

Let library books shape our character, broaden our horizons, nurture our dreams: Principal JKPS Kunjwani



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

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "Books are treasures of knowledge and wisdom, offering lessons of the past, insights for the present and inspiration for the future". With this impactful statement Jaskirat Kour and Manpreet Singh from Grade 3 Maple alongwith their classmates conducted the morning assembly on the topic Books are our best companions" at JK Public School Kunjwani.

Mahiyaal Kour Poem presented an impactful poem on the topic: Books are treasures, new and old. They whisper secrets, tales untold! Adventure n wisdom, pure as gold. Books are magic, this is true! A lifelong friend, always with you! Urwa Ibtihaj quoted Neel Gayman, "A book is a dream

that you hold in your hands". Harsh Choudhary referred to Marcus Tullius Cicero, "A room without books is like a body without a soul". Rahini Thapa quoted Albert Einstein, "The only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the library". Sanvi Mahajan referred to Stephen King, "Books are a uniquely portable magic". Avedna Engotra quoted Joseph Addison, "Reading is

to the mind what exercise is to the body". Harseerat Kour referred to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, "Books are the treasure house of knowledge. A good book is the best friend who never betrays". Adhyansh Jardial quoted Arundhati Roy, "The act of reading books is the act of transforming yourself". Riaan Sharma referred to Plato, "Books give a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to

the imagination, and life to everything". Principal JKPS Kunjwani Rajesh Rathore applauded the presenters from Grade 3 Maple for highlighting the importance of books so brilliantly and shared his perspective by saying, "Books introduce us to worlds beyond our imagination. They help us explore cultures, ideas, and experiences we may never encounter in our daily lives.

Whether it's a novel that takes us on an adventurous journey, a biography that teaches us resilience, or a textbook that expands our understanding, books enrich our minds and hearts in countless ways". "In this digital age, while technology offers quick answers, books provide deep insights. They teach us patience, critical thinking, and the joy of discovery. I encourage each one of you

to make reading a daily habit. Let library books shape our character, broaden our horizons, and nurture our dreams", he added. "Dear students, create a personal library at home. Request your parents, uncles, aunts, grandparents, maternal grandparents and other relatives to gift you a book on your birthday. Nothing can be a better decoration item in a house than a nicely-stacked

bookshelf. Share the photograph of your personal library with your class teacher in your respective Class WhatsApp group. Best three photographs from each section/every class shall be given fabulous prizes. Remember always: a reader today is a leader tomorrow. Make books your constant companions, and they will guide you toward success and wisdom", he concluded.

Vishwa Bharatiyans excel in Rope Skipping Championship



Vishwa Bharati School faculty felicitating winner students.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the 25th National Rope Skipping Championship 2024, Panchkula, Haryana, nine skippers including one girl participated. The championship was organised by Rope Skipping Federation of India in collaboration with Modern Pythian Games Council of India on

December 12 to 15, 2024 at Tau Devi Lal Stadium Panchkula, Haryana. Vishwa Bharati skipper outstanding performance made a proud moment for Vishwa Bharati showcasing their exceptional talent and determination on the National Stage. Krish Mehra, won gold medal. Kunal Suria, Sushant Sharma, Naveen Singh and Paras Balgotra won bronze medals each. Dr. S.K. Koul President

Vishwa Bharati Women's Welfare Institution, Yoginder Koul Treasure Vishwa Bharati Jammu Unit, Verinder Dombi Member RAC, Annapurna Koul Principal Vishwa Bharati Higher Secondary School Jammu, Sammer Bhat Vice Principal Vishwa Bharati Higher Secondary School, Joginder Singh Sports teacher congratulated the young players and admired them for decorating the name of the school.

Heritageans excel at 68th SGFI basketball nationals

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Students of Heritage School showcased exceptional sportsmanship and talent at the 68th SGFI Basketball Nationals. Maheshwar Singh of Class XI A represented the school and his team in the tournament held in Patiala, Punjab

Adding to the accolades, Sachit Singh of Class VIII E participated in the Nationals held in Chhattisgarh from November 18 to 22, 2024, delivering a commendable performance on the court. Both students have brought laurels to the school through their dedication and hard



Heritage School faculty felicitating winner students.

from 20th Nov -26th Nov 2024, where he demonstrated outstanding skills while competing against some of the best young basketball players from across the country.

work. Heritage Fraternity congratulates Maheshwar and Sachit on their commendable achievement and wish them continued success in their future endeavours.

Effective mechanism in place for redressal of public issues: Dy CM

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Wednesday said an effective mechanism has been put in place for prompt redressal of issues being faced by the public.



Dy CM, Surinder Choudhary interacting with delegation.

"Necessary instructions have been issued to the concerned officers to ensure that the public grievances are redressed on priority and developmental initiatives are speeded up", maintained the Minister. The Deputy Chief Minister was interacting with scores of deputations who called on him today to project their issues and concerns related to their respective areas besides service related issues.

Another deputation of Kashmiri PM package aspirants demanded de reservation of vacant reserve category posts. Similarly, a deputation of National Health Mission employees of Doda district demanded honorarium enhancement besides better service conditions. A deputation of Sainik Colony residents demanded improvement in the vicinity areas besides macadamisation of link roads. Meanwhile, Legislators, former Sarpanchs and individuals from different areas also called on the Deputy Chief Minister and projected development and other issues of their respective constituencies and areas. The Deputy Chief Minister assured the deputations that the issues projected by them would be redressed on priority basis.

CSU in collaboration with India Think Council hosts Maha Kumbh conclave

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Central Sanskrit University (CSU), Shri Ranbir Campus, Jammu, in collaboration with India Think Council, organized the Maha Kumbh Conclave in a hybrid mode.

The event brought together eminent scholars, legal experts, and administrators to discuss the cultural and spiritual significance of the Maha Kumbh Mela. Distinguished speakers at the conclave included Prof. Neeraja Gupta, Vice Chancellor of Central University of Gujarat; Prof. Manoj Dixit, Vice Chancellor of Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner; Ashok Mehta, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India; and Prof. Dhananjay Chopra, among others, who participated virtually.

Shutdown to protest Vaishno Devi ropeway project



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In his keynote address, Prof. Shridhar Mishra, Campus Director of Shri Ranbir Campus, emphasized the unparalleled spiritual, cultural, and social significance of the Maha Kumbh Mela. "The Maha Kumbh Mela, a confluence of faith and tradition, is a unique spiritual and cultural event. It embodies unity, heritage, and the profound religiosity of India," he remarked. He further elaborated on the history, traditions, and scale of the event.

Wednesday's shutdown disrupted normal life in the town, resulting in reduced vehicular traffic on the roads. A large rally, backed by various organisations, was held by the Samiti from the Shalimar Park to oppose the ropeway project. Carrying placards and wearing black armbands, protestors raised slogans against the shrine board and the project.

"The Sangharsh Samiti is fighting for our rights as the board is out to snatch the bread and butter of over 60,000 families. Everyone - hoteliers, shopkeepers, pony operators, labourers and transporters - has come out to the streets against the ropeway project. We want the project to be shelved," Bhupinder Singh Jamwal, president of the Vaishno Devi Trek Mazdoor Union, told reporters. He added that all political parties and social organisations in Jammu and Kashmir have extended their support to the protest. "We will fight for our rights. We will not tolerate this," Jamwal asserted. The leaders of the group announced that five of its members would observe a hunger strike during the day

to press for a written assurance from the lieutenant governor or the home minister that the ropeway project would be scrapped. Former minister Jugal Kishore Sharma, who also joined the rally, said the government had failed to fulfil its commitment to resolve the issue by December 15.

The Samiti had earlier suspended its protests after assurances from local authorities, but the agitation resumed when no action was taken by the district administration, he said. "They were promised a solution by December 15, but nothing has been done," Sharma said, adding, "We are not against the shrine board but its ill-conceived project that could devastate both our livelihoods and our religious sentiments."

Dr Jitendra informs Lok Sabha about rising private sector involvement in Space activities

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh informed the Lok Sabha on Wednesday about the growing involvement of the public sector in India's space activities and highlighted the significant steps taken to encourage private sector participation. The Minister emphasized that the space sector has undergone substantial reforms, allowing private companies to engage in a wide range of activities, from satellite manufacturing to launching vehicles.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking in Lok Sabha.

One of the key developments in this effort is the creation of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE), a dedicated body within the Department of Space. IN-SPACE's role is to promote, authorize, and oversee the activities of Non-Government Entities (NGEs) in the space sector, ensuring a well-regulated and thriving ecosystem. To further support private involvement, the government has rolled out several initiatives, including the Seed Fund Scheme, Pricing Support Policy, Mentorship Support, Technology Transfer, and Skill Development Programs tailored to the space sector.

Since the liberalization of space activities, the number of space startups in India has surged dramatically from just 1 in 2014 to around 266 today. The government has also laid out a decadal vision and strategy aimed at increasing India's share in the global space economy, in line with its ambitious goals for space exploration and commercialization. Furthermore, the Union Cabinet recently approved the establishment of a Rs. 1,000 crore Venture Capital Fund to support the growth of India's space sector, complementing the efforts of IN-SPACE.

IN-SPACE has entered into 71 MoUs with various NGEs to support the development of space systems and applications. This collaboration is expected to increase private sector participation in the manufacturing of launch vehicles and satellites. The government has also relaxed its FDI policy to make it easier for Indian entities to access foreign capital for space ventures. Additionally, IN-SPACE has initiated the Earth Observation (EO) System under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, inviting private players to participate in the development of this system. The Technology Transfer of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is also in progress, with Indian entities invited to bid for the project. Looking ahead, Dr. Singh also highlighted major upcoming missions, including the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), set to launch its first module by 2028, with the full station expected to be operational by 2035. The Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM), scheduled for 2028, is another key mission, with an allocated budget of Rs. 1,236 crore aimed at exploring Venus and answering critical scientific questions. These steps are part of a broader effort to position India as a global leader in space exploration and commercialization. The Gaganyaan Program, which will include precursor missions for BAS, has seen a significant funding boost, increasing its total budget to Rs. 20,193 crore.