

Young Hearts, Timeless Bonds: JKians visit Old Age Home, Amphalla



Glimpses of visit of JK Public School Kunjwani students at the Home for Aged & Infirm People, Amphalla.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a profound gesture of compassion and experiential learning, students of JK Public School, Kunjwani visited the Home for Aged & Infirm People, Amphalla. The visit, organised under the school's experiential learning and community outreach programme, aimed to deepen students' understanding of the emotional, social, and psychological needs of senior citizens while nurturing empathy and responsible citizenship.

A group of 30 students from the Psychology Stream, accompanied by Yashu Jain, faculty member from the

Psychology Department, participated in this meaningful visit. The experience offered them a heartfelt glimpse into lives shaped by years of wisdom, memories, resilience, and untold stories.

The students presented soulful cultural performances-group songs, dances, and poetry recitations-that filled the home with joy and warmth. The elderly residents responded with radiant smiles, affectionate blessings, and heartfelt engagement. They shared personal life experiences, precious lessons, and stories that left a deep emotional impact on the young visitors.

Many students described the experience as overwhelming yet enriching, as they listened intently and connected with the residents at a personal level.

As a gesture of love and gratitude, students gifted warm socks, shawls, and handkerchiefs to all the residents. The simple yet thoughtful offerings brought visible happiness to the elders, making the interaction memorable for both generations.

The administration of the Old Age Home warmly appreciated the visit and even served refreshments to students and teachers. They acknowledged the stu-

dents' discipline, sensitivity, and their respectful conduct throughout the visit.

The students were deeply moved by the dignified manner in which the residents embraced life despite age-related challenges. The well-maintained environment and the care extended by the staff further assured the students that these homes are not merely shelters-they are spaces where elders continue to live with dignity, comfort, and a sense of belonging.

For the students, it was touching to hear many residents lovingly address them as their own grandchildren-a moment that beautifully bridged the gap between gen-

erations.

Reflecting on the experience, Yashu Jain remarked, "Such initiatives significantly enhance students' emotional intelligence, broaden their perspectives, and teach them the true essence of compassion and human connection".

She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Director, JK Educational Society, Shashi Chaudhary, and the Principal, JKPS Kunjwani, Rajesh Rathore, for facilitating this deeply enriching experience for the students. "Students returned feeling more equipped, more evolved, and remarkably enlightened", she summed

up. The visit served as a powerful reminder of the value of empathy, respect, and care for our elders. It reaffirmed the belief that old-age homes are not just places to reside but spaces to thrive-spaces upheld by humanity, kindness, and shared stories. JK Public School, Kunjwani remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering socially conscious, emotionally intelligent, and compassionate learners. The school will continue to organise such outreach programmes to ensure students grow into responsible citizens who value the rich experiences of every generation.

M D SRM Contractors Puneet honoured with "ET Young Industry Leaders 2025" Award

"Recognized for Excellence in Roads and Highways in Hilly Terrain"

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a significant recognition of leadership and engineering excellence, Puneet Pal Singh, Managing Director of SRM Contractors Ltd., has been conferred with the prestigious "ET Young Industry Leaders 2025" award by the Times of India.

The award recognizes his exceptional contributions to the infrastructure sector, specifically for "Excellence in Roads and Highways in Hilly Terrain."

This accolade celebrates Singh's remarkable achievements in spearheading complex road and highway development projects across India's most



Puneet Pal Singh, MD of SRM Contractors Ltd., receiving the ET Young Industry Leaders 2025 award.

challenging hill regions at a young age.

Under his leadership, SRM Contractors has consistently delivered critical infrastructure in geologi-

cally fragile and logistically difficult terrains.

This marks the third consecutive time that SRM Contractors Ltd. has been honoured by the Times of

India group, underscoring the company's sustained dominance and reliability in extreme terrain infrastructure.

The award jury com-

mended the company for its ability to combine engineering precision with environmental stewardship. "SRM Contractors Ltd. has set an example by demonstrating that eco-friendly and innovative landslide-prevention methods can preserve natural landscapes while enhancing infrastructure resilience.

"SRM Contractors Ltd. is a leading infrastructure company specializing in the construction of roads, tunnels, and slope stabilization in the challenging terrains of the Himalayas. Known for its focus on quality, speed, and safety, the company is a trusted partner in nation-building.

Tributes paid to 1947 Martyrs at Master Devi Chand Park



Kotli Colony Jammu residents paying tributes to Amar Shaheeds of 1947 freedom struggle.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A programme was organised at Master Devi Chand Park, Kotli Colony, Jammu, where all members gathered to pay heartfelt tributes to the Amar Shaheeds of the 1947 freedom struggle who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, Kamal Gupta highlighted the immense hardships and strug-

gles faced by the martyrs during those crucial times. He also appealed to the Government to release the pending funds for refugees, reminding that the government had already committed to doing so.



Those who joined in paying tribute included Rajesh Chowdhary, Prof. Ashok Arun Arya, Dr. Ramesh Gupta, Ravinder Khanna, Anil, and Sudesh Gupta.

District Baramulla Table Tennis C'ship concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: The two-day District Baramulla Table Tennis Championship concludes at indoor Stadium Baramulla. The event was organized District Table Tennis Association Baramulla in collaboration with J&K Table Tennis Association under the aegis J&K Sports Council. Dr Tahir Ramzan Bhat HOD physical education department and Sports GDC Baramulla graced the occasion as the chief guest. The championship witnessed strong participation across various categories in senior, junior, & sub-junior for both boys & girls. Players displayed remarkable skill, discipline & sportsmanship throughout the competition.

Among others Pir Siraj ud Din, former Member J&K Sports Council, Sheikh Mushtaq former Manager J&K Sports Council Baramulla, Hakeem Ab Aziz Deputy Director My Bharat Govt of India, Haji Ab Majeed Dar former manager J&K Sports Council, Altaf Hussain Sr TT player Sopore, Showket Hussain Shah Manger J&K sports council Baramulla unit, Pirzada Irshad Ahmad incharge GBR Stadium Janbazzira Baramulla, Peerzada Ab Qayoom President District Table Tennis Association Baramulla and Khazir Mohammad Ganaie General Secretary District Table Tennis Association Baramulla. Sheikh Mushtaq former Manager JKSC Baramulla was awarded as Sheikh Tulal Award 2025. President District Table Tennis Association Baramulla Haji Ab Qayoom appreciated all participants, coaches and officials for their contribution in making the event successful. The championship concluded with medal distribution.



CHIEF MINISTER
Jammu & Kashmir

Message

World AIDS Day is observed on 1st December every year all over the world. It serves to remind the public and policymakers that HIV / AIDS is still a public health issue.

It promotes awareness about HIV prevention, encourage people to get tested to know their status and advocates for access to care and treatment services. It also honors the memory of those lost to the disease and celebrates progress made in treatment and prevention.

HIV prevention is the most effective approach to reducing new infections and minimizing the impact of the disease. There is still much more to be done to achieve the SDG target of ending AIDS by 2030. AIDS is not over and given today's environment, a new transformative approach is needed to mitigate risks and help us reach our targets.

I appeal to the people to join in the mission to contain spread of HIV / AIDS. At the same time let us create more awareness of the disease and move towards ending AIDS as a public health threat by the year 2030.

Let us all play our individual and collective roles and contribute in this shared mission.

Manoj Sinha
(Manoj Sinha)



CHIEF MINISTER
Jammu & Kashmir

Message

World AIDS Day is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. It is one of the first and most recognized global health days, with annual themes chosen to focus on specific aspects of the response to HIV/AIDS, such as human rights, treatment access, and ending the epidemic by 2030.

The theme for World AIDS Day 2025 is "Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response". This theme focuses on addressing the disruptions to HIV prevention and treatment services, and calls for transforming the response through sustained political leadership, international cooperation, and human-rights-centered approaches to end AIDS by 2030.

The day is also crucial for fighting stigma and discrimination, ensuring that people with HIV can access the care they need, and working towards the global goal of ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat.

Omar Abdullah
(Omar Abdullah)



MINISTER
for Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare Department, J&K


Message

World AIDS Day, designated on 1st December every year since 1988, is an international day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection and remembering those who have died of the disease. It is a day of solidarity for people around the world who are infected and affected by HIV.

World AIDS Day remains as relevant today as it's always been; reminding people and governments that HIV has not gone away. There is still a critical need for increased funding for the AIDS response, to increase awareness of the impact of HIV on people's lives, to end stigma and discrimination and to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV.

I appreciate the work of Jammu & Kashmir AIDS Control Society for their continuous efforts in raising awareness and working towards eliminating HIV in Jammu & Kashmir.

Sakeena Itoo
(Sakeena Itoo)



WORLD AIDS DAY

1ST DEC | 2025
JAMMU & KASHMIR
AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY



CHIEF SECRETARY
Jammu & Kashmir

Message

Every Year 1st December is observed as **World AIDS Day** all over the world. It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. It is one of the eight official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organization (WHO) along-with World Health Day, World Blood Donor Day, World Immunization Week, World Tuberculosis Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Malaria Day and World Hepatitis Day.

The world can end AIDS – if everyone's rights are protected. This year's theme, "Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response" aims at addressing the challenges to the HIV response and pushing for greater political and financial support in order to end AIDS as a public health threat by the year 2030. The global HIV response cannot rely on domestic resources alone. Countries must make radical shifts to HIV programming and funding. Political leadership is paramount to advancing policies that address structural inequalities and protect vulnerable populations.

Let us be united and make a resolve in raising awareness about the importance of World AIDS Day and for alleviating all sorts of stigma and discrimination associated with it.

Atal Dulloo
(Atal Dulloo)



Secretary to the Govt.
Health & Medical Education
Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Civil Secretariat, Jammu / Srinagar

Message

World AIDS Day is an opportunity for public and private partners to spread awareness about the status of the pandemic and encourage progress in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care around the world. It brings together people from around the world to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and demonstrate international solidarity in the face of the pandemic.


It has become one of the most widely recognized international health days and a key opportunity to raise awareness, commemorate those who have died, and celebrate victories such as increased access to treatment and prevention services.

Globally 40.8 million people were living with HIV in the year 2024 and 1.3 million people were newly infected with HIV. The number of people living with HIV in India is around 25 lakhs. Stigma and discrimination remain significant issues, with 30% of people in the 15-49 age groups reporting experiencing it. Jammu and Kashmir falls in the low prevalence category with respect to adult HIV prevalence but still has around 4100 people who are living with HIV and are receiving anti-retroviral therapy treatment at present.

Transformative solutions are needed to improve access for the patients to HIV services, eliminate stigma and discrimination, and ensure the protection of rights.

My request to the members of the society especially those working in the arena of health is to create a conducive environment for all those who are in need of help, are infected or affected by HIV especially the most at risk populations so that we are able to eliminate HIV/AIDS in J&K at the earliest.

Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah
(Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah), IAS



PROJECT DIRECTOR
Jammu & Kashmir AIDS Control Society
H&ME Department, Government of J&K

Message

World AIDS Day is observed all over the world each year on 1st December. Government and health officials, non-governmental organizations, communities and individuals around the world observe this day, often with an aim to create awareness on HIV/AIDS prevention and control and to show solidarity for people around the world who are affected by HIV. This is a day for voices to unite by sharing experiences, remembering those lost, and standing together in the fight against HIV. India is working towards the goal of ending AIDS by 2030 in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of ending the AIDS as a public health threat but more testing and treatment access are needed to achieve this target and the vision of the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), MOH&FW (GOI) is also focused towards an 'AIDS free India'.

In 2025, a historic funding crisis is threatening to unravel decades of progress. HIV prevention services are severely disrupted. Community-led services, vital to reaching marginalized populations, are being deprioritized while the rise in punitive laws criminalizing same-sex relationships, gender disparity, and drug use is amplifying the crisis, making HIV services inaccessible.

The global HIV response cannot rely on domestic resources alone. The international community must come together to bridge the financing gap, support countries to close the remaining gaps in HIV prevention and treatment services, remove legal and social barriers, and empower communities to lead the way forward.

Jammu & Kashmir AIDS Control Society works continuously with an aim of raising awareness about HIV/AIDS, for providing equal access to HIV related services for people infected / affected by HIV and to reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with the disease.

This World AIDS Day, join us in calling for sustained political leadership, international cooperation, and human-rights-centred approaches to end AIDS by 2030. For any sort of information regarding HIV/AIDS you can call national toll free helpline number 1097.

Dr. Jehangir Bakshi
(Dr. Jehangir Bakshi)

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