

Satish exhorts youth to lead India's journey towards Viksit Bharat @2047

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Information Technology, Science & Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Administrative Reforms & Institutional Reforms (ARI) & Training, Satish Sharma, on Monday called upon the youth to take a leading role in building a strong, self-reliant and developed India, while addressing the National Youth Day Sammoroh organised by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).

Paying rich tributes to Swami Vivekananda on his birth anniversary, the Minister said that the great visionary's clarion call "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached" con-



Minister YSS, Satish Sharma at the National Youth Day Sammoroh at IGNOU, Jammu.

tinues to inspire India's youth to pursue excellence, courage and service. He said that as India moves towards Viksit Bharat @2047, the youth are not just the future but the most powerful force shaping the nation's destiny.

ginalized sections, by providing flexible and accessible higher education. He said IGNOU has played a key role in nurturing skilled, confident and socially responsible citizens across the country.

Speaking on the government's vision for youth, the Minister said that India is building a future where quality education, skill development, science, technology and innovation go hand in hand. He emphasized that the youth must lead in emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence, space technology, biotechnology, green energy and digital governance, while sports should be promoted as a way of life to build discipline, teamwork and national pride.

Satish Sharma also high-

lighted the achievements of India's youth in recent years, including their leadership in startups, contributions to landmark space missions like Chandrayaan and Gaganyaan, community service through volunteer programmes and outstanding performances in national and international sports events.

Calling upon the youth to remain rooted in values while embracing the modern technology, the Minister urged them to work with a spirit of innovation, service and integrity.

On the occasion, the Minister reiterated the government's resolve to create a Viksit Bharat that is inclusive, prosperous and globally respected, driven by the energy, talent and commitment of India's youth.

J&K Kalarippayattu team leaves for National Kalarippayattu League 2025-26



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Kalarippayattu Team today departed for participation in the National Kalarippayattu League 2025-26, scheduled to be held at Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum), Kerala, on 17th and 18th January 2026.

The prestigious national event is being organized by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in association with the Indian Kalarippayattu Federation, with the objective of promoting and strengthening the ancient martial art of Kalarippayattu at the national level.

A formal flag-off ceremony was held prior to the team's departure. The ceremony was graced by Rajeev Sharma, Member, J&K Sports Council; Manjeet Singh, Chairman, Kalarippayattu Association of Jammu &

Kashmir; Vijay Saraf, President, Wushu Association of India; Danish Sharma, General Secretary & Technical Chairman, Kalarippayattu Association of J&K; T. P. Singh, Veteran Sports Person and Sajan Shaan - Technical Member - Kalarippayattu J&K.

The J&K contingent comprises Anandika, Manvi Sharma, Vasundhara Chib, Adarshita Manhas, Vinay Kumar, Himanshu Barwalla, Naman Wazir, and Ankush Thakur.

Danish Sharma, General Secretary and Technical Chairman of the Kalarippayattu Association of Jammu & Kashmir, will accompany the team as the Chief Coach for the championship. The dignitaries extended their best wishes to the athletes and expressed confidence that the team would deliver a strong performance and bring laurels to Jammu & Kashmir.

GGHSS Nowabad shines at National Folk Dance Competition at Gwalior



GGHSS Nowabad students with teacher Poonam Gupta after winning accolades at NCERT National Folk Dance Competition in Gwalior.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Poonam Gupta, Teacher, Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Nowabad, along with students, brought laurels to the institution by participating in a National Folk Dance Competition organised by NCERT at Gwalior.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students representing various States and Union Territories of India, showcasing the rich cultural diversity of the nation.

The GGHSS Nowabad team of six talented students represented Jammu &

Kashmir with a captivating folk dance performance based on the theme "Protection of Environment", presented beautifully in the Dogri language.

The performance was choreographed by Poonam Gupta herself, reflecting her deep understanding of folk traditions and creative expression. The meaningful presentation received wide appreciation from both the audience and the jury.

The participating students from GGHSS Nowabad were Drishti, Siya, Aditi, Shriya, Simmi, and Shweta, who demonstrated exceptional

coordination, expression, and cultural authenticity. Their outstanding performance earned the team trophies and certificates, bringing pride not only to the school but also to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Poonam Gupta played a pivotal role in mentoring, guiding, and preparing the students throughout the journey. In recognition of her dedicated contribution, she was also honoured with a certificate and memento by the organisers.

The successful participation of the team was made possible with the constant encouragement and support of the worthy Principal, Dr. Kartar Chand Sharma, whose leadership and motivation continue to inspire students to excel in academics as well as co-curricular activities.

This remarkable achievement stands as a testament to the talent, dedication, and cultural richness nurtured at GGHSS Nowabad, reflecting the institution's strong commitment to holistic education, environmental awareness, and national integration.

CUJ organises 'Run for Swadeshi' on National Youth Day

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Central University of Jammu, in collaboration with Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Jammu & Kashmir, organised a "Run for Swadeshi" on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, celebrated across the country as National Youth Day. The event was held with great enthusiasm and a strong spirit of nationalism at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium, DDE Building, and witnessed active participation from students, faculty members and staff.

The programme began with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony led by Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Jammu. Paying rich tribute to Swami Vivekananda, Prof. Jain highlighted that youth are the backbone of the nation and the driving force behind India's growth and development. He urged students to imbibe the ideals of Swami Vivekananda, particularly self-belief, self-reliance and



the spirit of Swadeshi, to contribute meaningfully to nation building.

Prof. Jain further emphasised that India can emerge as a strong and self-reliant nation by 2047 only if its youth believe in themselves and promote Swadeshi in culture, traditions and everyday practices, while responsibly using technology for human welfare. He said true development cannot be achieved through excessive dependence on foreign products. For Viksit Bharat 2047, he called upon the youth to adopt Swadeshi not merely in thought but also in action by producing and consuming Make in India prod-

ucts, which would strengthen the economy and build an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Speaking on the occasion, Vipin, Prant Sanyojak, Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Jammu & Kashmir, encouraged the youth to follow the ideals of Swami Vivekananda and actively contribute towards nation building through a Swadeshi mindset. Quoting Swami Vivekananda's famous words, "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached," he stressed that educational institutions play a crucial role in nurturing and inculcating the spirit of Swadeshi among young minds.

Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, CU Jammu, administered a pledge to students and participants for adopting a Swadeshi lifestyle and supporting Atmanirbhar Bharat. Prof. Asit Mantry, Head, Department of Educational Studies, shared insights from the life of Swami Vivekananda and reflections by Sri Aurobindo, highlighting Swami Vivekananda's rise as a youth icon. He urged students to look beyond textbooks and classrooms and engage in research, innovation, creativity, social service and nation-building activities, noting that the actions of today's youth will shape

the nation's future. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members and non-teaching staff, creating an atmosphere of energy, inspiration and patriotism. Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dean Students Welfare, presented the vote of thanks.

Among those present were DDC Vice Chairman Suraj Singh, Prant Sampark Pramukh Ajay, Prant Prachar Pramukh Yash, Yuva Prant Pramukh Rajan, Prant Kisan Sangh Pramukh Sh. Balkar Singh, and other dignitaries.

Organised by the Office of the Dean Students Welfare, Central University of Jammu, in collaboration with Swadeshi Jagran Manch, the "Run for Swadeshi" conveyed a strong message of self-reliance, unity and national pride. The celebration served as a powerful reminder of Swami Vivekananda's vision, inspiring youth to recognise their potential and contribute towards building a stronger, self-reliant India.

Dy CEO Jammu reviews functioning of educational institutions in Marh (Dansal) Zone

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Marh (Dansal) zone of District Jammu on Monday accorded an impressive reception to Deputy Chief Education Officer (Dy CEO) Jammu, Pardeep Singh Rakwal, during his visit to the zone.

The visit aimed at reviewing the functioning of educational institutions and interacting with officers and staff at the grassroots level.

An impressive function was organised at Government Higher Secondary School, Marh (Dansal) by lecturers, masters, teachers and non-teaching officials of the zone under the aegis of Sushma Mawa, Principal of the school. The programme witnessed active participation from education officers and staff members, reflect-



Dy CEO Jammu Pardeep Singh Rakwal during his visit to GHSS Marh (Dansal), Jammu.

ing a spirit of cooperation and commitment towards academic improvement.

During the event, speakers expressed gratitude to the Dy CEO for visiting the zone and taking stock of its working. They voiced optimism that their genuine issues and concerns would be addressed promptly and effectively. The speakers appreciated the administration's outreach approach and welcomed the opportu-

nity for direct interaction. Addressing the gathering in his maiden speech, Dy CEO Pardeep Singh Rakwal urged officers and officials of the zone to work with zeal, dedication and professionalism. He stressed the need to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in letter and spirit to ensure inclusive and holistic education for all students. Emphasising the impor-

tance of values, he said moral education must be an integral part of teaching, as education without ethics is incomplete.

Interacting with the officials, Rakwal assured them of his full support and stated that he would "walk an extra mile" to achieve educational targets and improve the overall functioning of the zone. He encouraged teamwork, innovation and accountability

ity to strengthen the education system at the grassroots level.

Among those present on the occasion were Pawan Kumar, Parveen Kumar, Purana Chand, Ashok Kumar, Kulbhushan Kumar, Kailash Kumar, Bua Ditta, Yogesh Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Naresh Kumar, Bansil Lal, Ganesh Dutt, Rakesh Kumar, Yash Kumar, Ajay Kumar, Pitamber Lal, Ratna Devi, Rajesh Singh, Devinder Singh, Bhag Ali, Sanjeev Kumar, Sanjay Kumar, Tarsem Lal, Manzoor Hussain, Amanat Ali, Order Yaqoob, and several others. The event concluded on a positive note, reaffirming collective commitment towards quality education and effective implementation of educational reforms in the Marh (Dansal) zone.

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Powerlifter, delegation call on LG



Muskan Charitable Trust delegation calling on LG Manoj Sinha in Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rakesh Kumar, National-level Powerlifter called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Monday.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated Rakesh

Kumar for his impressive performance at the National Powerlifting Championship 2025 and extended his best wishes for the upcoming championships.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Muskan Charitable Trust

led by its President Sandeep Mehra also called on the Lieutenant Governor and briefed him on various initiatives of their trust aimed at the upliftment and empowerment of Divyangjan.

7-day Residential NSS Winter Camp concludes

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Seven-Day NSS Winter Camp (6-12 January 2026) concluded on Monday at Government College for Women Parade Ground with a grand valedictory function, coinciding with National Youth Day. The camp was organized on the theme "Sashakt Yuva, Samarth Bharat."

The camp was conducted by the NSS Unit of the College, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC), Urban Forestry Division Jammu, Department of Civil Defence and Government Ayurvedic Hospital Jammu with the objective to achieve holistic development of youth through service, discipline, fitness and community engagement.

NSS Programme Officer Dr. Gurpreet Kour, in her welcome address, highlighted the objectives, structure and outcomes of the seven-day residential camp. "The volunteers stayed on the college campus, learning discipline, teamwork, leadership and collective responsibility in line with the camp theme," she said. DySP Department of Civil Defence Zia UIHaq was the Chief Guest. He emphasized the importance of disaster preparedness, civil defence awareness and active youth participation in nation building. The programme was presided over by the College Principal Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo. He appreciated the dedication, discipline and enthusiasm displayed by the NSS volunteers and highlighted the significance of NSS activities in shaping socially responsible and empowered citizens. A major highlight of the valedictory function was a National Integration Fashion Show. Wearing traditional attires, NSS volunteers represented different states of India, sym-

bolizing unity in diversity. The event was evaluated by an esteemed jury panel comprising Dr. Ritu Mangotra, Dr. Renu Angurana (Associate Professor, English) and Kunal Sharma, Senior DF Trainer. The Camp Report was presented by NSS Volunteer Diksha Langleh, highlighting the day-wise activities, learning outcomes, community outreach initiatives and overall impact of the seven-day camp.

A plantation drive was organized on the college campus and adopted villages, in collaboration with the Urban Forestry Division Jammu. The NCC Volunteers planted 200 saplings, reinforcing environmental consciousness and sustainable practices. Additionally, the camp featured academic, fitness and awareness sessions conducted by distinguished resource persons, including Parshotam, Department of Civil Defence Jammu - Civil defence and disaster preparedness training, Anil Kumar, Junior Environmental Engineer, JKPC - Plastic waste segregation and environmental awareness, Kunal Sharma and Aryan Pandey, Cult Fit Hybrid Gym Jammu - Dance-based cardio fitness sessions, Satyam Mahajan, Cult Fit Hybrid Gym Jammu - Strength training sessions, Vanshika Sharma, Directorate of AYUSH - Yoga and pranayama training experts from Government Ayurvedic Hospital Jammu - Health and wellness awareness.

The valedictory ceremony included cultural performances by NSS volunteers, screening of a camp activity reel, distribution of certificates and felicitation of guests and collaborators.

The proceedings of the programme were efficiently conducted by NSS Volunteer Ritika. The vote of thanks was presented by NSS Volunteer Salha Sultan.

KC Public School gymnasts shine at UT Gymnastics Championship



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rivka Bansal and Sadiya Sharma of KC Public School delivered commendable performances in the artistic gymnastics in under-17 girls' category at the UT Gymnastics Championship held on January 10-11, 2026, at the Gymnastics Hall, Indoor Stadium, Jammu.

Organised by the Gymnastics Association of Jammu & Kashmir under the aegis of the Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI) and the J&K Sports Council, the championship witnessed participation

from the best gymnasts across the Union Territory. Earlier Rivka Bansal clinched two gold medals in district gymnastic championship and two gold medals in J&KUT gymnastics championship and was declared the best gymnast in her category while Sadiya clinched two bronze medals in district level, gymnastic championship and one bronze medal in the J&K UT gymnastic championship showing exceptional skill, discipline, and sportsmanship, earning podium finishes in their respective categories and bringing laurels

to the institution. The girls will now be participating in the National gymnastics championship going to be held in Kolkata. Their achievements reflect not only their dedication and rigorous training but also the school's continued emphasis on holistic development through sports excellence.

Participation in this UT Championship is a key pathway for selection to the forthcoming National Gymnastics Championship, scheduled to be held in Pune from February 2 to 5, 2026, further underscoring the significance of their success. Chairman Raju Chowdhary, MD Arti Chowdhary, Vice Chairman Arjun Chowdhary and, Principal A K Mishra extended congratulations to Rivka and Sadiya for their remarkable accomplishments and wish them continued success in future competitions at the national level.

KC College of Education celebrates National Youth Day



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A symposium on "Role of Youth in NSS" was organized by KC College of Education on National Youth Day, a day commemorating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda - a true champion of youth empowerment. 15 NSS volunteers participated and shared their views on how youth can contribute to community service through NSS.

The event was appreciated by Principal Dr. Sanjay Tickoo. He praised the students for their enthusiasm and commitment to social service. The symposium provided a platform for students to express their ideas and experiences, highlighting the importance of youth involvement in NSS activities.

As Swami Vivekananda believed, youth are the driving force of nation building, and this event reinforced that idea.

The entire program was coordinated by Priya Gupta, Programme officer NSS.