

Ruskin Bond Book Club of JKPS Kunjwani celebrates Ramayana Tale-Telling



Students of Ruskin Bond Book Club of JK Public School, Kunjwani with faculty at a vibrant and engaging Ramayana tale-telling event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ruskin Bond Book Club of JK Public School, Kunjwani recently organized a vibrant and engaging Ramayana tale-telling event, featuring spirited narra-

tebrate Diwali. This activity aimed to bring alive the timeless epic of Ramayana, fostering cultural understanding and creative expression among students.

With enthusiastic participation, students and teachers of the book club recounted

episodes from the Ramayana, illustrating the epic hero Rama's journey, his virtues, and the battles between good and evil. The storytelling session not only deepened participants' appreciation of one of India's greatest epics but also highlighted lessons

of duty, valor, righteousness, and devotion embedded in the Ramayana. This event was part of the Book Club's ongoing mission to promote reading, cultural heritage, and creative engagement among learners.

Principal JKPS Kunjwani Rajesh

Rathore praised the young storytellers for their artistic enthusiasm and collaborative spirit, calling the event "a beautiful homage to Indian heritage through the voices of our students."

He further added, "such programs not

only nurture reading habits but also encourage empathy, leadership, and communication. The school plans to host more interactive literary sessions that spotlight student creativity and storytelling excellence'.

JKCA's Meenu Slathia convenes meeting, chaired by DDCA's Reema Malhotra

History in the Making: Two JKCA players, two officials feature in North Zone Sr Women's T20 Squad

Bawandeep, Ananaya make the cut; Mariya named in Stand-bys

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JAMMU: In a historic moment for Jammu and Kashmir cricket, two talented players from the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) - opening batter Bawandeep Kaur and leg-spinner Ananaya Sharma have been selected to represent North Zone in the upcoming Inter-Zonal Senior Women's T20 Tournament.

Adding further pride, Mariya Noorain, the emerging pace bowler, has earned a place among the stand-bys for the prestigious zonal squad. The landmark selection meeting of the North Zone Senior Women's Selection Committee was hosted by the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) at its Headquarters, Hostel Ground, Jammu.

The proceedings were chaired by Reema Malhotra, former India international and representative of DDCA, and convened by Meenu Singh Slathia, former J&K star



cricketer and Member of the JKCA Cricket Advisory Committee.

The selection marks a milestone in JKCA's growing presence on the national cricket map. The inclusion of Bawandeep and Ananaya in the North Zone squad stands as a testament to the association's robust grassroots structure, steady talent grooming, and the increasing impact of J&K's women cricketers at the national level.

Apart from Reema Malhotra and Meenu Singh Slathia, the meeting was attended by Poonam

Bhardwaj (HCA), Rajwinder Kour (PCA), Surinder Mehta (HPCA), Amit Prashar (UTCA) and Ankita Jalla (JKCA).

Brig Anil Gupta, Member Administration JKCA has expressed pride in the JKCA players' achievement, emphasizing that such historic representation will inspire aspiring cricketers across the Union Territory to aim higher in women's cricket.

Bawandeep Kaur got the selectors nod for displaying outstanding skills with the willow, scoring around 150 runs in Sr Women's T20 Trophy this season and

around 200 runs last season, while Ananaya Sharma was picked in the party for spinning web around the rival batters consistently from the last three seasons.

The North Zone squad included Harleen Deol (Vice Captain) HPCA; Amanjot Kour PCA; Shafali Verma (Captain) HCA; Deeya Yadav HCA; Shweta Schrawat DDCA; Ayushi Soni DDCA; Taniya Bhatia UTCA; SM Singh HPCA; Bharti Rawal DDCA; Bawandeep Kour JKCA; Mannat Kashyap PCA; Amandeep Kaur HCA; Komalpreet

Kour PCA; Ananya Sharma JKCA and Soni Yadav DDCA.

The stand-bys included Neetu Singh PCA; Suman Gulia HCA; Parunika DDCA; Mariya Noorain JKCA; Aradhna Bisht UTCA and Neena Chaudhary HPCA.

The meeting decided that in case Harleen Deol and Amanjot Kour are not available, Nazma (DDCA) shall replace Harleen Deol and Nandini (UTCA) shall replace Amanjot Kour.

Moreover, in the absence of Harleen Deol, Shweta Sherawat will act as Vice-Captain, while in case of availability of Harleen and Amanjot, Nazma and Nandini will be considered as stand-bys.

The Support Staff will include Deepti Dyani Head Coach (DDCA); Sayima Rashid Asst. Coach (JKCA); Veena Panday S&C Coach (HPCA); Vishakha Rathi Physiotherapist (PCA); Ravi Dogra Manager (JKCA); Rajesh Olhan Performance Analyst (HCA) and Pavitra Masseur (DDCA).

LG Kavinder flags off solo motorbike expedition 'Mission Bharat' from Kargil



Lt Governor Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta flagging off solo motorbike expedition.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Friday flagged off the solo motorbike expedition titled 'Mission Bharat' from Raj Niwas, Kargil. The expedition is being undertaken by noted biker and social entrepreneur Deepak Bharadia from Pune, Maharashtra.

The 7,500-km journey, beginning from Kargil, will traverse some of the most challenging terrains of the country-stretching from the icy heights of Ladakh to the southern tip of India at Kanyakumari, and finally concluding at Pune via the scenic western coast. The expedition aims to empower local communities, raise

awareness on sustainable development, and promote national integration through citizen participation.

While flagging off the expedition, the Lt Governor lauded biker and social entrepreneur's spirit of adventure and commitment to social causes. He said that initiatives like Mission Bharat exemplify the true essence of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" and help bring together people from diverse regions and backgrounds.

Highlighting Ladakh's growing role in promoting adventure tourism, environmental stewardship, and youth engagement, LG Kavinder said that the UT Administration is committed to making Ladakh a hub of

adventure, education, and culture. He emphasised that such initiatives not only showcase Ladakh's unique geography and resilience but also inspire the youth of India to pursue meaningful and responsible travel.

"Ladakh has always been a land of inspiration and courage. From this frontier region, messages of peace, unity, and sustainability should resonate across the country," he remarked. He added that the administration is working to enhance eco-tourism, strengthen road infrastructure, and provide greater support to youth-led initiatives that align with national goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047.

Shaurya Pratap Singh of JKPS Panjtirthi wins silver at 10th J&K UT Pencak Silat C'ship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 10th J&K UT Pencak Silat Championship 2025-26 was successfully held at the Indoor Stadium, Polo Ground, Srinagar. The championship witnessed enthusiastic participation from talented athletes across the Union Territory.

Shaurya Pratap Singh, a Class 9 student of JKPS Panjtirthi, showcased remarkable skill and determination, winning the silver medal in the championship. His performance brought laurels to the school and made his teachers and peers proud.

The Principal of JKPS Panjtirthi, Suman Banbah, congratulated Shaurya on his achievement and said, "Success is almost totally dependent upon drive and persistence. The extra energy required to make another effort or try another approach is the secret of winning."

Shaurya's accomplishment reflects not only his talent but also the importance of hard work, dedication, and perseverance in achieving excellence in sports.



Handball selection trials from Oct 29

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The J&K Handball Association will conduct selection trials for the upcoming 37th Federation Cup Handball Championship (Men), scheduled to be held at Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) from November 25 to 29, 2025. The trials will take place at the Playing Field, Shastri Nagar, Jammu, on October 29 and 30, 2025, at 4:00 PM.

Rajesh Chandan, General Secretary, J&K Handball Association, urged all affiliated units to send their best players for the trials, emphasizing fair selection and strong representation from J&K in the national championship.

Sky Soarr Entertainment Park opens in Jammu as J&K's Largest Indoor Entertainment Destination

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sky Soarr Entertainment Park, Jammu & Kashmir's largest indoor entertainment destination, has officially opened in Jammu. The park was inaugurated on Friday by Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, at its newly developed facility located in Narwal adjacent to Kia Motors showroom.

Sky Soarr Entertainment Park is the first-of-its-kind indoor entertainment hub in the region, using top quality imported equipment designed not only for children but equally for teenagers, adults, and families. The park currently features a world-class Trampoline Zone, Adventure Rope Course, and a Kid's Soft be Play Arena, along



with two spacious party halls capable of hosting gatherings of over 100 people, and a dedicated café offering a premium hospitality experience.

Developed under the KC Group banner, Sky Soarr represents a major milestone in Jammu's growth as a modern leisure and tourism destination. With over 50 engaging activities integrated across its attractions, the park brings international-

standard indoor adventure and recreation to Jammu for the very first time.

Inaugurating the facility, Ramesh Kumar, IAS said the opening of Sky Soarr is a landmark development for Jammu, positioning it as a new hub for entertainment, community engagement, and youth recreation. The park is set to attract not only residents but also tourists and visitors from neighboring

regions. Representing Sky Soarr Entertainment Park at the inauguration were Raju Chowdhary, Chairman KC Group, and Siddhant Chowdhary, Managing Director, Chowdhary, Director along with senior leadership and distinguished invitees.

"This entertainment Park reflects KC Groups vision of bringing world-class recreational infrastructure to Jammu," said Raju Chowdhary.

"It is a proud moment not only for our group but for the region, as Sky Soarr will provide families and individuals of all age groups with a safe, modern environment for celebration, physical engagement, and entertainment."

Managing Director

Siddhant Chowdhary added that Sky Soarr has been created to foster active lifestyles and shared experiences. "This park is not just for children-it is for everyone. Our zones have been designed to deliver excitement, fitness, and joy to adults and youth as much as to kids. Sky Soarr is where Jammu comes to play, celebrate, and create memories."

Sky Soarr Entertainment Park is expected to significantly contribute to the local economy, generate employment, and establish Jammu as a key entertainment and lifestyle hub in North India.

KC Group's leadership reaffirmed their commitment to expanding Jammu's hospitality and entertainment's footprint with globally benchmarked infrastructure.

Volleyball Tournament under CAP organised by JKAP 8th Bn

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Volleyball Tournament under the Civic Action Programme 2025-26 was inaugurated by JKAP 8th Battalion at its Headquarters, Miran Sahib, Jammu.

The event is being organized under the supervision of Sh. Suram Singh, JKPS (SSP), Commandant JKAP 8th Battalion.

On October 24, 2025, the inaugural match was played between Government Degree College, R.S. Pura and Simbal Volleyball Club. The event began with great enthusiasm and witnessed active participation from the local youth and sports enthusiasts.

While addressing the gathering, Commandant Suram Singh highlighted the crucial role of the Jammu and Kashmir Police in strengthening police-public relations and promoting social harmony through sports and community initiatives.

He emphasized the importance of sports in character building, team spirit, and in



keeping the youth away from social evils. He also assured that the Police Department would continue to organize similar activities in the future under the Civic Action Programme to encourage youth participation in constructive pursuits.

The participants and local citizens appreciated the efforts of JKAP 8th Battalion for providing an engaging platform for the youth. The inaugural day witnessed an impressive turnout, with the public applauding the commitment of J&K Police-particularly JKAP 8th Battalion-for promoting a vibrant sports

culture in the region. The programme was conducted in a cordial and disciplined manner, reflecting the spirit of unity, cooperation, and mutual respect between the police and the public. At the conclusion of the first day's matches, players were presented with individual certificates of participation.

The tournament will continue on a regular basis and is scheduled to culminate in the first week of November 2025. Matches are being organized for both boys and girls teams.

The event also witnessed the presence and active involvement of the Battalion officers

including Chanderjeet Singh, SSP (Dy. CO), Bhupinder Singh, DySP, Om Prakash, DySP, Tilak Raj, DySP, and Prabhu Dayal, DySP, whose efforts contributed to the successful conduct of the tournament.

Several prominent personalities and educationists also graced the event, including Rajeev Sharma (PPS Miran Sahib Jammu), Shamali (Mother India Secondary School R.S. Pura), Gurmeet Singh (Govt. Boys High School Kotli Shah Doula), Gurjeet Singh (Army Public School Miran Sahib), Manmeet Singh (Simbal Volleyball Club), Shubam Mehta (J&K Public School Kunjwani) and Rupali Salathia (Govt. Degree College R.S. Pura).

The tournament stands as a shining example of the Jammu and Kashmir Police's ongoing commitment to community engagement, youth empowerment, and promotion of sportsmanship across the region.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An advanced P-4 paragliding training course at Bir Billing, Himachal Pradesh one of the most renowned paragliding destinations in the world took off today morning at the off site campus of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (ABVMAS), Manali.

Aijaz Qaiser, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, and Amarpal Singh, I/C Adventure Section, accompanied the local paragliding pilots to Bir Billing and represented the department during the formal start of training programme.

The training course organised by the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu for 21 local paragliding pilots including a lady pilot. The course is part of the Department's

Soaring start for JK Tourism's P-4 Paragliding Course at Bir Billing, Himachal



Participants of P-4 paragliding training course at Bir Billing, Himachal Pradesh.

sustained efforts to promote adventure tourism and develop Aithem as a major paragliding destination on the directions of the Chief Secretary, J&K, Shri Atal Dulloo, IAS. The initiative is aimed at strengthening skill development among local youth and boost Jammu's profile.

The course is being conducted under the overall guidance of Shri Ashish

Chander Verma, Additional chief Secretary, Tourism Department, and Vikas Gupta, Director Tourism, Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Aijaz Qaiser, said that The Department is committed to diversify the tourism activities in the Jammu region and provide professional training opportunities to local youth. Such

initiatives will not only enhance skill levels but also help position Jammu as a preferred destination for adventure enthusiasts."

This initiative marks another significant step by the Directorate towards developing sustainable adventure tourism infrastructure and promoting Jammu as a hub for outdoor and nature-based experiences.