

# JKSC selects J&K UT volleyball teams for National Championship

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council recently screened the J&K UT Senior Men and Women Volleyball teams in preparation for the 69th Senior National Volleyball Championship, set to be held in Jaipur, Rajasthan, from January 7 to 13, 2025. The screening event took place on January 2, 2025, at the MA Stadium in Jammu.

The screening committee was led by Baljinder Singh, Divisional Sports Officer Jammu, and included Suraj Bhan, Manager of MA Stadium Complex, Dr. Jagan Deep Singh, Physiotherapist, along with various international and national volleyball players, coaches, and representatives from the Volleyball Association of J&K.



Selected men and women teams posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

The committee finalized the selection of 14 players for both the men's and women's teams, who will represent Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory (JKUT) in the upcoming National Volleyball Championship.

**The Teams**  
**MEN:** Shahid Majeed (Baramulla), Haroon Rashid (Pulwama), Shabir Ahmed Tantray

(Baramulla), Mannat Choudhary (R S Pura), Pankaj Sharma (Karloop, Jammu), Viapn Kumar (Pallanwala, Jammu), Musharf Khan (Mendhar, Poonch), Dilip Sharma (Kathua), Sumit Singh (Kathua), Parvinder Singh (Doda), Roman Hameed (Anantnag), Aijaz Ahmed Madni (Poonch), Ayoush Sharma (Rajouri), Amit Singh (Hamirpur, Jammu).

Akbar Ali will accompany men team as Manager and NIS Volleyball Coaches Naresh Kumar and Prateek Kumar and Coaches.

**WOMEN:** Shafia Bano (Srinagar), Tabena Jan (Shopian), Shasyista Mohammad (Baramulla), Lavanya Mahajan (Samba), Ishima Verma (Samba), Shazia Qureshi (Jammu), Himani Dogra (Jammu), Ishika Jandial (Jammu), Tankeera Majeed (Ganderbal), Nusrat Akhter (Budgam), Suman Kumari (Jammu), Simran Kumari (Jammu), Khushi Sharma (Jammu), Nuzhat Manzoor (Baramulla).

Veena Kumari will accompany women team as Manager while Balbinder Singh as Head Coach and Seema Sharma and Shivani Bhan as Assistant Coaches.

Earlier, players from across Jammu and Kashmir were shortlisted

in a selection trial-cum-coaching camp organized by the Adhoc Committee of the Volleyball Federation of India.

The committee included Jagir Singh Randhawa, an international volleyball coach, as an observer, along with Kuldeep Magotra, Chief Executive Officer of the Volleyball Association of J&K (VAJK), and Javed from Ladakh as members.

The trials were held in challenging cold conditions, and the selected players are currently undergoing a 16-day rigorous coaching camp at MA Stadium Jammu under the supervision of NIS volleyball coaches Naresh Kumar, Prateek Kumar, and Balbinder Singh.

The coaching camp, which involves daily morning and evening sessions, concluded today and the J&K UT Volleyball teams will depart for Jaipur on January 5, 2025.

Sidharth Daluja, President of the Volleyball Association of J&K, extended his best wishes to the players and officials, hoping for their excellent performance at the forthcoming National Volleyball Championship. He also greeted the players and office bearers of VAJK with good wishes for the New Year 2025.

# Gaurav calls on LG, seeks resolution for Gandhi Nagar Plot approvals, Custodian Property Rights

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: In a significant meeting with Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, Gaurav Gupta, former General Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jammu, discussed two pressing issues impacting the residents and business community of Jammu. Gupta passionately highlighted the need for prompt action on the issuance of plot approvals in Gandhi Nagar Colony and the transfer of ownership rights to custodian property occupants.

Gaurav mentioned that Gandhi Nagar colony, established in the early 1960s, has been home to generations of residents. Over the years, the original allottees have passed on their portions of the plot to their children and, in some cases, even their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He said some have sold parts of their plots for the betterment of their families. However, the Housing Board is currently not issuing NOCs for plot approval and transfer, causing significant inconvenience and injustice to the property owners.

Furthermore, over the past 50 years, the government has not created enough additional colonies to accommodate the growing population, leading to the proliferation of unapproved unauthorized colonies in Jammu. Interestingly, the



Former General Secretary CCI Jammu, Gaurav Gupta calling on Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha.

maps of plots in these unauthorized colonies have been approved while plots duly developed by the government's Housing Board remain deprived of such approvals, he added. He requested the Lt. Governor to intervene and facilitate the issuance of NOCs for plot approval and transfer in Gandhi Nagar Colony. This would not only resolve the long-pending cases but also ensure the growth and development of the area in a systematic and organized manner, he added.

Drawing attention to over 25,000 families living on custodian properties for decades, Gupta highlighted the uncertainty they face due to the lack of ownership rights. This has restricted their ability to improve or transfer their prop-

erties, leaving them in a vulnerable position despite their significant contributions to the region's socio-economic fabric. He appealed to the Lt. Governor to expedite the process of transferring ownership rights to these rightful occupants, a move that would empower families and strengthen the socio-economic landscape of Jammu.

Gupta expressed confidence that Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha's intervention would bring much-needed relief to both Gandhi Nagar residents and custodian property occupants. He stressed that addressing these issues would promote systematic urban development and ensure justice for thousands of affected families.

# Hospitality Industry Booms in UP



**SHAHZAD AKHTAR**

LUCKNOW: The hospitality sector in Uttar Pradesh (UP) is thriving alongside its burgeoning tourism industry, creating numerous employment opportunities. With a surge in tourist inflow, UP has emerged as a key beneficiary, strengthening its position as a favored destination for travelers and investors alike. A report by Global Hiring Indeed revealed a 50% increase in vacancies within the tourism and hospitality sector in 2023, with projections indicating a further 24% growth in the coming years. This trend is expected to significantly benefit cities like Ayodhya,

Varanasi, Braj, and Jewar. Ayodhya, in particular, has garnered attention following the construction of the Ram Temple, becoming a magnet for top hospitality brands. Over two dozen hotel projects, including the prestigious Taj, have already been approved. Jewar, home to Asia's largest international airport, has also gained prominence as a preferred location for hospitality investments, further boosting the sector's growth.

U P Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath aims to make tourism an inclusive industry by involving local communities. He envisions events like Maha Kumbh, Makar

Sankranti in Prayagraj, and the month-long Khichdi Mela at the Goraknath temple as opportunities for locals to build a sustainable tourism brand. The government is actively supporting these initiatives by enhancing infrastructure and promoting regional attractions.

To further incentivize investors, the UP government is exploring additional relaxations for hotel construction in cities such as Ayodhya, Lucknow, and Varanasi. This move aligns with the state's vision to establish itself as a hospitality hub.

According to Bhavya Malhotra, former Banquet Manager at ITC Maurya, New Delhi, maintaining high service standards is essential for a successful hotel. Ideally, there should be three service providers per room across departments like front office, housekeeping, food and beverage, laundry, and horticulture. For smaller properties with fewer departments, a minimum of two staff members per room is crucial to ensure customer satisfaction. With a strategic focus on infrastructure development, policy support, and community involvement, Uttar Pradesh is poised to become a major player in India's hospitality landscape, attracting global attention and investment.

# Narayana Hospital achieves milestone of 100 cochlear implant surgeries

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspecialty Hospital (SMVDNSH) proudly announces the successful completion of 100 cochlear implant surgeries, a testament to its commitment to delivering advanced medical care and transforming lives.

Among the notable achievements, the hospital is proud to share that the youngest recipient of a cochlear implant is just 10 months old, having received bilateral implants. This landmark case not only showcases the hospital's dedication to addressing hearing loss from an early age but also highlights the effectiveness of early intervention in improving the quality of life for young patients. Additionally, the hospital has performed the highest number of bilateral cochlear implants in the



region, underscoring its role as a centre of excellence in this field. The remarkable achievement was made possible through a collaborative approach.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has been a steadfast supporter of this initiative, funding many of these life-changing surgeries and ensuring that patients from underserved communities

could access this advanced technology. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) also contributed significantly, extending support to further widen the reach of these transformative healthcare services.

Under the expertise of Dr. Rohan Gupta, ENT and Cochlear Implant Surgeon, the hospital has emerged as a center of excellence for cochlear implants, offering comprehen-

sive care from evaluation and surgery to post-operative care.

Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence, highlighted the crucial role of the Shrine Board, stating, "The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has been a vital partner in this journey. Their continued funding for a significant number of cases has ensured

dedication to making advanced healthcare accessible. The support from the Shrine Board and IOCL has been instrumental in helping us achieve this success."

that we can provide world-class medical care to patients who otherwise could not afford it. This partnership is a shining example of how community-focused organizations can create lasting change."

Dr. M. M. Mathavan, Facility Director of SMVDNSH, added, "Reaching this milestone is a proud moment for us. It reflects our commitment to clinical excellence and our dedication to making advanced healthcare accessible. The support from the Shrine Board and IOCL has been instrumental in helping us achieve this success."

The hospital's ongoing outreach efforts, including its monthly OPD in Srinagar, continue to bridge the gap in specialized follow-up care, easing access for patients across the region.

# Retirees Police League District Jammu holds monthly meeting



Retirees Police League District Jammu members during a monthly meeting on Saturday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A monthly meeting of the Retirees Police League District Jammu was held at the office of the Retirees Police League District Jammu under the chairmanship of Karanjit Singh, President of the league. The meeting addressed several important issues affecting retired police personnel, including discrepancies in the pay and pension of retirees of the same rank, the non-availability of medicines at the Police Hospital,

and the reservation of jobs for the wards of retired police personnel. Another significant issue raised was the need for coaching facilities for civil services, medical, and other professional institutes for the children of retired police officers. A number of legendary retired police officers participated in the meeting, including SSPs Ch. Chirag Din IPS, Ranjit Singh IPS, Sarwar Chohan, Suresh Kumar Sharma, M.L. Mehra, and SPs D.D. Sharma, S.R.

Datta, B.L. Kaul, and Pawan Khajuria, among others.

The meeting also saw participation from DSPs, Senior Vice Presidents, and other senior officers like J.S. Chib, Mohinder Singh, Daljit Singh, Kuldip Raj, Bihari Lal Sharma, and others. The

meeting concluded with a hearty tea, and all members expressed their gratitude to the District Police Administration, especially DSP DAR R.S. Kotwal, for the logistical support provided for the smooth conduct of the meeting.

# DDC Reasi reviews progress under Aspirational Block Development Programme



District Development Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik chairing a meeting on Saturday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

REASI: District Development Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik convened a high-level meeting in the video conference hall of the DC office to review the progress under the Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP). The meeting focused on assessing performance across key sectors, including Health, Education, Nutrition, Basic Infrastructure, Agriculture and allied sectors, to ensure the timely achievement of development indicators and overall improvement in service delivery.

Emphasizing the importance of efficient execution, the District Development Commissioner directed all department heads to hold regular departmental meetings to address bottlenecks and accel-

erate progress. She further instructed officials to ensure the timely upload of completed works on the official portal, stressing the need for accurate and updated data to reflect on the platform. The DDC emphasised on inter-departmental coordination to meet the developmental goals of the programme. She urged all stakeholders to work in unison to make tangible improvements in the identified sectors, ensuring sustainable development and better quality of life for the residents of the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Kumar, PO ICDS Mohammad Anwar Bandy, ACD Pardeep Kumar, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Education Officer, and other senior officials.

# IIM Jammu hosts S.K. Garg, Airport Director Jammu

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu was privileged to host S.K. Garg, Airport Director, Jammu, for a special visit to its campus.

S. K. Garg was warmly received upon arrival and given an extensive tour of the Institute, showcasing its state-of-the-art classrooms and the renowned Nalanda Library.

During his visit, S.K. Garg, Airport Director, Jammu, engaged in fruitful discussions with Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, exploring synergies between IIM Jammu and the Airport Authority of India. The discussions focused on fostering collaborative opportunities, including potential partnerships that would provide IIM Jammu students with hands-on exposure to airport management and operations. This alignment is



Prof B S Sahay-Director IIM Jammu felicitating SK Garg Airport Director Jammu on visit to IIM Jammu.

expected to create valuable learning experiences while driving mutual

growth and innovation.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu emphasized the importance of fostering synergies between educational institutions and industry leaders to provide students with real-world experiences and enhance their learning outcomes.

S.K. Garg, Airport Director, Jammu expressed his admiration for the infrastructure and facilities at IIM Jammu, highlighting its commitment to excellence in education.

On this occasion, S.K. Garg, Airport Director, Jammu was felicitated by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu as a token of appreciation. This visit marks another step toward building strong collaborations that benefit both IIM Jammu and industry partners, strengthening the Institute's commitment to bridging academia and industry for mutual growth.

# AJBRCEAK delegation meets MLA Marh to present their demands



AJBRCEAK delegation meeting with MLA Marh on Saturday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A delegation from the All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association Kashmir (AJBRCEAK), led by President Anil Radha, met with Surinder Kumar Bhagat, MLA from Marh Constituency, to present their concerns and demands.

The delegation emphasized the need for the early notification of a Comprehensive Transfer Policy, highlighting that an empowered commit-

tee has already been formed to address this matter.

During the meeting, Hemraj Lakhota, the Drafting Secretary of AJBRCEAK, raised the issue of pending leave settlements for employees across various departments.

Additionally, Vijay Kumar, another member of the association, highlighted the urgent need for safe and secure accommodation for all Jammu-based Reserved Category Employees at the

district level.

The delegation also requested their adjustment in safer zones and district headquarters within the Kashmir Valley.

The delegation included other key members Ram Krishan Salgotra, Surinder Mohan, Amarnath, Ajay Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, and Mangat Ram Bhagat, all of whom contributed to the discussions on the pressing issues faced by the employees.

# Mian Altaf, Ch Zuffar visit FM Smart School

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Member Parliament, Mian Altaf Ahmed on Saturday visited FM Smart School in Belicharana, here, and got a detailed briefing about the functioning of the institution in imparting quality education to students. Mian Altaf was accompanied by MLA Larnoo, Ch Zuffar, besides Ch Salam Din and Zuffar Ulla Rather.

The Member Parliament was welcomed by Chairman Rafi Choudhary, Principal Sanjay Kumar Sharma, and the teaching staff, including Umer Ul Islam, Vandana Gupta, Narinder Kour, Simran Kour, Neeru Kour, Varsha Thakur, Ruksana Banoo, and Madhu Parihar.

The visit was a momentous occasion for the school community, with the guests offering words of encouragement and support for the school's ongoing efforts in providing quality education. Their presence was appreciated by all, and the staff and students were motivated by their inspiring message.

"FM Smart School remains committed to fostering an environment of excellence in education and looks forward to further progress with the continued support of such distinguished leaders," Chairman Rafi Choudhary said, adding that the visit will be remembered by the entire FM Smart School family.



School faculty welcoming Member Parliament, Mian Altaf Ahmed during visit.