

**Minister culture gives away State Photography Awards, inaugurates photo exhibition**  
**Puja, Anand, Wani bag first three prizes, others get consolation prizes**

**Jammu, April, 15, 2013**

Minister for Horticulture, Culture and Housing, Raman Bhalla Monday gave away the Annual State Photography Award to winners of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the photography competition. The award is instituted by the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages for promotion of excellence in the field of still photography. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister commended the efforts of the Academy for running schemes like these, which aim at promoting different forms of creativity. He assured the Academy that the government would extend all possible help required for promotion of various art forms of the State.



The Minister also inaugurated the annual photography exhibition at Kala Kendra here, which will remain open for public viewing till 20<sup>th</sup> of this month. The exhibition comprises the photographs received for the photography competition. Earlier in his welcome remarks, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Khalid Bashir Ahmad said that for the 4th edition of the Photography Award as many as 89 entries were received by the Academy of which 67 were selected for the competition. Khalid also informed that the prize money of Rs 15,000, Rs 10,000 and Rs 7,000 for the first, second and third prizes has now been enhanced to Rs 20,000, Rs 15,000, and Rs 10,000 respectively and would be applicable from the next edition of the competition.

The awardees include Ms Puja (first prize) for her photo titled Purity, Channi Anand (second prize) for his picture In an Animal Conflict and Abrar Ali Wani (third prize) for his image Devotion. Consolation prizes of Rs 1,000 each were also conferred upon the winners. Those who got the prizes included Maqsood Bhat, Mir Sarwar, Mushtaq Assad and Parveen Kumar.



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