

Shekhar from Jammu honoured with 14th Jaspal Bhatti Award

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 14th Jaspal Bhatti Award Show organized by Idiot Club concluded on a grand and successful note, celebrating excellence across various fields including film, music, sports, education, astrology, and visual arts. The event witnessed the presence of distinguished personalities and art lovers, making it a memorable cultural evening dedicated to honoring talent and preserving the legacy of legendary humorist Jaspal Bhatti.

One of the major highlights of the evening was the honour conferred upon Chander Shekhar Bunt from Jammu, who received the prestigious International Cartoonist and Designer Award for his outstanding contribution to the field of cartooning and design. His creative bril-



Chander Shekhar Bunt from Jammu receiving Jaspal Bhatti Award.

liance and international recognition brought immense pride not only to Jammu but also to the artistic community associated with the Idiot Club.

The audience applauded warmly as he was felicitated on stage for his remarkable artistic journey and dedication.

Renowned Punjabi film industry comedian B.N. Sharma was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award. While accepting the

honour, he appreciated Dr. Rajinder Rikhi and Dhvani Mehra for their unwavering commitment to promoting art and culture. He stated that in today's time, very few individuals or organizations take the initiative to organize such meaningful events for artists and art lovers.

The ceremony began with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the awardees, symbolizing positivity and creative energy.

The cultural segment of

the evening added vibrancy to the event. Singer Tanvi Sharma mesmerized the audience with her melodious songs, while the team of ABCD Dance Academy Pathankot led by Director Ajay Kumar presented energetic dance performances. Film and comedy actor Deepak Raja entertained the gathering with his humorous acts, and comedian Deepak Tilli amused everyone with his talent for producing different voice modulations.

Several eminent personalities were honoured during the ceremony. Ghazal singer Jazim Sharma received the Sur Ratan Award, Deepak Manni was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award, Indian women's hockey player Monika Malik was honoured with the Iron Lady Award, and video director Pramod Sharma

received the Best Video Director Award. Pandit Rajan Sharma was conferred with the Samrat-e-Jyotish Award, retired Principal Vijay Garg received the Surjit Patar Award, Dr. K.S. Paras was honoured with the Jyotish Ratna Award, and Amandeep Kaur, Director of Saint Soldier Group of Schools, received the Best Educationist Award.

Club patron Shammi Chaudhary remarked that Jaspal Bhatti's legacy continues to inspire countless artists, and praised the organizers for keeping his name alive selflessly.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Rotarian Dalbir Singh Makkar, expressing gratitude to all guests, artists, and attendees, and promising an even grander celebration next year.

Mahant Rohit Shastri meets UP Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak, invites him to J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/LUCKNOW: The President of Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust and State Awardee, Mahant Rohit Shastri, paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Brajesh Pathak, in Lucknow today. During the meeting, Mahant Rohit Shastri presented a commemorative volume published in honour of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir; Manoj Sinha, and formally invited the Deputy Chief Minister to visit Jammu & Kashmir.

On the occasion, Mahant Rohit Shastri shared detailed information about the Trust's ongoing initiatives and research activities focused on the preservation of the Sanskrit language, promotion of Vedic studies, advancement of astrology, and enrichment of Sanatan traditions. He emphasized that the Trust is consistently working to strengthen Vedic schools, connect the younger generation with Sanskrit studies, and reinforce India's traditional knowledge systems through cultural awareness programmes.

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak appreciated the efforts undertaken by the Trust, stating that Sanskrit and Vedic traditions represent the soul of India. He noted that initiatives in this



President SKJAVST, Mahant Rohit Shastri calling on Dy CM Uttar Pradesh, Brajesh Pathak.

direction play a vital role in the cultural renaissance of society. Describing the Trust's activities as commendable, he assured all possible support in the future. The meeting also featured positive discussions on cultural exchange, spiritual and educational cooperation between Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, and strengthening national unity. Mahant Rohit Shastri expressed confidence that the interaction would further reinforce the cultural bridge between the two regions and provide new momentum to the promotion of Sanskrit and Vedic knowledge.

Global Dance Overture: A Spectacular Indo-Russian Cultural collaboration in New Delhi

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Sangeet Natak Akademi, an Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with the Russian National Ballet "Kostroma", to present "Global Dance Overture" - an International Cultural & Educational Project celebrating the vibrant artistic traditions of India and Russia.

The grand joint stage performance will be held on Tuesday, 3 March 2026, at 7:00 PM onwards at Kamani Auditorium, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi.

"Global Dance Overture" will feature a spectacular

performance by the Russian National Ballet "Kostroma" alongside "Jayati Jaya Mama Bharatam." The evening promises an extraordinary confluence of the vibrance of folk and contemporary stagecraft - symbolizing the enduring cultural friendship between India and Russia.

Renowned worldwide for its large-scale choreographic productions that depict the history and soul of Russia through dance, the Russian National Ballet "Kostroma" brings its rich legacy of artistic brilliance to Indian audiences. The performance will beautifully complement India's own dynamic and diverse dance

traditions showcased through "Jayati Jaya Mama Bharatam," creating a unique dialogue of cultures on one stage.

This collaborative initiative aims not only to entertain but also to foster cultural exchange, educational engagement, and deeper mutual understanding between the two nations. By bringing together distinguished artists from both countries, the event underscores the power of performing arts as a bridge across borders.

The event is open to all - art enthusiasts, students, scholars, and connoisseurs - are warmly invited to witness this historic cultural celebration.

Prerna appointed Provincial Chief of Om Parmarth Jai Parmarth Trust at 66th Bhandara

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the auspicious occasion of the 66th Bhandara organised by the Om Parmarth Jai Parmarth Trust, Prerna Nanda was appointed as Prant Pramukh (Provincial Chief) of the Trust.

The appointment was conferred by Trust Chairman Sandeep Singh Manhas in the esteemed presence of Guests of Honour Mahadev Giri, Shamsheer Singh Charak, and Shashi Bhushan. During the ceremony, Prerna Nanda was ceremonially presented with shastra and shastra, symbolising spiritual and moral responsibility, and was honoured with a traditional Sanatan pagdi. Accepting the responsibility, Prerna Nanda expressed her gratitude to Chairman



Om Parmarth Jai Parmarth Trust office bearers with newly appointed member.

Sandeep Singh Manhas for entrusting her with the role. She stated that she would dedicate herself to the service of Dharma and society and work to expand the Trust's humanitarian and religious initiatives.

Sandeep Singh Manhas congratulated Prerna Nanda and expressed confidence in her

leadership. He highlighted that the Trust has successfully organised 66 weekly Sunday Bhandaras and aims to expand this initiative across Jammu & Kashmir before reaching the milestone of 101 Bhandaras. Emphasising the Trust's vision, he said the objective is to ensure that no

one sleeps hungry and added that the day is not far when daily langar service will become a reality.

He further announced that the Trust will soon establish a tutorial centre to provide free education to underprivileged children. Mahadev Giri blessed Prerna Nanda and expressed

hope that she would continue to walk the path of Dharma and serve society with dedication.

Shamsheer Singh Charak, Editor of State Samachar News, appreciated Chairman Sandeep Singh Manhas for his social initiatives and congratulated Prerna Nanda. He remarked that society needs organisations that promote both religious values and social welfare and extended his support to such efforts.

Among those present on the occasion were Ambica Manhas, Nitin Rana, Parveen Ghai, Sindhu Jyoti Sharma, Rimpriya Sharma, Sumati Sharma, Anju Bala, Usha, Neelam, Manisha, Adarsh Slatia, Manisha Slatia, Rohan Choudhary, Rajan, Deepak, Bhupinder Sharma, and Shikha Bandral.

MSME Development & Facilitation Office Jammu organizes entrepreneurship awareness programme

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The MSME Development & Facilitation Office (MSME-DFO) Jammu successfully organized an Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP) at the premises of SBI Rural Self Employment Training Institute Roop Nagar. The programme was conducted in association with the State Bank of India - RSETI, Roop Nagar, Jammu.

The initiative aimed at promoting entrepreneurship, self-employment, and awareness regarding various Central and UT Government schemes among aspiring entrepreneurs and trainees. Over 80 participants and students of RSETI attended the programme enthusiastically. The interactive format enabled participants to seek clarity on financial assistance, subsidy-linked schemes, registration procedures, and strategies for business expansion.

The event began with a



Sunny Goja, Director, RSETI Roop Nagar with others at a programme.

welcome address by Sunny Goja, Director, RSETI Roop Nagar, who emphasized the significance of skill development and entrepreneurship in strengthening rural economies. She highlighted the vital role of RSETI in equipping rural youth and women with practical skills to establish sustainable self-employment ventures.

A detailed presentation on MSME schemes was delivered by Shahid Hussain Wani, Young Professional, MSME-DFO Jammu. He elaborated on flagship schemes of the Ministry of

MSME, including PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme), Udyam Registration benefits, the Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGTMSSE), and other support mechanisms such as subsidies, technology upgradation assistance, and market development initiatives. He also explained the step-by-step process for availing these benefits.

Amit Kumar, Functional Manager, District Industries Centre, Jammu, discussed UT Government schemes aimed at promot-

ing startups, industrial incentives, and financial assistance for the manufacturing and service sectors. He encouraged participants to leverage the Industrial Policy incentives available in the Union Territory.

The banking perspective was shared by R. K. Raina (Retd.), Financial Literacy Counsellor, SBI Jammu. He provided insights into Mudra loans, credit-linked subsidy schemes, financial discipline, preparation of bankable project reports, and maintaining a strong credit history.

D. K. Tyagi, Assistant

Director, MSME-DFO Jammu, delivered a motivational session highlighting innovation, calculated risk-taking, market research, and continuous learning as essential qualities of successful entrepreneurs. He encouraged participants to transition from job seekers to job creators, contributing to local employment generation.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Shailu Sharma, Faculty, RSETI Roop Nagar, who expressed appreciation to MSME-DFO Jammu, the resource persons, and participants for making the event successful.

The Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme reaffirmed the shared commitment of MSME-DFO Jammu and SBI-RSETI Roop Nagar to foster a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem and empower youth toward sustainable self-employment and economic growth in the region.

Shiv Sena & Sant Samaj demand fee waiver for Amarnath Yatra

STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI/JAMMU: During a spiritual meeting held in Mumbai, Manish Sahni, President of the Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu & Kashmir unit, was formally invited to attend the grand Kumbh Mela Nashik scheduled to take place in Nashik and Trimbakeshwar, Maharashtra, in July 2027. Alongside the invitation, a strong demand was raised to simplify the Amarnath Yatra process and make its registration free of charge.

Addressing the gathering at Rang Sharda Hotel in Bandra, Sahni emphasized that the pilgrimage to Baba Barfani holds deep spiritual significance for millions of devotees. He stated that imposing a registration fee on pilgrims is against religious sentiments and urged authorities to consider waiving the charges to make the sacred journey more accessible. Renowned saint Ramdas Baba Jagannath strongly criticized the registration fee, terming it unjustified and



burdensome for devotees. He warned that if the fee is not abolished, a nationwide agitation could be launched to press for its removal.

On behalf of the Sant Samaj, Ramdas Baba extended a formal invitation through Sahni to all Sanatani devotees of Jammu & Kashmir to participate in the upcoming Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Kumbh Mela in July 2027. The Kumbh Mela, regarded as one of the largest religious congregations in the world, is expected to witness participation from millions of pilgrims across the country.

The meeting also featured a moment of spiritual exchange and goodwill. Manish Sahni presented the holy Prasad and Chunari of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi to Sant Ramdas Baba to seek his blessings. In return, the Sant Samaj honored Sahni with a Tulsi Mala, acknowledging his continued efforts in support of Sanatan Dharma.

The leaders concluded by reiterating their commitment to safeguarding religious traditions while ensuring that pilgrimage processes remain simple, affordable, and accessible to all devotees.

GGM Science College Jammu organises Road Safety Awareness Programme



Faculty members and others making students aware about road safety rules.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With the objective of promoting traffic discipline and sensitizing the public about responsible road behaviour, a Road Safety Enforcement and Awareness Activity was organised today at GGM Science College, Jammu. The programme was conducted by the Road Safety Club of the College under the supervision and guidance of the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta.

Addressing the students on the occasion, Prof.

(Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta highlighted the growing concern over increasing road accidents and emphasized the vital role educational institutions play in fostering awareness and responsible citizenship among youth. He stated that sustained awareness, coupled with active community participation, is essential for ensuring safer roads and reducing traffic-related casualties.

The objectives and operational framework of the programme were present-

ed by the Convener of the Road Safety Club, Dr. Sukhdeep Singh Sasan, who underscored the importance of experiential learning and community outreach initiatives in cultivating a strong culture of road safety among students and the general public.

Speaking on the occasion, Rahul Kait, PO, NSS emphasized the need for strict adherence to traffic regulations and encouraged young citizens to act as ambassadors of safe driving practices

within society. He highlighted the importance of behavioural change, awareness, and collective responsibility in preventing road mishaps, stressing that road safety begins with individual accountability.

Later on during the activity, students actively interacted with commuters on canal road our side the College gate and conducted on-the-spot awareness sessions, providing counselling and guidance on adherence to traffic rules, the use of helmets and seat belts, pedestrian safety, and responsible driving practices.

The programme concluded successfully with enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, and traffic authorities, marking a significant step towards strengthening public awareness and promoting safer road practices in the community.

Deputation from five villages call Sat Sharma, seek overbridge on Railways Track



Deputation from five villages calling on Member Parliament RS, Sat Sharma.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A deputation comprising of prominent from villages Chan Matloni, Tapyal, Chhan Samotra, Raghu Chak and Malani called upon Sat Sharma CA, President of Bharatiya Janata Party (J&K) and Member of Rajya Sabha, to present long-pending demand for the construction of an overbridge on the railway track connecting Pathankot and Jammu. J&K BJP Vice Presidents Bharat

Bhushan, Priya Sethi, Rekha Mahajan, and Rashpal Verma, along with General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra and Baldev Singh Billawaria, were present during the meeting.

The deputation was led by Rashpal Verma and highlighted the severe hardships being faced by the residents due to the non-availability of an overbridge to cross the railway track. They informed that a large portion of agricultural land is located on the

other side of the track, and farmers are unable to access their fields easily. The situation worsens when goods trains halt at the starting point of the railway station for prolonged periods, sometimes for 15-20 days, completely blocking movement.

The deputation further apprised Sat Sharma that students and teachers face immense difficulty and risk while crossing the track, as the Government Middle School is situated on the

opposite side. Due to frequent and extended stoppages of goods trains, safe passage becomes nearly impossible, disrupting education and daily life.

They also brought to his notice that, as per revenue records, an old bandobasti lane existed for public movement, and urged that the same be revived to facilitate safe access across the railway line. The villagers stated that they have been facing this issue for the past 54 years and have previously taken up the matter with Deputy Commissioners of Samba and senior officials of Northern Railways, but without a permanent solution.

Sat Sharma gave a patient hearing to the deputation and assured them that he would take up the matter with the concerned authorities in the interest of public safety and convenience, ensuring relief to farmers, students, and residents of the affected villages.