

# Lt Governor inaugurates JKAACL's Kashmir Folk Festival at Srinagar



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha speaking at inaugural ceremony of Kashmir Folk Festival.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the Kashmir Folk Festival, organized by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages at Tagore Hall, on Tuesday.

In his address, the Lt Governor commended the efforts of the JKAACL, artists, literary people from J&K and various organizations for promotion of local folk art and culture.

Diverse culture, different

art forms are our greatest strength. The peace has provided the conducive environment for the revival of cultural activities. In the last few years, dedicated efforts have been made through literary & folk festivals, theatre, cultural exchange programmes and cultural events to provide platform to our artists and young talent, the Lt Governor said.

"We have taken decisive steps for rejuvenation of

our rich cultural heritage and it is heartening to see that youth in large numbers are coming forward to promote cultural activities," the Lt Governor said.

Our cultural and spiritual heritage is attracting the people from across the world.

The earnest efforts made to facilitate the tourists visiting the UT have also opened up large livelihood generation avenues for the youth, local people and all

the associated stakeholders, he said.

At the inaugural event, the Lt Governor called upon the artists, poets and literary personalities of the UT to work collectively and complement the government's endeavours to preserve the cultural and folk traditions of Jammu Kashmir.

Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary JKAACL shared the efforts of the academy for promotion and preservation of local art, culture and languages. He also informed about the upcoming events to be organized as a part of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations.

Cultural performances displaying the folk art of Jammu Kashmir were performed by artists.

Senior officers of UT and Police Administration, eminent artists and personalities from diverse fields were present.

# DDC Chairman asks for tapping rising market demand of honey

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Jammu on Tuesday organized two-days Seminar cum Awareness programme on "Transformation of Bee-Keeping", under National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) at Kissan Kendra Jammu with the aim to deliberate the importance of beekeeping and to achieve the goals of 'Sweet Revolution'.

The programme was inaugurated by the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Chairman Jammu, Bharat Bhushan and was attended by officers of Agrilied departments, experts from SKUAST, KVK, Information, Banks, and other officers, besides farmers, beekeepers and unemployed youth.

Besides Director Agri Jammu K.K.Sharma, Joint Dir Ext H. K Hiteshi, Joint Director Inputs A.S. Resn, Joint Dir Marketing Mahesh Verma, CAO Jammu Vinod



DDC Chairman Jammu, Bharat Bhushan inaugurating Seminar cum Awareness programme.

Kundal, DAO Jammu Ashu Kakoria and District SMS, SDAOs, AEAs were present.

DDC stressed that the department is providing financial support under NBHM and Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) for taking apiculture ventures, both for livelihood /income generation as well as for ecological balance.

Honey is being used for varied purposes in the world and its demand is rising, asking farmers to take advantage of seminars and tap the rising demand of honey across the world. He asked farmers to

make efforts for cultivating good quality honey, on a massive scale so as to capitalize the rising demand.

During the seminar, the resource persons sensitised farmers and potential youth to take up benefits of the available government schemes for creating livelihood for the youth on one side and for pollination and health benefits on the other.

Speakers also disseminated awareness among the people about various new and scientific beekeeping cultivation methods so that production and productivity is increased across the district.

Emphasis was also laid on to ensure hand holding of farmers not only in increasing the production but to work on the marketing aspect to fetch the best prices of their products.

CAO Jammu Vinod Kundal asked the farmers to take maximum benefit under the programme by getting training and awareness of different Government schemes to establish their income generating units under the Apiculture sector.

Bee keepers, integrated farmers and others engaged in interactive sessions with experts on varied issues of beekeeping management strategies.

During day one, sessions on the importance of bees, the role of pollination, management of bee colonies and high income opportunities in the beekeeping sector were held where detailed information was provided.

## CSIR-IIIM-TBI City Camp reaches MAM College

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: IIIM-Technology Business Incubator of CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu, in collaboration with Institution Innovation Council & National Service Scheme - Self Finance Unit (NSS-SFU) of Maulana Azad Memorial College, Jammu, on Tuesday conducted City Camp with the object to sensitize the students about startup ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir. During the program, Er. Ankush Varma, Coordinator / CEO, IIIM-Technology Business Incubator was the resource person.

Dr. Vishal Sharma, NSS-SFU Coordinator, delivered the opening remarks wherein he spoke about the importance of entrepreneurship and how it aligns with the broader goals of societal development. He emphasized the need for nurturing an entrepreneurial spirit among the youth and encouraged students to actively participate in startup initiatives under IIIM-TBI City Camp, Jammu.

Er. Ankush Varma, Coordinator / CEO, IIIM-TBI, as a domain expert, delivered a compelling presentation on the intricacies of starting a business venture and how to navigate the funding landscape. His insights and guidance were invaluable for the aspiring entrepreneurs and innovators present at the event.

Dr. G.S. Rakval, Principal of Maulana Azad Memorial College, reiterated the college's commitment to fostering an entrepreneurial mindset and providing a platform for students to explore and realize their entrepreneurial aspirations. He applauded the efforts of the keynote speaker Er. Ankush Varma and emphasized the college's dedication to supporting students in their entrepreneurial endeavors.

Dr. Bharti Slathia, HoD BBA, delivered insightful closing remarks, summarizing the key takeaways from the expert lecture. She encouraged students to leverage the knowledge gained during the event and translate it into actionable strategies for their startup endeavors.

Neeraj Sharma, IQAC Coordinator, graced the event with his presence and commended the initiative for promoting knowledge sharing and fostering a culture of innovation within the college.

The event concluded with a stimulating question-answer session, where students had the opportunity to engage directly with Er. Ankush Varma, gaining further insights into the world of startups and funding.

In a gesture of appreciation, both the keynote speaker and the Principal of the College were presented with planters, symbolizing growth, prosperity, and the fruitful exchange of ideas.

CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu is a national R&D institute of Government of India working under the Ministry of Science & Technology. Currently, there are three incubators operational under its campus. These incubators are supported by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and NITI Aayog (Atal Incubation Mission).

# After dabbling in Tamil film industry, actor R Siddharth will be making his Hindi debut with his films shot in Mirzapur



**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Excited about his debut film with senior actors, he says, "I play a newly posted senior cop who is assigned to clean up the mafia from the region. Working with senior actors like Govind Namdev, Mukesh Tiwari, Zarina Wahab and Hemant Pandey was the biggest learning for a newcomer like me. They are like an institution and their guidance is better than any learning school." Remembering an inci-

dent, he says, "When we were shooting the climax scene of Purvanchal Files, I was a little unsure how to go about it. Mukesh, having 25 years of experience, literally showed me how to do it and eventually the act came out very well. My preparation about the Eastern UP language conducted by Swarup (Ghosh, director) sir helped me a lot."

Before his film, he started with regional projects. "I come from Jammu and shifted with

my parents to Hyderabad in 2019. I wanted to become an entrepreneur but during the pandemic, inspired by the film Dhoni: The Untold Story, I decided to become an actor and started preparing myself and giving auditions."

On his debut in Tamil movie he dropped his surname (Gupta) and used initial (R) of his mother's name. "That's how it works down south. I have done movie in Tamil called Ravaali with Naira Shah and we hope that it will come up after the release of my Hindi film. I learnt Tamil for these films and took proper training in Chennai."

Expecting the release of his film, later this year, he is in talks for other Hindi projects. "There is a film and a series but till it happens, there is no point talking about it. My first film was shelved and the second is yet to release, so I have become superstitious now (smiles)."

# Swastik Atul unveils its exclusive diesel cargos dealership at Gandhi Nagar

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Swastik Atul is thrilled to announce the opening of its exclusive ATUL Auto Ltd. dealership in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

The newly inaugurated dealership is set to cater to a broad spectrum of diesel cargos, showcasing an extensive range of offerings from ATUL Auto Ltd.

It reflects Swastik Atul's commitment to bringing quality products and services closer to the people of Jammu Province.

Swastik Group is headed by Bir Singh Jamwal and Managed by Ajay Sachdeva, Chetan Gupta and Akhilesh Jamwal.

Swastik Group is already representing Avon Cycles Ltd. having a range of Electric 2 & 3 wheelers (L3).



Swastik Group members during launch of ATUL Auto Ltd. dealership in Gandhi Nagar.

"We are delighted to introduce our exclusive ATUL Auto Ltd., this initiative underlines our dedication for offering exceptional sales and service for Atul diesel cargos, all conveniently available under one roof."

"We are also in the process adding Electric cargo (L5) and Electric passenger (L5) vehicles in our dealership range from

Atul Greentech Pvt. Ltd. Ahmedabad under the Flagship Group of Atul Auto Ltd."

The dealership will not only offer a wide range of diesel cargo options but will also provide easy financing and in-house insurance facilities, ensuring a hassle-free experience to the customers.

Swastik Atul is also

inviting sub-dealers for Udhampur, Kathua, R S Pura, Samba, Akhnoor, Poonch, Rajouri, Doda Kishwar, Ramban, Katra and Reasi.

Swastik Atul invites the residents of Jammu Province and surrounding areas to visit the dealership and explore the impressive range of diesel cargos and associated services offered.

# CISF nabs AAISL staff, passenger with yellow metal worth Rs. 2 cr at Chennai Airport

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: In a significant security operation, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at Chennai Airport thwarted an attempt to smuggle a substantial quantity of gold. The incident occurred on September 19, 2023, at 5:00 AM and allegedly involved a staff member of AAISL (Airline Allied Services Limited), an official statement from the CISF said on Tuesday.

The vigilant CISF surveillance and intelligence staff at Chennai Airport became suspicious of the actions of an AAISL staff member identified as Sanjay D.

He was observed moving towards International Boarding Gate No. 9A from the washroom located in the Boarding Gate area. Acting swiftly on their instincts, the CISF personnel intercepted Sanjay and conducted a thorough security check, the statement further said. During the physical examination, the security team allegedly



uncovered a hidden stash of gold. The concealed gold was in paste form and comprised four oval-shaped packets, four rectangular-

shaped packets, and three plastic packets.

In total, the seized gold weighed approximately 3.9 kilograms, the statement said.

Upon questioning, Sanjay allegedly admitted to receiving the gold in paste form from an international transit passenger. The passenger in question was identified as Mohamed Nisthar Aboosaly, a Sri Lankan national. Aboosaly had arrived from Dubai on Indigo Flight No. 6E 1472 and was scheduled to continue his journey to Colombo on September 20, 2023, via Indigo Flight No. 6E 1171, the statement further said.

CISF personnel promptly intercepted Aboosaly based on the CCTV footage and alerted the customs officials. Subsequently, Aboosaly and Sanjay, along with the confiscated 3.9 kilograms of gold paste valued at approximately Rs 2 crores, were handed over to customs officials for further legal action, it said.

# AKMMC holds protest, urges LG to release relief amount forthwith

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: All Kashmiri Muslim Migrant Committee (AKMMC) on Tuesday organized a protest at Relief and Rehabilitation Office here about initiating an inquiry order of relief transfer cards and stop the relief amount of poor migrants who are dependent on this meagre amount of the relief for their daily needs and medicines.

The protesting migrants condemned the actions of the Relief Commissioner, alleging that the decision unfairly targets one specific community.

The leaders of the association, including President Nazir Ahmed Lone, urged the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, to intervene in this matter and release the relief amount as soon as possible.

Various leaders, including Vice President Fida Hussain Shaikh, Chaudhari Mohammed Akbar, General Secretary Shaukat Ahmad Ganie, Sajad Ahmad Reshi, Sarjee Ah Bhat,



AKMMC President Nazir Ahmed Lone talking to reporter.

Sajad Ah Khatana and Farooq Khan were present in the protest.

## Titan Eye+ launches store in Srinagar



Nirmal Lobo, Regional Business Head for North EyeCare division inaugurating store at Srinagar.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: On its mission to become the biggest and best eyecare destination for Indian consumers through 1000 stores across the country and give them the best-in-class experience, Titan Eye+, launched its store in Srinagar.

Titan Eye+ now has two stores in J&K and is rapidly expanding its footprint to make quality eyecare accessible to all. The store was inaugurated by Nirmal Lobo, Regional Business Head for North EyeCare division. The store is located at City Walk Mall brings the best of eye care. It offers an enhanced shopping experience and is equipped to suit the varied needs of the customer. The brand offers a range of innovative products such as Titan EyeX - it's latest

smart eyewear, anti-fog and anti-viral lenses amongst many, all of it at the starting price of just Rs 999.

The store also provides high-precision Titan lenses and customized powered sunglasses. Customers can avail of the facility of Free Zero Error Eye Testing, conducted by optometrists who are trained and certified by the world famous Sankara Nethralaya.

Saumen Bhaunick, CEO Eye Care Division, Titan Company Limited said "With the launch of this store in Srinagar, we are heading rapidly towards our plan of 1000 stores across 400+ cities. Through our expertise and experience, we have strived to reach more consumers in Gujarat and provide them with the best services in eyecare".

# No space for gender discrimination under Modi Govt: Kavinder

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Narendra Modi government at the centre is committed to provide equal opportunities to both, males and females, in the country and stands for the socio-economic empowerment of all the sections of the society. There is no gender based discrimination with any one, said Kavinder Gupta.

Kavinder Gupta, former Dy. CM accompanied by RS Pathania, former MLA & BJP Spokesperson, Munish Sharma, Prabhari BJYM and Shailja Gupta, J&K BJP working committee member were attending to the public grievances at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Kavinder Gupta said that cabinet approval for granting reservation to women in Parliament and state assemblies themselves speaks of the commitment of Modi government towards political empowerment of women in the country. While conducting grievance redressal at BJP headquarters, Jammu, Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister, called for a responsive and a pro-active grievance redressal



Former Dy. CM, Kavinder Gupta listening to public issues.

mechanism. He said that with the same responsiveness and commitment to the masses, senior party leaders are daily attending the public grievances at the party headquarter.

Pathania said that the general public has limited access to the information, time and resources to deal with their day-to-day issues especially regarding the government departments. BJP has continually tried to fill that gap and these grievances camps are a way to provide the people opportunity to address their issues.

Munish Sharma said that the BJP has designated the senior party leaders to listen to the issues of public daily at the party headquarter and many people visit the party leaders to

present their issues. Shailja Gupta, remained present and diarized the issues presented. She said that the senior party leaders solved most of the issues that were presented, on the spot.

Numerous individuals and deputations from different parts of Jammu & Kashmir visited the party office to represent the issues of their respective areas as well as their individual concerns before the senior party leaders.

Listening patiently to the various issues represented by the deputations, Kavinder Gupta and RS Pathania telephonically talked to the concerned departmental officials for resolving the issues and also issued letters to many of them.

# PM Vishwakarma Yojana will prove to be a boon for craftsmen: Ritika

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Moreha J&K UT Ritika Trehan on Tuesday hailed Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana, designed to provide financial support and advanced equipment to traditional craftsmen and artisans. She termed the move significant aimed at uplifting traditional artisans and craftsmen.

Ritika further said that scheme offers collateral-free loans of Rs 1 lakh in the first phase and up to Rs 2 lakh in the second phase at a low-interest rate of 5 percent besides Artisans will be issued Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma identity cards. The Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana covers artisans and craftsmen working in 18 traditional disciplines, including carpenters, boat makers, blacksmiths, locksmiths, goldsmiths, sculptors, cobblers, masons, woodworkers, and more, added Ritika.

Ritika praised the stipend offered to artisans during their training, highlighting its potential to provide employment opportunities.

She emphasized the scheme's



importance and its potential to elevate traditional craftsmen to new heights of development. She hailed the scheme as a boon for traditional craftsmen, offering financial strength and skill enhancement. She noted that the government has allocated Rs 13,000 crore for five years under this scheme, benefiting 18 categories of workers besides incentives for digital transactions and international branding and packaging support to expand sales potential.

Ritika said that this scheme will prove to be a boon for crores of craftsmen and artisans of the country in the coming times. Craftsmen and artisans living in rural areas will benefit from this scheme. She said scheme will be beneficial to keep the age-old tradition, culture and diverse heritage of country alive and prosperous through local products, arts and crafts. This is a big opportunity for those who were not able to start employment due to lack of capital and skills, added Ritika.

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