

# Sakeena felicitates winners of 6th ISKOI India Karate Championship-2025

## STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Ito on Saturday conducted an extensive tour of far-flung areas of Tehsil Panchari of District Udhampur and felicitated the winners of 6th ISKOI India Karate Championship-2025 during an impressive medal ceremony held at Government Higher Secondary School, Panchari here.

Mission Director, POSHAN, Sajad Ahmad Ganai; Director Social Welfare Jammu, Ranjeet Singh; Director Health Services Jammu, Director Colleges, PO Poshan, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Joint Director School Education Udhampur -Reasi, DDC Member Panchari, other district officers, parents of medal winners and large number of locals were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister congratulated the girl achievers, their parents and the local populace on the remarkable accomplishment of young girls. She lauded their dedication, discipline and fighting spirit and expressed pride in the fact that many of these medal winners hailed from far-flung and remote areas, overcoming limited resources and challenging circumstances, to



Education Minister Sakeena Ito felicitating winners of 6th ISKOI India Karate Championship-2025.

bring laurels to Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister Sakeena said that the achievements of these young girl sportspersons reflect their hard work and their parents as well as the growing sports culture in the region. "Your success proves that talent knows no geographical barriers. With determination and proper guidance, our youth can excel on any national and international platform," she stated.

She also lauded the efforts of the International Shito-Ryu Karate Organisation of India for promoting sports culture among youth, especially in rural areas.

During the ceremony, the Minister

interacted with the players, coaches and parents, appreciating the role of coaches and families in nurturing young talent. She encouraged the medal winners to continue their training and aim for greater achievements at national and international competitions.

During the ceremony, as many as 47 medal winners of the 6th ISKOI India Karate championship-2025 were felicitated by the Minister and presented trophies and prizes to them.

On the sidelines of the event, Sakeena Ito Later distributed school bags and umbrellas under the Beti

Bachao Beti Padhao scheme.

Later, the Minister also interacted with DDC Member Panchari, former PRI members and locals who projected several issues and demands pertaining to health, education, road and other sector before the Minister.

While interacting with them, the Minister said that the Director Health Services Jammu has been given strict instructions to prepare a holistic plan for upgradation of medical care facilities at the PHC Panchari as well as addressing shortage of staff, owing to the remoteness of area from district head quarters. She further added that the maintenance of road and allied works will be taken up with concerned quarters for immediate redressal.

She reaffirmed that the Government led by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah is committed to strengthen road connectivity, health infrastructure and other essential facilities to ensure every basic service is available at the doorsteps of common people.

She also said that the Tourism potential of the Panchari area will be tapped to its full extent by the Government, which will eventually lead to overall development of the area and add to its economic efficiency.

# ADG Armed reviews preparations for Martyrs Memorial Hockey Tournament 2025-26



ADGP Armed J&K, Anand Jain chairing a meeting at Jammu on Saturday.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A preparatory meeting under the chairmanship of Anand Jain, Additional Director General of Police (Armed), J&K, was held today at the Armed Police Headquarters (APHQ), Jammu to review the arrangements for the Martyrs Memorial Hockey Tournament (MMHT) 2025-26, scheduled to be held from February 1 to 5, 2026 at Jammu.

The prestigious tournament is being organized under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police. During the meeting, the ADG Armed conducted a comprehensive review to ensure that all logistical, administrative, and

security arrangements are in place for the smooth and successful conduct of the event.

Detailed discussions were held on important aspects such as accommodation, boarding and messing for participating teams, medical facilities, traffic management, security deployment, crowd control, and inter-departmental coordination. Emphasizing the need for a professional and well-coordinated approach, Anand Jain directed all concerned officers to strictly follow the prescribed timelines and ensure that all preparations are completed well in advance.

He stressed that special attention must be given to robust security arrangements, effective traffic regulation, adequate medical support, and proper crowd management so that players, officials, and spectators can enjoy a safe, secure, and comfortable environment throughout the tournament.

The Martyrs Memorial Hockey J&K, and other senior officers.

annual sporting event of the J&K Police, organized to honour the supreme sacrifices of police martyrs and to promote sportsmanship, youth engagement, and camaraderie among police and civil teams. The tournament draws participation from teams across the Union Territory and also serves as an important platform for nurturing sporting talent and strengthening police-public relations.

The meeting was attended by Vinod Kumar, DIG IR Jammu; Sameer Sharma, DIG AP Jammu; Dr. Koshal Sharma, SSP PCR Jammu; Rajesh Sharma, SSP Security Jammu; all Commandants of Jammu-based Battalions; Amit Bhasin, SSP Traffic Jammu; Rajinder Singh, SSP APCR Jammu; Aijez Mian, In-charge Medical Superintendent Police Hospital Jammu; Dr. Taran Singh, General Secretary Hockey J&K, and other senior officers.

# SOB JK UT to hold Athletics Trials at JU on Jan 12

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Olympics Bharat - Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory (JKUT) is organizing Athletics Selection Trials for the upcoming National Championship of Athletics, which is scheduled to be held in Haryana from 2nd to 7th February 2026.

The trials will take place on Monday, 12th January 2026, at 9:00 AM at the University of Jammu Gymnasium Ground, near the General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, Jammu.

The event aims to identify talented athletes with intellectual disabilities and provide them with an opportunity to represent Jammu & Kashmir at the national and international level. All eligible athletes, children, and persons with intellectual disabilities, along with special schools, NGOs, institutions, and parents, are warmly invited to participate.

Special Olympics Bharat JKUT has consistently worked to promote inclusion, self-confidence, and excellence through sports. These trials will provide a meaning-

ful platform for athletes to showcase their skills, improve their physical fitness, and build a sense of achievement. The selected athletes will undergo further training and preparation before participating in the National Championship.

The organizers have assured that all necessary arrangements will be in place to ensure a safe, supportive, and encouraging environment for the athletes. Entry for the trials is completely free, making it accessible to all eligible participants across the region.

Interested participants are requested to report at the venue on time with their relevant documents, if any. Special schools, NGOs, and guardians of persons with intellectual disabilities are also encouraged to extend their support by motivating eligible athletes to participate.

For registration and further information, participants may contact Sahil Badyal, Program Manager, Special Olympics Bharat JKUT, on Phone Number: 9906242701.

# U-16 District Lawn Tennis Championship 2025-26 concludes Sports key to nation building: Gaurav Gupta



BJP Spokesperson, Gaurav Gupta with others dignitaries and winners at prize distribution ceremony.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Lawn Tennis Association (JKLTA) U-16 Boys and Girls Lawn Tennis Championship drew to a thrilling close today at the impeccably maintained Tennis Courts of MA Stadium here, spotlighting the raw talent and unyielding spirit of the region's young players. Over several days of intense competition, the event featured edge-of-the-seat matches that not only tested skills but also painted a promising picture for tennis in J&K.

In the Boys Doubles final, the dynamic duo of Piyush Kumar and Retish Kumar showcased impeccable synergy, dismantling Nakul Mehra

and Himanshu Mehra with a decisive 6-3, 6-2 victory. Their powerful serves and swift net play left the opponents scrambling, proving why teamwork triumphs in doubles.

The Boys Singles final was a masterclass in dominance as Saksham Amla outmaneuvered Piyush Kumar 6-2, 6-1. Amla's laser-precise groundstrokes and relentless baseline rallies gave Kumar scant breathing room, turning the clash into a one-sided spectacle. This win cements Amla's status as a rising star in J&K tennis.

Guided by President Captain Murti Gupta, Honorary General Secretary Er. B.S. Jaggi and Vice President Er. Hanumant

Singh, JKLTA has breathed new life into the sport. Revived two years ago with J&K Sports Council's state-of-the-art infrastructure, tennis has surged ahead. Initiative of JKLTA's free coaching programme supported by the Council has democratized access, training boys and girls regardless of economic barriers, fostering a new generation of champions.

The prize distribution ceremony was graced by BJP Spokesperson and Convenor, International Affairs, Gaurav Gupta, as Chief Guest. Praising JKLTA's grassroots push, he said, "Providing free coaching continuously for two years reflects true dedi-

cation. JKLTA's commitment is creating confidence, discipline and sporting character among our youth."

Aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, Gupta emphasized, "Sports go beyond medals—they build discipline, confidence, character and contribute to nation-building. Such tournaments encourage healthy competition and holistic youth development."

JKLTA officials vowed to broaden reach across districts, ensuring J&K talents shine on bigger stages. As cheers echoed at MA Stadium, one thing was clear: J&K tennis is rallying stronger than ever.

# Senior Citizens 9-Hole Golf Tournament held at JTGC



Golfers at Senior Citizens 9-Hole Golf Tournament at JTGC.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Tawi Golf Course (JTGC), Sidhra on Saturday conducted a Senior Citizens 9-Hole Golf Tournament, reaffirming its commitment to promoting active lifestyles, inclusivity, and respect for senior members of society. The Tournament was specially designed to cater to senior golfers, providing them with a competitive yet comfortable platform to enjoy the game they love.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 40 senior golfers, who displayed remarkable sportsmanship, skill, and passion for the sport. Some Golfers were above 80 years of age who participated in tournament. The initiative was widely appreciated as a thoughtful and meaningful gesture towards senior citizens, acknowledging their life-long contribution to society and encouraging their continued engagement in sporting and social activities.

R.S Chib and Mohammad

Yousuf Khan distributed the prize among the Golfers.

Danish Khan and Swarn Singh were adjudged as the overall winner and Runner up respectively of the tournament. R. S Chib bagged the award for the straight drive at Hole No.5. The longest drive award went to U.K Jalali while Closest to the pin went to Er Sunil Gupta at Hole No. 2.

Best among fourballs were adjudged as S.P Vaid, Mohd Ashfaq, Hemant Kumar Sharma, Danish Khan, Jaipal Singh/Vinod Sharma, Dr. S.S Jamwal, Er. Sunil Gupta/Mukhtyar Jallu, Col. J.S Choudhary.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary, Jammu Tawi Golf Course, Manav Gupta stated "Our senior members are the backbone of this institution. This tournament is not merely a sporting event, but a sincere expression of our responsibility and respect towards them. At Jammu Tawi Golf Course, we believe it is our duty to create opportunities where senior citizens feel valued, active, and connected. We are proud to host this tournament and will continue

to take such initiatives that promote dignity, wellness, and participation among our senior golfers. Golfing is very good for the health of senior citizens. It is one of the most recommended sports for older adults because it combines physical activity, mental engagement, and social interaction without putting excessive strain on the body."

The tournament was conducted in a friendly yet competitive spirit, fostering camaraderie and mutual respect among the participants. The scenic surroundings of the Jammu Tawi Golf Course, Sidhra, provided the perfect setting for a memorable day of golf and fellowship.

At the conclusion of the tournament, prizes were awarded in various categories to recognize outstanding performances and sporting excellence.

The Jammu Tawi Golf Course management expressed gratitude to all participants and organizers for making the event a success and reiterated its commitment to organizing more such inclusive and meaningful sporting activities in the future.

# Rajawardhan wins VCA U-11 Open Khelo Jammu Chess Tourney

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rajawardhan Singh emerged champion of the VCA Under-11 Open Khelo Jammu Chess Tournament, which was organized at Vivek Chess Academy, here under the aegis of All J&K Chess Association (AJKCA), here on Saturday.

Promising National level player, Rajawardhan, who has 1440 FIDE rating, won all five rounds to earn maximum five points in the two-day tournament. He was presented with title trophy and cash prize of Rs 1000 by the special guest, senior sports journalist, Sanjeev Sharma.

Rajawardhan faced a tough contest from equally good, Ishan Choudhary in the fourth round today. Ishaan was second with four points to receive a cash prize of Rs 600 while third place



went to Keshav Mahajan with 3.5 points. Keshav presented Rs 500 cash prize.

Ameena Tareen was declared best women to receive cash prize and trophy. She had a close fight with Manu Shree in the decider after both earned equal three points in the five rounds

event. Seven years old, Raesha Thothla was named youngest participant with two points.

"We have succeeded in our initiative to develop competitive spirit among young boys and girls by way of introducing independent events in the lower age

groups. The competition was intense with all the participants playing with chess clocks and score sheets, which ultimately tuned out to be a nice experience for both organisers and the players," said chairman of the organizing committee, Vivek Bharti. Swiss software was used for pairing.

The Detailed Results: Round-1: Ishaan (1) beat Prince (0); Rajawardhan (1) beat Raesha (0); Amina (1) got walkover; Divyansh (1) beat Ruby (0); Vatsal (1) beat Gunjan (0); Keshav (1) beat Aaradhya (0); Manushree (1) beat Vihaan (0). Round-2: Ishaan (2) beat Divyansh (1); Rajawardhan (2) beat Manushree (1); Keshav (2) beat Amina (1); Vatsal (2) beat Raesha (0); Vihaan (1); Raesha (2) beat Ruby (0); Aaradhya (2) got bye point. Round-3: Ishaan (3) beat Keshav (2); Rajawardhan (3) beat Vatsal (2); Prince (2) beat Amina (1); Vihaan (2) beat Divyansh (1); Manushree (2) beat Aaradhya; Gunjan (1) beat Raesha (0); Ruby (1) got bye point. Round-4: Rajawardhan (4) beat Ishaan (3); Keshav (2.5) draw with Vatsal (2.5); Prince (3) beat Manushree (2); Ruby (1) lost to Vihaan (3); Aaradhya (1)lost to Amina (2); Gunjan (2) beat Divyansh (0); Raesha got bye point. Round-5: Rajawardhan (5) beat Prince (3); Ishaan (4) beat Vihaan (3); Keshav (3.5) beat Gunjan (2); Amina (3) beat Vatsal (2.5); Manushree (3) beat Ruby (1); Raesha (2) beat Aaradhya (1); Divyansh (2) got bye point.

# CEO Jammu reviews preparedness of cultural items for R-Day 2026 celebrations

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In preparation for the Republic Day Celebration-2026 to be held at MA Stadium, Jammu, the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Jammu, Ajit Sharma on Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the preparedness of cultural items.

The meeting was attended by Principals, Cultural In-charges and choreographers from various Government and Government-recognized private schools of district Jammu.

During the meeting, the CEO highlighted that, for the first time, schools have been given the flexibility to combine two to three institutions located in close vicinity to jointly prepare and present cultural items, depending on their feasibility.



CEO Jammu, Ajit Sharma chairing a meeting on Saturday.

It was informed that such combined presentations will involve participation of more than 400 students, adding grandeur and inclusivity to the celebrations.

The Heads of Institutions were directed to keep their selected songs and music tracks ready by today evening so that rehearsals can commence positively in all schools from

Monday onwards. The CEO further informed that the final selection and shortlisting of cultural items will be carried out next week by a committee headed by the Directorate of School Education Jammu, in coordination with officials of the Department of Culture and the CEO Jammu.

Clear instructions were issued that

all rehearsals must be conducted strictly within the respective school premises. It was also emphasized that the duration of each cultural item should not exceed five minutes, ensuring smooth coordination and time management during the main event. The meeting was attended by DEPO Jammu B.D. Sharma, Principal SRML Higher Secondary School Parade Dr. Kishor Kumar Sharma, Rajeev Kumar (Coordinator), along with Principals, Cultural In-charges of Government and private schools, choreographers and other concerned officials.

The CEO stressed the importance of discipline, coordination and quality performances to make the Republic Day celebrations a memorable and dignified event.