

## Two days Riwaazz exhibition by Shikha Chopra Soi and Aman Walia concludes Overwhelming response to exhibition demonstrates potential of business community in J&K: Ritika

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The much-anticipated fashion and lifestyle exhibition, Riwaazz, wrapped up on Monday at Zone The Park, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, marking a new high in the region's fashion landscape. The event, inaugurated by Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT, Ritika Trehan, was a resounding success, drawing praise for its opulent display of fashion and lifestyle products. In her address at the conclusion of the exhibition, Ritika Trehan lauded the organizers, Shikha Chopra Soi and Aman Walia, for orchestrating a grand spectacle that offered a treasure trove of delights under one roof. She highlighted the diverse array of exquisite products and services available, showcasing everything from ethnic wear,



Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT, Ritika Trehan and others at a exhibition.

tunics, gowns, and footwear to purses, fabrics, costumes, and jewelry. "Riwaazz is immensely popular for its premium fashion lifestyle offerings," Trehan noted. "The exhibition featured an unparalleled collection of ladies' and kids' apparel, home décor, artifacts, designer wear, jewelry, bags, and footwear. The wedding special collection was

particularly mesmerizing, presenting a blend of new and selected pieces that captivated the audience." The event displayed a wide range of designer products from across the country. Attendees admired hand-dyed and printed fabrics, intricate hand embroideries, and long gowns that created dreamlike silhouettes. Additionally,

the exhibition was notable for its inclusion of garden accessories, home décor products, beauty-enhancing homemade soaps, and packs. During the closing ceremony, Ritika Trehan expressed her gratitude to all participants, sponsors, and attendees.

She commended Shikha Chopra Soi for successfully

organizing this maiden exhibition on a self-sustaining basis. Trehan emphasized that events like Riwaazz serve as crucial platforms for generating business interests, registering sales, and fostering networking and collaboration opportunities.

"The overwhelming response to the exhibition reflects the resilience and potential of the business community in Jammu and Kashmir," Trehan stated. "We are delighted to have created a platform that not only promotes economic growth but also facilitates cultural exchange. This exhibition is a trendsetting event and is poised to become a signature trade show in the region.

We anticipate that Riwaazz will evolve into an annual feature with continued support from all stakeholders and entrepreneurs."

## JKPSC notification challenged for violating SC's Reservation Cap

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A memorandum was submitted to the Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha through Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, challenging the Jammu Kashmir Public Service Commission's (JKPSC) Notification No. 4 PSC (DR-P) of 2024.

The notification violates the landmark judgment of Indra Sawhney vs. Union of India, which capped reservations at 50 per cent.

The JKPSC notification reserves 60 per cent of seats for various categories, leaving only 40 per cent for open merit students.

This blatant disregard for the Supreme Court's verdict and the Indian Constitution's ethos has sparked outrage among open merit students and the youth of J&K.



Prominent social activist Deepak Gupta accompanied by Ramneek Sharma handing over memorandum to Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar.

Prominent social activist Deepak Gupta, who has consistently championed the causes of J&K's youth accompanied by Ramneek Sharma (PhD Scholar Jammu University) demanded a review and re-issue of the notification.

On behalf of the youth of

J&K, they sought an increase in open merit seats from 36 to 54 out of 90, aligning with the Supreme Court's 50% reservation cap.

They requested administration that youth will be forced to come on roads if the issue is not settled in interest of the open merit.

## Modi Govt always stood for rights of ST community: Rekha Mahajan



BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan and others at a meeting.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan's address was met with enthusiasm and appreciation from the ST Moreha gathering here at Bhatindi of Bahu Constituency, who expressed gratitude for the Modi led government's commitment to their empowerment. Rekha Mahajan highlighted the various initiatives and policies implemented by the central government to promote social justice, equality, and economic opportunities for ST community in a programme organised by BJP ST

Moreha District Jammu South in presence of District Vice President Mohd. Alam, District Secretary Sadiq Choudhary, Liaquat Ali, Moreha District President Rafiq Choudhary, Chairman Gujjar Desh Chairatable trust Arshad Choudhary, Razak Ali Phutto, Riaz Ahmed, Noor Alam, Bashir Khatana, Mohd Yaqoob, Saudagar, Ramesh Sharma and other prominent attended the program.

Rekha Mahajan praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for an inclusive and equitable society, where every citizen has access to opportunities and

resources. Rekha emphasized that BJP ST Moreha's work is a testament to our party's vision of a prosperous and equitable India. "We are proud to have them as an integral part of our organization. She asserted that the Modi government has always stood for the rights and dignity of the ST community and BJP leadership always committed to addressing the historical injustices and inequalities faced by our brothers and sisters from the ST community."

Rekha elaborated on the government's efforts to enhance educational and job opportunities, Promote

entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, ensure access to healthcare and social welfare schemes, Protect and promote ST rights and interests.

The ST Moreha program aimed to mobilize and energize the community, encouraging them to participate in the development process and take advantage of government initiatives.

Rekha said Viksit Bharat holds profound significance for India's socio-economic trajectory, offering a roadmap for realising its aspirations of becoming a global powerhouse. By setting ambitious goals and implementing bold reforms, PM Modi aims to unlock new opportunities for growth and prosperity. She added at the heart of Viksit Bharat lies the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' (Collective Efforts, Inclusive Growth), emphasising the importance of inclusive development that leaves no one behind.

## Flt. Lt. Advitiya Bal Helpline Foundation commemorates Shaheedi Diwas on Kargil Diwas

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Flt. Lt. Advitiya Bal Helpline Foundation paid a heartfelt tribute to martyrs on the occasion of Kargil Diwas, coinciding with the second death anniversary of Flt. Lt. Advitiya Bal.

The event, held to honour his supreme sacrifice during a MIG 21 crash in July 2022, featured a series of poignant and celebratory activities.

The day began with a spirited Bike Rally led by the Royal Riders Adventure Group and members of the Association of Sainik School Ex-Students. Despite persistent rain, around 30 dedicated bikers participated, displaying exceptional commitment and professionalism. The rally first visited the home of Flt. Lt. Advitiya Bal, where his squadron's trunk was opened for the first time in two years. Attendees viewed a collection of his photographs, uniform, achievements, and accolades. The procession continued to the Sainik



Royal Riders Adventure Group members taking out Bike Rally.

School Nagrota, named in honour of the late hero. Here, the bikers paid floral tributes to the bust dedicated by Nexans. The event concluded at SKUAST, R.S. Pura, which was packed to its 350-person capacity.

The cultural program was a highlight, featuring a moving Santoor performance by Swarnanjot Singh, patriotic group songs by Sainik School cadets, and a captivating dance by the Girls Cadets of Sainik School Nagrota.

Swaran Bal, representing the Shaheed Flt Lt. Helpline Foundation, honoured the families of martyrs and out-

standing Sainik School cadets. He also distributed 40 career-oriented books to the NCC contingent. District Collector, the chief guest, expressed deep gratitude towards Flt. Lt. Advitiya Bal's family, mentioning that he would visit them personally later in the evening due to other urgent commitments.

Brig. G.S. Shan, President of Nexans, highlighted the need for special recognition and humility towards martyrs' families, stating that their bravery inspires us to strive for a better future.

SDM R.S. Pura, Seema Parihar, emphasized the

inspiration the event provided to the students of Sainik School Nagrota, illustrating the unparalleled respect given to martyrs. Captain Shibu Devasiya Joy, Principal of Sainik School Nagrota, echoed this sentiment, noting the profound impact of the event on the students.

Swaran Bal concluded with a vote of thanks to all participants, emphasizing the importance of supporting martyrs' families with the same dedication our heroes display in their service. The event ended with a call to stand by martyrs' families with unwavering support.

## Ravidass Mahapeeth doing splendid service to society: Kavinder

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Showering praises on Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth for doing great service to the society through its fieldwork, former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Kavinder Gupta, said that the social organisation is moving forward in its mission of strengthening sanatam culture in the country.

The former Deputy Chief Minister said this while receiving the portrait of Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidass from Balbir Ram Rattan, the National General Secretary of the Mahapeeth at Jammu, in presence of prominent social activists Prabhat Singh Jamwal and Subhash Gupta.

Kavinder Gupta said that India is a land of great saints, who devoted their entire lives for the cause of the society. These saints have always influenced society through their teachings and ideals and con-



Former Dy CM, Kavinder Gupta receiving portrait of Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidass from Balbir Ram Rattan.

tributed in giving a right direction to the misguided and misled individuals and masses.

"Guru Ravidass was one such saint, who worked to spread the message of equality of all the people regardless of caste, creed or gender", Kavinder said and added that the path shown by Guruji leads to peace, prosperity and brotherhood.

Kavinder Gupta further said that it is not only the Ravidassia community which

follows teachings of Guru Ravidass but His devotional verses are included in the holy book of Sikhs known as Guru Granth Sahib, which speaks of the wider acceptability of what Guru Ravidass preached.

Balbir Ram Rattan presented the portrait of Guru Ravidass to Kavinder Gupta when he was greeted on being elevated as National General Secretary of Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth.

## Ex-CPMFWA urges Opposition to discuss their demands in Parliament session

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Ex. Central Paramilitary Force Welfare Association (CPMFWA) held a press conference today at Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, under the presidency of Kuldeep Singh.

The conference addressed several pressing demands which were subsequently submitted in a memorandum to Rahul Gandhi, MP and Leader of Opposition in the Parliament, and Malika Arjun for raising in the Central Government.

The key demands highlighted during the conference include implementation of One Rank, One Pension (OROP) for paramilitary forces; Provision of CSD Canteen facilities for paramilitary forces; Enhancement of medical allowances from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 5000, as recommended by the 110th Parliament standing committee, which has not been responded to by PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh in two



Ex-CPMFWA president Kuldeep Singh addressing press conference at Jammu on Monday.

tenures; Reservation in government employment for children of paramilitary force personnel; Rectification of pay anomalies for ex-Central Paramilitary Force personnel; Extension of suitable benefits to ex-servicemen of CAPF personnel (BSF, CRPF, CISE, ITBP) by state and UT governments as per the CCS GOI order No. 23-11-2012; Payment of 7th Pay Commission recommendations, including the 2.57 new advisory and 3.68 recommended by the

7th Pay Commission Committee, along with 18 months DA arrears pending for BSF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB, CISE, and Assam Rifles retirees; and fulfillment of pending demands concerning OROP and 18 months DA arrears for families of retired paramilitary forces personnel, requested since December 2023. These demands underscore the association's commitment to advocating for the welfare and rights of ex-Central Paramilitary Force personnel, addressing critical

issues affecting their livelihood and well-being, Kuldeep Singh said.

He summarizing the comparison between the basic pay scales of Paramilitary Forces and Defence Forces at various ranks and years of service

The comparison of basic pay scales between Paramilitary Forces and Defence Forces reveals notable differences across equivalent ranks and service durations. For instance, a Constable in the Paramilitary Force after completing 24 years of volunteer service earns a basic pay of Rs 10,500. In contrast, a Sepoy in the Defence Force, having served 17 years, receives a higher basic pay of Rs 22,175. Similarly, a Head

Constable after 24 years in the Paramilitary Force earns Rs 12,500, whereas a Havaldar with 24 years of service in the Defence Force earns Rs 24,900.

These discrepancies continue across ranks such as ASI, SI, Senior Inspector, Naik Subedar, Subedar, and Subedar Major; reflecting varying pay structures and career progression paths between the two categories of forces, he added.

Chairman Ashok Kumar, Vice President Harbans Lal, General Secretary Samba Noor Mohammad, Gulam Nabi Shah (Baramulla) and Bachan Lal, Kamlesh Kumari, Yash Paul (Member) were also present in the press conference.

## 'Jammu Miggi Lagda Changa ho' promo launched under banner of DLSR Production

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP National executive Member & former minister, Priya Sethi, alongwith party leaders, launched promo of 'Jammu Miggi Lagda Changa Ho', at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, in presence of the entire unit of DLSR.

BJP leaders Munish Sharma, Sanjay Baru, Balbir Ram Rattan, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Reema Padha were prominent among those present on the occasion.

This Dogri song video has been written and produced by Dr. SP Gupta. Music of the song composed by renowned music director Brij Mohan. The song has been sung by famous singers Jeevan Sharma and Vanshika Jaral. Directors of the

song are Rahul Dutta & Tarun Sharma. The artists who have acted in this Dogri video song are Bhawana Gupta & Rajiv Sharma. The video is editing K.D. Production and the videography done by Chauhan Photography. Priya Sethi, on this occasion, said that Jammu in particular is a land of rich cultural heritage with ancient old religious places, pleasing tourist destinations having water bodies, natural landscapes etc.

This video has different locations and different spots of historical and religious importance and would surely attract public. She expressed hope that the DLSR team will continue to explore the Dogra culture and take it to the people from time to time.



Senior BJP leader, Priya Sethi and others at a programme.

## All State Kashmiri Pandit Ekta Manch holds meeting

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting was convened on Monday by the All State Kashmiri Pandit Ekta Manch under the chairmanship of Ashok Kumar Koul.

The meeting addressed critical issues facing several migrant camps, including TRT Nagrota, Jagti Township, Buta Nagar, Muthi Phase II, and Purkhoo Camp.

The discussion, led by Chand J.L. Khair, a prominent social activist, focused on urgent concerns within the community. The general body issued a strong reiteration to the UT Government for the actions.

The meeting emphasized the need for increased security in all migrant camps. This includes the installation of CCTV cam-

eras and street lights where necessary, to be completed on a war footing.

The provision of drinking water at Nagrota and Jagti Township was highlighted as a major concern. The participants stressed the urgency of addressing this issue, particularly given the record-breaking summer temperatures.

The meeting called for immediate repairs to the damaged portions of the boundary wall around TRT Nagrota.

This is deemed crucial due to the current security situation.

The meeting was attended by Chand Ji Bhat, Vijay Kumar Pandita, Romesh Kumar Koul, Shadi Lal Bhat, and Kuku Ji Koul.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In line with its commitment to community service, the Department of Commerce, University of Jammu, visited Government Middle School Kotli, Birpur on Monday as part of its extension and outreach activities. The visit included distributing scholarships to outstanding students and providing all students with stationery items and refreshments to encourage their continued participation in education. The event also featured counselling sessions aimed at supporting both students and teachers, with faculty members from the Department of Commerce offering personalized counselling to address academic and emotional needs. Prof Gurjeet Kaur, Head of the Department of Commerce, spoke to the students and teachers, emphasizing the significance of education and



JU faculty distributing scholarships to outstanding students of GMS Kotli.

motivating them to pursue their goals with dedication. She assured the school of the department's ongoing support and commitment to enhancing educational opportunities and resources for the community.

Headmistress Minakshi Gupta of Government Middle School Kotli, Birpur,

expressed her gratitude to the Department of Commerce for their support. She highlighted the positive impact of the event on both students and staff, noting the encouragement and motivation it has provided.

Attendees included Dr. Tarsem Lal, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Minakshi Gupta,

Gauri Pathania, Chander Mohan Bhagat, Monika, and other teachers from the school. The outreach activity was coordinated by Dr. Tarsem Lal, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Extension and Outreach Programme at the Department of Commerce, University of Jammu.