

# Kyra claims U-16 girls crown as JKLTA Tennis Fest heats up

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Young tennis talent lit up the courts at MA Stadium on the second day of the J&K Lawn Tennis Association's (JKLTA) U-16 Boys and Girls Championship, delivering dominant performances and crowning the tournament's first champion amidst a cheering crowd.

The spotlight shone brightest on Kyra Nagpal, who produced a flawless display to defeat Aarushi Kumari 4-0, 4-0 in the U-16 Girls Final. "This win is a dream come true; the rigorous training at JKLTA has finally paid off," said the jubilant champion dedicating her victory to her coaches.



Girls champion Kyra (left) posing for a photograph with coach Amar Sharma and runner up Aarushi Kumari at MA Stadium.

Earlier, the girls' singles semi-finals set the stage for an exciting day of tennis. Aarushi Kumari crushed Angel Vaid 6-0 in a clinical performance, while Kyra Nagpal breezed past Sarah

Mahajan 6-0, using pinpoint serves to dominate the match.

The U-16 Boys Singles Semi-Finals saw Piyush Kumar overpowering Nakul Mehra 8-3 with

aggressive baseline play, while Saksham Amla defeated Aarish Sethi 8-5 in a closely contested match, setting up an intriguing final between these rising stars.

The Boys Doubles Semi-Finals were equally exciting, with Piyush Kumar and Retish routing Aarish Sethi and Viraj 8-2, while Himanshu and Nakul edged Khushaansh and Ayank 7-5. The Boys Doubles Finals saw a pair of clean sweeps: Ayank Jaiswal and Khushaansh Magotra demolished Arsh Arora and Ansh Sayal 6-0 and Nakul and Himanshu defeated Vansh and Nitin 6-0.

# Kathua Admin Cup: DIC XI defeat CMO XI by 6 wickets

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: The ongoing Kathua Admin Cup witnessed another engaging league encounter at the GDC Kathua Cricket Ground, where DIC XI defeated CMO XI by six wickets in a competitive departmental match marked by disciplined bowling, composed batting and spirited on-field action.

After winning the toss, DIC XI opted to bowl first, a decision that yielded early dividends. Barring first, CMO XI posted a total of 141 runs for the loss of five wickets in their allotted 20 overs. Karun Bharti and Amit Singh anchored the innings with 35 runs each, guiding the team to a respectable total.

For DIC XI, the bowling attack led by Amit Sharma



Organisers along with winner team posing for photograph.

and Gagan proved effective, as they picked up crucial wickets at regular intervals and kept the scoring rate under check.

DIC XI chased down the target comfortably, reaching 142 for four in 16.3 overs. Amit Singh (30 runs) and Parminder (36 runs) played composed innings and stitched together an unbeaten

partnership to steer the team to a six-wicket victory. Despite disciplined spells from Sharavan and Amit Singh of CMO XI, the target proved insufficient.

Amit Singh's impressive all-round performance, contributing both with the bat and the ball, earned him the Man of the Match award.

The Kathua Admin Cup is

being organised as part of the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir campaign of District Administration Kathua leveraging sports as a powerful medium to engage youth, promote healthy lifestyles and spread awareness against drug abuse while fostering discipline, teamwork and positive social values.

# DC inaugurates first edition of Devika Premier League



DC Udhampur Saloni Rai at the inaugural session of Devika Premier League.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai on Friday inaugurated the first edition of the Devika Premier League. The event marked a significant milestone in the sports history of the district by introducing player auction system, wherein players were selected by team owners through a competitive bidding process, leading the tournament a professional league format.

A total of eight teams are

participating in the League. The Tournament shall be played in a league format, ensuring maximum participation and ample competitive exposure for the players.

The inaugural ceremony was held in the presence of the District Youth Services and Sports Officer along with organisers, team owners, players and sports enthusiasts.

The Deputy Commissioner congratulated the organisers, team owners, sponsors and all stakeholders for con-

ceptualising and successfully launching such a professionally structured cricket league at the district level. She lauded the initiative for providing a well-organised platform to local talent, promoting sportsmanship, discipline and active youth engagement.

Describing the Devika Premier League as a visionary step towards nurturing grassroots cricket, she said the tournament aligns district-level sports with national standards.

# Sankalp Hub DHEW conducts awareness programme at Village Bharat Doda

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

DODA: Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) organised an awareness programme here at Village Bharat Doda to sensitise the community about the government welfare schemes and social issues. A large number of villagers, predominantly women from the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community actively participated in the programme. The session commenced with an interactive introduction, providing participants an opportunity to share their concerns, experiences and expectations.

A detailed awareness session on key government schemes and services followed. The villagers were educated about Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), SMAS, Women Helpline (181), Childline (1098), RSETI, pension schemes, widow pension and other welfare initiatives.

School going girls were provided school bags under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative. The officials highlighted the significance of girls' education and emphasised that educating a girl leads to the overall development and progress of the family and the community at large.

The participants were also sensitised about the social and health related ill-effects of child marriage. The speakers stressed that early marriage adversely impacts the health, education and future prospects of young girls.

A dedicated session on menstrual hygiene was conducted for adolescent girls. They were educated about maintaining personal hygiene during menstruation, adopting a nutritious diet and breaking social taboos associated with menstrual health. Sanitary napkins were distributed to promote safe and hygienic practices.

In addition, baby kits were distributed under the BBBP scheme to encourage mothers of girl child and to promote a positive and supportive environment for the care and upbringing of daughters.

# DYSS Technical Committee conducts pitch inspection ahead of U-14 boys' selection trials at JKCA's facility

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: In a display of unwavering dedication to fostering elite cricket talent in Jammu and Kashmir, the Technical Committee constituted by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) carried out a meticulous pitch inspection at the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association's (JKCA) Hostel Ground today.

The expert panel, tasked with ensuring the seamless and triumphant execution of the upcoming selection trial matches, scrutinized every inch of the playing surface. Their thorough assessment guarantees optimal conditions-true bounce, consistent pace, and fair wear-that will allow young cricketers from across the region to showcase their skills without hindrance.

This proactive step underscores DYSS's commitment to upholding international



Committee members inspecting pitch.

standards in youth sports development, paving the way for a new generation of champions to emerge from the Union Territory's vibrant cricket scene.

A three-day cricket spectacle unfolds tomorrow, featuring 48 meticulously shortlisted young players from Jammu and Kashmir, divided into four dynamic teams. The tournament will host two high-stakes matches each day, all under the vigilant scrutiny of a

panel of expert selectors tasked with identifying tomorrow's sporting stars.

The distinguished inspection team from the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), comprising Pankaj Sasan, Jagtar Singh, Payal Chaudhary, Satika Pangotra, Umesh, and Nayna Kashyap, has thoroughly evaluated the pitch and ground conditions, ensuring optimal standards for this marquee event.

# DC Udhampur chairs NCORD meeting, reviews drug control measures in district

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai chaired a meeting of the District Narcotics Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee to review the measures in place to eradicate illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to reinforce measures aimed at curbing drug abuse in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh and the officers from the stakeholder departments.

Taking a comprehensive review, the DC assessed the progress made in identification and rehabilitation of addicts, status of PIP-NDPS cases, drug seizures during 2025, action taken against erring pharmacies, enforcement of mandatory installation of CCTV cameras, adherence to computerized billing by Medical stores, measures against illicit crop cultivation,



Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai chairing meeting.

rehabilitation of substance abuse victims, inspection of de-addiction centres, block-wise data on drug abusers, identification of hotspots, surveillance of educational institutions, IEC campaigns, mass awareness programmes, Nasha Mukti Abhiyan, Nasha Mukti Panchayats and cases registered under the NDPS Act.

The meeting also focused on strengthening inter-departmental coordination to effectively track and apprehend individuals involved in drug trafficking, identify abuse

hotspots and promote community-based rehabilitation and awareness initiatives.

The DC directed the stakeholder departments to intensify counselling services and enhance IEC activities to sensitise the public about the harmful effects of drug abuse. She instructed college heads to organise regular awareness programmes within their institutions.

The Chief Medical Officer was asked to conduct sensitisation and counselling sessions for healthcare staff across all health institutions.

The Police Department was directed to upload police-station-wise details of NDPS cases on the designated portal.

Emphasising strict enforcement, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for effectively tracking down illicit substances peddlers to safeguard the youth from falling prey to drug addiction.

Meanwhile, SDMs were directed to organise awareness drives within their respective jurisdictions to sensitise the public about the ill effects of drugs.

# Bhaderwah gears up for 2-day Winter Festival 2026

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

DODA: Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh said that the District administration has made best possible arrangements for the success of Bhaderwah Winter Festival scheduled to be held on 17th and 18th January 2026 at Gul Danda and New Bus Stand Bhaderwah.

Speaking to media persons here, the DC stated that the festival aims to promote winter tourism, showcase the rich cultural heritage of the region and boost local economic activities by attracting tourists from across the country. "Tourism Department has planned the festival as a mega event, featuring colourful cultural programmes and a special performance by renowned singer G Khan to entertain tourists and locals alike. Local artists, folk performers and singers will also be encouraged to participate and showcase their talent on a common platform," the DC informed. Interested participants have been invited to approach or contact the Bhaderwah Development



DC Doda Harvinder Singh briefing media.

Authority (BDA) Bhaderwah for registration and participation, he added.

"The maintenance and improvement works on roads leading to Bhaderwah and nearby tourist destinations have already been initiated to ensure smooth and safe travel during the festival." He assured that comprehensive security arrangements would be put in place at all tourist destinations and religious sites to ensure the safety of tourists and residents.

Sharing further, he informed that the Archaeology Department has initiated funding for the renovation and conservation of ancient religious structures in Bhaderwah. He also announced that the district administration would organize a passport registration camp on 20th, 21st and 22nd January 2026 at the DC Office Complex, while preparations are underway to organize a rafting competition in the com-

# Arpna qualifies SET

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Arpna Devi, wife of Deepinder Singh Rana, resident of Dhanori, Kahajjugar, Tehsil Gandoh, Bhalessa, District Doda has been declared qualified State Eligibility Test (SET) 2025 in English Subject.



# Swachhanta 2.0 launched in Kishtwar: DC flags off mega cleanliness drive



Officials taking pledge during the event.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

KISHTWAR: As a prelude to the Republic Day 2026 celebrations, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma launched the Swachhanta Campaign 2.0 here from Mini Secretariat New DC Office Complex.

The Swachhanta 2.0 campaign was organised by the Municipal Council in collaboration with the District Administration and is being observed under the inspiring theme, "Pride in Democracy - Pride in Cleanliness," as a prelude to the upcoming Republic Day 2026 celebrations. The

event launched with an objective to promote cleanliness, civic responsibility and public awareness, commenced with the Deputy Commissioner administering the Swachhanta Pledge to the participants, including Heads of line Departments, staff of the Mini Secretariat, Municipal Council officials and sanitation workers. A comprehensive cleanliness drive was thereafter carried out across the entire premises of the Mini Secretariat, New DC Office Complex. Later, the Deputy Commissioner flagged off a Swachhanta Awareness Rally from the Mini

Secretariat, The Rally marched up to Dak Bunglow via Kuldeep Chowk. The rally was led by the Municipal Council and witnessed active participation from sanitation workers and other municipal staff, reinforcing the message of collective responsibility towards cleanliness. The awareness drive was conducted under the guidance of Executive Officer Municipal Council Mirza Muntaz Iqbal.

The event was attended by ADDC Vinod Kumar Behnal; ACR, Idrees Lone; ACD Manoj Kumar; ACP Neeraj Sharma, besides other officers and concerned staff.

# DLSA Reasi organizes series of legal awareness programs

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

REASI: Under the leadership of the chairman (Pr. District and Sessions Judge Reasi) Khalil Choudhary and Secretary Pooja Gupta, District Legal Services Authority Reasi organised a series of awareness events on multiple social and legal issues. A program on Hit and Run Victim Compensation Scheme- 2022 was held here at District Police Line (DPL).

Chief LADC Rashi Baru and Deputy LADC Bhumica Sharma were the resource persons. They sensitized police personnel and other participants to the legal framework governing hit and run cases, procedures for prompt reporting, investigation and the role of law enforcement agencies in ensuring justice to victims. Special emphasis was laid on the Motor Vehicles Act provisions and the importance of securing timely assistance and compensation to victims and their families. The program witnessed attentive participation and was appreciated for its informative and practical approach.

Similarly, programs on "Drug Awareness & Wellness Navigation" (DAWN) Scheme and Prohibition of Child Marriage were organised in Slum Area Katra and Bhomag.

The participants were sensitized to the harmful effects of drug abuse on physical, mental and social wellbeing and the ill effects and legal consequences of child marriage, provisions of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and the importance of ensuring education, health and overall development of children. A poster pasting drive promoting NALSA Helpline no. 15110 and a door to door anti-drug awareness campaign was conducted by PLVs of TLSC Mahore at prominent places. The PLVs interacted with local residents, parents, shopkeepers and other community members, sharing information about the NALSA schemes and Helpline no. 15110.

# VC SKUAST-J briefs LG on academics, various initiatives



VC SKUAST-Jammu Prof. B. N. Tripathi calling on LG Manoj Sinha at Lok Bhavan in Jammu on Friday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at Lok Bhavan, on Friday. The Vice Chancellor briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the progress achieved by the University in the areas of education, research, and extension, including major initiatives undertaken under the Holistic Agriculture Development

Programme (HADP) and the J&K Climate Innovation Programme (JKCIP).

Prof. Tripathi informed that SKUAST-Jammu has been designated as a Centre/Regional Outreach Unit of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACAP) for Jammu. The Centre will facilitate the collection of region-specific data on crop costs, prices, and farmers' issues, thereby strengthening evidence-based Minimum

Support Price (MSP) recommendations and farmer-centric policy planning.

The Vice Chancellor also apprised about the sanction of an ANRF-PAIR IIT Bombay Hub project under the Partnership for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) for development of an AI-driven agriculture system aimed at enhancing farmer market linkages and operational efficiency, with a focus on traditional products, involving an outlay of over Rs 6 crore. In addition, an ICAR-NASF project for genome analysis amounting to Rs 2 crore has been sanctioned. He further informed that the establishment of an AICRP Centre for Poultry Breeding at SKUAST-Jammu is at an advanced stage of approval, while regular centres for beekeeping and mushroom cultivation are under active consideration by ICAR. At present, the University is implementing externally funded projects worth approximately Rs 100 crore.