

Real Kashmir FC hosts I-League match against Sporting Club Bangalore

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir Football Club (RKFC) faced off against Sporting Club Bangalore in an exciting I-League match held at the TRC Ground here on Sunday.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, graced the event as the Chief Guest to encourage the participating players.

While interacting with the players and other officials of both the teams, the DC extended his best wishes to them. He said sport plays a crucial role in development of physical and mental health of the youth, besides inculcating discipline and leadership qualities among them.



Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat interacting with players.

During the match, Real Kashmir Football Club (RKFC) secured a commanding 3-1 victory over Sporting Club Bangalore in an electrifying I-League

match. On the occasion, RKFC owner Arshad Shawl expressed his gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner for his support, which he

said was a significant encouragement for the team.

Brazilian striker Paulo Cezar was the star of the evening, scoring twice (28', 55') to give RKFC a solid lead. Senegalese forward Abdou Karim sealed the win with a penalty, while SC Bengaluru's Henry Kisseka managed a late consolation goal.

The breakthrough came in the 28th minute when Lalramsanga's perfectly timed cross from the left was headed home by Cezar. Although a follow-up goal by Cezar was disallowed soon after, the hosts remained dominant.

In the 55th minute, Cezar struck again, skillfully rounding Bengaluru's goalkeeper Bishal Lama after receiving a well-placed pass from Karim. The situation worsened for SC Bengaluru

in the 70th minute when goalkeeper Lama fouled Karim inside the box, earning a red card. Down to 10 men, Bengaluru conceded the penalty, which Karim converted with ease.

The match's intensity continued as SC Bengaluru's captain Carlos Lomba was also sent off in stoppage time, reducing the visitors to nine players. Despite the setbacks, Ugandan striker Kisseka found the net in the dying moments, offering a consolation for Bengaluru.

With this victory, all three of RKFC's wins this season have come on their home ground, reinforcing their strength at the TRC Football Turf. RKFC is the only team from J&K participating in the I League. The team will play their next home game on January 26.

J&K Day celebrated at New Moti Bagh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A winter carnival marking the celebration of Jammu & Kashmir Day was held on Sunday at New Moti Bagh Club, New Delhi.

The event was organized by the Resident Commission, Jammu & Kashmir in collaboration with New Moti Bagh Residents Welfare Association with joint efforts of Sudhandu Pandey, President, NMBRWA and Dr. Rashmi Singh.

The venue exuded a pleasant aesthetic ambience tempting the visitors to click selfies in the instagrammable environment displaying the pairings curated during the famous Sambaav Utsav held in the Resident Commission in 2024. Principal Resident Commissioner, Dr. Rashmi Singh, expressed her delight envisioning upstroke of Sambaav Utsav in the form of this carnival. Sudhanshu Pandey, President, NMBRWA, expressed gratitude for



Sudhandu Pandey, President, NMBRWA and Dr. Rashmi Singh with others at J&K Day celebration programme.

this cultural and artistic extravaganza showcasing the true spirit of J&K. The event was a testimony to the rich and diverse cultural heritage of J&K. The wintry air of Delhi was laced with the beguiling aroma of Kashmiri gourmet and Dogri cuisine.

The festive platter included Wazwan thali for the non-vegetarian palettes as well as lip smacking spicy vegetarian delicacies. The saffron aroma of the piping Kashmiri hot Kehwa swirled in the air thrilling all the taste buds. In addition to the enticing culinary delights, the

people also enjoyed the foot tapping cultural performance which included Kashmiri, Dogri and Pahadi folk performances sponsored by J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation by the local residents mainly comprising senior bureaucrats and their families.

The authentic intricately designed Pashmina shawls, especially the GI tagged ones, Sarees, Pherans, Papernachie artwork attracted staggering number of buyers.

SKUAST-J Joint Action Committee calls on Dy CM, discusses salary issues



Delegation SKUAST-TAJ and NTEA-J under the chairmanship of Dr Vikas Sharma calling on Dy CM Surinder Choudhary.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A joint delegation of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology - Teaching Association Jammu (SKUAST-TAJ) and Non Teaching Employees Association Jammu (NTEA-J) under the chairmanship of Dr Vikas Sharma called on Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary at Civil Secretariat on Sunday.

President SKUAST-TAJ, Dr Vikas Sharma informed the Deputy Chief Minister that the salary disbursement system has been totally disrupted in SKUAST-

Jammu as the teaching and non teaching employees of SKUAST-Jammu are not getting their salaries on time from the last one and half year; due to which there is strong resentment and frustration among the employees, as they are facing financial difficulties in the very beginning of every month.

Even, till date i.e., 19.01.2025, the employees have not yet received their salaries for the month of December, 2024, he said adding that it is very painful that the employees of SKUAST-Jammu, got their salaries of November, 2024

after the lapse of 01 month i.e., on 31st December, 2024 (first time in the history of SKUAST-Jammu).

K.D. Singh, President NTEA-J, further informed the Deputy CM that as on date, among other J&K Universities, only the employees of SKUAST-Jammu are waiting for their salaries for the month of December, 2024, due to which the employees are not able to clear their dues well in time like monthly installment of housing loan, insurance premium, school fee of children, medical treatment etc and they have to pay more interest and late payment fees in addition to their normal rate of interest.

Moreover, low paid employees are worst sufferers, specifically for extra burden of interest and hardships, being total dependency on salary.

The Deputy CM assured the delegation that proper mechanism should be developed for the disbursement of salaries of SKUAST-J employees, on 1st of every month, to save the teaching and non-teaching staff of the university from the extra burden of interest.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The concluding ceremony of the seven-day winter workshop was organized at the Shri Ranveer Campus of the Central Sanskrit University (CSU), located in Kot Bhalwal, here on Sunday.

The primary theme of the workshop was the classical study of the celebrated work 'Raghuvamsha' by Mahakavi Kalidasa. The workshop provided participants with an opportunity to delve deeply into ancient Indian literature, culture, and the ethos of traditional life. The chief guest of the ceremony, Prof Ramakant Pandey, Dean of the Faculty of Language, Literature, and Culture, CSU, emphasized in his address that "Sanskrit literature is not merely a language but a carrier of India's culture and philosophy. The study of epics like 'Raghuvamsha' serves as a powerful medium to foster an understanding of Indian heritage and national pride."

He urged students and researchers to prioritize the



Prof Ramakant Pandey, Dean Faculty of Language, Literature, and Culture, CSU with others at a workshop.

study of primary texts for research over secondary sources.

The event was presided over by Campus Director, Prof Sridhar Mishra, who highlighted the timeless relevance of Sanskrit literature. He stated, "Through the study of Sanskrit literature, not only can we preserve our ancient heritage, but it can also provide direction to society in contemporary contexts. Regular organization of such programs in the campus will continue."

The workshop's coordinator and Associate Director, Professor Satish Kumar Kapoor, elaborated on the objectives and achievements of the event. He revealed that

more than 35 participants from across the country took part in the workshop.

He also mentioned that the sessions covered both the classical study of 'Raghuvamsha' and its practical applications, along with discussions on its contemporary relevance.

Participants actively engaged in sessions that explored themes such as

ancient Indian governance, societal structures, moral values, and poetic styles. Renowned scholars delivered lectures on Kalidasa's poetic artistry, symbolism, and Indian aesthetics.

Distinguished speakers, including Dr. Praveen Sharma, Dr. Pawan Singh, Dr. Devendra Pathak, Dr. Naveen, Dr. Sarvesh, Akhil, and

National Road Safety Month: TC flags off students' rally

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: As part of ongoing National Road Safety Month, Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, on Sunday participated in a series of events in Anantnag aimed at enhancing road safety awareness.

The event featured flagging-off students rally with an aim to spread the message of road safety across the district and built a sense of responsibility in inculcating traffic rules right from minorhood.

In addition, the Transport Commissioner inaugurated a special road safety campaign by pasting stickers depicting crucial road safety measure messages on vehicles. These stickers highlighted essential practices such as wearing seat belts, adhering to speed limits, avoiding distractions and other measures to promote responsible driving on roads.

There were major eye-catching stickers bearing powerful messages such as "Think of Them: Drive Safe for Those Who Love You," "Slow Down: Someone Loves You," and "Drive Safe: Save Lives, Your Family Awaits" pasted on windshield.



Transport Comm, Vishesh Paul Mahajan interacting with officials.

Speaking at the event, Vishesh Paul Mahajan underscored the critical importance of road safety and called for collective efforts to reduce road accidents and fatalities. He emphasised the role of society, media in fostering a culture of safe driving behaviour and urged all stakeholders to contribute towards this mission.

The initiative also saw active involvement from local drivers, youth and community members. This initiative is part of a larger campaign to mitigate road accidents and promote a culture of safety in Jammu and Kashmir.

Later, the Transport Commissioner visited the proposed land for construction of office cum driving test track at Zudder.

The Transport Commissioner further reiterated that applicants should use their mobile phone as an agent to avail 54 available online services and not to fall prey to touts. Our department is committed to safeguard the interests of public in general and transporters in particular; he added.

Regional Transport Officer Kashmir, Qazi Irfan Rasool, reiterated departments commitment towards reducing accidents on roads and utilising every resource available to prevail a sense of safety on roads.

Later, ARTO Anantnag held a pledge ceremony among minor students for not taking control of vehicles before age of 18 or before becoming eligible for driving licences.

Day-3 of 'Inter Zonal Display Your Talent' at JU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the third day of 'Inter-Zonal Display Your Talent 2024-25' being organized by the Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu, the events of Debate, Elocution, Quiz, Rangoli, Clay Modelling, Photography, Collage and Poster Making were conducted at University.

The adjudicators of the events included (Literary Activities) Prof. Lalit Magotra, Esther Williams & Prof. Aekta Gupta. (Fine Arts) Yogesh Sharma, Mukesh Gupta, Vikas Dogra, Suresh Sharma and Chetan Bandal.

In Debate, Priyanka from Bhartiya College of Education, Aditi Mahajan from MIER, Jammu and Muskan Thakur from GCW Kathua were declared first, second & third respectively. Dr. Sushanta Kumar Panda was awarded to Champreet from GCW Parade and Aabha from GCW Kathua. Dr. Ripudaman Parihar was the teacher incharge of the event.

In Elocution, Muskan Thakur from GCW Kathua, Nipun Sharma from CDOE, JU and Prachi Gupta from GCW Udhampur were declared first, second & third respectively. Dr. Tsering



Winner students posing for a photograph with dignitaries at JU.

Yangzom was the teacher incharge of the event.

In Quiz, GDC Akhnoor, GDC Kathua and CDOE, JU were declared first, second & third respectively. Dr. Jasleen Kaur and Dr. Ankit Mahajan were the Quiz Masters.

In Clay Modelling, Mehak from GDC Akhnoor, Shivam Gupta from IMFA and Deepak Sharma from GDC Kathua were declared first, second & third respectively. Dr. Sushanta Kumar Panda was the teacher incharge of the event.

In Poster Making, Janvi from IMFA, Karan Verma from GDC Sunderbani and Vanshika Rajput from GDC Bhagwati Nagar were declared first, second & third respectively. The Certificates of Merit were awarded to Deep Uday Singh from the Law School, JU & Oshin Thakur

from Udhampur Campus. Dr. Bandana was the teacher incharge of the event.

In Photography, Kamran Latief Naik from GDC Thanamandi, Asvina Bhat from IMFA and Shivansh Bhogal from GDC Udhampur were declared first, second & third respectively. The Certificate of Merit was awarded to Himanshu Angotra from the Department of Botany, JU. Dr. Harish Chander was the teacher incharge of the event.

In Collage Making, Nikhil Singh and Bharti Verma from IMFA and Kamaljeet Kaur from GDC Paloura were declared first, second & third respectively. Dr. Harleen Kaur was the teacher incharge of the event.

In Rangoli, Manjali Sharma from GDC Kathua, Kashish from GDC Marh and

Shehdeep Kaur from Kathua Campus were declared first, second & third respectively. Certificates of Merit were awarded to Monika Chaohan from IMFA and Shreya Verma from GDC Sunderbani. Mr. Rakesh Sharma was the teacher incharge of the event.

The events of DSW are conceived, planned and organised by the team consisting of Prof. Prakash Antahal (Dean Students Welfare), Prof. Monika Chadha (Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Prof. Sarika Manhas (Co-Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Dr. Pritam Singh (Associate Dean SW), Dr. Shalsh Sharma & Dr. A.R. Manhas (Deputy Chief Proctors), Dr. Harleen Kaur & Dr. Ripudaman Parihar (Assistant Dean, SW), members of Campus Cultural Committee, Ms Mansi Mantoo

(Media Officer), Sumeet Sharma (Drama Instructor) and Ifra Kak (Cultural Officer). The events were witnessed by the members of Campus Cultural Committee, teachers, students, scholars of the University of Jammu and prominent members of the civil society.

The events were managed by Sunny Singh, Rohan Sharma, Pawan Kotwal, Deep Uday Singh, Himanshu Angotra, Suhani Kapoor, Heemanshu Tiekoo, Suhani Gupta, Sushma and Mamta. Sachin Sharma, Jatinder Singh & R.P. Singh. The sound was looked after by Kulbhushan Thakur and Arif Paul. The winners of the events would be felicitated on 20th January at 4 pm at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium.

On 20th January, the events of Mime, mimicry, Skit & One Act Play would be conducted at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu, 10 am onwards.

Pt Abhay Sopori honoured with National Business Excellence Award 2025 by Global India Business Forum

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Renowned Santoor maestro and music composer Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori has been conferred with the prestigious National Business Excellence Award 2025 by the Global India Business Forum (GIBF), which is connected with over 150 countries embassies and consulates supporting India's Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

The award recognizes exceptional leaders, innovators, and pathbreakers, including entrepreneurs, diplomats, and cultural icons, for their contributions to the nation's development.

The award recognizes Pt. Abhay Sopori as India's Best Santoor Player and Music Composer, and his extraordinary contributions to preserving and innovating the legacy of the Santoor as well as his efforts in promoting Indian music and culture globally.



Pt. Abhay Sopori receiving the National Business Excellence Award 2025.

The award was presented at the Constitution Club of India, Delhi by Dr. Jitendra Joshi, Founder and Global President of GIBF, along with H.E. Dr. Ali Achoui, Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to India, and H.E. Ganbold Dambajav, Ambassador of Mongolia to India.

Pt Abhay Rustum Sopori, a scion of the Sopori - Sufana Gharana of Kashmir, represents a 300-year-old musical legacy with deep roots of

Shaivism and Sufi mysticism, and is the son of the Saint Music Legend Pandit Bhajan Sopori and grandson of Master musician Pandit Shambhoo Nath Sopori.

Known for revolutionizing the sound and technique of the Santoor, he has elevated the instrument to global prominence through innovation and exclusive renditions.

His performances, including at prestigious events like G20 summits and Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas 2025, have showcased Indian classical

music on the world stage.

Apart from his artistry, Pt Abhay Sopori has contributed significantly to the academic and cultural landscape of Jammu & Kashmir and has been instrumental in introducing a Cultural Policy and incorporating music as a subject in colleges, which led to the historic inclusion of Postgraduate Degrees in Music in Kashmir recently.

His initiatives have created new avenues for academic and professional growth, empowering countless musicians especially the youth.

Pt Sopori expressed gratitude to Global India Business Forum and dedicated the honour to his fabled legacy, the Sopori Sufana Gharana of Kashmir and the rich cultural heritage of India.

"This recognition is a reflection of the timeless legacy of Indian classical music and the transformative power of culture in uniting the world," he remarked.

Omar Govt committed for comprehensive development, youth empowerment: Rattan Lal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), reaffirmed the party's unwavering commitment to the empowerment of J&K's youth, terming them as the backbone of society.

He was addressing a joining program held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu, where he strongly criticized the Central Government for failing to fulfill its promises made on August 5, 2019, regarding the development of J&K.

The joining programme was organized by Tejinder Singh Aman District President Jammu Urban YNC.

Expressing deep resentment, Rattan Lal Gupta stated that



Provincial President NC, Rattan Lal Gupta speaking at a programme.

despite grand assurances on the floor of the Parliament, the ground reality in J&K remains unchanged.

The senior NC leader further emphasized that the Omar Abdullah-led government has always been dedicated to the cause of youth empowerment. He urged the newly joined members to create awareness among the youth regarding

various government schemes aimed at fostering entrepreneurship in J&K.

He stressed that J&K's youth are hardworking and equally competent as their counterparts across the country, but they require adequate support and opportunities to excel.

Those who joined the party fold include: Raman Sharma, Tanveet Singh, Harsimarjeet