

Jammu Sahodaya 'Hindi Poem Recitation Competition' hosted by Holy Presentation Convent School Kathua

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: Holy Presentation Convent School, Rajbagh organised Inter School Hindi Poem Recitation Competition titled "Vatsalya Prem", under the aegis of Sahodaya Schools Complex Jammu. Fifteen reputed schools of Jammu region participated in the competition with great zeal and enthusiasm. The programme started with the lighting of lamp followed by a riveting Ganesh Vandana performed by the students of the school. Rajesh Rathore, Advisor to Jammu Sahodaya & Principal, JK Public School, Kunjwani graced the occasion as the Chief Guest; while Dr. Brij Kohli, Director of the school & Vivek Arora, Principal Delhi Public School, Rajbagh, Kathua were the Guests of Honour for the event. The panel of jury included renowned writer, poet and teacher Sunita Kumari and teacher/Poet Monika Khalsa.



Advisor to Jammu Sahodaya & Principal JKPC Kunjwani, Rajesh Rathore posing with winner students and other dignitaries at prize distribution ceremony.

The experts observed the performance of each participant with utmost precision while the students of the participating schools enthralled the audience with their scintillating performances and tried their best to figure on top and contested to win the trophies. Director of School Dr. Brij Kohli, Principal, Seema Sambyal and Vice Principal, Madhu gave away flower pots

as a welcome gesture to all the dignitaries. Seema Sambyal extended gratitude to the Chief Guest, other dignitaries and the jury members. She appreciated the efforts of the participating students who glorified the event with their colorful attires and poignant recitation. The first prize was clinched by Sai International School

respectively. The Chief Guest Rajesh Rathore alongwith the jury members handed over the trophies and certificates to the winners. He appreciated all the participants for their brilliant poems, expressed through effective narrative techniques. Every single person sitting in the audience left the venue a shade more enlightened, evolved and enriched with the jewels of learning. He appealed children to internalize the content of their poems, dedicated to their mother or father and reflect the emotional bonding with their parents through every deed in life. He invoked the audience including all the adults to take a wonderful care of their parents so long as they are living with us. Director HPCS, Dr. Brij Kohli appreciated the efforts of the participants and congratulated the achievers on their success. The event concluded with vote of thanks.

Kashmir's semi-ring road delayed till 2025

MASROOR AHMAD
BUDGAM: The ambitious semi-ring road project in Kashmir, designed to alleviate Kashmir's growing traffic congestion, is now facing a significant delay of 16 months. This setback adds to a mounting list of infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir experiencing time overruns. According to the May report from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), which oversees infrastructure projects valued over Rs 150 crore in India, the Kashmir Semi Ring Road project has encountered a 16-month delay. Initially approved in March 2021 with a completion date set for February 2024, the deadline was later pushed to August 2024. The latest revision now places the completion date in June 2025, the report reveals. The project, estimated to cost Rs 2919 crore, has already seen a cumulative expenditure of Rs 2023 crore. The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)

is overseeing the construction of this expansive road network that will span five districts of Kashmir. An NHAI official, speaking on condition of anonymity, cited compensation disputes with landowners as the primary cause for the initial delay. "There were disagreements with farmers and landowners regarding compensation at the earlier stage, which now has been sorted out, this has significantly slowed the project's progress," the official said. "The work is continuing despite these challenges." The project's scope is substantial, requiring the acquisition of 4730 kanal of agricultural land across Kashmir. Budgam district will be most affected, losing 3661 kanal, followed by Pulwama (379 kanal), Srinagar (202 kanal), Ganderbal (176 kanal), Bandipora (160 kanal), and Baramulla (150 kanal). This large-scale land acquisition has sparked resentment among local farmers, who fear for their livelihoods. The semi-ring road project is divided into

two phases. Phase I would connect Galander to Narbal junction with a four-lane road (expandable to six lanes), spanning 34.72 km. Phase II would extend from Narbal to Ganderbal with a two-lane road covering 27.2 km. The completed project would feature numerous infrastructure elements, including 290 culverts, two road-over bridges, two flyovers, 10 major junctions, 26 minor junctions, and a toll plaza at Narbal junction. The design also allows for future expansion to accommodate increasing traffic needs. This project is among 30 of the 51 projects experiencing time overrun ranging from 2 to 261 months (21 years, 9 months), according to MoSPT's report. Earlier, it was reported and revealed, how the delays in the completion of the project are leading to a huge cost overrun. Eleven multi-crore infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir face a staggering cost overrun of Rs 41,965 crore.

Vishali brings laurels to GDC Marh



STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Government Degree College, Marh organised a felicitation function in the College to honour College Student Vishali, daughter of Amit Kumar and Babli, who scored third position in B. Sc, University of Jammu external examination 2024 by securing 84.45 percent marks. Principal of the College, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul welcomed the student and her family and appreciated the hard work of Vishali bringing laurels to the family, college and faculty members namely Dr. Ram Dayal (Mathematics), Prof. Asha Kumari (Geography), Prof. Anita Kumari (English), Dr. Ruchika (English) and Dr. Brij Bir Singh Jaswal (Physics). Vishali had participated in National Mathematics Day speech competition, Dr. C.V. Raman Anniversary Physics

Competition, fabricated two models on Science Day project, poster making competition in University of Jammu under Science Day week long programme "Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyae". One day Students conference in University of Jammu by Department of Mathematics (Alka Memorial Competition) and Science Quiz organised at Government Degree College Marh. The contributions of Vishali improved the Academic spirit of competitions as being inspiration for other students. Principal Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul presented a memento to Vishali and announced a cash prize in her favour. Presently she has joined M.Sc. Physics at University of Jammu and the College has promised her to help her in all respects to reach her aim in life of becoming a Professor.

Health awareness seminar held at Jammu Club

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A yoga and health awareness seminar titled "Feel 18 at 80" was held at the Jammu Club, bringing together the intellectual section of society from Jammu. The event was organized by Dr. Richa Arora, Radiologist & Zonal Medical Officer, Gangyal, and Dr. Pawan Arora, Surgeon. Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, State Chairman of the Indian Yoga Association, and President of Vichar Kranti Manch International, explained the importance of incorporating yoga into daily life. He emphasized that yoga is a way of life and can help individuals make decisions with clarity, focus, and awareness. Stress, a common issue in modern life, can be alleviated through yoga, which pro-



President VKMI, Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain posing with others at a programme.

motes calmness and peace by opening blockages at the mind, body, breath, and emotional levels. This practice helps ensure that the body is not constantly in a state of stress, allowing for rejuvenation, rest, and growth. Dr. Jain also shared wellness tips, including a simple remedy for pain and stiffness using eucalyptus, oregano, fennel, and cardamom in an 8:4:2:1 ratio. He advised consuming

one spoon of this mixture with water every night to alleviate old bone pain. He also recommended replacing biscuits with roasted peanuts for a healthier snack option. Additionally, he provided anti-aging tips, highlighting five superfoods: amla (gooseberry), curd, peanuts, desi ghee, and papaya. Regular deep breathing exercises, avoiding chilled water, and mindful drinking habits were

also advised to maintain vitality. The seminar was attended by several dignitaries, including Prof. Ram Bahadur Shukla, HOD Sanskrit Department, Jammu University; Prof. Pritam Chand Shastri, Former Principal, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan; Dr. Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Sanchalak Rashtriya Bhasha Prachar Samiti & Regional

Secretary Bharat Vikas Parishad; Padma Shri Dr. Jitendra Udhampuri, Former Director, Radio Kashmir Jammu; Lakshmi Datt Shastri, Retired Principal, School Education; Ruby Sharma, President VKWS; Bharat Bhushan Gupta, Vice President, Vasudev Kutumbkam Welfare Society; and Rannika Jalali, Former HOD Sanskrit Department, Jammu University. The 92nd birthday of Dr. Ram Pratap, a Sanskrit scholar and Former HOD Sanskrit Department, Jammu University, was also celebrated with enthusiasm. Dr. Jain presented a poetic life sketch of Dr. Ram Pratap, adding a special touch to the celebration. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Richa Arora.

BVMS holds inter-school sports tournament



Chief Guest, Shiv Kumar Sharma posing with players and other dignitaries.

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Bhartiya Vidya Mandir School (BVMS) in Nainsoo successfully organized an inter-school sports tournament today. The event saw enthusiastic participation from six BVMS institutions across the region. The participating schools included BVM Katra, BVM Reasi, BVM Thathi, BVM Ramnagar and Vidhya Peeth Battal Balliyan, Udhampur. The tournament featured a variety of sports disciplines, including Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Badminton, Volleyball and Chess. Shiv Kumar Sharma, President of the School Management Committee, served as the Chief Guest.

Renu Sharma, Principal of BVMS, introduced the Chief Guest and other members to the participants. Kuldeep Kumar, Provincial Organizer, Vikas Dogra, Manager, Sports Council, various coaches and officials were present. A total of 102 participants from different BVMS schools competed in the sports events. In his brief speech, Chief Guest Shiv Kumar Sharma praised the participants for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship. He encouraged them to continue participating in such events in the future and highlighted the importance of staying away from drug-related issues, which he noted

could undermine a sports person's potential. Principal Renu Sharma expressed her gratitude to all the officials, the School Management Committee, and the participants. She conveyed her thanks for their support and involvement in the successful execution of the sports meet. The inter-school sports tournament at BVMS Nainsoo was a vibrant and engaging event, showcasing the talents and competitive spirit of students from various BVMS schools. The active participation and the presence of guests contributed to the success of the event, reinforcing the importance of sports in student development and community engagement.

Rissam felicitates Manpreet Singh on winning gold medal in Strength lifting

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Sandeep Singh Rissam, Chairman Anti Dope Committee J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association & Chairman Sports Promotion Committee, Vansh Sabre Sports Foundation along with other prominent members of the area today met and felicitated Manpreet Singh Samrat who brought laurels for India especially J&K by winning Gold medal in World Strength Lifting Championship held in Kazakhstan. Sandeep praised the Gold medallist Manpreet Singh for his achievement on winning the medal at an international event. "We all are delighted and honoured that sportsperson from RSPura, Jammu & Kashmir are performing at National & International events and making the country proud. Sports is the best way to utilize the energy and enthusiasm of the youth in

the positive way and it also promotes a healthy life style and keeps the youngsters away from all kind of bad habits. Today drug abuse has become a major problem in Jammu and Manpreet has become a role model for other young people and proved that with hard work and dedication everyone can achieve glory in life. I wish Manpreet success and glory in all his endeavours ahead." Dilip Kumar former BDC Chairman Miransahib congratulated Manpreet Singh and said that he feels proud that local youth of Miransahib are performing at International level and making us all proud. Rissam said during the function. Others prominent members present were Rajinder Singh (Former Sarpanch), Manmeet Singh, Rahul Tandon, Harvinder Singh and others who also wished Manpreet and congratulated him on his success.



Secretary Amit makes maiden visit to nation's first Green Hydrogen Mobility Projects at 11,500 feet in Ladakh



Secretary IT, Transport, Rural Development, Amit Sharma inspecting ongoing works at nation's first Green Hydrogen Mobility Projects in Ladakh at Palam area of Leh.

STATE TIMES NEWS
LEH: The Secretary of IT, Transport, Rural Development, S&T, DMRRR, and MD of SIDCO, UT Ladakh, Amit Sharma on Wednesday visited and inspected the ongoing works at nation's first Green Hydrogen Mobility Projects in Ladakh at Palam area of Leh. Amit, who is keenly driving this Project in Ladakh over the last one year, especially relating to production of Green Hydrogen and pushing five Hydrogen Cell Fuel Buses on the roads of Ladakh through Dispensing Unit located here, fixed time-lines for completion of all works, including getting requisite NOCs, completion of BT of approach road to this Plant, etc in presence of relevant officers of the UT and NTPC team.

The Head Engineer of NTPC Ladakh, who has been assigned this project, informed the visiting Secretary about the novel design and structure of the Green Hydrogen Mobility Project and the contribution it is making towards making Ladakh as first Carbon Neutral region of the nation. Sharma, in the presence of DM Leh Santosh Sukhadeve and CE PWD Mutalib, held detailed deliberations over facilitating formal inauguration of this unique Plant and took an overview about the design and structure of the Project. He also visited all areas of the Plant and construction sites to oversee the advancement of this novel Project. Amit emphasised that NTPC team should initiate the process of bottling medical Oxygen which comes as a

residual from H2O molecule, when they extract Hydrogen at this Plant so that the same can be handed over to tourists and visitors in Ladakh as a goodwill gesture of Administration because of less oxygen levels here due to extreme height of around 12,000 feet. Before culmination of the visit, Amit directed the officials to expedite the completion of this ongoing Project within shortest possible time and ensure its timely completion and formal inauguration so that it can add another feather in the cap of nation as a lead scientific achievement. The Secretary was accompanied by the District Magistrate, Leh, Chief Engineer of PWD, Ladakh, Engineers of the respective departments and the team of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).

Dr Jitendra gives in Lok Sabha details of action against IAS, IPS officers

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, who is also Incharge Minister Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), gave in Lok Sabha on Wednesday details of departmental action taken against IAS, IPS officers in the last five years. Dr. Jitendra Singh shared that a total of 142 proceedings have been launched against IAS officers, while in case of their IPS counterparts 213 such proceedings have been initiated in the last five years. The Minister stated that the



Government is committed to maintain ethical and professional standards within Services while replying

to a question today in the Lower House. This reflects a robust mechanism in place to address any deviations from ethical and professional standards within these prestigious services, he said. The Minister reiterated Government's commitment in maintaining high standards is evident in the ongoing efforts to conclude these proceedings efficiently. Of the 142 cases involving IAS officers, 106 are currently underway, demonstrating a proactive approach to resolving these matters. Notably, 33 cases have already been concluded, underscoring the dedication to upholding integrity and justice. Additionally, in 3 instances, proceedings have been stayed by various courts, indicating a transparent judicial process, the reply stated. Dr. Jitendra also underscored the unwavering commitment of the Indian administrative and police services to uphold the highest standards of conduct and accountability. By actively addressing any lapses, these measures reinforce the trust and confidence placed in these institutions by the public.

The Minister's reply further elaborated that a total of 142 Departmental Proceedings cases initiated against IAS Officers during the last five years. State wise break up is as follows: Andhra Pradesh-3, Assam-Meghalaya - 3, Bihar-6, Gujarat-7, Haryana-5, Himachal Pradesh-1, Jharkhand-2, Karnataka-8, Kerala-1, Madhya Pradesh-27, Maharashtra -12, Manipur-2, Nagaland-2, Odisha-10, Punjab -2, Rajasthan -4, Sikkim -1, Tamilnadu-1, Tripura-5, Uttar Pradesh-20, Uttarakhand-2, West Bengal-3, AGMUT(including erst-

while J&K Cadre) - 15. Similarly, a total of 213 Departmental Proceedings cases initiated against IPS Officers during the last five years. State wise Andhra Pradesh-5, Assam-Meghalaya - 8, Bihar-16, Chattisgarh-5, Gujarat-12, Haryana-4, Himachal Pradesh-3, Jharkhand-2, Karnataka-4, Kerala-6, Madhya Pradesh-14, Maharashtra -10, Manipur-4, Nagaland-6, Odisha-9, Punjab -1, Rajasthan -10, Sikkim -2, Tamilnadu-23, Telangana-4, Tripura-2, Uttar Pradesh-44, West Bengal-12,

AGMUT(including erstwhile J&K Cadre) - 7. In reply to another question pertaining to the same Ministry, Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the success of Centralised Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) a grievance redressal platform accessible at <https://pgportal.gov.in>. On this Platform any citizen can lodge his/her grievances pertaining to the Central Ministries/ Departments /State Governments / Union Territories (UTs) through this platform.