

KC Gurukul Public School Hosts Inter-School Debate Competition



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 14

KC Gurukul Public School, Paloura, Jammu, hosted an Inter-School Debate Competition. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of eloquent young orators from various reputed CBSE schools, who came together to exchange ideas and engage in an intellectually stimulating discussion on the con-

temporary topic, "Gen Z: A Superficial Noise or a Radical Revolution?"

The programme commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolising the triumph of knowledge, wisdom, and enlightenment.

The school felt privileged to host Dr. Rakesh Bharti, Assistant Professor of Education, Government College of Education, Canal Road, Jammu, and Professor S.P.

Suri, Former Head and Dean, Department of Education, University of Jammu, as the esteemed judges for the competition. Their distinguished presence and valuable insights added depth and significance to the occasion.

The debate proved to be a vibrant platform for intellectual exploration, critical thinking, and the confident expression of ideas. Participants passionately presented arguments both for and

against the motion, addressing the role of Generation Z in challenging conventional practices, questioning established systems, and driving social and political change.

The competition reached its most exhilarating phase during the rebuttal round, where participants responded to opposing arguments with spontaneity, precision, and analytical acumen. The participants were evaluated on the basis

of content, confidence, clarity of thought, relevance, and performance during rebuttal.

Following a series of compelling arguments and thought-provoking exchanges, the results were announced. Sparsh Pandita of KC Gurukul Public School secured the first position. The second and third positions were secured by Pavitt Singh Chowdhary of Jodhamal Public School and Jhanavi

Raina of Heritage School, respectively.

The title of First Runner-up was awarded to Aadishree Verma of Delhi public school Jammu, while the Second Runner-up title was shared by Kshitija Abrol of KC Gurukul Public School and Paarth Khajuria of KC International School.

The Chairman of the School, Mr. Arvind Mahajan, and the Academic Director, Mrs. Anu Jandial, applauded

the enthusiasm, preparation, and intellectual calibre displayed by the participants. They congratulated the winners and appreciated the efforts of all the schools, teachers, and mentors who encouraged students to participate in this enriching academic initiative. They also expressed their sincere gratitude to the esteemed judges for their valuable time, insightful observations, and words of encouragement.

Rana stresses water security, forest conservation as pillars of Himalayan development

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The Minister, who was the Guest of Honour, was addressing the 13th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) 2026 at SKUAST-Kashmir, Shalimar campus here. The three-day summit (October 12-14) is being organised by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir) in collaboration with the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI). It has brought together scientists, policy-makers, civil society representatives and community leaders from across India's mountain regions.

Speaking on the theme "Contouring Sustainable Himalayan Landscapes for Inclusive Viksit Bharat," the Minister termed it both timely and significant, emphasising that the development model for Jammu and Kashmir must balance economic growth with ecological protection.

He said the Himalayas are not merely a geographical feature but the lifeline of millions of people. He noted that forests, glaciers, rivers, springs and rich biodiversity sustain agriculture, horticulture, tourism and livelihoods, and play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance and ensuring water security for large parts of the country.



Underlining the importance of water security as a key pillar of sustainable mountain development, the Minister said, "Water security must remain one of our foremost priorities." He stressed the need for protecting and rejuvenating springs, conserving catchment areas, promoting rainwater harvesting, improving water-use efficiency and ensuring the long-term sustainability of drinking water sources.

"While expanding water supply infrastructure, equal emphasis must be laid on the conservation and replenishment of natural water resources that sustain these systems. A sustainable approach to water management is essential to ensure reliable access to drinking water for communities while preserving the ecological balance of the Himalayan region," he added.

The Minister expressed particular encouragement

over the discussions on the proposed Jammu and Kashmir Sustainable Mountain Development Policy, whose first draft has been jointly developed by IMI and SKUAST-Kashmir and is being reviewed by national experts.

The proposed policy focuses on ecological carrying capacity, mountain-sensitive land-use planning, responsible tourism, resilient infrastructure, waste management, watershed and spring security, disaster-risk reduction and sustainable mountain livelihoods. The summit provides a platform for expert consultations and inter-governmental deliberations to further refine it.

"The real measure of development is not simply the number of projects completed, but the quality of life we secure for our people and the natural heritage we preserve for future generations," the Minister

said.

Calling for a model of development in which economic progress does not come at the cost of ecological destruction, he said every village should have access to safe drinking water, forests and biodiversity must be protected, and young people should find sustainable livelihood opportunities in their own regions.

He expressed confidence that the deliberations of the summit would generate meaningful ideas, strengthen institutional partnerships and help shape a clear roadmap for the sustainable and inclusive development of Jammu and Kashmir and the wider Himalayan region.

The Minister called upon everyone to collectively commit to protecting mountains, conserving water resources, safeguarding forests and empowering communities.

Satish Sharma reviews Transport, FS&CA, IT issues; meets deputations

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Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FS&CA), Information Technology (IT), Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today held a series of meetings with senior officers to review key issues concerning the Transport, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, and Information Technology departments.

He also met a deputation from Ganderbal led by Sheikh Javaid and a delegation of a human rights organisation led by Abrar Lone to discuss issues raised by them.

During his meeting with Commissioner Secretary Transport, R Alice Vaz, the Minister discussed the vehicle scrappage policy, ease of doing business, revenue generation through departmental assets, operationalisation of Automated Testing Stations (ATS) at Pampore and Nagrota besides pending subsidy cases and issues raised by various transport associations.

The Minister also took up the issue of buses reportedly stranded in Delhi awaiting delivery from the Government of India. He stressed the need for coordinated efforts with the concerned authorities to fa-



cilitate an early resolution. He emphasised the importance of addressing the genuine concerns of transporters, expediting pending cases and streamlining departmental procedures to improve service delivery.

The Minister subsequently met Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Saurabh Bhagat and discussed various departmental matters, including issues concerning the functioning of the department and effective delivery of essential services.

The Minister emphasised the need for timely resolution of pending matters and continued efforts to ensure efficient public service delivery.

Satish Sharma also met Secretary, Information

Technology, Rahul Yadav and held detailed discussions on several matters related to the department.

The discussions focused on key departmental issues, implementation of IT initiatives and measures to strengthen digital governance and improve the delivery of technology-enabled public services.

The Minister stressed the importance of effective coordination, timely implementation of departmental programmes and a result-oriented approach to addressing issues requiring administrative attention.

Later, Satish Sharma met a deputation from Ganderbal district led by Sheikh Javaid, which projected several issues concerning the district and sought the Minister's intervention for

their resolution.

The deputation highlighted the public concerns and development-related matters requiring the attention of the concerned authorities.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured its members that the issues raised would be examined and taken up with the relevant departments for appropriate action.

Emphasising the importance of addressing the grassroots-level concerns, Satish Sharma stated that regular interaction with people and their representatives was essential for identifying local issues and ensuring responsive governance. He assured the deputation that genuine grievances would receive due consideration and that necessary follow-up would be undertaken with the concerned authorities.

Subsequently, a deputation of a Human rights protection organization led by Abrar Lone also met the Minister and discussed various matters concerning the organisation and issues raised by its members.

Satish Sharma gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured that the matters brought to his notice would be examined in accordance with the applicable rules and procedures, with appropriate follow-up wherever required.

BIS Celebrates World Standards Day 2026; J&K, Ladakh Have Vast Hydro, Solar Energy Potential: JERC Chairperson

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The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Jammu and Kashmir Branch Office (JKBO), celebrated World Standards Day 2026 by organising Manak Mahotsav in Jammu on Wednesday. The event was held under the theme "Shared Vision for a Better World – SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy."

In his inaugural address, Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) Chairperson for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Shri Raj Kumar Chaudhary underlined the vast potential of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in hydropower and solar energy. He also highlighted the importance of reliable electricity sys-



tems, quality infrastructure and standardisation in the power sector. He added that with the expanding roof top solar panel network under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, consumers today

have assumed the role of a prosumer who actively buy, utilise and sell power (solar energy).

In his welcome address, Director and Head of BIS-JKBO, Shri Jeevanandam D, highlighted the role of



standardisation in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7, which seeks to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. He said standards are essential for improving en-

ergy efficiency, ensuring electrical safety, strengthening infrastructure reliability and facilitating the adoption of clean energy technologies.

Referring to Jammu and Kashmir's hydropower

potential, Shri Jeevanandam cited major projects, including Pakal Dul (1,000 MW), Kiru (624 MW), Kwar (540 MW) and Ratle (850 MW). He emphasised the need for reliable equipment, safe

installations and appropriate technical standards across power generation, transmission and distribution.

On the occasion, Director, Press Information Bureau (PIB), Jammu, Ms.

Neha Jalali, was recognised for her contribution to public awareness. The recognition acknowledged PIB's role in disseminating information on standards, product safety, BIS certification and consumer awareness. Various stakeholders were also felicitated on the occasion.

Technical sessions during the programme focused on the role of standards in developing reliable electricity infrastructure, promoting responsible industrial practices, enabling technological advancement and supporting sustainable development.

Students from BIS Standards Clubs presented cultural performances, highlighting the role of educational institutions in creating awareness about standards, quality and consumer protection among young people.