

PROFILE



"I have always wanted to be the voice of those who go unheard, the eyes for those who can't see and the ears for those who can't hear. My life's journey has been impacted by two mottos. One that I grew up with - Never Give In from the school I studied in - St. Lawrence School Sanawar, and the other that I had the opportunity of bringing to Jammu-Kashmir & Ladakh – the DPS motto, Service Before Self."

- Dr. Kunwrani Ritu Singh

About Dr Kunwrani Ritu Singh Ji

Dr. Kunwrani Ritu Singh, a visionary leader, blends business acumen with social responsibility. A trailblazer in education and culture preservation, she fosters innovation, promotes traditional values, and empowers underprivileged women through her enterprises. With deep roots in spirituality and a commitment to women's empowerment, she's a driving force for positive change.

Pioneer in World-class Education in Jammu & Kashmir

Dr. Kunwrani Ritu Singh Ji, a strategic global traveller, exceptional networker, and adept team builder, pioneered world-class education in Jammu & Kashmir through DPS schools in Jammu, Katra, Leh, Nagbani & Udhampur. A visionary exemplifying actions over words, she transformed her vision into a thriving educational ecosystem, positively impacting generations. Her strength lies in character, innovation, and unwavering commitment to education, embodied by DPS's motto "Service Before Self."

A Key Contributor & Guiding Factor For Founding The J&K DPS Family

In the late 1990s, amidst J&K's recovery from militancy, Dr. Kunwrani Ritu Singh recognized the need for quality education, particularly with a global perspective, to nurture the holistic

development of children in the region. Her pioneering efforts addressed this gap. Through extensive consultations, Dr. Kunwrani Ritu Singh envisioned and established DPS Jammu in 1998, marking the first step in a successful journey to bring world-class education to J&K. This initiative led to the creation of 12 more DPS branches across the state, benefiting over 50,000 children and revolutionizing education in the region.

DPS Jammu: In the late 90s, amidst the aftermath of challenges faced by Jammu and Kashmir, the idea of bringing global education to the region took shape. In 1998, she collaborated with the Delhi Public School Society, New Delhi to establish Delhi Public School Jammu driven by the vision of providing a comprehensive learning environment that emphasizes academic excellence, character development, and the cultivation of skills that prepare students for a rapidly changing world.

DPS Jammu has achieved several milestones since its inception having consistently produced outstanding academic results in CBSE Board and other competitive examinations with students also excelling in inter-school, state, national and international-level sports tournaments and cultural events, showcasing the diverse talents of its students. The school has also been actively engaging in community service initiatives through 'Prayas', the school's community outreach program, fostering a sense of social responsibility among students and contributing to the betterment of society. DPS Jammu has a reputation of having a dedicated faculty using innovative teaching methods, incorporating technology and modern pedagogical techniques to enhance the learning experience.

DPS Nagbani: Dr. Kunwrani Ritu Singh believes in respecting the environment and giving back to Mother Nature. Therefore, she launched the first of its kind Green and Eco-friendly School concept in Jammu & Kashmir by creating DPS Nagbani, the first of its kind Green School in J&K. In 2016 DPS Nagbani was established catering to the educational needs of the western rural belt of Jammu while also fulfilling environmental needs. Situated on a sprawling 4-acre campus amidst a beautiful orchard spanning approximately 100 acres, DPS Nagbani follows the guidelines of a "GREEN SCHOOL," focusing on a pollution-free environment by implementing techniques such as encouraging greenery, rainwater harvesting, using eco-friendly materials, and energy conservation. The school started its operations in the academic session 2016-17 and has been awarded the prestigious Gold Rated Green School recognition by the World Green Council showcasing its commitment to environmental sustainability.

The school emphasizes on a well-rounded curriculum as per CBSE guidelines, promoting holistic development in students, including academics, creativity, aesthetics, culture, emotion, and cognitive skills, providing comprehensive sports facilities, including horse riding, cricket, football, volleyball, basketball, skating, table tennis, badminton, and martial arts like Taekwondo. It also emphasizes yoga for overall fitness of mind, body, and soul. Both students and teachers actively participate in state and national-level sports and co-curricular activities, ensuring a competitive edge and professional growth. The dedicated teaching staff members at DPS Nagbani ensure quality education with the right skills and a positive attitude, adhering to the school motto "Service before Self."

Alumni Achievements of her Schools

The idea of establishing a re-connect with the school alumni was planted by Dr Kunwrani Ritu Singh Ji, with an aim to re-connect the thread of school-student affinity and bonding. The Rencontre has seen the regular presence of school alumni, who are placed in high positions in India and abroad, at various school events as distinguished guests and according to them with due honour for their achievements. Amongst the alumni are IAS Officers, KAS Officers, Doctors, Engineers, Army Officers, Chartered Accountants, Film Actors, Politicians, Business Entrepreneurs, Lecturers, etc.

Celebrating Alumni Success: Witnessing the accomplishments of our alumni, from diverse fields like IAS Officers to actors, highlights the transformative impact of DPS Jammu's education. Their achievements underscore the potential that a well-rounded education offers.

Continuing Legacy of Inspiration: Our alumni's achievements serve as a testament to the values and skills instilled during their time at DPS Jammu. Their stories continue to inspire and motivate current students to strive for excellence and societal contribution.

Prayas-a Try

Dr. Kunwrani Ritu Singh Ji initiated 'Prayas-a try,' a robust community outreach program at the school. 'Prayas' involves students and teachers, fostering social responsibility and empathy. It educates students about societal issues and encourages humility and balance. The program serves old age homes, orphanages, slum children, laborers, and local communities. Activities include Mother's Day celebrations, street plays on social issues, charity drives, awareness programs, and summer classes for slum children focusing on language skills, hygiene, and personality development. Additionally, Dr. Ritu Singh supports underprivileged children, girl child education, war widows, financial aid for orphan girls' marriages, and free health services for the needy. Her impact extends beyond the school, inspiring others to join the mission of creating a better future.

Key Initiatives Under Prayas

- A roadmap on establishing Computer lab for the visually impaired persons at DPS Jammu drawn through **Project Roshni: Illuminating Lives with Technology** A Beacon of inclusivity, Project Roshni serves as a symbol of our commitment to inclusivity. Through technology, we're breaking down barriers and ensuring that even those with visual impairments can access opportunities and contribute meaningfully to society. Conceived at DPS Jammu, this is a heart-warming initiative where students from the blind school will be trained in special software for visually challenged individuals. This project showcases our commitment to inclusivity, technology, and providing opportunities for everyone to thrive with dignity.
- High-tech lab at DPS Nagbani developed for giving IT education to rural girls in collaboration with NIIT Foundation . In last 2 years, 160 rural girls have graduated from the program.
- Village adoption program, aiming to uplift rural communities carried out.

- Life-long free health check-up and medical facilities, in collaboration with reputed KD's Super Speciality Hospital of Jammu under its CSR programs to provide lifelong health check-up cards to the inmates of Balgran and Muskan Home.
- Reaching out to cowsheds, Cheshire homes, old age homes, orphanages, rural women, slum children, for providing them health awareness sessions.

A Pioneer In Innovation & Ideation & Contributive Goals

Spreading the umbrella of quality education in Jammu, Dr Kunwrani Ritu Singh Ji brought several renowned personalities to the state of Jammu to expand the co-scholastic exposure of the children of all the schools initiated by her. This impacted the young minds immensely, as they could look up to the successful educational significance of a school can be measured in terms of its potential to raise worthy citizens who can multiply manifold, the goodness of Education received by them during their school years.

Co-scholastic Exposure: Dr Kunwrani Ritu Singh's exemplary vision, honesty, hard work, dedication, patriotism, passion for life, belief in improving lives, 'Sewa' for animals, orphans, and old age home, are outstanding. Over the years, she has brought several renowned personalities to Jammu to expand the co-scholastic exposure of the children in the schools founded by her. This initiative had a positive impact on the young minds, as they could look up to successful educational figures and witness the significance of a quality education.

Technology Integration and Innovation: Dr Kunwrani Ritu Singh Ji has emphasized the importance of technology integration in education. She has ensured that students in her schools have access to cutting-edge resources and digital tools to enhance their learning experience. The DPS Schools in Jammu, Nagbani and Katra have become hubs for innovation and ideation, fostering a culture of critical thinking and problem-solving among the students.

Digital Literacy Initiative- 'Vridhhi – the Digital Beti': Empowering Rural Girls & Women of Jammu (J&K)

The initiative, 'Vridhhi – the Digital Beti' aims to drive digital equity by bridging the digital divide and empowering rural girls and women with essential digital literacy skills. Inspired by a student named Anshika, Dr. Kunwrani Ritu Singh initiated 'Vridhhi,' a digital literacy program for rural and underprivileged girls in Tikkri, Udhampur, J&K. Efforts included providing internet access through a Jio Tower and establishing a high-tech lab at DPS Nagbani. Over two years, 160 girls graduated from the program, receiving NIIT Foundation certificates. 'Vridhhi' aims for holistic growth, symbolized by a girl mascot, making a significant impact on digital education in the region, thanks to Dr. Ritu Singh's commitment.

Cultivating Tech-savvy Rural Change-makers: "Digital Beti Vridhi" is more than just teaching digital skills; it's about transforming lives. By empowering rural girls and women with technological know-how, we're fostering change-makers who can uplift their communities through knowledge and innovation.

Revolutionising Mental Health Narratives

Our mental health awareness campaigns are shattering stereotypes and fostering open dialogues. By involving students, we're not only nurturing empathetic individuals but also laying the foundation for a more mentally resilient society.

Guiding Towards Responsible Citizenship

As educators, our role transcends imparting knowledge. It encompasses instilling values of empathy, social responsibility, and active citizenship. The journey of Dr Kunwrani Ritu Singh has been one of guiding students to understand the power of their actions in shaping a better society.

Preservation of Cultural Legacy

Our students' active promotion of local art, music, and traditions showcases their strong connection to cultural heritage. This commitment not only enriches their lives but also reinforces our cultural identity for generations to come.

Fostering an Inclusive Tomorrow

Collaborating with enthusiastic students to drive positive change ignites hope for a more inclusive future. The values imbibed through outreach programs are shaping these students into responsible and empathetic citizens who will contribute meaningfully to society.

Founding Chairperson, FICCI Flo- Jammu, Kashmir And Ladakh Chapter

Amid the COVID pandemic, Kunwarani Ritu Singh launched FICCI FLO Jammu-Kashmir & Ladakh, providing vital services to society. Her women-led team empowers at grassroots, middle, and senior levels, encouraging start-ups in the region. Initiatives include financial inclusion, networking, enabling army wives, digital literacy, health awareness, and more. Passionate about traditions, arts, and culture, she's deeply involved in charity, spirituality, and eco-friendly ventures. Her leadership has significantly empowered over 500 women employees in her pioneering organizations, reflecting her dedication to women's economic empowerment.

Financial Literacy

Dr. Kunwrani Ritu Singh, Founder Chairperson of FICCI FLO JK&L, organized a Zoom talk on 'Women in Multi-Generational Business,' empowering members with valuable insights on leadership and succession planning. Collaborating with ICAI, awareness sessions on financial schemes for start-ups & MSMEs were held. An 'Investor Awareness Programme' was conducted for FICCI FLO JKL members, teachers, and students from DPS Nagbani, Jammu, Katra, and MIET, Kot Bhalwal Jammu, fostering financial literacy and empowerment. Workshop on Digital Commerce in J&K with ONDC was conducted.

Empowering Women's Voices

Founding the FICCI FLO- Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh Chapter has allowed us to empower women entrepreneurs and inspire students through their achievements. These efforts emphasise collaboration, equality, and the value of uplifting others.

Outreach For Specially Abled

Under Dr. Kunwrani Ritu Singh's FICCI FLO JKL, a Special Olympics health screening camp for 500 children took place in collaboration with Sahyog India (An NGO for the Specially Abled) on World Health Day, part of India's 75th Independence Day celebration. Ashok Kapur Foundation distributed Almirahs and rations to Muskaan Home, and an interactive program was held at Alexander Memorial School to include special children in the mainstream. Dr. Ritu Singh emphasized acceptance and support for the specially abled, pledging FLO's continued collaboration and assistance for Sahyog Foundation's future initiatives.

Social Responsibility

Dr Kunwrani Ritu Singh JI believes that it is highly important to maintain humility to remain balanced and grounded and also to develop students as good human beings. According to her teachers can mould children into any desirable shape they wish to so that they lead their lives successfully and also serve the nation selflessly. She has always been a beacon of light, hope, and inspiration for the students and staff by continually rousing and reminding us of our great responsibility, not only towards our school children but also towards our community, especially for the underprivileged children of our nation.

Menstrual Hygiene Advocate and Healthcare Philanthropist

- Dr. Kunwrani Ritu Singh, in collaboration with education and healthcare leaders, organized a Menstrual Hygiene campaign at DPS Katra on Menstrual Hygiene Day. Over 800 participants received free health check-ups, including Breast Cancer Screening and gynaecology check-ups. They distributed 1.5 lakh free sanitary napkins to girls from government schools and rural women in the Reasi region. Dr. Ritu Singh stressed open discussion about menstrual health, combating period shaming, and proper disposal. The campaign aligns with the **Prime Minister's vision** for a healthy India and the **Jan Aushadhi initiative**, ensuring accessible sanitary napkins.
- Launched the sanitary napkins distribution drive in DPS Jammu and DPS Nagbani to underprivileged sections near their schools.
- Initiated the **Amanat** medical outreach program, providing free health check-up camps for women and girl child health in rural and the border areas of Jammu.
- Partnered with hospitals to offer free medical check-ups and tied up with KD's Super Speciality Hospital to provide lifelong health check-up cards to the inmates of Balgran and Muskan Home.

Environment

Dr. Kunwrani Ritu Singh believes in preserving, conserving, and worshipping the rivers while expressing gratitude towards nature. She initiated a first-of-its-kind Mangaldeep Aarti of River Tawi at Panjthirithi on the occasion of Makarsankranti. The Arti was conducted by seven priests from Chitrakoot, led by Acharya Shukla, following full Vedic rites and rituals. The event witnessed a large gathering of people from various backgrounds, and school faculty and children, who paid their salutations to Surya Dev with divine Vedic chants and audio-visual messages of blessings from spiritual leaders.

Upvan and Vrikshavan Drive

Dr. Kunwrani Ritu Singh initiated 'Upvan' Drive involving DPS Nagbani, Jammu & Katra students and staff to promote environmental awareness. She collaborated with organizations like Jammu Municipal Corporation, The Bahu Plaza Association, and Urban Forestry Division Jammu for the 'Vrikshavan' Drive, greening various areas including Bahu Plaza, Shivaji Chowk, industrial zones, and highways in the city of Jammu. Dr. Kunwrani Ritu Singh also supports anti-polythene and anti-plastic initiatives. She partnered with Hon'ble Mayor Jammu, involving 5000+ participants from DPS Jammu, Katra, and Nagbani in a campaign. The pledge was to eliminate single-use plastics, promoting a greener environment in schools and homes.

Guardians of the Environment

Through active involvement in plantation drives and embracing the Green and Eco-friendly School concept, students are becoming stewards of the environment. This ethos emphasises individual accountability in building a sustainable world.

Collaboration With Jigar Foundation

FICCI FLO JKL partnered with Sahyog India and JIGAR Foundation to empower specially abled children in J&K, ensuring they benefit from Social Justice sector schemes. A festive Christmas celebration at Hari Niwas for 35 children from Muskan, a home for the mentally challenged, featured fun activities, singing, games, and a festive lunch, organized by FICCI FLO JKL's Founding Chairperson, Kr. Ritu Singh.

Entrepreneurship/Start up

Professional Initiatives:

- **Asha:** Launched a skilling program in collaboration with LOOKS Salon to provide training and certification in makeup, hair, and beauty services for rural women.
- **Chakki Charpai:** Established a chain of rural dhabas in collaboration with JKRLM to empower rural women in generating sustainable income using local produce and knowledge.

- **Skilling Centres:** Collaborated with Sarveshwar Smile Foundation and Maharaja Hari Singh Foundation to inaugurate stitching and skilling centres for village women, promoting financial independence.
- **Outreach to Underprivileged Children:** Celebrated Children's Day with underprivileged children, focusing on empowerment, education, and skill development for a better future.
- **Gulbahar-Kanpur Exhibition:** Showcased products of local artisans, designers, and entrepreneurs in a two-day exhibition in Kanpur to promote and support their businesses.

Collaborations and Partnerships

- **Collaboration with JKRLM:** Worked in partnership with JKRLM under the UMEED scheme to empower rural women through training and skill development programs.
- **Collaboration with Looks Salon:** Partnered with Looks Salon for the Asha program, offering free training, certification, and internship opportunities to rural women.

Government and Industrial Engagements

- **UMEED-Skilling Outreach:** Joined hands with Maharaja Hari Singh Foundation to skill 500 women from Katra under the UMEED Scheme, focusing on making clothes for temples.
- **Saras Fair by JKRLM:** Participated in the SARAS fair organized by JKRLM, promoting products developed by rural women artisans.
- **Vendor Development Program & MSME Expo:** Actively participated and represented FICCI FLO JKL at the program, advocating for the importance of women entrepreneurs and offering suggestions for their empowerment.
- **Proposal for Women Industrial Park in J&K:** Proposed the establishment of an all-women industrial park in J&K to support women entrepreneurs in various industries.
- **Government Connect:** Met officials from the Directorate of Industries & Commerce and DPIIT, discussing industrial policies, proposals, and challenges faced by women entrepreneurs.

Empowerment and Mentorship

- **Girl Power Talk:** Organized a session on entrepreneurial mindset and success, providing mentoring opportunities and motivation to FLO members.
- **Meet with Officials of DPIIT:** Met with officials of DPIIT, discussing issues related to industries and commerce, proposing suggestions for improvement, and advocating for women's participation.
- **Start-up Cell:** Attended meetings and onboarding sessions for Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) and e-Samuday, aiming to create a special platform for FLO members to showcase and sell their products.

SEED – Start up Festival in Jammu

Founder of "SEED," the first and biggest start-up festival in Jammu, aimed at promoting the start-up ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. Collaborated with MIET, Maharaja Hari Singh Foundation, AGENC, and FICCI FLO JKL for the festival. Participants included students and faculty from IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu, MIET, Govt girls colleges, alumni from DPS, start-ups, entrepreneurs, members of FICCI FLO JKL, enthusiastic shoppers, and members of the press. SEED festival created history, providing a boost to the start-up ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir and shaping the future for aspiring entrepreneurs in the region.

Empowering the Unsung Heroes: Financial Security for All

Beyond academic endeavours, the well-being of our invaluable support staff has been a priority. Initiating a successful medical camp catering to their health needs is a significant achievement. This endeavour, along with insurance schemes in collaboration with the **State Bank of India** for the support staff of the DPS schools, and other organizations run by her reflects her commitment for their holistic welfare. The response, with 100 enrollments on the very first day, highlighted the resonance of these initiatives in enhancing the lives of her staff members.

Mental Health Awareness Campaigns

Revolutionising Mental Health Narratives: Our mental health awareness campaigns are shattering stereotypes and fostering open dialogues. By involving students, we're not only nurturing empathetic individuals but also laying the foundation for a more mentally resilient society. As a passionate social activist, Dr. Kunwrani Ritu Singh believes in nurturing not just academic growth but also mental well-being. Collaborating with experts, we've initiated impactful mental health awareness campaigns involving students. Through workshops, discussions, and seminars, we're breaking down stigmas and equipping students with essential coping strategies.

Fostering Industry Connections through Internship Programs

Education is more than classroom learning; it's about practical exposure. Collaborating with local industries and business houses, we've organized various internship programs for our students. These initiatives offer real-world insights, helping students bridge the gap between theory and practice.

Bridge to a Brighter Future: Through internship programs, we're bridging the gap between classroom education and professional readiness. By facilitating hands-on learning, we're enabling students to step confidently into their chosen fields, equipped with skills and confidence.

Empowerment Through Collaboration: Our collaborations with local industries and businesses underline our dedication to practical education. These partnerships are a testament to our commitment to providing students with holistic learning experiences that prepare them for the dynamic professional world.

Hospitality Sector

Dr Kunwarani Ritu Singh and her husband Sh. M.K. Ajatshatru Singh converted their iconic Hari Niwas royal palace into Hari Niwas Hotel, showcasing their passion for the hospitality industry. They established the first-of-its-kind Royal Retreat Banquet Hall in Jammu, providing a luxurious venue for special events and gatherings.

Awards

Recipient of several awards for her contribution to Society, Education, and Women Empowerment, Dr Kunwarani Ritu Singh Ji has been recently bestowed the prestigious Nelson Mandela Peace Award and the degree of Honorary Doctorate by the Nelson Mandela Peace Award Academy and Hari Singh Award Foundation for serving society and empowering the underprivileged, women and children, whom she wants to lead by example.

S/d

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