

National Handloom Day celebrates spirit of J&K's women artisans, preserves cultural heritage: Ritika Trehan

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 7:

Senior BJP leader and Convenor, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBB), J&K UT, Ritika Trehan today extended her warm greetings to the people on the occasion of National Handloom Day, describing India's handloom tradition as a timeless symbol of the nation's cultural identity, self-reliance and craftsmanship. She said that for Jammu & Kashmir, the day holds special significance as the Union Territory is home to some of the world's finest handloom traditions, many of which are sustained by the dedication and hard work of women artisans.

To mark the occasion of National Handloom Day, Ritika Trehan visited several local handloom stores in Jammu and interacted with weavers, artisans and shopkeepers to understand their work, challenges and aspirations. She appreciated the exceptional craftsmanship displayed in the traditional handloom products and encouraged citizens to support local artisans by purchasing authentic handloom items. Describing the visit as a tribute to the region's rich weaving heritage, she said such initiatives not only celebrate the dedication of arti-



sans but also help uplift the livelihoods of local weavers while preserving Jammu & Kashmir's priceless cultural legacy. Ritika Trehan said that the women weavers, embroiderers and artisans of Jammu & Kashmir have played an extraordinary role in preserving centuries-old crafts despite numerous challenges. From the exquisite Pashmina and Kani weaving of Kashmir to the traditional Basohli and Dogra handloom heritage of the Jammu region, women have remained the backbone of this vibrant sector, carrying forward the skills and traditions from one generation to another. She said that National Handloom Day is not merely a celebration of fabrics but a tribute to the countless artisans whose cre-

ativity, perseverance and dedication have kept India's rich cultural legacy alive. "Every handwoven product reflects the patience, skill and aspirations of the artisan behind it. By supporting handloom products, we are supporting families, preserving our heritage and strengthening the rural economy," she remarked. Highlighting the role of women in economic development, Ritika Trehan said that the handloom sector has emerged as one of the strongest pillars of women empowerment by providing livelihood opportunities, encouraging entrepreneurship and enabling women to become financially independent. She added that empowering women artisans directly contributes to stronger families, healthier

communities and a more inclusive economy.

The BJP leader appreciated the initiatives of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government aimed at promoting traditional crafts, strengthening local industries and encouraging the 'Vocal for Local' campaign. She said these initiatives have opened new avenues for artisans through better market access, digital platforms, skill development programmes and wider national and international recognition for indigenous products.

Ritika Trehan further stressed the need to encourage young people, particularly girls, to learn and preserve traditional weaving and handicraft skills while integrating innovation, modern designs and technology to

enhance the global competitiveness of Jammu & Kashmir's handloom products. She said educational institutions, self-help groups, cooperatives and local bodies should work together to create greater awareness about the importance of the handloom sector.

She also urged citizens to make a conscious effort to purchase authentic handloom products, stating that every purchase directly supports artisan families and helps sustain an invaluable cultural heritage. "When we choose handloom, we choose sustainability, support local livelihoods and honour the remarkable craftsmanship of our artisans," she said.

On the occasion of National Handloom Day, Ritika Trehan expressed her gratitude to all the weavers and artisans of Jammu & Kashmir, especially women, for their invaluable contribution towards preserving the region's cultural identity. She reaffirmed her commitment to supporting initiatives that promote women-led entrepreneurship, skill development and the growth of the handloom sector, enabling more women to become self-reliant and active contributors to the Union Territory's economic progress.

BLSKS stages patriotic musical play on 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign



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To promote the spirit of patriotism, the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign and the rich cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir, the Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS), in collaboration with Sangam Tru Art Production, today presented a patriotic Nukkad Natak titled "Har Ghar Tiranga" during its 508th Friday Series at the Rehearsal Hall, Durga Bhawan, Janipur. The musical play was written, produced and directed by Dr. M.L. Dogra, former Regional Director, Song and Drama Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. The programme was inaugurated by V.K. Magotra, former Regional Director, Directorate of Field Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. The function was also attended by Dr. Anju Kumari Dogra of the Health Department, Dr. Tara Singh Charak, former Deputy Director, Health Department, J&K Government, and senior media personality Mukesh Singh as Guests of Honour.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest said that the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign 2026, scheduled to be observed from August 9 to August 17, aims to encourage every citizen to proudly hoist the National Flag at their homes as part of the celebra-

tions marking India's 80th Independence Day. He noted that this year's campaign is also dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the National Song, Vande Mataram, and urged people to actively participate in the nationwide initiative. The programme featured patriotic songs, skits and folk dances highlighting national unity, social harmony and the importance of respecting the National Flag. Popular patriotic numbers, including "Uncha Rahe Tiranga", "Mera Bharat Desh Hai", "Sarfaroshi Ki Tamanna", "Har Ghar Tiranga" and an awareness song on drug abuse, captivated the audience. The artists also presented theme-based compositions penned by Dr. M.L. Dogra. In his welcome address, Dr. M.L. Dogra explained that the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign is aimed at strengthening the emotional bond between citizens and the National Flag while inspiring patriotism, unity and national pride. He highlighted the significance of the Tiranga, stating that saffron symbolises courage and sacrifice, white stands for peace and truth, green represents prosperity and growth, while the Ashoka Chakra signifies righteousness and continuous progress. He said the campaign reminds every Indian of the sacrifices made by freedom fighters and encourages citizens, especially the younger generation, to hon-

our the National Flag with dignity while contributing towards nation-building.

General Secretary of BLSKS, M.C. Kotwal, appealed to citizens to observe the Flag Code of India by hoisting the Tricolour respectfully, ensuring that the saffron band remains on the top and that the flag is kept clean and properly displayed. He also highlighted that BLSKS organises over 120 musical plays and cultural awareness programmes every year on themes such as national integration, rural development, drug abuse prevention, sanitation, AIDS awareness, environmental protection and the Beti Bachao campaign.

The artists who participated in the programme included Usha Raina, Rajni Gupta, Bindia Okheda, Sudesh Devi Manhas, Naiya Meena, Poly Devi, Sapna Ahirwar and several students of the music and computer institute, who enthralled the audience with their performances.

BLSKS also announced that it will organise cultural programmes and door-to-door awareness campaigns in different blocks of Jammu district during the coming week to encourage greater public participation in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. The programme was recorded and shared on social media to reach a wider audience. The vote of thanks was presented by Master Deepak Kumar.

JMC launches massive anti-mosquito drive across all 75 Wards

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 7:

In a major public health initiative aimed at preventing the spread of mosquito-borne diseases during the monsoon season, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) on Friday launched a comprehensive city-wide anti-mosquito fogging and spraying campaign covering all 75 wards under its jurisdiction.

The extensive drive, which will continue from August 7 to November 10, 2026, is being carried out on the directions of JMC Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav under the supervision of Health Officer Dr. Shahid Hussain, in close coordination with the Health Department. The campaign is designed to curb the breeding of mosquitoes and minimise the risk of diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and malaria.

Appealing for active public participation, Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav urged residents to cooperate fully with JMC field teams and adopt preventive measures to eliminate mosquito breeding

sites. He stressed that community participation is essential for the success of the campaign.

"Preventing mosquito-borne diseases is a shared responsibility. Citizens must ensure that water does not stagnate in and around their homes, as stagnant water serves as the primary breeding ground for mosquitoes. Maintaining cleanliness in residential areas is one of the most effective ways to safeguard public health," he said. Under the campaign schedule, anti-mosquito spraying will be carried out during the early morning hours, while thermal fogging will be undertaken daily after 4:00 PM in a phased manner across all municipal wards. The first phase of the campaign will cover every ward before subsequent rounds are undertaken based on field assessments and public health requirements.

The Municipal Corporation has also issued an advisory requesting elderly persons, children, asthma patients and individuals sensitive to smoke to remain indoors during thermal fog-

ging operations and keep doors and windows closed until the fog dissipates.

Residents have been advised to regularly inspect and clean water coolers, overhead tanks, flowerpots, discarded tyres, drains, rooftops and other locations where rainwater may accumulate. The Corporation emphasised that eliminating stagnant water remains the most effective and sustainable method of preventing mosquito breeding.

The JMC reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining public health and sanitation standards and said the anti-mosquito drive would be intensified whenever necessary based on weather conditions and disease surveillance. The Corporation appealed to all citizens to make mosquito control a community movement by maintaining clean surroundings, preventing water stagnation and extending full cooperation to JMC teams during the campaign. "Stop stagnant water. Stop mosquito breeding. Together, let us keep Jammu safe from mosquito-borne diseases," the Corporation urged.

Udhampur Police arrest absconder evading law for over three years

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
UDHAMPUR, AUG 7:

Udhampur Police arrested an absconder who had been evading arrest for more than three years in connection with a criminal case registered at Police Station Rehambal. The accused, identified as Dev Lal Bareth, a resident of Tehsil Balpur in Chhattisgarh, was wanted in connection with FIR No. 87/2020 registered under Sections 188 and 269 of the Indian Penal Code. According to police, the accused had been declared an absconder under Section 299 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and the Court of the Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Udhampur, had issued warrants for his arrest on June 17, 2023, after he repeatedly failed to appear before the court. Acting on the court-issued warrants, a police team from Police Station Rehambal traced and apprehended the accused after sustained efforts. Police said the accused would be produced before the competent court for further legal proceedings.

Samba Police foil bovine smuggling bid; smuggler arrested, 13 bovines rescued

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
SAMBA, AUG 7:

Continuing its sustained campaign against bovine smuggling, Samba Police foiled an attempt to transport cattle illegally by arresting a smuggler, rescuing 13 bovines and seizing the vehicle used in the offence. Acting on specific and credible information, a police team from Police Station Samba laid a naka at Maheshwar near Veer Bhumi Park and intercepted a Canter truck bearing registration number JK12D-3969 travelling from Kathua towards Srinagar. During inspection, police found 13 bovines tied in a cruel manner and being transported without valid permission. The vehicle had reportedly been concealed from the outside with iron crates and wire mesh in an apparent attempt to evade detection. The driver, identified as Shabir Ahmed, son of Aashiq Ali and a resident of Jandiwal, Tehsil Bhalwal, Jammu district, was arrested on the spot. The rescued bovines were shifted to safety, while the Canter truck was seized. Police registered FIR No. 230/2026 at Police Station Samba under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, and launched further investigation. Samba Police reiterated its commitment to taking strict legal action against those involved in bovine smuggling and other organised criminal activities.

Reasi Police seize 58 quarters of illicit liquor during Naka checking; one booked

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
REASI, AUG 7:

Continuing its drive against illegal activities, Reasi Police seized 58 quarters of illicit liquor during naka checking at Nau Devian under the jurisdiction of Police Station Katra and arrested one person. A police party conducting routine checking intercepted an individual travelling from Reasi towards Katra. During the search, police recovered 58 quarters of JK Special Whisky (250 ml each) from his possession. The accused was identified as Satveer Singh, son of Amar Chand, a resident of Seri Bangal, Katra. A case under FIR No. 267/2026 has been registered at Police Station Katra under Section 223(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 48(a) of the Excise Act. The accused has been taken into custody, and further investigation is in progress. Reasi Police reiterated its resolve to take stringent action against the illegal trade and transportation of liquor and appealed to the public to share information about unlawful activities in their localities.

Jammu Police seize dumper transporting sand illegally in Bishnah

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 7:

Jammu Police continued its crackdown on illegal mining by seizing a dumper allegedly involved in the unauthorised transportation of mining minerals in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bishnah. During routine checking, police intercepted a dumper bearing registration number JK02CL-2426 loaded with sand. Upon verification, the vehicle was found transporting the mineral without a valid Form-A, in violation of the prescribed mining regulations. The dumper was seized on the spot, and the matter has been referred to the District Mineral Officer (DMO) for further legal action under the relevant provisions of law. Jammu Police reaffirmed its commitment to curbing illegal mining activities and appealed to citizens to report any instances of unlawful extraction or transportation of minerals to the nearest police station.

FICCI FLO JK&L signs MoU with GCW Parade to empower young women

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 7:

FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh (JKL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government College for Women, Parade, Jammu, reaffirming its commitment to nurturing leadership, entrepreneurship, and holistic development among young women.

The MoU was signed under the leadership of Varsha Bansal, Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL, and Dr. Naveen Anand, Principal, Government College for Women, Parade. The collaboration brings together the FICCI FLO Young Women Affinity Group (YWAG) and the Centre for Women's Studies at the college. Dr. Seema Malpotra, Convenor, Centre for Women's Studies and CASH Committee, Government College for Women, Parade, played a pivotal role in conceptualising and facilitating this collaboration. In recognition of her efforts, she has been appointed as the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for the college under the MoU to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the partnership initiatives.

The partnership aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry by creating meaningful opportunities for students through workshops, mentorship programmes, leadership development initiatives, entrepreneurship awareness, financial and digital literacy, skill-



building programmes, industry interactions, and experiential learning opportunities.

Speaking on the occasion, Varsha Bansal said, "Women empowerment begins at a young age. By engaging with young women at the college level, we aim to equip them with the knowledge, confidence, skills, and networks they need to become future leaders, entrepreneurs, and changemakers. This collaboration reflects FICCI FLO's commitment to creating lasting impact through education and mentorship."

Dr. Naveen Anand welcomed the partnership and expressed confidence that the collaboration would provide students with valuable exposure beyond the classroom and help develop practical skills and leadership capabilities essential for their future.

Present on the occasion from FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh were Ruchika Gupta, Past Chairperson; Sona Mehta, Vice Chairperson; Shipra Aggarwal, Treasurer; and Deepti Gandotra, Joint

Secretary. It is pertinent to mention that the Young Women Affinity Group (YWAG) was initiated during the tenure of Ruchika Gupta, Past Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL, with the vision of reaching the maximum number of young women and preparing them for the future through the right education, meaningful mentorship, practical exposure, and essential life skills. The initiative is dedicated to equipping young women with the confidence, knowledge, and tools required to emerge as capable leaders, professionals, entrepreneurs, and responsible citizens.

The MoU marks another significant step by FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh towards strengthening institutional partnerships and creating a robust ecosystem for women's empowerment, capacity building, entrepreneurship, leadership development, and inclusive growth, ensuring that young women are equipped to contribute meaningfully to society and the economy.

MLA Dr Rajeev lays foundation stone for Rs 2.49-Crore sports stadium at Rehal

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
REHAL, AUG 7:

In a major boost to sports infrastructure in the Bishnah constituency, MLA Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat on Friday laid the foundation stone for the construction of a modern Sports Stadium at Rehal. The project, being developed at an estimated cost of Rs 248.54 lakh under the CAPEX Budget, aims to provide quality sports facilities and create greater opportunities for the youth of the region. Addressing a large gathering after the foundation stone-laying ceremony, Dr. Bhagat said that the development of sports infrastructure is vital for the physical, mental and overall well-being of young people. He emphasised that sports and physical activities have the power to positively shape the mindset of youth, steering them away from drug addiction, substance abuse and other anti-social activities.

"The energy, talent and enthusiasm of our youth must be channelled in the right direction by providing them with modern sports facilities and opportunities to excel," he said, adding that regular participation in sports not only promotes physical fitness but also instils discipline, teamwork, leadership, self-confidence and a healthy competitive spirit.

Reiterating his commitment to strengthening sports infrastructure across the constituency, the MLA said sus-



tained efforts are being made to establish modern sports facilities at various locations. He informed that special focus is being given to the development of sports infrastructure in Arnia, including the upgradation of the Red Rose Stadium, construction of volleyball courts, a gymnasium and other allied facilities. Dr. Bhagat further announced that an Indoor Stadium has also been proposed for Bishnah Constituency to provide year-round training and sporting opportunities irrespective of weather conditions. He said the matter has already been taken up with Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, seeking the Centre's support for the project. Describing youth as the backbone of the nation, Dr. Bhagat said their health, education, skills and overall development are essential for the country's progress. He observed that grassroots-level sports infrastructure would help identify and nurture local talent while providing aspiring sportsper-

sons with opportunities to compete at higher levels.

He assured the people that the overall development of Bishnah Constituency would continue with special emphasis on youth-centric infrastructure, sports facilities and other public welfare projects.

The foundation stone-laying ceremony was attended by Maharaj Rama Narayan Dass, Abhishek Jamwal (Mandal Pradhan), Arjun Singh Charak (General Secretary), Parveen Sharma (Senior Leader), Ashwani Saini, Ravi Panch, Sanjeev Sharma, Bachan Panch, Abhishek Sharma, Kuldeep Raj, Ashok Gupta, Shivo Panch, officials of the J&K Sports Council, local representatives, party workers and a large number of residents. The local residents welcomed the initiative and appreciated the establishment of the Sports Stadium, describing it as a significant step towards promoting sports culture, fitness and healthy recreational activities among the youth of Rehal and adjoining areas.

RM Public School Management pays obeisance at Tirupati Balaji Temple

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 7:

The management of RM Public School, led by Managing Director Rameshwar Mengi, along with Smt. Rita Mengi, Rakshan Mengi, Kashish Mengi and Risheek Mengi, on Friday paid obeisance at the Shri Venkateswara Swamy (Tirupati Balaji) Temple at Majeen, Jammu. Social activist Raju Jandyal and Sai Krishna Temple Inspector also accompanied the group. The devotees participated in the special Friday Abhishek of Lord Venkateswara, a sacred ritual performed every Friday, and offered prayers for the peace, prosperity and well-being of the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, Rakshan Mengi expressed happiness over the establishment of the Tirupati Balaji Temple in Jammu and said it was a matter of pride for the people of the region. She remarked that the temple provides devotees with an opportunity to experience the

rich spiritual traditions and culture of South India without travelling to Andhra Pradesh. She appealed to people from across Jammu and Kashmir to visit the temple and seek the blessings of Lord Venkateswara, adding that the shrine has emerged as an important centre of faith and is expected to give a significant boost to spiritual tourism in the region. Sharing his experience, Risheek Mengi said he was deeply moved by the serene and divine atmosphere of the temple, nestled amid the picturesque Shivalik hills at Majeen.

He urged devotees who are unable to visit the original Tirupati shrine in Andhra Pradesh to visit the Jammu temple to offer prayers and receive the blessings of Lord Venkateswara. The visitors appreciated the temple's peaceful ambience and expressed hope that it would continue to attract pilgrims from across the country while strengthening spiritual and cultural bonds.