

JKCCA to hold National Art Exhibition dedicated to Artist T S Batra

JANG S. VERMAN



Jammu & Kashmir Centre for Creative Arts (JKCCA), Jammu is going to organize a National Art Exhibition dedicated to veteran artist, Late (Prof.) T S Batra, Former Principal Institute of Music & Fine Arts (IMFA), Jammu. The exhibition is proposed to be held at Kala Kendra, Jammu during the third week of December, 2024. The paintings of about thirty senior and young artists from different states/ UTs of the country will participate in the proposed exhibition.

According to Sh. O P Sharma, Director JKCCA, Sh. T S Batra has prominently contributed in the field of art as an artist and in the field of art education as a teacher. He had

worked with other eminent Indian artists and displayed his art at various places in the country, like Jammu, Srinagar, Amritsar, New Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Harwan (Kashmir), Patiala, and Srinagar. He had been the Founder Advisor of Jammu & Kashmir Centre for Creative Arts (JKCCA), Jammu.

Born in 1944, Prof. T S Batra had participated in 'Kashmir Week' Art Exhibition, N. Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Hyderabad- 1975-79; NZCC Show 'Haryana Utsav'- 1988; Rashtriya Kala Mela, N. Delhi-1974, 94, Bangalore- 1995; 'Individuals' Art Exhibition, Jammu; 'Solids' Show at Chandigarh; 'Panch Amrit' International Art Exhibition, N. Delhi- 1991; Contemporary Dogra Artists Show, Jammu- 1991; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Drawings Biannual, Chandigarh-1992, 94 and 96; Exhibitions of Indian Academy of Fine Arts, Amritsar- 1978, 80, 85, 87 and 2007; Late V. R. Khajuria Memorial Exhibition by Jammu Artists Association- 2006; Solo Show, Kala Kendra, Jammu- 2007; All India Artists' Camp, Harwan (Kashmir); Painters' Workshop at Ptila- 1990; NCERT Workshop, N. Delhi-1995. His art has been put up in the collections of Lalit Kala Akademi, N. Delhi; Cultural Academy, Srinagar; Dogra Art Museum, Jammu; Raj Bhavan, Srinagar; 7 Grenadiers etc.

Prof. Batra served as an art teacher at Institute of Music & Fine Arts (IMFA) and could rise up to the position of Principal of the Institute.

As a humble human being, the legacy &

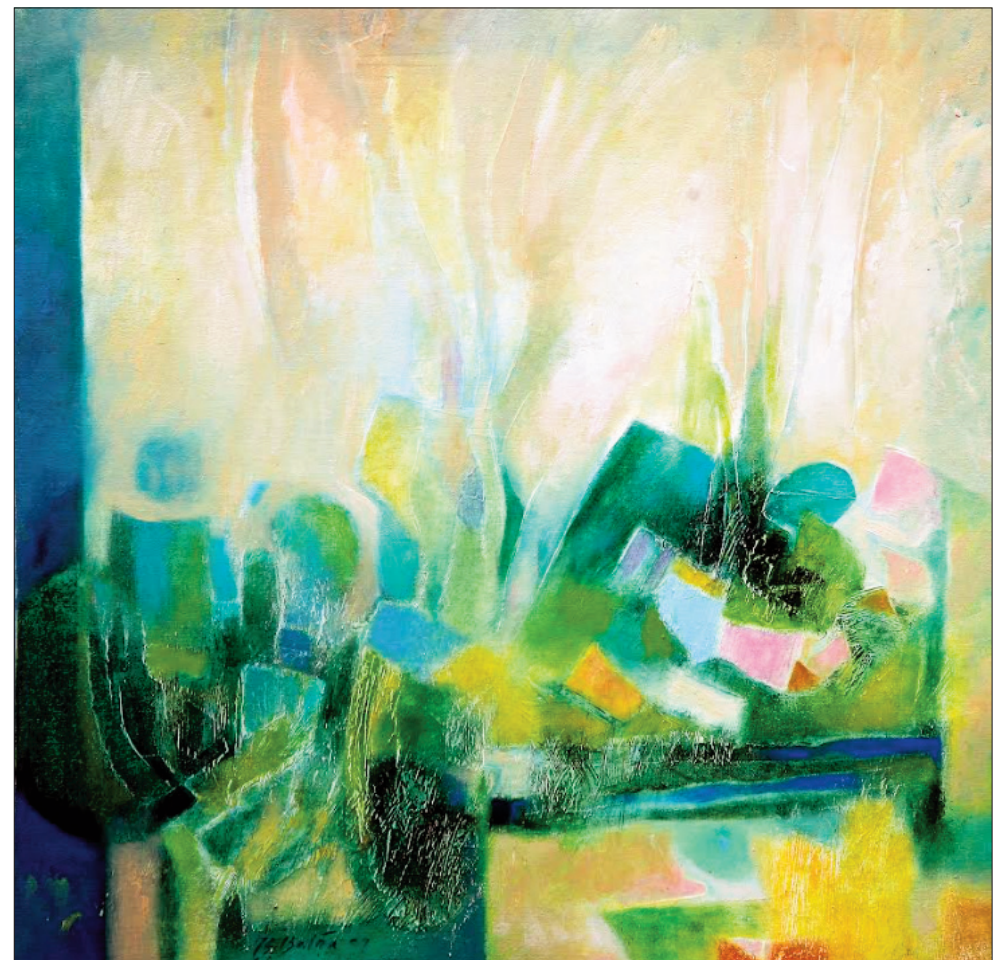
persona of Prof. T S Batra had impacted countless students. That helped his students to pave a ways for themselves in the art field. He had been a Jury Member of many state and national art Exhibitions.

He has been a member of Central Committee of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. His paintings have been executed in expressionist's viewpoint, using lively colours and bold brush strokes.

As an applied artist, he had designed titles, illustrations and other such material for many books etc. It may be mentioned here that Jammu & Kashmir Centre for Creative Arts (JKCCA) is completing twenty five years of its functioning and celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year. This exhibition is a part of the activities scheduled to be organized during the coming days.

The other activities scheduled to be organized by JKCCA include National Painters' Camp during December, 2024; National Exhibition of Paintings, dedicated to Late (Prof.) T S Batra, during December, 2024; Painting Competition at Sunderbani (Rajouri, J&K) during January, 2025; National Exhibition of Art at Indian Academy of Fine Arts (IAFA), Amritsar during February, 2025; National Paintings Camp at SATWAI 9 (Basohli, Kathua) during March, 2025; and to hold an Awards Ceremony Function during April, 2025 to felicitate the artists who have outstandingly contributed in the field of Visual Arts.

The names of the following six artists to be felicitated in this ceremony are K S Gill and Dharminder Sharma, Amritsar; Jang S. Verman, Jammu; Pratima Singh, Lucknow;



Dr. Mamta Singh, Dehradun; and Dr. A K Dixit, New Delhi.

It may be mentioned here that JKCCA has so far organized hundreds of activities within and outside the state, which include

art exhibitions, cultural events, national art camps, and talent hunt events in and outside J&K. JKCCA has successfully organized sixteen international art exhibitions, and many state and national level art exhibitions.

Sangam Theatre Group presents Gulzar's 'Raavi Paar'

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Sangam Theatre Group Reasi presents eminent writer Gulzar's 'Raavi Paar' at auditorium of Tariq College of Education Dassal, Rajouri on 27th November, 2024 on the occasion of two days' 'Dr. Shalinder Sharma Memorial National Drama Festival' organised by Rangmanch Theatre Group Rajouri.

Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri Sh. Abhishek Sharma IAS was the chief guest while eminent personalities present on this occasion included Msrs. Iqbal Shawl, Sajjad Tariq, Beena Joshi and Sidhi Dalal as special guests.

The play dates back to 1947 when people began to see the sun of freedom approaching, but the cost and consequences of it were still unknown. The decision of the British Raj to divide India shattered the lives of many, causing the biggest migration ever happened in history.

The drama revolves around one



Darshan Singh, the central character of the play, who is a Sikh living in undivided India (which is now in Pakistan) and his struggle while migrating from his

land, leaving behind his memories, childhood, dreams, and his mother.

It is a story of a Sikh family that loses the new born babies while cross-

ing River Raavi. The actors effectively portrayed the pain and sufferings of the people with throbbing performances and top notch acting.

The situations depicted brought alive the pain in the hearts of those who witnessed one of the biggest tragedy of modern history.

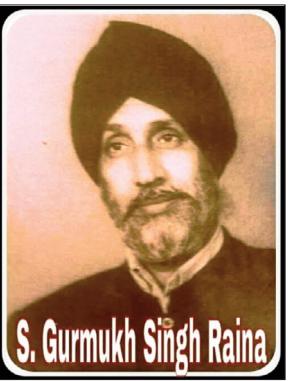
The artist who acted in the play included Akram Khan as Darshan Singh, Vikrant Sharma as Sutardhaar, Dharminder Rathore, Sheikh Zia & Sohail as Dhangai. Lights were arranged by Vikrant Sharma, Set by Amit Singh, Music by Ashfaq Shahzeeb, Make-up by Anil Kumar and the play was staged under Repertory Production, Directed by M. Akram Khan,

The other prominent who were present on the occasion were Vishal Pahari festival director, Shikha Bali, Dr. Vidushi, Amandeep Anand, Tajinder Singh, Suresh Bala, Dr. Ayub, Sanjiv Sharma, Anil Sharma, Tariq Jatt, Vikrant Sharma and Parvaz Malik.

S. Gurmukh Singh Raina Fiction Book Award Announced

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President Punjabi Lekhak Sabha (PLS), Jammu, Dr. Baljit Singh Raina has announced to give 'S. Gurmukh Singh Raina Memorial New Fiction Writer Award' to encourage new Punjabi fiction (stories or novels) writers of Jammu & Kashmir. The award to be given every year by Punjabi Lekhak Sabha, Jammu will carry a cash prize of Rs. 11000/-, a shawl, a citation and a memento. The first S.



Gurmukh Singh Raina Memorial Punjabi Fiction Award: 2023 will be given to S. Jang S. Verman at KL Sehgal Hall, Writers' Club Jammu on 4 December 2024 at 11:30 am, for his first collection of stories 'Do Ghatt Terahn Kahaniyan'.

It may be mentioned here that S. Gurmukh Singh Raina was born on 27th June, 1934 in the village of Kachili, Tehsil and District Muzaffarabad, Kashmir to Mata Darshan Kaur and Sardar Tara Singh. He served at B. Ed. College, Jammu and retired from there. He was popular as Master Gurmukh Singh. He had a great passion for reading and writing. Whereas he was a researcher, he was also a good writer. His two fiction books- 'Ban Khoudh', story collection, and 'Darpan', a novel, have been published. Apart from this, 'Roshan Minar Sant Dera Danna'; a book 'Some Interesting Information about the Sikh Society and Important Answers' have also been published. Apart from a book of poetry 'Pavitra Marg', a lot of his religious research work has also been published in the form of pamphlets from time to time. His son Dr. Baljit Singh Raina is a famous writer of in Punjabi and Hindi, in J&K and his daughter-in-law Surinder Kaur Neer is also a famous writer in Punjabi.

It was announced that if someone's first fiction book (novel or book of stories) is published during 2024, it can be sent the President, Punjabi Lekhak Sabha, Jammu (Mo- 9797657211) for consideration for the 2025 award. The writer can be of any age, or any genre of writing but only the first fiction book by the writer, published in the related year (1st January to 31st December) will be considered for the award.

Rangmanch Theatre Group organizes 2 days' Theatre Workshop

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Theatre is important in many ways since it promotes education and opens young minds to new vocabulary & communication methods. Keeping these benefits in mind, Rangmanch Theatre Group, Rajouri organized two days workshop on 'Theatre & its Relevance with Life' at National Public Higher Secondary School Rajouri on Rajouri, 27th and 28th November, 2024.

The aim of the workshop was to get the students come in touch with their creative and theatrical side, through intensive and interactive theatre workshops.

The effort of Rangmanch Theatre Group has been to take education and learning beyond class-

rooms. Beena Joshi, an eminent Gujarati and Hindi Theatre director instructed students on the techniques of theatre.

The workshop's major goal was to provide students with theatre education in addition to the education they receive from books so that students can explore themselves in this field as well.

"Students were quite jubilant that for the first time, a workshop was held in their school." said Vishal Pahari the eminent theatre Director & Founder of Rangmanch Theatre Group, Rajouri.

The Chairman of the School, Kanav Badyal lauded the efforts of Vishal Pahari for promoting theatre in Pir Panjaal and also thanked him for organizing the two days' theatre workshop at his campus.



M. Jackson Cultural Group participates in Pumbuch' Festival in Mumbai

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The grand event of 'Pumbuch'- the cultural, art, architecture and food festival of Mumbai was organized this year from 22nd November to 24th November, 2027 at Infinity Mall in Malad Suburb of Mumbai by its organizer, Mrs. Suparna Sapru. This live event showcased music, dance, art, cuisine and crafts of Kashmir with live demos of each aspect.

Many famous film artists and cultural artists attended this event, which included Deepak Parashar and Sandeepa Dhar. Kiran Kumar, Tej Sapru, Preeti Sapru, Lalit Parimoo, Deepak Parashar, Padmini Kolhapuri,

and K K Raina. Famous Kashmiri singer Dilip Langoo fused traditional folk songs and Urdu Gazals in this festival.

Famous Sufi artist Noor Mohammad and rising stars of Kashmiri music Rahul Wanchoo and Harshita Pandita also presented and performed their items.

In the dance category, Jackson Group performed its dance performances choreographed by J R Sharma 'Jackson', assisted by Ridhima Sharma.

Whereas Pumbuch came up with beautiful Pherans and other facets of Kashmiri costume, the Jammu-based troupe blended traditional and contemporary dance. Traditional Kashmiri cui-

sine was on offer there where people enjoyed all the Wazwan, Kahwa and traditional vegetarian dishes, sweet dishes and desserts. The event was attended by many eminent personalities from the film industry every day.

Suparna Sapru, the organiser of the festival told that Pumbuch Festival is the first event to be held in about 34 years which includes a combination of Kashmir's art, culture, music, dance, costumes, architecture and food items etc.

Director Suparna Sapru heartily appreciated Directorate of Handicrafts JK Govt., Directorate of Tourism JK Govt. and their artisans, Team Kashmiri Pandit Association Mumbai for their support.

