



JU organizes Cultural and short film festival for Deaf children and youth

A day long cultural event and short film festival for the deaf and aphasic was organized today by Disability Initiatives Unit and Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu in collaboration with NGO partner The Association of Deaf and Aphasic, Jammu. More than 150 children and youth having hearing impairment from different parts of India such as Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kerala, Punjab, Haryana participated in this cultural fiesta held at Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium of the University. Folk dance, magic show, quiz session, fashion show, short drama and short documentary screening were held under this festival. Sh. Arun Manhas (KAS), Managing Director, J&K Agro Industries Development Corporation was the chief guest for the festival. Speaking on the occasion he remarked that empathy towards the divyang community is much needed, if we have to embrace those with disabilities. He further mentioned that there is provision in NEP for creating inclusive classroom and schools for the benefit of the differently abled children. He emphasized on the need to involve the disabled community to realize the goal of national development. He also lauded the efforts of the University in highlighting the cause of the disabled by hosting a unique cultural festival.

The Guests of Honour of the occasion were Sh. Pardeep Dutta, Senior Journalist and J&K Bureau Head, Times Now, & Sh. Deepak Gupta, President Traders Federation, Ware House Jammu and executive member Red cross, Jammu Province. While, Prof. Jasbir Singh, Head Department of Philosophy and Dr. Anil Gupta, Associate Dean, Students welfare, Jammu University were the special guest for the event.

The welcome address was delivered by Prof. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator, Disability Initiatives, University of Jammu. She in her address mentioned that the University of Jammu under the visionary leadership of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai is committed towards not limiting learning experiences only to classroom teaching but rather envisions to provide experiential opportunities to its students and scholars. She added that today's event is a reflection of the same resolve, as here there is an

opportunity to interact, discover, collaborate and learn. She also mentioned that multifarious initiatives are being undertaken by the University to provide an inclusive and equitable environment for all irrespective of their disability status.

Sh. Devendra Singh Rana, Ex actor, Director Drama and Mime & Chairman IDFP, New Delhi, Sh. Kamal Nain Bhan, Organizing Secretary, ADAJ and Mrs. Madhu Bhan, President ADAJ were the co-organizers of the event.

Ms. Sukanya Bhan (sign language interpreter) and Ms. Meghna Sharma ably conducted the proceedings of the event.

Office of the CEO, Shri Mata Vashino Devi Shrine board, Department of Tourism, J&K UT Government, Red Cross Jammu provided the much needed sponsorship for the event. Mr. Arif Paul and Sh. Madan lal, Sh. Suresh Gupta, Sh. Yashpal Sharma from the office of DSW, JU provided technical support..