

# KU's annual youth festival 'Sonzal-2025' concludes



**Srinagar Nov 27:** The University of Kashmir's (KU) annual youth festival Sonzal-2025, organised by the Division of Youth Affairs under the aegis of Department of Students Welfare (DSW), concluded with a valedictory and prize distribution ceremony on Thursday. Held at the varsity's Convocation Complex, the event marked the closure of a week-long showcase of student talent and creativity.

This year's edition brought together hundreds of students from varsity's main and satellite campuses, alongside participants from affiliated and constituent colleges across the Valley. Over the past seven days, students engaged in a range of cultural, literary, and creative competitions, turning the festival into a space for expression, collaboration, and artistic exchange. It featured events including quiz, debate, elocution, collage-making, poster-making, painting, rangoli competition, cartoon-making, clay-modelling, Indian and Western vocals and other activities.

Speaking at the valedictory ceremony, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, applauded the dedication shown by students throughout the festival.

"Sonzal is both a festival and a meeting ground for diverse voices and emerging talent. Our students have participated with exceptional energy. We must now aim to scale it into a national-level event by inviting universities from across the country," she said.

She also congratulated participants, jury members, and organisers for the smooth conduct of the festival and noted that platforms like Sonzal help youngsters articulate ideas, share experiences, and discover new strengths beyond academics.

Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Mohammad Mobin, highlighted the significance of cultural forums in shaping confident and socially aware youth. Additional Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Ideel Saleem (JKAS), appreciated the artistic range displayed by the participants and reaffirmed the Academy's support for such initiatives.

Earlier, Dean Students Welfare KU, Prof. Pervez Ahmed, in his welcome address, spoke about the festival's role in nurturing emerging talent and expanding opportunities for students to learn and lead.

The ceremony also witnessed the presence of heads of various departments, faculty members, scholars, and students.

The event featured a melodious musical performance by noted Kashmiri singer Irfan Bilal, adding vibrance to the valedictory session.

The event concluded with the distribution of awards and certificates to winners, participants, and jury members.

Dr. Shahid Ali Khan, Cultural Officer DSW KU and organising secretary of Sonzal-2025, conducted the proceedings of the valedictory session. The festival was sponsored by J&K Bank, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, and Cemtac Cements.