

# 'Sonamarg Z-Morh Tunnel is reflection of clear approach to J&K's optimum growth'

All complication to be removed of any nature

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Conceived in 2012, Sonamarg Z-Morh Tunnel started moving aggressively and constant work of day and night only after 2014, has brought this milestone a glaring reality inspite of many challenges of various magnitudes including a terrorist attack, stated Arun Gupta.

Arun Gupta, Spokesperson, J&K BJP accompanied by Dr. Tahir Choudhary, and Gaurav Gupta, Spokespersons of the party was addressing party media persons in a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Arun Gupta said that since 2014, many complications and challenges have been addressed suitably thus ensuring no compromise on the integrity of the country and no misadventure by neighbouring country was tolerated. This tunnel



Arun Gupta, Spokesperson, J&K BJP talking to reporters at Jammu on Saturday.

nel faced major terrorist attack on October 21 in 2024, which left many dead including a doctor, he added. "6.4 kms long Sonamarg tunnel connects Sonamarg Health Resort with Kangan town near Gagangir Village. This tunnel is built under the mountain glacier of Tajiwas Glacier, which is between Gagangir and Sonamarg. It bypasses the landslide and avalanche prone pockets of road", said

Arun Gupta.

It is very important business and strategic corridor between Kashmir and Ladakh, in term of whole year connectivity for Defence and Tourist as well as citizen of the area right from Kashmir till last pocket of Ladakh.

It connects to Zozila tunnel, which will be Asia's longest tunnel of 13.4 kms, and being constructed at the cost of 6800 cr. It will pass

under Zozila pass between Ganderbal in Kashmir and Drass Town in Kargil.

Security Forces posted in Ladakh are highly dependent on this surface connection. Sonamarg will become a new winter destination in Kashmir. Thus, a great boost to winter tourism, thereby increasing growth in every aspect.

"Through this tunnel, government reflected its clear as well as straight forward development and growth-oriented approach for J&K and Ladakh in every matter", said Gupta.

Dr. Tahir Chowdhary recalled the PM's commitment towards 'Naya Jammu-Kashmir'. He said that the BJP delivered on all its promises. He said that whereas the tourists and the locals were stranded on the snow-covered highways and had to survive on the exorbitant prices of eatable essentials

and harsh snowy weather. He lauded the commitment of Gaurav Gupta said that this all-weather tunnel, starting from Gagangir and extending to Sonamarg, will resolve the long-standing issue of Gagangir area being cut off during heavy snowfall.

The Z-Morh Tunnel will not only enhance tourism, trade, and local livelihoods but also holds immense strategic and defense importance. Located at an altitude of 8,500 ft, it also lays the foundation for the Zojila Tunnel, which will be completed in the coming years to establish year-round connectivity between J&K and Ladakh.

"These developments demonstrate the Government of India's unwavering commitment to the progress, connectivity, and prosperity of Jammu & Kashmir," he added.

# Khadi represents India's self-respect, esteem: Yogi

## ■ SHAHZAD AKHTAR

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Khadi Mahotsav 2025 in a grand manner. Describing Khadi as a symbol of self-respect and self-esteem of India, CM Yogi said that Khadi is not just a cloth, but the self-respect of India.

In this festival CM Yogi Adityanath described Khadi as a symbol of self-respect and self-esteem of India and said that Khadi is not just a cloth, but the self-respect of India. Mahatma Gandhi made it a movement, which took the freedom struggle to new heights. The spinning wheel not only provided a means of employment to the countrymen, but it also became an important part of the national movement. Today, in the modern era, it has evolved into manual, solar and electric spinning wheels. He said that Khadi is not only an art but also a need of society.

Describing the Khadi Mahotsav as a comprehensive platform, the Chief Minister said that the festival provides an opportunity to artists, weavers, and entrepreneurs to



showcase their art and learn new techniques. He said that this type festival is not only encouraging Khadi and Village Industries, but also bringing artists and entrepreneurs from across the country on one platform.

The Chief Minister mentioned the increasing demand for Khadi in the international market and called it the cultural heritage of India. He said that Khadi and handloom products are eco-friendly and are also becoming popular in modern fashion.

Referring to the success of the ODOP scheme, CM Yogi said that this scheme has become the unique identity of Uttar Pradesh. One product of every district is now becoming famous not only in the country but also internationally. He said that the products of every district are not only empowering the local economy but also encouraging handicrafts and entrepreneurship. He also praised the talent of the artists while discussing the specialties of textiles and handcraft products of different districts.

# Students of Gurukul arrived to participate in state level classical competition



Student of Choodamani Sanskrit Sansthan Vishwasthali attending a competition.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Students of Choodamani Sanskrit Sansthan Vishwasthali arrived on Saturday to participate in the 62nd state level classical competition organized at Ranbir Campus, Jammu city under the aegis of Central Sanskrit University.

In this program organized for two days, about 85 students of Ranveer Kapoor, Shrimata Vaishnudevi Gurukul along with world class Gurukul are presenting their knowledge of scriptures.

MLA of Jammu North region Sham Lal Sharma,

Saraswat Guest Prof Ramkumar Sharma, honored guest Prof Vishnukant Pandey, Prof Sachchidanand Mishra, Satish Kumar Kapoor were present as chief guests in the inaugural ceremony of this program organized under the chairmanship of University Director Prof. Shridhar Mishra.

MLA in his speech praised the contribution of students for the protection of Sanskrit language and culture and called for taking timely steps to promote Indian culture and Gurukul tradition.

Sanskrit language is

expected to make life simple, easy and cultured in the traditional way, he said.

In this two-day long Indian tradition's Shastragyan Maha Kumbh, various competitions like memorization, Shastrarth, Vakyaarth, speech will be held on many scriptures like literature, Vedas, Vedanta, Puranas, Dharmashastras, grammar, Ayurveda, Nyaya, Mimamsa, Vedanta, Yoga, modern science etc. The students who will get first place in the program will participate in the All India Shastrakyan competition to be held in Haridwar in the coming month of March.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: After former Border Security Force (BSF) Commandant Karnail Singh, who is an accused of J&K Sub-Inspector Recruitment scam recently joined the National Conference (NC) in presence of Dr. Farooq Abdullah, BJP spokesperson Ankur Sharma in a press release on Saturday lambasted National Conference and its leaders for repeatedly carrying on with their long unholy old political tradition of facilitating criminalisation in politics by formally embracing alleged mafia person in the party fold.

"Providing political cover to aforesaid person through political patronage which has a devastating effect on the society in general and the body polity of the Nation in particular" said Ankur Sharma, BJP State Spokesperson for J&K.

Farooq Abdullah warmly welcoming an individual earlier arrested by the CBI in a paper leak scam leaves us without any doubt that the party as well as its leadership prioritizes political expediency over the interests and wellbeing of the citizens they are sworn to serve.



cal expediency over the interests and wellbeing of the citizens they are sworn to serve.

Public display of such a lowly conduct is an affront to countless law-abiding citizens who have placed their trust in our democratic institutions expecting accountability and moral leadership. Given these developments, Ankur Sharma said that NC and its compromised Govt in the UT should be held accountable for its blatant endorsement of corruption.

# J&K team leaves for Mr. India Body Building Championship



BBAJK officials posing with selected body builders.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Body Building team has left for the 16th Senior Body Building and Physique Sports Championship 2025, scheduled for January 14 to 16, 2025 at Belagavi, Karnataka. Rajesh Dutta, an office bearer of the Body Building Association of Jammu and Kashmir (BBAJK), flagged off the team and wishing them in the National event. He praised the enthusiasm and talent displayed by the athletes. The energy and commitment shown by the athletes reflect the bright future of the Body Building in our region, Rajesh Dutta said. Athletes Ajit Singh, Mohd. Javid, Avtar Singh and

Krishan Lal were part of the team who left for upcoming Championship. Other office bearer of the Association including Vinay Sharma, Sanjay Bali and Naresh Gupta were also present to encourage and support the athletes.

The event not only underscores the growing popularity of Bodybuilding in Jammu but also highlights the spirit of competition and camaraderie that sports bring to the forefront.

# AIYBO, HADFY meet LG to discuss youth welfare



HADFY and AIYBO members calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Mayank Kapoor, President of Healthy and Drug-Free Youth (HADFY), along with office bearers

Hitesh Anand, Vipan Luthra, and members of All India Young Blood Organisation (AIYBO) including Varinder Mahajan, Senior Vice

President Dr. K.C.S Mehta, and Joint Secretary Mohit Mahajan Sunny, met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

# J&K Men's team ends campaign at Pre-Quarter Finals in 69th Senior National Volleyball Championship

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAIPUR/JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory (JKUT) Men's Volleyball Team has made history by topping Pool C with an unbeaten record in the 69th Senior National Volleyball Championship, which is currently underway at Savai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur. The team emerged victorious in all five of their pool matches and claimed an important win over Andhra Pradesh in the playoff round. However, their campaign ended in the pre-quarterfinals as they lost to Haryana in straight 3-0 sets (18-25, 17-25, 19-25).

This remarkable performance marks the first time in history that the J&K team has reached such a high point in this prestigious national event. The JKUT men's team displayed exceptional skills throughout their campaign, particularly in their thrilling 3-2 victory over Andhra Pradesh in the play-off. The scores were 24-26, 25-22, 25-20, 21-25, and 15-10, demonstrating the team's resilience and strategic brilliance.



J&K men team in jubilant mood after winning play-off match against Andhra Pradesh.

In the Pool C stage, JKUT began their campaign with an impressive 3-0 victory over Gujarat, with scores of 25-23, 25-17, and 25-22. They followed this with another dominant 3-0 win over Tripura (25-16, 25-19, 25-17). A dramatic encounter against Bihar saw JKUT bounce back from a first-set loss to secure a 3-2 win, with the scores reading 24-26, 25-20, 25-18, 19-25, and 15-10. In the next match, the J&K team made history by overcoming Uttar Pradesh 3-1 (17-25, 25-19, 25-18, 25-21), and in their

final pool match, they sealed a commanding 3-0 victory over Manipur (25-22, 25-20, 25-22), securing their place in the pre-quarterfinals.

The Senior National Volleyball Championship, held over seven days across seven volleyball courts in Jaipur, has attracted over 1,200 players and officials from across India. The event has gained widespread attention, with dignitaries from the Volleyball Federation of India, including members of the Adhoc Committee, Rohit Rajpal (IOA Chairman), Dr. Alaknand Ashok (Joint

Secretary, IOA), and various Arjuna awardees, gracing the event. The championship is supported by foreign coaches, including Hitesh Malhotra, the Head of Volleyball Empowerment & NF Relations at FIVB, who are working towards enhancing the standard of volleyball in India.

In addition to the remarkable performances, the organizing committee has ensured smooth logistical arrangements, including accommodation and transportation, to support the successful conduct of this mega

event. The championship is also serving as a platform to identify talented players, further raising the profile of volleyball in India.

The historical achievement of the J&K Men's Volleyball Team has been widely praised. The office bearers of the Volleyball Association of Jammu & Kashmir (VAJK) and the J&K Sports Council have expressed immense pride in the team's performance, recognizing the dedication and hard work of both players and coaches. This success is seen as a significant milestone in the development of volleyball in Jammu & Kashmir.

The team's remarkable journey in the Senior National Volleyball Championship has not only brought pride to the Union Territory but also set a new benchmark for future volleyball players in Jammu & Kashmir. Despite the loss to Haryana in the pre-quarterfinals, the JKUT men's team has earned widespread admiration and will continue to inspire future generations of volleyball players in Jammu & Kashmir.

# Amit holds exclusive talks with Satya Nadella team in Microsoft AI Tour Meet



Amit Sharma, Administrative Secretary, I&C Technology and Cooperation, Mizoram with Microsoft Global team.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Amit Sharma, Administrative Secretary, Information & Communications Technology & Cooperation, Mizoram held exclusive talks with Microsoft Global team regarding new Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Solutions and several initiatives for Mizoram state in Microsoft AI Tour held in New Delhi this week which was led by none other than MS Global CEO Satya Nadella himself to interact & holding proactive engagements with all states of India. Amit Sharma, who is currently ICT & Cooperation Secretary of Mizoram and is well-known for leading several innovative IT reforms in his previous stints as IT Secretary Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, was invited as a Special Guest to hold exclusive talks with lead Microsoft team in Government Vertical wherein Abhishek Bose and Sumit Mukherjee agreed to provision Microsoft AI lead training and courses for select employees of Mizoram Government for AI Certification under CSR which

is a peak need of the hour: IT Secretary Mizoram Amit Sharma further agreed to lead a Virtual Boardroom Meeting to be held from Mizoram soon wherein IT Secretaries and officers of all states and UTs shall be invited to participate and get orientation from top MS Experts on Artificial Intelligence related latest global technologies in-vogue, which can be implemented in their respective states/UTs in a customized manner. Apart from this, IT Secretary Mizoram happened to understand several offerings of Microsoft including Azure and other cloud related solutions for several ongoing Projects here wherein possibilities of collaboration can be explored in future.

Before leaving, ICT Secretary Amit Sharma thanked Team Microsoft for taking a lead in focusing towards North Eastern States, especially keeping Mizoram amongst the top Indian potential states wherein they want to collaborate actively and contribute so as to make public IT and AI literate in times to come.

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