slogan writing competition.

While TanviJamwal, and Ambica Thakur claimed first position, UttkarshKhajuria claimed 2nd position and Nitish Kalotra claimed third position in poster making competition. Over 150 students from various disciplines took part in the different activities.

At the end Dr. Revika Arora Convenor, Literary and Cultural Committee tendered the formal vote of thanks. The program was attended by a number of faculty members Viz. Prof Rajni Kumari, Dr Suresh Kumar Dogra, Prof Sweety Verma, Dr Ashok Kumar, Dr. Gurpreet Kour (NSS PO), Dr. Neena Sharma, Dr. Piyali Arora, Prof Samosh Kumar, Dr. Jagjeet Singh (Staff Secretary), Prof Tania Akhter, Dr. Meena Gupta, Prof Sanjeet Singh (NSS PO), Prof Vijay Kumar, Prof Anoksha Sharma along with a number of other members of the staff and the NSS Volunteers. The proceedings of the day long program were ably conducted by Mehroz Chandail, a student of PG-I Semester, Department of English.

Run For Her-By Her, International Women's Day celebrations at 166 Military Hospital Jammu



STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: As part of the ongoing week-long events to celebrate International Women's day from 07 March to 14 March at 166 MH, a RUN FOR HER-BY "HER" event was organized today. The event was organized by 166 MH with active contribution from OC, 136 SHO, Jammu.

More than 300 women participated in this 3 km run, in Saree/suit. The participants were from families of Jammu garrison, AF stn, Jammu & families & staff of 166 MH. The event marked the largest all female run in Jammu organized in recent times. The run was conducted to

highlight the importance of exercise in promoting health among women. Women running in Sarees for it reiterated that even traditional attire is not an impediment to attaining fitness or running.

Further, to encourage & inspire the spirit of equality & inclusion, which also is the theme for International Womens Day 2024 (INSPIRE-INCLUSION), the event also witnessed a very heart-warming sight of women from all walks of life, including Grade-4 female employees, participate with great zest & run shoulder to shoulder with others.

The run was flagged off by the guests of honour Mrs Sophiya Rawat,

President AFFWA (L), AF Stn, Jammu and Dr Nisha Ahmad, President AWWA, 166MH. As a special gesture, both guests of honour, competed & completed the race, coming a joint second, in 50+ category.

The run was followed by the prize distribution ceremony to felicitate winners in all categories. To highlight the increasing importance of the women-power in the Armed forces, women officials from the Corps of Military Police, who marshaled the event were also felicitated.

The event culminated with all participants enjoying the light refreshments after a wonderful morning run in midst of a festive atmosphere.

Cultural Centre Kathua to be completed within one year- Principal Secretary Culture

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: The J&K Government would promote cultural activities in Kathua district in a major way and would also revive literary and allied activities in the district.

Announcing this during his visit to Kathua, the Principal Secretary, Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta said that for achieving the objective he has issued instructions to the J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL) for expediting the construction work on Regional Culture Centre,



Kathua. The culture centre, construction of which is underway at Kathua, is being built with state-of-the-art technology. Apart from Auditorium, the centre will also have guest rooms, library and office space. Giving details Gupta said that the Culture

Department through the JKAACL would work in close contact with writers and experts in different art forms to promote rich cultural and literary heritage of the area.

He also assured that the Academy's sub-office at Kathua would be geared up to broaden its activities

which, on account of lack of space and allied facilities, had more or less remained restricted to holding local mushairas.

The Principal Secretary Culture also said that the PWD and other allied departments / agencies will also be approached by the JKAACL for expediting work on the Kathua Regional Cultural Centre.

Gupta asked the JKAACL to get the work completed during financial year 2024-25. He was accompanied by Secretary JKAACL, Bharat Singh and other senior functionaries.

IIMC students get hands on experience of Photography

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The students of Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Jammu participated in a photography workshop on Sunday in its campus. Pawan Kumar, a Senior Photo Journalist from the Directorate of Information & Public Relations, Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, provided hands-on photography practice.

Pawan Kumar talked about fundamental aspects of photography like image identification, light, camera, lens, visuals, shutter speed, aperture speed, and focus. He also shared his



experiences on the current trends of photography and the intricacies involved in capturing styles.

He also said that food photography has become important these days. Photography may be

manipulated and several award winning photographs were criticized due to unethical practices. A photographer must practice with a camera and know about the camera equipment, camera limita-

tions and types of lens. The session was moderated by Prachi, a student of English Journalism.

Earlier, Prof. (Dr.) Anil Saumitra extended a warm welcome to the guest and highlighted the workshop's significance.

Throughout the event, Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal, Course Coordinator of Digital Media, Dr. Anshula Gurg, Assistant Professor of English Journalism, Yasir Arfat, Assistant Professor of Hindi Journalism, and all the students of three courses actively participated in the photography workshop with enthusiasm.

Srinagar Admin organises awareness programme on PM Vishwakarma scheme DC Srinagar stresses on better implementation of the scheme to ensure its benefits to artisans contributing in preservation of traditional and heritage crafts

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The District Administration Srinagar in collaboration with the Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Skill Development and District Industries Centre on Sunday organized a one-day awareness program on the PM Vishwakarma scheme launched to uplift traditional Artisans and Craftspeople.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat was the Chief Guest of the programme held at Banquet Hall.

The programme was attended by stakeholders and beneficiaries to further amplify the awareness to ensure effective implementation of the scheme and fully harness its potential for the betterment of the Artisan community.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner



stressed on better implementation of the scheme to ensure that its benefits reach to the Artisans contributing in preservation of traditional and heritage crafts. Highlighting the features of PM Vishwakarma initiative, the DC said that the scheme will directly benefit the Artisans of the District working with their hands and tools, besides transforming the lives of the Artisans and Craftspeople contributing in preservation of traditional and heritage crafts.

The DC further said the scheme will enable the recognition of Artisans and

Craftspeople as Vishwakarmas (Traditional Artisans) making them eligible to avail the benefits under the Scheme.

The DC emphasized on implementing the scheme effectively to cover all eligible beneficiaries across the District in the identified trades to enhance livelihood opportunities at grassroots level. Earlier, Assistant Director MSME underlined the collaborative effort of the Ministry of MSME field Office Srinagar and the District Administration Srinagar signifying a proactive approach to empower local Artisans and promote sustainable socio-

economic growth of the Artisans and craftspeople in the District.

Pertinent to mention that PM Vishwakarma scheme offers a range of benefits including toolkit incentive of Rs 15,000, training to artisans, Rs 500 per day during training, collateral-free credit support up to Rs 1 lakh (first tranche) and Rs 2 lakh (second tranche) at a concessional interest rate of 5%, incentives for digital transactions and marketing support.

At present Government has recognized 18 trades under PM Vishwakarma scheme including Carpenter, Boat Maker, Armorer, Blacksmith, Hammer and Tool Kit

Maker, Locksmith, Goldsmith, Potter, Cobbler, Masons, Basket/Mat/Broom Maker/Coir Weaver, Doll & Toy Maker, Barber, Garland Maker, Washerman, Tailor and Fishing Net Maker.

During the programme, various Artisans were registered on the PM Vishwakarma portal using biometrics. Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria, the awareness programme General Manager, DIC, Chief Planning Officer, Joint Director, MSME, Secretary SMC, Principal ITI, Srinagar, members of the District Implementation Committee, representative from MSME, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Assistant Director MSME, Lead District Manager and other stakeholders including beneficiaries of the scheme.

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CBC holds seminar on Rural Development Schemes, Career Counselling for students in Ganderbal



STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Central Bureau of Communication Srinagar, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, GoI, organized a day-long seminar focusing on public welfare schemes in the rural development department and a career counselling session for students in Ganderbal district.

Programme was held as a part of the ongoing five-day exhibition at Mini Secretariat Ganderbal & was aimed to educate participants about various center and state sponsored schemes being implemented for rural development.

Resource persons from the

Rural Development Department provided detailed insights into the schemes, sharing success stories and outlining targets for implementation of various schemes.

Colonel Anshul Sharma, Director of the Army Recruitment Office Srinagar, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Agnipath Scheme, highlighting career opportunities within the defense services. Additionally, representatives from Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and Govt College of Physical Education Ganderbal shed light on the functions and responsibilities of their institu-

tions.

Director CBC J&K Ghulam Abbas highlighted the role of the Central Bureau of Communication in propagating different welfare initiatives of the government through the integrated communication and outreach programmes.

An open quiz was also organised for the participants and the winners were awarded trophies and appreciation certificates.

Cultural troupes affiliated with CBC Srinagar captivated the audience with vibrant performances on various themes, including "Viksit Bharat," "Agnipath," "Mission Life," and "Swachhta."

Watlab Wular Lake hosts electoral literacy event under SVEEP

STATE TIMES NEWS
SOPORE: In an endeavour to encourage young prospective voters and first-time voters to participate vehemently in the electoral process, District Administration of Baramulla, in collaboration with the Watlab Conservation and Management Authority (WCMA) and the Local Sports Association, on Sunday orchestrated a series of impactful activities under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative at Wular Lake.

The proceedings were led by the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina, who inaugurated the first of its

kind boat race aimed at raising awareness among fresh voters about the electoral process by exercising their right to vote.

Speaking during the event, the ADC highlighted the paramount importance of new voters in the democratic process. He underscored the pivotal role of selecting representatives who resonate with the aspirations of the youth and are committed to addressing their concerns.

Shabir Ahmad further highlighted that the objective of organizing these events is to foster collective commitment towards culture of electoral literacy and to educate individuals especially first-time voters

with the requisite knowledge and resources to become proactive stakeholders in the electoral process.

The event witnessed the active engagement of Booth Level Officers (BLOs), who meticulously educated participants about the electoral process and enlightened them about their right to franchise and their pivotal role as integral members of our thriving democracy.

Later, the ADC distributed awards among the participants of the boat race as a token of appreciation, acknowledging their contribution towards fostering a culture of electoral awareness and participation among the youth.

DLSA Ganderbal organizes awareness programme on International Women's Day

STATE TIMES NEWS
GANDERBAL: District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal is organizing Legal Literacy programmes across the district including at hilly and remote areas to spread awareness among the people, especially to women on the eve of International Women's Day and in connection with ongoing legal awareness campaign.

DLSA Ganderbal on Saturday under the chairmanship of Ritesh Kumar Dubey, Chairman District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal organised Legal Awareness Programme at KGBV Gutlibagh Ganderbal in association with

Education Department Ganderbal on the eve of celebration of International Women's Day and in connection with ongoing legal awareness campaign/week.

The program was attended by Muzamil Akhtar, Chief Education Officer, Ganderbal, Abdul Rehman, Zonal Education Officer Ganderbal, Tanveer Ashraf, Assistant LADC, Adv. Adil Bashir Koul, Panel Lawyer DLSA Ganderbal, Rafia Jawhar, Warden, KGBV Gutlibagh Ganderbal, Nazir Ahmad, District Cultural Coordinator, Ganderbal, Staff members of KGBV Gutlibagh, PLVs of District Ganderbal, Students of KGBV Gutlibagh, etc.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Education Officer of Ganderbal emphasizes the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment in education.

In her speech, the Chief Education Officer highlighted the significant role of women in shaping societies and economies and stressed the need for inclusive and equitable education systems that support the advancement of women.

In commemoration of International Women's Day, an enlightening speech was delivered by Tanveer Ashraf, Assistant LADC who emphasized on the fundamental rights accorded to women under the Indian Constitution.

He informed about the invaluable free legal aid

services provided by District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal to the deserving persons.

During the event, participants, including students, staff, and esteemed guests, were enlightened about the remarkable achievements of women across diverse fields.

Furthermore, crucial information regarding legal remedies for domestic violence or any form of abuse was provided to participants.

Assistant LADC underscored the imperative role of gender equality in national development, affirming that a nation's progress hinges upon providing women with equitable opportunities.

This celebration served as a poignant reminder of the ongoing commitment to

empower and uplift women in society.

While addressing the gathering Adv Adil Bashir quoted the Article 14 of Constitution of India and highlighted the issue of gender discrimination prevailing in society.

He also talked about the menace of the Sati system which prevailed in India earlier and how the strict laws were made to abolish the sati system. He also briefed about the role of DLSA in helping the downtrodden and victimized women of society.

He also made participants aware about Gender equality, women's empowerment, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence, Dowry and Maintenance and challenges faced by women.