

Private schools playing an important role in restoring normalcy in Kashmir: Khatana

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SRINAGAR: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Gulam Ali Khatana attended as Chief Guest at the Award Ceremony of the Federation of Private Schools, held at Hotel Countryside, Srinagar. He lauded the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under whose guidance Kashmir is steadily moving towards lasting normalcy, peace, and development.



MP Rajya Sabha Gulam Ali Khatana being honoured.

Khatana said that the earlier governments of NC, PDP, and Congress did little to restore normalcy in the Valley, due to which private schools and the entire education ecosystem of Kashmir had suffered for years. Khatana said that Kashmir is a land of opportunity, and both government and private schools are contributing immensely to rebuilding its educational

and social fabric. He emphasized that private institutions have played a crucial role in bringing students back to classrooms, encouraging them in sports, cultural, and co-curricular activities, and keeping them away from drugs and negative influences. He added that Kashmir youth have high potential, and schools must nurture this talent to make them

active participants in India's growth story. He stressed that private schools should not prioritize making money, but focus on the holistic development of students. He appreciated the Federation of Private Schools for its commitment and urged them to focus on overall student development over monetary priorities, inspiring the youth to make the Valley a model of education, peace, and progress. The event was also graced by a cultural program that showcased the talent of students in music, dance, and arts, reflecting the creativity and holistic development promoted by private schools in Kashmir. Khatana further said that private schools in Kashmir are not only imparting education but also building essential life skills, confidence, and leadership qualities among students, preparing them to face future challenges and contribute positively to society. He stressed that schools must continue to provide holistic development opportunities to ensure the next generation becomes responsible, skilled, and socially conscious citizens. Khatana also highlighted that in today's time, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is playing an increasingly important

role in education, and educators must remain aware of both its positive and negative impacts on students. He emphasized that teachers and institutions in Kashmir should guide students to use AI as a tool for learning, innovation, and nation-building, while ensuring it does not affect their moral and emotional development. Dr. Jagjit Singh Dhuri, President of FAP (India), and Dr. G.N. Var, President of Private Schools Association, J&K, also appreciated the Prime Minister for his leadership in restoring normalcy and promoting education in the region. The event was partnered by Chandigarh University, with Private Schools Association, J&K as an associate partner, reflecting a collaborative effort to strengthen education in Kashmir.

Badal Club lifts 2nd Marvel Technology Hockey Tournament trophy

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SRINAGAR: Badal Club defeated Young State Hockey Srinagar 3-1 in a thrilling final to win the 2nd Marvel Technology Hockey Tournament, which concluded at the historic Polo Ground here on Sunday. The tournament was organized by Young Stars Hockey Club Bahrain under the aegis of Hockey J&K and in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council.



Winner team receiving trophy.

Former Speaker of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly and MLA Mubarak Gul, who was the chief guest at the closing ceremony, praised the athletes for their commitment. "Well played to both teams. Your commitment to the game and the spirit you've shown today reflect the bright future of hockey in Jammu & Kashmir," Gul said. Guest of Honour Raja Yakob Ali Khan, Divisional

Sports Officer, also lauded the organizers and players for their dedication to the sport. Adil Shabir Ashai, the organizing secretary, thanked all stakeholders for their support and announced that the next edition of the championship in 2026 is being planned on a national level. "We're proud to have successfully concluded this edi-

tion and are already planning for a national-level tournament," Ashai stated. Among others present were Raja Ghulam Nabi Wani, Secretary, International Hockey Championship, and Adil Ashraf, Executive Member of the organizing committee. The event concluded with the distribution of trophies and medals to the winners and participants.

District Reasi Cycling Championship 2025 concludes

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
REASI: The District Reasi Cycling Championship 2025, organized by the Cycling Association of Jammu and Kashmir, concluded successfully, witnessing enthusiastic participation from cyclists across various age groups and categories. The championship featured high-energy races in categories including Elite, Under-18, Under-16, Under-14, MTB, and Girls, highlighting the exceptional endurance, strength, and determination of young and senior cyclists alike. In the Elite category, Rohit Verma emerged as the top performer. The Girls (Open category) saw an impressive display of talent, with Manasvi Pandit securing



Participants posing with dignitaries.

first place, followed by Anoushka Pandit and Shivanshika. In the Under-16 category, Saravdeep clinched the top spot, while Saksham Thakur and Anmol Sharma placed second and third respectively. The Under-14 event was

dominated by Arunesh Verma, with Shivansh and Amandeep Singh finishing close behind. The championship served as a qualifying event, and the winners will now represent District Reasi in the upcoming State Cycling

Championship, where they will compete with top cyclists from across Jammu and Kashmir. The event was graced by Om Parkash Sharma (General Secretary), S.S. Gill (Coordinator), Vishal Thakur, and Ravi Sharma, who praised the participants for their dedication and spirit. They also acknowledged the efforts of the association in promoting cycling at the grassroots level. The Cycling Association of J&K congratulated all the winners and participants for their commendable performances. They also extended sincere thanks to the officials, volunteers, and media personnel whose support ensured the smooth and successful conduct of the event.

J&K Yoga team leaves for Nationals



■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Selected by the Association, Rajyogini B.K Sudarshan Didi; vice president B.K Ravinder Bali and secretary general, Vinod Bhatia, a handout issued here today informed. The 12-member team was finalised considering their performance at UT level competitions, followed by the selection process. The team was given send

off by patron-in-chief of the Association, Rajyogini B.K Sudarshan Didi; vice president B.K Ravinder Bali and secretary general, Vinod Bhatia, a handout issued here today informed. The 12-member team was finalised considering their performance at UT level competitions, followed by the selection process.

The team is being accompanied by Mukesh Sharma, Anushka Koul and Aryaaveer Singh. The Team: Nandini Sharma, Sakshi Sharma, Sonali Sadotra, Anjali Devi, Naina Sharma, Meenakshi Thakur, Dev Mehra, Akarsh Sharma, Tarun Kumar & Sunil Singh.

District-Level Kurash Championship in Jammu from Oct 10

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The District Jammu Kurash Association is organizing a district-level Kurash Championship at the Indoor Stadium, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu, from October 10 to 12, 2025. Open to both boys and girls, interested players must report to their respective coaches with a filled entry form and Aadhaar card. Selected players will earn the chance to represent JKUT at the national level. For participation details, players should contact their coaches or the District Jammu Kurash Association.

KC Public School hosts interactive session for parents

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: KC Public School recently hosted Salony Priya, a renowned counsellor, psychologist, and founder of UMMEED, for an insightful session titled "Parenting the Gen Zs: Challenges and the Way Forward as Partners." The session, held on the school premises, witnessed enthusiastic participation from parents, educators, and staff. With her vast experience in mental health, parenting, and adolescent psychology, Priya addressed the nuanced challenges that come with raising Generation Z-children growing up in an age of rapid tech-



Salony Priya, a renowned counsellor interacting with parents of students at KCPS Jammu.

nological, social, and emotional transformation. She emphasized the importance of empathetic communication, emotional resilience, and collaborative parenting

approaches in building strong, trusting relationships with today's youth. It is pertinent to mention here that sixty teachers from the school have been trained as pastoral

guides in Basic counselling skills. Throughout the session, Priya offered practical strategies to help parents bridge the generational gap, better understand their children's behavioural patterns, and nurture them with patience and mindfulness. The interactive format of the session encouraged active dialogue, making it both engaging and enlightening for all participants. Speaking at the occasion, Arti Chowdhary, the managing director of the school, expressed her gratitude to Salony Priya and to the parents and acknowledged the

change the sessions have brought in the school culture. Principal Amarendra Kumar Mishra expressed gratitude to Priya for her valuable insights, stating, "Sessions like these empower our parent community to become better partners in their children's growth journey. We thank Salony Priya for sharing her wisdom with such clarity and compassion." KC Public School remains committed to fostering holistic development through continued engagement with experts and professionals who contribute meaningfully to the school's educational and social environment.

J&K team participates in 8th National Savate C'ship



■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The Savate Association of India organized the 8th National Savate Championship from October 5 to 7 at Multi-Purpose Hall, Sector 56. The Jammu and

Kashmir team is actively participating, with players including Plaksh Sammotra, Aadish Thakur, Vareniam Sharma, Ayoub Hussain, and others. Team Coach Manoj Kumar

Mehra stated that all players are highly enthusiastic about the event. The championship brings together top talent from across the country in the French combat sport, Savate.

SR College of Competitions launches JKAS Prelims 2025 Test Series

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: SR College of Competitions, a leading institute known for its result-oriented test series, has launched its JKAS Prelims 2025 Test Series. The program has already received a strong response from aspirants across Jammu & Kashmir, reflecting the trust the institution commands. The series features 23 tests in total-17 sectional papers covering General Studies and CSAT topic-wise, along with 6 full-length tests designed to mirror the actual examination pattern. Each test is followed by detailed explanations and answer keys to help students evaluate their preparation and



improve performance. SR College's track record further reinforces its credibility. In the JKAS Prelims 2024, 52 out of 100 questions were reflected from its test series, showcasing the precision and exam relevance of its content. For 2025, the offering has been enhanced with one-on-one mentorship to provide focused guidance and ensure complete syllabus coverage. With this launch, SR College of Competitions continues to empower JKAS aspirants with the right mix of strategy, practice, and mentorship, helping them prepare confidently for the JKAS Prelims 2025.

Udhampur emerges champion in U-17 Boys Inter-Dist Div Level Kho-Kho Tournament



Participating teams posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
DODA: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Doda, concluded the Inter-District Divisional Level Kho-Kho Tournament for Under-17 Boys at the Sports Stadium Doda. The tournament witnessed spirited participation from young players representing various districts of the Jammu Division. In the first semifinal, Poonch faced Udhampur, where Udhampur triumphed by one inning and one point. In the second semifinal, Rajouri clashed with Kishtwar and Kishtwar emerged victorious by two points. The final match was a thrilling contest between Udhampur and Kishtwar, showcasing exceptional skill, agility and teamwork from both sides. Demonstrating superior strategy and coordination, Udhampur emerged as the

champion, lifting the U-17 Inter-District Kho-Kho Championship 2025 Trophy with a convincing victory by 14 points. The tournament was organized under the direction of Anuradha Gupta, Director Youth Services and Sports J&K and under the guidance of Vinakshi Koul, Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu Division. The event also received valuable support from the District Development Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, whose encouragement and cooperation contributed to the smooth and successful conduct of the tournament. District Youth Services and Sports Officer Jaffar Haider Sheikh, congratulated Team Udhampur for clinching the title and appreciated Team Kishtwar for their spirited performance throughout the tournament.

In his address, Jaffar Haider Sheikh highlighted that such sporting events play a vital role in nurturing discipline, teamwork, leadership and sportsmanship among the youth. He expressed immense pride in witnessing the energy and talent displayed by the young athletes and reaffirmed the Department's commitment-under the visionary leadership of the worthy Director General YSS J&K Anuradha Gupta and Joint Director YSS Jammu Division Vinakshi koul to providing regular opportunities for students to excel in sports at district, divisional and UT levels. He further extended gratitude to the District Administration, the officials, referees, organizing committees, and field staff for their tireless efforts in ensuring the tournament's grand success. He encouraged all participants to

continue engaging in sports with dedication and passion, assuring them of continued departmental support in honing their talent. The closing ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, including Zonal Physical Education Officers, Lecturers, Activity Incharges, Masters and Teachers, who applauded the enthusiasm, discipline and fair play demonstrated by the young participants. The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, celebrating the spirit of teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship that defined the competition. The successful culmination of the tournament stands as a testament to the Department of Youth Services and Sports' commitment to fostering a strong sports culture and empowering young talent across the region.

Udhampur girls lift U17 Kho-Kho Trophy



Winner team receiving trophy.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KATHUA: The Inter-District Division Level Kho-Kho Tournament for the U17 Girls category concluded successfully today at the Sports Stadium, Kathua. The

final match proved to be a thrilling contest between the teams from Jammu and Udhampur, with both sides displaying exceptional skill and sportsmanship. In a closely fought battle, Udhampur

emerged victorious by defeating Jammu by just one point to lift the winner's trophy. Earlier, in the first semifinal, Udhampur outplayed Kishtwar, winning by an inning and 9 points.

In the second semifinal, Jammu defeated Kathua by an inning and 5 points to secure their place in the final. The tournament is part of the Annual Calendar of Sports Activities organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports. The winner and runner-up trophies were presented by Smt. Suchrita Mehta, Zonal Physical Education Officer, Kathua. From tomorrow, the events for the U19 Girls category will commence at the Sports Stadium, Kathua. All the events are being conducted under the overall supervision of Sunil Singh Sambyal, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Kathua.