

Remembering the Lost, Honouring the Living-JKPS Kunjwani Observes World AIDS Day with Compassion, Awareness and Hope



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

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: This is not a moment to reflect on our own busy routines, but a moment of shared global remembrance. A moment to remember the millions of lives lost to AIDS-related illnesses, and a moment to honour the courage of those living with HIV today.

With these profound words, Avantika of Grade VI Pearl set the tone for a deeply meaningful morning assembly on the theme World AIDS Day at JK Public School,

Kunjwani. Adding depth to the discourse, Ridha stated that "1st December is acknowledged worldwide for three compelling reasons: to raise awareness about the AIDS pandemic, to mourn and remember those who have passed away, and to celebrate the collective progress made in preventing new infections and ensuring access to effective treatment."

The assembly further intensified with Ridha's insight: "Today, we explore the sym-

bolism of the red ribbon, understand what HIV and AIDS truly are, and reaffirm our role in building a world free of stigma, discrimination, and new infections."

She continued by reminding the audience that World AIDS Day is not merely a date on the calendar, but "a powerful reminder to embrace compassion and empathy for those affected by HIV/AIDS, while honouring the countless lives cut short by this devastating global epidemic."

Shahin Dogra strengthened the narrative by clarifying: AIDS-Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome-is caused by HIV (Human Immuno Virus), which damages the immune system, making the body vulnerable to multiple infections. Millions across the globe continue their battle against this condition, reminding us of the need for awareness, empathy and unwavering support."

Bringing the assembly to an impactful close, Rehansh

said: "World AIDS Day, observed annually on 1st December, elevates public consciousness about HIV/AIDS and acts as a platform to show solidarity with all individuals navigating life with this condition. It is a reminder to support, not stigmatize."

Tejasveer Singh quoted Albert Einstein: "Awareness saves lives, and kindness changes the world."

Karamveer Singh Bali invoked Kofi Annan: "The fight against AIDS is not just

a fight against a disease; it is a fight for human dignity."

Aksh Kundal highlighted a message used in global campaigns: "Give a child love, laughter and peace - not AIDS."

Vinayek Raina referenced the World Health Organization: "Think about HIV. Hate the disease, not the diseased. Spread awareness, not ignorance."

Shahid echoed the iconic words of Elizabeth Taylor: "It is bad enough that people are dying of AIDS, but no one

should die of ignorance."

Rajesh Rathore, Principal JKPS Kunjwani, delivered a deeply moving message, "Days like World AIDS Day remind us that human strength is not measured by physical health alone, but by courage, optimism and an unshakable spirit. History is full of inspiring examples where Cancer or AIDS survivors outlived medical predictions-not merely because of treatment, but because of their mental toughness, hope, and an extraordinary will to live. When life

places us in situations of chronic or incurable illness, two virtues become our greatest lifelines: patience and optimism. A patient heart endures; an optimistic mind transcends."

"Always remember: diseases may weaken the body, but despair weakens the soul. When we choose hope over fear, courage over stigma and compassion over judgement, we empower humanity itself. Let us stand together for a world where no one fights their battles alone", he concluded.

JAJK holds UT Judo champ concludes



Participating players posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Judo Association of Jammu and Kashmir organised J&K UT (boys and girls) Championship at Indoor Complex, Bhagwati Nagar, here on Monday.

The winners of various weight groups were felicitated with medals by the president of the Association, Sukesh Dutta in the presence of guest of honour, Rahil Singh.

The bouts in this day-long

event officiated by the technical panel including Suraj Bhan Singh, Arshi Nad, Shafakat Shafi, Vikas Dogra, Ritika Slathia, Jugal Kishore and Shakti Gupta.

Prominent among others present were Suraj Sharma (general secretary); Rohit Sadhotra, Tahir Ahmed, Ranjodh Singh and Atul Sharma.

The event held under the guidance of organising secretary, Munish Chatwal.

The Detailed Results:
GIRLS: 48 Kg: Manya, Jammu, Ist; Nazima Fatima, Srinagar, 2nd and Amisha Devi, Rajouri and Manvi, Reasi, 3rd. 52 Kg: Khushi Thakur, Doda, Ist; Sadaf Khataon, Srinagar, 2nd; Shaheen Akhtar, Reasi and Palak Sharma, Jammu, 3rd. 57 Kg: Tamleek Shah, Srinagar, Ist; Yashika Jamwal, Jammu, 2nd; Smeena Akhtar, Kathua and Priya Sharma, 3rd.

Udhampur . 63 Kg: Talha Fayaz, Srinagar, Ist; Vishakha, Rajouri, 2nd. 70 Kg: Upasana, Kathua, Ist; Adeeba Agam, Baramulla, 2nd; Aakriti, Rajouri and Aishwarya Bhat, Jammu, 3rd. 78 Kg: Anshika Sharma, Jammu, Ist; Tanvi Thakur, Rajouri, 2nd and Bushra Yaseen, Sringar, 3rd. Open: Anmol Devi, Kathua, Ist; Vartika, Jammu, 2nd.

BOYS: 60 Kg: Eshaan

Students earn belts in Korean Taekkyon Cultural Martial Art



Students posing with dignitaries after receiving belts.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The India Taekkyon Federation conducted a Korean Taekkyon Belt Grading Test under the aegis of the World Taekkyon Federation at S.P. Smart School, Exchange Road, Jammu. Students from Junior IDRS School, Air Force School, Convent School and S.P. Smart School enthusiastically participated in the event, which

highlighted the traditional roots and cultural richness of Taekkyon. The programme was hosted by S.P. Smart School.

The belt test showcased the elegance and unique style of Taekkyon, with student demonstration teams exhibiting its flexible yet powerful techniques. Their performances received loud applause from local audiences and martial arts enthusiasts.

An official from the India Taekkyon Federation remarked, "Taekkyon is a martial art rooted in gentleness and philosophy. This belt test helps promote Taekkyon as a cultural heritage of humanity and strengthens J&K's role in global martial arts exchange." Adl. CEO of S.P. Smart Schools Shilpa Gupta, HOD, and Rahul Mahajan, Vice President, Jammu Zone National Conference, graced the occasion and encouraged the young martial artists.

VAJK announces trials for Senior National Volleyball Championships

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Volleyball Association of J&K (VAJK) has announced that selection trials for Senior Men and Women teams will be held at M.A. Stadium, Jammu, from 18 to 19 December, 2025 ahead of the 72nd Senior National Volleyball Championships scheduled in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, from 4 to 11 January, 2025. The trials shall be conducted by the selection committee of the Association.

Players must produce their Aadhaar card, Domicile Certificate, and Medical Certificate at the venue. All district units have been asked to send their top performers for the trials.

CEO VAJK Kuldip Magotra said, "We aim to field strong teams, and these trials will help us identify the best talent from across J&K."

The selected players will join a coaching camp at the same venue from 20th December, 2025 to 2nd January, 2026, under qualified volleyball coaches.

Dismal show by J&K against Pondicherry in U-19

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: After beating the tough side of Mumbai, Jammu and Kashmir on Monday performed poorly conceding 119 runs first innings lead against Pondicherry at the end of day-one play of the Cooch Behar (Under-19) Trophy at GGM Science College Hostel Ground, here. After bowling out for a small total of 86 runs, J&K could not halt the progressing innings of visiting side and allowed Pondicherry to take the total to 205 for five in 61 overs.

Middle order, Harris Maraich created all the difference with his unbeaten knock of 64 runs studded with nine boundaries. Aakhil Kaehru also played well contributing 35 runs and was instrumental in building a crucial 69 runs partnership with Harris.

Harris got a life when he was dropped at a score of 59, with team total of 180, at the slips. It was Harris, who strengthened the Pondicherry innings keeping the one end intact.

Earlier, Pondicherry won the toss and elected to field, bowled out J&K for a surprisingly small total of 86 runs in 19.2 overs in the very first session of the play.

Kishan Yadav was wrecker in

SCOREBOARD	
JAMMU AND KASHMIR 1ST INNINGS	
Kamaksh Sharma (wk) c P Shailesh b Kishan Yadav	36
Salman Ahmad Bakshi b Kishan Yadav	01
Arjun Sharma b Kishan Yadav	00
Dhruv Sharma (C) c P Shailesh b Kishan Yadav	10
Shiva Thakur c & b Shiva Subash	26
Arman Sharma b Kishan Yadav	01
Faizan Ahmad c P Shailesh b Kishan Yadav	05
Zaid Ahmad b Srujan Sinhasan	00
Abdul Basit Lone lbw Kishan Yadav	00
Jeevesh Gupta not out	03
Waseem Zulfkar b Shiva Subash	00
Extras	04
Total	86/10
PONDICHERRY 1ST INNINGS	
R Jviteshan c Kamaksh Sharma b Waseem Zulfkar	15
Dharmendar Dasana run out (Faizan Ahmad)	23
Prajan Kumar	21
Harris Maraich not out	64
Aahil Kaehru b Faizan Ahmad	35
P Shailesh (C) (WK) b Dhruv Sharma	17
Srujan Sinhasan not out	17
Extras	13
Total	205/5

chief, who pierced through the J&K batting line and clinched seven wickets for 23 runs in nine overs, he bowled. Shiva Subash took the remaining two wickets of J&K innings on consecutive deliveries. Opener wicketkeeper batsman, Kamaksh Sharma (36 off 20 ball, 7x4) and Shiva Thakur

were the only batsmen, who could resist the Pondicherry attack and contributed 36 and 26 runs respectively. Dhruv Sharma added 10 runs and no other batsman could touch the double figure mark.

J&K in their previous match at the same venue defeated Mumbai comprehensively.

CLUJ felicitates DSW team for spectacular success of Yuvrang 2025

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a ceremony marked by appreciation and celebration, the Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) Prof. K S Chandrasekar, and the Director Colleges, Higher Education Department J&K Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, felicitated the Team of the Department of Students Welfare (DSW) in presence of Ankur Mahajan registrar CLUJ for their exemplary contribution in making Yuvrang 2025 the University's annual literary and cultural fest an overwhelming success.

The felicitation honoured the Dean, DSW Prof. D. S. Manhas, Associate and Assistant Deans, Cultural Conveners, Presidium and Members of the Student Cultural Council, along with the entire DSW staff, whose tireless efforts turned the mega fest into a vibrant celebration of creativity, youth talent and cultural diversity.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director



VC CLUJ Prof. K S Chandrasekar with DSW team at felicitation function.

Colleges praised the team's synergy and dedication, stating that the Yuvrang has emerged as a benchmark of excellence. The flawless execution, discipline, and spirit of teamwork displayed by DSW truly reflect the evolving cultural vibrancy of our institutions.

Echoing the sentiment, the Vice Chancellor commended the team for elevating the university's cultural identity.

"The grand success of Yuvrang stands as a testament to the commitment and passion of the DSW team and our talent-

ed students. Their collective effort has brought pride to the University."

The proceedings of the programme were conducted in a rhythmic and engaging style by Dr. Revika Arora, Cultural Convener, who added charm and seamless flow to the event.

The ceremony concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by Prof. D. S. Manhas, Dean DSW, who expressed gratitude to the University leadership for their constant support and encouragement.

J&K women lose by 66 runs in U-23 T20

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir suffered a 66 runs defeat in the hands of Bengal in Women's under-23 Twenty20 Trophy Elite at VCA Stadium, Civil Lines, Nagpur.

As per the reports reaching here, Bengal won the toss and elected to bat made 139 runs in 18.5 overs. In reply, J&K could make 73 runs for seven wickets in the allotted overs.

Opener, Bhawandeep Kaur played fine innings of 16 runs while Mariya Noorain made highest 23 and Ronaq Jahan added 13. No other batter could touch the double figure mark. Titas Sadhu, Payal Vakharia and Piyali Ghosh took two wickets each from Bengal.

Earlier, Bengal played confidently with Prativa Mandi being top scorer with 45 runs and Sushmita Ganguly added 25. Rudrakshi Chib and Khushboo Aftab took three wickets each for J&K.