

# Reflections on vision, mission & social commitment at JKPS Kunjwani

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JK Public School (JKPS), Kunjwani is a CBSE affiliated, child-centric, value-driven, co-educational, Senior Secondary school, which enjoys the privilege of being the FIRST CBSE school of Jammu. Stretched over a period of three decades, JKPS Kunjwani has emerged as a trendsetter; a model of excellence imparting 21st century holistic education to children on its rolls.

JKPS Kunjwani has introduced 18 Clubs to groom students in variety Co-scholastic domains. Members of one of the Clubs, namely, Rajat Sharma Club of Jr. Journalists, interviewed the Principal Rajesh Rathore. Here are the excerpts of the meaningful transaction between the Jr. Journalists (JJ) and the Principal Rajesh Rathore (RR):

JJ: What is your concept of an ideal JKian?

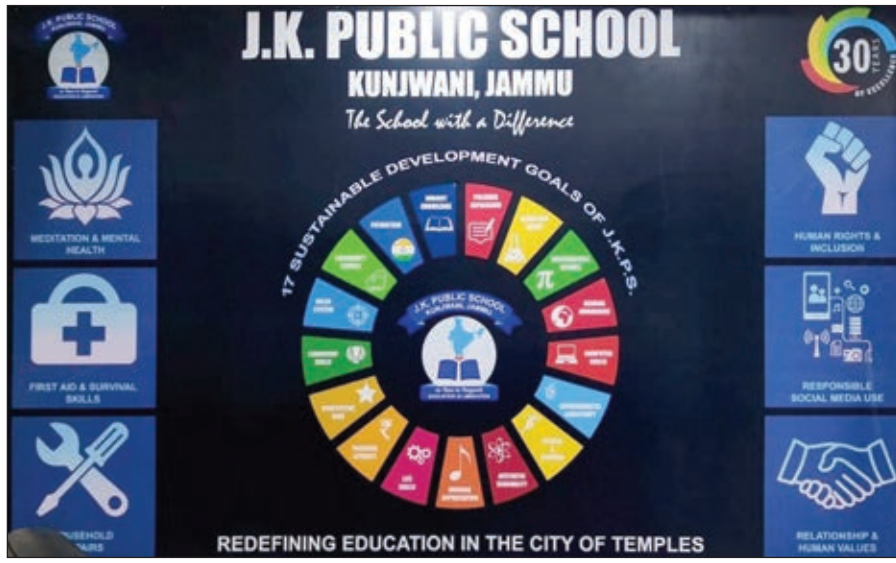
RR: An ideal JKian is the one, who can always be spotted in a group, who has a distinctive flavour to his/her personality; has a lively interest in topical events and the world around; speaks and writes fluently in English and in atleast one Indian language; has sufficient mastery over Mathematics and Science to understand and appreciate the scientific basis of modern civilization; is well informed and forms his/her own judgement; knows that being educated means abiding by certain standards of social behaviour; consistently makes efforts to mas-

ter the use of his/her hands in some form of creative activity; has developed a love of reading for its own sake; plays games and has learnt that sportsmanship is a quality that must be cherished in day-to-day life; is not afraid to speak the truth without being offensive and has greatest regard for the rule of law and justice; is well mannered, sensitive and smart in his/her dress and deportment; cherishes the freedom of the mind, the humanity of the heart and the integrity of the individual; loves truth, beauty and goodness. In short, he/she is the epitome of what a cultured person aspires to be!

JJ: Which features of the Institution do you admire the most?

RR: JK Public School, Kunjwani is one of the finest Institutions in the UT of J&K. Its infrastructure is an architectural marvel. Classrooms are quite spacious, well lit, & it's equipped with well-designed smart boards & soft boards. Since JKPS emphasizes on the holistic grooming of every child, so we have hand-picked, talented teachers in our Art, craft, Music, Dance & Sports faculties.

Here merely being a scholar is not eye-catching but when a scholar plays guitar/drum/keyboard or shakes legs on a dance style, like, contemporary/hiphop/break/ bhangra or sings a western song or presents a soulful rendition of a classical number or refutes the ideas of an opponent on a debating platform or makes the audience burst into peals of



laughter during a comic skit or makes the audience sob during a poignant scene of a tragic play, that catches the fancy of the gallery of spectators. We keep raising the bar.

Though it's a day school, yet it is spread over a vast expanse giving ample space for all the sports activities, like, Football, Cricket, Volley-ball, Basketball, Mini Olympic-size Swimming pool, Skating rink, Cricket practice nets, Badminton court, Squash courts, Tennis court, Golf and indoor games, like, Judo, Karate, Taekwondo, Gymnastics, Table Tennis (6 Nos.), Yoga, Carom, Chess etc.

JKPS is a wonderful school, wherein students are very decent, respectful and adorable. Teachers are quite knowledgeable, dedicated and committed. Their communication skills are very strong;

whether it be written or verbal expression

JJ: How do you define an ideal teacher?

RR: An ideal teacher has to be very knowledgeable, as it establishes the credentials of a teacher in the classroom. Without a profound knowledge, no teacher can stand firmly on his/her feet. Strong communication skills are always a crucial hallmark for a teacher. Explanation of a theoretical concept stays with a child forever; if it is articulated well by a teacher irrespective of the subject or the class.

A teacher, being a classroom leader, has to be a practitioner, not merely a preacher. It's truly stated that values are to be caught, not to be taught. A teacher has to be competent, responsible, punctual, regular, well-organized, value-driven, well-attired, compassionate,

forgiving and generous, if he/she wishes to see these qualities in his/her students. We can never expect students to exhibit those qualities or skills, which are found missing in their teachers.

JJ: How do you encourage and motivate the staff?

RR: I encourage my staff members by citing examples from my 30-year long gratifying teaching career. Words of appreciation and motivation fill the members of my staff with renewed vigour, passion and determination. When 'Titans' clash on a common platform, then clinching one of the coveted top three positions brings laurels to the institution. Addition of every accomplishment makes our hearts heave high with pride and admiration. We felicitate the members of the staff on special occasions for their meritorious

services and outstanding contributions. We organize capacity building programmes to empower our teachers on a regular basis.

JJ: How do you recruit and maintain quality teachers?

RR: The selection procedure for the recruitment of teachers has been quite stringent at JKPS Kunjwani. First of all, we shortlist candidates with brilliant academic background, schooling, strong communication skills in English along with suitable experience from renowned CBSE schools. Then we conduct a written test to evaluate the subject knowledge, written expression, relevance, reflection, hand writing and the presentation of the candidates. It is followed by a live demo, wherein a subject expert thoroughly discusses the subject-related, class-specific concepts with the candidates. Then, we conduct an interview, wherein we discuss about the areas of interest of a candidate in Co-curricular and sports activities, teaching experience, professional training programmes, capacity building workshops and overall personality. Finally the short-listed candidates get the privilege of having an Interaction with the Chairman & the Director.

JJ: What would be your ideal school environment and how would you encourage that kind of culture?

RR: An ideal school environment ensures a holistic growth profile to every student. School should not merely focus on a sound knowledge base, lan-

guage acquisition, personality development and fitness & stamina, whereas it should also focus on developing finer sensibilities in every child. Today the hallmarks of our Institution are the development of environmental awareness, community outreach programmes, creative thinking, critical thinking, decision making and problem solving skills among students. JKPS Kunjwani has designed 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will act as a lighthouse to set the direction of grooming from the entry stage to the passing out stage.

JJ: Outline the role that parents should play in the school?

RR: Parents' community is a great asset and one of the most important stakeholders for any institution. Parents must feel connected to the Institution and teachers. Parents and teachers together can ensure holistic grooming of students. They must be constantly in touch with the subject teachers, Class Teacher, Coordinator and the Principal. A regular feedback rather a 360 degree feedback is the need of the hour. Decency, dignity and mutual respect can always nourish the bonding between parents and teachers. Good parent-teacher bonding always fetches desired results and forms life-long relationship. Parents need to be very rational in today's world. They should not be credulous to whatever their wards narrate at home. They must clarify on certain inputs from their

wards. Even school staff feels very happy and satisfied, when they receive a call from parents. Believe me, whenever I speak to parents over phone, it cements the bonding between us. They appreciate teachers for their meaningful contributions and share their observations/suggestions on how to take the Institution to greater heights.

JJ: How do you visualize the future of your school?

RR: With the strong backing of an enlightened Management team, educational think-tanks, extremely talented Staff, superbly supportive parents & immeasurably talented & promising students, JK Public School Kunjwani enjoys the reputation of being one of the finest institutions in the entire Jammu & Kashmir. It's committed to ensure that a competent, compassionate, creative, responsible global citizenry passes out from its magnificent portals every year. AMEN!

JJ: Thanks a lot sir for sparing your valuable time and for reflecting your vision and strategies to help students design their roadmaps to reach their dream destination. Your unique vision and passionate endeavours will certainly put the JKPS Kunjwani on a new trajectory. Wishing you the best of luck!

RR: Thanks a ton, my beloved students. This institution is reaching its pinnacle of glory due to your sincerity, dedication, commitment & focussed approach. I wish you a very bright future. Good luck!

## KC Gurukul Public School celebrates Annual Sports Day with enthusiasm



Chief Guest DIG JSK Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma felicitating winner student and participants taking part sports event at KC Gurukul Public School.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Annual Sports Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in KC Gurukul Public School Jammu, Paloura on Monday.

The School's playground

was over flown with zeal, passion and frolicsome atmosphere.

The programme began with the arrival of the Chief Guest, Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG JSK range. The students displayed a

wide array of energetic and bouncy sports events ranging from the March Past, banana race, lemon race, relay race, two and three leg race.

They mesmerized the audience with their ener-

getic performances. The proud parents could be seen filled with happiness to see their child performing.

School's Director, Principal, parents and all the teachers were present to raise the morale of the students. The Chief Guest awarded the medals and the certificates to the winners of the various sports events. The chief guest addressed the gathering. He emphasized the importance of sports in a child's life. He was delighted to see girls participating in almost all the sports event. He also applauded the

students for the school's outstanding achievements. The chief guest felicitated school's student Sanjana Tickoo for securing the title of world champion in Pencak Silat held in UAE. She truly made us proud! The school management also gave her a cash prize of Rs 10,000 for her outstanding performance.

He emphasized the importance of limiting our usage of mobile phones and staying away from drugs. He also reminded us to not get involved in cyber crimes. The Sports Day concluded with the National Anthem.

## UP Govt promotes women empowerment

### SHAHZAD AKHTAR

LUCKNOW: Under the leadership of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the state is setting new benchmarks in the field of industrial development and employment generation and for this many ambitious projects have been started. The Yogi government has made extensive changes not only in the industrial sector but also in the direction of labor reforms and social welfare, but has also made the state an attractive destination for business and investment.

The Yogi government has given special priority to women workers. Emphasis has been laid on making them economically capable and creating safe workplaces for them. Women have been given more opportunities in traditional sectors like pottery and textile industry. The aim of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is to make Uttar Pradesh not only industrially strong but also

to make it the main center of the Self-reliant India campaign. Textile hubs and other industrial projects are playing an important role in realizing this vision.

Moving towards social development through industrial and economic development, the government has emphasized on employment generation, women empowerment and expansion of digital processes. Reforms in labor laws, expansion of digital processes, and special schemes for women workers, all these initiatives are leading the state on the path of becoming a trillion dollar economy.

Apart from this, special schemes have been started to encourage women workers. Special employment opportunities have been given to women workers in pottery, carpet, brass, and lock industries. These schemes have not only increased the participation of women workers but also empowered them economically. Working hours in IT

and textile industries have been increased from 8 to 12. This has increased efficiency and productivity. Also, permanent employment contracts have been allowed in textile and other industries. As a result, new employment opportunities have been created.

The Yogi government has amended and simplified 7 major labor laws since 2017. Due to these reforms, Uttar Pradesh has secured a place in the category of "Top Achiever" in 2022. Under the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP), the state was ranked 14th in 2018, which has now reached the second position. These reforms have not only promoted industrial investment but have also laid a strong foundation towards developing the state as an economic hub. The government has also given special attention to small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which are the backbone of the state's economy.

## Army conducts cricket tournament at Kotranka



Army officer presenting trophy to winner team.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: The Indian Army conducted a Cricket Tournament for boys from Rajouri at Kotranka from December 23 to 29, 2024.

The main objective of this event was to positively engage the youth, promote a healthy lifestyle, and encourage physical fitness. The cricket matches were played in T-10 format for youths under 19 years old from local schools. This tournament also aimed at fostering cohesiveness among the youth of the area and building on the already existing cordial relationship with the Indian Army.

A total of four teams from

local schools participated in the competition, and the matches were conducted on a league basis. All participating teams displayed great enthusiasm and sportsmanship during the competition, and the spectators' enthusiasm was extraordinary. After the league stage and semi-finals, the two best teams reached the final.

In a thrilling final match between High Secondary School Budhal and Government Degree College Kotranka, High Secondary School Budhal emerged as the winner and lifted the winner's trophy. Such positive engagement diverts curious young

minds from getting involved in issues related to drug abuse, unlawful activities, and channels the energy of the youth in a positive direction. It boosts competitive skills and helps them resist falling into the traps of anti-national and anti-social elements. The conduct of this cricket competition at Kotranka will motivate the youth to keep themselves fit.

The youth and locals of the area expressed their sincere thanks and gratitude towards the Indian Army for conducting the cricket tournament and taking this noble initiative towards effective youth engagement.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: 2024 highlights in the Ministry of Personnel, Govt of India, included Mission 'Karmayogi', Face Recognition Certification and revenue from scrap. This was stated here today by Personnel/ DoPT Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, adding that prompt redressal of public grievances, promotion of digital life certificates among pensioners and generation of wealth from disposal of scrap were some of the key initiatives undertaken by the Ministry this year.

Speaking to PTI in a year-end exclusive on the Ministry's achievements in 2024, Union Minister of State for Personnel Dr Jitendra Singh said several initiatives were undertaken to further ensure ease of governance for people, especially those living in far flung areas.

"The Ministry is proactively following the mantra of 'maximum governance and minimum government' given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. For instance, the average time for disposal of public grievances has come down from 28 days in 2019 to 13 days in 2024," he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, over 1.12 crore public grievances were redressed during the last five years. These complaints were raised on the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) portal. "A total of 1,12,30,957 grievances were redressed from 2020-2024 and an annual all-time high of 23,24,323 grievances have been redressed on CPGRAMS portal from January-October, 2024," he said.

## 2024 highlights include Mission 'Karmayogi', Face Recognition Certification, revenue from scrap: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in an exclusive year-end interview with a news agency at New Delhi on Monday.

The Minister said that the Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) under his ministry actively promoted use of digital life certificates among the pensioners.

"As a result, a whopping 1.3 crore digital life certificates were generated during a month-long special campaign undertaken by the government in November," he said.

Pensioners need to submit a life certificate annually for the continuation of their pension. Traditionally, these life certificates were submitted in physical mode only which was inconvenient for the pensioners.

In November 2014, an Aadhaar-based scheme for online submission of digital life certificates (DLCs) through Face Recognition technology, Jeevan Pramaan, was launched by Prime Minister Modi to ensure transparency in the system and facilitate the pensioners to submit

life certificates at their comfort, thus greatly enhancing their ease of living.

To promote Jeevan Pramaan, the nationwide DLC campaign 3.0 was conducted from November 1 to 30.

"Focused efforts led to the submission of a substantial number of DLCs by pensioners aged 80 and above during the campaign period," Singh said.

By March 2025, the ministry aims to achieve over 1.60 crore of DLC submissions.

The Minister said that the government has been continuously moving towards the ambitious Mission Karmayogi -- the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB) -- mandated to meet changing needs and aspirations of the citizens.

"Central to the programme is to have role-based training of civil servants instead of rule-based," he said.

Singh said the government has recently started the "Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi" initiative which focuses on strengthening panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) through innovative tools and capacity-building frameworks.

Besides this, the cleanliness campaign spearheaded by the Personnel Ministry during October.

These campaigns have generated a revenue of Rs 2,364 crore through disposal of scrap from 2021-2024.

This year, the special campaign 4.0 was undertaken at more than 5.97 lakh sites and it resulted in freeing at least 190 lakh square feet of space for effective office use.

Dr Jitendra Singh said with every passing year, the size and scale of the special campaign are increasing.

When asked about the ministry's priorities during 2025, he said it will take further steps to ensure ease of governance.

"Emphasis will be on expeditious disposal of public grievances. The government will further popularise submission of digital life certificates by the central and state governments pensioners. Institutionalising cleanliness in government offices and premises across the country would remain another focus area. The government will aim to de-clutter spaces in its offices and sell off unwarranted items or scrap," Singh said.

He said the online public grievance redressal system (CPGRAMS) will be further modernised using next-generation technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI).

As many as 63 specialists have been appointed in different central government departments through the lateral entry mode from 2019 to 2023. Of these, 35 were appointed on contract basis and the remaining 28 on deputation.

The personnel ministry in June operationalised provisions of a stringent law that aims to curb malpractices and irregularities in competitive examinations and entails provisions for a maximum jail term of 10 years and a fine of up to Rs 1 crore for offenders.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Monday conducted an extensive sur-

prise inspection of tehsil Bahu, evaluating the functioning of its offices and the delivery of public services.

Accompanied by

Additional District Development Commissioner Sher Singh and Assistant Deputy Commissioner Shishir Gupta, the DC visited key offices, including the Tehsil and Niabat offices, to assess their performance and ensure efficient services delivery.

As part of the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner also undertook a field inspection in Chatta area, accompanied by the District Forest Officer and other concerned officials.

