



Office of the Principal

# Govt. Degree College Pampore

NAAC ACCREDITED GRADE B<sup>+</sup> (CGPA=2.6)

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## Celebrating International Women's Day

**Dated: 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**

**Venue: Lal Ded, Conference Hall, New Academic Block**

Under the able guidance of the worthy Principal Prof. (Dr) Huda Galzai, the Women's Development Cell of the college celebrated International Women's Day on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 in Lal Ded Conference Hall at 11 am. The event aimed to commemorate the achievements of women globally and discuss pertinent issues surrounding gender equality, with a particular focus on combating economic disempowerment.

The theme for International Women's Day 2024 is "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress." This theme underscores the significance of investing in women's empowerment and economic opportunities to expedite progress towards gender equality. The event started with the welcome address delivered by the esteemed Principal Prof. (Dr) Huda Galzai. In her speech, Prof. Galzai commented on the commendable role played by women in the society. She talked about economic independence, decision making power, equity and gender equality in both domestic spaces and work places as key aspects of Women Empowerment. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. (Dr) Samina Yesvi, Cordinator, Women's Development Cell. In her speech she highlighted the theme of inclusivity, gender sensitivity and economic sustainability.

Three women entrepreneurs from Kashmir were invited as guests to share their inspiring success stories in the programme. Their success stories served as an inspiration to aspiring entrepreneurs and underscored the importance of passion and creativity in achieving business excellence. The first speaker Miss Sana Imtiyaz, the founder of Sweet Temptations Bakery outlet, delivered a captivating speech at the event. She shared her journey of establishing Sweet Temptations and how her designer cakes quickly gained popularity in Srinagar. Sana's

dedication to crafting unique and delicious cakes for special occasions has made Sweet Temptations a favourite among the city's residents, who trust her to add sweetness to their cherished moments like weddings, birthdays, and other events. The second speaker, Nava Shah, the enterprising entrepreneur behind 'Jamkle Jars,' delivered an inspiring speech at the event. As an MBA graduate from Kashmir University, she embarked on her entrepreneurial journey fuelled by her passion for cooking and her desire to establish her own enterprise. With 'Jamkle Jars,' Nava introduced unique, organic varieties of pickles to the market, including innovative flavors like Kashmiri mix veg, chicken, mutton, garlic, beetroot, and dates pickles, all crafted using organic techniques. Her dedication to quality and innovation garnered a positive response from customers, leading to an influx of orders and the steady growth of her business. Nava's journey highlights the importance of perseverance, creativity, and family support in entrepreneurial success. She emphasized the need for women to harness their skills and pursue their entrepreneurial dreams, encouraging every girl to step forward and make a difference. The third speaker, Miss Saima Shafi, affectionately known as 'Kral Koor,' shared her journey of revitalizing the traditional art of pottery in Kashmir. As a civil engineer, she merged her passion for pottery with modern techniques, breathing new life into this ancient craft. Through research, education, and the establishment of her pottery studio, Saima exemplifies the power of innovation and dedication in preserving cultural heritage while embracing progress. Her story resonates as a testament to the transformative potential of women in traditionally male-dominated fields and the impact of their contributions on society. The success stories narrated by the women entrepreneurs served as an inspiration to aspiring entrepreneurs, especially women, to pursue their ambitions and contribute to economic empowerment and growth.

Further, Dr Mohammad Iqbal Malik, Head, Department of Islamic Studies, also enlightened the audience how Islamic principles coexist with feminist ideologies, emphasizing the importance of interpreting Islamic teachings in a contemporary context that promotes gender equality and social justice. His discourse shed light on the potential for synergy between Islam and feminism, fostering understanding and dialogue between these often perceived as conflicting perspectives. Drawing from the rich tapestry of Islamic tradition, Dr. Malik articulated how foundational Islamic teachings espouse principles of justice, compassion, and equality, which inherently support the pursuit of gender equality. He elucidated how the Quran and Hadith, when interpreted through a progressive lens, advocate for the

empowerment and rights of women, challenging patriarchal interpretations that have historically marginalized them.

Students from different semesters attended the programme. Besides, the students of the Department of Music melodiously celebrated the ideals of motherhood and women empowerment in the cultural programme. The event was moderated by Prof. Redwan Nayeem, Head, Department of Commerce. Prof. Aliya Muzaffar, Assistant Professor, Department of English delivered the formal vote of thanks and Dr Shaifta Ayoub, Head, Department of English acted as the rapporteur for the event.

The Women's Day celebration at Government Degree College Pampore served as a platform for insightful discussions on the theme "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress." The speakers highlighted the urgency of combatting economic disempowerment among women through targeted investments, supportive policies, and collective action. The event inspired attendees to actively contribute to creating a more inclusive and equitable society where women can fully realize their potential and contribute to accelerated progress.



