



Academy's drama fest concludes, theatre lovers hail revival of activity

Srinagar, June 11, 2013

The Drama Festival organized by J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages in Kashmir concluded here today with a large number of artists and theatre lovers appreciating the Academy for reviving the important annual theatre activity in the valley.

The festival was held after a gap of four years.

On the last day, Roshan Art Centre staged its play, *Phir Thur*. The play was written by Gayasuddin Sheikh and directed by Rashid Reshi.

The Festival started on June 3 at the Government College for Women, M. A. Road auditorium. In all, eight plays were staged by different theatre groups of Kashmir. The significant aspect of the festival was that all the plays were written in Kashmiri language even as there was no language restriction.

During the festival, large numbers of theatre lovers witnessed the plays and the auditorium remained packed.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Academy, Khalid Bashir Ahmad said that the Festival turned out to be a grand success gauging the number and the interest of the audience. He said he was pleased to see the enthusiasm shown by people towards the festival some of whom, he said, regularly posted pictures of the plays on Facebook, updating friends. He said that his effort would be to ensure that the festival is held annually in Kashmir without any break. He said within days, the entries for Play Script Competition will be invited to revive another theatre related activity.

The Secretary referred to the ongoing Kashmir Folk Festival during which among other forms of folk, *Bhand Paether* is staged at different tourist places of Kashmir. The festival, he said, has attracted lot of interest from tourists and locals.

Khalid thanked the participating theatre groups for their cooperation and interest in reviving the important theatre activity in Kashmir. Nine plays were scheduled to be staged during the Drama Festival. However, one of the theatre groups, Mehboob Cultural Society scheduled to stage *Shinakhti Card* on June 12, withdrew at the last moment due to the non-availability of their lead actor.

During the festival the eight plays staged include *Rath Vandai Malinyo*, *Pagah Sholi Duniyah*, *Secret Plan*, *Musaafir*, *Na-Maloom*, *Yeli Shaam Gatchhi*, *Nyay* and *Phir Thur*.
