



JKAACL has no budget to promote artists: Manhas

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Sameer Showkin

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Ensemble Kashmir Theatre Akademi (EKTA) Sunday held an interactive session with the students interested in theatre-arts.

Speaking during the session, the founder of EKTA, Bhawani Bashir Yasir said the institute was originally established in 1989 but was closed due to the unfavorable conditions. “We again reopened it in 2004 but lack of seriousness on part of the government left us in a tight situation.”

The seminar was presided over by prominent historian and MLC Mohammad Yousuf Teing, while Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages (JKAACL), Zafar Iqbal Manhas was the guest of honour on the occasion.

In his speech, Manhas said theatre plays an important role in the life of a person. “But in Kashmir the situation is miserable as we are not able to promote the artists.”

Manhas said Kashmir has a lot of talent but what is lacking is the infrastructure. “We are helpless as the Academy is without budget. I personally ran pillar to post to get the funds released for the Academy but in vain,” he added.

Manhas further said, “Theatre in Jammu gets lot of money but in Kashmir we get nothing. Why Kashmiri artist groups fail to get chances to perform outside the State?”

Noted poet and writer Farooq Nazki was also present on the occasion. In his speech he said life is incomplete and colorless without theatre.

“Theatre in Kashmir was going at good pace, but during 1990’s the curtains of theatre fell down and are still unable to stand again.”

During the interaction session, Teng said, “We should rejuvenate the soul and spirit of theatre in the valley. Kashmir has a lot of talent but proper guidance and facilities are needed. We should be able to produce actors who will make us proud in whole India.”

Prominent theatre artist Pran Kishore and several others were also present in the interactive session.