

6th July, 2020

Webinar featuring Padmashri Balwant Thakur organized by the Department of Students Welfare, JU



To cater to the emotional well-being of students and to enrich their skills and thought process during Covid-19 pandemic, the Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu, initiated a 'Webinar Lecture Series' which would feature experts from different fields of art, culture and performing arts to interact with the students. In the inaugural lecture Padamshri Balwant Thakur currently Cultural Diplomat of India to South Africa and an eminent Theatre Director was the speaker. He enlightened the participants on the topic 'Positivity through Theatre and its Global Scenario'. Prof. Manoj K. Dhar, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu was the Chief Guest in the webinar.

In his inaugural remarks, Prof. Manoj K. Dhar highlighted the importance of such innovative events to cater to the emotional well-being of the students besides enriching their skills in different fields. He complemented Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Jasbir Singh and his entire team for coming forward with this online 'Webinar Lecture Series' during pandemic to engage students in meaningful activities. He also expressed happiness regarding the inaugural lecture by Padmashri Balwant Thakur, son of the soil and a proud alumnus of the University of Jammu whose creative journey is an epitome of persistence and positivity. Introducing the

Resource Person, Prof. Anupama Vohra informed that Balwant Thakur is one of the most creative theatre directors of the country who has given a new identity to Indian theatre with his highly innovative theatre productions besides bringing Dogri theatre and children's theatre to national and international limelight through remarkable performances.

In his lecture, Mr. Thakur deliberated in detail on the importance of theatre in imbuing positivity, discipline, imagination, creativity and strong emotional well-being in people and stressing that the same is required in abundance during the pandemic time to counter stress, monotony and depression. He nostalgically acknowledged his formative days at the University of Jammu which carved a lasting impact on his creative journey. The lecture was followed by an interactive session by the participants in which very important and relevant questions were discreetly answered by Mr. Balwant Thakur. The lecture was attended by large number of students, scholars, teachers and members of the civil society.