

Poonch Brigade hosts 77th Poonch Link-Up Day Taekwondo Championship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: In a spectacular display of martial arts prowess, over 500 students from various schools in Poonch district participated in the 77th Poonch Link-Up Day Taekwondo Championship, organized by the Indian Army.

This exciting event was held in celebration of the upcoming 77th Poonch Link-Up Day on November 22, 2024, commemorating Operation Easy, a pivotal operation conducted by the Indian Army in 1948 to protect the Poonch region from invading forces.

The championship was divided into multiple categories for boys and girls, aiming to promote sportsmanship, talent, and unity among the youth.

Winners from each category were awarded cash prizes, medals, and certificates, recognizing their outstanding achievements.

The event showcased the immense potential and enthusiasm of the young participants, who demonstrated



Participating Taekwondo players at 77th Poonch Link-Up Day Taekwondo Championship.

exceptional skills and dedication to the sport.

The Poonch Link-Up Day honors the bravery and sacrifice of Indian Army soldiers who defended Poonch during the 1947-48 war.

The district, bounded by the Line of Control on three sides, was divided between India and Pakistan, making it a strategic location.

Brigadier Pritam Singh, a renowned hero, played a crucial role in breaking the siege of Poonch in November 1948. This historic event is a testament to the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to protecting the nation.

The Taekwondo

Championship was more than just a sporting event; it was an opportunity for the youth to showcase their abilities and gain recognition.

"We are deeply grateful to the Indian Army for organizing this competition," said one participant.

"It not only provides us a platform to showcase our abilities but also opens doors to be recognized at higher levels."

The event demonstrated the Indian Army's dedication to empowering young minds and fostering community engagement.

The Indian Army's initiative showcases its commitment

to community development and youth empowerment.

By promoting sports and cultural events, the Army aims to build stronger relationships with local communities and inspire young minds.

The championship served as a platform for the youth to come together, compete, and celebrate their passion for Taekwondo.

As the 77th anniversary of Poonch Link-Up Day approaches, the Indian Army's sacrifices and bravery are remembered and honored.

The 77th Poonch Link-Up

Day Taekwondo Championship was a resounding success, celebrating the victory of Indian Army soldiers and promoting unity among the youth. The event highlighted the importance of community engagement in shaping a brighter future.

The Indian Army's efforts in organizing the championship have been widely appreciated by the local community.

The event has not only promoted sportsmanship but also instilled a sense of national pride and unity among the participants. The Indian Army's initiative serves as a shining example of the Indian Army's commitment to empowering the youth and fostering community development.

The 77th Poonch Link-Up Day Taekwondo Championship was a grand success, celebrating the bravery and sacrifice of Indian Army soldiers while promoting unity and sportsmanship among the youth.

Satish Sharma reiterates Govt's priority towards equitable development



Minister for YS&S, Satish Sharma addressing gathering at Maira Mandrian.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, on Saturday conducted an extensive maiden tour of Maira Mandrian where he addressed a mammoth gathering at Shaheed Naib Subedar Bansi Lal Govt High School.

While speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma emphasised that welfare of the people with emphasis on equitable development of all regions of the UT is top priority of the present government.

The Minister also met various delegations and heard their grievances and demands as well. He issued on the spot instructions to the concerned officers for prompt redressal of the issues and concerns raised by the locals.

The demands/grievances put forth by the local populace were mainly related to

link roads, upgradation of schools, shortage of staff in schools and PHCs, irregular power cuts, electricity bills, issuance of ration cards, irrigation, transport facilities etc.

The Minister assured the people of all possible help from the Government in speedy redressal of their genuine problems. He also urged upon them to share their suggestions and complaints, if any, so that government can work for their development and betterment in an enhanced manner.

Regarding already sanctioned works, the Minister directed the officers of concerned departments to expedite the pace of progress on all the pending works and complete them in time without compromising with the quality and technical aspects of these projects.

The Minister instructed the sectoral officers of the line departments to work in synergy so that people don't face

any kind of inconvenience.

Satish Sharma said that equitable development and basic amenities to people is top agenda of present dispensation. He said that the Omar Abdullah led government is committed towards satiating developmental aspirations of people while taking care that no one is deprived of his basic requirements and all are served equally.

Earlier, the Minister visited Government Ayurveda Medical College where he interacted with the staff and students.

The staff members and students apprised the Minister of their urgent requirements and needs.

The Minister assured them that all their genuine issues will be addressed in a prioritised manner.

While interacting with the students, Satish Sharma said that medical is a noble profession and urged them to inculcate the habit of serving people from the very beginning.

Rajouri Volleyball Championship from Nov 9

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: District Rajouri Volleyball Association shall hold district (men and women) championship at different venues of Sports Stadium and Government High School Bagnoti.

The competition shall be held under the banner of Volleyball Association of J&K and sponsored by the J&K Sports Council.

Those interested teams have been advised to confirm their entries before or on November eight, a handout issued by the Association here today informed.

Teams can contact the organising team on Mobile Nos. 9419675061 and 9697254747.

SMVDU Bachelor of Design students gain insights at JammuTawi Golf Course



First-year Bachelor of Design students from SMVDU with others at JTGC.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: First-year Bachelor of Design students from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) visited the Jammu Tawi Golf Course (JTGC) amidst the ongoing JK Open 2024.

The event, organized by the Directorate of Tourism Jammu in collaboration with the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), offered students a unique learning experience

on international golf course standards, turf engineering, and course maintenance.

During the visit, students engaged with golf professionals and international players from countries like the Czech Republic and the USA, as well as industry experts in design and tourism.

They gained hands-on insights into the technical aspects of golf course management

and design, further enhancing their understanding of applied design in sports environments.

Accompanying the students were Prof. Ankush Anand, Coordinator of the Bachelor of Design program, and Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Assistant Professor at SMVDU.

Er. Sohail Malik, a mechanical engineer (Turf Engineering) at JTGC, provided an in-depth briefing on

the intricacies of golf course operations.

The students expressed gratitude to the Manav Gupta, Secretary, Jammu Tawi Golf Course, Yasha Mudgal, Secretary, JK Tourism, Directorate of Tourism Jammu, Vivekananda Rai, Director, Jammu Tourism other JTGC professionals, SMVDU administration, and Vice Chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar for facilitating this enriching experience. Faculty members of the Bachelor of Design program emphasized SMVDU's commitment to providing maximum industry exposure, aiming to shape students into well-rounded, industry-ready professionals.

Pertinently SMVDU has started offering Bachelor of Design Program from the current academic year.

Sunny Mahajan becomes life member of PCA Mohali, commits to fostering cricket talent in Pathankot

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

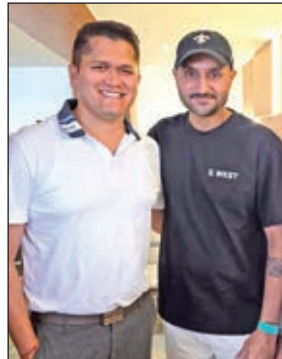
JAMMU: Sunny Mahajan, the Director of Partap World School Pathankot, PWS Early Years, and Motion Pathankot, has been honoured as a life member of the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) in Mohali.

This prestigious recognition underscores his decade-long commitment to promoting and developing cricket within Pathankot, from organizing district-level competitions and sponsoring cricket teams to elevating local infrastructure.

His initiatives have notably included bringing the first international cricket academy to Pathankot, in collaboration with renowned cricketer Harbhajan Singh.

Expressing his gratitude, Mahajan conveyed, "I am deeply honored by the respect and recognition PCA has shown. I assure everyone that I will continue working diligently to support and nurture cricket talent in Pathankot and beyond." He emphasized his dedication to empowering young cricketers with opportunities and world-class facilities to develop their skills.

The Cricket Association, Pathankot extended heartfelt congratulations to Mahajan for this significant achievement, with members lauding his vision and commitment to enriching the district's cricketing landscape.



Rana conducts surprise visit of Sitlee, Kiryani Talab, Central Pumping Station Narwal



Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana during surprise visit to Sitlee Filtration Plant at Nagrota.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Tribal Affairs, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Saturday conducted a surprise visit to Sitlee Filtration Plant at Nagrota and inspected functioning of the premier installation for

drinking water supply to Jammu city.

During his visit, the Minister took stock of water facilities and availability of water supplies for Jammu city. He directed for regular testing of water resources to ensure safe drinking water supply to the people.

The Minister also inspected Tube Well at Kiryani Talab and Overhead Tank at Narwal.

During the visit to Kiryani Talab, Rana interacted with the locals and took on spot feedback from them about the water supply in their respective areas. He directed the officers to conduct regular field visits, get feedback from the locals and act promptly.

Javed Rana directed the Chief Engineer to visit the Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal region and improve the water supply system there.

The Minister exhorted upon the officers to perform their duties meticulously and with utmost sincerity to ensure that people do not face any sort of inconvenience.

Holding four Nationals on trot a major boost for JK athletes: Ace sportspersons

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir's sportspersons of great repute while terming the decision of the Government to conduct 68th National School Games in four sports disciplines as a historic one said that this initiative would cater to the needs of thousands of sportspersons in general and would serve as a morale booster for the young athletes of Jammu and Kashmir in particular.

In their interviews to the official social media channel/page of the Department of Youth Services and Sports and through their video messages former legendary sportspersons of

Jammu and Kashmir including Kuldeep Handoo, Chief Wushu Coach of India and Dronacharya Awardee; Arun Malhotra, former International Footballer; Krupali Patel Singh, top Gymnastics Coach of India and Arjuna Awardee; Rashid Ahmed Choudhary, former International Fencer & International Referee and Shweta Thakur, former International Judoka lavished praise on the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports for its decision of conducting 68th National School Games in four disciplines of sports at a trot in Jammu including Judo, Wushu,

Fencing and Football.

Handoo while expressing joy over the Government's decision said that the sporting extravaganza will surely boost morale of the budding sportspersons and will help them to test their sporting skill at a very tender age, thus gain perfection to vie for the top honours at the higher and the highest levels.

He said Lieutenant Governor, Chief Minister, Sports Minister, Secretary YS & Sports and Director General Youth Services and Sports deserve salutation for taking this initiative.

Rashid Ahmed Choudhary said that the Department of Youth Services and Sports

serves as a nursery to fine-tune the skills of young athletes at the age group level, who after gaining perfection become champions at the National and International scene.

He said the medal winners in 67th National School Games in the last season also emerged as medal winners at the International level in Commonwealth Games. He praised Fencing Coaches of the Department including Ujjawal Gupta, Abdul Qadir and Anthony Mattoo for their commendable work during the camp.

Arun Malhotra said that good performances at the National School Games

would help the athletes to make it to the higher levels and represent top clubs and the National team as well.

Terming the decision as the fantastic one, Krupali Patel Singh said that holding games in four events at the national scene portrays picture of the commitment of the Government towards enhancing the standard of sports in the Union Territory/State.

She said apart from promoting sports, such a huge event is surely going to help promote tourism also.

Champion Gymnast Muskan Rana and ace Judokas Shweta Thakur and Danish Sharma were of the same opinion.

Principal Secy Culture visits District Library at Samba Fort

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBA: Principal Secretary, Culture and School Education, Suresh Kumar Gupta, on Saturday visited District Library located within the historic Samba Fort, and reviewed the modernization and facility enhancement works.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma; Director Archives, Archaeology, and Museums, K.K. Sidha; CEO; XEN PWD; officials from the Municipal Committee and other officers.

During the inspection, the Principal Secretary toured key areas of the library including reading rooms, senior citizens' spaces and designated sections for children and students. He engaged closely with the library staff and patrons to understand their needs, particularly regarding library resources and facility maintenance.



Principal Secretary, Culture and School Education, Suresh Kumar Gupta during visit to District Library Samba.

A significant focus of the visit was review of Phase 1 works in Samba Fort, centred on modernising the library while preserving Jammu and Kashmir's rich cultural heritage.

The Principal Secretary emphasised the importance of maintaining high standards in safeguarding historic manuscripts and resources as part of the library's restoration and modernisation projects.

He highlighted the library's critical role in cul-

tural preservation while stressing the need to retain the fort's historic character while enhancing the District Library to meet evolving community needs. He proposed a phased redevelopment plan that includes constructing a new building to improve visitor experiences and further support the educational and cultural aspirations of Samba's residents.

He assured his continued support for the library's development, pledging com-

mitment to the timely completion of restoration and modernization efforts that honor and sustain the region's invaluable heritage. The Principal Secretary also took an overview of the education sector in the district especially the deficiency of Teaching faculty at various levels. He further issued directions to the Chief education Officer Samba to ensure quality education is provided in government schools preparing these students to excel in competitive exams.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Jarai, Industry Bhagthali and adjoining areas will remain affected on November 03 and 04 from 7 am to 1 pm.

DGPC calls on Dy CM, advocates for welfare of Sikh community

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The District Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (DGPC) Jammu, led by its President Ranjeet Singh Tohra, on Saturday called on Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary and apprised him of their issues and concerns while advocating for welfare and development of Sikh community in the region.

The Committee delegation was comprised of Balvinder Singh, Vice President, Surjeet Singh, General Secretary, Jagpal Singh, Treasure besides Harjit Singh, Tejinder Singh, Avtar Singh, Karan Singh Bali and Balvinder Singh as members DGPC Jammu.

The Committee expressed hope that this meeting will further foster dialogue on critical issues impacting the Sikh community.

During the discussion, DGPC representatives presented a broad spectrum of key concerns central to the Sikh community's cultural,



DGPC Jammu delegation calling on Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary.

religious and socio-economic welfare.

Surinder Choudhary listened intently, acknowledging the importance of these matters and pledging prompt attention and action. He further committed towards facilitating additional discussions, including consultations with the Chief Minister, to collaboratively pursue sustainable and effective solutions that address the highlighted issues.

The DGPC extended a formal invitation to the Deputy

Chief Minister to attend the upcoming Parkash Purab celebration of Guru Nanak Dev Ji on 15th November 2024 at Gurudwara Yaadgar Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Chand Nagar, Jammu.

The Deputy Chief Minister shared that under the leadership of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, the current administration is committed towards engaging with formally recognised and elected Sikh bodies, reinforcing a dedication to democratic representation and inclusive governance.

Some other members of the Community who were also part of DGPC delegation were S Omkar Singh, S Surinder Singh, S Gurdeep Singh, S Randhir Singh, S Somnath Singh and S Gurcharan Singh.

The DGPC Jammu expressed its deep gratitude to the Deputy Chief Minister for his support and commitment and hoped for continued cooperation in addressing the aspirations and welfare of the Sikh community in Jammu & Kashmir.