

JKPS Kunjwani conducts special assembly to celebrate the auspicious festival of Navratras



Glimpses of special assembly at JKPS Kunjwani to celebrate auspicious festival of Navratras.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the spirit of devotion, culture and celebration, a grand assembly was held in JK Public School (JKPS) Kunjwani on Saturday to commemorate the festival of Navratras. Everybody present was infused in this vibrancy of tradition, faith and festivity. The assembly began with a

special Bhajan invoking the blessings of Maa Durga. The chanting of Shlokas and the prayer added to the divinity of the day. Students presented a well coordinated dance depicting the nine forms of Maa Durga, each form showing the unique power and virtue. The captivating performance was spiritually uplifting.

Zoya through a thought provoking speech, talked about the importance of Navratras in modern times. The whole school resonated with the sound of the traditional music. Principal, Rajesh Rathore addressed the gathering and praised the efforts of the students and teachers. He stressed that festivities and

celebrations of occasions such as Navratras remind us of our rich culture and varied heritage. He complimented the students for embracing these traditions. The celebration pushed him into his childhood days, when he used to recite an aarti everyday in the evening in honour of Lord Shri Rama,

composed by Goswami Tulsidas ji: "Bhaye pragat kripaala, Deendayala. Kaushalya hitkari. Harshit maltaari, muniman haari, Adbhut roop vichari. Lochan abhiraama, tanughan shyam, Nij ayudh bhuj chari.

The special assembly left everyone inspired and spiritually enriched. It was a beautiful fusion of devotion, learning and celebration. JK Public School remains committed to fostering holistic development in the students by providing them with an opportunity to celebrate traditions and embrace unity.

Jammu's Masters swimmers make splash at nationals

First-ever team heads to Mohali for 7th Masters National Games

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A historic milestone was achieved today as the first-ever group of Masters Swimmers from Jammu set off for the 7th Masters National Games in Mohali. Led by the experienced David Sandhu, the team is eager to compete and represent Jammu on the national stage.

The team consists of five distinguished swimmers: David Sandhu (46+), Rudraksh Gupta (30+), Rajesh Singh (36+), Kulbhushan Jamwal (72+), and Pragnu Bhalwal (30+). These athletes, hailing from different age groups, are poised to display their expertise and passion for the sport.

To support and encourage the swimmers before their departure, the



Team of swimmers posing before departure.

Jammu & Kashmir Masters Association (JKMGA) hosted a small tea gathering today. During the event, the association extended its warmest wishes to the athletes for the competition ahead. The occasion was a testament to the growing recognition of Masters athletes in the region.

Ranjeet Singh Chib, President of JKMGGA and a veteran international handball player, spoke at the event, underscoring the importance of sports participation among veterans and Masters athletes. He said, "Sports not only contribute to physical well-being but also instill values of teamwork, discipline, and resilience. Our associ-

ation seeks to expand opportunities for athletes of all ages, and we are proud to support this journey."

In attendance were several notable figures, includ-

ing Neete Kour Khlasa, Romesh Sharma, Vinay Saraf, Somraj Gupta, Mamta Bajaj, and Rameshwar Manhas, who all shared their encouragement and best wishes for the swimmers.

The athletes are now on their way to Mohali, ready to make their mark at the prestigious Masters National Games. With the support of the Jammu & Kashmir Masters Games Association, this group of swimmers is not just competing in a sporting event, but also breaking barriers, proving that age is no obstacle when it comes to excelling in sports.

Poonch girl shines in Punjab, wins national-level debate competition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Bringing laurels to her hometown, Honarika Sharma, daughter of Rajinder Kumar and a native of Poonch, has made a remarkable mark on the national stage. Currently pursuing her engineering from MIMIT Institute, Malout in Punjab, Honarika has emerged as the winner of a prestigious national-level debate competition, further earning the title of Best Overall Speaker.

The competition, held at MIMIT, Malout, witnessed fierce participation from students across India, as young orators debated on the thought-provoking topic:



Honarika Sharma, daughter of Rajinder Kumar receiving certificate.

"Influencer Culture-Real Impact or Just Hype?" Honarika's powerful articulation, well-reasoned arguments, and confident delivery stood out, earning her top honors from the jury.

Her performance not only showcased her intellectual acumen and eloquence, but also highlighted the emerging talent from Jammu and Kashmir, especially from districts like Poonch that are

often underrepresented in national academic events.

Speaking after the event, Honarika credited her success to the support of her family, mentors, and institute, and emphasized the

importance of staying informed and expressive in a rapidly changing digital age. Her views on the influence of social media personalities struck a chord with the audience and judges alike.

The people of Poonch have expressed pride and joy over her achievement, with local educators and community leaders lauding her as a role model for youth in the region.

As Honarika continues her academic journey, her recent win is being seen as a testament to the potential of young minds from Jammu and Kashmir when given the right platform and encouragement.

Sainik School Nagrota hosts investiture ceremony for academic year 2025-26



Dignitaries along with faculty members and students during the event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGROTA: Sainik School Nagrota on Saturday conducted its annual Investiture Ceremony for the academic year 2025-26.

The event was graced by the school's Principal, Capt (IN) Shibu Devasia, faculty members, proud parents, and the cadet fraternity.

The ceremony commenced with the formal piping of the newly appointed student leaders, a symbolic gesture carried out jointly by the Principal and the parents of the cadets, reinforcing the collective responsibility of nurturing leadership. In a proud and spirited atmosphere, each cadet took an oath to uphold the school's core

values of discipline, integrity, and honour - the very ethos of Sainik School Nagrota.

Leading the cadet contingent for the year, Cadet Stanzin Chosgyal (4271) was appointed as the School Cadet Captain. Supporting him in various domains are Cadet Saksham Verma (4312) as School Sports Captain, Cadet Raghav Chib (4354) as School Cadet Adjutant, Cadet Neatik Rajput (4346) as School Cultural Captain, Cadet Angel Choudhary (4433) as Girl Prefect, and Cadet Uday Kumar (4410) as School Band Captain.

In his address, Capt (IN) Shibu Devasia congratulated the newly appointed cadets and commended their readiness to shoulder

responsibility with sincerity and pride.

Emphasising the importance of leading by example, he reminded the cadets that leadership is both a privilege and a duty. He also lauded the role of parents in shaping the character and aspirations of the young leaders and thanked them for their continued support and partnership.

The Principal further reiterated the school's unwavering commitment to fostering discipline, leadership, and a spirit of national service among its cadets. The cadets' confident demeanour and the dignity of the proceedings reflected the deeply embedded values and training that define the institution.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The sacred atmosphere of Ambphalla in Jammu resonated with chants and divine vibrations as the Kashmiri Pandita Sabha celebrated the Annual Hawan ceremony of Durga Ashtami, a significant part of the Navreh Samaroh, with deep religious fervor and traditional devotion.

The two-day spiritual observance commenced on April 4, 2025, and culminated with the auspicious Puran Ahuti on April 5, 2025. Devotees gathered in large numbers to participate in the sacred rituals and soak in the spiritual ambience that marked this pious occasion.

The event was graced by



Sabha members performing Hawan during the event.

the entire executive body of the Sabha, led by its President K. K. Khosa, who along with his team, oversaw the proceedings with devotion and meticulous organization. Among the prominent personalities who honored the occasion with their presence

were Prof. O. N. Koul, A. K. Braroo, Rajinder Raina, Susheel Aima, Susheel Koul, Kewal Sher, and several other members of the community. Life members of the Sabha and many devotees also joined the celebrations, contributing to the

spirit of unity and devotion.

Throughout the Hawan, the air was filled with the melodic strains of Bhajan and Kirtan, sung continuously by enthusiastic women and other devotees, adding a devotional rhythm to the spiritual proceedings. The

GDC Ramgarh students participate in Global-Level Career Growth webinar by Grad Guru, Wipro Dice

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMGARH: The students of Government Degree College Ramgarh actively participated in a Global Level Career Growth Session organized by Grad Guru E-Cell, IIT Hyderabad, in collaboration with Government College for Women Bhagwati Nagar and Wipro Dice ID.

The webinar aimed to equip students with essential industry-relevant skills and offer valuable insights into career development. It was conducted free of cost and concluded with the distribution of certified participation certificates, verified and powered by Wipro Dice ID.

The participation of GDC Ramgarh students took place under the directions and encouragement of Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, Principal of the college.

The event organized by the HOD Punjabi, Dr. Snobar. The session served as a great platform for students to interact, learn from industry experts, and gain exposure to global career opportunities. The students of GDC Ramgarh showed enthusiastic participation, reflecting their keen interest in building a future-ready skill set.

Army conducts friendly volleyball match

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: On demand of locals of Doda, Indian Army organised a friendly volleyball match between Army and Government Degree College team at Government City Middle School, Doda in alignment with "Khelo India". Both the teams participated enthusiastically and displayed very high degree of sportsmanship and healthy competitive spirit. It was a thrilling and exciting match till the end. 69 Students, 10 teachers, 30 participants and 7 Media persons participated in the event. The Volleyball match was aimed at developing a competitive spirit amongst the youth and also to provide them a platform to showcase their talent. The match was witnessed with keen interest by one and all, thus generating bonhomie amongst the players as well as locals. Company Commander, Indian Army graced the event as chief guest. He congratulated both the teams for the sterling performance and distributed prizes to both the teams. Team members and locals expressed their heartfelt gratitude for organizing the event and requested for more such sporting events in the future.



PP Singh appointed as Joint Secy of Nehru Hockey Society

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Veteran player and senior official of the Hockey India, PP Singh of J&K has been appointed as joint secretary of the Delhi based prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society.

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society is a renowned identity dedicated to the promotion and development of Hockey in India since 1964.

The Society, which organizes a series of National and international tournaments every year, including junior, sub-junior, and women's competitions, recognized PP Singh's longstanding contribution to the sport.

Singh's deep involvement in Hockey-both on and off the



field-has made him a respected figure in the hockey fraternity.

PP Singh started his sporting career in 1984 and represented J&K until 1992. He then transitioned to officiating, clearing the State Level Hockey Umpire Examination in 1984 and continuing his umpiring

career until 1995. In 1996, he passed the National-level umpiring examination conducted by Indian Hockey Federation and then officiated numerous National-level matches until 2012.

In addition to his umpiring credentials, He (Singh) has served as a live TV commentator for Nehru Hockey tournaments from 2012 to 2024. His association with the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society began in 2015 when he was inducted as a member.

The Society's secretary general, Kukoo Walia, expressed confidence in Singh's leadership, stating that his support will help elevate the Society's events to even greater prominence on the National stage.