

J&K gears up for National Youth Festival 2026; Directorate of YSS to lead UT-wide mobilisation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Directorate of Youth Services & Sports (YSS), J&K, has been designated as the nodal agency for registering participants from the UT for the prestigious National Youth Festival (NYT)- Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026.

The festival will feature competitive tracks in Cultural and Innovation, encompassing a wide array of events including Painting, Folk Song, Story Writing, Folk Dance, Poetry Writing, Innovation, and Declaration. This initiative aims to identify, celebrate, and empower the young talent of the nation, providing them with a national platform to showcase their abilities.

The selection process in Jammu & Kashmir will be a



rigorous two-tiered system, commencing with district-level competitions, followed by a UT-level selection round, both to be conducted by the Directorate of YSS J&K.

To ensure the seamless and widespread participation of youth across all 20 districts, the Director General of the Department of Youth Services & Sports, J&K, Anuradha Gupta, chaired a

comprehensive virtual meeting with all District Youth Services & Sports Officers (DYSSOs) from her office chamber in Jammu.

The meeting was also attended by JD YSS Jammu, Deputy Director Activities, Accounts Officer, Assistant Director Kashmir, and other sectional heads of the Directorate, underscoring the Department's collec-

tive commitment to the event's success.

Addressing the officers, DG YSS, Anuradha Gupta, emphasized the critical role of the DYSSOs in ensuring wide publicity for the registration process. She stressed the importance of reaching every corner of the UT to maximize registrations and participation.

"We must act as facilitators to empower our youth," stated DG YSS. "Our primary objective is to ensure that the maximum number of talented participants from Jammu & Kashmir get the opportunity to be a part of this grand national event. All DYSSOs are directed to proactively create and manage the registration events on the designated My Bharat portal (<https://mybharat.gov.in>) to streamline

the process for our young aspirants."

The Directorate of YSS J&K has called upon all eligible and enthusiastic youth across the Union Territory to actively prepare for the competitions and stay updated for further announcements regarding district-level registration dates and procedures.

The Directorate of Youth Services & Sports, Jammu & Kashmir, is the apex body responsible for promoting and coordinating youth-centric activities and sports development across the Union Territory under the aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. It aims to channelize the energy of the youth in a positive direction and provide them with platforms for national and international exposure.

Dir Horticulture reviews implementation of dev schemes



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JAMMU: Director Horticulture Jammu, Gul Sayed convened a review meeting with Chief Horticulture Officers of Jammu Province, on Wednesday.

The meeting was held here in the Conference Hall of the Directorate of Horticulture and attended by Joint Director, Deputy Director Central, Deputy Director Planning, Accounts Officer, Assistant Director, Chief

Horticulture Officers of all Jammu Province, Chief Canning Instructor, Nursery Registration Officer and Horticulture Information & Publicity Officer.

The meeting reviewed the physical and financial achievements under the departmental schemes including MIDH, CAPEX, CSS, Rejuvenation, P15H, P13H, P21H, P9H and JKICP for the financial year 2025-26 and to finalize strategies for achieving

100% targets as per the approved Action Plans.

The Director emphasised timely execution of field activities, effective monitoring and optimum utilization of funds to ensure that all developmental objectives under these schemes are achieved within the stipulated time frame. The officers were directed to accelerate the implementation process and maintain regular reporting for better coordination and transparency.

Renovated Shrine & Prayer Hall to be inaugurated at Ramakrishna Mission Jammu on Oct 24

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu, will host the inauguration ceremony of its Renovated Shrine and Prayer Hall at the Mission premises, Ramakrishna Vihar, Udheywala, on Friday, 24th October 2025, marking a significant milestone as the institution completes 25 years of dedicated service in the region. The day-long spiritual programme will begin early in the morning with Mangal Arati, Adhivas, and Stotra Path from 5:30 to 6:30 AM, setting a devotional tone for the auspicious day. This will be followed by a Procession (Prabhat Puri) around the temple premises from 6:30 to 7:15 AM. A Special Puja will be performed from 7:15 to 9:15 AM, invoking blessings for peace and spiritual growth, followed by a Hawan from 9:15 to 10:15 AM. At 10:15 AM, Rev. Swami Vimalatmanandaji Maharaj, Vice-President, Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, Behar Math, will deliver Benediction and present Mementos to commemorate the occasion. Subsequently, from 11:15 am to 12 noon, the newly installed Lift and the renovated Physiotherapy Clinic at the Mission's Medical Centre will also be inaugurated, symbolizing the Mission's continued commitment to spiritual, educational, and healthcare service to humanity. The programme will conclude with Aarti and Prasad distribution from 12 Noon to 12:15 PM, bringing the day's events to a devotional close. Swami Yajnadharananda, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Jammu, has extended a cordial invitation to all devotees, well-wishers, and members of the public to participate in the celebrations along with their families and friends.

Inculcate passion for sports & discipline in life: LG Kavinder

Flags off Ladakh U-17 Boxing Team for National School Games 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, has called upon the youth of the Union Territory to inculcate a passion for sports and embrace discipline in all aspects of life.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking after flagging off the Ladakh Under-17 Boxing Team for the National School Games 2025, to be held at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, from October 28 to November 3.

He also felicitated the team members with traditional khataks, extending his best wishes for their performance at the national stage. Secretary, Youth Services and Sports (YSS),



Lt Governor Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta with boxing team at flagging off ceremony.

Bhanu Prabha; Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Rakesh Kumar; Joint Director, YSS, Tahir Hussain; officials from YSS and other government officials were present during the event.

The Lieutenant Governor

emphasised that sports play a vital role in shaping not just physical fitness, but also character, resilience, and leadership qualities among young individuals.

He encouraged the young athletes to compete with

dedication, integrity, and a sense of responsibility, highlighting that representing Ladakh on a national platform is both an honour and a chance to showcase the region's talent. "Sports instil perseverance, teamwork, and

mental strength-qualities that are essential not only in the sporting arena but also in life," he added.

The Lt. Governor also acknowledged the efforts of the Sports Department, coaches, and mentors who have been working tirelessly to identify and nurture young sporting talent across Ladakh. He assured that the UT Administration remains committed to providing robust support and infrastructure to promote sports at the grassroots level, ensuring that budding athletes have the necessary resources and guidance to excel.

Highlighting the broader significance of sports, Kavinder Gupta urged stu-

dents to balance academics with physical activities, stressing that a disciplined lifestyle, coupled with a passion for sports, prepares youth for challenges in every sphere of life.

He expressed confidence that the Ladakh U-17 Boxing Team would perform with determination and bring laurels to the Union Territory, inspiring other youngsters to pursue excellence in sports.

Concluding the event, he reiterated that fostering a culture of sportsmanship and discipline among students is key to building a confident, resilient, and self-reliant generation, capable of contributing positively to the growth and progress of Ladakh.

Indian Heaven Premier League begins from Oct 25: Div Com reviews arrangements

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The first edition of T20 Indian Heaven Premier League shall commence from 25th October at Bakhshi Stadium featuring International, National and local players.

The high octane league will see the participation of eight teams for a fortnight while the stadium is expected to remain brimmed with the crowd coming from all across the J&K.

To ensure the smooth conduct of the mega sports event, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Wednesday chaired a comprehensive meeting of officers from various departments to take first hand appraisal of the preparations to set the stage ready for IHPL.

While reviewing the arrangements for the itinerary of the players, Div Com directed organisers to keep security agencies informed



Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg chairing a meeting.

about the arrival, accommodation and movement of all players.

The meeting was informed that around 25 thousand to 30 thousand spectators are expected to watch the matches directly in the stadium.

On the occasion, Div Com directed organisers to confine booking of maximum tickets through online mechanism only to facilitate smooth crowd management.

He also directed police and security officers to deploy

adequate personnel to assist crowd control in an organized manner.

Div Com also instructed organisers to strictly adhere to the timelines for entry of spectators and conclusion of daily matches while DC Srinagar was directed to depute magistrates to facilitate coordination among stakeholders.

Regarding drone coverage, Div Com instructed concerned agencies to approach to the district administration for proper permission.

Meanwhile, Div Com directed concerned officers of Jal Shakti and PDD for ensuring uninterrupted supply of drinking water & electricity at the venue.

Garg urged SMC, Sports Council and event organizers to conduct continuous cleanliness and sanitation drive to avoid littering around the venue. He instructed IHPL Organisers to strictly mention food items that shall be allowed into the stadium for match viewers.

4th District Jammu Dodgeball Championship 2025-26 concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 4th District Jammu Dodgeball Championship 2025-26 concluded at the Indoor Stadium, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu, with over 350 athletes from various schools and clubs across the district showcasing exceptional skill and sportsmanship.

Organized by the Jammu District Dodgeball Association in collaboration with Oneness Sports Health & Well-being Cooperative Ltd, and under the patronage of the J&K Dodgeball Association, the championship featured competitions in three categories - U-12, U-14, and U-17 for both boys and girls.

In the U-12 Boys category, DBN Amarvilla School emerged as the winner, followed by Nand Public School as the runner-up, and Chicago Club securing the third place. In the U-14 Boys division, Springdales School claimed the top spot, with Oneness Sports Club and Scientia International School securing second and third places respectively. Nand Public School finished in fourth place. Among the U-14 Girls, Springdales School again stood out as the champion, followed by Jaguar Club in second place and Nand Public School in third.

In the U-17 Boys category, Oneness Sports Club dominated the field, winning first place. Springdales School took second, DBN Amarvilla School came third, and Warriors Club secured fourth place. In the U-17 Girls category, Kendriya Vidyalaya Bantalab won the title, followed by Team Eagle Club as runner-up. The Eagle Club, Paloura was awarded for maintaining overall discipline during the tournament. Notable individual performers included Anmol (Nand Public School) and Veer (Springdales School) in the U-14 Boys category; and Adhya (Springdales School) in the U-14 Girls. In the U-17 division, Tanish Bhan (Oneness Sports Club) and Deewanshi Bhat (KV Bantalab) were recognized as the best players. The event aimed to encourage youth participation in sports and promote fitness and teamwork. The successful conduct of the championship reflects the growing enthusiasm for dodgeball in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rohini Raina, daughter of Vishnu Prashad Raina and Kavita Raina, has been conferred the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) She carried out her doctoral research on the topic "Deep Learning Approaches for Stratification and Segmentation of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia" under the guidance of Dr. Naveen Kumar Gondhi, Associate Professor, School of Computer Science and Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. During her Ph.D, Raina



published several research papers in reputed journals and was honored with the Best Paper Award for her scholarly contributions.

Her research was also supported by TEQIP-III funding from the Government of India, and she has further demonstrated her academic excellence by qualifying UGC-NET in Ph.D.

She is currently serving as an Assistant Professor in the AI/ML and Hons.-Department of Computer Engineering and Applications at G.L.A University, Mathura.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University extended its congratulations to Rohini Raina on this remarkable achievement and wishes her a bright and successful future ahead.

Rangyug, 92.7 BIG FM distribute relief

cheques to flood-affected families on Diwali



ADC Jammu Ansuya Jamwal handing over a cheque to flood-affected family.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a touching display of solidarity and compassion, Rangyug: Theatre for Social Change and Self Realisation, in collaboration with 92.7 BIG FM, distributed relief cheques worth Rs 20,000 each to ten flood-affected families of Jammu.

The event, held on the auspicious occasion of Diwali, took place at the DC Office, Jammu, with the support of the District Administration.

The initiative, conducted in the presence of ADC Jammu Ansuya Jamwal and other local officials, aimed to provide tangible support to families still recovering from the devastating impact of recent floods in the region.

The relief amount was raised through a charity performance of Rangyug's acclaimed Dogri solo play

"Chanchlo", performed by RJ Juhie of BIG FM. The play was staged as a fundraising event dedicated entirely to aiding flood victims, with support from civil society and generous donors.

ADC Jammu Ansuya Jamwal lauded the effort, stating, "This initiative beautifully reflects the power of art and community. Rangyug and BIG FM have shown how culture and compassion can come together to bring hope."

Deepak Kumar, Founder-Director of Rangyug, expressed his gratitude to all contributors, saying "Through 'Chanchlo', we wanted to use art as a means of healing. The people of Jammu have once again proven that empathy is our greatest strength."

From 92.7 BIG FM, Vikrant Sharma (Cluster Sales Head North) and RJ

Juhie shared their sentiments stating "Under our 'Hands for Humanity' campaign, we partnered with Rangyug to give back to a community that supports us every day. This was our way of making a difference."

The cheques were handed over jointly by Deepak Kumar, Vikrant Sharma, and RJ Juhie, through the District Administration, ensuring transparent and fair distribution.

Emotional families receiving the aid expressed heartfelt gratitude to Rangyug, BIG FM, and the administration, calling the gesture a Diwali blessing.

This joint humanitarian initiative stands as a powerful testament to Jammu's resilience and unity, where art, media, and community come together to rebuild lives and spread light in the darkest of times.

Dir Agriculture distributes 1 lakh hybrid vegetable seedlings



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta on Wednesday distributed one lakh hybrid vegetable seedlings to farmers of Sub-Division Marh under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). The seedlings, raised by the Agronomist, Vegetable Improvement Scheme (VIS) Jammu and are disease-free, healthy and of high quality. So far, around 2 to 3 lakh vegetable seedlings have already been distributed to farmers under this initiative.

Interacting with the farmers, the Director Agriculture informed that these seedlings are available at a highly subsidized rate. He appealed the

farmers to avail benefit of this facility and adopt quality vegetable cultivation practices for enhanced productivity and profitability.

During the visit, the Director Agriculture also inspected the Naturally Ventilated Polyhouse where red and yellow bell peppers, seedless cucumber and tomato are being raised under protected cultivation. These crops are being maintained for demonstration purposes and will serve as live models during the farmers' training programmes from across the Jammu Division. Highlighting the scope of urban farming, the Director Agriculture informed that 2000 grow-bags are being distributed under the IPDP to

encourage vegetable cultivation in urban and peri-urban areas. He further reviewed the ongoing works at the Centre of Excellence, which is expected to become operational within a month. The centre will facilitate round-the-year production of vegetable and floriculture seedlings, thereby strengthening the region's nursery infrastructure.

Agronomist (VIS), Vikas Padha, apprised the Director Agriculture about the ongoing activities and informed that the sowing of breeder seed of spinach has commenced at the JPAE Farm for further multiplication and distribution to farmers to ensure the availability of quality vegetable seed. Among others present on the occasion were Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/Farms) Dr. Aman Jyoti Sharma, Agriculture Chemist, Vinod Kumar Sharma, Agronomist (VIS) Jammu, Vikas Padha, Assistant Botanist, Ajit Singh, SDAO Marh, Khalid Hassan and other senior officers and staff of the department.