

Speaker addresses book review event of 'Durr-e-Naayaab' at JU

'Moving tribute of Sakeena Itoo to her father Shaheed Wali Muhammad Itoo'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather, on Thursday addressed the book review event of "Durr-e-Naayaab", a biography of Shaheed Wali Muhammad Itoo, organised by the Department of Urdu, University of Jammu.

Authorised by Minister Sakeena Itoo, daughter of the late leader, the book chronicles the life, political journey, and contributions of Shaheed Wali Muhammad Itoo, former Minister and Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, who was assassinated on March 18, 1994, in Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker paid glowing tributes to the late leader, describing him as an able administrator and a people-friendly leader who sacrificed his life for the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the downtrodden sections of society. He recalled that



Speaker JKLA, Abdul Rahim Rather with others releasing a book.

Shaheed Wali Muhammad Itoo remained steadfast to his principles and party during the turbulent period of militancy in the early 1990s.

"He never wanted to leave Kashmir during those difficult times and always wished to stay among his people for their upliftment," the Speaker said. Recalling his personal association, Advocate Rather said that both were elected as MLAs for the first time in 1977, an association that later turned into a close personal relationship. He added that Shaheed Itoo's tenure as

MLA, MLC, Minister, and Speaker was highly impactful and left an indelible mark.

The Speaker also remarked that the late leader's selfless service cannot be described in words and termed Minister Sakeena Itoo as a "brave daughter" who is carrying forward the mission of her father. He lauded her literary accomplishment, stating that despite her demanding ministerial responsibilities, she authored an extraordinary book that would serve as a guiding light for the younger generation.

On the occasion, the Speaker

also appreciated the government, particularly Education Minister Sakeena Itoo, for the impressive performance of government schools in the recently declared Class 10th and 12th results, attributing it to sustained efforts in improving the education sector.

Minister Sakeena Itoo, while speaking, shared cherished memories of her father that inspired her to write the book. She expressed gratitude to former Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, and oth-

ers for their guidance.

Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai, termed the book an important asset for the youth and announced full university support for translating it into English, Hindi, and other local languages.

Noted poet and Sahitya Academy Awardee Prof. Mohammad Zaman Azardul described the book as a heartfelt tribute of a daughter to her father, while Prof. Shohab Inayat Malik, Head, Department of Urdu, recalled the late leader's compassion for the people. Dr. Sehnaz Qadri presented a review of the book.

The book was earlier released by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in October 2025 at SKICC Srinagar. Dean Research Studies Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Sahitya Academy Awardee Manshoor Banihali, social reformer Javid Rahi, faculty members, and students were present on the occasion.

Satish Sharma attends Dangal competition at Gharattal



Sports Minister, Satish Sharma with wrestlers at Dangal competition at Gharattal.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and Transport, Satish Sharma, on Thursday attended a vibrant Dangal (traditional wrestling) competition at Gharattal.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of renowned wrestlers from Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir.

The competition drew a large gathering of sports lovers and local residents, turning Gharattal into a hub of traditional sporting fervour. The prize distribution reflected the scale and spirit of the event,

with the first prize set at Rs 1.51 lakh, second prize at Rs 1 lakh and third prize at Rs 50,000. The event was organised by the Dangal Committee, Gharattal. Addressing the gathering, the Minister appreciated the organisers for keeping alive the rich heritage of traditional sports and providing a platform for wrestlers from across the region to showcase their talent. He said that Dangal is not just a sport but a cultural legacy, which promotes discipline, strength and sportsmanship among the youth.

The Minister reiterated the government's firm commitment to promotion and upliftment of sports activities across Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasised development of modern sports

infrastructure besides preservation and promotion of traditional and indigenous sports. He assured that the government will continue to extend support for such events that encourage youth participation and foster a healthy sporting culture.

Sharma added that engaging youth in sports is a powerful tool for building a fit, confident and responsible generation. He added that the administration is determined to ensure equal opportunities and facilities for athletes in both modern and traditional disciplines.

The event concluded with an exciting series of bouts, reflecting the enduring popularity and cultural importance of Dangal in the region.

DC XI registers dominant 9-wicket win over SW XI



STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: DC XI delivered a commanding all-round performance to defeat Social Welfare XI by 9 wickets in a cricket match organised as part of the Nash Mukht J&K Abhiyan initiative of the District Administration.

Batting first, Social Welfare XI struggled to build momentum and were restricted to 43 runs for the loss of 7 wickets in 12 overs. The DC XI bowling attack

proved too strong, with Arun producing a brilliant spell to claim 4 wickets for 11 runs in 3 overs. He received able support from Vishavjeet Singh, who picked up 2 wickets, while disciplined bowling by Raman and Ranjeet Thakur kept the scoring in check.

Chasing a modest target, DC XI wrapped up the match comfortably, scoring 45 for 1 in just 6.1 overs. Rajinder Digra anchored

the innings with a fluent unbeaten 29 runs, including four boundaries and two sixes, while Ashwani remained not out with 8 runs, guiding the team to an easy victory.

The match not only provided sporting action but also conveyed a strong message against drug abuse, aligning sports with social awareness under the Nash Mukht Abhiyan of the District Administration.

3rd Chancellor's Trophy sports meet begins at JU

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 3rd edition of the Chancellor's Trophy sports meet, organized by the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu (JU), got underway at JU main campus, here today.

The five-day long mega multi-sport event was declared open by Prof. Satya Paul, Coordinator RUSA, JU in the presence of Dr. Dhritika Singh, Joint Registrar Finance, JU; and Dr. Showkat Hussain, Principal, Government Physical Education College, Ganderbal. Around 800 athletes, representing different Universities, institutions of J&K and abroad shall compete for the top honours in different events.

The competition shall take place in the disciplines of



Prof. Satya Paul, Coordinator RUSA, JU interacting with players.

Kabaddi (men), Volleyball (men), Football (men), Wrestling (men), Table Tennis (men), Kho-Kho (women), Badminton (women), Basketball (men and women), Handball (men and women) and Athletics (men and women).

Speaking to the participating teams, soon after interaction with the teams taking part in Football, Prof. Satya

Paul, congratulated the Directorate of Sports JU for hosting the event. He laid emphasis on such championships provide platform for students from different universities and institutions to interact, foster unity, and showcase their sporting talent.

Earlier, Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director Sports JU, welcomed the distinguished

guests and the participants amidst a brief note of the five-day long event.

He reiterated the commitment of the JU to nurture sporting talent that will bring laurels to the region and the Nation.

An impressive demonstration of Kabaddi and Yoga marked the opening of the sports meet.

Among others present

were Dr. Akhilesh Sharma, Vimal Kishore, Vikas Karlopa, Ravish Vaid, Gagan Kumar, Jai Bharat, P. D. Singh, Harinderpal Singh, Dr. Inderjeet Singh, Dr. Mahak, Sanjeev Kumar, Dr. Divesh Kumar and Richa Mandla.

The Opening Day Results:

TABLE TENNIS: Men: JU beat Cluster University Srinagar 3-0; IUST Awantipura beat Cluster University of Jammu 3-0; JU beat MIET Jammu 3-0; SMVDU Katra beat University of Ladakh 3-0.

BADMINTON: Women: JU beat Cluster University Srinagar 2-0; SKUAT Jammu beat University of Ladakh 2-0.

KABADDI: Men: Cluster University of Jammu beat SKUAT Jammu by 32 points.

U-19 World Cup: Henil grabs 5/16 as India beat USA by 6 wickets

AGENCY

BULAWAYO (ZIMBABWE): Henil Patel led a ruthless bowling display with an excellent five-wicket haul, setting up India's six-wicket victory over USA in their rain-hit ICC Under-19 World Cup opener here on Thursday.

The right-arm seamer finished with figures of 5/16 from seven overs with one

maiden, ripping through the USA middle-order after India opted to bowl under overcast conditions. The USA were bundled out for a meagre 107 in 35.2 overs.

India's target was revised to 96 in 37 overs after rain interrupted proceedings with the total reading 21 for one in four overs.

Abhigyan Kundu (42 not out off 41 balls) then saw the team home with 118 balls to spare under the DLS method.

India's chase was delayed by rain but when play resumed, 14-year-old batting sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi (2) fell cheaply as he was bowled by Ritvik Appidi (2/24 in 5 overs) in the third over.

Appidi cramped Suryavanshi for room with a length delivery before the batter came down the wicket only to get an inside edge onto the stumps.

Skipper Ayush Mhatre had by then collected two boundaries and looked confident until rain forced another interruption.

At that stage of the game, India required just 87 runs in 46 overs, but the equation was changed as per the DLS method when play resumed after a long interruption.

Upon resumption, India lost the wickets of Mhatre (19) and Vedant Trivedi (2) in quick succession, and then, vice-captain Vihaan Malhotra was dismissed for

18.

Earlier, Henil struck in his very first over, inducing an edge from Amrinder Gill (1) to Malhotra in the slips, before the tall tearaway pacer Deepesh Devendran joined in by having Sahil Garg (16) caught by Henil at third man to reduce USA to 29/2 in nine overs.

Henil then took control of the innings with a devastating double blow, removing captain Utkarsh Srivastava for a five-ball duck before dismissing wicketkeeper Arjun Mahesh (16) in the same over as the USA slipped to 35/4.

He returned again soon, drawing a loose drive from Mahesh that flew to third man for his third wicket,

and USA never recovered from the collapse.

Leg-spinner Khilan Patel struck immediately on his introduction, trapping Anogh Arepally (3) as the USA slid to 39/5 in the 16th over.

Nitish Sudini offered some resistance with a counter-attacking 36 off 52 balls, striking four boundaries and adding 30 runs with Adnit Jhamb (18) for the sixth wicket to take USA past 50.

However, Henil returned to mop up the tail, dismissing Sabrish Prasad (7) and Rishabh Shimpi (0) to complete his five-for as the USA were bundled out in 35.2 overs. India are in Group B alongside Bangladesh and New Zealand.

Registrar flags off BGSBU sports teams for 3rd Chancellor's Trophy



STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Registrar Abhishek Sharma, on Thursday flagged off the sports contingents of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), Rajouri for participation in the 3rd Chancellor's Trophy, being hosted by the University of Jammu.

On the occasion the

Registrar extended his best wishes to the players and officials. He encouraged the athletes to uphold the spirit of sportsmanship and discipline while representing the University at the prestigious inter-university tournament.

BGSBU is participating in Football (Men), Kabaddi (Men), Kho-Kho (Women) and Athletics (Men & Women).

Abhishek Sharma lauded the efforts of the Directorate of Physical Education & Sports and supporting staff for their dedicated preparation of the teams.

He expressed confidence that the participating students would deliver commendable performances and bring pride and laurels to the University.

J&K UT Senior men and women teams selected for 36th National Tennis Ball Cricket C'ship



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Senior Teams (Men and Women) for the 36th Senior National Tennis Ball Cricket Championship have been officially selected and screened by the J&K Sports Council at M. A. Stadium, Jammu on Thursday. The championship will be held at Nagpur, Maharashtra, from 19 to 22 January 2026, where teams from across the country will compete.

The screening was conducted to finalise the readiness and eligibility of the selected players. The teams

were chosen after two days of selection trials held on 4th and 5th January 2026 at M. A. Stadium, Jammu. The selected UT teams will leave for Nagpur on 16 January 2026 to participate in the national-level championship.

The J&K UT Men's Team will be led by Sunil Kumar as Captain. The team includes Himanshu Chib, Rohit Verma, Ankush Sharma, Mohsin Ashraf, Wajid Ahmad, Faizan Hamid, Mudassar Hussain, Mohd Asif Parry, Adil Gaffar, Kewal Singh, Azaan Manzoor, Zeshan Nabi, and Rahul Kumar. The team will be managed by Mohd

Shafi, while Mohd Shahid will serve as the Coach.

The J&K UT Women's Team will be captained by Heena Bhat. The team comprises Shabnum Manzoor, Mir Arjuman, Nilofer Manzoor, Insha Ashraf, Azra Manzoor, Iqra Yousuf, Tabinda, Nayeema Ali, Kaneez Fatima, Navaya Sethi, Gousia, Iqra Manzoor, and Maheena Azad. The team will be guided by Zainab Javid as Coach, with Sajad Ahmad serving as the Manager.

The J&K Sports Council expressed confidence in the teams and wished them success at the national championship.

Curling Federation delegation meets LG Ladakh

STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: A delegation from the Curling Federation of India (CFI), led by Dr. Rashmi Saluja, President of the CFI, engaged with the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta.

Also present were SSP Kargil Nitin Yadav, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kargil Inteeaz Kacho, P.M. Raju, Chair of the Athletes Committee of the CFI; Shubham Gupta, COO of the CFI; and members of both the Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir curling teams.



During the meeting, the delegation provided a comprehensive overview of curling, highlighting its status as a Winter Olympics sport and its growing popularity worldwide. They demon-

strated the sport and discussed its historical importance, as well as the potential for curling to become a mainstream winter sport in Ladakh.

The delegation emphasised

the inclusive nature of curling, noting its accessibility for men, women, and individuals with disabilities. They also showcased their equipment and requested support in procuring curling stones, which can be challenging to obtain for the region. In response, the Lieutenant Governor expressed great interest and support for the initiative. He highlighted that curling has been included into Ladakh's sports policy, and that future support would be extended to help Ladakhi athletes participate in national and international curling events.

Sericulture farmers flagged off on 3-day exposure visit within UT

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A group of 40 progressive sericulture farmers, drawn from across districts of Jammu Division were flagged off on Thursday on a 3-day exposure visit (within the UT) by Additional Director Sericulture Development Department Jammu Ashwani Kumar Sharma.

Project Executive Officer Jammu, District Sericulture Officer and other staff members of the department attended the flag off event.

The exposure tour has been sponsored

under Centrally Sponsored Scheme - ATMA (2025-26).

During the tour, the farmers would be acquainted with technological advancements and innovative practices in sericulture, aimed at enhancing silk production both qualitatively and quantitatively.

The farmers are scheduled to visit Sericulture Museum at Sericulture Development Department B.C. Road-Jammu; Basic Seed Station Cherry, Udhampur; B.S.S/Cold Storage at Kud; Seed House, Batote; Central

Sericulture Research & Training Institute Pampore-Kashmir; Government Silk Factory-Raj Bagh, Srinagar; M/s Bombyx mori Silk Reeling Unit, Khanmoh-Kashmir; Basic Seed Station, Mirgund and College of Temperate Sericulture-SKUAST-Kashmir.

The visits are designed to impart hands-on training in the latest pre- and post-cocoon nourishment techniques, facilitate their interaction with experts and encourage them to adopt best practices for quality cocoon production.