Jodhamal hosts Regalia '24 to bid farewell to Class XII of 2025

JAMMU: As the academic vear 2024-25 draws to a Jodhamal Public School hosted the elegant Regalia'24 to bid an emotional adieu to its outgoing Class XII students

The event celebrated the culmination of their transformative journey at the school, marking the end of a memorable chapter.

The grand event commenced with a ceremonial lamp-lighting and a cake-cutting, symbolizing new beginnings. This was followed by an electrifying ramp-walk where students dazzled the audience with their poise and style. Adding to the excitement, the school honoured selected students with special titles under the 'Masters of Many' category, recognizing excellence across



Jodhamal faculty with students during farewell function.

The host students of Class XI captivated the gathering with their engaging performances, showcasing creativity and camaraderie. The graduating Class of 2025 was lauded for their resilience, dedication, and accomplishments, leaving an indelible legacy on the institution.

The highlight of the evening was the much-anticipated title ceremony Mr. & Ms. Charming was bagged Mr. & Ms. Jodhamal was

Sarthak Jain and Mayara Aul respectively. Nirbhay Choudhary and Avikshita adjudged Mr. & Consistent respectively. Rohan Langar and Adaliya Narang were declared Mr. & Ms. Perfect respectively while Sachdeep Singh and Czia Raina became Mr. & Ms. Elegant respectively. The most coveted title of

given to Aryan Manhas and Vidhi Dhallam respectively. The event was a poignant reminder of the remarkable contributions of the graduating students, who have exemplified Jodhamal's core

ty, and leadership. The ceremony concluded with heartfelt words of encouragement from the school's leadership. Trustee Nandan Kuthiala, Director

values of excellence, integri-

Arati Kuthiala, Principal Girish Kumar, and Vice Principal Amita Arora expressed their gratitude to parents, teachers, and the school community for their unwavering support in nurturing these bright young minds.

Meticulously orchestrated by Aashima and her dedicated team, Regalia'24 was a splendid tribute to the Class of 2025, inspiring them to embark on the next phase of their journey with confidence and grace. Vote of thanks was proposed by Pooja Sharma, the CCA Coordinator, whose best wishes added a perfect closing touch to the event.

The formal ceremony was followed by a sumptuous lunch and a vibrant dance floor which was rocked by all students and teachers

Senior National Fencing C'ship JAMMU: Carving space on the country's sports map and adding another feather to her colourful cap,

Shreya Gupta blossoms in

leading by 8-4, however, her

skill and temperament fell

short to guide her to victory

against the tough rival

Bhawani, who with her

experience and exposure

managed to prevail over

Shreya's offence and

defence, thus winning in a

Shreya produced a scintil-

close contest.

National champion and International Fencer, Shreya Gupta brought laurels to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir by winning a Bronze medal in the ongoing 35th Senior National Fencing Championship, being held at Kannur in Kerala.

The Championship had begun on December 31, 2024 and will conclude on January 3, 2025.

After sealing the berth in the last four stage, Shreya lost to Olympian Bhawani Devi in a tough fight in the semifinal bout by a margin

lating performance by At one stage, Shreya was defeating Jose Josna

Christy of Kerala by a margin of 15-9 in her medal

In her knockouts, Shreya got the better of Prakriti Sharma of Rajasthan and Vandita Barad of Gujarat in a one-sided affair by 15-

Pertinent to mention here that Shreya has already won 5 International medals and 20 National Gold medals and has been continuously excelling at National

and International scene. Meanwhile, Secretary J&K Sports council Nuzhat Gul has appreciated the extraordinary performance and achievement of Shreya. She also congratulated her coach Shotu Lal Sharma of J&K Sports Council for bringing laurels to the

Nagrota FC, Surankot FC win in 18th **Christmas Gold Cup Football Tournament**

STATE TIMES NEWS

Christmas Gold Cup Football Tournament 2024-25 witnessed an exhilarating start today with two action-packed matches, filled with intense competition and thrilling moments.

In the first match, Young Rovers FC faced off against Nagrota FC. The match ended in a 1-1 draw at full time, with both teams putting up a strong fight. Prakul of Young Rovers FC scored the opening goal in the 8th minute, while Mohit of Nagrota FC equalized in the 35th minute. However, the match was decided by a

rious, securing a win after a tense penalty shootout.

The second match saw United FC Kathua take on Surankot FC. Surankot FC clinched a 1-0 victory, with a single goal proving to be enough for them to secure

Chief Guests at today's matches were Mohan Lal (Ex. Secretary, DFA Jammu) for the first match, and Rakesh Kumar (International Player) for the second match, accompanied by a distinguished team of officials including Yousaf Don (Organizing Secretary), David Masih, Ramesh Chander, Mohd. Shuja, Kamaljeet Kumar, Rajesh Sumbria, Charanpreet Singh,

Sebastian, and Rattan Lal.

ated by a skilled team of referees: Ricky Bilal Ahmed, Chander, and Meenia, ensuring smooth gameplay and fair competi-

As the tournament progresses, football fans are eagerly awaiting more thrilling action and hope for more intense clashes in the upcoming matches.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: KC Public School, Jammu organized a farewell ceremony Khwaahish- E- Safar' for the outgoing batch of class XII at Hotel Taj Vivanta. Class XI students organized a glistening farewell party for their seniors and left no stone unturned to make the day most memorable and special for them. The event commenced with an instrumental bash and a melodious Farewell song.

Devoting the day to the years spent together with friends, teachers, and reminiscences of joyous moments, students of Class XI presented a rich array of cultural programs which included mesmerizing solo, group and duet songs and a variety of foot-tapping hip-hop dances.



KCPS bids farewell to Class XII students

KCPS faculty with students during farewell function.

This was followed by a presentation of goodbye speeches where a few students from the outgoing batch took the stage to share their loving & cherished memories of their school days. However, the most awaited moment was the Title Ceremony in which students were presented with Mementos and their respec-

tive titles

The icing on the top was the Talent Hunt which was judged by the faculty members on the following criteria which were Imagination, Creativity, Confidence, Presentation, Voice projection, and Crowd appeal.

The shortlisted 22 nominees competed to win the coveted titles of Mr. & Ms.

Vaishali clinches women's world blitz

KC Juweel. The girls and boys came in their best attire to rock the event. Manhas crowned as Ms. KC Juweel and Medhaj Pathania was crowned as Mr. KC Juweel.

Principal, Amarendra Kumar Mishra appreciated the talent and creativity displayed by the students. He urged the children to carry the school's spirit high and wished them luck for their future endeavors

Student Council managed the event under the guidance of Shobhna Sethi. The program ended with high tea. The students reminisced about their fun-filled days and it was an emotional moment as they said farewell to their alma

Govt SPMR College NCC cadet completes Youth Exchange Programme at Bhutan

J&K Bn NCC and is a stu-

dent of Govt. SPMR College

Programme, one of NCC's

provides selected cadets with

the chance to travel abroad.

engage in cultural exchanges,

and participate in a range of

activities designed to pro-

mote global friendship, diplo-

Before attending the pro-

gramme in Bhutan, Dhruv

had represented the JK&L

directorate in the Republic

macy, and teamwork.

Youth Exchange

of Commerce, Jammu.



SPMR college faculty felicitating NCC cadet.

The

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: NCC cadet SUO Dhruy Sharma of NCC Directorate, JK&L has successfully completed the Youth Exchange Programme most esteemed initiatives, (YEP) held at Bhutan from December 12 to 18, 2024.

The main aim of the program was to encourage understanding international relations and build leadership qualities and promote participants a unique opportunity to interact with cadets from various countries.

The cadet belonging to 2

Day camp 2024 in New

He passed multiple selection phases at Jammu as well as in Delhi, which include an examination, drill test, and group discussion that are conducted at all India level.

Dhruv was the only cadet from Jammu in the 12-member group, led by Major Anand and Major Hricha that represented India in

The programme was so exciting, and the Bhutanese people were so warm and welcoming. It was a proud moment for the cadet to represent India at international

Principal of the college, Dr. Rajinder Singh congratulated the cadet and encouraged the endeavors of the cadets. He also boosted another students to actively participate and to foster upon new horizons of life and career via

The chief guest, Dr. Alka

NSS Winter Special Camp 2025 begins at GDC Billawar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BILLAWAR: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Billawar inaugurated its Winter Special Camp 2025, themed "Empowering Communities through Engagement and Awareness", on Wednesday.

ning from January 1 to January 8, 2025, is being organized under the esteemed patronage of Dr. Alka Sharma, Principal, GDC Billawar.

commenced with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony, followed by the NSS song, creating a solemn and

planned for the week.

emphasized the significance of the camp in fostering social responsibility, leadership, and community engagement among students. She applauded the NSS Unit for their consistent efforts in making a positive impact on society and encouraged volunteers to participate wholeheartedly in the camp activi-

The program, conducted by Dr. Manu Sharma, included an engaging lineup of speeches and discussions, setting the tone for a productive and meaningful week

The camp will feature a ariety of activities, including cleanliness drives, yoga sessions, wall painting, plantation, awareness rallies, and social outreach programs. The inaugural event concluded with a vote of thanks, marking the beginning of a week dedicated to community empowerment and person-

bronze as India sign off on a high

NEW YORK: India's R Vaishali clinched a bronze in the women's section of the World Blitz Championship, capping another strong performance by the country's chess players after stalwart Koneru Humpy's title-winning show in the rapid event

Vaishali defeated China's Zhu Jiner 2.5-1.5 in the quarter-finals before losing to another Chinese opponent Ju Wenjun 0.5-2.5 in the semi-final. In an event completely

dominated by the Chinese, Ju Wenium went on to snare the world title defeating compatriot Lei Tingjie 3.5-

Five-time world champion and International Chess Federation (FIDE) vice Viswanathan Anand congratulated Vaishali for her efforts, saying it was a great way to end

"Congratulations Vaishali for taking bronze. Her qualification was truly a power packed performance. Our Waca Chess mentee (WestBridge Anand Chess Academy) has done us proud," Anand wrote on

"We are so happy to be supporting her and her chess. What a way to wrap up 2024. In 2021, we thought we would get stronger chess players but here we have it a World Champion (Humpy) and a Bronzemedallist(Vaichali)!"

In the 'Open' section, world number one Magnus Carlsen and Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi shared the Blitz title after three sudden-death games failed to produce a winner. This was the first time that the title was awarded to two players

after Carlsen asked whether

The Gambhir gambit: Head coach's handling

it could be shared given the deadlock.

We were both tired, some will like it some will not, Carlsen said during a media

We reached a point where it had been a long day. We played many games, we had three draws and I felt that I could keep playing. But it was a nice solution to share the win, it was a good way

to end it," said Carlsen. This was Carlsen's second big win this week as the world body was forced to bring him back after his withdrawal from the Rapid championship just a couple of days back due to dress

code violation. Carlsen came wearing jeans for the Rapid event and refused to wear formal trousers, prompting FIDE to disqualify him. However, the world governing body allowed him to wear jeans in

R3A Karate Academy students excel in 6th J&K UT Karate Championship 2024

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: R3A Karate Academy had an outstanding performance at the 6th Jammu and Kashmir UT Karate Championship 2024, held on the December 30 and 31, 2024 at the Bhagwati Nagar Indoor Stadium in Jammu.

The championship brought

together top karatekas from across the Union Territory. In this competitive event, R3A Karate Academy students impressed the audience and judges alike with their remarkable performances. clinching medals in various categories. Among the standout

achievers was Atharav, who earned a Gold Medal in the Sub-Junior Under 7 years boys' category, showcasing exceptional technique and discipline. Not far behind, teammate Yuvaan secured a silver medal in the same category.

Another notable achievement came from Prisha, who won a silver medal in the Sub-Junior +45kg weight category.

The success didn't end there for R3A Karate Academy. Astha also secured a silver medal in the Sub-



Junior Under 45kg weight category, further bolstering the academy's impressive medal tally. Harman brought home a silver medal in the Cadet Under 63kg weight category, showing off his superior strength and agility in a highly competitive field. Adanya, competing in the Sub-Junior Under 35kg weight category, earned a bronze medal, demonstrating great perseverance and determination throughout the competition. Tanu completed the medal haul by win-

Sub-Junior Under 40kg weight category. The academy's coach, Rajan Jamwal, Sensei

ning a silver medal in the

expressed his pride in the students' remarkable achievements. He congratulated them for their hard commitment, and exceptional performances, which were a direct reflection of the rigorous training and discipline at R3A Karate Academy

Sensei Rajan emphasized that their success was a result of their unwavering determination and dedication to the sport.

This event marked a significant milestone for R3A Karate Academy, highlighting the academy's commitment to fostering young talent and promoting martial arts in the region.

The seven-day camp, run-

The inaugural program

inspiring atmosphere. Prof. Bansi Lal, Program Officer, welcomed the gathering and provided an insightful introduction to the camp's objectives and a detailed schedule of activities

Sharma, in her address,

Bumrah eclipses Ashwin's rating-point record in latest ICC rankings

AGENCY DUBAI: India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah on Wednesday bettered spin Ravichandran Ashwin's all-time ratingpoint record by an Indian in the latest ICC rankings when he touched the 907point mark. Ashwin's highest rating was 904, achieved in December 2016. The 907 ranking points also placed Bumrah as joint-17th in the all-time list with Derek

Underwood of England. Ahead of the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne last week, Bumrah had equalled the record (904) held by Ashwin in the ranking for bowlers.

However, another superb performance at the MCG, where he got nine wickets, albeit in a losing cause, helped him consolidate his lead as the No. 1 Test bowler in the recent update.

Australia skipper Pat

Cummins earned 15 rating points following his six wickets at MCG to jump a place to No. 3. He also secured a third place in the Test all-rounder rankings after he notched up 90 vital runs across two

innings during Australia's

184-run win in the fourth

of India's transition raises eyebrows why they were being excluded at times from the side

AGENCY

SYDNEY: As Indian cricket deals with the fading form of its two stalwarts in captain Rohit Sharma and senior batter Virat Kohli, head coach Gautam Gambhir and his support staff's role in handling a team in transition has also come into focus.

Borderongoing Gavaskar Trophy has been a difficult ride for the side has struggled to get the right combination in the face of an aggressive and highly-driven Australian team. The visitors will be playing the must-win fifth and final Test here from

The on-field roller-coaster is causing some off-field issues as well with murmurs of unrest in the dressing room beginning to

It is learnt that Gambhir is not on the same page with most of the players in the team and the communication isn't as good as it used to be during the time of Ravi Shastri and Rahul Dravid.

Skipper Rohit Sharma has maintained that he speaks individually to the players about selection issues. But after Gambhir took charge in July, Rohit, it is said, hasn't actually given clarity to some of the not-so-junior players about

His own poor form hasn't helped Rohit's cause. But it is also reliably learnt that Gambhir, who is considered a more assertive person, hasn't earned a lot of confidence from the group of players, who aren't as old as Kohli or Rohit but are also not rookies like Harshit

Rana or Nitish Reddy. "There is a Test match to be played and then there is Champions Trophy. If the performance doesn't improve, even Gautam Gambhir's position wouldn't be safe," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Gambhir's equation with the selection committee is also not particularly clear at this point.

There are players in the team, who are feeling insecure because of his proclivity to experiment with the playing eleven. In the ongoing BGT, a punt like Nitish Reddy has worked out brilliantly but the handling of Shubman Gill is still being debated.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah has now been elevated to the ICC chief's position and the Board will have his full-time successor only after January 12. Once that administrative stability is in place, the BCCI brass will have some thinking

to do Till Shah was in-charge of BCCI, he called the shots. Former India seamer Roger Binny, who is the current president of the Board, hasn't been seen taking any policy related calls

But if India's performance is not drastically better in the Trophy in Champions February-March, Gambhir will certainly have his wings clipped.

"He was never BCCI's first choice (it was VVS Laxman) and some of the well-known overseas names didn't want to coach all three formats, so he was a compromise. Obviously, some other compulsions were also there," the official said.

Gambhir has already been asked a few tough questions after the 0-3 defeat at home to New Zealand and if the Border-Gavaskar Trophy is also lost, it can all go downhill for the feisty former opener from Delhi's Old Rajinder

Already there is a school of thought that Gambhir should only be given charge of the T20 team, a format in which he has been a successful captain and then mentor for both Kolkata Knight Riders and Lucknow

SuperGiants One question that is being asked in the corridors of power is whether he has been able to offer any solutions to Virat Kohli with regards to his neverending dismissals in the outside off-stump channel? By the look of things, the answer to that seems to be an emphatic

"Gautam, all his life, while playing in England and Australia, would dab the ball towards slip and gully. So, he knows exactly what Kohli's problem is. He has seen that as a player (in 2014) and as a commentator and now as a coach.

"If he knows what is wrong, he should tell him," a former India great, with the experience of more than 90 Tests, said. The BCCI mandarins are

also keeping a tab on certain other developments about one of the key members of the support staff, who is being accompanied at all the venues by his personal assistant.

It is leant that the person in question used to have FOP (Field Of Play) access during the IPL where he would stride into the playing arena after games in a franchise jersev.