



## Academy recreates old Kashmir

CM inaugurates 2-day Kashmir Heritage Exhibition, describes collection as 'excellent'

**Srinagar, September 18, 2013**

A major exhibition to showcase Kashmir heritage started here Wednesday drawing visitors, interested in the valley's rich cultural legacy, in large numbers.



Inaugurated by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, the 2-day Kashmir Heritage Exhibition unravels Kashmir's glorious past through rich collection of art, craft, costume, jewellery, household items, manuscripts, images, musical instruments and archaeology.

The exhibition is organized by J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages in collaboration with some government departments and non-governmental organizations including the departments of archives, archaeology & museums, handicrafts, Meeras Mahal Museum, National Bhand Theatre and Nostalgic Kashmir.



The Chief Minister evinced keen interest in the exhibition and spent about 45 minutes looking at and knowing about each object. He was conducted by Secretary Academy, Khalid Bashir Ahmad.

Appreciating the exhibition and the rich collection on display, the Chief Minister wrote on the Visitors' Book, "An excellent collection combining both private collection and treasures of the Academy. Walking through the displays one gets an idea of diverse history and culture of Kashmir. This exhibition is a small display of what Kashmir and *Kashmiriyat* is all about." He wished the organizers and contributors all success.

"The exposition is a window to our past and allows people, especially the young generation, to see the life and events in old Kashmir", said Secretary Academy, Khalid Bashir Ahmad. He said most of the things used by people in old times and have either vanished or are slowly disappearing from the scene are at display giving. He said similar exhibitions will be held about Jammu and Ladakh heritage. The exhibition at Jammu will be held in December and the one at Leh at a subsequent date.

Pertinent to recall that due to the onslaught of modern times most of our heritage has been lost and many traditions, customs and costumes have died out or are slowly disappearing from the scene. With this background, the exhibition assumes great significance as it generates interest among the people about the past and also helps in the preservation of rich cultural traditions.



At display are rare photographs of old Kashmir, wood, willow, earthen, metal and stone craft, grass works, costumes, ornaments, archaeological finds, calligraphy specimen and rare manuscripts including the 12<sup>th</sup> century calligraphed copy of the holy Quran, Bhagwana Geeta in the ancient Sharda script.

A cross section of the society including youth and students of different educational institutions visited the exhibition on the inaugural day. They were highly impressed with the displays. Jnanpith awardee and prominent Kashmiri poet, Rehman Rahi, said that "the exhibition has unveiled old Kashmir before my eyes". He described the displays as very important for an introduction with the past. Noted writer of Dogri, Prof. Nilambar Dev Sharma, described the exhibition as "a stimulating experience", adding that "one gets rare glimpse of the past of Kashmir- rich diverse and all embracing".

The exhibition will be open on Thursday also from 10.30 AM to 4. 30 AM.

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