

Meritorious students honoured at Army Public School Akhnoor; 41 Board Toppers Felicitated

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AKHNOOR: Army Public School, Akhnoor, on Saturday organised its grand Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony to honour meritorious students who excelled in the Class 10 and Class 12 Board Examinations.

The event aimed to recognize the students' academic excellence, dedication, and hard work while inspiring others to strive for outstanding achievements.

The Chief Guest on the occasion was Brigadier Vikas Vashisht, Chairman of Army Public School, Akhnoor.

The ceremony was attended by the school's Principal Geeta Devi, faculty members, parents, and a large gathering of students. The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest and the Principal.

A total of 41 meritorious students who delivered exceptional performances in the previous academic session's board examinations were honoured with certificates of appreciation and cash awards.

In a special gesture, the parents of the award-winning students were also invited on stage and felicitated, making the occasion even more memorable and emotional for the families.

Addressing the gathering, Brigadier Vikas Vashisht congratulated the students and their parents, stating that success is not measured solely



by academic scores but also by strong character, moral values, discipline, and a sense of responsibility towards the nation. He encouraged students to pursue their goals with determination, consistent hard work, and a positive mindset.

He also appreciated the dedication of the school's teachers and management, saying that Army Public School Akhnoor is committed not only to providing quality education but also to nurturing leadership qualities, values, and life skills among its students.

Principal Geeta Devi extended her congratulations to the award recipients and emphasized that every achievement is built on discipline, self-confidence, determination, and continuous effort.

She acknowledged the tireless commitment of the teaching staff and the unwavering support of parents, adding that every success of the school is the result of the collective efforts of students, teachers, and parents.

She encouraged students to continue learning, embrace challenges as opportunities, and

strive for excellence in every sphere of life.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks, during which the contributions of the organising committee, teachers, parents, and students were appreciated. The event was marked by enthusiastic applause, the excitement of students, and the pride of parents, creating a truly inspiring atmosphere.

The ceremony ended with the message that dedication, perseverance, and a positive attitude can help every student achieve their dreams.

Young Talent with Big Heart: Rudrakshi Sharma inspires through art & courage

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JAMMU: At just 9 years of age, Rudrakshi Sharma, a student of Army Public School, Kaluchak, Jammu, is proving that age is no barrier to creating a positive impact on society.

She is the beloved daughter of Arun Sharma, a dedicated State Police Officer serving the nation with commitment and courage, and Meenakshi Sharma, who has been a constant source of encouragement in nurturing her daughter's creativity and values.

Recognized as one of the youngest resin artists, Rudrakshi has taken the remarkable initiative of creating beautiful resin artworks to raise funds for old-age homes and orphaned children. Through her art, she is spreading kindness and inspiring people to believe that even the smallest hands can make the biggest difference.

Adding another feather to her cap, Rudrakshi is also the youngest author of the inspirational book, "I Am a Can-Do Person," which motivates children to believe in themselves, dream big, and face challenges with confidence.

Her achievements extend beyond art and



writing. A talented karate champion, Rudrakshi has won several medals and firmly believes that self-defence is an essential life skill for every girl.

She encourages girls to become strong, fearless, and independent through discipline and determination.

With a compassionate heart, a creative mind, and an unwavering spirit, Rudrakshi Sharma is setting an inspiring example for children

across the country. Her journey reflects the values of service, courage, kindness, and perseverance—making her a source of immense pride for her family, Army Public School, Kaluchak, and the entire community.

This version reads much more like a feature published in a newspaper and gives respectful recognition to her father's service while keeping the spotlight on Rudrakshi's achievements.



Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Trust provides free shelter and Langar to 3500 Amarnath Pilgrims

JAMMU: The Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Management Trust, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, has provided free accommodation and langar facilities to nearly 3,500 pilgrims undertaking the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, reinforcing its long-standing humanitarian initiative to support devotees during the pilgrimage.

According to the Trust, the facilities have been operational since July 1, with 170 to 200 pilgrims being accommodated each day at the temple premises. Pilgrims from different parts of India as well as Nepal availed themselves of the free boarding and lodging arrangements during the yatra period.

The Trust said comprehensive facilities were put in place to ensure a comfortable stay for the pilgrims, including furnished accommodation, freshly prepared meals, clean drinking water, sanitation, uninterrupted electricity, medical assistance and other essential amenities.

In addition to the welfare arrangements, the temple organised daily Shiv Aarti every evening, followed by devotional prayers and chants, creating a spiritual atmosphere for pilgrims before they proceeded towards the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Amarnath.

The Trust said many pilgrims appreciated the arrangements and hospitality, describing the facilities as a valuable support during the annual pilgrimage.

The initiative was supervised by the Trust under the leadership of V. K. Abrol, President; S. C. Rekhi, Secretary; and CA Krishan P. Gupta, Treasurer and Convener, along with other trustees and volunteers.

The Management Trust expressed gratitude to the District Administration, Police, security forces, Public Health Engineering (PHE), Power Development Department (PDD), Jammu Municipal Corporation, media organisations, volunteers, donors and members of the public for their support in ensuring the smooth conduct of the initiative.

Reaffirming its commitment to social and religious service, the Trust said it would continue organising similar humanitarian initiatives during forthcoming religious festivals while appealing to devotees to help maintain harmony, cleanliness and the sanctity of the temple premises.

‘Youth anger breaks arrogance, resignation just damage control’

JAMMU: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu & Kashmir Chief Manish Sahni has termed the resignation of the Union Education Minister as a historic victory born out of the united struggle of students and the opposition.

Launching a scathing attack, Sahni stated, "The arrogant central government was ultimately forced to bow down before the intense protests by students and the relentless, all-around pressure from the opposition. The unity of students and the opposition has finally borne fruit, shattering the arrogance of power. This resignation is not driven by any moral high ground, but is merely late-stage 'damage control' to evade public outrage and cover up total failure. A government that cheated the future of millions of youth through paper leaks and recruitment scams cannot wash away its sins with a single resignation. The complete accountability of this corrupt system that slayed the dreams of our youth is yet to be settled."

People deprived of basic amenities in Rajouri, Poonch, other flood-hit areas of J&K: Khatana

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JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha (Nominated) MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana has expressed profound grief over the tragic loss of precious lives and the widespread devastation caused by the recent flash floods and landslides in Rajouri, Poonch and other parts of Jammu & Kashmir.

The calamity has claimed nearly 28 lives, while several people have been injured, displaced and affected by the destruction of homes, roads, bridges and other public infrastructure. Many villages continue to face immense hardships as rescue and relief operations remain underway in the affected areas.

Expressing serious concern over the prolonged disruption of electricity supply, drinking water facilities and road connectivity, Er. Khatana said that people in Rajouri, Poonch and other flood-affected parts of Jammu & Kashmir are still deprived of basic amenities, making life extremely difficult for

families already struggling in the aftermath of this natural disaster.

He urged the Jammu & Kashmir Government and all concerned departments to restore electricity, drinking water supply and road connectivity on a war footing, ensuring that no affected village remains cut off from essential services.

He also called upon the administration to expedite relief and rehabilitation measures, provide timely compensation to the bereaved families, and ensure that every affected household receives the assistance it deserves without delay.

Expressing solidarity with the people of Rajouri, Poonch and all other flood-affected areas of Jammu & Kashmir, Er. Khatana conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families who lost their loved ones and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

He reaffirmed that every possible effort must be made to provide immediate relief, restore normalcy and support the affected communities during this difficult time.

DC reviews anti-drug measures; stresses sustained efforts beyond 100-day campaign

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KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma Saturday chaired a meeting of the District Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to review anti-drug measures in the district and discuss further steps to strengthen the fight against drug abuse.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the concerted efforts of all departments during the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan. He observed that the campaign should not remain confined to a 100-day programme but continue as a sustained movement to build a drug-free society.

SSP Mohita Sharma informed that the Police Department has recommended the suspension or cancellation of 51 driving licences and 68 vehicle registration certificates (RCs) in connection with narcotics-related offences. She further informed that

during the 100-day Nasha Mukta Abhiyan the district registered more narcotics-related cases than during the entire previous year. Stringent action was also taken against drug peddlers, including demolition of illegally acquired structures and freezing of bank accounts linked to narcotics activities.

All medical shops across the district have been equipped with CCTV surveillance systems and computerised billing facilities to strengthen monitoring and ensure greater accountability in the sale of medicines.

The DC directed the School Education Department to organise regular awareness sessions for students and parents during Parent-Teacher Meetings to strengthen community participation in the anti-drug campaign.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Drug Control Department to intensify inspections,

APS Nagrota holds Investiture-cum-Scholarship Ceremony



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NAGROTA: Army Public School Nagrota organised its Investiture-cum-Scholarship Ceremony with great pride and solemnity on 25 July 2026.

The event was graced by Lt Gen Prasanna Kishore Mishra, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, General Officer Commanding, 16 Corps and Senior Patron, APS Nagrota, as the Chief Guest and Mrs Archana Mishra, Zonal President, White Knight AWWA, as the Guest of Honour.

The distinguished gathering also included

Brig H.S. Billing, SM, Chairman, APS Nagrota, Mrs Poonam Rawat, Chairperson, Education Committee, AWWA and the proud parents of the students.

The ceremony commenced with a warm welcome address by Ruchi Bahl, Principal, APS Nagrota. The newly elected Student Council Members were conferred with their leadership badges by the Chief Guest and pledged to uphold the values of leadership, discipline, integrity, and service.

The ceremony also recognised academic

excellence by awarding scholarships to meritorious students. Mrs Archana Mishra, Zonal President, White Knight AWWA, presented scholarships of Rs. 10,000 each to the Class X and Class XII toppers, while other meritorious students received Rs. 5,000 each.

During the event, the Chief Guest inaugurated the school's new Computer Laboratory. Four new student clubs—the Entrepreneur Club, Golf Club, Shooting Club, and Horse Riding Club—were formally launched to promote holistic growth.

DC Kishtwar reviews arrangements for Independence Day celebrations

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KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma Saturday chaired a meeting of district and sectoral officers of various line departments at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, Kishtwar, to review arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day-2026.

The meeting was informed that the main Independence Day function would be held at the Historic Chowgan Ground, besides organising celebrations at the sub-division, block and tehsil levels across the district. Additional Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal apprised the Deputy Commissioner of the arrangements and the roles and responsibilities assigned to the departments concerned for the Independence Day-2026 celebrations. The meeting held detailed discussions on arrangements for flag hoisting, march past, cultural programmes, seating, stage setting, venue preparation and refreshments. The Deputy Commissioner directed the departments concerned on all arrangements and directed the constituted committees to closely monitor the prepa-

ration process.

As part of the upcoming third phase of the 'Vande Mataram' Campaign, the Deputy Commissioner directed all officers concerned to organise large-scale events celebrating patriotism and encouraging maximum public participation, with patriotic songs, Tiranga rallies and cultural programmes on nationalistic themes across the district. He also instructed that the celebrations be conducted strictly as per the prescribed SOPs. Among those present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, SSP Kishtwar Naresh Singh, Commanding Officer 05 Sector Assam Rifles Vikrant Gupta, CMO Kishtwar Dr Sanjay Bhat, DSWO Kishtwar Tariq Parveez Qazi, EO Municipal Council Kishtwar Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, DTO Kishtwar Showkat Ali Rathier, ALC Kishtwar Manta Sudershan, ARTO Kishtwar Tasleem Wani, Executive Engineer JPDCL Kishtwar Abdul Hamid, Tehsildar Kishtwar Nirbhay Sharma, BDO Kishtwar Ravi Kumar and BDO Bounjwah Aijaz Ahmad, besides other district officers, representatives from CRPF, CISF and various power projects and officials of the departments concerned.

ACB holds free health screening camp for employees, families

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday organised a free disease screening camp for its employees and their family members at its headquarters in Sidhra, Jammu, providing free medical consultations, diagnostic tests and health counselling by a panel of specialist doctors.

In a statement, a spokesperson said under the guidance of Shakti Kumar Pathak, IPS, Director, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Jammu & Kashmir, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Headquarters, in collaboration with Healing Hands, organised a Free Disease Screening Camp for the employees and family members of ACB staff on Saturday, 25 July 2026, at ACB Headquarters, Sidhra, Jammu, from 8:00 AM onwards.

He said this is the 22nd Free Disease Screening Camp organised by the NGO Healing Hands as part of its ongoing commitment to provide free healthcare services to the community.

"The initiative has been undertaken as part of the Bureau's commitment to promoting preventive healthcare and enhancing the well-being of its employees and their families through early diagnosis and timely medical intervention," said the spokesperson.

He said the camp provides free medical consultations, diagnostic investigations, and health counselling by a team of renowned medical specialists.

"The panel of specialists includes Dr. Rajesh Gupta (Physician Specialist), Dr. Puneeta Gupta (HOD, Department of Medicine, ASCOMS), Dr. Neeraj Mahajan (Cardiologist), Dr. Deepak Pathania (Nephrologist), Dr. Ankit Mahajan (Gastroenterologist), Dr. Shally Kandhari (Ophthalmologist), Dr. Rohin Gupta (Dentist), and Dr. Gurbir Singh (Surgeon Specialist). The employees of ACB and their eligible family members participated in the camp and availed free healthcare services."