

# Honouring Heroes of the Homeland: JKPS Kunjwani pays tribute to Jammu's Protectors & Pioneers



Principal JK Public School Kunjwani Rajesh Rathore and students addressing morning assembly.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** "A local hero is a person who performs deeds of great courage or is widely admired for their contribution to a community." With this powerful opening, Ishaan set the tone for the morning assembly on the theme "Local Heroes & Global Impact" at JK Public School, Kunjwani, conducting it with confidence and poise alongside his classmates.

Adding deeper insight, he reflected, "Heroes continue their journey with courage, resilience and hope, despite facing obstacles. They discover within themselves - and through the support of others - the strength to rise again."

The assembly grew more compelling as Raghav highlighted the legendary General Zorawar Singh, fondly remembered as the 'Napoleon of India'. He praised the military genius who carried the Indian flag across Ladakh, Baltistan, and Tibet - a shining symbol of Himalayan valour and national pride.

A heartwarming poem was recited by Deewanshi, celebrating the spirit of unsung heroes whose roots may be local but whose impact reaches far beyond boundaries:

"In valley deep and mountains high,  
 Brave hearts rose beneath our sky...  
 From local soil

their dreams took flight,  
 Their deeds now glow with global light...  
 Local heroes - humble and true,  
 The world is better because of you."

Under the segment Quotations, Maanik paid glowing tribute to Brigadier Rajinder Singh, the valiant saviour of Jammu & Kashmir in 1947, whose unparalleled sacrifice earned him the Maha Vir Chakra and eternal reverence.

Dilraaj honoured Air Chief Marshal Pratap Chandra Lal, the towering Air Force leader who steered India to triumph in the 1971 Indo-Pak War. Garv remembered Colonel

Ravi Sharma, a proud son of Jammu who embraced martyrdom while fighting terrorism with unwavering courage. Aditya expressed gratitude towards Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, whose artistic brilliance carried Dogri theatre to global stages.

Vaishnavi praised Ritika Kalsaria. She said, "Ritika has emerged as a promising athlete known for her exceptional performances in track and field events at state and national levels. Her relentless hard work, disciplined training, and strong competitive spirit have placed her among Jammu's rising sports talents. She continues to represent the UT with pride, motivating

young athletes-especially girls-to pursue sports with passion and dedication".

Appreciating the artistic brilliance, Raghav highlighted the phenomenal contributions of Art maestro KK Gandhi saying, "He is one of Jammu's most celebrated contemporary artists, is widely admired for his evocative landscapes, cultural narratives, and powerful visual interpretations of the Himalayan region. Through his dedication, humility, and lifelong commitment to art, he continues to inspire young artists and elevate Jammu's presence on the global artistic map".

Avni referred to Dr. Anjali Shastri and shared, "She is

a celebrated yoga practitioner and wellness advocate, continues the family's legacy of service and healing. She has conducted wellness camps, yoga workshops, and lifestyle sessions across India, promoting traditional Indian knowledge systems and holistic well-being. Her dedication to spreading yoga-based healing has made her a respected figure in the wellness movement emerging from Jammu".

Vanshika threw light on the journey of Sanchita Gupta saying, She created history by excelling in cycle polo, a niche but highly competitive international sport. Representing India at global events, she has

earned medals and accolades, bringing national attention to Jammu's sporting talent. Her unique journey-marked by grit, discipline, and extraordinary resilience-continues to inspire youth to embrace unconventional sports".

Appraising the presenters for their thoughtful and compelling assembly, Principal, JKPS Kunjwani, Rajesh Rathore, remarked, "Dear students, today's theme reminds us that greatness does not always come from distant lands - often, it rises from the very soil we walk upon. Jammu has gifted India extraordinary heroes whose courage and sacrifice shaped the destiny of the nation."

He added, "These heroes teach us that true greatness begins with staying rooted - in our values, our culture, and our community. You do not need a global stage to make a meaningful impact. The moment you use your courage, integrity, and talent for a higher purpose, you become a hero in your own right."

He concluded with an inspiring message to students: "If they could rise from our soil and leave footprints across the world, so can you. Let their legacy ignite in you a spirit of pride, purpose, and possibility. Let us strive to be the next generation of 'Local Heroes' with a truly 'Global Impact'."

## JKHCBAJ expresses displeasure over SC judgment in Rejanish K.V vs K. Deepa

Resolves to launch nationwide protest, seeks review of verdict

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** The Executive Committee of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Jammu (JKHCBAJ), convened a meeting on Monday at the High Court Bar Hall under the chairmanship of President Sr. Advocate Nirmal Kumar Kotwal.

The Committee deliberated extensively on the recent judgment of the Supreme Court in Rejanish K.V. vs. K. Deepa & Others, delivered on October 9, 2025, by a five-judge Constitution Bench.

The Supreme Court's ruling interprets Article 233(2) of the Constitution to allow serving judicial officers-who cumulatively possess at least seven years of experience as advocates (prior to joining service) and as judicial officers on the date of application-to be eligible for direct recruitment as District Judges under the quota historically reserved exclusively for practicing advo-



President JKHCBAJ, Sr. Advocate Nirmal Kumar Kotwal speaking in a meeting.

icates. This judgment overturns the position laid down in Dheeraj Mor vs. High Court of Delhi (2020), which required candidates to be practicing advocates at the time of application and appointment, thereby excluding judicial officers from competing under the Bar quota. The Bench has also directed all High Courts and State Governments to amend their service rules within three months to align with this broader eligibility framework.

The Committee unanimously expressed grave concern over the judgment's far-reaching

implications for the legal profession. Members observed that the decision dilutes the exclusivity of the Bar quota, undermines the autonomy of the practicing legal community, and disrupts the delicate balance between judicial promotions and direct recruitment from the Bar-an equilibrium crucial to preserving the independence of the adversarial system. The apprehension was strongly voiced that such an expansion of eligibility may reduce opportunities for young advocates, weaken the role of the Bar as a constitutional

counterbalance to the judiciary, and usher systemic disparities by favoring those already within the judicial establishment.

Following detailed discussions, the Committee unanimously decided JKHCBAJ will initiate nationwide protests against the judgment to safeguard the rights, dignity, and independence of practicing advocates and the Association will write to Bar Associations across India, including the Supreme Court Bar Association and State Bar Councils, urging unified support and collective pursuit of legal remedies, including filing a review petition.

Prominent members, including Former Advocate General Sr. Adv. U.K. Jalali, Former Bar President Sr. Adv. Sunil Sethi, and Sr. Adv. K.S. Johal, strongly criticized the ruling, noting its potential to erode the Bar's independent character.

They also referenced similar

objections raised by Bar bodies in other states, such as the Kerala High Court Advocates' Association, which plans to challenge the verdict through review or curative petitions.

The resolutions were endorsed by Vice President Adv. S. Baldev Singh, General Secretary Adv. Pardeep Majotra, Joint Secretary Adv. Anshu Mahajan, Treasurer Adv. Rahul Aggarwal, and other senior members, including Sr. Adv. Surinder Kour; Sr. Adv. P.N. Goja, Adv. V. Bhushan Gupta, Adv. Raghu Mehta, Adv. P.C. Sharma, Adv. Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed, among others.

The Association reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to defending the honour, independence, and rights of the legal profession, calling upon the national legal fraternity to unite in safeguarding the sanctity of the Bar quota.

## SMVDSB reviews disaster preparedness, security measures



CEO SMVDSB, Sachin Kumar Vaishya chairing a meeting.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**KATRA:** A comprehensive review of the disaster management preparedness and security measures pertaining to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage was conducted today in a meeting presided by Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), at the Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra.

The meeting was attended by the Addl. CEO, SMVDSB; SSP Reasi; Jt. CEO, SMVDSB; SDMs Katra and Bhawan; SP Katra; Dy. Commandant, CRPF; Assistant CEOs; Tehsildar, SMVDSB; SDPOs Katra and Bhawan; ACE, SMVDSB; and representatives from the Fire and Emergency Services, NDRF and other allied agen-

cies. The CEO underscored the importance of conducting mock drills at regular intervals to ensure that the Shrine Board's Disaster Management teams, in coordination with all stakeholder agencies, remain fully prepared to respond swiftly and effectively to any emergency. He instructed representatives of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to organize such drills frequently to further enhance readiness and inter-agency coordination.

Emphasizing strict adherence to the prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), the CEO reiterated the need for meticulous compliance in all aspects of disaster preparedness. To bolster the Shrine Board's Disaster Management capabilities, the CEO directed that a

thorough inventory audit of Disaster Management Stores located along the track and within the Bhawan area shall be carried out and the stores will be replenished and upgraded, wherever required. He further directed that the functionality and operational readiness of all equipment housed in these stores be rigorously examined.

The CEO called upon the concerned agencies to expedite the verification process of individuals employed in local shops operating along the track and within Katra town. Highlighting the central role of the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC), the CEO emphasized its full-scale utilization for effective disaster management and operational coordination. He noted that

the ICCC functions as the central hub for real-time monitoring, communication, and decision-making, enabling seamless coordination among various agencies during both routine and emergency situations. The movement of vehicles within the Shrine area also came under detailed discussion. The CEO conveyed necessary instructions to the concerned quarters. The security agencies were requested to undertake a thorough review of the functionality and operational readiness of the security equipment currently in use. The CEO stressed that regular assessments are essential to ensure optimal performance of all devices. He also directed the immediate procurement of any critical or urgently required security equipment.

The CEO also urged the security agencies to ensure the deployment of additional personnel to provide foolproof security within the Shrine area and its adjoining zones, thereby reinforcing the safety of all pilgrims and maintaining a secure environment throughout the pilgrimage route.

Jammu to Srinagar	
IndiGo	10:05 AM - 10:45 AM
SpiceJet	11:10 AM - 12:00 PM
Air India Express	12:50 PM - 1:40 PM
Air India Express	1:35 PM - 2:45 PM
IndiGo	1:55 PM - 2:35 PM
IndiGo	6:40 PM - 7:20 PM
Srinagar to Jammu	
IndiGo	11:45 AM - 12:35 PM
Air India Express	12:10 PM - 1:05 PM
SpiceJet	12:35 PM - 1:30 PM
Air India Express	2:20 PM - 3:35 PM
IndiGo	3:15 PM - 4:05 PM
IndiGo	5:20 PM - 6:10 PM

FIND TRAIN SCHEDULE	
<b>11078 Jhelum Express</b>	
Departure	: 23:35 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 11:15 at New Delhi
<b>12426 Jammu Tawi - New Delhi Rajdhani Express</b>	
Departure	: 21:25 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 05:55 at New Delhi
<b>12446 Uttar Sampark Kranti Express</b>	
Departure	: 21:50 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 06:55 at New Delhi
<b>Train 26401 - Katra to Srinagar (Morning Service)</b>	
Departure	: 8:10 AM from Katra
Arrival	: 11:10 AM at Srinagar
Intermediate Stop	: Banihal at 9:58 AM
Fare:	
Chair Car (CC): 715	
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,320	
Booking: Available on IRCTC	
<b>Train 26403 - Katra to Srinagar (Afternoon Service)</b>	
Departure	: 2:00 PM from Katra
Arrival	: 05:00 PM at Srinagar
Fare:	
Chair Car (CC): 660	
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,270	
Booking: Available on IRCTC	

FIND CINEMA	
<b>HAQ -(HINDI)</b>	
WAVE ONE MOVIES JAMMU	1:15 PM / 10:50 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	6:55 PM
<b>DE DE PYAAR DE 2 - (HINDI)</b>	
WAVE ONE MOVIES JAMMU	10:15 AM / 11:00 AM / 2:00 PM / 4:00 PM / 5:05 PM / 7:00 PM / 8:00 PM / 10:00 PM / 10:55 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	9:50 AM / 10:35 AM / 1:40 PM / 03:35 PM / 4:45 PM / 7:50 PM / 9:30 PM / 10:55 PM
<b>THE RUNNING MAN-(ENGLISH)</b>	
WAVE ONE MOVIES JAMMU	2:45 PM / 8:05 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	9:35 PM
<b>IKK KUDI (PUNJABI)</b>	
WAVE ONE MOVIES JAMMU	10:00 AM / 5:30 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	9:35 AM

HELPLINE	
<b>TELEPHONES</b>	
Directory Enquiry	197
Fault Repair	198
Local Assistance	199
Trunk Booking	180
Trunk Assistance	181
International Trunk Booking	2447952, 2577951, 2573638
Billing Complaints	2543896, 2548415
Billing Complaints Computerize	1955
Change No. Announcement	1951
Gandhi Nagar Exchange	2451953, 2430953
<b>HOSPITALS</b>	
Government Medical College	2584290, 2484291
Psychiatry and Disease Hospital	2577444
Ambulance Rajouri	257147, 257084, 257357
Blood Bank/Eye Bank - SMGS Hospital	2547639, 2547637
Emergency	2549669
Blood Bank	2547637, 2547638
Chest Disease Hospital	2577064, 2548012
Dental Hospital	2544670
Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar	2430041
Emergency	2431740
Child Hospital	2577023
Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences and Hospital	262270
<b>AMBULANCES</b>	
Indian Red Cross Society	2549413
Jammu University	2453165, 2543525, 2435248
<b>FIRE STATIONS</b>	
Gandhi Nagar	101, 2435283, 2457705
City	2544263
Canal	2554064
Roop Nagar	2597522
Gangyal	2480026
Bani Brahmana	220020
Akhnoor	252481
Kathua	234313
Samba	243280
Katra	232451
Udhampur	270897
Police Control Room	100, 2542001, 2545481-82
Police Exchange	2547621-22, 2547624
Civil Defence Control Room	2549100, 2548645, 2544920
Civil Defence	2548645, 2549100, 2544920
Hot Line	383
<b>TOURISM</b>	
Tourist Officer, Airport	2431917
Tourist Officer, Railway Station	2430078
Tourist Reception Centre	2579554
<b>BUS SERVICES</b>	
JKSRTC General Manager	2435262
JKSRTC Bus Stand	2577475
JKSRTC Jammu Srinagar, Service	2576562
Punjab Roadways	2542782
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	
Company Bagh	2542582
Parade	2544979
Bakshi Nagar	2543557
Panjthirthi	2547501
Narwal	2430031
<b>ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPLAINTS</b>	
Canal	2554147, 2554199
Parade	2542289, 2543398
Nanak Nagar	2430776
Gandhi Nagar	2430180
Shastri Nagar	2430781
Janipur	2543828, 2579258
Satwari	2452816
<b>FIRE SERVICE : (Control Room)</b>	101
<b>CIVIC SERVICES</b>	
Municipality	2547846, 2542192
Health Officer	2547440
Garbage / Carcass Removal	2547440