

17 SDGs, an ultimate blueprint for Holistic Grooming: Principal 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 (direct affiliation) of Jammu. Stretched over a period of three decades, JKPS Kunjwani has emerged itself into a trendsetter, a model of excellence imparting 21st century holistic education to children on its rolls.

Shortly JKPS Kunjwani introduced 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to groom students in variety 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: Sir, what inspired you to design 17 SDGs for JK Public School Kunjwani, which reminds us of 17 SDGs of United Nations?

RR: Actually 17 SDGs of the UN stands for the vision of UN at a glance. The impressive circle depicting 17 goals of the UN in the form of coloured sectors always inspired me. I started making list of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for my school and I fixed the number to 17. These 17 SDGs will help us design a blueprint for a sustainable grooming of our students for all the future needs. It will also act as a light-house to set the sail of our ship. We have a comprehensive plan to see its effective implementation in all the domains of school life.

JJ: How will you define the very first SDG, that is, Sound knowledge base?

RR: Knowledge is power in today's world of professionalism and excellence. Knowledge helps an individual understand the world. It gives an upper edge to every gatherer. It paves the way to evolve a well-reasoned perception. It gives us power to equip, energize and empower ourselves. Without knowledge, we can't think vertical, lateral, divergent, convergent, critically, creatively, and judiciously.

JJ: How do you interpret the second SDG, namely, Polished expression?

RR: Every child may not be gifted with linguistic intelligence. Hence it's the moral duty of every institution as well as teachers to empower every student in term of strong communication skills.

Inculcation of written and verbal skills are easier, only if one focusses on extensive reading and speaking. Every child must be very sound in English and Hindi both: whether it be written or verbal expression.

JJ: Scientific Quest sounds very interesting. Your take on it. (3rd SDG)

RR: Every natural phenomenon taking place in the universe has got a definite scientific reason behind it. We need to foster the spirit of inquiry and exploration in every child. No individual should be credulous and take anything on its face value unless examined properly and arrived at a conclusion. Scientific quest refers to a critical examination and creative solution. It keeps an individual away from the clutches of superstition.

JJ: How can you impact the 'Mathematical acumen' of students? (4th SDG)

RR: NCF 2005 converges on the idea: how to mathematize the thinking of students. Scoring good marks in Maths may not be the litmus test for an individual to exhibit mathematical acumen. JKPS focuses on empowering every child with the requisite tools for performing the basic operations, namely, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Dodge tables will be mastered by every child. Teachers are training students for learning mental Maths. Competitive exams call for speed and accuracy in Maths. Hence the mantra at JKPS today is speed and accuracy to every child to evolve mathematical sharpness in them.

JJ: How are you equipping children for 'General Awareness'? (5th SDG)

RR: In today's world, every child must be a well-informed person. Learning of a few concepts from the languages, science, maths, social science and computers will not be suffice. One must broaden the ambit of one's learning. Current affairs, national, international affairs, sports news make an individual well groomed. Children must be trained for general awareness in a systematic manner. Knowledge is the sum total of myriads branches of learning.

JJ: How much importance will you attach to the acquisition of Computer Skills? (6th SDG)

RR: In today's hi-tech world, every child must be computer savvy. Mastery over the basic operations is expected from every child. One must develop pro-



iciency in variety basic operations, namely, word, excel, PPT and various coding languages. Acquisition of extraordinary skills in computers can be an added advantage and an asset to the organization.

JJ: How are you planning to make your students Environmental Sensitive? (7th SDG)

RR: The most gratifying experience is to make students aware and informed about their future role in strengthening the society and the nation. Matured reflections from students pertaining to environmental sensitivity fills me with pride and admiration. We wish every child to be a green warrior. They must plant some saplings from an early age. They are being groomed for the judicious use of water and electricity. They are being trained for carbon footprinting. JKPS has tied up with a national agency to emerge a green school, fulfilling all the points laid down.

JJ: How will you ensure Fitness & Stamina in every child? (8th SDG)

RR: It's truly stated, "catch them young". Children are a bundle of energy. They never feel tired and look forward earnestly every moment to go outdoors

to unleash their physical energy. If they are imparted a befitting training as per their interest area, they can bring laurels to the school. JKPS has taken a pledge to groom every child as an athlete and no child should look obese.

JJ: How can you enhance the Aesthetic Sensibility of a child? (9th SDG)

RR: Every progressive and futuristic institution must instill the elements of aesthetic sensibility in children. Teachers must tap the potential of children in art & craft. They must impart systematic training to children during their formative stages with lot of appreciation. Praiseful training may activate some dormant skills in children. Colours, patterns, visualization & spatial intelligence need deft touches from an observant guru. Thus we can enhance the aesthetic sensibility of every child on the rolls.

JJ: What do you mean by Musical Appreciation in every child? (10th SDG)

RR: Music is the elixir of life. Its therapeutic powers are phenomenal. At JKPS, every child is given a sound training for raagas. We are imparting

successful training to children in both the domains: whether it be vocal or instrumental. We give equal weightage to classical as well as western music. Let every child develop an appreciation for music.

JJ: What is your strategy for equipping JKians with Life Skills? (11th SDG)

RR: School grooms students not merely for jobs but for the entire life. JKPS has integrated the components of life skills into its curriculum & adopted the culture in letter and spirit, as suggested by WHO. Each child is being equipped with the tools of self-awareness, effective communication skills, empathy, inter-personal skills, critical thinking, creative thinking, decision making, problem solving, coping with stress and emotions. We wish every JKian to take on the future challenges effectively and emerge a victor.

JJ: Financial Literacy is a buzzword these days. What is your vision for the school? (12th SDG)

RR: Money matters in today's materialistic world. Thus, it's the duty of every progressive institution to equip its students with the tools of financial literacy. It includes paying off debt, creating a budget, and understanding the difference between various financial instruments. Financial literacy has a material impact on families as they try to balance their budget, buy a home, fund their children's education, or ensure an income for retirement. Let every child be empowered to conquer the future financial hurdles of life.

JJ: The real success of an institution lies in giving a Competitive Edge to its students. Kindly reflect on it. (13th SDG)

RR: Only a good performance in the Board exams can't be the motto of lead schools like JKPS. Students must be imparted a special training for the competitive exams. JKPS adopts an integrated approach to give competitive edge to its students. Teachers are developing Foundation courses for Maths & Science, matching with the modules of top coaching institutes. We are quite excited about this feature of our school, which makes us unique in Jammu.

JJ: Imparting 21st century LEADERSHIP SKILLS to students is sine qua non for every futuristic school. (14th SDG)

RR: The motto of JKPS Kunjwani is

'Grooming Future Leaders'. Students are empowered with the requisite leadership traits, like knowledge, oratory, confidence, sense of initiative, courage, creativity, responsibility, social contribution & global citizenship.

JJ: Inculcation of age-old Value System is a bare necessity to live a happy life. What is the JKPS advantage? (15th SDG)

RR: Redefining success, the greatest scientist of the 20th century Albert Einstein said, "Success in real sense is giving more to the society than receiving from it". We need GenNext to be groomed with honesty, sincerity, compassion, co-existence, respect for elders, poor & downtrodden. Let every child be a Charity ambassador of the school. In a nutshell, every JKian should be an epitome of what a cultured person aspires to be!

JJ: Holistic grooming is not possible without exposing students to Community Services. Your reflection, please. (16th SDG)

RR: Community service is an integral part of JKPS. We are adopting a village and a few Govt schools, wherein JKians will leave their creative imprints and elevate the standards of grooming for their less fortunate brethrens. Students will also be visiting Orphanages, Blind school, Special schools, Old age homes, Slum areas etc to study the variety strata of the society so as to plan collectively their Community service programmes.

JJ: Inculcation of PATRIOTISM in every child is the earnest need of the hour. How do you sensitize your students? (17th SDG)

RR: As Principal of the school, I'm the loudest, while singing the National Anthem, as it's not a ritual for me but my tribute to thousands of those martyrs, who laid their lives and made the supreme sacrifice for the nation. "Nation First" is one of the taglines at JKPS. Every JKian is committed to pay his/her Income Tax honestly & religiously ahead.

JJ: Thanks a lot sir for sparing your valuable time and for reflecting your vision and strategies behind these 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Your visionary leadership and administrative strategies will certainly put the JKPS Kunjwani on a new trajectory. Wishing you the best of luck!

RR: Umpteen thanks, my beloved students. You are the change agents. You are the future of this great nation. Groom yourselves well & make us feel proud. Good luck!

Ladakh's lone woman cyclist borrows wheels to win Silver

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PANCHKULA: Leakzes Angmo is the lone woman cyclist in the tiny contingent of Ladakh. Back home, in a village called Nurla Yolknappa Stalam, she is already a celebrity.

After winning the first medal for her proud Union Territory - a glittering silver -- in the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) here, she can expect a war hero's welcome on her return.

But a day before her 20 km Individual Road Time Trial, Leakzes was downcast and had all but given up hope of securing a medal.

"I froze when I saw the equipment of my co-competitors. My cycle seemed outdated in front of theirs. Most of them had carbon discs on their wheels," Leakzes explained, conceding a marked handicap.

But just before the race, she somehow managed to borrow a set of wheels from another cyclist and sped away to glory.

"Each of these carbon discs costs Rs 1 lakh. I can't afford them," she confessed. "Every international cyclist now uses them. It allows



them to conserve a lot of critical energy," she added after clinching the silver behind Karnataka's Chaitra Borji.

"If I had a properly equipped cycle, I could

have got a better result," the 19-year-old used.

Leakzes' emergence in cycling from a remote outpost is fascinating.

"As a kid, I used to peep out of our home windows and watch skaters practise on ice. Every time someone fell, we would rush out to help them and I would take the opportunity to run away on my bulky cycle," she recalled.

"I began to cycle around, alone, 15 to 20 km, just for fun, as there wasn't anything else to do in the snow-capped mountains of Ladakh. Temperatures plummeted below minus 10 during winters, forcing us to remain indoors most of the time."

In her 15th year, the Cycling Federation of India came calling with a competitive event, changing her life forever.

"My parents (father Ishey Dawa and mother Rizgin Yangdol) encouraged me to participate in it. A year later, I was selected to join the SAI Academy in New Delhi," she said, narrating the sequence of events.

"I was surprised to receive the letter after

such a long time. But my parents were thrilled and my journey in the sport commenced," she explained.

"It was a new world for me. Most importantly, I was amused when I got the first feel of a competitive cycle. It was stunningly lighter than the bulky one in my village. It took me months to adjust to its lightness," she laughed.

It wasn't long before Leakzes started delivering results, though. In her first National track cycling championship, she even secured a gold medal. "We celebrated my victory in a very big way in my village."

She cornered glory in the National School Games in 2018-19 and 2019-20, winning gold medals in Time Trial and Team Sprint. She took a silver in the 2020 Khelo India Games in Guwahati too.

Her big moment, however, came in the presence of her parents, when she raced away to the gold in the Ultimate Ladakh Cycling Championship in 2020.

Hopefully, her days of borrowing equipment will soon come to an end.

57th Aghar Jitto Kesari Dangal on June 15

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REASI: The 57th annual Aghar Jitto Kesari Maha Dangal shall be held on June 15 (Tuesday) at village Aghar Jitto in tehsil Katra and district Reasi.

Dangal is part of the three-day historic mela organised in memory of great revolutionary former Baba Jitto and Bua Kouri.

Dangal, being organised by Aghar Jitto Dangal Committee in collaboration with J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association, shall take place under the overall supervision of Baba Mohan Lal (chairman), Sunil Kohli (president) and former Sarpanch Krishan Singh (Pappu), a handout issued by the organisers here today informed. Earlier, a meeting took place at Aghar Jitto under the chairmanship of Baba Mohan Lal. Others who attended the meeting were Shiv Kumar Sharma, president J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association, Sunil Kohli (president), Krishan Singh (former Sarpanch), Gopal Krishan Komal (Retired ZEO), Romesh Kumar Samnotra, Om Parkash Malkotra (Retired Forestor), Gopal Krishan, Ishwar Dass, Numberdar Mangat Ram and Mohinder Kumar.

Meanwhile, interested wrestlers of Jammu Region can still submit their entries for participation to Shiv Kumar Sharma (94191-61880, 99069-72888).

Chowdhary, Lalita (WK), Bhawandeep Kaur, Chitra, Shivanti Gupta, Sanjana, Sharma, Tanisha Sharma, Aanvi Singh, Neemami Slatia, Shivangi Slatia, Rifat Chowdhary and Aliya.

JKCA Yellow: Bismah Hassan (Captain), Sheeraza Bano, Hina Mushtaq, Rukaya Amin, Rehana Bano, Rubiya Syed, Fancy, Khushboo Aftab, Kounser Jabeen, Maroofa, Bilquees Gani, Shabnam, Maheena and Zeenat Ramzan.

The teams: JKCA Green: Sandhya Sayal (Captain), Sarla Khadotra, Nada Nadi

Team Jourian lifts Volleyball trophy



Team Jourian after receiving trophy from Chief Guest.

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JAMMU: Team Jourian defeated Team Phalanwala in the final and lifted winner trophy of the Volleyball

The tournament was organized by District Police Jammu under Civic Action Programme-2022 at Akhnoor.

Under the supervision of SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli in Sub Division Akhnoor.

In all, eight teams participated in the tournament.

While addressing the gathering, Chief Guest, SDM Akhnoor, Akhil Sadhota congratulated Akhnoor Police under SHO Hilal Azhar for organizing the tournament besides assured all help of administration in organising such events in future also.

SDPO Akhnoor Varun Jandial, while distributing the prizes, appreciated the performance of various teams and asked the youth to take part in sports activities and approach police for any assistance. The tournament was organised under the guidance of SSP Rural Sanjay Sharma.

Off-spinning all-rounder Sandhya Sayal has been appointed Captain of Akshay wins Judo Bronze for J&K in KIYG

JAMMU: Akshay Sharma brought laurels to Jammu and Kashmir winning Bronze medal in the ongoing Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) at Panchkula on Friday. "Akshay contested in the 60 kg weight category and lost his semifinal bout," informed senior vice president of the Judo Association of J&K, Vikas Gupta. The J&K Judo team is led by Rituika Slatia as coach and Manish Chatwal as Manager.

Meanwhile, president of the Association, Suresh Dutta and general secretary, Suraj Sharma congratulated Akshay and the team management for this achievement.

He also appreciated the efforts of Narinder Paul Sharma Physical Director for this achievement.

JKCA Green, while fast bowling all-rounder Bismah Hassan will lead JKCA Yellow. It is a tough contest on

cards as both the teams are almost equally poised, having almost all the star players in their kitty, who made J&K proud by creating

history to make it to the knockout stage last season.