

JK Public School Panjtirthi celebrates Baisakhi with great zeal



Glimpses of Baisakhi celebrations at JK Public School Panjtirthi.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Baisakhi-It is not just a harvest festival, it is a celebration of life, love, and togetherness. Keeping up the festive spirit alive, JK Public School (JKPS) Panjtirthi celebrated the harvest

festival of Baisakhi with great zeal and fervour. Jakkians sang cultural song worded, "Baisakhi comes up as bright as sun, as cool as water and as sweet as honey."

To commemorate the celebration of Spring festi-

val, The children came forward cladded in traditional Punjabi attires and presented Punjabi Gidda, Bhangra and recited poems.

Children witnessed a skit presented by jakians to highlight the hard-work that takes place in grow-

ing food and further learnt to appreciate it by not wasting any food. Further remembering the victims of the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre on its anniversary, Jakkians presented a skit to pay homage to the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh.

Suman Jamwal, the teacher incharge of the celebration, expressed "Baisakhi is a time to celebrate the vibrant colours of nature and the beauty of life. May the fragrance of flowers and the sound of Bhangra fill your life with happiness and joy."

Gaon Chalo Abhiyan: Priya Sethi reiterates BJP's commitment to inclusive development & grassroots-centric governance



BJP leader Priya Sethi during tour of Booth No. 120 and 121.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of the ongoing Gaon Chalo Abhiyan, senior BJP leader and former Minister Priya Sethi on Tuesday conducted a tour of Booth No. 120 and 121 in the East Constituency.

The visit was aimed at strengthening grassroots engagement and further consolidating the party's base at the booth level.

During the tour, Priya Sethi accompanied with Anil Masoom-ex Corporator, interacted with dedicated BJP

karyakartas and appreciated their relentless efforts in expanding the party's outreach. She felicitated several party workers for their unwavering commitment and contribution in strengthening the organizational fabric at the ground level. Priya Sethi also held interactions with prominent citizens of the Booths and briefed them about the various people-centric schemes and initiatives launched by the Modi Government at the Centre. She emphasized how schemes

like Ayushman Bharat, Ujjwala Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, and Jal Jeevan Mission have significantly uplifted the standard of living for the underprivileged and brought positive change in the lives of millions. As part of her visit, Priya Sethi also paid a visit to the local Anganwadi Centre, where she made the staff and beneficiaries aware about the various nutrition and maternal-child health initiatives being implemented under the umbrella of Mission Poshan and other welfare

schemes. She lauded the efforts of Anganwadi workers in nurturing the future generation and urged them to spread awareness among women about their rights and government support mechanisms. The former Minister also visited the local Government school where she interacted with teachers and students. She highlighted the emphasis laid by the Modi Government on education for all, digital learning, and skill development, stressing the importance of creating a robust educational environment to shape a better future for the youth.

Priya Sethi reiterated BJP's commitment to inclusive development and public outreach, and assured that the voices from the grassroots would continue to be the guiding light for policy making and implementation. She appealed to people to actively participate in governance by availing the benefits of government schemes and playing a proactive role in nation-building.

VC JU, Prof. Umesh Rai releases brochure of Department of Lifelong Learning for 2024-25



VC, JU, Prof. Umesh Rai and others releasing brochure.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor (VC), University of Jammu (JU) on Tuesday released brochure of Department of Lifelong Learning (DLL) for the year 2024-25.

The brochure highlights all the achievements and activities organised by different units of Department of Lifelong Learning during the year 2024-25. The Department is involved in various lifelong learning activities, skill based activi-

ties, career counselling activities and coaching etc. The Department's field based post graduate Masters of Rural Studies, updated in 2025, has huge potential for research. The first batch of MRS has been able to employ 7 students.

The Department has also initiated PhD programme from the academic session 2025-2026. The DLL through its units not only prepares the students for the world of work but also

plays a facilitative role in fulfilling social needs as well as human resource requirements.

The Vice Chancellor con-

gratulated Department of Lifelong Learning on this occasion and appreciated its efforts for providing field based educational and skill development programmes.

The brochure was released in the presence Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar University of Jammu. Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Director, Department of Lifelong Learning, Prof. Kavita Suri, Dr. Vivek Sharma, Dr. Pallavi Sachdeva, Dr. Sandeep Singh (faculty Department of Lifelong Learning) and Dr. Rewa Khajuria, (Counsellor EIAB).

Balwant Thakur shares art concerns, discusses importance of celebrations with IIM students

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In connection with the celebrations of World Art Day, Natrang Director Padma shri Balwant Thakur share his art concerns and dwell in details about the importance of this day today all over the world. He discussed details with 130 students of performing arts at IIM, Jammu. Elaborating the history and the significance World Art Day Celebrations Balwant Thakur while quoting UNESCO said that recognising the importance of promoting, developing, disseminating, enjoying and appreciating the arts, the UNESCO General Conference, at its 40th session held in 1919, adopted World Art Day.

Our arts are the strength of our spirit and the cradle of creativity, innovation, and cultural diversity among peoples across the globe. Our arts are the engine of our progress, the dissemination and exchange of knowledge, the fostering of curiosity, and the impetus for dialogue. Art has always enjoyed this status, and nothing will change as long as we continue to support



artists wherever they are, championing and protecting their artistic freedom. Art is an edifice; the higher we elevate it, the more it will soar toward a world of freedom and peace. The vision of World Art Day, observed every year on April 15, is to strengthen the connection between artistic creativity and society, raise awareness of the diversity of these forms, and highlight the contribution of artists to sustainable development. This World Day also provides an opportunity to address the issue of art education in schools, recognizing the pivotal role of culture in paving the way for equitable and inclusive education for all.

World Art Day has much to learn, share, and celebrate. Today the whole world is celebrating this day in variety of ways, including discussions, conferences, workshops, cultural events, presentations, and exhibitions. In Jammu the day is celebrated by initiating a serious discourse with the brilliant future managers of India.

"This World Art Day is a timely reminder that art can unite and bring us together, even in the most difficult of circumstances.

Indeed, the power of art to bring people together, inspire, heal, and foster exchange has become increasingly evident, most notably during the conflicts and crises of the past few years.

"This is the high time that we adopt arts as an integral part of our lives and ensure that art acquires the required space in every home, every school, college and every educational institution. Let the authorities awake from a long slumber and start recognising the role of arts in shaping nations and generations" Balwant Thakur concluded.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu has achieved a significant academic milestone with its flagship MBA program officially accepted into the prestigious University Affiliation Program (UAP) of the CFA Institute, USA.

This collaboration is aimed at integrating the CFA Program's Candidate Body of Knowledge (CBOK) into IIM Jammu's curriculum, thereby reinforcing the institute's commitment to delivering globally relevant education in finance and investment management. The affiliation will provide students access to the CFA Institute's learning ecosystem, including exclusive scholarships, preparatory resources, and industry-aligned content.

The CFA Institute, globally recognized for setting high standards in investment education, acknowledges academic institutions that embed a substantial portion of the

CFA Program curriculum into their coursework. The partnership is expected to significantly benefit students in terms of career readiness, placements, and global recognition in roles such as investment management, equity research, portfolio analysis, and corporate finance.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, noted that the affiliation is a testament to the institute's commitment to academic excellence and global standards. He emphasized that the recognition aligns perfectly with IIM Jammu's vision of producing future-ready leaders equipped with world-class knowledge in finance and investment and stated that it will open up new opportunities for our students.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, stated that the collaboration with the CFA Institute will further enhance the institute's curriculum, bridge academia-industry gaps, and

equip students with specialized skills sought after in the global financial sector.

Through this strategic affiliation, IIM Jammu joins a select group of elite institutions worldwide recognized by the CFA Institute for academic rigor and curriculum alignment with the evolving needs of the investment profession.

This affiliation program serves as a testament to potential students, companies, and all stakeholders that the MBA curriculum at IIM Jammu adheres to international professional practices.

Dr. Praveen Kumar, Assistant Professor, Finance and Accounting is the principle contact person at IIM Jammu who serves as the primary point of contact for CFA Institute's University Affiliation Program. The collaboration holds particular significance for IIM Jammu as it facilitates the integration of practical knowledge into its curriculum, offering unique insights into the global industry.

Mali-cum-Chowkidar daily wagers appeal for release of long-pending wages across J&K



Samiti members staging protest in Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An appeal was issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Sangarsh Samiti on behalf of Mali-cum-Chowkidar daily wagers, seeking immediate intervention for the release of their pending wages-a demand that has been echoing through the administrative corridors for years.

Samiti said the plea draws its legal foundation from Government Order No. 208 dated 08/07/2003, and Order No. 105 PD of 2010 dated 25/10/2010, as well as Cabinet Decision No. 109/08 dated June 23, 2003. These directives clearly outlined the regularization and wage disbursement process for daily wagers working in the Rural Development Department (RDD) across various blocks and districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

Despite official orders and communication to the Director, RDD Jammu & Kashmir; the release of wages remains pending to this day. These daily wagers-some of whom have been working for over 4290 days (approximately 12 years)

without any remuneration-have continued their duties in silence, driven by hope and duty. The press note highlights that as per official promises, these workers were entitled to Rs 10,000/month up to 2010, with revised rates of Rs 6,000/month thereafter. However, they claim that not a single penny has been received till date.

Speaking on behalf of the aggrieved workers, Sunny Kaul Chib, Chairman of the Jammu & Kashmir UT Sangarsh Samiti, urged the administration to uphold the dignity of labor and fulfill long-standing commitments. "We are not asking for favors-only for what is rightfully ours. We have served our duties faithfully, and it is time the system responds with justice," Chib emphasized.

The Samiti has appealed to the LG Administration, Chief Secretary of J&K, and the RDD Department to take swift and empathetic action to release the pending wages and bring relief to thousands of families struggling for survival.