

# 'Kala Kaksh' Fine Arts and Music Centre- A new stage for emerging artists inaugurated

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In an evening filled with colour, rhythm, and creative spirit, Jammu city witnessed the launch of a new cultural gem - Kala Kaksh.

More than just a workshop, Kala Kaksh is a vibrant creative space where art and music come together, offering budding artists a welcoming environment to learn, create, and grow.

The centre is the vision of Shivani Sharma, curator of Hot Gallery, who has poured her heart and effort into bringing this dream to life. Her aim was to establish a space where people of all ages-beginners or hobbyists-can express themselves freely without fear or inhibition. Today, that



Shivani Sharma and others dignitaries witnessing paintings.

vision has found a home in Kala Kaksh. At the centre, students will have access to hands-on training in painting and music, conducted by experienced professionals. The focus is not on textbooks, but on real-

world creativity-brushstrokes, colours, and melodies that come alive through practice. Speaking at the event, Shivani Khajuria said, "Kala Kaksh is not just a classroom. It's a feeling. A

space where anyone with the desire to create can come, learn, build, and showcase their talent."

The centre will also serve as an art gallery, where artworks will not only be created but also exhibited and made available for purchase-making it a unique spot for both artists and art lovers.

In a major announcement, it was revealed that exhibitions featuring renowned artists from across the country will be hosted at Kala Kaksh in the coming months. This initiative is expected to strengthen Jammu's connection with the national art scene and offer locals access to top-tier creative works.

The inauguration was attended by several prominent personalities and well-wishers, including Chandra Shekhar, Shakti Singh, Anish, Vivek Sharma,

Kusha Sharma, Nirmal Kumari, Bhavana Khajuria, Bhagwati Sharan Shaminotra, Kavita Shamnotra, Shivkant Khajuria, Sidharth Shaminotra, Sidhant Khajuria, and Chef Nain Sahu. Their presence added charm and encouragement to the celebration.

The evening kicked off with live painting, interactive music sessions, and a heartfelt welcome by the host herself. Floral decorations and the enthusiastic presence of local artists turned the atmosphere into one of festivity and artistic warmth.

Going forward, Kala Kaksh plans to host regular workshops, art shows, and open mic events, positioning itself as not just a learning centre but a cultural heartbeat of Jammu - where every artist will find their voice, their colour, and their rhythm.

# IGNOU launches Certificate Programme for Nurse Managers to strengthen managerial competencies in Nursing Services

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: IGNOU through its School of Health Sciences (SOHS), has launched a Certificate Programme for Nurse Managers under the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode. This programme is specifically designed to equip in-service nurses with essential managerial competencies required in today's dynamic and demanding healthcare settings. The job role of "Nurse Manager" has been approved by the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) and assigned the National Qualification Register (NQR) Code QG-5.5-HE-03258-2024-V1-IGNOU.

The six-month programme will help participants to apply modern management principles in nursing service administration, Collaborate with ancillary departments for seamless hospital/clinical operations, Plan and supervise staff recruitment, training, and development, Manage



resources efficiently within departments, and participate in accreditation, quality assurance, patient safety, and nursing audits.

As hospitals and healthcare institutions increasingly focus on nursing excellence standards and quality benchmarks such as NABH accreditation, the role of Nurse Managers has expanded to include strategic planning, decision-making, and quality governance. This certification addresses these evolving needs by building capacity among nurse leaders across public and private health systems. In-service nurses with 3-year General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) after 10+2, three years of experience, and valid RNRM registration or In-

service nurses with 4-year B.Sc. Nursing degree, two years of experience, and valid RNRM registration are eligible to apply for this programme.

"The programme is ideal for working professionals in hospitals, public health units, and nursing educational institutions who seek to move into managerial roles, enhance their current capabilities or Strengthen Managerial Competencies in Nursing Services", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu.

The applicants can access the admission portal on the University's National website [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in) Homepage or directly follow the link <https://ignouadmission.smart.edu.in>. Candidates aspiring for admission will be able to complete their admission process on this portal before the deadline. The last date to apply for admission through the online portal has been fixed for July 15, 2025.

# EPFO comes to aid of pensioners



EPFO official helping a pensioner.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Regional Office Jammu has initiated special drive to help pensioners who are unable to update their Jeevan Pramaan.

While identifying such pensioners across 10 districts division Jammu of Union Territory of Jammu, Regional Office came across one such case

of Babli who due to distance could not avail the facility to update her Jeevan Pramaan and her pension was stopped for the same reason.

A team led by Bal Krishan, Accounts Officer travelled to the village of Nagri Parole about 18 kms away from Kathua and ensured that Jeevan Pramaan of pensioner and

children were updated using FAT technology.

Regional Office came across another such case of Sarala Devi who due to distance could not avail the facility to update her Jeevan Pramaan and her pension was stopped for the same reason.

A team led by V. Prathima, Accounts Officer travelled to a village in Batote about 43 kms away from Udhampur and ensured that Jeevan Pramaan of pensioner and children were updated using FAT technology.

Regional PF Commissioner Sumeet Singh told that regional office is undertaking a special drive to ensure that pension is not delayed for the reason of non updation of Jeevan Pramaan. Teams will be holding camps in all districts to facilitate EPF members and pensioners.

# "Devotees' unwavering faith in Baba Barfani" Amarnath Yatra to cross all marks amid strong arrangements: Raman

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) executive member Raman Suri on Monday lauded the unwavering spirit of devotees participating in the Shri Amarnath Yatra, stating that despite the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, the enthusiasm among pilgrims to pay obeisance at the holy Shri Amarnath Cave Shrine remains undeterred.

Suri commended the Lieutenant Governor's administration for making elaborate arrangements to ensure a smooth and safe pilgrimage.

"The LG administration has worked tirelessly to create a secure environment for pilgrims, and the Union Government has

deployed sufficient security personnel to safeguard the devotees," he said.

He also highlighted significant improvements in infrastructure, noting that the Yatra track has been widened and additional facilities have been introduced to enhance the pilgrims' experience.

Reflecting on the Pahalgam attack, Suri remarked, "The atmosphere following the attack created fears of a significant decline in registrations. However, it is heartening to see thousands of devotees continuing to show immense enthusiasm for the Yatra."

He emphasized that the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board and the government have been in constant con-

tact to facilitate the pilgrimage. Last year, over 5 lakh pilgrims visited Baba Barfani, and expectations were high for even greater participation this year.

Condemning the attack, Suri stated, "The irony is that terrorists and their Pakistani masters cannot tolerate peace, prosperity, and progress. They conspired to disrupt the Yatra by targeting Pahalgam, a key base camp for pilgrims. Although the attack took place far from the main town, it was bound to have an impact."

He praised the administration for swiftly restoring confidence by ensuring a secure environment and conveying the message that the Yatra is safe for all.

The Lieutenant Governor

has personally assured pilgrims of their safety, urging them to participate in the Yatra without fear. The Shrine Board, during re-verification of registered pilgrims post the Pahalgam attack, noted a strong desire among devotees to undertake the pilgrimage. While a 10% decrease in registrations is expected for the Yatra commencing on July 3, Suri expressed optimism about the continued devotion of pilgrims.

"The faith of devotees in Baba Barfani is unshakable, and with robust arrangements by the LG administration and the Union Government, the Shri Amarnath Yatra will proceed with the same fervor and devotion," Suri said.

# Street play on malaria awareness organised at Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Directorate of Health Services, Jammu, in collaboration with the Department of Information and Public Relations, Jammu, on Monday organized a malaria awareness programme at Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, as part of its ongoing public health awareness campaign.

To disseminate vital information about prevention and control of malaria, a street play (Nukkad Natak) was performed by the artists of

erful dialogue, drama and relatable characters to educate the public about mosquito-borne diseases, especially malaria and how simple precautions can prevent its spread.

The event was graced by the State Malariologist Dr. D. J. Raina, who addressed the audience and emphasized the importance of cleanliness, use of mosquito nets and timely medical attention in controlling malaria. He also urged people to eliminate stagnant water sources



Artists performing during street play.

the Cultural Unit Department of Information and Public Relations, Jammu. The play used pow-

around their homes and surroundings which serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

# Rashtriya Bajrang Dal conducts Trishul Deeksha, Hawan programme Urges people to participate in large numbers in Amarnath Yatra

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In celebration of the seventh Foundation Day of the International Hindu Parishad and Rashtriya Bajrang Dal, a grand Trishul Deeksha and Hawan programme was organized by the Rashtriya Bajrang Dal, Jammu Unit.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of devotees and organization members. The Hawan ceremony was performed to pray for the safety and well-being of all pilgrims undertaking the holy Amarnath Yatra. As a part of the religious proceedings, 70 young men received Trishul Deeksha, symbolizing their initiation into the path of religious protection and national service.

The event also marked an important step in the organizational expansion and empower-

ment, with Balveer Singh and Bhanu Pratap Sharma being appointed as Vice Presidents of the Rashtriya Bajrang Dal, Jammu Unit.

The programme was presided over by Hemraj Khajuria, President of the International Hindu Parishad, and Rakesh Bajrang, President of Rashtriya Bajrang Dal (J&K).

In his address, Rakesh Bajrang urged people to participate in large numbers in the Amarnath Yatra, calling it not only a spiritual duty but also a symbolic response to anti-national elements, especially Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

The gathering was informed that the government has ensured robust security arrangements for the yatra. All routes, camps, and checkpoints are guarded by security forces,

with advanced surveillance mechanisms including drone monitoring (third eye) being deployed to ensure safety and prevent any criminal or terror-related activity.

The event was a significant initiative for the protection of religion, culture, and the nation, and witnessed energetic involvement from youth and commendable support from the

community.

Prominent attendees included Anil (General Secretary, International Hindu Parishad), Bali Ji (State Vice President), Amit Gupta (Office Head), Kuldeep Singh (Departmental Organization Minister), and numerous dedicated workers from the Jammu Unit.

# Airport Director Jammu Sanjeev Kumar Garg accorded farewell



Sanjeev Kumar Garg, Airport Director, Jammu being accorded farewell.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A warm and heartfelt farewell was accorded to Sanjeev Kumar Garg, Airport Director, Jammu, on the occasion of his superannuation by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) staff at Jammu Airport.

The event was marked by emotional speeches, tokens of appreciation, and sincere expressions of gratitude for his dedicated service.

Colleagues and team members highlighted his remarkable leadership, professionalism, and valuable contributions to the development of the airport.

Garg thanked everyone for their support throughout his tenure and shared fond memories of his time at Jammu Airport. The farewell concluded with best wishes for his future endeavors and good health.

# Warm farewell accorded to retirees of Agriculture Deptt



Director AP&FW Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen according farewell to retirees.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The staff and officers of the Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu, bid a warm and affectionate farewell to Agriculture Economist Jammu Pardeep Sharma and Assistant Agriculture Engineer, Seed Processing Unit, Jammu, Arshad Hussain Rashid who superannuated on Monday after rendering over 35 years of dedicated service to the department.

A heartfelt farewell function was organized at the Directorate to honour the retirees for their remarkable contribution to the department and the farming community. Director Agriculture

Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen graced the occasion and extended best wishes to the retiring officers.

In his address, the Director lauded their exemplary service, professionalism and unwavering commitment towards agricultural development and farmer welfare. He further added that the department will always value the dedication and sincerity with which the officers discharged their duties over the years. The retirees leave behind a legacy of service and integrity that will inspire future generations of the department.

Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Satish Sharma

and Joint Director Agriculture (Input), Dr. Ashwani Sharma also conveyed their warm wishes and heartfelt appreciation to the retiring officers. They acknowledged the invaluable contributions made by the retirees and wished them continued happiness, good health and success in the next chapter of their lives.

Warm wishes for a healthy, peaceful, and prosperous post-retirement life were also extended to the retirees by officers and staff from various districts of Jammu division. As a token of appreciation and respect, mementoes were presented to the retirees on behalf of the department.

# Head Pharmacist accorded warm send off

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Head Pharmacist, Directorate of Health Services Jammu S. Dharminder Singh Bhargav, who superannuated on Monday was accorded a warm send off by officers and officials of the Directorate of Health Services Jammu.

S. Dharminder Singh Bhargav joined as Pharmacist and rendered 39 years of service in the Department..

To bid him farewell, an impressive function was organ-



ised in the premises of the Directorate of Health Services Jammu.

Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid

Zargar appreciated the sincerity, dedication and helping nature towards all the employees and wished him a healthy and prosperous post retirement life. Deputy Director Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma complimented him for his devotion towards his work. Chief Medical Officer Jammu Dr. Harbaksh Singh praised his helpful approach towards all.

The staff wished him a good health and success in his future endeavours.