

Fostering spirit of inquiry & explorations in students can fetch us future Nobel laureates: Principal JKPS Kunjwani



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

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "Every brilliant experiment, like every great work of art, starts with an act of imagination". With this impactful and thought provoking statement from Jonah Lehrer, Pragna Singh Pathania from Grade 4th Falcon alongwith her classmates conducted the Morning Assembly at JKPS Kunjwani.

"Science offers an all new way of looking at things and it has played a big role in making India, what it is today. Be it the industrial sector, defence sector, space

sector or any other sphere, the development of each of these can be attributed to science. At national level, 9 national science missions have been identified, which aim to address major scientific challenges to ensure India's sustainable development", added Shah Faizal.

Budding poet Yogyata narrated a humorous poem titled "Scientific Inquiry", composed by Susan Blackaby: "Scientists are like explorers, using what they know and see. To blaze a trail that, step by

step, Will lead to new discoveries".

"Formulate, distill and focus, Narrow down, define the gist. Determine scope and pinpoint locus - This is your hypothesis".

"Gather all the stuff you need To put in play the machinations. Document the happenings - These comprise your observations".

"What things change and what things stick?

Record the outcomes and effects. Don't presume and don't predict - Collect the data: just the facts".

"Combine the concrete things you see With what you know and trials you test. Interpretation is the key - Results are where you end the quest".

In the segment "Quotations", Gunnet Kour mentioned Karl Marx and shared, "Natural science will in time incorporate into itself the science of man, just as

the science of man will incorporate into itself natural science. There will be one science". Arshdeep Singh quoted the greatest scientist of 20th century Albert Einstein and stated, "The science is the key to understanding the world around us". Vaidita Anand quoted the Missile man Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, "A nation with a strong base n science and technology is a nation with a strong backbone". Sauravi Gulati sought help from the Carl Sagan, "Science is a way of thinking much more than a body of

knowledge".

Shreshth Proach quoted the grateful Albert Einstein for the Indian scientists, "We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made". Parv Dubey mentioned substantial quote of Edward Teller and stated, "The science of today is the technology of tomorrow". Samiksha Saini quoted the biologist Louis Pasteur; "Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity and is a torch which illuminates the

world".

Principal JKPS Kunjwani Rajesh Rathore applauded the presenters of the Assembly for brainstorming the curious audience and shared his reflections by saying, "Our world today is rapidly evolving. To thrive in this dynamic environment, our students must embrace the spirit of inquiry and exploration. They must learn to adapt, innovate, and contribute meaningfully to society. Let us create an environment where curiosity is celebrated, questions are encouraged, and failures are

seen as stepping stones to success".

"Science is not just a subject, it's a way of thinking, a tool for empowerment, and a bridge to the future. By giving every child a strong foundation in science, we are not only equipping them for success but also building a generation of thinkers, innovators, and leaders. Fostering the spirit of inquiry & explorations in students can fetch us future Nobel laureates. Let us join hands to inspire our students to ask, explore, and discover", he concluded.

Finals positions cleared in Udhampur Volleyball Championship



A volleyball match in progress at Udhampur.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The second day of the District Udhampur Boys & Girls Volleyball Championship saw exciting action with two thrilling semifinals in both boys' and girls' categories. The tournament is being organized by the Volleyball Association of District Udhampur, under the aegis of the Volleyball Association of Jammu & Kashmir, and is sponsored by the J&K Sports Council.

In boys' semifinal matches played today, Udhampur Volleyball Club defeated Tikri Volleyball Club with a score of 2-0 (25-18, 25-21) and CVC Udhampur defeated Ramnagar Volleyball Club with a score of 2-0 (25-14, 25-18). Ramnagar Volleyball Club B defeated Army

Public School with a score of 2-0 (25-10, 26-24) and Ramnagar Volleyball Club A defeated Degree College Udhampur with a score of 2-0 (25-14, 25-10) in girls' semifinal matches.

The final matches for both boys' and girls' categories will take place tomorrow at the Volleyball Complex of Govt. HSS Boys, Udhampur, at 12:00 Noon.

Pawan Kumar Gupta, MLA of Udhampur (West), has consented to be the Chief Guest for the final.

The day's activities were presided over by Ashok Kumar, a veteran national volleyball player and a qualified referee of the Volleyball Federation of India. The event witnessed a great turnout of sports lovers, students, and prominent citizens, who came to support the players.

Notable attendees included Shashi Sharma, Physical Director of Degree College Udhampur, Kuldeep Sharma, national volleyball player, Pawan Kumar, Joint Secretary of VADU, and Goverdhan Singh.

The matches were officiated by a team of experienced referees, including Naveen Sharma, Deepak Sharma, Sunil Khajuria, Rajesh Sharma, and Vinod Sharma.

Kathua Boxing Championship begins

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Kathua District Boxing championship, organised under the banner of J&K Amateur Boxing Association and sponsored by the J&K Sports Council, started today at Mini Stadium, here today.

Boxers from schools of the district took part in the different age groups of boys and girls sections. The event was declared open by social worker, Rishi Kumar.

The Results:

Sub Junior: Boys: 30-33 kg: Hassan Ali, gold and Nishant, silver; 33-36 kg: Manjeet, gold and Neeraj, silver; 36-39 kg: Mohd Afzal, gold and Omkar Kushal, silver; 39-42 kg: Prikshat, gold; Harshvardhan, silver and Prashant Mangotra, bronze.

Girls: 30-33 kg: Gunjan, gold and Navjot, silver; 33-36 kg: Arshiya, gold and Prankit, silver; Junior Boys: 40-46 kg: Parth, gold and Akhlak, silver; 60-63 kg: Harshant Juneja, gold and Abhinav, silver; 67-70 kg: Udhak, gold and Ishan, silver; Elite: Lovjeet, gold; Hitesh Singh, silver and Suran Pareet, bronze.

Satish Sharma flags off Midnight Marathon from M.A Stadium Jammu



Sports Minister, Satish Sharma flagging off second edition of Jammu Midnight Marathon.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science and Technology, Transport, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma flagged off second edition of Jammu Midnight Marathon from Maulana Azad Stadium here.

The event, organized by Real Time Sports in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council, carries the

theme "Run for Pride of Jammu" and aims to promote fitness, unity and important causes like safe driving, women's safety and saving lives.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Satish Sharma said that the Marathon is not just a race, it's celebration of Jammu's strength and spirit. He added that this Marathon is a community focused initiative that also encourages fitness and awareness.

The marathon featured four categories including 5 KM Fun Run, 10 KM Challenge Run, Half Marathon (21.1 KM), and Full Marathon (42.2 KM) in which Runners from across the region participated.

During the event, participants were also distributed marathon's T-shirts to build an excitement among them.

Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul was also present on the occasion.

IIIM celebrates 84th Foundation Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu, has celebrated its 84th Foundation Day with fervour and gaiety here Sunday. The CSIR-IIIM, a premier research Institute of the country and a constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, was established in pre-independent India as Drug Research Laboratory of the then J&K State by Sir Ram Nath Chopra.

Dr. Manoj Kumar Dhar, Director Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), Ghaziabad and Ex Vice-Chancellor of University of Jammu was the Chief Guest on the occasion and delivered the foundation day lecture on "Creating an Ecosystem to Produce NextGen Science Leaders", wherein he delved upon various opportunities available to the budding young science leaders, as well as the requirement for grooming and mentorship to rise up to the challenges to become leaders of the Viksit Bharat 2047.

Dr. Nirpendra Chauhan, Director, Centre for Aromatic Plants, Dehradun, was the Guest of Honour and addressed the audience on this occasion. He dealt with the advancement of MAPs cultivation and opportunities for collaboration between both the institutions.

Earlier, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM welcomed the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and others, and in his foundation day address, paid rich tribute to the past Directors of the Institute as luminaries in the making of what CSIR-IIIM is today.

He also applauded the contribution of the scientific, technical, and administrative staff as well as the research scholars, project students, and contractual workers, towards various research and societal activities of the Institute.

He appreciated the increase in the patent output of the Institute as compared to the earlier increase and advised the S&T staff to continue with the trend.

While looking back at the achievements of the past year, such as the organiza-



tion of Start-up Expo at Kathua, which was inaugurated by the Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar; International Conference on Traditional Medicine and Phytopharmaceuticals (ICTMP-2024), which was inaugurated by the Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space and Vice President CSIR; several scientific workshops, training programs and start-up exhibitions, he said IIIM needs to continue with the same spirit and intend higher for the next year.

During the function, several Certificates of Recognition were presented to individuals for their outstanding achievements. Notable awards were given for the filing of new IND for Lead Compound IIIM-141, for managing Alzheimer's Disease, to Dr. Ajay Kumar; Dr. Sandip Bharate, Dr. Sonali Bharate, Dr. Deepika Singh, Dr. G. D. Singh, Dr. Utpal Nandi, Er. Anil Katara, Dr. Ram Vishwakarma, Dr. Parvinder Pal Singh, and Dr. Zabeer Ahmed. Similarly, Dr. Sandip Bharate, Dr. Shashi

Blushan, Dr. D.M. Mondhe, Dr. Sumit Gandhi, Dr. Ram Vishwakarma, Dr. Ajay Kumar, Dr. Parvinder Pal Singh, and Dr. Zabeer Ahmed received recognition for Clinical Trial Approval for Lead Compound IIIM-290.

The event also acknowledged achievements in microbial culture deposition with awards given to Rubena Tabassum, Farha Bhatti, and Parna Saha. Norein Sikander, Sourav Kumar, and Muzamil Samad were honored for depositing the maximum number of compounds to the Institutional Compound Repository.

Several patent-related awards were presented for innovative research and technological advancements in various fields. Some notable patent applications included:

"A Process for the Biotransformation of Geraniol to Geranic Acid", awarded to Vikash Babu, Praseon Gupta, Sumeet Gairola, Haseena Shafeeq, Bashir Ahmad Lone, Ananta Ganjoo, Nargis Ayoub Bhat, Amit Kumar, and Zabeer Ahmed. "Process for Preparation of Diosgenin by Endophytic Fungus", awarded to Palak Arora, Rubena Tabassum, Ajai P Gupta, Priya Wazir, Suphla Gupta, and Zabeer Ahmed. The ceremony also acknowledged international patents in areas such as anti-cancer agents, anti-viral drugs, neurodegenerative diseases, and pain management. Notable international patent applications included:

"A Nutraceutical Formulation for Improving Qualitative and Quantitative Sleep", awarded to Dhiraj Vyas, Dinesh Kumar, Damanpreet Singh, Premnarayan Gupta,

Sumeet Gairola. "C-17 Substituted 14-Dioxo-1,1,1,2,2,2-hexahydro-2H-pyridine-2-thione Compound as a Potential Anti-Viral Agent", awarded to Gulshan Kumar, Shazia Choudhary, Bhupesh Kumar Sharma, Alna Kuriyickal Martin, Yogesh Sardana, Renuga Devi, Bokara Kiran Kumar, Manzoor Ahmed, Sanket Kumar Shukla, Qazi Naveed Ahmed, Ravi Shankar, Zabeer Ahmed.

In addition, certificates were awarded to the administrative staff for their efforts in promoting Hindi within the organization. Recipients included Akhil Verma, Vikrant Awasthi, Abhishek Gupta, Romesh Mottan, Jyoti Devi, Rakesh Choudhary, Vinod Kumar Meena, Vishal Kunyal, and Manoj Kumar.

As part of the Foundation Day celebrations, a blood donation camp was organized on 30th September 2024 in observance of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day. The Chief Guest and dignitaries, including Pratik Singh Thapa, Rahul Kalgotra, Haseena Shafeeq, Dr. Sandeep Jaglan, and others,

felicitated the blood donors.

The celebrations also featured sports tournaments, including Inter-division cricket, won by the Natural Products and Medicinal Chemistry Division led by Dr. Naveed Qazi; Volleyball, won by the Plant Science and Agrotechnology Division led by Dr. Rajendra Bhanwaria; Badminton tournaments, with individual and doubles categories for both males and females; Tug-of-War competitions for both males and females. The week-long celebration concluded with a Musical Chairs competition, which saw a large number of participants, with Naureen Sikander emerging as the winner.

The event proceedings were conducted by Dr. Deepika Singh, Principal Scientist and Head of QMI, and the vote of thanks was presented by Er. Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist & Head of RMBD&IST. The program was organized under the patronage of Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM, and assisted by the HoDs of various scientific and administrative divisions.