

Chairs 89th University Council meeting of JU

Universities must lead innovation, skill building to solve society's toughest challenges: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday chaired the 89th meeting of the University Council of the University of Jammu at Lok Bhavan.

The meeting was attended by Sakeena Masood Ito, Minister for Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare Departments; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Prof. K.S Chandrasekhar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Jammu; Prof. Mohd Mobin, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar; Santosh D. Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance; Dr Mandep K. Bhandari, Principal

Secretary to Lt Governor; Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education Department; Prof. Alok Kumar Rai, Director IIM Calcutta; Prof. AK Kaul, former Professor, Department of Sociology, BHU Varanasi; Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, Jammu University and other members of the Council.

The University Council accorded in-principal approval to various agenda items and proposals including inclusion of several provisions in align with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and UGC guidelines. These included adoption of Strategic Action Plan (2025-2030); introduction of Five Year Integrated UG-PG Programme in Mathematical Sciences; guidelines of the grant of



LG Manoj Sinha chairing JU Council meeting at Lok Bhavan.

Duty leaves to the Teachers; Constitution of Jammu University Animal Welfare Club; establishment of a Centre for Regional Studies, Culture, Dialectics and Emotional Intelligence (CRCD&EI); change of nomenclature of B.Tech. (Information Technology) to B.Tech. (Information Technology and Mathematical Innovation) in the Four Year Under Graduate Programme.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that universities must set benchmarks for innovation and research and make regular revision of courses to incorporate Artificial Intelligence (AI) and cutting-edge IT technologies.

"Time for Universities to step-up and lead innovation, building Skills and solving society's toughest challenges," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He directed the University of Jammu for collaboration with financial institutions to boost student employability and to conduct a rigorous impact assessment of existing skill development courses.

He further asked the University to take dedicated measures for promotion of studies in local cultural heritage, languages and arts and the revival of the Guru Nanak Dev Chair of Sufi

Studies.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the Universities must develop advanced early warning systems for natural disasters and provide solutions to local challenges. He stressed that academic institutions cannot operate in isolation and must align and coordinate their research capabilities to address the societal needs. He also directed for establishment of Animal welfare clubs in all the Universities. "It is the era of Universities 2.0. They must look beyond degrees and transform the campus as epicentres of creative solutions and social transformation. They should become powerhouse of ideas, talent and ready to solve real-world problems," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Council reviewed the progress of the Gandhi

Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies and the expansion of IT-enabled services. To ensure administrative efficiency, the Lieutenant Governor directed the streamlining of the e-office system, implementation of IT Enabled services and the timely completion of all ongoing infrastructure projects.

He also called for increased participation of youth in Yuva Connect programme and their active engagement in the Nasha Mukh Bharat campaign and other national awareness initiatives.

Discussions were also held on streamlining the process of direct recruitments for various posts, effective implementation of a robust and comprehensive Sports Policy of the University, and enhancing the overall quality of teaching, learn-

ing, and research at the University.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu presented the progress report of the University highlighting the various achievements. The Registrar of the University presented the various agenda items before the Council for report, consideration and ratification.

It was informed that the University of Jammu has been recognized as one of the SPOKE institutions with IIT Delhi as the Hub Institution under Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)-Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR).

The chair was also briefed on the action taken on the directions passed during the previous meeting of the Council.

Ladakh poised to emerge as Premier Winter Sports Hub: LG Ladakh

ITBP Men, Women teams emerge champions in 5th LG Cup Ice Hockey Championship 2026

STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: Kargil: Lt Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Friday underlined the immense potential of ice hockey and other winter sports in Ladakh, stating that the region's unique climate, geography and resilient youth provide a natural advantage to emerge as a premier winter sports hub in the country. He was addressing the Closing Ceremony of the 5th LG Cup Ice Hockey Championship 2026 at Kargil. Congratulating the participants, the Lt Governor said that ice hockey is not merely a sport in Ladakh but an integral part of the region's lifestyle and cultural identity, shaped by its harsh climatic conditions and challenging terrain. He lauded the determination, perseverance and hard work of Ladakhi youth who have embraced the sport despite limited resources, converting challenges into strength. In the men's final,



LG Ladakh Kavinder Gupta along with winner team at Kargil.

ITBP defeated Ladakh Scouts by a narrow margin of 2-1 in a thrilling contest, while in the women's final, the ITBP Women's Team registered an impressive 7-3 victory against LWHF. The championship saw enthusiastic participation from 10 men's teams and five women's teams, making it a major celebration of winter sports in the region. Highlighting the Government of India's vision under Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi, the Lt Governor said sports are being promoted as a powerful tool for youth empowerment, career development and nation-building. He added that initiatives such as Khelo India have created national platforms for talented youth from remote and border areas like Ladakh. The Lt Governor informed that Ladakh will host the 6th Khelo India Winter Games from January 20 at the international-standard Indoor Ice Hockey

Rink in Leh. Built at a cost of around ₹51 crore, the facility is equipped with a fully automated chilling plant, modern spectator amenities and provisions for year-round training and competitions. Nearly 500 players from across the country are expected to participate, making it a proud and historic moment for Ladakh. Referring to the Ladakh Sports Policy 2025, he said the policy focuses on talent identification, equal opportunities for women and para-ath-

letes, scholarships, incentives, robust infrastructure and the establishment of Centres of Excellence to enable Ladakhi athletes to excel at national and international levels. The Lt Governor congratulated the winning and runner-up teams and commended all participants for their discipline and sportsmanship. He thanked the District Administration Kargil, Sports Department, organizing committee, volunteers and security agencies for the successful conduct of the championship and formally declared the event closed. Later, he felicitated the winning ITBP men's and women's teams and participating players and officials. Chairman/CEC LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohammad Jaffer Akhoo, Administrative Secretary YSS Moses Kunzang, and other senior officials were also present on the occasion.

BCCI president honours Kirti Dhar as first woman on JKCA Working Committee

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a landmark gesture of goodwill, BCCI President Mithun Manhas honoured Kirti Dhar for etching her name in history as the first woman to join the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) Working Committee since its inception. This pioneering milestone celebrates Kirti's unwavering dedication while ushering in a new era of inclusivity and empowerment in regional sports governance.

For six years, Dhar has been a relentless force in advancing cricket across Jammu and Kashmir. Through her expertise in sports journalism, team coordination, and event coverage, she has championed the game with unmatched passion and precision.

As a proud Working Committee Member and Coordinator for Rainawari Cricket Club (RCC)-a premier JKCA-affiliated entity-she drives promotion of all JKCA tournaments, fostering widespread engagement throughout the Union Territory.



Shagun Verma qualifies PhD

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shagun Verma, daughter of K u s h a l Verma and D e e p i k a Verma from Galak, and wife of Pintu Raina, son of Sat Paul Raina, resident of Village Badala, Tehsil and District Kathua has been declared qualified for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Botany by Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.

She worked on the topic "Studies Towards Evaluation of Targetted Bio-species in Live Plant and Animal Cells Using Fluorescent Probes" under the supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Satwinderjeet Kaur, Department of Botanical and Environmental Sciences, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.

Kabaddi selection trials postponed

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The selection trials for the 72nd Senior National Kabaddi (women) Championship, which were scheduled to be held at MA Stadium here, have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.

As per a handout issued by the J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association (JKAKA), the revised dates for the trials shall be made public shortly.

All concerned players, affiliated district units, and clubs have been advised wait till the fresh dates for the trials are announced, the handout added.

The handout mentioned that the cooperation of all presidents and secretaries of district association are highly appreciated.

Sibling smash: Jammu brother-sister duo to wear India colours at Asian Championship

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a rare and heart-warming sporting feat, Jammu's sibling duo - Sidhani Singh and Madhavendra Singh Sambhal - have scripted history by earning selection together in the Indian team for the 2nd Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship, to be held from February 3 to 8, 2026, at Harvest Tennis Academy, Punjab.

What makes their achievement extraordinary is not just the international call-up, but the shared journey of a brother and sister rising together from local courts to the Asian arena, carrying Jammu & Kashmir's sporting aspirations onto the continental stage.

The siblings sealed their spots after stellar performances at the national selection trials in Ahmedabad, where they outplayed top contenders from across the country, underlining their growing stature in Indian soft tennis.

Sidhani Singh, already a familiar name on the national circuit, has an impressive medal haul at National Championships and has earlier represented India at the International Soft Tennis Championship in China, gaining valuable global exposure.

Her younger brother Madhavendra Singh



Sambhal has carved his own identity with medal-winning performances at Senior National Championships and the Masters Cup, besides recently clinching a silver medal at the School National Games, marking him as one of India's most promising young talents. He is also the state gold medalist and number one seed of Jammu and Kashmir for this year.

Their joint selection has sparked celebrations in Jammu's sporting circles, with coaches and officials hailing it as a testament to discipline, family support, and the region's untapped sporting potential.

As the sibling duo prepares to don the national colours, Jammu watches with pride, hopeful that this shared dream will translate into podium finishes for India on the Asian stage.

Arun Pal completes AFC B Diploma Course

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prominent football educator of J&K, Arun Pal Singh has completed the AFC B Diploma Course thus empowered his Club's ambitions to excel at the National level. Arun participated in the two modules of the course at Football Kickers Academy, Jalandhar in Punjab and then completed the course under FIFA Coach Educator and AFC Pro Licensed Coach, Sajid Yousuf Dhar, at Srinagar in J&K. "With this course completion, Param FC will be eligible to apply for AIFF Youth Leagues and I-League Qualifiers in coming seasons which has always been one of the Club's and its founding members' mid-term goals," said Arun. Such a qualification would certainly help improve the quality of football in Jammu and surrounding districts.

ADGP Armed chairs preparatory meeting for 2nd All India Police Kabaddi Cluster 2025-26

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Anand Jain, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Armed Jammu and Kashmir, on Friday chaired a preparatory meeting at the Armed Police Headquarters to review and finalize arrangements for the 2nd All India Police Kabaddi Cluster 2025-26. The national-level sporting event is scheduled to be held at Jammu from March 7 to 12, 2026.

The prestigious event will feature competitions for both men and women in Kabaddi, Gymnastics, Fencing, and Kho-Kho, with police teams from across the country expected to participate. During the meeting, emphasis was laid on effective inter-departmental coordination and comprehensive logistical preparedness to ensure smooth conduct of the games.

Key focus areas included security arrangements, accommodation, transportation, medical facilities, sports infrastructure, and overall event management.

While addressing the officers, Anand Jain stressed the importance of showcasing the organisational capabilities and professionalism of the Jammu and Kashmir Police. He underlined the need to provide a safe, disciplined, and competitive environment for sportspersons and officials. He directed all concerned officers to strictly adhere to prescribed timelines and maintain close coordination with organising committees to ensure seamless execution of the event.

Detailed deliberations were held on venue readiness, ceremonial arrangements, hospitality, communication systems, and emergency response

mechanisms. The medical preparedness plan was also reviewed in detail, including the deployment of on-site medical teams, ambulance services, and coordination with the Police Hospital Jammu to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants.

Among those present were Vinod Kumar, DIG IR Jammu; Sameer Sharma, DIG AP Jammu; Rajesh Sharma, SSP Security Jammu; Dalip Kumar, SSP Staff Officer to ADG Armed; Commandants of Jammu-based Battalions; Manoj Kumar Pandita, SSP, AIG Communications PHQ; Rajinder Singh, SSP APCR Jammu; Dr. Ajay Misri, In-charge Medical Superintendent, Police Hospital Jammu; and representatives of various sports associations, along with other senior officers.

J&K Deaf Cricket Team for wining 'IDCA 4th Test National Cricket Championship' felicitated



STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Friday felicitated the J&K Deaf Cricket Team, for winning the Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) 4th Test National Cricket Championship for Deaf here in his Office Chamber.

The Deputy Commissioner congratulated the team members for winning IDCA 4th Test National Cricket Championship. He commended the players for

their dedication, teamwork and exceptional performance throughout the tournament and highlighted the growing prominence and achievements of sportspersons with special abilities in the sporting arena.

The Jammu & Kashmir Deaf Cricket Team emerged as winners of the championship, which was held from 3rd to 9th November 2025. The national-level tournament featured four teams from across the country and the remarkable performance of

the J&K team earned them the top position, bringing honour to Jammu and Kashmir.

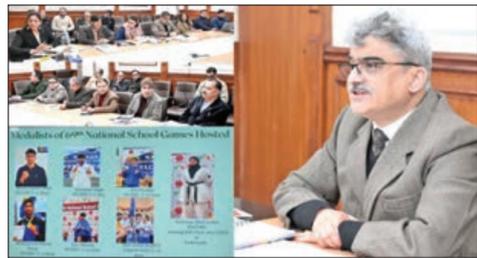
The players who met the Deputy Commissioner on the occasion included Riyaz Ahmad Tramboob, Muzaffar Ahmad, Mohammad Shafi Kasha, and Munakib Majeed Bakshi.

The DC wished the team continued success in their future endeavours and assured them of all possible support for the promotion of sports among specially abled sportspersons.

CS assesses ambitious sports, youth development calendar for 2026

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) on Friday presented a comprehensive and ambitious roadmap for youth engagement before Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, outlining a year-long calendar of sports, fitness, cultural and youth-centric activities aimed at fostering holistic development, social participation and sporting excellence across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The high-level meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma; Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Yasha Mudgal; Director General, Youth Services and Sports, Anuradha Gupta; Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul; representatives of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India; officials from the School and Higher Education Departments, and other concerned officers. Emphasizing effective execution, the Chief Secretary



CS Atal Dulloo chairing meeting in Jammu.

directed the Department to ensure time-bound and outcome-oriented implementation of the activity calendars framed by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports and the J&K Sports Council. He stressed the importance of measurable physical and sporting achievements and called for hosting national and international sporting events across disciplines to generate visibility, enthusiasm and momentum among the youth. He also underlined the need for robust information and awareness campaigns before and during events to maximize outreach and

participation. The Chief Secretary further advised optimal utilization of funds available under SAsCI, Ministry of Sports schemes and Capex allocations to upgrade sports infrastructure to modern standards. He emphasized that both infrastructure and events must adhere to high-quality benchmarks to nurture elite sportspersons. He also directed that sporting and recreational activities be equitably distributed across all districts to ensure equal opportunities for youth. Highlighting digital empowerment, he underscored the need for an online

benchmarking and athlete-tracking platform. He directed the Department to scale registrations on the My BHARAT portal from the current 5.5 lakh to at least 20 lakh, with continuous creation of events on My BHARAT and Fit India portals, supported by automated alerts to registered youth. The Chief Secretary also emphasized integrating cultural activities as a core societal component alongside sports. He called upon the Culture Department to frame a year-round calendar of high-impact UT-level events, complemented by district and school-level programmes, and advised hosting national-level competitions across art forms to nurture creative talent. Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma informed that the Department is developing an inclusive and impact-driven roadmap aligned with the Chief Secretary's vision. Commissioner Secretary, YSS, Yasha Mudgal apprised the meeting of reinvigorated sports calendars aimed at

large-scale engagement across schools and panchayats, highlighting proactive coordination with national and international sports bodies and the need for additional coaches and trainers. Director General, YSS, Anuradha Gupta detailed the five-tier tournament framework ensuring mass participation and talent identification, with over 36.45 lakh youth engaged during 2025-26 (till December). Achievements of J&K athletes at national and international levels were highlighted, including Taekwondo success at the 69th National School Games and international accolades. Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul presented a results-oriented roadmap, projecting youth engagement to surpass the annual target of 37.50 lakh by March 2026. The Chief Secretary appreciated the data-driven and inclusive approach, reaffirming the Government's commitment to empowering youth and strengthening social cohesion across the Union Territory.