



HELPLINE HUMANITY & SARASWATHI EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL & CHARITABLE TRUST CELEBRATE 1st COMMUNITY CASH AWARD FUNCTION AT ABHINAV THEATRE, JAMMU



Jammu: Helpline Humanity, in association with the Saraswathi Educational, Cultural & Charitable Trust, successfully organised its 1st Community Cash Award Function at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu, in a grand celebration of Kashmiri Pandit achievers, cultural heritage and the emerging talents of the younger generation.

The prestigious programme honoured distinguished Kashmiri Pandit personalities and bright young achievers for their outstanding contributions to society, culture, education, sports and community development.

PRESTIGIOUS COMMUNITY AWARDS

The following prominent personalities were honoured during the समारोह:

Ravi Garyali Award was conferred upon renowned writer, poet and cultural activist Dr. Agnishekhar, and Shri Vikram Koul, Founder of Kashmiri Pandit Volunteers.

Indra Garyali Award was presented to disability rights activist and Founder of JIGER, Sushri Sandhya Dhar, along with eminent writer and educationist Dr. Advedavadini Koul.

Ravi Misri Award was bestowed upon celebrated Santoor Maestro and composer Pandit Dr. Abhay Rustum Sopori, and LSHEO Coordinator Shri Ankur Bagati.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

The समारोह was graced by a galaxy of distinguished guests, including:

- Shri Ramesh Kumar, IAS, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu – Chief Guest
- Shri Arvind Karwani, JKAS, Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K – Guest of Honour
- Shri Sanjay Bhat, JKAS, Deputy Commissioner, Excise
- Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd.), Former DGP
- Dr. C. K. Garyali, IAS (Retd.), Managing Trustee and Chief Patron
- Prof. Ashok Aima, Former Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Jammu
- Prof. Indu Kilam, Board Member, Helpline Humanity
- Shri B. L. Jalali, Project Director, Helpline Humanity

FELICITATION OF MERITORIOUS STUDENTS

A special Felicitation of Students segment was organised to honour meritorious students of the community who secured 95% and above marks during the academic session. Students who secured employment with the support and guidance of the Mata Saraswati Pustakalaya Library-cum-Skill Development Centre, a unit of Helpline Humanity, were also felicitated.

The initiative received tremendous appreciation from parents, community members and the distinguished guests present on the occasion.

CULTURAL PROGRAMMES STEAL THE SHOW

The jam-packed auditorium at Abhinav Theatre witnessed vibrant and colourful cultural presentations by the talented students of the Mata Saraswati Pustakalaya Library-cum-Skill Development Centre, Jagti and Purkhoo branches.

The young performers received huge applause from the audience for their confidence, talent and impressive performances.

The Vitasta Heritage Cultural Group also gave a remarkable presentation showcasing the unique traditions, customs and rich cultural heritage of Kashmir. Their traditional Kashmiri presentation added a special cultural flavour to the grand celebration.

The programme successfully highlighted the rich heritage of the Kashmiri Pandit community while encouraging the younger generation to excel in education, employment, culture, sports and other fields.

ADDRESS BY THE CHIEF GUEST

In his address, Shri Ramesh Kumar, IAS, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, congratulated the organising team for taking such a wonderful initiative to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of the community despite the hardships and challenges faced since the early 1990s.

He emphasised that culture and language play a vital role in connecting the past with the present generation. He appreciated the significant contribution of the Kashmiri Pandit community towards the development of Jammu and Kashmir in different fields.

SUPPORT FOR YOUTH INITIATIVES

Shri Arvind Karwani, JKAS, Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, congratulated the organisers for providing a meaningful platform to community students to showcase their talent on stage while also encouraging academic excellence.

He assured every possible support to the Helpline Humanity team in carrying forward its mission and appreciated the organisation's initiatives for youth empowerment.

He also stressed the importance of implementing various youth-oriented initiatives launched under government programmes and expressed support for expanding educational and skill development activities in transit camps so that more branches of Mata Saraswati Pustakalaya Library can benefit community youth.

APPRECIATION BY GUESTS

Shri Sanjay Bhat, JKAS, Deputy Commissioner, Excise, appreciated the organisers for conducting such a meaningful programme and encouraged the younger generation to preserve their mother tongue while continuing to make progress in different fields.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd.), Former DGP, showered his blessings upon Helpline Humanity and the Saraswathi Educational, Cultural & Charitable Trust for their achievements and for providing opportunities to young minds despite many challenges.

He particularly appreciated the transparent process of inviting open nominations from community members and the selection of deserving community personalities for the awards. He assured his continued support to Helpline Humanity in its journey, especially in the field of education and youth development.

Dr. C. K. Garyali, IAS (Retd.), Chief Patron, said that such initiatives bring the community together and create a festive atmosphere while providing a platform for young minds to pursue their dreams.

She assured continued support to Helpline Humanity and expressed the hope that Helpline Humanity and the Saraswathi Educational, Cultural & Charitable Trust would jointly organise such award functions every year to honour community stalwarts working selflessly in different fields.

FOUNDER'S ADDRESS

Shri M. K. Bhat, Founder, Helpline Humanity, while presenting the organisation's report card, appealed to the community to continue showering its blessings and support upon Helpline Humanity.

He highlighted that the organisation has been working in the field of education and youth empowerment since 1994, through various educational, cultural, employment and skill development initiatives.

He reiterated his commitment to carry forward this noble mission so that community youth can shine in every field.

Shri M. K. Bhat expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all donors, patrons, community well-wishers, parents and supporters whose encouragement and blessings have made every difficult task easier and strengthened the organisation's journey.

VOTE OF THANKS

Smt. Nancy Tickoo, while presenting the Vote of Thanks, expressed sincere gratitude to all distinguished guests, community members, parents, students, management committee members, media persons and everyone associated with the successful organisation of the event.

She specially thanked:

Aryan Ramesh, Munoo Krishen, Rakesh Ji, Sameer Koul, K. K. Pandita, B. L. Jalali, and the entire Mata Saraswati Pustakalaya teams of Jagti and Purkhoo.

She also thanked the media fraternity and the programme anchor, Smt. Kusum Tickoo Ji, for their valuable contribution in making the programme memorable.

COORDINATION TEAM

The successful coordination and organisation of the entire event was carried out by a dedicated team comprising:

Reva Devi, Yogita Koul, Rashika Dhar, Sania Raina, Pooja Raina, Renu Razdan, Sunita Sharma, Aryan, Satyam, Dheeraj, Nikhil, Hitesh, Danish, Prajwal and Rohit.

COMMUNITY PERSONALITIES PRESENT

The programme was also attended and supported by several distinguished community personalities, including:

- ❖ Prof. B. L. Zutshi, President, HESK;
- ❖ Shri Ravi Jogi, President, Zeetiyar;
- ❖ Shri Ashok Kangan;
- ❖ Shri Daya Krishen, President, Purkhoo;
- ❖ Shri Mutash Yogi, Social Activist;
- ❖ Smt. Kailash Mehra, Renowned Singer;
- ❖ Shri Yoginder Koul, IPS (Retd.), Former IGP;
- ❖ Shri Anil Bhat, Bureau Chief, PTI;
- ❖ Shri R. K. Raina, Social Activist;

and Veena, Nisha and Anil Koul, among many other respected members of the community.

The 1st Community Cash Award Function concluded on a high note with appreciation and blessings from the community. The programme reflected the spirit of unity, cultural pride, educational empowerment and encouragement for the young generation.

The joint initiative of Helpline Humanity and Saraswathi Educational, Cultural & Charitable Trust has set a meaningful precedent for recognising community achievers and inspiring future generations to preserve their heritage while achieving excellence in every sphere of life.

Helpline Humanity remains committed to its mission of education, empowerment, skill development, cultural preservation and creating opportunities for the youth and society.





















Div Com hails KPs for thriving in diverse fields

***Community felicitates distinguished personalities**
Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 31: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today attended the '1st Community Cash Award Function' organized by the Saraswathi Educational, Cultural Charitable Trust in

describing it as a land of knowledge, intellectual excellence, art and culture. He said that members of the Kashmiri community have made their mark in diverse fields across the country and the world.

The Divisional Commissioner also acknowl-



Divisional Commissioner felicitating a personality during a function on Monday.

association with Helpline Humanity, here at Abhinav Theatre.

The Divisional Commissioner was the chief guest, while the former Director General of Police Dr. Ashok Bhan attended the function as the special Guest and Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), Arvind Karwani as the guest of honour.

Among others present on the occasion included former Secretary to the Governor of Tamil Nadu and Managing Trustee, Saraswathi Educational, Cultural Charitable Trust, Dr. C.K. Garyali; Board Member Helpline Humanity, Prof. Indu Kilam; Deputy Commissioner, Excise J&K, Sanjay Bhat and Founder, Helpline Humanity, M.K. Bhat, besides other prominent members of the community who were also present on the occasion in big numbers.

The programme was organized to recognize and honour individuals who have made significant contributions to society and brought distinction to the Kashmiri Pandit community in their respective fields.

Addressing the gathering, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the rich historical and cultural legacy of Kashmir,

edged the difficult circumstances faced by the Kashmiri community following the events of the 1990s, stating that despite being displaced from their homeland, members of the community continued to excel in different fields and made significant contributions in India and abroad.

Later, the chief guest presented cash awards of different categories to the distinguished Kashmiri Pandit personalities. Ravi Garyali Cash Award was presented to Dr. Agni Shokhar and Vikram Koul. The Indra Garyali Cash Award was presented to Sandhya Dhar and Dr. Adividvadani Koul. The Ravi Misri Cash Award was conferred to Pandit (Dr.) Abhay Rastum Sopori and Ankur Bagati.

The awardees were felicitated in recognition of their achievements and valuable contributions in their respective fields.

The programme also featured cultural performances by students and cultural groups, showcasing the rich cultural heritage and artistic traditions of the community.

Earlier, Dr. C K Garyali highlighted the objectives of the program and Saraswathi Educational, Cultural Charitable Trust.

Div Com Jammu Hails KPs For Thriving In Diverse Fields; Community Felicitates Distinguished Personalities

DAILY EXCELSIOR
4:00 PM Aug 31, 2024 IST



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Addressing the gathering, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the rich historical and cultural legacy of Kashmir, describing it as a land of knowledge, intellectual excellence, art and culture. He said that members of the Kashmiri community have made their mark in diverse fields across the country and the world.

He appreciated the efforts of the Saraswathi Educational, Cultural Charitable Trust in recognizing achievements from within the community, creating a platform to highlight and reward emerging excellence, promoting cultural identity and bringing the community together.

The Divisional Commissioner also acknowledged the difficult circumstances faced by the Kashmiri community following the events of the 1990s, noting how despite being displaced from their homeland, members of the community continued to excel in different fields and made significant contributions in India and abroad.

He appreciated the efforts of the Trust and Helpline Humanity, for bringing the community together and recognizing individuals who have made extraordinary contributions. He said the trust had not only provided the younger generation with their rich heritage and inspired them to contribute towards nation building and nation-building.



Kashmir Despatch

No. 801046 | Date: September 1, 2026

Jammu: Renowned Santoor maestro Pandit (Dr.) Abhay Rustum Sopori was honoured with the Ravi Misri Award 2026, the 1st Community Cash Award, and bestowed the title 'Vitasta Ratna' by the Saraswathi Educational, Cultural Charitable Trust, Chennai and the Helpline Humanity, Jammu at a special ceremony held at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu.

A son of the soil and the present Uttaradhikari and Khalifa of the ancient Santoor tradition of India, Pandit Abhay Sopori is the custodian of the celebrated Sopori Sufiana Gharana of Kashmir, representing the fabled musical lineage of over 300 years rooted in Kashmir's Shaivite-Sufi tradition. He received his musical training from his grandfather, the Great Master Musician late Pandit Shamboo Nath Sopori, revered as the 'Father of Classical Music' in Jammu & Kashmir, and his father, the legendary Saint Musician Pandit Bhajan Sopori, acclaimed as the 'Saint of Santoor' and 'King of Strings'. An internationally distinguished musician, composer and cultural figure, Pt. Abhay Sopori has received numerous national and international honours during his career. Beyond the concert stage, his contribution to the cultural landscape of Jammu & Kashmir has been significant. He has played an important role in the introduction and expansion of music education across the districts of J&K, nurturing young musicians and strengthening the institutional framework for music education. His sustained efforts also contributed towards the introduction of the Postgraduate Programme in Hindustani Music in Kashmir, a first in the history of the Valley.

The ceremony was attended by Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar as Chief Guest, former Director General of Police Dr. Ashok Bhan as Special Guest, and Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) Arvind Karwani as Guest of Honour. Among those present were former Secretary to the Governor of Tamil Nadu and Managing Trustee of the Saraswathi Educational, Cultural Charitable Trust Dr. Chander Kanta Garyali, Helpline Humanity Board Member Prof. Indu Kilam, Deputy Commissioner Excise J&K Sanjay Bhat, Founder of Helpline Humanity M.K. Bhat, and several distinguished members of the community.

The 1st Community Cash Awards were presented to various eminent personalities of Kashmir. The Ravi Garyali Cash Award was presented to Dr. Agni Shekhar and Vikram Koul, the Indra Garyali Cash Award to Sandhya Dhar and Dr. Adividvadani Kaul, and the Ravi Misri Cash Award was conferred upon Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori and Ankur Bagati.

The programme recognised personalities who have excelled in their respective fields and contributed meaningfully to society and the Kashmiri Pandit community. Speaking on the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted Kashmir's historic legacy as a centre of knowledge, art and culture, while appreciating the resilience and achievements of the Kashmiri community despite the displacement and challenges of the 1990s. He lauded the organisers for honouring achievers and helping connect younger generations with their cultural heritage. The ceremony also featured cultural performances reflecting the rich artistic traditions of Kashmir.